

# EDITORIAL/ OPINION

## Student need music

Last week the Portland Public Schools presented its first city wide music festival in ten years - with an All-City band and five high school choirs.

For many years prior to 1970, every high school and many elementary schools had a band, orchestra and choirs. Students competed for positions in all-city bands, orchestras and choirs on the high school and elementary school levels. Instrumental music was available to students at the fourth grade and above. Group and individual competition; school, district and state music festivals; participation at sports events and parades, and the prospect of scholarships, all gave music students the same kind of acclaim and self-esteem that athletes now enjoy.

Now few high schools have quality music organizations and music in the elementary schools is almost non-existent. For example, Benson once had a band envied all over the state but now, with 1600 students, Benson has one full-time music teaching position. Most elementary schools have less than one full time position and many have none.

The excuse often given for not budgeting funds for music education is that not many students seem to be interested. This is a fallacy, since children are not provided training in the elementary and middle schools. How can they aspire to join the high school band if

they have no way to learn an instrument and if no high school band is there to draw their interest?

Music is important - not only as a way to allow students to develop skills, to build self-esteem, to develop school spirit and to participate in school activities - it is also an important part of a comprehensive education.

The School Board should include music in its budget as a regular academic program. Then perhaps once again the public will pack the auditorium to hear school children perform.

## Unfair choice

Some County Commissioners are fussing about Gladys McCoy's intention to attend the selection of the national Mother of the Year in Phoenix during the county budget hearings. Mrs. McCoy was named Oregon Mother of the Year and believes she has a responsibility to represent the state, the prisoners who nominated her and the committee that chose her.

If she goes to Phoenix, Mrs. McCoy will be absent for the vote. The commission doesn't think the vote can be moved up or back a day.

If one of the four men on the commission was in contention for Father of the Year, we doubt that the rest would be so stubborn about it.

Mrs. McCoy shouldn't have to choose between her job and this honor.



## Rusunungoko rwe Zimbabwe: April 18, 1980

by N. Fungai Kumbula

At the stroke of midnight tonight, Thursday April 18th, some clown called Prince Charles, heir to the British "throne" will hand over the instruments of power to President Canaan Banana of Zimbabwe. President Banana will then turn around and proclaim Comrade Robert Mugabe Prime Minister of the United Republic of Zimbabwe. A twenty one gun salute will shatter the early morning silence and, while the British flag, the hated union Jack, symbol of eighty nine and a half years of oppression comes down for the last time, Zimbabwe's bold red, black, gold and green will go up to the accompaniment of Zimbabwe's national anthem.

Zimbabweans and their friends around the world will observe this momentous occasion with celebrations of their own. This is the day that they have waited for so long and a day they have prepared for for more than twenty years.

Africa's newest nation is finally born, a new member of the Organization of African Unity, the United Nations and the rest of the international community. Having been ostracized for so long, during the days of "Rhodesia," Zimbabweans are still reeling from the speed with which they have re-entered the international community.

The African community here in Portland will not be left out of all these good happenings. The Association of African Students at Portland State University is hosting an independence party for Zimbabwe on Saturday, the 19th at King Neighborhood Facility. Festivities will begin at 7:00 pm and conclude about 1:00 am. Friends, allies, neighbors, supporters and all interested parties are urged to attend this the celebration of the most important event to take place in Africa for a long, long time.

There will be speakers, African and American music, African food and a whole lot of dancing going on. After the long, hard struggle, we are entitled to a celebration to end all celebrations. Since the African students will be forking out more than \$1,100.00 to put up this event, they are asking a small donation of \$3.00 per person to defray some of the expenses. Tickets can be purchased at the door. *Portland Observer* readers will be interested to see the happy conclusion of the story they have followed for the past four years. Don't miss it. The African Family is coming back together again.

After all these years, rusunungoko rwe Zimbabwe (Zimbabwe's freedom) is a reality. Zimbabwe's independence was made possible by the support and cooperation of the entire continent of Africa and this is a very good omen for the future.

## A letter from Rocky Butte

To Whom It May Concern:

WE, the inmates, minorities and poor whites of Rocky Butte jail, are taking on this struggle against the invasion of our privacy, as human beings, who have certain Civil and Constitutional rights that are being ignored in the Oregon Judicial System. Time and time again, minorities have been brought against an unbalanced show of justice, in the Oregon Judicial System. To show that these accusations are not unfounded and that the complaint is valid and should be heard we will show a few cases of power abuse and neglect of Civil and Constitutional Rights, due to the defendant. In any case where the State versus the defendant.

The defendant has certain safeguards for Civil and Constitutional Rights which the Courts are suppose to recognize and acknowledge on behalf of the defendants. As defendants we are suppose to be given a fair and impartial trial; but this is not always the case in Oregon Courts. If anything there is a great show of partiality in favor of the State or district attorney. By this, we mean the judge usually rules in favor of the State or District Attorney, whenever a matter has to be taken into consideration, and usually the defendant rights have been ignored or disrespected. Some of the rights the defendants have: First Amendment, the Freedom of Speech and Expression; the Fourth Amendment, the Right to be secure in his person from unreasonable intrusion; the Fifth Amendment, rights pertaining to self-incrimination, along with the due process laws; which means the State has to show probable cause before they can search your person, violate your premises, or ask you to submit to any unusual acts they might demand of said defendants; such as the asking of blood, the removal of facial hair, the donning of costumes and certain clothes and so on. The defendant also has the safeguard of presumed innocence until proven guilty. This means the defendant does not have to lift a finger to prove anything, because the law clearly states that the burden of proof to demonstrate guilt on the State. But in Oregon Courts even this safeguard is taken away, because they put the burden to show innocence on the defendant. Something the law clearly states the defendant doesn't have to do. To give credence to these accusations, we will show some particulars from the case of the State of Oregon vs. Dennis E. Campbell, accused of first degree armed robbery.

When this crime was alleged to have been committed in April of 1979, Mr. Campbell was wearing a full beard and large Afro-hair style; the suspect in this crime was said to be clean shaven with a short Afro-hair style. Mr. Campbell was not apprehended immediately after this crime so the victim has not been able to see Mr. Campbell in person, but a picture of Mr. Campbell was taken to the victim to see if an identification could be made. The victim said that he could not make any identification at all. The victim's

hold-up man..." We would like to add that the picture the victim was shown presented Mr. Campbell in a full beard and large unkempt Afro hair style. Never-the-less, when showing evidence at an evidence hearing the district attorney made a motion to the Court to have Mr. Campbell clean-shaven when the trial starts; even though there was not one statement made to give the Court probable cause to grant such a motion in favor of the state. The evidence that was given clearly showed from witnesses for the defendant that Mr. Campbell had a beard and large Afro haircut. There were four witnesses that gave testimony that Mr. Campbell did not have a beard. No where in this evidence hearing did a witness for the State say he could not identify Mr. Campbell because of the beard; but never-the-less, on the whim of the district attorney that Mr. Campbell shave, the court so ordered that he do so. The granting of this capricious motion automatically violated Mr. Campbell's civil constitutional rights, not only as a defendant, but as a human being. In this instance it clearly shows the close relationship between this judge and district attorney. It also shows how the judge leans in favor of the district attorney's office and brings into existence the partiality between judges and district attorneys; and it stands to give a strong case to the fact that the judge does not view the defendants' witnesses in the same light as the States' witnesses, thus giving us again our basis for our complaint: that of power abuse and partiality.

We selected this case as our example because we have all of the facts in Black and white, and it may be viewed an analyzed for fact and content of truth.

But, there are other cases, such as the case of Mr. Anderson B. Boyd, who was placed in jail without due process or probable cause; later to be convicted; Mr. Boyd is Black. The case of Mr. David M. Robinson, who was denied the right to change to a more competent and adequate lawyer; Mr. Robinson is white. The case of Mr. Alan Dale Bradley, denied the due process of law. Mr. Bradley was taken to the scene of the crime and placed in front of victims without proper lineup procedures, thus tainting the identification; Mr. Bradley is white. The case of Mr. Raymon King, denied the right to due process of law and the right to be taken before a judge within seventy-two hours after arrest, for arraignment, as required by law. Mr. King is Black. Also the case of Arthur C. Valles, who was denied access to a lawyer with the understanding of the Spanish language or a translator, Mr. Valles was violated because he was never made aware of the conditions of his probation. Mr. Valles is Spanish.

These are just a few of the cases where minorities and poor whites are being denied their civil and constitutional rights. Another frightening aspect of the Oregon Judicial System is the lack of minority jurors. This problem is one of the most severe problems facing minorities because most of the time a Black man, a Mexican, a poor white, has their fate left in the hands

of twelve white middle class jurors. The law says that a defendant has the right to be judged by a jury of his peers; but the word, peers, takes on a totally different definition in the courtroom. As defined in the Webster's dictionary: Peers means (equal or matched); meaning that the people judging you should be in your same race, religious, social and economic background; i.e. the same as the defendant, or the person they are judging. But due to the lack of participation from minorities, and a effort on the part of some district attorneys to exclude minorities, the right to a jury of your peers seldom exists, thus making the guilty verdict in minorities defendant's unjust and catastrophically high.

As we appeal to the people of this community we wish to emphasize and be certain that you understand that we are not attempting to change the Oregon Judicial System, but rather, we are trying to right the wrong that has befallen our American system of justice, with the hope that it will work just as hard and efficiently to prove our innocence as it does to establish our guilt. We also ask you, as a collective group, that you will not make a thorough investigation of your own to determine if our complaint has the merit we feel it deserves.

Your involvement and participation is desperately needed in this struggle to correct this terrible wrong that is being perpetrated on defendants in the State of Oregon.

There are several ways of assisting, and enlightening yourself in this area. First, attend some of the hearings and/or trials in the District and Circuit Courts and observe the proceedings; ask questions of the lawyers about the defendant and his Civil and Constitutional Rights. By all means, explore both sides of this issue, because it is just as much a crime to convict an innocent man of a crime he did not commit as it is to actually commit a crime or violate any statute. Also, bear in mind that everyone in jail is not necessarily guilty, or innocent, just because he is in jail. Observe, see the almost all-white jurors convicting Blacks, Mexicans, poor whites, and see if the "peer" jury members are the "equal" or "matched" counterparts of the defendant.

Yes, we need your help in this matter, for without it we are doomed to an unbalanced system of justice. Each day that this is allowed to continue there are loved ones, families and friends that have to face these one-sided proceedings, and everyday there are crimes of injustice in the courts of Oregon.

With this in mind your time, consideration, cooperation and indulgence is warmly accepted in the above matter. Our appreciation cannot be expressed in words, but know that we, and our loved ones will be aware of your actions.

Written by: Mr. Dennis E. Campbell.

Signed by the following Rocky Butte inmates:

1. Anderson B. Boyd
2. Steven Benfield
3. James Tylor
4. Larry J. Bankston
5. David Siraknam
6. Frank L. Williams



## Notes from City Hall

By Charles Jordan  
Commissioner of Public Safety

To many of us, police work holds some mystique simply because we do not understand what an officer does and where responsibilities began or end.

Perhaps by discussing what occurs during a ROUTINE TRAFFIC STOP for a VIOLATION, I might be able to alleviate some of the concerns and mystique for those of you who have not had such an experience as well as for those of you who have and still, do not understand it.

"You are stopped by an officer for a traffic violation you committed. You just didn't see the stop sign, or maybe you did."

1. The officer will turn on the overhead emergency lights or the police car -- this is not to bring attention to the situation and embarrass you, but to get your attention and provide protection while you are talking.

2. The officer will walk up to your car. (Officers have been killed while

approaching cars for minor traffic violations) THEREFORE:

3. You are advised to remain in your car unless the officer asks you to step out.

4. The officer may flash a light through your car (this is for the officer's safety) and tell you the reason for being stopped.

5. You will then be required to show your driver's license and car registration...

6. ...So that this information can be verified. The officer may return to the police car at this point.

7. Your car will be checked to make sure it is not listed as stolen, and your name and driver's license will be checked to make sure the license is not suspended and there are no warrants for your arrest.

8. When all this information checks out, the officer may issue a citation (ticket) for the traffic violation or sometimes at the officer's discretion, a warning citation

is issued or perhaps a verbal warning.

9. The officer will answer questions about a court date and explain the procedure for pleading innocent or guilty.

10. You are then free to go.

If you believe that you did not violate any traffic laws and the officer is in error, by all means go to court. Make a notation of the court date that appears on the ticket and show up!

You will be given an opportunity to present your case to the traffic judge. The officer will also present his case to the judge. At that point, the judge will make the final determination.

A traffic violation is a serious matter and should be dealt with accordingly. REMEMBER THAT FINE YOU WERE GOING TO PAY? Join me next week for what can happen if you do not follow through!

sees, their mates, children, parents nor the Black community politically or economically.

For those of you brothers who are responsible, you shouldn't have been bothered by my statement. But to the rest of you brothers who complained about what I said, you need to be about the business of redefining yourselves as Black men, particularly in relationship to other Black people.

Yours in the struggle  
Charlotte Williams

## Letters to the Editor

### Many responsible, but not all

Dear Editor:  
Thank you for featuring me as "Citizen of the Week" in your April 10, 1980 publication. In most respects your article was accurate, flattering and appreciated.

However, there are two items in need of clarification: One, the "Charlotte Williams Law School Fund," and two, "Responsible Black men."

First, I do need and would greatly appreciate any financial assistance anyone would be willing to provide, as tuition alone will cost me \$5,000 per year. But those contributions

must come in the form of gifts, as I have not legally and formally established a "Law School Fund." I hope this clarifies the issue as I would not want anyone to misunderstand how their generosity would be accountable for tax purposes.

And second, "lack of responsible Black men" was taken out of context. That is not to say that I retract my statement, but let me embellish on that statement by saying I do have and have had responsible brothers in my life. But in a general sense, many brothers here in Portland are not responsible for them-

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