



# NEWS AROUND TOWN

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

### Tiring of the Fight for Equality?

Do you ever just get tired of constantly fighting for equality?

Does it ever seem like, "if I could just live a day to my full potential, without the hands of society pushing me down, its eyes looking on me with contempt"? A day off would be nice.

Remind yourself that every day, in every small way that you fight inequality, brings us all one day and one step closer to permanent "days off".

We have to change the world one person at a time.

We've got a lot of racism and repression to fight off...but you aren't alone in the battle. Every day a Martin Luther is born. It might be you. We're fighting together.

So hold your head high...we've got a long way to go, yet we've come a long way.

Here are some minority struggles for May 23-29.

**May 27, 1956**-The Louisiana House of Representatives votes unanimously that the Supreme Court's public school segregation law is unconstitutional.

**Same day**-The Tallahassee bus boycott--which lasted until March of 1958--begins.

**May 25, 1964**-The Supreme Court ordered Virginia's Prince Edward County to re-open and integrate its public schools. In 1951, controversy began, regarding whether or not the Prince Edward County schools should be segregated. In 1959, the county refused to fund the schools, and the schools were shut down.

In 1959, a foundation, funded by state and county grants, set up private schools for white children. In fact, 25% of the local taxes went to these temporarily legal, discriminatory, state-encouraged schools. A proposal for similarly-funded Black schools was rejected.

It took years for action against this: in 1961, the U.S. District Court blocked governmental funding for such schools. Still, African American children had no funding for schooling until enough private contributions provided them with schooling in 1963.

**May 26, 1964**-The Oregonian runs a series of articles on the plight of the American Indian in Oregon schools. Staff writer Blaine Schulz reported that Indian children are generally one year behind in schooling, due mostly to the bi-lingual barrier they confront when entering school, as well as repressed interest in education due to poverty living conditions (resulting in more parental emphasis on the home status, as well as difficulty in transportation, and parents' need for the child to help out at home).

However, in the Umatilla Reservation near Pendleton, emphasis is on education, and Indian students excel beyond white students.

**May 23, 1966**-Julian Bond, a 26-year-old African American who had already been twice turned down to represent the 136th district in Atlanta, is voted down 21-0. Bond vowed to continue his fight.

Officials claim Bond was denied because of his view that he admires the courage of anyone who would burn a military draft card.

"I believe in acting within the dictates of my conscience," stated Bond. "There are some things I'm prepared to do that I don't require of others. If I break a law I am willing to suffer the consequences."

**Same day**-Hubert Humphrey, in a valiant plea for the civil rights movement, makes a speech endorsing his opinion.

"Laws, however skillfully drafted and implemented, constitute only the beginning of the process of constructing a total environment of freedom and equality...they cannot wipe away centuries of oppression and injustice, however much we might desire it.

"Our task now is to move beyond equality in law to equality in fact."

I also wanted to include a quote from James Baldwin from "A Dialogue" with Nikki Giovanni:

*"You know, it's not the world that was my oppressor, because what the world does to you, if the world does it to you long enough and effectively enough, you begin to do to yourself. You become a collaborator, an accomplice of your own murderers, because you believe the same things they do. They think it's important to be white and you think it's important to be white; they think it's a shame to be black and you think it's a shame to be black."*

## Are You Ready For Commitment In Your Life?

by Ulysses Tucker, Jr.

There comes a time, hopefully, where a human being desires or wants commitment from another in their life.

When you reflect on it for a moment, most individuals fall in love with someone that they do not know very well. Although we may not find out all that we desire to know about the individual we fall in love with, there are some fundamental issues that need to be addressed or discussed before making a commitment to another person. "If I had only known beforehand about him/her, I wouldn't have gotten involved..." Do you remember those famous last words?

First of all, what does commitment mean to you? All human beings seem to have conflicting perspectives or expectations regarding commitment whether it is to be single, married, free, or committed, it is an individual choice or lifestyle statement. You can not make another person want a commitment just because you want one. You must be on the same page. Commitment may not necessarily be for everyone despite the fact that it seems like most humans are constantly in search for Mr. or Mrs. Right (another illusion).

Commitment, or lack of it, inspires great fear in most people. Some experts say that this fear is valid and rational. Obviously, marriage commitments can be used to repress people, and to restrict freedom, growth and self-expression. Some assert that monogamy is monotony and contrary to human behavior. Commitment, at worst, means that an individual gives up what is important to them in an effort to keep another person in their life or around. The fear of commitment in relationships can be directly related to making

a mistake or selecting the wrong person. People are afraid to fail, be it in relationships, life, or in their career. At best, making a commitment can build trust and make a relationship far more focused.

Any relationship is only as good or strong as the commitment two people make. Some people lose site of commitment during moments of despair, doubt, times of confusion, and pain. Commitments are made to endure the good and bad times. Commitment is consciously offering another human a special place in your life and heart. A commitment is your word or set of guidelines you (collectively) establish in the relationship--elements like honesty, sexual fidelity, and the willingness to be supportive emotionally/psychologically. Commitment is not like some fly-by-night attitude, it has to be practiced and lived everyday.

Commitment can be a very tough topic to talk about because of people's fear of abandonment and entrapment. Commitment will not put an end to those doubts/fears and neither will it put an end to your attraction to other human beings. However, commitment in a relationship can create a sense of security and intimacy lacking in casual encounters. Even though there are many positive elements in making a commitment, there is nothing abnormal about a person if freedom supercedes commitment.

So, does it mean that you will live happily ever after just because you decided to make a commitment? No. Actually, that's when all the hard work and hopefully the growth begins. Anything worth having is worth working for. Lastly, many of the troubles and tension that evolve in relationships



usually are a result of unresolved emotional or psychological issues. Sometimes, how we were raised by our families can affect attitudes and perception about how relationships are or are not.

In my opinion, having a serious or committed relationship can only work if two people have their priorities in order. Everything else, including your friends and family, should come afterwards. Some may argue, but if you are not willing to put your mate before your work and family, you are asking for trouble and conflict. At times, families can be your worst enemy and cause problems in a relationship. What was good for your parents or other family members may not be good for you and your mate. You can pick your friends or mate, but you can't pick your relatives...

Love is not bestowed upon us with a magic wand or from Cupid's arrow. A loving relationship is a matter of conscious intent. It is impossible to make someone love you. Your commitment to your relationship or willingness to have it serve both of you is not a one-time event. Commitment happens one day at a time. For this reason alone, commitment is better offered than demanded.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Starting Your Business

"Starting Your Business" will be presented Wednesday, May 23, from 8:30-noon at the Newberg Chamber of Commerce. In this workshop, topics include ownership skills, financing, accounting and marketing--essentials of going into business.

Cost is \$7.50 for Chamber members and \$10 for non-members. To register and for information, call Small Business Development Center at 273-2828.

### Vernon Comm. Meeting

The Vernon Community Association is sponsoring a neighborhood meeting on Thursday, May 24 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Vernon School Auditorium, 2044 N.E. Killingsworth St. Vernon residents who want to know what can be done about drugs, gangs and violence, to make Vernon a safe and cleaner neighborhood should attend this meeting.

Speakers include: Art Richardson, Outreach Worker, Youth Gang Project; Jess McKinley, Crime Preven-

tion Specialist, Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods; Mardell Taylor, Urban League of Portland; Jennie Portis, Livability Coordinator, Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods; Rev. B.E. Johnson, New Hope Community Church of God in Christ, Paul Brown, Sport Quickness Camp.

For more information, call 248-4575.

### People Are Beautiful Summer Camp

Children and youth between the ages of 4 and 13, living in N/NE Portland are encouraged to "celebrate friendship" with self, family, friends, community and the world during six weeks this summer, June 25-August 2 at the Malloy Avenue Christian Church, 126 NE Alberta St.

Fee is \$30.00 per child, scholarships are available but limited--fee due at registration, which begins May 7, 1990. First come, first served. For more information call Rev. Denise Bell, 288-5173.

### Accoustical Guitar Concert

Guitarist Dan Perz with Clipper Anderson on bass will be performing an all acoustic concert of original music, Celebrity Centre Portland, 709 SW Salmon, 8-9 p.m. on Monday, May 23. For further information, contact Dan Perz at 643-5190.

### Consumer Awareness Event Offered

Saturday, June 2 Portland Vegetarians and People for Animal Rights, in cooperation with the Cruelty-Free Lifestyle Newsletter, are presenting the "We Care" Consumer Fair, 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Old Church, 1422 SW 11th downtown Portland.

Caring consumers can sample and purchase products which are non-toxic, biodegradable and not cruelly tested on animals. Cosmetics, hair and skin care items, household cleaners and pet care products will be displayed. Speakers will present information all day, plus free beauty "make-overs" and door prizes. Admission is free.

### Reggae Sunsplash Show Moved

Reggae Sunsplash '90 concert, originally scheduled at the Masonic Temple, has been moved to the Schnitzer Concert Hall, Portland. The show time has also been changed from 8:00 to 7:30. Tickets are \$17.50 (not including service charge). Tickets available at all Fred Meyer FASTIXX outlets, Everybody's Ticket Centers, the Coliseum and Portland Center for the Performing Arts box office. For more ticket information, call 224-TIXX.

### Shriners of Oregon Gala Day

The Prince Hall Shriners of Oregon, Mina Temple #68 will host the Region VII Joint Gala Day Conference, May 24-27, Red Lion Inn, Columbia River.

The public is invited to attend the parade and the events: Public Program, Speaker Charles Jordan; Talent Pageant; a Disco; the Parade and the Gala Day Ball.

### Menswear Retailer Donates Old Suits To Homeless

The rising number of homeless people in America and the Northwest is a fact that most of us encounter everyday. A local retailer is working to help homeless men in a unique way.

Sizes Unlimited, a Portland-based seller of big and tall menswear, is encouraging its customers to bring in their old, dry-cleaned suits for a \$20 in-store credit on the purchase of a new suit or sport coat. The suits are then donated to Baloney Joe's, which provides the suits to homeless men. These men are then better prepared for job interviews, which can lead to employment.

"This is one way that Sizes Unlimited can help others in need," Sizes Unlimited's Jim Greenblatt said. "As a part of the business community, we can help in several ways, but we chose this route because it gets more people involved. People who otherwise would not know how to help now have an easy painless way to assist someone in need," Greenblatt said.

### VOA Seeks Volunteers For Seniors Program

Volunteers of America Oregon, Inc. (VOA), is urgently seeking volunteer drivers to transport senior citizens to and from appointments.

Volunteers may use the agency's vans or drive their own vehicles. Interested persons should be available between 8 am and 5 pm weekdays for one or more days per month. Full days are preferred but any number of hours are appreciated.

In addition, each volunteer must have a valid Oregon driver's license, a good driving record, and concern for senior citizens.

VOA will train volunteers and provide supplemental insurance and mileage reimbursement for those using their own vehicles.

Volunteers of America is a non-profit social service agency which operates a variety of programs serving people of all ages.

For more information, please call Delanie or Roy at 232-4117.

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