

OBSERVATIONS FROM THE SIDELINES

By Kathryn H. Bogle



JAMES De PRIEST

A first-night audience packed into the last seats in the Civic Auditorium Sunday evening. They listened with hushed expectancy when James De Priest lifted the baton leading the 85-piece Oregon Symphony Orchestra. The first strains of Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 23 in A Major filled the air.

As guest conductor for this performance, De Priest was to be heard by many persons for the first time. DePriest has already agreed to join the Oregon Symphony Orchestra and will take over as music director beginning with the 1980-81 season. His Portland contract allows him to retain his position as director of the Quebec Symphony and also gives him time to fulfill engagements as guest conductor in other cosmopolitan centers he may choose.

Rapt attention and thunderous applause, warm tributes from the audience, flowed freely to meet the DePriest sensitivity in musicianship and orchestra response to his leadership. In this concert the splendid piano performance of John Browning, guest soloist, harmonized beautifully with the string section contribution in the great Mozart work.

Rachmaninoff's Second Symphony, as interpreted by De Priest, brought folks to their feet paying honor to both conductor and orchestra. However, it was the treatment of the Ravel Piano Concerto in D Major for the left hand that captivated and enraptured many who thrilled to the power of the full orchestra expressing a gamut of timeless emotions. John Browning again was superb in the demands of this moving piece.

Season tickets are being offered now, and if you want to hear the exciting programs James De Priest and the Oregon Symphony have in store for 1980 and 81, best obtain your tickets now. Listed are great names and great talents to be guest artists, among them two beautiful voices of Black women, Shirley Verrett and Hilda Harris. The "Voice of the Century" will be heard in a special performance when Leontyne Price sings here on Sunday, November 2, 1980.

Among others in the audience this past Sunday were Dr. and Mrs. Walter C. Reynolds, Mrs. Ernest Hartzog, Freddie Petett, Harold Washington and Mr. and Mrs. Monroe McLaurin.

Washington, a history teacher at Washington-Monroe high school, expressed his pleasure in the De Priest performance saying, "De Priest had fingertip control of the orchestra. The most memorable part for me was the Ravel Concerto. It is a mystic, moody piece with interesting weaving of strings, woodwinds and brass." Music lovers have a treat coming this fall, Washington is certain.

Women of the church of St. Philip the Deacon will host their annual Lenten Green Tea on Sunday, March 23, in the Parish Hall from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The women thought it would be only "fair and equal" to ask a few men to pour tea and coffee. So they asked. There was some flustering, but this is the beginning of 1980, and there will be men pouring tea and coffee in cooperation with women at this year's Green Tea.

Want to learn how to be a better parent? A series of classes on being effective as a parent is presented each Wednesday in the Kind Neighborhood Facility at 4815 N.E. Seventh Avenue. Under the sponsorship of Black School Educators, the series will continue each week through April 16.

Black awareness is becoming aware. There is a count of 19 Black attorneys here in the state of Oregon! We learned from three of them that they are now forming themselves into a group called the "Association of Oregon Black Lawyers." Well into formal organization, they are already incorporated. At a meeting held recently at Pacific University in Forest Grove, they set forth their purpose in banding together. With organization, they see themselves in better position to engage with each other to exchange ideas, and to be in a liaison role to "communicate with the Oregon Bar Association" and

also with the "Office of the Governor of the state of Oregon."

All 19 attorneys, men and women, are eligible for membership as the group is yet formulating by-laws. Monthly meetings are to be held in each community where Black attorneys practice law. The April meeting is scheduled for Portland.

From the sidelines this appears to be an admirable and exciting effort. Look for the release of names soon.

"Black Leadership in the 20th Century" will be the topic for discussion for a five-day symposium being arranged by the Center for Black Studies headed by Dr. William Little of Portland State University.

Advance notice for the symposium sets the dates for May 5 thru May 10 with hours for most lectures set from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Place for most will be in Smith Memorial Center in Room No. 294.

Important speakers will be introduced by the Hon. Sam Smith of the Seattle City Council, who is expected to deliver the opening address. Dr. Little has invited our own Gladys McCoy and our own Charles Jordan to discuss Black leadership. Kwame Toure has also been invited to speak. Kwame Toure may be remembered by his former name, Stokeley Carmichael! Dr. Little is also listed as a speaker near the close of the five-day event. The series will be open to the public.

A forum entitled, "Black Awareness in a Professional Setting," arranged by Dr. Avis Graham, nurse psychologist, held recently in the library of the Fireside Room of the University of Oregon Health Sciences Center, attracted a number of students, faculty, nurses from local hospitals as well as persons from the general community. Intended for informal discussion, information sharing, the "major topics emerging tended to focus," according to Dr. Graham, "on the



DR. AVIS GRAHAM

elementary school preparation of children."

A consensus developed between panelists and audience participants, that "interest, encouragement, motivation and guidance are necessary at an early age," Dr. Graham said. "Role models to follow and guidance counsellors, equally indispensable, were also seen as performing an important part in a child's development."

Panelists included Angie Richardson, clinical nursing Supervisor for Kaiser Hospital; Major Morris, Affirmative Action Officer at University of Oregon Health Science Center; and Hazel Hays, parole board member.

Other such gatherings were suggested by those in attendance, according to Dr. Graham, moderator for the forum.

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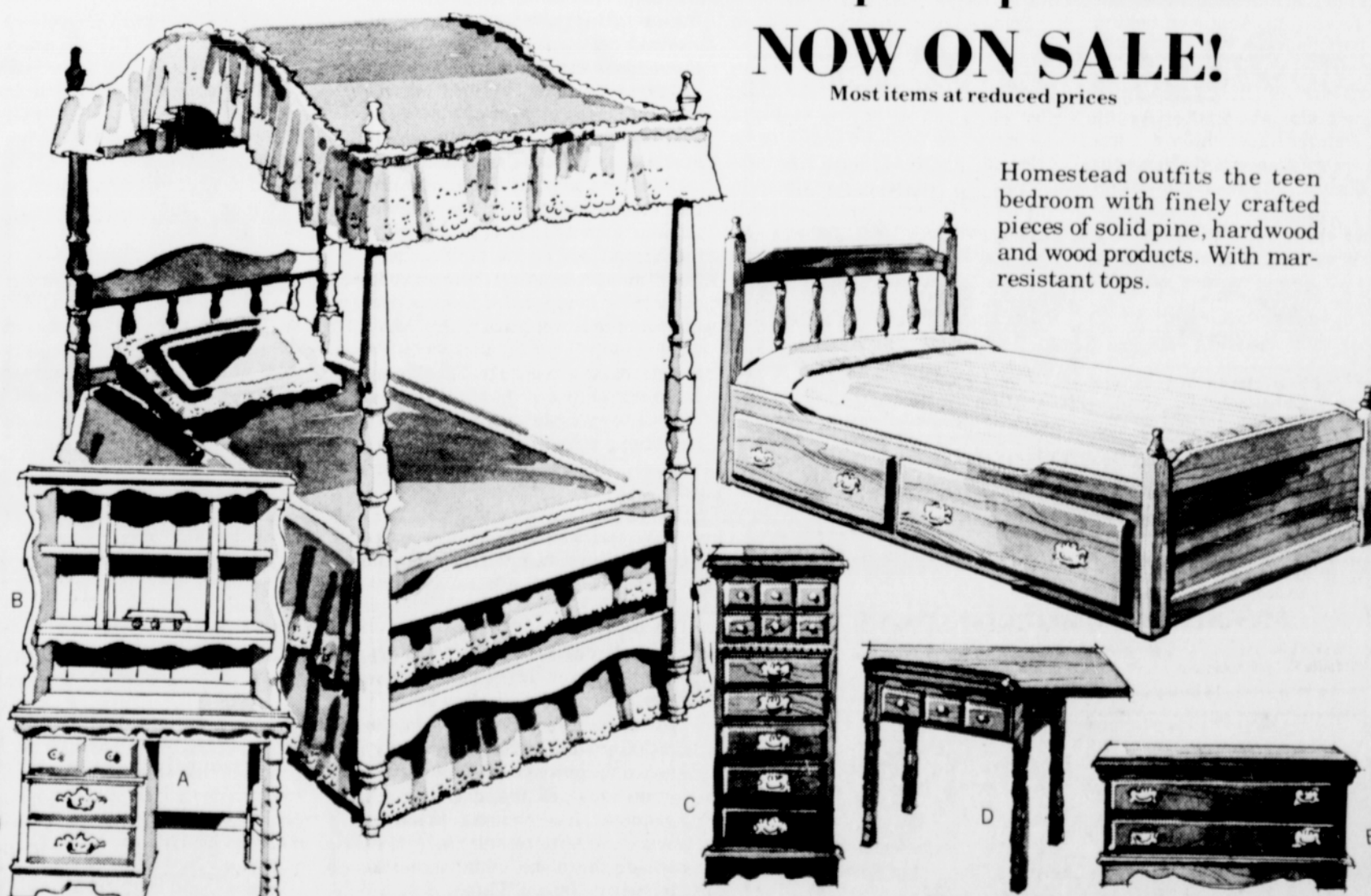
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