

## ARTICLE DE JOURNAL

NOM : \_\_\_\_\_

## CONNAISSANCES PRÉALABLES



Les extraits suivants sont des traductions libres de portions d'un article publié dans un journal d'Halifax le 30 novembre 1946 (illustré à la dernière page). Viola Desmond a été interviewée pour l'article.

## UNE NÉGRESSE PRÉTEND AVOIR ÉTÉ EXPULSÉE D'UN CINÉMA

HALIFAX, 29 nov. (PC) – M<sup>me</sup> W. P. Oliver, membre de la direction de la Nova Scotia Association for the Advancement of Coloured People et épouse du seul aumônier nègre de l'armée canadienne, a déclaré ce soir qu'un **bref** a été déposé contre le gérant d'un cinéma de New Glasgow, en Nouvelle-Écosse, en rapport avec l'expulsion présumée d'une négresse d'un cinéma de cette ville.

## TERMINOLOGIE

**Bref :** Document juridique émanant d'un tribunal et informant une personne qu'elle fera l'objet d'une procédure judiciaire. Le bref ordonne à quelqu'un de faire ou de cesser de faire quelque chose.

M<sup>me</sup> Desmond a dit au magistrat qu'elle était jugée pour sa condition de négresse et non pour un quelconque crime.

«Je suis entrée au cinéma Roseland et j'ai donné à la guichetière un billet d'un dollar en lui indiquant vouloir un billet pour le parterre. Elle m'a donné un billet et de la monnaie. J'ai donné mon billet à la portière et je suis allée au parterre.

«Après une courte distance, la portière m'a rappelée en me disant que c'était un billet pour le balcon et que c'était là que je devais aller.

«J'ai répondu que la guichetière devait avoir fait une erreur et que j'allais le faire changer parce que j'avais demandé un billet pour le parterre.

«Je suis retourné au guichet et j'ai demandé à la guichetière d'échanger mon billet. Elle a refusé. Je lui ai demandé pourquoi. Elle m'a dit qu'elle était désolée, mais qu'elle n'avait pas le droit de vendre des billets pour le parterre à des personnes comme moi.

«Comme le parterre n'était que partiellement rempli, je ne voyais pas pourquoi elle refusait, alors je suis entrée et je me suis assise. La portière a appelé le gérant, M. MacNeil, et ce dernier a exigé que j'aille au balcon.

«Je lui ai dit que je ne m'asseyais jamais au balcon parce que je ne vois pas bien à cette distance. Il a répondu en me demandant si je savais qu'ils avaient le droit de refuser l'entrée à toute personne indésirable.

«Je lui ai dit qu'on ne m'avait pas refusé l'entrée, mais que la guichetière avait plutôt refusé de me vendre un billet pour le parterre, et je lui ai demandé de m'en vendre un. Il s'est mis en colère et a dit qu'il pouvait me faire expulser du cinéma. Comme je suis restée très calme, je n'ai pas cru un instant qu'il passerait à l'acte.

«Il est parti et est revenu peu de temps après avec un policier. Le policier m'a saisi les épaules et le gérant a attrapé mes jambes, me blessant au genou et à la hanche. Ils m'ont portée à bras le corps du cinéma jusqu'à la rue.

«Le policier m'a fait monter dans un taxi qui attendait et on m'a conduite au poste de police. Quelques minutes plus tard, le gérant est arrivé aux côtés du chef de la police. Ils sont partis ensemble et sont revenus une heure plus tard avec un mandat d'arrêt.

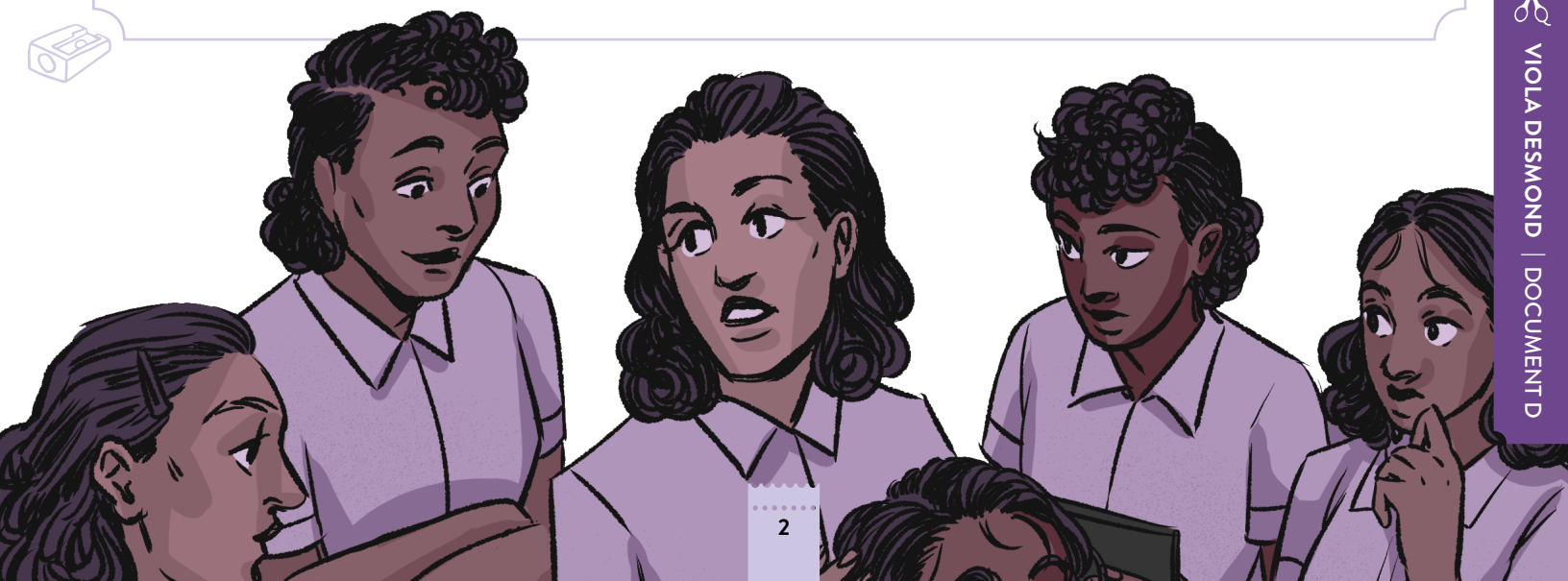
«On m'a mise dans une cellule qui avait une couchette et des couvertures. Il y avait quelques hommes avec moi, et on a continué à en faire venir d'autres pendant la nuit. La surveillante était très gentille et semblait comprendre que je n'étais pas à ma place.

«J'ai été emprisonnée pendant 12 heures et le lendemain matin, j'ai été jugée et reconnue coupable par le magistrat d'avoir fraudé le gouvernement fédéral d'un cent, soit la différence entre la taxe sur les divertissements de deux cents pour un billet au balcon et de trois cents pour un billet au parterre.

«J'ai été condamnée à une amende de 20 dollars avec les frais afférents ou à 30 jours de prison. J'ai payé l'amende de 26 dollars.

«Je suis retournée à Halifax ce jour-là, samedi. Le lundi étant un jour férié, je n'ai pu consulter un médecin que le mardi. Il m'a donné un traitement pour mon genou et ma hanche. Le genou va bien maintenant, mais je suis toujours sous traitement pour ma hanche.»

Source : [\*Halifax Chronicle\*, 30 novembre 1946](#)





## RECHERCHE DE SOURCES

Combien de temps après la condamnation de Viola Desmond cet article a-t-il été écrit?

Que laisse entendre le titre de l'article sur le point de vue du journal?

Où cet article a-t-il été écrit? En quoi est-ce potentiellement important?

## MISE EN CONTEXTE

Quelles ressources étaient en place pour aider Viola Desmond à agir comme elle l'a fait?





## MISE EN CONTEXTE

La Nova Scotia Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NSAACP) a été créée en 1945 pour exprimer le mécontentement de la population noire. Elle a parfois porté des problèmes de discrimination raciale à l'attention des tribunaux. Pourquoi selon toi la Nova Scotia Association for the Advancement of Coloured People était-elle nécessaire à cette époque?

Que laisse entendre l'article sur les femmes noires en Nouvelle-Écosse à cette époque?



## LECTURE ATTENTIVE

D'après l'article, quels événements ont motivé Viola Desmond à faire ce qu'elle a fait? Que voulait-elle?



Dans l'article, quels mots sont utilisés pour décrire les personnes noires?

D'après cet article, pourquoi Viola Desmond a-t-elle pensé qu'elle était vraiment accusée?





### LECTURE ATTENTIVE

À ton avis, que voulait dire Henry MacNeil lorsqu'il a déclaré qu'il avait le droit de refuser l'entrée à toute personne indésirable?

### CORROBORATION

Tu dois créer une chronologie des événements à partir des réponses données par Viola Desmond dans l'article de journal.

Comment la version des faits qu'exprime Viola Desmond dans l'article de journal se compare-t-elle aux autres documents?



# Negress Alleges She Was Ejected From Theatre

## Halifax Woman To Take Action Against New Glasgow Theatre Man

HALIFAX, Nov. 29 (CP) — Mrs. W. P. Oliver, member of the executive of the Nova Scotia Association for the Advancement of Colored People and wife of the only negro chaplain in the Canadian army, said tonight a writ has been taken out against a New Glasgow, N.S., theatre manager in connection with the alleged ejection of a negress from a movie house in that town. She said the writ is aimed at preventing a spread of color-bar tactics in Nova Scotia.

Mrs. Oliver said her association was supporting Mrs. Viola Desmond, 32, Halifax Beauty Parlor Operator, in taking the case before the Supreme Court in the spring.

F. W. Bissett of Halifax, counsel for Mrs. Desmond, said he had filed and served a writ against Henry McNeill, manager of the New Glasgow Roseland Theatre, charging false arrest, false imprisonment, assault and malicious prosecution.

E. M. Macdonald of New Glasgow counsel for Mr. McNeill would not comment other than to say he had entered an appearance for his client.

J. W. Godfrey of Halifax, counsel for the New Glasgow Roseland Theatre, said he had been advised by Mr. Bissett that Mrs. Desmond was discontinuing similar proceedings against that theatre.

Chief of Police Elmo Langille of New Glasgow said that Mrs. Desmond had pleaded not guilty Nov. 8 in police court to a charge under the Theatres, Cinematographs and Amusements Tax Act of not having paid the proper tax under section eight sub-section eight A. He said Mrs. Desmond was convicted and sentenced to pay a fine of \$20 with \$6 costs by Magistrate R. G. MacKay.

Mrs. Oliver related these details of the incident: Mrs. Desmond, passing through New Glasgow on her way to Sydney, had entered the theatre and asked for a seat downstairs. The ticket seller had sold her an upstairs ticket.

When Mrs. Desmond walked into the downstairs section and taken a seat, Mrs. Oliver said the manager had asked Mrs. Desmond to go upstairs saying "You people are not allowed to sit down here." When she refused a policeman was called and Mrs. Desmond was ejected.

The charge, accusing Mrs. Desmond of defrauding the government of one cent amusement tax—the difference between balcony and downstairs ticket tax—was laid. The next day Mrs. Desmond pleaded not guilty in court and was convicted.

Mrs. Desmond told the magistrate she was being tried for being a negress and not for any felony.

Mrs. Oliver said that after Mrs. Desmond paid her fine she drove to Halifax and showed her physician bruises she claimed were suffered when she was ejected from the theatre. Mrs. Oliver said it was the physician who advised Mrs. Desmond to see a lawyer.

In an interview here tonight, Mrs. Desmond said:

"I can't understand why such measures should have been taken. I have travelled a great deal throughout Canada and parts of the United States and nothing like this ever happened to me before."

"I was born in Halifax and have lived here most of my life and I've found relations between negroes and whites very pleasant. I didn't realize a thing like this could happen in Nova Scotia—or in any other part of Canada."

The 32-year-old woman said she was completing a business trip through New Brunswick and Nova Scotia when her car broke down

and she decided to spend the night in New Glasgow.

She continued: "I entered the Roseland Theatre and gave the cashier a \$1 bill saying 'one down please.' She gave me a ticket and some change. I gave the ticket-taker my ticket and passed in downstairs."

"After I had gone a short distance the ticket-taker called me back, saying this is an upstairs ticket and you will have to go upstairs."

"The cashier must have made a mistake," I said. "I asked for a downstairs ticket. I will have this exchanged."

"I returned to the wicket and asked the cashier to exchange my ticket. She refused. I asked why. She said, 'I'm sorry but I'm not permitted to sell downstairs tickets to you people.'"

"As the downstairs auditorium was just partially filled with people I could see no reason for her refusal so I went inside and sat down. The ticket-taker called the manager, Mr. McNeill, and he demanded that I go upstairs."

"I told him that I never sit upstairs because I can't see well from that distance. He said, 'Don't you know that we have the right to refuse admission to any objectionable person?'"

"I told him that I had not been refused admission but the cashier had refused to sell me a downstairs ticket and I asked him to do so. He became angry and said he could have me thrown out of the theatre. As I was behaving very quietly I didn't think he could."

"He left and returned a short time later with a policeman. The policeman grasped my shoulders and the manager grabbed my legs, injuring my knee and hip. They carried me bodily from the theatre out into the street."

"The policeman put me into a waiting taxi and I was driven to the police station. Within a few minutes the manager appeared and the Chief of Police. They left together and returned in an hour with a warrant for my arrest."

"I was put in a cell which had a bunk and blankets. There were a number of men in the same block and they kept bringing in more during the night. The matron was very nice and she seemed to realize that I shouldn't have been there."

"I was jailed for 12 hours and next morning I was tried and convicted by the magistrate of defrauding the federal government of one cent, this being the difference in the amusement tax on an upstairs ticket of two cents and a downstairs ticket of three cents."

"I was fined \$20 and costs of 30 days in jail. I paid the fine, \$28."

"I returned to Halifax that day, Saturday. Monday was a holiday so I could not see a doctor until Tuesday. He gave me treatment for my knee and hip. The knee is alright now but I'm still taking treatment for my hip."

Mrs. Desmond has been married for 10 years. She has no children. Her husband runs a barber shop on Gottingen street.

## CLOSED BEFORE IT OPENED

LAKE SUCCESS, N. Y., Nov. 29 (AP)—Dmitri Z. Manuilsky, foreign minister of the Soviet Ukraine and chairman of the United Nations political committee, opened today's session on arms reduction with the statement:

"The meeting is adjourned. When the laughter subsided, he added quickly: 'I beg your pardon. We are just starting. The meeting called to order.'"

## More Grain For Brewers

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29 (AP)—The United States government today removed restrictions on domestic use of flour and granted distillers and brewers permission to use more grain for making whiskey and beer.

These changes, which President Truman announced were made possible by bountiful crops, become effective Dec. 1.

The only restrictions remaining on the use of wheat are that wheat and flour may not be used by distillers and brewers, and that milling grade wheat and flour may not be used in manufactured mixed livestock feed. The government said edible wheat and rice should be reserved for food. Restrictions were maintained on rye because supplies of this particular grain are short.

Distillers may use unlimited quantities of low-grade corn, but a prohibition against use of wheat was retained. Previously distillers were limited to 3,000,000 bushels of all grains monthly.

Brewers may not use wheat, and only limited quantities of rice, but may use for the quarter beginning Dec. 1 as much grain as in the corresponding period of 1945 or 1946, whichever is greater. Previously they had been limited to 90 per cent of the grain used a year ago.

## France Without Government

PARIS, Nov. 29 (AP) — France technically was without a government today as the Socialist Party warily agreed to confer with the Communists on the make-up of a new cabinet to serve until January, the leadership of which is demanded by the Communists for their Secretary-General, Maurice Thorez.

Georges Bidault, who stepped down yesterday, no longer is either president, premier or foreign minister. However, according to custom, he and the members of his cabinet go about their official functions "to expedite current affairs."

Thus far Thorez is the only avowed candidate for M. Bidault's post as premier, to serve until January. After the first of the year, when both Houses of Parliament are seated, a president of the Fourth Republic will be chosen and will name a premier to form a permanent cabinet.

## Faces Trial On Murder Charge

CORNWALL, Nov. 29 (CP)—William Earl (Bowser) Lama, 49-year-old farmer from nearby Harrison's Corners, today was committed for

