

CONFETTI



By LILLIAN S. CALHOUN

Miss Marian Anderson will be present, says an invitation of the National Baha'i Assembly of the United States, "for the planting of the rose recently named in her honor." The planting takes place in the gardens of the Baha'i House of Worship in Wilmette on Sunday.

Miss Anderson who usually uses the editorial "we" reminds us that a gremlin transformed our editorial singular in Wednesday's Confetti to a plural. When we referred to our senior class trip to New Orleans and to staying at the Roosevelt, the word "Negro" should have been singular, not plural. On that trip, Kilroy was little old me. Singular, that is. And a singular situation, too!

A reader called to take issue with our remarks about Malcolm X "scaring us." She told of coming north as a child from Mississippi after whites had given her father 10 days to leave for having suggested to his neighbors that they have a gun in the house. At that time, the white farmers were attaching Negroes' crops right and left.

"As the train went around a bend near Courtland, Miss., we saw two bodies of Negroes hanging from a tree. I was a child but I never have forgotten it. How much more 'scared' can you be than that? In Mississippi, last year, when the white boy on the bicycle shot the Negro boy, after the church bombing, that was a gun used by a child. Nobody screamed in horror about that. I'm not a Muslim, but when someone comes along who helps Negroes see that if they don't smoke, don't chew, don't drink, they're taking millions away from white business, I'm for them. We are not producers, we are consumers. I don't think Malcolm X is wrong. What is wrong about protecting yourself?"



Malcolm X

AROUND AND ABOUT:

Mississippi has apparently not changed much according to SNCC field workers in town to help raise funds for SNCC's Mississippi Summer Project. The rights organization hopes to put over 2,000 teachers, registration workers, artists, remedial reading experts, etc., in the state this summer. Mrs. Mildred Shaw is one Chicagoan trying to set up a series of coffee hours to raise funds.

Out of more than 250,000 Negroes of voting age in the state, only 22,000 are registered. SNCC is also urging that pressure be brought against the federal government to move into ole Miss forthwith to ensure voting, and to provide massive educational and economic aid. A SNCC backed integrated group of delegates will seek to be seated at the Democratic National Convention, too.

The telecasts of the all-out religious rally backing civil rights in the Washington area were tremendous. The rally of 4,000 representatives of Protestantism, Catholicism, and Judaism seemed to have the fervor of last summer's great March on Washington. If the good people of this country are finally becoming aroused to their obligations as Americans, it could mean great and rapid change. We fuss about the wrongs, but by gum, we are pleased to note an exciting and encouraging development.

HOPSCOTCH:

President Johnson is fast becoming everybody's pin-up. Time Mag has a cover story on him this week and The New York Times had a full page plus story detailing his remarkable achievements securing the railroad settlement. He has been terrifically surefooted in his executive operations and even more remarkably, in the realms of statements he's made on every topic since taking office.

Defender staffer Wilson Lewis tells us that Rev. C. T. Vivian of SCLC told the TWO convention of a new southern-based rights group called GROW. Said Vivian: "To us, it stands for the slogan, 'Get Rid of Wallace.' Perhaps, we could even start a Northern chapter in Chicago. We'd call it, 'Get Rid of Willis.' Hip, hip."

Tim Sheehan, the new GOP county chairman, we're told, made quite a pitch on TV the other night on the importance of the Negro vote to the Republicans. We can't see how Percy could lose Republican votes, and if he manages to pick up many Negroes or independent voters, he could run a wow of a race. The Dems have generously given the GOP a lot of rights issues, if the Republicans have the wit or the will to use them.

On those gremlins again, we had Mr. Steiner's name as Garry, but somehow it was changed to Gerry. And we termed ourself a civil libertarian, but somehow it almost came out a civil libertine. Ouch.

The word is just out on the school board appointments.

We hear it's Mrs. Malis, Mrs. Green and James Clement. Mr. Clement was recently misquoted as praising Supt. Willis. So the Mayor could well have thought he was appointing three clinkers. There's no doubt that two are pro-Willis. So how do you like them apples? The man thinks a lot of your opinion.