

# High School President Eyes Diplomatic Career

By NORM CARDOZA

Mikell Thurston takes an interest in things that most girls her age would shun like the plague. She reads magazines like "U.S. News and World Report" and "The New Republic" faithfully and from cover to cover.

She is already busy building a career as a diplomat. She is student body president at Klamath Union High School—a job most girls avoid.

She reads the office to learn all she can about diplomacy. Next fall she wants to enter the University of Oregon to study political science and liberal arts.

With a degree, she expects to be able to enter service with the U.S. diplomatic corps. If not she would like, as a second choice, to teach political science in college, or, as a third choice, to be a newspaperwoman.

Even her name is unusual. She got it this way: her father, when he was a forest ranger at Medford, wanted companionship on his fishing and hunting trips and tramps through the woods.

He decided before his children were born that they would be named Charles, Patrick and Michael. He changed his mind as each arrived and altered the names to Charlene, Patricia and Mikell.

The family moved to Medford from Everett, Washington, when Mikell was 2 years old. She was freshman class secretary at Hedrick Junior High School there and was editor-in-chief of the school newspaper and won the school's "Outstanding Journalist" award that year.

When she came to Klamath Falls as a junior to live with her aunt, Mrs. Alice Howard, head of the KUHS mathematics department, she abandoned journalism to make time to sing with the a cappella choir. She is a soloist. "I love music, but I only play the ukulele," she said.

She is also a member of the National Honor Society for superior students.

She was elected president of the student body during elections last spring and planned into the job with a relish and sincerity rare in high schools.

For two weeks before school started she worked getting student body records in order and answering correspondence that piled up during summer. But the job was just beginning. She and her staff of officers meet at least once a week and Mikell spends hours of after-school time handling her responsibilities.

Those responsibilities are staggering for a high school senior. Youngsters take their government seriously at KUHS. "At first I was afraid to make decisions," she said, "but I've learned to make them easily and to take criticism cheerfully."

She appointed her non-elective officers with great care. She needed courageous, energetic ma-

terial. Some changes were to be made. And they were made. The student body constitution was overhauled this year from stem to stern and brought up to date to meet problems of a growing school. No longer, for instance, are candidates nominated from the floor during a student body meeting.

If a student wants to nominate someone, he is welcome to attend a meeting of the student council called for the purpose. Confusion is thus averted.

Inter-Club Council The school has a second representative body this year, called the Inter-Club Council. Previously only the student council represented the rank and file at KUHS.

The youngsters put together a student council handbook of correct parliamentary procedure. They outlined for the first time duties of each student body officer.

Homecoming Week and the homecoming parade were more smoothly than previously.

The officers published a student directory listing names, addresses and phone numbers of the entire student body.

Together with Principal Willard McKinny, the group secured its greatest coup of all. It bargained and negotiated for weeks with the school board, city police, city council, parents and students, and contributed a good deal to the KUHS traffic and parking plan that is working far more smoothly than its opposition predicted.

"It's been a wonderful experience," says Mikell, "and that's mostly due to the splendid cooperation and leadership I got from other officers."

As president, Mikell is a sort of lord and mayor. She greets visiting delegations, presides at all assemblies, appoints special committees and so forth.

She speaks often to Parents and Patrons, Kiwanis, Exchange, Quota, Lions, Rotary and other clubs. She is student Rotarian and attends each Friday's like Christmas every week to go to these meetings," she says.

The office provides other rewards. "I think the most fun I've had as president was participating in the state Student Council Workshop in Eugene last August," Mikell said.

Gets Acquainted There she got acquainted with student leaders from all over Oregon. Some are her best friends yet. She had to get used to being one of the few girls present. These she learned solutions to problems common to all schools and how to conduct student government.

Mikell was one of eight state high school International Relations League leaders at the league's conference last February at the University of Oregon. Her group's topic was "Military Alliances and Nuclear Warfare."

She prepared all year for the job, reading voraciously such material as the Great Decisions Discussion Group's pamphlets, newspapers, magazines and books. She is a member of the International Relations League chapter at KUHS. It is an organization for students interested in international affairs.

Mikell is a natural speaker. She talks and talks. As an orator she excels. While a freshman she placed second in a state speech meet with her topic, "The Illiteracy Problem and Privileges of the Negro Population in the U.S."

She feels every student should make an effort to participate in government. "It gives them the chance to practice democracy and get an idea of adult citizenship responsibilities."



MIKELL THURSTON is Klamath Union High School student body president — an office few girls seek. Her reign has been a dynamic one.

# Race Issue Is Problem, Says Evangelist Graham

By BILLY GRAHAM

MONTREAL, N.C. (UPI)—The most burning issue of modern times is the race question. People are discussing it all over the world because it is a world issue.

It is not limited to South Africa or to the southern part of the United States. Wherever two races, nationalities or cultures live side by side there are tensions and problems.

A fine Christian political leader of Africa's country told me recently that he was in a part of America where he was refused meals and lodging on a number of occasions. He was deeply grieved and humiliated. He is a graduate of one of the world's great universities and is one of Africa's greatest Christian political leaders; yet because his skin is dark he was insulted and humiliated in parts of America when he visited us. Suppose in his country, where only a handful of whites live, I had been refused meals and lodging in their hotels because my skin was white? I would have been humiliated.

It must be remembered that seventy per cent of the world's population is colored. They are growing in power, strength and numbers. If we do not end our racial discrimination, the gloomy prophecy of Dr. Martin Niemoller of Germany may come true when he said that a hundred years from now the white race may well be extinct. When are we going to wake up to the fact that we are living in a totally different world than that of even 15 years ago? Modern communications and travel have made the entire world a neighborhood. Who is our neighbor? Jesus gave us the answer in the parable of the Good Samaritan. The Jews of that day had no dealings with the Samaritans, and yet the Samaritans showed who his neighbor was by helping a person of another race.

What Can We Do? What can individuals do to further better racial understanding? We can go out of our way to extend courtesy and friendship on a personal basis to those of another race with whom we come in contact day by day. We can show Christian love and understanding in our daily contacts. We can try putting ourselves in the other person's point of view.

Each individual has the right to choose his own friendships and social relationships. I am convinced that forced integration will never work. You cannot make two races love each other and accept each other at the point of bayonets. It must come from the heart. If it is to be successful, otherwise we can build walls of hatred and prejudice that will take generations to overcome.

Christ said that our problems come from within. "Out of the heart are the issues of life." The Supreme Court can make all the decisions it feels are necessary, but unless they are implemented by good will, love and understanding, great harm will be done.

I am equally convinced that Jim Crow must go. It is absolutely ridiculous to refuse food, or a

night's lodging to a man on the basis of skin color. There are many cultured, refined and educated Negroes, Indians or Mexican who are insulted as human beings when they cannot get a decent place to eat or a comfortable place to sleep in many parts of our country.

Many of those issues that he can boastfully announce to the world: "We will bury you."

Many of those, especially in South Africa, who believe in racial superiority, quote the Bible. How they can twist and distort the scriptures to support racial superiority is beyond me.

No Chosen Race In fact, the whole trend of scriptural teaching is toward racial understanding. Many use the scriptures that were applied to Israel. It is true that God called Israel to be unique among the nations and told them to separate themselves from the evil nations round about them. But the white race cannot possibly claim to be the chosen race nor can the white race take for themselves promises that were applied to ancient Israel.

The Bible also recognizes that each individual has the right to choose his own friendships and social relationships. I am convinced that forced integration will never work. You cannot make two races love each other and accept each other at the point of bayonets. It must come from the heart. If it is to be successful, otherwise we can build walls of hatred and prejudice that will take generations to overcome.

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# Without Arms, Mother Cares For Infant

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—Joann Bert named for his father Bert Talbert cares for her infant son, Jim Sr., for his bath. She wrings in an unusual manner. She carries the wash cloth between her feet, ties him around using her teeth, and bathes the chubby little fellow and clothes him using her low feet.

Bath time over, she redresses Mrs. Talbert performs these mothers' tasks so easily a visitor to the home must be reminded these are not the usual ways of a ready 8-month-old junior Talbert. Catching the knit shirt between

her teeth, the young mother lifts the baby to his hobbyhorse. Like a kitten, used to the system, junior likes it.

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# Rockslide Feared

NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y. (AP)—Large cracks at the crest of the American Falls have stirred fears of a third major rockslide that could crumble a section about the size of a football field. The first slide, in 1954, tumbled 125,000 tons of rock over Prospect Point. In 1956, a 120,000-ton slide destroyed most of a power station, killing one man.

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