

## African Women's Day observed

by N. Fungai Kumbula

Last Wednesday night, Portland observed a tradition dating back 22 years, the observance of South African Women's Day. The purpose of this event was to acknowledge the role of women in the continuing struggle against apartheid.

Karen Wells, from the Black Women's Rap Group, acted as the moderator and her moderation was such that we were able to maintain a balance between the celebration per se and the deliverance of the message. She started off by explaining what apartheid was, the purpose of South African Women's Day and then introduced Elizabeth Groff from The American Friends Service Committee, who showed 'South Africa: Freedom Rising,' a slide show detailing life under apartheid.

After the slide show, Karen Wells did biographical sketches of three South African women: Lilian Ngoyi, formerly President of The Federation of South African Women, Nonsikelelo Alberlina Sisulu, former secretary of The African National Congress and Winnie Mandela, probably the best known African nationalist in South Africa today. All three women have paid dearly for their political activities. They have been banned repeatedly. Mrs. Ngoyi spent eleven years in prison of which 71 days was in solitary, the most difficult part of her life, she said. And Winnie Mandela's clashes with the 'authorities'

are also legend.

Poetry from Zindzi Mandela's new book, 'black as i am' followed the biographical sketches. Elizabeth Waters and Michon Blount read selections from the book. The author(ess) is only sixteen and is the daughter of Winnie and Nelson Mandela. Mr. Mandela is serving a life term on Robben Island since 1964 for his ANC activities and Winnie has been under successive banning orders and house arrests as far back as 1962. She is currently confined to Brandfort, a small town in Orange 'Free' State, the heart of Afrikanerdom. So, Zindzi and her sister, Zenani, had to be cared for by relatives. They have never known real family life, and, her poetry, depicting life in Soweto and other ghettos, with some excellent photography by award winning former DRUM and Rand Daily Mail photographer, Peter Magubane, reflects her anguish.

One selection in particular, comes to mind:

*I saw as a child  
a tall building  
beautiful and empty  
and I never knew why  
when my home was so small  
and this so big  
we were overcrowded . . . . .*

It is a heart wrenching book and not to be missed by anybody who has ever wondered what it is like to live under apartheid. My hat's off to the two readers, too.

## Book explains youth rights

The Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group (OSPIRG) and the Metropolitan Youth Commission (MYC) released "Youth Faces the Law," a juvenile rights handbook for Oregon youngsters.

"Young people often don't understand the parade of intake counselors, probation officers, CSD caseworkers, group counselors, court personnel, detention guards, attorneys, and other adults who cloud the child's view of the law," said Ian McColgin, OSPIRG staff member who supervised production of the handbook.

"Youth Faces the Law" lets juveniles know when they are likely to become enmeshed in the justice system, how it operates, and how to survive its confusing processes," McColgin explained. "The handbook also tells juveniles about their special role in civil law and the school system."

"Youths don't need dry lists of rules and they don't need preaching," McColgin said. "With this handbook, young people can

make their own decisions about how to handle their own problems."

"Creating 'Youth Faces the Law' represents unprecedented cooperation between federal, county, city, and private agencies," said Alice Simpson, Director of the Metropolitan Youth Commission.

Cooperation between the Metropolitan Youth Commission and OSPIRG came about when the Commission decided to update their old handbook. The Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) provided funds for Steve Jacobson and Howard Liptzin to work for MYC with Zoe Yank, a Lewis and Clark Law School work-study student, on revising a draft handbook prepared by OSPIRG intern Jerry Lidz. CETA also funded OSPIRG artist Chris Edmiston.

"Youth Faces the Law" can be purchased for 50c. Within Portland and Multnomah County, contact the Metropolitan Youth Commission at 319 S.W. Washington, Portland, or phone 248-4005. People from other areas can obtain the handbook from OSPIRG, 918 S.W. Yamhill, Portland, Oregon 97204.

The Family Circus came on next to do "Women In Prison," an excerpt from their play, "Labor Pains." After that came Niobe who accompanied herself on guitar to sing "Yaller Gal" and "Songs of The Sisters." Both acts were very well received and well they deserved to be.

To round off what was a highly successful evening, Oyoyo, a seven member group consisting of four men and three women thrilled the audience with their brand of African music and some very fancy footwork. They had the hundred or so spectators so enthralled that even though we were supposed to have been out of the King Neighborhood Center by 10:00, nobody had the heart to stop them until they completed at about 10:30. The dancing was something else!

All in all, it was a very successful evening, not so much because of all the activities, but because of the purpose of the celebration: paying tribute to the women who do not always get credit for their efforts in the struggle. The program was sponsored by The American Friends Service Committee, The Black Women's Rap Group and Portland Citizens Against Racism and endorsed by a lot of groups from the community. To all those who took part in South African Women's Day this year, whether in the actual program, the planning, sponsoring, endorsing or just "spectatoring," a million thanks.

## Final zoo program set

The final summer gathering of Cascades Day, a special program on Oregon Cascades animals, will take place at the Washington Park Zoo on August 17th at 1:30 p.m. The 30-minute program, sponsored by the Washington Park Zoo and Portland Bureau of Parks, is conducted by Marie Reeder of Zoo to You and Ark in the Park. The event is free to all children between the ages of eight and thirteen years.

Children participating in Cascades Day will have an opportunity to learn about local wildlife and plants. Some of the animals include a red-tailed hawk, a gopher, an opossum and a rabbit. Marie Reeder will introduce ideas such as the relationships among these animals and between animals and humans, plants that are essential to animals and general wildlife values.

Following the presentation, children who participate will have an opportunity to enter an essay contest or a drawing contest. Washington Park Zoo t-shirts will be awarded as prizes.

All children interested in Cascades Day should meet at Washington Park Zoo near the eagle exhibit in the lower south end of the zoo. Regular zoo admission in effect.

## Portland Observer JOB FINDER

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Fund accounting, payroll preparation, payables, budgeting, fiscal planning, financial reports through trial balance. \$1,050 depending upon experience. Resumes by August 25th to: Richard Forester, Multnomah County Legal Aid, 310 S.W. 4th Avenue, Room 900, Portland, OR. 97204.

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## Obituary

Services for Dominic Christopher Michael Joseph were held Thursday, August 17th at 9:30 a.m. at St. Andrew Catholic Church. A prayer service was held Wednesday evening at Vann's mortuary.

Dominic was born April 14, 1960 in Washington D.C. and has lived in Portland since 1967. A 1978 graduate of Marshall High School, he was President of the Marshall High School Thespians and was selected to serve as a student advisor on the Portland Public Schools Title VII Advisory Board. He was a member of the Jantzen Beach Figure Skating Club and worked as a patrol for the Lloyd Center Ice Skating Rink. An outstanding student, he was involved in many scholastic and athletic activities.

Survivors are his father Vernon F. (Joe) Joseph of Portland; his mother, Peggy (Joseph) Graves, Washington D.C.; brothers Vernon of Washington D.C., Ronald and Harry of Portland; sisters, Amelia and Roberta of Portland, and many



DOMINIC JOSEPH

close friends.

His family requests contributions to the American Cancer Society in lieu of flowers.

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