

# King dedicates community park, asks safety check

Dedication of the new King community park will be held on October 3rd, with officials of the City of Portland, Multnomah County and the Portland School District. However, prior to the acceptance of the park by the City, the community wants assurance that the playground is safe.

Ms. Linda Johnson, representative

to the park committee from the King school Parent Advisory Committee, and Ms. Marian Duwan, representative of the King Neighborhood Association, brought their concerns to the King Neighborhood Association at its regular meeting Tuesday. Their questions include the design of the play equipment as it differs from that specified by the architect, the installation of the equipment and the durability of the wood structures.

The Neighborhood Association voted to ask the City to provide an independent contractor -- to be selected by KNA -- to inspect the playground and certify it as safe. They also asked that a specific schedule be established by the Park

Bureau for safety and maintenance checks.

Concerns have arisen through an earlier dispute over the suitability of play equipment substituted for that called for by the park plans, personal observation of the building procedures and memories of the death of a child do to dangerous play equipment at Unthank Park.

The King park was built with funds provided the City by the U.S. Department of Interior on land adjacent to Martin Luther King Elementary School provided by the school district. It will be supervised and maintained by the City Park Bureau.

Anna Madden, chairman of the King Neighborhood Association,

said that in spite of the concerns about safety the park will be a welcome addition to the community.

"The park is citizen participation at its best. The neighborhood people have planned for this park for at least four years and it is well worth the energy and effort. I'm sure the people will enjoy it."

## PORTLAND OBSERVER

USPS 959-680

Volume 9 No. 38  
Thursday, September 27, 1979 10¢



King elementary school children try out new play structures at community park to be dedicated on October 3rd at 1:00 p.m. Planned by the neighborhood, the park is adjacent to Martin Luther King Elementary School.

### Programs honor 4-H chorus

Four days of music and reflection will celebrate the sixth anniversary of one of the Albina community's outstanding youth choirs, the 4-H Urban Choral Ensemble, under the direction of Ira D. Mumford, extension agent, Oregon State University.

The series of musical programs will be presented at St. Paul's Church of God in Christ, 2859 N.E. Rodney, beginning Wednesday evening, October 10th, at 7:30 p.m. The final program will be Sunday afternoon, October 14th, at 3:00 p.m. Choirs from churches throughout the community will take part in the four day musical celebration.

Churches and ministers who will be participating during the week will be: Reverend A.R. Hopkins, Solid Rock Church of God in Christ, Wednesday, October 10th; Bishop W.G. Hardy of Mt. Siani Church of God in Christ, Thursday, October

11th; Reverend L.J. Thompson, Community First AME Zion Church, Friday, October 12th; Reverend Burt Osborne of Faith Tabernacle, Portland, Saturday, October 13th, (Youth Night).

Highlight of the Sunday program will be guest speaker, Commissioner Charles Jordan, City of Portland. The musical segment of the program will be the Love Congregation, the Sensational Portland Aires and the Urban 4-H Choral Ensemble.

The Choral Ensemble has made guest appearances throughout Oregon and California and in the Portland community for the past six years. They have achieved wide acclaim for their popular musical programs.

The public is invited to attend and participate in the Choral Ensemble's sixth anniversary celebration.

### U of O suit seeks class status

A motion to give a suit filed by Myra Willard against the University of Oregon class action status, will be heard October 1st by U.S. District Court Judge Oho Skopil.

The suit was filed by Mrs. Willard, the university's former affirmative action officer in July of 1978 and charges the University of Oregon and the State Board of Higher Education with discrimination against Blacks, Hispanics and other minorities, and women.

The suit charges discrimination in

employment—in recruitment, hiring, promotion, training, job classification, granting of tenure, salaries and termination. It covers not only current and former employees but job applicants and others who have been discouraged from applying for positions by discriminatory practices and policies.

Mrs. Willard also claims that she was personally discriminated against—that she was prevented from carrying out her duties as affirmative action officer and Title IX com-

pliance officer, and that she was harassed, intimidated and psychologically abused. She was denied tenure, therefore ending her employment in June of 1979.

When the suit was filed 11 per cent of the university's tenured teaching staff were women and 4 per cent were minorities. There were no Blacks or women in executive positions in its classified employment positions.

The suit asks the federal court to issue a permanent injunction against the infringement of equal employ-

ment opportunity rights and to require the implementation of a viable affirmative action program. It also requests payment of \$4 million in damages to the plaintiffs—former and current employees, applicants and potential applicants who were discouraged from applying.

The case, which has attained national attention, has the support of the Eugene branch NAACP, and the Northwest Conference of Branches. Mrs. Willard will be represented by Curtis Oler of San Francisco.

### CODA fails staff demotion effort

by Donald Fuller

- Do you know there are Black people in the community who have launched whole new literary careers writing about your administrative blunders?

- CODA staff has no acceptable plans to conduct any kind of beneficial service operations in the Black community.

- There is no sensitivity; no comprehension of systems of Black evaluation; no understanding of the customary exercise of white bureaucratic contempt in all dealings with Black people; no realization of Black disrespect for and resentment against white programmers.

These are the verbal lashings the CODA Board of Directors gave its director.

Jim Robbins, executive director of CODA tried and failed to whip a leader of the Black community back into... "his place." In fact, his own ego got bruised.

In meetings held with his board of directors, this advocate of "free drugs" in the Black community, showed the true color of his neck in a series of unprofessional, unethical and unmanly acts, made in an effort to "discipline" Halim Rahsaan, a leading figure in the fight against white supremacy in Portland today. It didn't work.

In a letter to Rahsaan, Robbins charged that his "conduct violates ethical and professional standards implicit in being an employee," in the following manner:

"Acquiring and showing a film on a Dayton, Ohio program with the intention of representing the context of that film on the Killingsworth program; offering to the media exploitative use of Alpha House residents; and, failure to utilize proper Program Channels in either airing your concerns or attempting to influence a proposed program through any internal process."

### Analysis

He actually proposed a demotion (reduction in pay) be given to a brother who put the interest of Black folks and his community before his job and white interests. Robbins was so full of his arrogance that he reacted racist history (read of China's Opium Wars) when he: (a) Sought to punish Rahsaan for his "disloyalty" to CODA, during his own time by simply showing a movie at the invitation of King Association; (b) Based his proposed disciplinary action on inaccurate information and recommendations from self interested subordinates; (c) Took his scapegoating action to avoid responsibility for his failure to prepare, consult and show respect for Black residents of King Neighborhoods. Board members Ron Herndon and Ben Talley very righteously sent him back to his drawing board.

Since the board meeting Mark Pickney, proposed director of the proposed Northeast program, has

had no comment when asked whether he recommended that Rahsaan be fired! In fact, while Pickney had no comment to make on any of the treacherous business of genocide and unethical personnel practices, he did seem happy to tell me to "get f-----."

But who can laugh when the attack is so blatant and vicious? Who can laugh when the real target is our children and our future? Who can laugh when a \$36,000 "liberal" racist attacks the best of us? What if...?

No, this "three R" (reprimand, reduction, resign) approach leftover from the plantation mentality to force Black men and women into docile, submissive slaves for exploitation,

must be stopped.

We need a culturally derived, drug-free, treatment program in the Black community for addicts. There is no question about it. But, there must be respect for our cultural values under our control. It must be on our terms or not at all, and no compromise can be accepted on any of the following points: (a) An advisory council from the community which includes the Black community; (b) An approved location (which means presented to the community one month in advance of approval with several options); (c) An analysis of the socio-economic impact, in writing, that satisfies the King Neighborhood Association in (Please turn to page 12 col. 1)

### PPS extends enrollment date

The School Board has extended the date for transfer of children to Albina schools to October 5th.

All children in grades kindergarten thru fifth who live in Albina are entitled to attend the school in their own attendance area. Sixth, seventh and eighth graders can attend Beaumont, Fernwood or Columbia/Whitaker as vacancies exist; or Beach, Chief Joseph or Kenton elementary schools.

The extension in time for transfer of students was requested by the

Black United Front.

Clint Thomas, director of desegregation programs, reported that as of September 24th 353 children had returned to neighborhood schools, including 325 minority students.

The only school reporting a space problem is Humboldt which has 491 students including 41 new third graders. Following meetings with parents, a decision has been made to use former Headstart portables located on N. Haight for temporary classrooms.

### Richard Moffatt scores 'DuBois' music

"Music being a very powerful tool, I hope that my selection of music of a very indigenous nature underlines, underscores, enhances, and emphasizes the brilliant creative writing of this great social scientist, Du Bois."

Richard Moffatt,  
Musical Director  
"Du Bois," September, 1979

If you get the opportunity this weekend to see *Du Bois*, an oral history program featuring Herb Cawthorne, you will have imprinted on your memory the words, thoughts and deeds of a great Black American. In a special preview of the entirely new production, the *Observer* discovered that Du Bois' words are made more beautiful and energetic by the melody and song arranged for the production by Richard Moffatt, a long-time Portland composer and musical director.

Moffatt brings years of creative history to the production of *Du Bois*. The music he has arranged so precisely will be performed by The Love Congregation, Inc., a community ensemble noted for its magnificent coordination, depth and range. Although semi-retired, Moffatt has

enjoyed his work on this project because it has helped him "to spread the word of the writing and original ideas of the great scholar; with my talents, I have been afforded the chance to express my own support for a man whom over the years I had read about and watched develop."

It is the supportive role Moffatt has perfected in this effort. "I hope that in the way the American folk songs, the Negro spirituals, and the judicious portions of symphony came together, we enhance the message of *Du Bois*." He added, "My use of this material is very personal. I have chosen each folk song and spiritual to make a progressive link within the various writings which were selected. Every song is carefully placed to help the flow of the drama, to keep it continuous and lively."

For 50 years, at a pace that would make youthful exuberance tire quickly, Moffatt has pursued his music. He has written several operas, composed scores for musical plays, and directed symphony orchestras in the United States and Europe. For as long as most can remember, Moffatt has touched the spirits of the congregation at St. Phillips Episcopal Church with his choir direction and command of the organ. Never-

theless, he said, "this is the first time I have been able to extend my personal feeling through the ideas of another."

"At first glance, I saw in the script a chance to use the kind of music I love with the dignity of the oral history presentation. It is exciting."

Moffatt does not hesitate to give praise and recognition to The Love Congregation, Inc., the 11 member community ensemble directed by Jackie McHenry and Willie Binns. The Love Congregation "brings interpretation and a very warm and sympathetic vision to every sound I have conceived. Without Love Congregation," he said, "my arrangements would remain bare and skeletal. I have been amazed and thrilled at some of the extraneous techniques which Love Congregation brings that I had not thought specifically about."

After years of creative work in music, Moffatt is pleased to make this effort, for he wishes to pass the torch of his creative fires on to young people. He hopes young people learn to achieve perfection, and to recognize when they are surrounded by proper messages and the tools of quality work. "I want young people to see this fertile material, thus

making them proud of our own music and what it has to say about our people. We should be proud of the soil in which our spiritual striving has grown. Our pride can only be shown in the excellence of our work."

*Du Bois* was performed by Herb Cawthorne last March for Portland audiences. The program was acclaimed then. After months and months of research and a special trip to the Du Bois Archives, Cawthorne has completely rewritten the script, with the help of Jeana Woolley. Moffatt has labored for many months on the musical arrangement.

Of the September 28th, 29th and 30th performances, Moffatt speaks of his high hopes: "I truly believe this production will make both Black and white appreciative of the values for which this great man stood. He is revealed for our examination. It will bring a broader understanding of the black's role in society—the tremendous contribution which was given by Dr. Du Bois was not to just one group, but to all of America."

*Du Bois* is billed as an evening of entertainment, history, drama and music. It is all that and then some. On the basis of its special preview, the *Observer* recommends, "Don't miss it!"



RICHARD MOFFATT