

RELIGION

Local resident named to University President's List

Oklahoma Christian University has announced 136 students who have been named to the President's List for the Fall 1996 trimester.

The President's List recognizes the academic performance of students who have earned a 4.0 grade point average on a four-point scale. President's List honorees were announced by Dr. Jeanine Varner, vice president of academic affairs for the University.

Those students who have attained the President's List include: Shannon O'Bryan son of George and Donna O'Bryan of Portland, Ore. O'Bryan is a junior majoring in history/pre-law.

Oklahoma Christian is a private liberal arts university recognized by U.S. News & World Report for three consecutive years as a "Best Value" in higher education. The University has been named to the Templeton

Honor Roll of Character Building Colleges and the Honor Roll for Free Enterprise Teaching.

Oklahoma Christian offers accredited programs in more than 70 major areas of study in five colleges: Bible, Business, Education, Liberal Arts, and Science and Engineering. Now in its 47th year of operation, its student enrollment represents most of the 50 states and 26 countries.

Open Dialogue On Race Relations

Racism is still haunting America in 1997. Given this predicament, it is crucial that we move past pointing the finger of blame and into positive, cooperative action.

To further positive race relation, the Metropolitan Human Rights Commission will facilitate a Community Dialogue on Race Relation,

Thursday, February 27, from 6:30pm - 9:00pm at St. Philip Neri Paullist Center, 2408 SE 16th in Portland. People from all races are encouraged to join in the discussion, and to express their views in an open, honest and respectful manner.

Questions addressed in the race relations dialogue include: Why do

many Americans feel uncomfortable talking candidly about race relations? How can we work together toward racial harmony?

To register, contact Linda Hunter in MHRC's office, at 823-5284. If you are a person with a disability who needs accommodation, please call at least 48hrs in advance.

Small town church dispute goes to court

Old-timers can remember carrying rocks up a hill nearly 75 years ago to build a Roman Catholic church in what is now a historic district in this southern Texas town.

They and others don't want to see the Spanish-style stone building expanded to accommodate newcomers who have doubled the parish over the past six years. But the church wants to knock down

some of its stone walls and enlarge its 230-seat sanctuary.

"If we wanted to continue holding Mass here we would have to exclude people from our worship," said the Rev. Tony Cummins of St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church, which has held its Sunday services since 1995 in a senior citizens center to make room for the 1,000 families now in the parish.

The U.S. Supreme Court will

hear arguments Wednesday in a religious freedom case that pits church leaders against Boerne (pronounced Bernie), which refused in 1994 to grant construction permits on grounds that the church is in a historic district.

At issue is the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993, a law intended to make it harder for government to prevail when a regulation or policy interferes with religion.

Albright rejects Scientology comparison

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said Monday comparisons between Germany's contemporary handling of Scientologists and the Nazi extermination of Jews were inaccurate and distasteful.

Wrapping up talks with German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel on the second stop of her tour of nine world capitals, Albright went out of her way to play down U.S. differences with Bonn on Scientology.

The State Department in its annual human rights reports accused Germany of harassing Scientologists, whose members in the United States include many prominent entertainers, such as Tom Cruise and

Chick Corea.

But Albright stressed that differences over this subject could be handled amicably on a bilateral basis and she strongly attacked Scientologists for accusing Germany of acting toward them as Nazis had treated Jews.

"Clearly it's a subject that needs to be worked out in bilateral relations. But I must say that any discussion which draws comparisons between what happened under the Nazis and what is happening now is historically inaccurate and totally distasteful," she told a joint news conference with Kinkel.

U.S. officials said Kinkel raised the issue and it was discussed for about two minutes at the end of the

ministers' one hour meeting.

Kinkel told reporters Scientologists were not persecuted in Germany and he stressed that under German law, Scientology was considered a profit-making organization rather than a religion. In the United States, by comparison, Scientology was considered a religion and therefore tax exempt.

But he insisted this is "not an issue that plays a decisive part in (U.S.-German) bilateral relations" and urged that "we should play it down."

Albright accentuated harmony with Germany on plans to expand NATO and persuade Russia to accept the alliance bringing former communist states into its fold.

and directed by: J. Rochelle McElroy, who has been the director of the Bethel A.M.E. Cathedral Choir for nearly 20 years. Rev. Dorsey McCullough is the Pastor for Bethel A.M.E. Church.

This will be a special evening of negro spirituals held on Sunday, February 23, 1997, 4:00pm at the Bethel A.M.E. Church, located at 5828 NE 8th Avenue - Portland, OR 97211.

Please contact Deborah Hall, choir president at (503) 285-4608 for additional information.

This program is free of charge but the choir will be accepting donations which will benefit the American Heritage Music Foundation.

Religious leaders question urban expansion

Delegation to present statement to Metro Council on "Metropolitan Common Good"

On Feb. 7, 1997, the Rev. Dr. Wayne F. Bryant, Executive Director of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, and other clergy, presented the Metro Council with a statement on the "Metropolitan Common Good," signed by dozens of area religious leaders.

A ceremony on Metro's plaza during the noon hour preceded the presentation. Emphasizing a concern

"rooted in the religious values of justice, community, stewardship, and concern for the poor," the statement asks the Council to resist pressures to permit easy expansion of the present Urban Growth Boundary.

The statement also requests the Council to maintain the existing Urban Growth Boundary for the foreseeable future, designate a very small acreage for Urban Reserves for expansion in the future, and carefully "master plan" those Urban Reserves.

In particular, the statement urges that more than 3,000 acres of land currently zoned for farm and forest lands be removed from the proposed reserves, that the recently adopted Functional Plan for the Metro region be "aggressively implemented in every jurisdiction in our region," and that the Council adhere closely to Region 2040 policies and goals in completing the Regional Framework Plan, within the time allotted, by the end of the year.

Briefing on Churches and New Welfare Legislation

Congressman Earl Blumenauer will be a featured speaker at a briefing on "Churches and the New Welfare Legislation" to be held from 9:30 am to 12:00 noon on Saturday, February 22nd, at Grace Memorial Episcopal Church.

The purpose of the briefing is to review the fast-changing world of welfare and federal social service policy. The information from the briefing will help churches and service organizations to more effectively review and design their community outreach and support

programs. Through guest speakers and panelists, the briefing participants will consider: the political status of federal welfare and social service legislation; the changing levels of benefits and services caused by the recently-adopted welfare reform act; and the impacts of these changes on Portland area communities, residents and service providers.

In addition to Congressman Blumenauer, other presenters scheduled for the briefing are: Kent Robinson, Policy and Funding Analyst at the Institute for Nonprofit Management,

Portland State University; Ellen Lowe, Associate Director of Legislative and Governmental Ministries, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon; and Ann Schneider, Trainer and Job Developer. Steps to Success.

The Briefing is open to the public. There is a registration fee of \$5.00 to cover the cost of briefing materials. Grace Memorial Episcopal Church is located at 1535 NE 17th Avenue in Portland. For further information please call: (503) 287-0418.

North Portland Bible College Effective Teachers Sharpen Their Tools

Are you looking for ways to make your Sunday School more vital to the lives of children and youth? You will find lots of ideas at the quarterly Sunday School Conference hosted by Berean Baptist Church on Saturday, February 22, 8:30 a.m. - noon. The church is located at 4822 N Vancouver Ave. near Alberta. Sponsored by North Portland Bible College, the conference will feature an overview of the quarter's lessons by Rev. Michael DeJean and a workshop on how to build "Awareness of Global Mission through the Sunday School", presented by Beth Nance. Included will be videos and a display of other resources related to Black History Month. Call the college at 288-2919 for more details.

In Loving Memory of Mildred Walker

Mildred L. Walker was born March 26, 1926 in Memphis, Tennessee to William and Lillian Walker. She completed her formal education in Tennessee, later moving to Portland, Oregon where she was employed at Oregon Shipyard. In the early 50's she began employment at Cleo Lillian Ann Social Club until around 1973. She retired with a disability.

Mildred's hobby was daily crossword puzzles. She also enjoyed working in her yard and planting assortments of flowers.

Mildred always had a winning smile for everyone she met. She leaves to cherish her memory: Luvenia Cranford, sister, (Portland, Oregon); Truman Wimberly, her most devoted and loving friend (Portland, Oregon); Bertha Lewis, aunt (Brooklyn, New York); Debra and Yvonne Walker, nieces (Portland, Oregon); and Larry, Jeffery and Lamote Walker, nephews, (Portland, Oregon). She will be deeply missed by her family and many friends.

Once Upon A Time When We Were Colored

The Cathedral Choir of Bethel A.M.E. Church is celebrating Black History Month with a special musical event: "Once Upon A Time When We Were Colored"; Git Outta My Way, I'm Goin' to Chu'ch.

This evening's presentation depicts a world which vanished in the wake of integration...the world of living colored.

The renditions of the negro spirituals immediately engages attention. It is the starting point for an enlightening look at the lives and music of a people during a regrettable period in their history.

Cathedral Choir Director, J. Rochelle McElroy has created and chosen excellent musical arrangements for

the choir.

These vary from brief, easy and unadorned settings to large-scale pieces demanding a fair degree of virtuosity. All are interesting and sure to delight the performer and listener alike.

One can see how Christianity played out a powerful role, heavily influencing the mundane daily affairs of an uprooted people caught up in perpetual bondage.

A history of "Our" times seen through the eyes, music, dance and storytelling performed without a trace of humility by the Bethel A.M.E. Church, Cathedral Choir and friends.

This special program was written

A "Little X" on the Paula Gordon Show

Do "tolerance, respect for a God-force in every individual and beauty in all religions" leap to mind when someone says "Nation of Islam?" They do for Sanyrea Tate who grew up a "Little X" in America's Nation within a nation. She's guest on "The Paula Gordon Show," Saturday, February 22, at 3 p.m. on Atlanta's 50,000 watt WGUN/AM 1010.

Eventually, Tate left the Nation as did her parents and grandparents. She gave up its clear gender roles and rigorous adherence to authority but learned from the strict discipline. Now the author of "Little X: Growing Up In The Nation of Islam" (Harper San Francisco), Tate's a prize winning journalist who believes in the Golden Rule and that

we all have a God-force within us.

"What I want people to know is there's nothing strange or weird about The Nation. It was formed by a group of people trying to cope," said Tate. "Most people never see beyond bowties, long skirts and headwraps. That's not the point. The Nation was like having a home. It grew out of people trying to make sense of their circumstances. America was founded on people finding new ways to do things."

Tate was one of thousands of children growing up in The Nation in the 70s. To her, "living, loving and learning" was just growing up. The Nation was a spiritual home providing the comforts of a closely knit community.

"The Nation taught us self-celebration," explained Tate. "There was also reverse psychology at work. Remember, it started in Jim Crow America. Black people had to find dignity. That's what the talk about white devils was about."

What about The Nation today? "Some people probably still need rigorous structure. When you're in a crisis or coming out of jail or trying to get off drugs, extreme discipline can be a great help."

Is she tempted to go back? "No! I now have enough discipline and philosophy to walk a straight course."

"Sanyrea's not telling secrets. She's telling a story of growing up to be strong and independent. She's an

impressive young woman," concluded Gordon. She and Bill Russell host "The Paula Gordon Show." This and other Shows air on WGUN/AM 1010, are available on audiocassette and soon will be on the Internet.

February is Black History Month

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