

METROPOLITAN



Young man joins Portland marchers to request liberation for Namibia.

(Photo: Richard Brown)

Marchers seek liberation

Grassroots News, N.W. — Saturday, May 28, marked the 11th annual Afrikan Liberation Day celebration. Many felt that the fact Afro-Americans in Portland were able to do something for 11 straight years deserves historical recognition. Brother Kamau explains, "This is a tremendous statement for the black community and all the support for the total liberation of Southern Africa."

Nationwide, Afrikan Liberation is celebrated throughout the black communities. Why should they concern themselves with the political climate of Africa when their political situation is so demanding at home? Kamau answers, "We want to make Portland's black community identify with the total African community throughout the world. That is the major reason for Afrikan Liberation Day. To bring about a cohesiveness for the liberation of Afrika. Our major concerns is that we are descendants from Afrika. Every ethnic group in this country has a culture and a land base to identify with. By celebrating Afrikan Liberation day, we are reclaiming our land, we are reclaiming our culture."

The catalyst of support is centered around the suppression of Southern Africans. "Across this country on May 28 people around the country are showing their

solidarity for Afrikan Liberation. The Brothers from the liberating forces in Southern Afrika have told us to organize, protest and demonstrate. Our presence is making that statement today. I'm sure our spirit will give them some type of moral support, Kamau concludes.

The hundreds of people assembled in Irving Park felt the spirit of togetherness on Afrikan Liberation Day with their reactions to one question, "What does Afrikan Liberation Day mean to you?" "It means back to the roots, back to the real thing and back to me."

The event started off with a march from King School to Irving Park. Performers included the Talking Drum Dancers, the Northwest Afrikan American Dance Troup, speakers, crafts and various exhibits. The theme of Afrikan Liberation Day, 1983, was one of the chants during the march, "Afrika for Afrikans! We are an Afrikan people!"

Meals available

The Providence Medical Center is now offering dinner at a reduced price to all senior citizens, seven days a week from 5:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. Normal price for the regular meal ranges from \$2.50 to \$3.25. For information call 230-1111, ext. 5170.

Black Studies gives awards

The Portland State University Black Studies Department marks its 14th anniversary with an Awards Program Friday, June 3, at 7:30 p.m. in the Smith Center Viking Room.

Special awards for service to the community and for excellence in achievement will be presented to six persons during the program. The program will be held in conjunction with a two-day conference of the Northwest Region of the National Council for Black Studies, also to be held in Smith Center, June 3 and 4.

Among the awards to be presented at the PSU program will be: "Excellence in the Field of Music," James DePreist, Oregon Symphony Conductor; "Excellence in the Field of News," Linda Williams, *The Oregonian*; "Excellence in the Field of Education," Derrick Bell, Jr., Dean of University of Oregon School of Law.

Recognized for their service to the community will be: Marie Smith, for contributions to the Portland Black Community and to PSU Black Studies; Kenneth Berry, for youth work; and Ronnie Herndon, for contributions to the Northeast Portland Community.

Wayne Williams, director of Afro-American Studies at the University of Washington, and Darrell Millner, head of PSU's Black Studies Department, will be keynote speakers.

Learn gleaning

A workshop on food gleaning in and around the Portland area will be held by the Eliot Energy House, a nonprofit home energy demonstration project, on June 4th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at 3116 N. Williams Avenue. Call 234-7868.



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