

A Challenge For The Next Generation



Thousands gathered at the Lincoln memorial to celebrate the 30th Anniversary March On Washington. Queen of the silver screen, Halle Berry (L) joined Queen of the civil rights movement, Rosa Parks (R) at the Sony Hospitality Tent to share a brief bit of history. The 1993 march served to establish a new coalition of conscience for Jobs, Justice and Peace.

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Rosie Perez Doesn't Let Racism Get In Her Way

"I said I wanted to play Jessica Lange roles, but I didn't mean I wanted to play white roles," declared actress Rosie Perez, who has learned how to handle racism in her career and personal life.

"I would love to play a Hispanic," Perez added in an interview to be published this Sunday in PARADE magazine. "I dream of starring with Andy Garcia...Unfortunately, all the quality work caters to white actors. I just want a chance at good parts."

To date, the Puerto Rican actress has won two roles initially intended for white actresses--the girlfriend in "White Men Can't Jump" and a plane crash survivor in the forthcoming "Fearless."

Perez said she learned to deal with racism while still in high school when she tried out for the cheerleading squad. "It was all white, and my friends told me I wouldn't get it," she recalled, "but I thought to myself, 'This is what I want, and I'm not going to be scared.' I remembered what an old black man had told me. He owned a big house and two barbershops, and my sister asked him how he got all that. He said, 'I don't let racism get in my way.' Every time I start to falter, I think back to those words, and they get me moving."

"Sure, being the recipient of racism makes me angry and bitter," Perez added, "but it's really important to overcome the bitterness. If you don't, you can begin to



Actress Rosie Perez

reciprocate that attitude. On the other hand, I think it's good to stay angry, so you stay aware of the problem of racism. Only then can you do something to change it."

Perez said the character she plays in "Fearless" was supposed to be an Italian, but Peter Weir, the

director, changed it for her. "Peter told me that when I delivered the first line, he knew I was right for the part. I asked him if it bothered him that I speak this way," she said, referring to her accent. "He said, 'What way?' I just hugged him."

County Chair Announces Major Reorganization

Multnomah County Chair Beverly Stein announced a major new initiative to expand and develop family support centers in neighborhoods throughout Multnomah County. Funds will be made available for this initiative by reorganizing the Multnomah Department of Social Services and vacating the positions of the Department Director and his staff. In addition, two divisions will be merged, reducing the number of divisions from four to three. All of the divisions will report directly to the Chair. Stein proposed that the \$300,000 projected to be saved through the reorganization be used to fund Parent Child Centers in each of the six County service districts.

Discipline Habits For Young Children

Building strong discipline habits in young children is not an easy task. To discipline children under the age of ten, parents must first examine their own parenting goals and values. Establishing effective discipline means that parents consider their own needs as well as the developmental tasks of their children. The parenting series "Discipline That Doesn't Hurt!" may be helpful for parents interested in building a discipline plan that works in your family. Directed by Dr. Linda Ladd, Home Economics agent with the OSU Extension Service, this series is offered at Cedar Hills Recreation Center (644-3855), Fulton Park Community Center (823-3180), Garden Home Recreation Center (244-1101), Waverly Children's Home (238-8819), Tigard Library (639-4171), and PCC Cascade (244-6111, ext 5205). Classes begin in September and October and run for six weeks. Call the location nearest you for starting dates and cost. For a list of fall programs, please call 681-7061.

Samuel Johnson Memorial Scholarship Committee
Presents
"Red and White Spectacular"
BANQUET
Date: September 18, 1993
Time: 6:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Place: Highland United Church of Christ Dining Hall
4635 N.E. 9th
Portland, OR 97211
Donation: \$15.00 Attire: Semi-Formal

Life Or Death: Mandatory Sentencing Laws

Why, since 1980, has the federal prison population tripled? Why are there more Blacks today receiving their "education" in U.S. prisons than in college? Why do we see four times as many Blacks languishing in U.S. jails than in South African prisons? A major culprit, Mandatory Sentencing Laws!

Mandatory sentencing laws prohibit a judge from considering any circumstances other than the type of drug and its weight, or the presence of a firearm, when imposing a sentence. For example, the Omnibus Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 requires a mandatory minimum sentence of five years for a first time offender's possession of more than five grams of crack cocaine--the equivalent of approximately 5 packets of artificial sweetener. For possession of 100 times the amount of powder cocaine, the minimum sentence is probation. This discrepancy is sentencing is intolerable and constitutionally suspect. It is racially motivated "effect" that must be ended. USA Today recently ran a series of articles that showed African American males were being arrested and incarcerated at four times the rate of Whites for essentially the

same crime. The difference being Whites normally buy and use more expensive and purer powder cocaine, while Blacks generally buy and use the cheaper and less pure crack cocaine.

A virtual Pandora's box of evils has been unleashed onto society. They have manifested themselves in the demolition of judicial discretion. Mitigating factors are often dismissed and judges are forced to impose draconian sentences. This forces a blind adherence to sentencing which results in low-level participants receiving more time than top-level "kingpins". There is racial disparity whereby Blacks and Hispanics are charged with and receive sentences at or above the mandatory minimum more often than Whites arrested on the same charges. Because of this, prisons become overcrowded, which results in violent criminals, many of whom are not subject to mandatory penalties, being released early.

Civil liberties have been eroded by gutting safe-guards against unreasonable searches and seizures; the weakening of the presumption of innocence through preventative detention; the stepping up of disproportio-

tionate punishment through unwarranted civil forfeiture of assets; expansion of the use of entrapment, abusive treatment of public housing tenants; police brutality; and growing federalization of law enforcement.

Last November we voted for an urban stimulus package which promised hope for our cities and our people and a solution to an acute problem. Instead of creating jobs and ways to reconstruct lives, the administration has created new criteria to execute people. Instead of instilling new life and hope into the neighborhoods of Detroit, Los Angeles, Chicago and Washington, the administration plans to install 100,000 more police officers onto our streets.

The use of drugs is a societal problem. A problem we need to fight by waging "war" through education, prevention, counseling, treatment on demand and cure, as well as punishment. Even when there is punishment, there should not be double time for the same crime! So far, the cumulative effect of the policies pursued in the name of a "war on drugs" has, in fact, turned out to be a war against the Black, the Brown and the poor.

Celebrate Diversity

Taking The Cross Out Of The Church

Continued from page 7
them immediately. He was appalled! He sat in wonder. "How could these people come to me thinking that I would condone their sinful actions?"

This only proved that Satan also attends worship services regularly. However--evil is a strong persuader. Evil has a strong rap. It's cunning and relentless. If you don't know Christ, then, you become an easy target.

Standards!
As I grew, I can recall the words of my parents, "Don't ever lower your standards to accommodate someone else's desires."

The lowering of one's standards has always been an act of accommodation. An attempt to make something fit. Right now, we have a myriad of square pegs that have been forced into round and oblong holes. And this was blindly done with no regard of how it would impact the innocent or the young.

Mankind had truly gone to his and her extremes.

More and more, each day, you can hear and you can see where churches have literally taken the cross out of the church. The parishioners foolishly believe that God really applauds their efforts by saying, "When Christ walked this earth, He did everything He could to help mankind. All that we are doing is trying to

remove some of the restraints and make church more accommodating for those who are different." Wrong!

When God says that it is green, it is green; not magenta. When I hear words spoken carelessly like these, I immediately rebuke the works and its author. I call upon the Holy Spirit for comfort, strength and deliverance for the speaker. Because it troubles me to know that man is hurling himself and herself aimlessly into a path of destruction. My pastor has oft-time said, "The church is a hospital for the sick and the afflicted."

Now--that's the truth!
So--if you remove the cross, from whence will the healing come? Not from you and not from me. Healing--only from the blood of Jesus that was shed on the cross for you and for me.

Yes! We are truly living in the last days. Days when the child is no longer innocent but wise and ruthless as a serpent. Days when women love women and marry each other. Days when men love men and marry each other. Days when drag-queens defame the Gospel of Jesus Christ and preach drag on national television. Days when truth no longer has a high place on the steps of morality. Days when the church allows all manner of evil to be housed within its walls. Days when the Holy Spirit is made to weep because of the violence, the crimes, the lies, the cheating, the

incest, the broken families...

No matter how feverishly evil works, God Almighty is the victor...already.

If you need proof, go to the end of the book (Holy Bible) and read Revelations. Hallelujah!

In times like these, we need an anchor named JESUS CHRIST. Man may make frail attempts to remove the cross from the church in an effort to appease and satisfy the desires of the world; but, God's Word shall stand forever.

"Those false prophets speak about matters of the world, and the world listens to them because they belong to the world." [I John 4:5 GNB]

To my sisters and brothers in Christ, don't be astounded or amazed by the behavior of the world. You can't expect a cat to act like a horse or a dog to act like a snake; therefore, you can't expect the world to act like nothing else but...the world. And who is the ruler of the world? Satan.

That's why.....
I shall cherish
the old rugged cross.
The emblem of suffering and shame.

I will cling
to the old rugged
cross;
And exchange it
someday
for a crown.

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