

AGENTS MAKE OUR LIFE

THE ADVOCATE

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IN TWO SECTIONS

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SECTION ONE

PRICE FIVE CENTS

LOCAL GROUP OBSERVES NEGRO HEALTH WEEK

Digesting...
The News
BY CLIFFORD C. MITCHELL

Negro Writers

The editor of one of our largest (white) fiction magazines recently wrote me and included these remarks:

"I've often wondered why more of your people are not taking advantage of writing fiction for the white publications, when the field is so fertile, for those possessing talent? I will admit that we have no demand for strictly racial themes but otherwise we place no restrictions on our writers."

With the above statement in my ears the thought came to me that probably the sentiment was not generally known to our budding writers and, therefore, this particular digest is for the benefit of those who are seeking an outlet and a commercial market for their particular writing ability.

In short, if you have ability to write fiction, and the inclination, and desire to dispose of it on its own literary merits and not because of some racial appeal, the field of creative writing for the white publications is unexplored.

On the other hand if you have written, or contemplate writing the great American novel in which the hero of the "race" is black, do not waste your time sending it to any but a Negro publisher, unless you anticipate paying the publication costs in advance.

This situation should not be hard to analyze. There are two ways of looking at it. One, a matter of sentiment, and the other, a matter of business.

From a sentimental standpoint you can hardly expect the white publishers to exalt and glorify Negro characters any more than you would expect the Negro publishers to exalt and glorify the white characters, although there are exceptions to both.

And from a business standpoint you could hardly expect any publisher, white or black, to stock their shelves with unsalable material. Even the white publishers who do publish books by or about Negroes find their greatest sale, not among the Negroes, but among their white purchasers, and it is reasonable to expect that in selecting their Negro characters they will select the ones which will most satisfy their readers.

Forgetting, however, the racial issue, color would not seem to bar talented writers from finding a market for their wares. If the manuscript has merit, no personal contact is needed or required. In no other field is there such an opportunity for real merit and ability.

For years I have followed, and recorded, the output of every colored writer in America. I have in mind one writer (in Boston) who writes so frequently for the white publications that now de plumes are necessary so as to give the readers, an apparent, variety of writers. The opportunity is there for others who possess real writing ability.

N.A.A.C.P. DRIVE CAUSE POLITICAL AWAKENING

ATLANTA, April 2—A political awakening among Negroes of Atlanta, Georgia, was attributed to the work done here by Mrs. Daisy E. Lampkin, Regional Secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, by Miss Mae C. Hawes, Director of Adult Education at the local Carnegie Public Library.

"At the recent election the Negroes voted as they have never voted before," said Miss Hawes, and this is due to the fact that, so many assert, that Mrs. Lampkin organized a N. A. A. C. P. Auxiliary while here and they immediately went to work and canvassed each district to get Negroes to register and vote. It is said that the vote of the Negro helped greatly in defeating Mayor Key's recall.

"How very far reaching this will be for Atlanta no one can say, but we do rejoice in the fact that the Negro is being awakened here politically and Mrs. Daisy E. Lampkin had a great deal to do with this awakening."

NAACP OFFERS TO AID DEFENSE

Editor Files For State Legislature

MOONEY HAILS AGED MOTHER

NEW YORK CITY, April 3—Sitting behind the bars of California State Prison where he is now completing the fifteenth year of a life sentence, Tom Mooney, famous labor leader, has written to his 84-year-old mother praising her fight for his freedom and for the freedom of the Scottsboro boys.

After thanking her for risking her life in crossing the continent to take part in the fight for his freedom, Tom Mooney adds:

"It gives me the greatest pride and joy that your motherly affections are not limited to your own flesh and blood, but you are demanding the liberation and support for the embattled miners in Harlan, Ky., and the Scottsboro victims of race and class prejudice and all political prisoners."

Mooney was framed in San Francisco in 1916 on a charge of murder, because of his participation in the work of organizing labor. Millions of workers in every corner of the world have held demonstrations demanding his release.

ABUSE NEGRO TRUCK DRIVER

The California Eagle reports that Ellis Walker, a driver for ten years for the Globe Milling Company, was abused by two cops who told him "Niggers don't drive for that company" and intimidated that they were going to call up his company and have him fired. Forty-five white workers members of the I. L. D. are rested by these same Los Angeles cops in Long Beach, Calif. were finally acquitted when the jury declared a deadlock after a five weeks' trial on charges of "unlawful assembly." Judge Charles D. Waller dismissed the charges on March 22.

TO APPEAL TO U.S. SUPREME TRIBUNAL

The International Labor Defense announced that a motion for an appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court will be filed at once by George W. Chamblee, attorney for the organization in Chattanooga, in the cases of the seven Negro boys whose death sentences by the Scottsboro, Ala., court on charges of assaulting two white women hoboes, have just been upheld by the Alabama Supreme Court.

The International Labor Defense also sent the following wire of protest to Governor B. M. Miller of Alabama: "Millions of workers throughout the world are enraged at the State Supreme Court confirmation of death sentences against the Scottsboro boys. Every scrap of evidence proves the boys innocent, victims of blatant frame-up, railroaded ruthlessly through legal lynch machinery designed to terrorize workers, especially black ones. Supreme Court verdict reveals highest class workers working hand in glove with owners of America against working class. We demand release of Scottsboro victims and immediate halt of lynchings legal and otherwise in your state. I. L. D. pledges to leave no stone unturned to free these boys."

The following protest was wired to Chief Justice John Anderson of the Alabama Supreme Court:

"Your confirmation of death verdicts against innocent Scottsboro boys is a blow against the working class, especially poor Negroes in the South. Workers throughout the world protest this upholding of legal lynching and obvious frame-ups as a weapon to keep the Negro in his place, meaning ruthless exploitation of Negro and white workers by factory and landowners. By all our resources of mass organization appeal to public and legal measures we pledge to fight this terror which your decision will aid."

"We shall immediately carry the case to the Supreme Court of the United States," declared J. Louis Engdahl, general secretary of the International Labor Defense, and B. D. Struggle for Negro Rights, in a joint statement.

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PROTEST JIM-CROWISM ON STAGE LINES

NEW YORK, APR. 3—Cases of segregation of colored passengers on the buses of the Pennsylvania Greyhound Lines within the state of Pennsylvania will be laid before the Public Service Commission of the State at Harrisburg next Wednesday, March 30, by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Numerous cases of segregation by the Greyhound Lines all through the eastern states have come to the N. A. A. C. P., but this is the first opportunity the Association has had to present the cases to the state commission. The hearing next Wednesday is to be on the application of the Greyhound Lines for extension of its passenger-carrying privileges in the state.

It is a general practice with the Greyhound Lines to force Negro passengers to take rear seats or the uncomfortable seats over the rear wheels. Sometimes this Jim Crow is practiced through the issuance of Negro passengers of numbered tickets for the rear seats. In other cases, Negroes are driven into the rear seats by bus drivers, even though there may be empty seats in the front part of the bus.

Permission for the Association to have a representative speak at the hearing was granted by the commission through Louis Tevell, secretary. Pennsylvania branches of the N. A. A. C. P., editors of eastern colored weeklies, and representatives of interested organizations as well as individuals have been asked to join in the protest to the Pennsylvania Public Service Commission. Persons who have been subjected to send to the N. A. A. C. P. at 69 Fifth Avenue, New York City, affidavits citing the facts in their cases for subsequent filing with the Pennsylvania Commission.

POLICE TERROR RIDE RAMPANT THRU L. A.

tain Hynes' notorious Red Squad crashed down on a mass concert arranged in the Negro section of Los Angeles by the John Reed club of artists and writers under the auspices of the International Labor Defense. The concert was to commemorate the 61st anniversary of the Paris Commune March 18. The concert was promptly banned because the squad said, there was to be "red" music.

Negro and white workers in the Masonic Hall, 1050 E. 50th St., were held and searched, and their papers taken away. Samuel Jackson, a young Negro, standing before the hall, was severely beaten by the police. Meanwhile, throughout the Negro section "The Dirty Dozen" or Jensen's Nine Cossacks are terrorizing Negro workers.

REFUSES INTERVIEW WITH ILL DELEGATION

CHICAGO, Ill., April 2—When a delegation of Negro and white workers appeared in the office of Louis B. Anderson, Negro alderman here, to ask him to take action in the fight against the terrorizing of Negro workers by police on the south side, they were met by a large police unit. Mr. Anderson, although he had agreed to meet the delegation and had himself set the time for an interview with the group, absented himself from the office.

The delegation consisted of a group of workers, representing many organizations, who had been selected to demand of Mr. Anderson that he introduce into the City Council a resolution asking for the removal from the force of Captain Stege and Lieutenant Barker, whose brutality towards the Negro workers of the south side has earned them the title of the "killers' police."

A conference held in Chicago on February 28th elected a committee to carry on the campaign for the removal of these two police officers. The committee is now carrying on a signature drive among the Negro and white workers to this end.

NEGRO'S PART STRESSED FOR LEGISLATION TO MEET PRESENT-DAY NEED

NEW YORK, April 2—The part played by the Negro in forming the literature of the country, is stressed by Ludwig Lewisohn, novelist and critic in his newly published and widely commented upon "Expression in America." Excerpts made from the book by the N. A. A. C. P. show that a new importance is given to the work of Negroes in this general survey of creative forces in American writing.

Mr. Lewisohn states that "The Negro created the only body of fine folk-poetry in America and the only body of permanently valuable music; indirectly they were responsible for that only moment in which the writers of the New England tradition, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Whitier, Lowell, stopped weaving artificial patterns and spoke out."

Among individual Negro writers cited in the book are Dunbar, Charles W. Chestnut, Booker Washington, Du Bois, Countee Cullen and Langston Hughes.

"The year 1903 which saw the publication of 'The Souls of Black Folk' by Dr. W. E. Burghardt Du Bois, is marked as the year of the birth of modern Negro expression," Dr. Du Bois is called "the preparer and proclaimer of that Negro renaissance which has contributed richly, especially in poetry, to the latest phase of American literature. He is more. He is the prophet and representative of cultural conflicts which are destined to contribute more and more to the grandeur and character of creative expression in America."

JURY FORGED TO DISMISS CHARGES

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Apr. 3—Furious protest by Negro and white workers, and the efforts of the International Labor Defense, have forced the grand jury here to dismiss all charges against Richard Oliver, a jobless Negro worker, and his wife Mary Oliver.

On February 16th, Mrs. Oliver was trying to gather a little coal along the Missouri-Pacific right-of-way, when a special agent for the company, B. Story, told her to dump the coal, then seized her by the front of her dress and began to beat her over the head with his revolver. Mr. Oliver on being informed of this, ran to the spot and tried to protect his wife. Story fired at him, and he was forced to fire back in self-defense.

A little later two detectives broke open the door at Oliver's home. A posse of police surrounded the house, and, using Oliver's wife and baby as a shield, forced entrance. When Oliver, shot in the hip and terribly wounded, came out to surrender, he and his wife were arrested on charge of assault with intent to kill.

"Story was on top of her beating her in the face with a pistol," Oliver testified at the preliminary hearing in Little Rock Municipal Court on March 11th. "When I got up near him, he started shooting."

Mrs. Oliver exhibited in court a number of bruises on her face, the results of Story's beating. Although the bruises were inflicted a month earlier, they were still blue and severe. A number of protest meetings and telegrams have demanded the dismissal of all charges against these two jobless workers.

ITS A GIRL

Friends in Portland are in receipt of an announcement of the arrival of Otheida Jeanette Odell born on 19th day of March at 11:30 p. m. at Los Angeles to Mr. and Mrs. William Earl Odell.

ARKANSAS CASES OFFER BASIS OF APPEAL

NEW YORK, April 2—Immediately following news that the Alabama State Supreme Court had confined the convictions and death sentences in the case of 7 out of 8 of the Scottsboro case defendants, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People cited a basis for appeal in the U. S. Supreme Court's decision in the Arkansas cases.

In those cases which the N. A. A. C. P. won before the U. S. Supreme Court in 1923, that court held that a trial dominated by a mob is not due process of law.

A statement issued today by Walter White, N. A. A. C. P. Secretary, is as follows:

"The N. A. A. C. P. is terribly shocked to learn that the Alabama Supreme Court yesterday affirmed the convictions and death sentences imposed upon seven of the helpless Negro boys convicted in a mob-dominated town.

"For Alabama to permit the carrying out of such a barbarous sentence would do nothing short of mass execution with legal sanction and this belief is held throughout the civilized world. We hope that Alabama's governor will take the first step dictated by justice and humanity and that it will commute those barbarous sentences."

"The N. A. A. C. P. profoundly regrets that its attorneys, the internationally famous Clarence Darrow and Arthur Garfield Hays were not enabled to take part in the defense before the Alabama Supreme Court. We do not know whether the outcome would have been different had these attorneys appeared but many people will feel that these famous lawyers might have achieved a different result.

"But the N. A. A. C. P. even yet stands ready to throw the weight of its entire legal resources into the case to aid the defendants if the defendants will permit it to act unhampered by outside interference.

"We do not know whether the attorneys for the defendants, retained by the International Labor Defense, plan to appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court on the basis of the decision won by the N. A. A. C. P. in 1923 holding that a mob-dominated trial is not due process of law."

"The N. A. A. C. P. stands ready to appeal on this basis if the defendants will permit. That seems to be the only hope at the present time, barring action by Alabama's governor to commute the sentences in order to permit reconsideration of the cases."

NEGRO COMMUNIST GETS BIG VOTES

ST. PAUL, Minn., April 3—Robert Turner, a Negro worker, received 2,447 votes in the recent primary elections here, a record of the vote shows that Turner was a candidate for city council on the ticket of the Communist Party.

In the last election, two years ago, 1,700 was the highest vote received for any Communist candidate for City Council. The vote received by Turner, therefore, shows an increase of nearly 50 percent.

CLUB WILL STUDY POLITICS

On last Wednesday night, March 30th at the Y. W. C. A., the Civic Progressive Club was organized, said to be the first in Portland among colored citizens.

The mass meeting was held in the Assembly room where a large, interested group gathered. The opening address, made by Wyatt W. Williams, local attorney, explained the club's objective; Mrs. Katherine Gray told the need of an organization of this character. These were followed by Reverend W. R. Lovell and Reverend Daniel G. Hill, pastors respectively of Zion and Bethel A. M. E. Churches. They gave brief talks in support of the organization and George B. Herdin, deputy sheriff, explained the judicial precincts, civil service examinations and ballot sheets.

At the close of the meeting, a two-course repast was served by a committee consisting of Mesdames Thos. Kanama, W. G. Bird, Mr. and Mrs. Jasper Williams of the same address. It is said to have been despondent over the fact that he was unable to secure employment.

He leaves a widow and one daughter. Funeral services will be conducted on next Tuesday from the Miller & Tracey parlors, with interment in Lincoln Memorial Park cemetery.

PROGRAM WILL OCCUPY FULL WEEK

MEETINGS AND RADIO TALKS FEATURES

For eighteen years the Negro population of this country have not seen the first week in April as National Negro Health Week.

This health movement had its origin in 1915 with the Negro Organization Society of Virginia and the Annual Tuskegee Negro Conference under the direction of the late Booker T. Washington.

Each year the movement has grown in its scope until it now has national proportions and is sanctioned by every organization for health improvement in the country.

Though the movement has been widespread, little work along this line has been done by the Negro of the Northwest. A group of representatives from the Negro organizations in the city were called together to form a National Negro Health Committee.

As a result of this meeting a Portland Negro Health Committee was formed with the following officers: Chairman, Dr. DeNorval Unthank; Secretary, Mrs. Mabel Sheppard and Treasurer, W. E. Brown. The purpose of this committee is to promote in every way possible the health conditions among Negroes of Portland.

The organization is beginning its work by sponsoring National Negro Health Week.

Several of the organizations forming this committee have agreed to sponsor part of the program which is as follows:

Sunday, April 3, Vespers at Williams Avenue Y. 4:30 P. M.; The program will be by the young ladies of the Y.; Mobilization service, 8:15 at Bethel A. M. E. Church; Talks by Dr. DeNorval Unthank; Thornton Betts and Robert Gilmore; Music by the choir of the church under the direction of Prof. Elmer C. Bartlett;

Monday, April 4, Radio Health talk over K. G. W. 11:30 to 11:35 A. M. by Beatrice Cannady-Franklin; Meetings with special group; Tuesday, April 5, Radio health talk Station K. T. 5, 8:30 to 9:15 P. M.; Radio health talk, Station KTRB 9:15 to 9:30 P. M. Health demonstrations Williams Ave. Branch Y. 8:30 P. M.; The Business and Industrial Girls Club will sponsor a nursing corps; Wednesday, April 6, Social hygiene lecture and demonstration to young adult boys, Williams Avenue Y. 8:00 P. M.; Radio health talk, Station KXL 9:45 to 9 A. M.; Thursday, April 7, Social hygiene lecture to young adult girls at Williams Ave. Y. 4:30 P. M.; Radio health talk Station KTRB 4:15 to 4:30 P. M.; Friday, April 8, Conference and tentative reports of the various health committees with general discussion of community health needs; Radio health talk Station KTRB 3:30 to 3:45 P. M.; Saturday, April 9, Health conferences with mothers and children at Williams Ave. Y. 2:30 to 4:30 P. M.; Radio talk over Station KTRB 3:30 to 3:45 P. M.; Radio health talk Station KXL 9:00 to 9:15 P. M.; Sunday, April 10, Summary of meetings, Health sermon and film, Mount Olivet Baptist Church, E. First & Schuyler streets.

Those who will deliver the talks over the radio are Rev. W. R. Lovell, Rev. J. D. Wilson, Rev. D. G. Hill, Dr. DeNorval Unthank, Messrs. Thornton Betts and Robert Gilmore and Beatrice Cannady-Franklin.

"TROJANS" WIN PACIFIC NORTHWEST TITLE

The Colored Trojans of this city nosed out the Seattle "Falcons" in a close game on the O'Dea High School floor in Seattle March 27. The fact that two of the Seattle players were ex-Portlanders, a good deal of friendly rivalry existed between the two teams. A large gathering of both young and old enjoyed the thrilling game. The Trojans now claim the Colored championship of the Pacific Northwest. Those making the trip were: Ivan Patterson, (capt.), Oscar Johnson, Frank Brittan, Thomas Standiford, Shelton Ellis, Richard Harris, Vernon Scott, Bill Law and Geo. Maunor (mgr.).

The boys enjoyed the warm hospitality given them by the younger set of the city, during their brief stay. The final score was 39-15 Bill Law starred for the Trojans.