



by Abdul Shaheed Madyum
(Aka: William Grandy)

During March of 1968 an organization was founded by a handful of Afro-American inmates at O.S.P. At that time there were only about thirty to forty inmates of African descent in a prison population of approximately 1,100 inmates. It was during the turbulent sixties, a time of discontent in the Black ghettos, dissatisfaction with the war in Vietnam, and the universal struggle for freedom and self-determination of all oppressed people that the UHURU organization began. The organization initially was formed to foster awareness of Afro-American history, its culture, development, and self-awareness. UHURU had to struggle hard with the forces of racism, which at that time were very much felt at the prison, also to gain the confidence, respect and recognition of the prison administration. At



UHURU was organized to speak of the problems of Blacks in prison.

Behind the Wall

Larry Baker #35021,
O.S.P. Correspondent

first the administration was very skeptical and hesitant about supporting a Black self governing organization, but finally granted official sanction to the organization.

That was over a decade ago and UHURU has come a long way since then. Now there are approximately 250 to 300 prisoners of African descent in a population of 1,400. In addition to fostering positive attitudes of self and community to its members, UHURU has, over the years, reached into the outside community for support of its projects and programs.

For the past six years members of UHURU have been leaving the prison on work projects sponsored by the organization. While these work projects provide an opportunity for an inmate to leave the confines of prison for a few hours, they also afford him the opportunity of looking at his community from a different and more constructive perspective.



Members of UHURU meet in prison visiting room to plan community service projects.

More importantly, however, these work projects provide a voluntary service to the outside communities ranging from clean-up crews to moving crews. In short, UHURU offers a labor force at no cost to the community. The organization does accept donations large and small, monetary as well as material to help it better serve the community.

For some time now there has been an outside chapter of UHURU in Portland and just recently a chapter was started in the Salem area. At present, the outside chapters are working with the prison members to achieve success in two relatively new but very important projects: the Step by Step Foundation and the Family Assistance Program.

The Step by Step Foundation is designed to assist those in the community who are financially in need of transportation to and from jobs, supermarkets, etc. . . . In short, those who are simply and obviously in

need!

The Family Assistance Program is primarily designed to assist families of Black inmates with child care, transportation services, food, clothing and shelter.

To achieve success with these endeavors UHURU needs the support of the business community as well as individuals. They need and welcome any assistance i.e.: clothes, food, transportation, household appliances etc. . . . To increase their capability to function in serving the community. Any support that is put into this organization will come back in the form of community services. For more information call 287-9481 (Portland) and ask for Ms. Martin or Mrs. Stokes; for the Salem area call 387-2446 and ask for a representative of UHURU. Address all letters to: UHURU, 2605 State Street, Salem, Oregon 97310.

(Editor's Note: Left out of last week's story on Superintendent of O.S.P. Hoyt C. Cupp was that in 1977 Cupp obtained his Bachelor's Degree from Oregon College of Education in Monmouth, Oregon.)

Music aids freedom struggle

Linda Tillery is the kind of artist that seems to arrive complete with status and reputation as the first time one hears her. And in fact, Linda has been "around" for a meaningful while, through the time of San Francisco's leadership on the rocky ship of roll, when she sang with the Loading Zone, sharing the bill at the Fillmore with such high recognizability talents as John Mayall, Arlo Guthrie, Chuck Berry, Buddy Miles, Cream, Iron Butterfly, B.B. King, Led Zeppelin, Jeff Beck and Janis Joplin. On the occasion she shared the bill with Janis, Philip Elwood headlined his review in the *San Francisco Herald Examiner* of April 12, 1968, "Great Vocalists Shake The Fillmore," and went on to write: "Two girl singers almost lifted the Fillmore Auditorium off its foundations last night. Janis Joplin, responding to a 'welcome home' cheer from the jammed rock-concert hall, wailed and moaned and turned on the crowd. Linda Tillery, a big, bright nineteen-year-old from the Fillmore district, took over on the next set, along with the Loading Zone octet, and practically blew out the fuses."

She was playing a lot in the Bay Area then with the Loading Zone, and as happens, they were scooped up, contracted, recorded and spewed out by one of the BIG record companies to meet a fate similar to many, being lost in the shuffle around the turntable. The band went on for six years and through many personnel changes and finally broke up in 1973. Linda took the free time to sort her ideas and values into keep and discard, deciding eventually to reexplore her initial musical roots, started when as a child she had sung in church choirs. She joined an a cappella singing group of women called Gente Goscipales, none of whom were "professional," and did political gigs, all of them benefits for women. At the same time she kept her "more professional" life going by recording with Santana on his album by the same name, plus two albums with Coke Escovedo, Coke and "Disco Fantasy." She also sang on Boz Scaggs' "My Time" and on Lenny White's "Big City." All of these albums garnered considerable airplay and made Linda's name familiar to those who pay attention to what they like.

It was during one of the concerts for women that Linda was approached by a sister musician and asked



LINDA TILLERY

why she wasn't recording for Olivia. Linda wasn't sure — she felt that she didn't know very much about the company and did not want to associate herself with any group whose musical/political outlook was not in harmony with her own. She was invited to attend a negotiation meeting between Bebe K'Roche and Olivia, and sat in while they worked out their responsibilities and aims around their upcoming Olivia album. Linda was intrigued, and after talking with the Olivia collective, wound up producing the Bebe K'Roche album and negotiating for her own solo album, which now released is called simply (or complexly) "Linda Tillery."

Linda sees herself as having double responsibilities as a musician. She feels strongly that as a Black woman she must struggle against a double oppression. She hopes that her music will give strength to other

women as they too strive to attain the freedom that comes when restrictions based on race and sex are eliminated. Linda puts it this way: "We are proud of our level of musicianship. We want to get it across that it is possible to produce high quality music. We are hoping that as a band we can present a different image, a way for women to see the needs of working together and supporting each other."

Linda Tillery, along with Mary Watkins and their band, will make their Portland debut on the heels of a sold-out, standing room only engagement at San Francisco's Boarding House, 8:00 p.m., Saturday, May 26th, St. Mary's Academy, 1615 S.W. 5th. Tickets are \$5 and \$6 sliding scale, and available at Music Millineum (East and Northwest), Women's Place Bookstore, House of Sound and at the door.

Free child care will be provided at the site.

Prison Ministries states FIRST SEMINAR & VOLUNTEER TRAINING SESSION

Thursday, May 31, 1979 — 7:00 p.m.

PLACE:

Maranatha Church
1222 NE Skidmore
Portland, Oregon 97211
Reverend John Garlington, Pastor

SEMINAR LEADERS:

Chaplain E.J. Stelle
Portland Bureau of Police

Lt. Warren F. Cook, Manager
Courthouse Booking Facilities

Sgt. Vera Pool
Claire Argow Women's Center

Betty Taylor
Member, Board of Parole, Salem

GUEST SOLOIST:

Mrs. Gerutha Favorel

COME AND BRING A FRIEND!

... UNION OR COMPANY DENTAL INSURANCE is a valuable asset ...



your health
and
appearance

COMPLETE COOPERATION
ON ALL
DENTAL INSURANCE CLAIMS

WE HANDLE ALL THE DETAILS OF
COMPLETING YOUR CLAIM FORMS

no appointment needed

Come in at your convenience

PARK FREE — Any Park n Shop Lot

HOURS: Weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturdays 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Dr. Jeffrey BRADY, Dentist

S.W. 3RD & YAMHILL ST., PORTLAND, OREGON
TAKE ELEVATOR TO 2ND FLOOR 3RD ST. ENTRANCE

The House Of EXODUS Alcoholism Educational and Treatment Center

1518 N.E. KILLINGSWORTH
PORTLAND, OREGON 97211

284-7997

MAY 1979

EXODUS GROWS

Reports its Director Rosalie Boothe

1. EXODUS is implementing Portland's first community-based Youth Theatre Alcohol Awareness Project, this project is funded by the Department of Labor.
2. EXODUS through its community Advisory Council will implement the "EXODUS Forum", which is an information sharing service to the community. The first forum presentation will be held at 12:30 p.m., May 17, 1979 at EXODUS Day-Treatment Center.
3. EXODUS has also grown to develop the "EXODUS Women Forum" which is composed of women in treatment of alcoholism, from care units, Portland hospitals, institutions, educational centers and agencies.
4. EXODUS graduated its third class on the "Triple R Concept" (Rights, Respect and Responsibility concept), April 7, 1979.

EXODUS is fast becoming an important service center to our community. With nearly 400 clients, and employing 16 full-time employees.