

Potluck for Fungai Saturday, June 27, 1981, 8 p.m., until... at Professor Bill Little's home - 5535 n.e. Cleveland. This potluck is a farewell to Fungai Kumbula, African Affairs Editor for the Observer who will be leaving shortly for Zimbabwe.



Community Choir performs at "Early Summer Song Festival," directed by Ken Berry.

(Photos: Richard J. Brown)

Ken Berry: Musician, producer

Grassroot News, N.W. - The individual in the forefront of promoting and producing much of the entertainment for Portland, displaying local talent is Ken Berry.

"I'm involved in growth and the only way to insure growth is to consistently stay busy. In my youth, I had many positive role models and I always wanted to do something, because I work for what I get... everything I ever wanted out of life," he said.



KEN BERRY

Among the latest productions carrying the Ken Berry touch was the "Early Summer Song Festival" and "Timesound." Other productions are "For Colored Girls..." Oral histories "DuBois" and "From the Pulpit; from the People." In 1978, he was awarded the Jaycee "Junior First Citizen." He also holds a blue-belt in Taekwondo.

"Our youth in this day and age need the stimulation where there's so many negative forces that keep people from being able to develop to their highest potential. Our young need events to involve themselves

with so that they can feel a sense of belonging."

Ken is among this generation's most notable radio personalities, whose involvement in radio reaches back to 1969. "We started with YSOL, a small carrier-current station that was transmitted within the N.E. community. It provided those who had no previous experience in radio to come in and train. Later, many went to KQIV. Prior to YSOL, I worked at KGW and had a show called "Soul Train." It was there that I developed my technical skills for the communication business. I decided to go back to school and went to the University of Oregon and worked for KLCC, KATU and KGAR.

"I've always been involved in music and I make time for other issues and events to build a stronger foundation for myself."

In response to a question regarding the growth of the community, he said, "The community is a lot more politically mature and will continue to gather maturity as time goes by. We're going to need that inner power so as not to get turned off. I think people quit too soon because you're always going to have to go through changes. The only thing certain about life is change."

Ken would like to see another radio station with a soul music format. "We're closer to that goal but there seems to be an avoidance of the need for a Black station in this town. There's a lot of people, regardless of race and creed, who listen to soul. There's so much fabrication in the music with disco and this and that, so people are confused so they don't know what true soul really is. We're becoming more aware of the need for a soul station which reflects the true music that comes from Africa. We must put the economic resources together to make this a reality."

His advice to the young in these uncertain times? "I have to tell them what I tell myself. My motto is the song 'The Greatest Love,' the greatest difficulty that many of us have is setting apart our egos. I encourage young people to take inventory of themselves. The impression

that I want to leave is a positive one. The reason I do that is to separate my ego from myself and in that way, I love everybody."

For WAMO

By Marie Martin

Tina Abrams, a young, gifted and Black student, courageously took a stance last Wednesday, at a press conference where N.E. community representatives commented on the possible closure of Adams High School.

She was the only student of WAMO who took the podium at the press conference out of the many students who attended. She said she was compelled to speak at the press conference because she felt the closure of Adams is unjust and because it would be a denial of quality education in the areas of computer science and business administration programs that Adams offers.

"It's like being evicted from one house; being told that you could move into another, and that one is closed," she said. "The reason they are closing Adams, is to send Black children to white schools so they can remain open."

Tina, 16, recently won a Bronze Medal in the ACT-SO competition for her poem titled: "The Children of Atlanta." She is an active member in the community and is involved on issues concerning the Black community.

Her goal is to become a successful business woman, and the closure of WAMO and the possible closure of Adams will not detour her efforts.

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OBSERVATIONS

FROM THE SIDELINES

By Kathryn Hall Bogle

Topping an original goal of \$500 at an amount almost doubling their hopes, the Portland Oregon members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., made a substantial contribution to the 1981 campaigning of the United Negro College Fund.

The AKA contribution came as a response to a nationally televised UNCF musical event appearing locally through KPTV-TV studio. Radio coverage supporting the effort was provided simultaneously by KBOO.

Lou Rawls and Ed Mahon, special host for the national hook-up, make their appeals in support of

the aid to traditionally Black institutions of higher learning. Viewers across the nation participated by telephoning their pledges to the local T.V., sponsors or by appearing in person, sometimes on camera at the sponsor station.

In Portland, Barbara Williams was hostess in her Lake Oswego home to a telethon party where guest cooled their pledges and donations for UNCF to boost the Portland total to \$924.

Al Goldsby will be showing his new works in "Bronze Sculpture" at the Sandpiper Gallery in Cannon Beach for a 10-day period beginning with a preview-Saturday afternoon June 26 from 3 p.m., to 6 p.m.

Regular gallery hours from 1 p.m., to 6 p.m. will be observed from June 27th through July 6. Better not miss it!

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