



Eugene McCarthy, outspoken liberal Democratic politician.

Anti-War McCarthy Remembered

1968 campaign toppled president

Former Minnesota Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy, whose insurgent campaign toppled a sitting president in 1968 and forced the Democratic Party to take seriously his message against the Vietnam War, died Saturday. He was 89.

McCarthy challenged President Lyndon B. Johnson for the 1968 Democratic nomination during growing debate over the Vietnam War. The challenge led to Johnson's withdrawal from the race.

McCarthy got 42 percent of the vote in the New Hampshire 1968 Democratic primary.

That showing embarrassed Johnson into withdrawing from the race and throwing his support to his vice president, Hubert H. Humphrey.

Sen. Robert Kennedy of New

York also decided to seek the nomination, but was assassinated in June 1968. McCarthy and his followers went to the party convention in Chicago, where fellow Minnesotan Humphrey won the nomination amid bitter strife both on the convention floor and in the streets.

McCarthy said he opposed the Vietnam War because "as it went on, you could tell the people running it didn't know what was going on."

"I admired Gene enormously for his courage in challenging a war America never should have fought," Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., said Saturday.

Drawing a parallel to the current debate over the Iraq war, Kennedy said, "His life speaks volumes to us today, as we face a similar critical time for our country."

Pryor Remembered

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seemed to use them to greater comedic effect than anyone else. When he was at his best he was not just funny, he was laugh-out-loud, falling-down, tears-in-your-eyes funny.

Twisting and writhing his body into any number of contortions, Pryor would switch effortlessly from accent to accent as he told stories that made fun of every ethnicity and nationality he'd encountered.

In one of the routines from his classic 1981 performance, "Live on the Sunset Strip," the comedian recalled working for a Mafia-run nightclub that wasn't paying him the money it had promised.

Grabbing a gun and doing "my best black s---" he tried to rob the club owner, only to find that his performance, one that he recalled "usually scares" the average white person, provoked only laughter from an Italian-American mobster.

"Do it again, Rich, put the gun up here," he had the mobster telling



Richard Pryor waves to the audience in 1996 after receiving the Hall of Fame award at the NAACP Image Awards.

rosis, said in the liner notes to the 2000 album, "And It's Deep Too!" Among other things, he shot up a car in 1978 while two of his wife's friends were sitting in it. In 1980, he nearly burned himself to death while freebasing cocaine.

He would go on to joke about both incidents, noting of the first that he put down the gun when the police arrived because he knew they would be far more likely to shoot a black man than a car. Returning to the stage after the cocaine incident, he struck a match, waved it in front of his

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him before going on to regale Pryor with stories of all the people he'd rubbed out.

Like Bill Cosby, Pryor would often draw on such personal experience for his comedy, but his material was far darker.

The life he lived provided him a wellspring of material. Raised in a Peoria, Ill., brothel that was run by his grandmother, he would grow up to be not only the highest paid black entertainer in the country in the 1980s but one of the most troubled as well.

"I was a drug-addicted, paranoid, lonely, sad and frustrated comedian who had gotten too big for his britches," Pryor, who had gone into seclusion in recent years as he battled multiple scler-

osis, said. "What's this? Richard Pryor running down the street."

He could also do broader comedy, a talent that was displayed clearly in his best nonconcert films, "Silver Streak" and "Stir Crazy" with Gene Wilder. He even handled the occasional dramatic turn well, and he won an Emmy as a writer for one of Lily Tomlin's TV comedy specials.

But standup, where he was left unbridled by censors, would become his legacy and win him five Grammy Awards for comedy album.

Fellow comedian Steve Martin noted upon Pryor's death: "By expressing his heart, anger and joy, Richard Pryor took comedy to its highest form."

Clinic Director Rejects Ouster

continued ▲ from Front

to pay for the position, she said, blaming the board for failing in its fundraising responsibilities.

The board also took the side of a disgruntled staff member who never worked in a clinic before and they failed to properly investigate the complaint, Taylor said.

The clinic's board of directors issued a statement Friday express-

ing confidence in the future of the clinic, but refused to discuss any conflicts.

"Our recent decisions concerning the administrative structure of the clinic are designed to carry out the mission of the clinic in a way that we believe will be even more outstanding and efficient than before," the statement said.

"We hope and expect that the clinic will be welcoming back Ms.

Mariah Taylor as a nurse practitioner in March," said the statement issued by Board Secretary and Portland Attorney Kelly Clark.

"In the meantime, the clinic is well staffed by qualified and caring health professionals, including other nurse practitioners and administrative personal, including an acting executive director to be named in the future," the statement continued.

Board member Cottrell White, a school administrator, claimed Taylor had wanted to relinquish her duties as executive and needed a well-deserved leave of absence.

Board member D'Norgia Price, the director of adult services for the Urban League of Portland had no comment. Board Chairman Bud Bylsma could not be reached. Clark and Price had no way for the Portland Observer to reach him.

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