

Sports Talk

By Ron Sykes, Sports Editor

Benson's Techmen closed the Oregon AAA boys tournament by posting a 74-71 basketball victory over the crowd favorite Hillsboro Spartans. Coaches throughout Oregon believed all year that Hillsboro would capture the title and ranked them No. 1, until they were upset by Central Catholic. These same coaches failed to vote Benson in the top 10 until five weeks had gone by and the Techmen were rolling over everyone in sight. It was only after Benson demolished Lakeridge, the No. 7 team by 30 points, did they finally open enough eyes around the state to garner enough votes to break through. Most coaches in Oregon believe the P.I.L. is just a bunch of run and gun players dominated by Black players, which prompted Benson's Dick Gray to say after capturing the title, "not bad for an undisciplined, selfish, city team. Those refined gym rats of ours showed them how to play the game." Gray was undoubtedly upset over the way some coaches regard his team and the P.I.C.

Not to reprimand our fine Oregon coaches, but it would certainly be

nice if they would open their eyes and minds to the fact that good basketball and talented players do exist in the P.I.C. Sure the P.I.C. entry from Jefferson was blown out early by Hillsboro, but that was like one small area in Portland; the Jefferson district against the entire city of Hillsboro.

Jefferson just doesn't have enough athletics to choose from, therefore, making their chances of having the much needed big people for lesser than the large area of Hillsboro.

And when the tourney MVP was announced, my vote was for Benson's Gregory West. Greg came through after facing so much adversity throughout his senior year. The bone chips in his ankle that sidelined him after six early games did not prevent him from displaying his talent. Some athletes probably would have quit after being a starter, and then being replaced in the lineup by a junior. But, not this young man. Greg has been a battler throughout his athletic days. Remember this young man is a 14 year pitcher in the Irving Park Senior League.

One day Greg was on the mound and having a little difficulty. The bases were loaded, and there had been a few errors now of which were West's fault. When the manager halted play and called West to the sidelines to replace him on the mound, and after a brief conversation Greg said, "Just leave me in and I'll get them out." The manager did and Greg fulfilled his promise.

That's what this young man was then and apparently is now. I know because I was the manager. Also on the PNB team was Grant's All-City guard Terrell Cage, Benson's Anthony Camel, and former Grant ace, Darryl Motley, who's now in the pros, Andre Hurst, Grant basketball, and Eric Ross, Grant basketball.

These fine athletes excelled on the diamond as they now do on the hardwood. There's some small college somewhere in this land that can certainly use a West or Cage on their team. Hillsboro guard Dean Derrah did not live up to his All-Star billing despite scoring 26 points in the final game. Derrah, who has a scholarship in a lay-a-way at OSU is

perhaps a step slower and a day late. At 6-4, he had an advantage playing guard in high school. But, he'll find things a lot tougher in the PAC-10. And just got to believe that Jefferson's Marshall Haskins can play somewhere. Haskins is intelligent and has more moves than Bekins Van Lines.

So, the Beavers chocked again, this time losing to Kansas State, a team they were favorite to beat by 9 1/2 points. But, can you really feel sorry for a team that only scores 48 points, as the Beavers did? Certainly not. These Beavers are not losers and should be proud of their accomplishments. The best team didn't win last Saturday at Pauly. We'll remember the good times and let those UCLA fans at Pauley remember last Saturday. The best collegiate basketball conference? The Big Ten. As of this writing they had Minnesota, Purdue, and Michigan alive in the NIT, and Indiana making a good showing in the NCAA. Sure they lost Iowa, a tourney favorite, but that was five representatives. Take LSU now to win it all.

ACT-SO holds motivation meet

ACT-SO, the Afro Academic Cultural Technological Scientific Olympics, will be holding a Motivation Gathering. It will begin at 7:00 p.m., at the Matt Dishman Community Center, 77 N.E. Knott, on Tuesday, March 24, 1981. At the gathering, the ACT-SO committee will proudly present Ms. Cynthia Hodge as the evening's guest speaker. Ms. Hodge is the first and only practicing Black female dentist in the State of Oregon.

This event will be open to all students, teachers, parents, counselors and any other interested per-

sons. We urge all ACT-SO participants to attend. Dessert will be served.

The ACT-SO program is sponsored by the NAACP and is partially funded by a \$3,000 challenge United States National Bank Grant.

This is an excellent chance for the community to show their support of this program and their continuing support for the youth of the community, who are making a positive attempt for theirs and our future.

The ACT-SO competition will take place on May 6th. Winners will compete at the NAACP National Convention in Denver in late June.



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Cell Talk

By Asmar Abdul Seifullah
aka Joe West

As the weather changes from the chilly grip of winter to the warming welcome of spring -- so changes the attitudes of inmates. Prison is a very seasonal kind of place. During the cold, rainy months the prison and its inmates seem to hibernate. They feed upon stored energy as December greets the new year and April showers welcome the flowers in May. Like a bear coming out of its den to return to its hunting grounds the prison population return to the big yard, the hunting ground.

Already there are indications of the tension and stress the long hot summer will bring. The lines are being drawn, territories are being claimed. The girl boys are painting themselves with mascara, they are tinting their hair, adorning themselves for the ho-stroll. The muscle freaks will discard their shirts and flex their muscles for flesh man tans. The Blacks prepare to low/ride in invisible el-dogs and marks-sevilles will be in abundance this year. There will be little worries about the price of gas or how far a dollar will go. The blow pipes and outfits will be filled with pure cocaine and heroin as the prison fat cats prepare to relive old memories. These scenes are traditional. They are part of prison life and they will reoccur year after year.

Little worry need be given to the above description of what is to come. It's what isn't rehearsed that worries many of us. The young-bloods are on the scene. They are still filled with expectations of youthfulness. Their manhood isn't easily suppressed as the older more experienced cons. They've got something to prove to themselves that can only be expressed in terms of the young buck displacing the old buck. The young and restless have come to Oregon State Penitentiary and their growing pains will be felt throughout the entire institution.

With the summer sun comes the realization of all the things missed, denied...postponed. The men will remember old love affairs and how

the summer sun was warm and pleasing on their bodies. They will remember and they will rebel against the state imposed enslavement of their dreams.

As the yard fills and the heat beats down upon them they will become bitter and angry. The staleness of prison life will magnify itself tenfold. The lack of adequate space will be a factor, was to what could be a very hot and violent summer. Racial prejudice will be a focal point in whether or not the prison explodes. Historically most prison disturbances have taken racial connotations after things get rolling. Such could be the case at Oregon State Penitentiary this summer. In essence, there are many things to be considered as we look toward the coming of summer. Foremost in our minds should be the overcrowded prison conditions and the projected continuance of these conditions. If in fact something isn't done to ease the overcrowding factor, court orders and stays of court

orders won't be worth the paper they are written on.

It is time for the public to re-evaluate its position on prison reform. It is not really clear whether or not the loss of lives inside of prison is a considered factor in the overall scheme of things. True, society needs to be protected from hardened criminals, but in so protecting the property and lives of the free, equal protection must be given to those prisoners who are honestly seeking rehabilitation and productive lifestyles. To sacrifice many because of the deeds of a few is a very fatalistic approach to problem solving. We must begin to look for more options to incarceration and we must also learn to identify those prisoners who can return to society without causing risk to the safety of the community.

Sure we can build another prison and another after than but that only means that we will be able to lock that many more people up. The

overall goal of the system should be to return people to society that can function within it. Let us hope and pray that sanity will return to our system instead of the paranoia that now stands in our way. Human values must begin to outweigh property values, people must become more important than the dollar as was illustrated in the return of the American hostages. "Don't forget that prisoners are people too - and that some of us are very much hostages of a system that has never made room or opportunity for us!"

May Allah guide and protect us and may we find the straight way.

BEC shows family films

By Nyewusi Askari

In a move to offset the absence of films dealing with Black family life, the Black Educational Center, will present the first in a series of Black educational, family films, beginning March 22, 1981.

The first film, "Nothing But A Man," stars Abbey Lincoln and Ivan Dixon. It is a moving drama of the personal struggle of a southern Black family. A young, Black railway worker gives up a good job to marry the preacher's daughter. His emotional adjustment to the age-old problem of earning a living to support his family becomes more difficult because the place is Alabama and the man will not play the expected "Negro" role.

Completion and showing of "Nothing But A Man" was done in 1964, and although hailed as a

"Classic" by many film critics, it was never given the wide exposure of its white counterparts. Nevertheless, the film remains an important educational tool for those attempting to learn what Black life (Black people) is all about. "Nothing But A Man" is not a "Boggie On Down" film. It is not about the street life movement, but rather a rare, cinema glimpse into the sometimes "invisible" movement of the Black family.

The film will be shown at Concordia College, Fine Arts Building, N.E. 27th and Highland at 3:30 P.M., and at 7:30 p.m. Admission is adults \$2.00 and children \$1.50 (under 12). Funds from the film will be used to support the Black Educational Center and the continuation of Black films in Portland.

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