

Local poet reflects Black experience

By Nathaniel Scott

Recently at the Artquake, there was a lovely, Black woman displaying her books. Upon inquiry, it was discovered that she has published five books and that her impressive list of accolades include: Author, Poet, Playwright, Lyricist, Mother, Grandmother and Community Service worker. Ms. Lois Berry are all those things and then some.

Lois was born in Texas, has lived in New York and New Mexico, and, since moving to Oregon, resumed her schooling after a seventeen year absence, obtaining a Teaching Certificate in Secondary Education and a degree in Business Administration. She is presently on leave from her job as an accountant, the result of an automobile accident she suffered three months ago. Her five published books are: "Looking Glass Thoughts, Black Retrospect, Book-3, Tuffy or Tuffe-e and The Flower and the Weed. The books Tuffy or Tuffe-e and The Flower and the Weed are beautifully illustrated by Leon Ramzy and can be used as family books, or books to read as bed time stories to the youngsters. She is presently working on three more books and at this year's Artquake, presented a forty-minute segment of a play, using a cast of five.

She has been giving poetry readings in the greater Portland area for the past three-and-a-half years and when asked about her poetry had this to say: "I find that my writing is taking a life of its own, and collecting itself into a pattern." She has been asked to read at Portland Community College, Buckman school campus, for a poetry class that begins October 1, 1980.

"I am under the opinion," said Lois, "that anyone can write. The only thing that's needed is to take a pencil and paper and put down whatever comes to mind."



LOIS BERRY

During the summer Lois worked as business manager, bookkeeper and door ticket seller for the Black Repertory Theatre production "Red Beans and Rice" and when asked about the necessity for a Black performing arts theatre within the Black community, she began her answer this way: "We as Black people have a lot of ability. We create

almost momentarily, daily, to survive." With a far away look in her eyes, as if trying to see into and beyond, she continued: "There is very little community support in the arts. They support some and they did come to see the productions (Red Beans and Rice & For Colored Girls) but that's after they were already going. There are initial steps

and finances that are needed to prepare the plays or the material for presentation. So I do have some concern about trying to produce my works here. I don't say it's impossible, but it's very, very difficult."

Lois Berry has held poetry reading sessions for the Black United Front, Portland State University, KINK and other radio stations, Channel Ten, Eight and Twelve Television stations, various other community places, and has even gone into the Oregon State Penitentiary teaching Black studies and reading her poetry. Before coming to Portland she held poetry reading sessions in New York, Texas, and New Mexico. She has a style that is the entwined reflections of her life and the things around her. Such lines as "Without the bee, the tree could never see;" "Time and space/ticked off/by the whole/of the human race." One poem written in Black idiom grows in intensity with each reading. It is entitled "Greedie" and one verse from it says: "Dey got clothes, diamonds, jewels and furs to burn/dey got lots of stuff, land, tanks and missiles to destroy/dey got sons, husbands and fathers to the tune of eleven dozen fillion."

Lois Berry is a Black Portland artist, who lives and breathes for her writing and what she can do for the community. She is truly a poet who will be with us for a long, long time to come, and so far Portlanders haven't had to worry about the type of sentiments Lois wrote of New Yorkers: "Came to New York September 72/a happy anticipating woman/I leave New York April 77, lonely, almost bitter/but UN-Defeated." Anyone who may wish to contact Lois in regards to community service work or a poetry reading session, may do so by writing Lois Berry, P.O. Box 11031, Portland, Oregon 97211.



The Singing Gospel Lights will join other musical groups in a Gospel Concert on October 19th at 7:30 p.m. at the Salvation Army Moore Street Community Center. Proceeds will go to the Gospel Train Broadcasting Service, the Black United Front, the Urban League and the NAACP.

Hispanics endorse candidates

The Hispanic Political Action Committee, after holding a series of public forums, has endorsed the following candidates for election:

For President, Jimmy Carter.
For United State Senator, Ted Kulonagoski; for Congress, Les Aucoin, 1st District, and Ron Wyden, 3rd District.

Secretary of State: John Powell;
State Treasurer, Jewel Lansing; Attorney General, Dave Frohnmayer.

For State Senator: Dick Peterson, Jan Wyers. For State Representative: Al Young, Joan Smith, Dick Springer, Gretchen Kafoury, Barbara Roberts, Annette Farmer, Joyce Cohen.

For Multnomah County Commissioner: Rob Wolf; Dan Mosee. For City Council, Mike Lindberg.

H-PAC will concentrate its efforts on voter registration and in assisting endorsed candidates.

Names in the News

Named to Multnomah County's new 21 member Community Health Council are Edna Pittman, Angie Richardson, and Nate Nickerson. The Council will provide advice and guidance for federal grant programs: the Primary Care Center, Southeast urban Health Initiative, Family Planning and the Women, Infant, Child Program.

President Carter has re-appointed John B. Ervin, vice chairman of the Danforth Foundation in St. Louis, to the National Advisory Council on Extension and Continuing Education.

The President nominated Raymond L. Finch to be U.S. District Judge for the District of the Virgin Islands. Finch has been a Judge of the Territorial Court of the Virgin Islands since 1976.

Among Mayor McCreedy's appointees to the new Low Income Multi-Family Housing Committee are: Freddie Petett, Urban League of Portland; Bill Hunter, Housing Authority of Portland; Nick Barnett, the Mayor's office. No Blacks were appointed to the new Single-Room Occupancy Housing Code Enforcement Task Force.

Mrs. O.J. Gates and Mrs. David M. Carlisle attended the New York funeral of their aunt Miss Sallie Taylor who was ninety-one years old.

Wilma Rudolph of track fame and Althea Gibson of tennis and golf fame were among the first nine women inducted into the new Women's Sports Hall of Fame.

Cal R. Williams, OSU Extension Agent; Robey Eldridge, Manger of the state's Client Diagnostic Center; and William G. Oglesby, Urban Indian Council, were appointed by Chairman Don Clark to the County Community Corrections Advisory Committee.

Former Federal Reserve Board member Andrew F. Brimmer, who now heads his own economic and financial firm, has been elected to the board of directors of Garnett Co., a diversified communications company that owns many of the nation's newspapers.

CBS has announced that Ed Bradley will be the replacement for Dan Rather on "60 Minutes" for the 1981-82 season. His pieces will begin appearing in the first half of 1981.

Results of capital flight

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compromising bureaucrats like Andrew Young, Vernon Jordan, Benjamin Hooks, Charles Rangel and Coleman Young. It must be emphasized that the electoral base of the new Black accommodationists is very tentative, because the poor are more than twice likely not to vote and because the Black populations of their constituencies are also on the decline. For example, the 1980 Census reports that the percentage of Blacks in Representative Shirley Chisolm's district has dropped to 54 percent; Charles Rangel of New York, 59 percent; Louis Stokes of Cleveland, 66 percent. All three of these "Black districts" have lost at least 18 percent of their populations since 1970.

Second, the constituent base of Northern liberal and progressive politicians also declines. As a consequence of the 1980 Census, New York state will lose four seats, at least 3 from New York City and its suburbs. Thomas Downey of the 2nd district, Richard Ottinger of the 24th district and James Hanley of the 32nd district, all liberal

Democrats, received less than 55 percent of the popular vote in 1978, and are more vulnerable than ever. Henry Nowack, a white Democrat with a voting record that is more liberal than that of either Chisolm or Rangel, has lost 19 percent of his district's population. Hispanic Congressperson Robert Garcia has lost almost 40 percent of his district's population in only ten years.

Third, the philosophy of the Sunbelt becomes the dominant political worldview of national politics. By 1990, if present demographic patterns continue, the New South and West will dominate presidential politics and will control the House of Representatives. The share of Black representatives in Congress will peak, perhaps in 1980, and will decline gradually thereafter. The possibility of overturning the 1947 Taft-Hartley Act and especially its 14B section creating antiunion right-to-work laws will become virtually impossible. A kind of uniquely American "friendly fascism" might emerge, where the rule of capital will be unchallenged.

Jewell Lansing seeks position

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developing the state's energy resources and will encourage conservation.

Invest In Oregon: Will invest state dollars in Oregon when competitive interest rates and prudent risk considerations are met.

Mrs. Lansing is very concerned about her opponent's lack of professionalism and skill as State Treasurer. For example, in 1979, due to alleged poor judgment, the State Treasurer cost the taxpayers in excess of \$12 million in unrecognized losses. Long-term interest rates fell behind short-term, forcing the incumbent to sell many securities at losses to pay off withdrawals. This necessitated the passage by the 1979 State Legislature of a bill to protect the local governments, thereby saving school districts, cities and counties from the same kind of financial disaster that Marion County faced earlier this year.

"Few people really understand the functions of the State Treasurer," said Mrs. Lansing. "The State Treasurer is the State's Banker, Financial watchdog on Boards and Commissions and the

seeks position

State's Chief Investor. Thus, there is a need for a new leadership that will do away with risky investment practices; a leadership that understands the workings of state government.

"As State Treasurer, I intend to bring a new enthusiasm. One example, is my plan to convene a task force to set priorities for all tax-exempt bond issues. I will also work to eliminate conflicting statutes regarding state and local bonding and investment practices. And as twice-elected Multnomah County Auditor, I am more than qualified for the office of State Treasurer.

Mrs. Lansing's dedication and enthusiasm was best described during a September 5, 1980 speech before the City Club. "When I first ran for the office of Multnomah County Auditor six years ago, I did so because I felt that I had special skills and experience and professional competence which are sorely needed in public office. I did so because I believe that elective office and the process of government are too important to leave to old-guard politicians." Come November, she hopes this too, will be the attitude of the voters.

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