

Entertainment Guide

by Allen Jones

An Evening Of Nostalgia

While still promoting, An Evening of Nostalgia, many people were more concerned with my motives rather than the entertainment value one might derive from the show itself. There were questions like: What's the matter you can't pay your rent? Or, What organization are you supporting? Or, Where are the profits from the show going and etc.

The answer to those questions are quite simple, as I've explained to many. I eventually will become a promoter. Bringing your favorite artist to the Civic Auditorium, Paramount Theater and other concert halls in Portland. This was my first show and socially a successful one according to the record breaking capacity crowd who attended. I simply wanted to say - Ha Portland! My name is Allen Jones and this is what I'll be doing as time passes. Even with the capacity attendance we had at the show, I still recognized the absence of many of the people belonging to social organizations I've religiously supported down through the years - which of course isn't totally alarming when we look at the situation realistically. We as a people have been notorious for not supporting each other in our endeavors. Which is basically the reason why we're the largest minority in America - with the least.

I got the idea of booking Walter Bridges and the Swinging Cavaliers, when I saw them perform at a benefit concert for the late Andrea Garrard, who was one of the finest basists ever produced from the Northwest. Bridges, as many of you know, played with Count Basie for years. I wanted it to be an evening of nostalgia. Music, clothing, swing dancing and ALL! I was asked why not a rock band with the contemporary sound? Because I wanted Bridges and a sound that withstood the test of time. His sound represents a renaissance period for Blacks in America that has not been duplicated today! I respect that era and the positive impact it has made on all Black musicians during those times. We had a cross section of Portlanders who attended Nostalgia 77 to reminisce, dance and just have a swinging good time.

I'd like to thank: Walter Bridges and the Swinging Cavaliers, "Gentleman" Gene Diamond, and LaVern Davis who were the catalysts in making Nostalgia 77 a total success. Along with the models: Merrill Fabian, Bernice Farris, Liz Hudson, Carrie Moore, Linda Craft, Jackie Wilkerson, LaRan Smith, Gwen Stamps, Michelle Burton, Stan Johnson, Ralph Davis, and George Taylor.

Lets certainly not forget the distinguished panel of judges: Verla Woods, Geri Ward, Jim Brooks, John Blow, Ray Robinson and photographer Charles Patterson and of course - YOU!



Pearls from the Poet

by Ulysses Marshall

NEVER-MIND

When I first heard these words

"If he's for you, he's more than
the world against you."

I knew those words related to me
But just how much I couldn't completely see

It took age, wisdom, pain, the loss of
loved ones, hard living, suffering, and
self centered people, to make me understand

But really it only took the
Grace of God.

Everything will be
sweeter tomorrow!

Protesters gag Ambassador

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Bert Knorr, a PSU student and member of RSB, a national communist student organization, addressed the gathering. "Jeremy Shearar isn't coming here to shed any light, he's coming here to tell a lot of lies, spread a lot of poison. We can't stand by and allow him to tell those lies, spread that poison."

Once inside the chapel, the chanting continued. David Savage, acting dean of faculty and a member of the symposium committee, asked the chanting demonstrators if they believed in free speech. "Is it your intention to stifle the right of the people to speak and listen?" he asked. "Is that your purpose? Can I have a spokesman? Those of us who are here to speak and to listen would like to be clear on that."

The chanting demonstrators answered with "No way, no way, no way."

Among those who attempted to quiet the demonstrators was a representative from the United Black Coalition. He said that he wanted to hear Shearar speak and that he had some questions he wanted to ask him. "I'm Black and I'd like to ask the guy a question," he said. "I think I have that right." He asked the demonstrators to give him two minutes to speak, but

was continually interrupted. "Your're protesting about self-determination for Blacks. But you're doing nothing but showing racism by not listening to Black people. You are white and you are destroying our self-determination."

During the next hour, numerous attempts were made to quiet the chanting demonstrators. The Lewis and Clark Coalition made it clear that although they had supported the demonstration outside the chapel, they felt strongly that Shearar should be allowed to speak and to be challenged by questions from the audience. Nana Grey-Johnson, a Lewis and Clark student from Gambia and a spokesperson for the Coalition attempted to speak but was shouted down. Asked later for his views on the demonstration, he said, "I am disappointed that Shearar did not get to speak. The strategy was to allow him to hang himself with his own rope in trying to defend a system as odious as the one which he represents. The Coalition had particularly in mind the Lewis and Clark student audience who left the chapel not having learned a thing about South Africa. If Shearar had been speaking in Soweto, I would have been the first person to shout him down, but not at Lewis and Clark. Those who

disrupted the meeting denied the college public a chance to hear a man defend a system that was totally inhumane, illegal, supported by dollars generated within the American economic structure. My point is that the Lewis and Clark students that are going to be corporate managers and investors in South Africa ten, twenty years from now. It would have been strategic to expose them to the conditions their businesses will be exerting on the people of that country. I am totally satisfied with the stance the Coalition took. It was a well-thought out plan to educate fellow students. When a student comes up to you and asks 'who is apartheid?', then you know how much work you have to do to marshal sympathy for the cause of liberation."

After an hour of attempts to quiet the demonstrators, Neilson said that Shearar would not speak. "Freedom of speech, the opening of unrestricted dialogue between rational people has been closed," he said.

The Coalition issued a statement in the student newspaper the following day, indicating they did not condone the disruption of the talk, and that they were disappointed that the issue had become one of free speech and not of the racist policy of apartheid. They urged the students to get back on the track: to study the issues of South Africa and multi-national involvement in the Third World.

Gilcrease ends PMSC stay 'with no regrets'

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ready for parole but who had no jobs were released so they could participate in the CEP program.

One of the high points of his stay as director of CEP was meeting Bill Nickerson, a realtor, who put him in touch with Potter and Waterman, who built the building PMSC now occupies. "They told me that if I could guarantee that CEP would provide a good program for five years, they would build a building to my specifications. We shook hands and that was it."

Gilcrease became executive director of PMSC in March of 1969 and continued to direct CEP for eight more months. No, he did not draw two salaries. Actually, he took the PMSC job at a salary of \$16,000, which was \$2,000 less than the salary that had been advertised. Eventually the Board noticed this discrepancy and gave him \$18,000.

For the following eight years, and particularly for the past three years, Gilcrease has been a man of controversy. "I have always spoken out on the issues and refused to go along with the power structure if it was not in the interest of the poor. I have put the goals of the program first and of course that has made some enemies."

"I've had to fire some people and of course that makes people angry. I figure for every person fired, there are ten people affected. But in every case that has gone through on appeal, I've been upheld. I've tried to go along with people and help them do the job, but when it becomes a choice between the programs and one person, that person has to go."

Gilcrease explained the large turn-overs in some areas of his office. There are certain percentages of failure, but one of the functions of PMSC is to serve as a training ground. "There are people who are administrators for the city and the county who once were clerks at PMSC. Many former employees and trainees have gone on to get degrees and good jobs."

Gilcrease has made it a practice not to hire people just because they were referred by public officials. Recently he was attacked by State Senator Ted Hallock after declining to hire a friend of Hallock. "Commissioner Ivancie also referred a friend, but understood when he was not hired. That is one of the reasons I have a lot of respect for Ivancie."

Gilcrease's major problems with attacks by the press and others began when he achieved national prominence. Three years ago he was elected President of the 18,000 member National Association for Community Development, one of the two major organizations dealing with poverty. "Most mayors - including Lindsay and Dailey - supported their own candidates for these positions. They know how

important the contacts can be for bringing funds into their cities. But I was elected president and I guess the local people just couldn't understand how I could win a national office."

Involvement in NACD and in the National Community Action Agency Executive Directors Association, representing the Executive Directors of more than 870 Community Action Agencies, has involved Gilcrease in national politics. He was one of the group that sued Richard Nixon and won a federal court decision that funds, once allocated by Congress and approved by the President, could not be impounded by the President.

When Nixon determined to close out the Office of Economic Opportunity (the war on poverty agency now called Community Service Agency), Gilcrease and about fifty others organized a poor people's mobilization that brought thousands to Washington and resulted in Congress continuing the agency. This stopped Nixon's efforts to destroy OEO and eventually OEO Director Phillips was determined to be holding office illegally.

Recriminations were immediate. Of the fifty organizers, at least half have been forced out of their positions through media campaigns and justice department investigations. "The pattern is always the same. The same thing that has happened to me - slander in the press, the audits and investigations - until many have been forced to resign just to retain their health and sanity." Concurrent with this campaign has been the accusation of criminal activities against nearly every Black elected official.

Although Gilcrease is one of a group of twenty or so people who plan and promote national legislation and policy for community action and related programs, he has not received local recognition for his participation. Rather, he has been criticized for absence from his duties at PMSC.

"When I was selected by the Administration to be one of 39 delegates to represent the U.S. government at a United Nations Conference, it was a high point in my life. But it was also disappointing. This honor was not even mentioned in the local press until after the Observer criticized them for their omission."

"I am not looking for praise, but I get my satisfaction from knowing what I accomplish. But it does hurt a little when you are constantly criticized and then an honor like this is ignored."

Regarding the lack of local support, Gilcrease pointed out that he has been in a position to bring more federal dollars into Portland, but has not had the cooperation of city government. "Because of my position with NACD I meet people and know people, and there have been opportunities for Portland - but apparently because of their dislike for me, the city chose not to use my position in this

way." One example was an opportunity to get an economic development grant from CSA that would have brought up to \$9 million in three years. "I met with the Mayor personally and he assured me of his fullest support. But we needed a letter from him to Samuel Martinez, Director of CSA. We needed the letter by November of 1975. The Mayor sent the letter, but not until May of 1976 - so we lost the grant."

Another example of lack of support was a statement made to Harry Carpenter, auditor for CSA who recently conducted an investigation of Kent Ford's charges against Gilcrease. Carpenter's report indicates, "Jordan denied that he was using Kent Ford to discredit PMSC. He advised that Ford's group has no connection whatsoever with the City. Jordan also indicated that Gilcrease had lost his credibility with the political powers, both City and County, but that neither the City or the County wanted to take over the CAP, because it was considered a 'headache'."

"Right now, we still have materials available for home repair and winterization," Gilcrease explained. "This is material we bought with a grant from the city, but our work force has been cut to three. We are doing some work now, but it is very limited. If we could get some CETA employees from the city, we could use these materials to winterize homes of the poor and not only upgrade the housing but save fuel costs. We could easily use fifty CETA slots."

Describing the CREP (Community Rehabilitation and Employment Program) as one of the most successful PMSC programs, Gilcrease said he had heard that after the grant to PMSC for this project had been announced, certain city officials had attempted to block the grant. The CREP program used unemployed persons to repair and winterize homes, thus improving living conditions as well as providing employment and training.

Gilcrease announced his resignation two weeks ago, although he had been planning it for some time. "I had planned to leave last fall, but Kent Ford made me stay another eight months. I wasn't going to give him the satisfaction of thinking he had driven me away - so I stayed."

Gilcrease will take the summer off, vacationing with his family and enjoying some of Oregon's beauty. He has not yet decided on future employment, but has had a number of enticing offers over the past months. Contrary to reports in a local gossip column, he has not been turned down by the Carter Administration. He worked closely with Joseph Aragon on the transition team and was asked to apply for a position but did not.

"I am not ready to take a federal job. I don't want to be shut up. I have concerns about welfare, civil service, the sickness that makes this nation spend billions on arms while the poor starve. I want to be

free to speak. Perhaps later I will want to settle down to a government job - but not yet."

In his final release to the press concerning his resignation, Gilcrease gave a word of advice:

"In closing I would like to leave you with the following quote in the hope that you will remember and adhere to it: 'An informed public depends on accurate and effective reporting by the news media. No individual can obtain for himself the more factual information needed toward formulating an opinion better than the media itself. The press, therefore, should act as an agent of the public at large.'"

To the public he recommends the following:

"The people must become more involved and find out who is making the decisions and how they are being made. The next few months will be crucial for PMSC but a new director without the negative factors I have had to face, can build a stronger program. But the public must watch over PMSC - or it won't have it."

"Portland has gone backward in the past few years. At one time there was more meaningful participation through Model Cities and other programs and there were a number of Black directors. Now most of these are gone. PMSC is probably the one remaining program where the people can really make decisions that effect their daily lives. This will all be lost if the community can't get together, support one another, and become involved."

PMSC

(Continued from page 1 col. 6)

promoting himself and for flattering me." The McCready letter also states that "a number of citizen complaints" have been received by her office in regard to PMSC.

Since Commissioner McCready is not in charge of City Human Resources, several board members noted that "she had no authority" to intervene in PMSC affairs. County-appointed board member Kelly Bacon noted, however, that the Commissioner does provide a vote to allot funds to the Community Action Agency. Mrs. McCready was not available for comment.

The McCready meeting, Bacon said, "gave me an idea of where McCready was coming from and where each of us (board members appointed by the city and county) were coming from."

Other attempts at a "coup" have been said to be coming from regular board members from Portland Action Communities Together (PACT), a PMSC delegate agency located in Southeast Portland, in cooperation with delegates from the public sector (City, County appointees) and most notably, the County appointees.

At the May 18 board meeting, PACT delegates made moves to introduce anew agenda calling for the election of committee chairpersons. According to PMSC guidelines, nominations must be in effect for 30 days before such elections could be held. Motions to accept the new agenda and to add elections to the new business agenda failed.

A motion was made twice to disallow the report of the Executive Director, delivered in his absence by Don Fuller, in light of a resolution passed at an earlier meeting to require the Director's presence at board meetings unless otherwise excused by the Chairman of the Board. The first time it passed; it was rescinded upon re-submission by one vote.

It was during this jockeying for position that Mrs. Benson made charges of conspiracy as well as charges of the board's "mucking around" instead of taking care of the business of the poor.

Mrs. Benson's removal was with applause by county delegates and some PACT representatives.

Pastor receives honorary degree

St. Mark Baptist Church is celebrating its Pastor's Anniversary on Sunday, May 29, 1977.

The highlight of this year's events will be the conferring of an honorary doctorate degree on Rev. Wilder, by the St. John Theological Seminary of Los Angeles.

The event will take place at 3 p.m. in the Church auditorium.

The membership of St. Mark invites the public to attend. St. Mark is located at 103 N.E. Morris.



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Thursday: Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm
Friday: "The Pastor Speaks" Tuesday - Friday Noon Day Prayer

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