



FOR COLORED GIRLS...
Triumph!!

By Nyewusi Askari

"Pursuing the way of life within the colors of vision/between the Black and the Black," (Haki R. Madhubuti)

If anyone doubts the talent, ability, dedication and professionalism of Portland Black Repertory Theatre, those doubts will be quickly extinguished, once one has seen its performance of Ntozake Shange's "For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuff."

And...in order to realize the immediate and future impact this

Black theatre will have upon our lives as an institution, one must see the performance of "Colored Girls," which can be seen every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings beginning at 9 p.m., through Sept. 22, at Catlin Gabel Cabell Center for Performing Arts, 8825 S.W. Barnes Road, Beaverton. Reservations can be made by calling 281-5658, 9a.m. to 5 p.m.

See and believe, believe and see, support and encourage the Black Repertory Theatre, for it is fast becoming the "only" theatre in town...

Prison riot: An eyewitness report

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begin to eat his lunch. Fantastic... yes...but that's what actually happened!!! It should also be added that this wasn't a planned or organized action on the part of the inmates. The frustration and tension became overpowering and the result was confusion.

When the prison administration finally responded to this incident it was with violence and forcefulness. Correctional officers from O.S.C.I., O.S.P., and the State Police took part in quelling the disturbance.

I was waiting for them to issue some order for surrender but none came. I think that if they had asked for those parties not involved in the disturbance to come out quietly, that 90% of the inmates would have come out. But they issued no such order or warning. Instead, they came in with guns blazing, shooting indiscriminately at anything that moved, which in my mind is very irresponsible action. I can understand their wanting to restore security and safety, but there was a total disregard for the lives of in-

nocent inmates when trigger happy guards were given the okay to shoot first and ask questions later. I can't see where it's necessary to shoot people armed with table legs and sticks when gas would have been a better alternative. Plus the six inmates that now lie wounded and maybe dying, wouldn't be suffering now.

When the shooting began, two other brothers and I dove under my bed. I prayed to Allah not to let me die in the middle of all this madness. I heard orders being issued for inmates to go into their cells, and gun-smoke and fear permeated the air around me. Someone called out -- "I'm shot!" An officer replied, "Don't move your asshole or you're dead!" It was all so senseless that I wondered if there was a sane person on either side. Reason seem to evaporate with each passing moment. Finally, after what seemed to be an eternity, the authorities regained control and I thought that they were going to shoot us all in our cells but they didn't -- praise Allah!

At 3:30 a.m., another inmate and

Strayhands honored

By Stephanie Cole

The congregation of the Allen Temple C.M.E. Church will be hosting a celebration in honor of Rev. Thomas L. Strayhand and his family. Rev. Strayhand has served as Allen Temple's pastor for eleven years.

The celebration is in appreciation of his achievements and involvements within the church and community. Rev. Strayhand has served on various community and church boards and has sought to strengthen the bonds of family life. He also has worked to bring direction to some of the community's misguided youth.

Rev. Strayhand is described by fellow pastors as being a modest, humble man, and a devoted defender of Christian faith.

Principal speaker for the celebration will be Dr. O.B. Williams, pastor of Vancouver First Baptist Church. Special churches on the celebration program will be: Highland Church, First A.M.E. Zion, Bethel A.M.E., Mount Olive and a host of others. Included also will be various choirs from the community.

The celebration will be held July 13th, at 3:30 p.m., at the Allen Temple C.M.E. Church located at N.E. 8th and Skidmore. The community is invited to come and participate in the celebration.

Bryant trains

Pvt. Charles L. Bryant jr., son of Mrs. Brenda S. Bryant, is attending basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

During the training, students receive instruction in drill and ceremonies, weapons, map reading, tactics, military courtesy, military justice, first aid, and Army history and traditions.



Thomas J. Brown was recently elected Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Oregon and its Jurisdiction, F&A.M.



E. Jean Dillard was elected Grand Worthy Matron of the Prince Hall Grand Chapter, Order of Eastern Star.



James Glat is the newly elected Grand Worthy Patron of the Prince Hall Grand Chapter, Order of Eastern Star.

Self Portrait

"Drylongso" is Black English for "ordinary," and in DRYLONGSO: A Self-Portrait of Black America (June 30, 1980; \$12.95), John Langston Gwaltney, a professor of anthropology at Syracuse University who is blind and Black, presents the narrative voices of forty-one ordinary Black Americans describing their lives and situations, and their feelings about white America. What emerges, in the words of the people themselves, is the explosive and disturbing news that racial oppression in America is as brutal as ever.

With funding provided chiefly by the National Endowment for the Humanities, Gwaltney set out in the 1970s to record the thoughts of the men and women who represent the vast majority of Black Americans. In more than a dozen urban Black American communities, he interviewed his family, friends and friends of friends, and found a culture within a culture of people who do not fit into the conventionally romantic or sociological notions of what comprises Black America.

As Gwaltney explains, "This book is...not another collection of street corner exotica but an explication of Black culture as it is perceived by the vast majority of Afro-Americans who are working members of stable families in pursuit of much the same kind of happiness that preoccupy the rest of American society."

DRYLONGSO has already been hailed as a master work in the oral-history tradition of *The Children of Sanchez* and *All God's Dangers*. Advance critics have praised Gwaltney's vivid portrayal of what Studs Terkel calls a "knowing nation within a largely unknowing nation." Represented are the lives of, among others, "domestic workers, industrial workers, teachers and the retired." These are the people with steady jobs and family ties, who stay out of trouble and therefore out of the news, and who uphold the values of their forefathers.

Othman Sullivan, when interviewed, said, "I think this anthropology is just another way to call me a nigger." Harriet Jones told the author, "I don't see myself or most people I know in things I see or read about Black people." In DRYLONGSO, Gwaltney introduces the "good talk and profound dialogue" of what he calls "core Black culture."

Coming at a time when the issues of civil rights are once again in the news, DRYLONGSO is a controversial glimpse into the lives of the people who, Gwaltney says, "will not be the first to take to the streets, but will be the last to leave." John Langston Gwaltney has drawn together -- for all readers -- accounts of, in the words of Kenneth B. Clark, "being human in complex and difficult circumstances."

Zoo Music

Your Zoo and All That Jazz at Washington Park Zoo moves into the realm of classical music with the talented Woodwind Conspiracy on Wednesday, July 23rd from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Concerts are free with regular zoo admission. (Rain date is Thursday evening, same time.)

Middle School

(Continued from page 1 col. 6) district's desegregation office, is the community agent. In addition to explaining the school program and asking for ideas, the Wednesday meeting was seen as the initial step to forming a School Advisory Committee.

Community Calendar

The Humboldt Neighborhood Association is growing plants, that is to be sold at their booth at Neighborfair. There will be a surprise item also. Proceeds will be used toward a neighborhood cleanup later this year. Humboldt neighbors and friends are asked to contribute slips of their favorite house or garden plants. Call Madeline Noshush, 289-2712, or Opal Strong 283-3250 for more information. Members are asked to volunteer their services and support of our booth.

Archibald Cox. On Thursday, July 24th, National Board Chairman of Common Cause and former special Watergate Prosecutor Archibald Cox will visit Portland. A reception will be held for Cox at the Portland Hilton Hotel in the Pavillion Room from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5.00 per person and available in advance at the Oregon Common Cause office, 519 S.W. 3rd, Room 605, or by calling 228-3047. The general public is invited for refreshments, a no-host bar and entertainment.

OMSI news. A multi-media presentation titled "Volcano -- Mt. St. Helens Awakes" will be showing daily in OMSI's Planetarium throughout the summer. The show deals with the evolution of the solar system and earth in particular, with emphasis placed on volcanoes and how they work. A Planetarium matinee at 11 a.m. daily titled "Not for Children Only" (subtitled "Voyage to Spacey Places") takes viewers on a trip into the far, distant reaches of the universe. An additional Planetarium presentation called "All the Stars" shows daily at 2 p.m. All shows in the Kendall Planetarium are free, after the regular OMSI admission.

An Open - Air Foods & Crafts Market. Booth's children's corner scheduled demonstrations, activities, music, food, flea market, 2nd Saturday of every month starting July 12th, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. 4815 N.E. 7th, adjacent to King Park. Sponsored by the CRIB total home environment. For more information call 288-0371.

The relatives of the early Roslyn, Washington Black pioneers are planning the 91st year anniversary celebration of the Black migration to the Northwest. The celebration will be held Saturday, August 2, 1980, beginning at 9:00 a.m., at the Pioneer Park, the former Roslyn ball park, Roslyn, Washington. Roslyn is 80 miles east of Seattle, and 56 miles west of Yakima. August 4th is the day most of the Black pioneers have observed as **BLACK EMANCIPATION DAY**. Last year's turnout was over 350 people. Please bring food and beverages as this will be a smorgasbord/potluck picnic. Everybody is welcome. See you there!

Black Educational Center Reception. On July 17, 1980, 10:00 p.m., The Black Educational Center will host a reception for the cast of "AIN'T MISBEHAVIN'," at Geneva's. A \$5.00 donation will be requested at door. The donation will cover all the food you can eat! Don't miss it!

Portland State University's Smith Center will be the site of WOMEN AND ENERGY, workshops on skills, opportunities, and action. On Saturday August 2 from 9AM to 6PM, these workshops will introduce, inform, and involve women in various aspects in the energy field. Women who are interested in sharing resources or skills, or for further information, call Nancy Cosper or Sarah Weisberg, workshop organizers at 222-9311 in Portland.

Urban League of Portland. Beginning July 21, 1980 all 19 and 20 year old males must register for the Military Draft at local post offices. If you are concerned and would like to seek further information the Urban League Northeast Youth Service Center will be sponsoring Draft counseling services to the community on Thursday July 10th and 17th between 12:00p.m. and 3:00p.m. The center is located in the King-Facility at 4815 N.E. 7th Street. For more information call Marie Martin at 288-6708 extension 44.

Marshall High School class of 65 reunion committee is trying to locate members of the Marshall High School graduating class of 1965, and would appreciate any help and assistance you can give us in this regard. The reunion will be held at Blue Lake Park, Space 18 A & B, August 23rd, from 12:00 noon to Sunset. Please contact Luana Mulkey at 656-9582, who is compiling a list of class members names and current addresses for mailing information.

Dick Gregory defies travel ban

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HIS PROPOSALS - Mr. Gregory said he believes the impasse in Iran can be resolved and he set forth certain suggestions which he is convinced could ease the tensions and perhaps lead to the freeing of the hostages. It is Gregory's conviction that the American perception of the turmoil in Iran as "a political revolution" is in error. He sees it as a "religious revolution. His proposals include lifting of economic sanctions against Iran, release of impounded Iranian funds and a program whereby America would buy back from Iran billions of dollars worth of armaments and military equipment which he says America sold to that country during the Shah's regime. Mr. Gregory describes these sales of arms as "cynical" because, he says, the majority of these transactions involved equipment so sophisticated that "they could not be possibly used by the Iranians." The purpose of these transactions, Gregory contends, was to enrich America at a staggering cost to Iran. He says his research reveals that monies thus spent by the Shah totalled more than the Iranian national budget on

social programs.

Gregory accused the Carter Administration of ignoring clear warnings that the Embassy could be seized and hostages taken. He read to me excerpts from certain documents purported to be internal State Department papers. One of these, dated August, 1979, clearly stated that the embassy could be seized if something were not done to stem the rage of the Iranian people over America's protection of the Shah.

Finally, Mr. Gregory proposed that a grass-roots Citizens Commission of Americans be sent to Iran on a fact-finding mission. Among persons he suggested for membership on such a commission are Andy Young, Coretta Scott King, Ralph Nader, religious leaders like Dr. William A. Jones, President of the progressive Baptist Convention, religious leaders of all faiths and "some poor folks on welfare."

He said he doubted that the American Government would go along with the latter idea.

"President Carter doesn't want folks coming over here because he's afraid they will recognize that there are some truths here which can no

longer be ignored."

Mr. Gregory's final statement as the interview ended was that "God and prayer" are the answers to the tense situation. He added, however, that, no doubt, "the Almighty wanted to see some compassionate and moral movement on the part of the people of the earth."

He emphasized that leadership in such movement should come from the international community.

He asked prayers be sent to him - by religious leaders and by citizens and organizations. Prayers for peace and for justice and which express no political bias whatsoever. He asked that these prayers be sent to the offices of newspapers which are willing to cooperate. These prayers should be addressed to Dick Gregory, care of this newspaper or forwarded directly to *The Ministry of Communications* - to the attention of *Dick Gregory - 1697 Broadway, Suite 405, New York City 10019* - for forwarding to him.

The transcript of the interview with Gregory will be carried in full in the August-September edition of the *BLACK COLLEGIAN Magazine*.

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