

# Our three graduates

*The Observer is proud to feature our three graduates: Fungai Kumbula, graduate of Portland State University; Spencer Barrett, graduate of the University of Portland; Terry Lynn Robertson, graduate of Wilson High School.*

## FUNGAI KUMBULA

Fungai Kumbula has completed the first step in his long effort to prepare himself to help build the new nation of Zimbabwe.

Born in Harare, Zimbabwe on June 18, 1954. Fungai is one of ten children, seven boys and three girls. He attended mission schools, but when he was ready to begin college there was no school for Black youngsters. Fungai was accepted by Fourah Bay College in Sierra Leone, but the scholarship fell through. His goal at that time was to study English and English Literature. He taught school - history, math, geography and English - for two years. History was a problem. "I told them what was in the book, but I told them the truth too."

Active in the underground movement to liberate "Rhodesia," Fungai was selected to leave the country to go to school. "Some were to go to get military training to liberate the country; others were to go for an education to build the new nation." In excess of 10,000 students have been educated abroad and are returning to the newly liberated Zimbabwe. Most were provided scholarships by the United States, private organizations or schools, but Fungai was not so lucky.

In 1972 he received word from his brother, Dr. Tendayi Kumbula, that he could come to Los Angeles to study. Because Rhodesian passports were good only for travel to Botswana and South Africa, Fungai obtained permission to go "visit" in Botswana, where he obtained a British passport and a U.S. visa. Afraid to take the papers back to Rhodesia, he left them at the American embassy and went back to say goodbye to his family. When he was ready to leave, he asked for another pass to "visit" Botswana, but was given permission to stay for only seven days. "I was on a seven day pass from 1972 until the Ian Smith regime fell." Others who returned home after leaving under similar circumstances were kidnapped at the airport and never heard from again.

Fungai arrived in Los Angeles in September of 1972 and attended Los Angeles Adult School to take science and math. He had decided to major in science in order to be of greater benefit to his country. He attended LA Southwest College in pre-pharmacy for two years., then could not raise the money to continue.

He saw a notice announcing that Portland State University was seeking foreign students students and would provide scholarships, so in 1976 he came to Portland.

At PSU he switched to Medical Biology. Money continued to be a problem - his scholarships didn't continue and he couldn't work on a student visa. This delayed his education for another year, but last fall he returned to school and has now completed the requirements for graduation -- but he will not receive his degree until he can pay the remainder of the university fees.

Now that Zimbabwe is free, Fungai hopes to visit his family in 1981. He will go to Edmonton, Alberta that fall where he will teach and continue his education. His goal is to do research in tropical disease, a problem neglected by the colonial regime.

Fungai has been an active supporter of African Liberation while in the U.S., working with the AFSC Southern Africa Program, speaking and writing. He began writing when he read an article on Africa in the Oregon Journal, written by Ronald Reagan. "I called the editor and asked how they could print such lies. He said to write an article and they would print it. I did and they put it on the editorial page, so I've been writing every since."

Fungai has written a regular column in the *Observer* since September of 1976 and can be seen on Art Alexander's program TCB, on Channel 10.

Of his country, Fungai said, "I'm so glad the past finally is resolved and that at last I can talk about my country with pride and not with bitterness."

"I am now a citizen instead of a nobody in the land of my birth. I am most encouraged by the styles of the new



FUNGAI KUMBULA

government has taken to build a unified Zimbabwe. The nation has a great future.

"Zimbabwe to me signifies the beginning of what Nkruma was talking about - a United States of Africa. We will be trying to work, not just with Zimbabwe, but all of Africa to build an economy a giant of its size and population entitles it to be."

"Zimbabwe will have a major impact on South America. We hope to see a liberated Namibia and a free South Africa by the end of the decade."

## TERRY LYNN ROBERTSON

Terry Lynn Robertson is a 1980 graduate of Wilson High School, where she majored in business. In addition to the required courses Terry took all the business courses offered -- business math, business English, accounting, typing, short hand and office experience.

"I like office work," she explained. "I like to answer the phone, type, file and all of the other office work. I enjoy working in different offices and learn something new from each. They have different procedures and ways of doing things."

Terry plans to attend Oregon State University this fall, majoring in Business Administration. She will minor in fashion design, with hopes of someday having her own fashion design business. "That will just be a minor," Terry explained. "I love to draw and have always wanted to be a designer, but I don't think there are many Blacks in that field." She also might try architecture.

Terry attended Eliot, Holiday and King elementary schools, then in the fifth grade was transferred to Multnomah where she graduated from the eighth grade. During her grade school years she was busy with school activities, including sports.

At Wilson, Terry "just went to school, with no school activities." She enjoyed Wilson and feels that she received a good education. "I was way out there -- so far away in the white-man's boon docks -- that there was no place to go. If I had gone to school in the neighborhood, I would have been involved in all kinds of things and wouldn't have spent as much time studying."

"The people you hang around with make a lot of difference. The people I knew at King all went different places. We never got together again."

"I enjoyed high school. I was already out in the white world at Multnomah, but Wilson was totally different than anything I knew. I think I profited from it."

*Congratulations*  
**ON YOUR ACHIEVEMENT**  
*Graduates*

**CLASS OF '80**



**Albertsons®**