

# OBSERVATIONS

from the Sidelines

By Kathryn Hall Bogle

In a panoply of swirling color, the Ebony Fashion Fair came to town last Friday evening and took its bow before an enthusiastic audience of well over a thousand Oregonians waiting at the Civic Auditorium.

The 1981 edition of the famous traveling show, owned by the Johnson Publishing Company, was called "Free Spirit" and was presented by the Portland Chapter of the Links, Inc. Links have presented Ebony Fashion Fair for the eleventh year since the conception of the show 23 years ago.

Traditionally, funds raised by this popular vehicle are disbursed to charitable organizations, or causes, by local sponsors. In Portland, beneficiaries selected by the Links, Inc., were: The Kidney Association of Oregon, The Center for Community Mental Health and the ACT-SO Youth Talent Program for the local branch of the NAACP. The United Negro College Fund, a national project of the Links, also benefited.

"The Free Spirit" took the audience by the hand and led them through the enchantment of fashion design and color.

The inimitable husky, whispering voice and style of commentator Shayla Simpson came almost as a subliminal explanation of what was unfolding on the stage. Eleven svelte female models and two smooth macho males accompanied them.

Portlanders were interested in the showing of storm wear, much of it in woolens with big checks - "Rain checks" according to Shayla, but a good showing in bright green glossy plastics in raincoats and a variety of caps were also to be seen.

"Show your colors" was a statement by Stephen Burrows, the renowned Black designer. He then



Ebony Fashion Fair introduced the latest styles to Portland. (Photo: Richard Brown)

proceeded to illustrate with his own blend of primary color combinations in strong reds, yellows, and shades of blue in day-wear costumes.

Burrows designs mingled with designs by Oscar de la Renta, Bill Blass, Dior, Yves St. Laurent,

Valentino and others of the top echelon.

Coats and capes were amazingly versatile as the slender models whipped off a cape to make a skirt of it, or turned a jacket inside out to form a variation of color or fabric design for another occasion.

Skirts were shown in all lengths for day, and for evening wear. They were shown in mini-lengths, mini-mini lengths, and toe-tip lengths. They came slim as a tube, they came with a "serious slit," according to Shayla, who meant the slit was up to the thigh to show a lovely leg.

There was a mini-culotte, shown in black velvet, for restaurant dressing for the very shapely, young and daring woman. There was a lovely lady-like teal colored suit, or two, for the more conservative type.

For at-home wear, there were hand painted roses on velvet, or on chiffon ("shee-foh" Syayla pronounces it). There was jumper dressing for both men and women in smooth fabrics, light airy fabrics, and tough material, too, as there were garments of leather as well. Platinum leather at that!

As the models spun and twirled, a tweak of a tab or a button and presto! A short skirt became a long one, or a hood was converted to a low necked cowl, or the model stepped out of a skirt to reveal skin-tight pants beneath it.

"You and the sparkle make it a night to remember" said Shayla as the models emerged in shining satin, or gold lame' or in the glitter of sequins, or maybe with the strategic placement of a brilliant medallion on a black-as-midnight gown. There was also "laceful and graceful" dressing, along with ruffles in tiers, the "Gone with the Wind" influence, commented Shayla. (Make correction)

There were dresses sculptured to the body, for the lady "who has absolutely nothing to hide" and some which were fashioned to "protect the property without obstructing the view." For a "return to romance" there were gowns of yards and yards of lace, or one, by Lanvin, with five tiers of ruffles. One creation had a gorgeous portrait collar to frame the face.

One never-to-be forgotten gown had thousands of bugle beads embroidered to form huge African violets. This one was by Milano of Italy. Another one in this category was made of panne' velvet - half the gown was in turquoise and the other side was in violet! And the shoes? One was turquoise and the "mate" was violet! Thanks, Eunice Johnson, for making these selections "The Free Spirit!"

Link Jacqueline Brown chaired the Ebony Fashion Fair this year with Link Alda Ruth Monroe, her co-chair. Tickets were managed by Link Jeanne Hartzog. Publicity was through Link June Brown.

Link Geneva Jones gathered door prizes for lucky ticket holders. Valuable prizes were donated to winners by More Cigarettes, Jim Haugen for Oster Kitchen Center, Ebony Fashion Fair Cosmetics, Ruth Dieringer for Sarah Coventry Jewelry and by the Hilton Hotel who gave ducats for two luncheons.

Link Clementyne Guy is the retiring president of the Portland Link Chapter.



Representatives of Ebony Fashion Fair show beneficiaries meet with Link members: Robert Fentress, Production Coordinator for Ebony Fashion Fair; Multnomah County Commissioner Gladys McCoy representing NAACP "ACT-SO"; "Nate" Nickerson, The Community Center for Mental Health; Clementyne Guy, President, Portland Chapter of The Links, Inc.; "Chuck" Foster, The Kidney Association of Oregon; and Link, Jacqueline Brown, General Chairperson for Fashion Show. (Photo by: Richard Brown)



The Castleers in action

## Castlemont students appear

By Kathryn Hall Bogle

The Castleers and the Castlemont Stage Band made up of students of the Castlemont high school in Oakland will be in Portland on May 3 for a combined concert at Benson High School. Concert time is set for 7:30 p.m.

Each group customarily tours independently building its own itinerary and following.

The Castleers, the vocal con-

tingent, have sung in performance before former President Carter and Mrs. Carter at the White House and they have also concertized in Europe, Mexico and Hawaii. At Benson their songs will include selections from the classics of Black spirituals, gospel, popular and jazz numbers.

The Castlemont Stage Band with 24 instrumentalists has participated in national and international music festivals and have traveled to play in

Reño, Nevada, to New Orleans and to Honolulu.

The Stage Band will appear in the Performing Arts Abroad Festival in Vancouver, British Columbia after their Portland performance of May 3.

Locally, these ambitious young people are to be presented by the Oregon Alliance of Black School Educators (OABSE). Trish M. Ryan is new president of OABSE. Dr. Ernest E. Hartzog is chairman of the ticket committee for the concert.

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## INVITATION TO EXODUS OPEN HOUSE

The House of Exodus expansion includes the entire block between 16th and 17th on the North side of Alberta Street.

Open: 12 noon - Wednesday, May 6, 1981.

Entrance: 1639 N.E. Alberta Street - Portland

Agenda: 12:30 p.m., Historic review and future projections.

By Tom Boothe

From the front door of the House of Exodus, let me share some vital information with you. For those who would like to help our young citizens to become more responsible Please Read Carefully.

### YOU SHOULD HELP NOW BECAUSE...

In our community, it is our Responsibility to see to it that our young citizens become Responsible, Respectful and Constructively Productive citizens. If we fail to teach and direct them who will?

### HERE IS WHY YOU SHOULD HELP NOW

Most youth crimes are Alcohol or Drug related. Prior to a youth Alcohol or Drug related theft, Burglary or Assault. It cost only about \$11.00 per hour, for Preventive Format Educational Counseling per youth at Exodus; as compared to between \$30.00 and \$40.00 per hour for Treatment Format Correctional Counseling per youth at Exodus. This \$30.00 to \$40.00 per hour, per youth does not include the cost of pain, damage and loss inflicted upon the victims. Nor, does it include the cost of the Criminal Record that these children will carry with them for the rest of their lives, both costs exceed a simple dollar value.

It only makes good social and economic sense to contribute to the ounce of prevention; rather than wait to contribute to the pound of cure.

### HERE IS HOW YOU CAN HELP NOW

Join with the Exodus Youth Mental Health Offensive. Eleven dollars (\$11.00) will buy one hour of time that will be spent toward getting a youth on the right track toward handling responsibility and becoming a productive respectful citizen.

All contributions are tax deductible. Make checks payable to: House of Exodus, 1639 N.E. Alberta, Portland, Oregon 97211. You can't spend your time or money for a better purpose; Join with the Exodus Youth Mental Health Offensive, building our community into a better and safer place to live and raise our children.

Major supporters of the Exodus Youth Program are: The City of Portland CETA; The Aluminum Company of America (Alcoa) and The North/Northeast Mental Health Center.

Brought to you as a public service by House of Exodus