



## OBSERVATIONS

FROM THE SIDELINES  
by Kathryn Hall Bogle

**N**EW IN the Portland community and already quite well known, Michael Taylor, assistant professor of art at Lewis and Clark college, and his wife, Stephanie, are searching for a house to buy.

The house has to be a special house to accommodate all of the arts and crafts they produce as well as collect.



MICHAEL TAYLOR

Mike is a graphics artist holding a MFA from UCLA and now teaching graphic design, its fundamental techniques, basic design and design concepts. His work, some of it on exhibit until November 15 at the Templeton Center on the Lewis and Clark campus, reflects his interest in precision, and study of the contrast of Order and Disorder. He deals in abstracts and with no actual object and he sticks to black and white. "My pictures have to do with space and position in space," Taylor says. "I'm also concerned with the reflective qualities of surface and the use of texture. It please me to do them. They have no hidden meaning."

An observer looking at the exhibit found the Taylor paintings affording a sense of tranquility.

The Taylors came to Portland from Western Kentucky University

at Bowling Green, Kentucky, where, for five years, Taylor was Assistant Professor of Art.

The couple met each other in, of all places, Nairobi, in Kenya, Africa. Mike Taylor was in Nairobi as a graduate student doing art research on the arts and crafts of the region. Stephanie Taylor was in Nairobi as a philosophy major from Kalamazoo College in Michigan. An art gallery called "African Heritage Ltd." was the setting for their acquaintance begun over a piece of sculpture. So two Americans fell in love.

Stephanie Taylor has since acquired her philosophy degree from Kalamazoo and is currently working towards an advanced degree in clinical psychology.

The Taylors married in America but they have lived in Nairobi, returning there when a position as Assistant Professor of Art and Design at the University of Nairobi opened for Mike.

Both have collected numerous items of sculpture, rugs, tables, stools, pictures, fabric, jewelry and even games from Africa. But, perhaps, among some of their more prized possessions from Nairobi are their some half-dozen beds.

"We have to have a house big enough to put up our beds. We love them so. A favorite? Well," said

Michael, "my favorite probably is the one made of mango wood, a rarity. It's probably of African and Arab blend in origin. It has slender hand-turned spools adorning the headboard and footboard; and it has four mango poles for supporting a canopy. It would be glorious to see a canopy of some silken fabric, but over there the canopy was of mosquito netting. Then there are a couple of antique brass beds . . ."

In Portland, Mrs. Taylor is a part-time rehabilitation therapist at "Conquest Center," an agency of the Center for Community Mental Health. "Conquest Center" is a day care treatment center for the chronically mentally ill on Union Ave. Mrs. Taylor counsels her clients in developing job skills and assisting those who have spent time in hospitals to form realistic views in

work in the competitive workforce. Mrs. Taylor is also a published poet of modern style weaving verbal pictures of her life in Kenya and of the people of the countryside.

The Taylors are the parents of a young son and daughter, Christopher, 5 years, and Jennifer, 13 months.

The talented Taylors will be exhibitors at the November 14 Assembly of Black Artists at the Firehouse Intercultural Center when The Links, Inc. celebrates its 25th Anniversary of Chapter activities in the Portland community. They will also show a unique craft item: a quilt, handmade, and ornamented by transfer from xerox design, photographs of hands, and bedbugs.

Judge Mercedes Deiz of Circuit Court is back in town after her re-

cent participation in a series of class discussions and public programs on the Lehigh University campus in Pennsylvania.

Judge Deiz was presented by the Woodrow Wilson Fellowship Program. As a Visiting Fellow, Judge Deiz has made several trips to the Lehigh campus in encouraging "the flow of ideas between academic and non-academic worlds and to help students to see the relation between a liberal arts education and their lives after graduation."

Upon her return to Portland Judge Deiz gave the keynote speech at Lewis and Clark School of Law for an all-day affair arranged by the Oregon State Bar Association in behalf of minority students on that campus. Her topic, "Routes Into Law School and Roads Out," gave students a nudge to consider "ex-

panded areas that a law degree can take once they have reached their goals. No longer must a law student make a choice between becoming either a trial lawyer or a corporate lawyer," Judge Deiz said.

"There are new technological fields to explore such as the computer occupations, urban and rural planning, industrial engineering and so on into politics and economics and international relations.

"Everyone here," she said to classes, "will be calling the shots tomorrow."

"We are in a world of micro-electronics, macro-economics—a completely new world of exploding possibilities and hopes. Maybe a world of black companies, black mayors, perhaps black governors and black TV stars."

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