



# OBSERVATIONS

FROM THE SIDELINES  
by Kathryn Hall Bogle

It's been a full, busy week with the curtain raiser YouthSound Festival '83 last weekend at Jefferson High School Center for the Performing Arts.

YouthSound '83 opened with a loud, fast brass and percussion production number in the flavor of the big-time, big-band sound. It was very, very good. It was exciting, and audience expectations were high for what was to follow.

No one was disappointed. Impresario Michael Grice had planned well. There isn't space to tell of everything in the program, as nearly a hundred people took two and a half hours to perform.

The YouthSound Choir, under the direction of Maestro Ken Berry, was featured. They also co-starred with the YouthSound Stage Band under the direction of George McKelvey and his associate director Thara Memory. The joy of music kept big waves of sound bursting with power and energy rolling into the audience. From the high voltage work of the choir, or the band, to the adult vocal mixed quartet from TimeSound, the audience gave spates of appreciative applause to individual soloists. The children of the Black Education Center bowed to hearty applause.

Individual stars were many. A few to be named must include: Anise Hall at her soloist best, the total professional Janice Scroggins at the piano, Shirley Nannette, Tracey Clay, Prentiss Phillips, Marian Mayfield, George Rankins with his "Ol' Black Magic," young Goldie Irby with his big voice and his amazing poise, Wanda Thompson and Ira Hammond. Things to remember especially were: the added amusing bit of stage business between director and cornet soloist, and the exquisite timing of Ken Berry's direction of both band and choir.

The concert had as sponsors the Portland Public Schools, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the Metropolitan Arts Commission and the World Arts Foundation.

Earlier in the week, Jefferson High School graduated 204 high school seniors in a sparkling, exuberant ceremony at the Civic Auditorium. Both professional and recessionary were by the school's Instrumental Music Ensemble.

Guest speaker was Multnomah County Commissioner Gladys McCoy, who bid her listeners to regard the standards of the Disiderata set down in 1692, but still applicable to life in the 1980's. Forrest Rieck brought greetings from the Portland Board of Education. Valedictorian was Ellen Simpson. Lisa Gail Manning was class president.

Presentation of diplomas was by Nathan L. Jones, principal, and by Delores Bowman, Shirley Glick, Robert O'Neill, and A.W. Williams, vice principals.

Over at Portland State University, an Awards Program, arranged by the Black Studies Department, presented "certificates of excellence" to six persons. James DePreist, the conductor of the Portland Symphony Orchestra, Linda Williams, a writer for the *Oregonian*, Derrick Bell, Jr., Dean of University of Oregon School of Law, Marie Smith for life-long contributions to the Portland black community, Kenneth Berry, vice-president of World Arts Foundation, and Ronnie Herndon, Co-Chair of the Black United Front, were selected to receive the honors.

A surprise plaque from the Black Studies Department went to Dr. William A. Little for his devoted service to the development of the department since his chairmanship began in 1977.

Dr. Little will use a sabbatical year to travel-study as he passes the responsibilities of leadership of the department into the hands of the new head of the department, Dr. Darrell Millner.

In his keynote speech, Millner stressed his wish to continue the work Dr. Little has established at the university and pledged his energies to (1) implement a masters degree program in Black Studies; (2) to increase the core faculty to seven members and to expand the Black Studies research program; (3) to undertake a community education program; (4) to continue the lecture series of: Charles Chestnut Lectures, W.E.B. DuBois Lectures and George Washington Bush Lectures.

Inspirational and encouraging remarks intended to fortify the spirit to maintain the status of a Black Studies Department were made by guest speaker Dr. Wayne Williams, director of Afro-American Studies Department of the University of Washington.

A reception, arranged by the Community Board members, was held following the formalities in the Viking Room. Azzree Lathan, member of the Community Board, was hostess. Bobbie Foster is chairperson for the Executive Committee of the Board.

The Black Cultural Affairs Board presented "Old Phantoms," a play in two acts, by Gus Edwards at Lincoln Auditorium on the campus of Portland State University on two successive weekends.

"Old Phantoms," a drama of family life, uncovered the dynamics governing each of the four members



OTELIA CHAMPION

of the family and two of their friends.

Wright Brumfield, director-actor, substituted for Al Jamison who had been assigned to the lead role of Jack Hamilton. Brumfield, as father in this disturbed family, played his part well, never overplaying the role.

As director, Brumfield had drawn the characterizations to keep the roles in a low-key, believable mold. Sylvia King, as "Ruth," portrayed the character to a fine point, fitting herself into the background until one highly charged moment. Junn Wilson's role as "Nick" required him to span several years in physical growth and development which he did amazingly well keeping the character. Mark Little had a difficult role — bringing the character of "James" from an inhibited personality to one of independent action — but Little's performance was effective in showing the subtle and not-so-subtle effects of the situations presented.

Azanda Genus and Anthony Bowlds each performed well in their

roles as "Mavis" and "Blake Walters."

Al Jamison, absent from the first two performances because of an injury, resumed his part in "Old Phantoms" for the last two performances.

Barbara Ward, vice-president of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, arranged a reception June 11, at the home of Martha Jordan for the "All Kinds of Action" girls of AKA, the eight high school recipients of awards for "Finer Womanhood," and the winner of this year's AKA scholarship, Renee Harris. Those honored were: Florence Jenkins, Leslie Goodlow, Sherrie Golden, Rosalind Jenkins, Lisa Washington, Trena Howard, Mamie Powell, Brina Burris, Roxanne Robinson, Cathy Martin, Sonja Hendrix, Paula Conley and Felicia Elmore.

Brenda Green, employed as Assistant Director in the Department of Human Resources for the State of Oregon, has received the doctoral degree in School Administration from Washington State University at Pullman. Green will continue, for the present, at her office in Salem.

**Coming events:**

The Oregon Association of Colored Women's Clubs will present Mrs. Otelia Champion, president of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, Inc., as principal speaker at a banquet on Thursday evening at the Cosmopolitan Hotel. All are welcome to attend. There is a set donation.

The Honorable O.O. Fafowora, Deputy Ambassador from Nigeria to the United Nations, will speak at the Portland State Ballroom on Saturday, June 18th. His visit to Portland is being arranged by Nigerian Students of Portland State University headed by Owen Owen.

## Seminar addresses youth

The Black Women's Network will sponsor a tactical seminar dealing with black youth unemployment entitled "Making Your Break For the '80s" to be held at P.O.I.C., 5329 NE Union, Saturday, June 25, 1983 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. This seminar is aimed at minority youth, ages 14 to 19 and will take a look at topics such as:

1. The decision-making process — how is it done.
2. How to be a self starter.
3. Rejection and Failure — how to turn them into positives.
4. Life options — What are they and how are they determined.
5. What does it take to start a business — to include examples of local businesses that youth can get involved with.

The seminar will be free of charge with lunch served from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

Unemployed black youth in the Portland Metropolitan area are encouraged to attend.

## L.A. considers free zone

The possibility of declaring Los Angeles a nuclear-free zone will be one of the "paths to security" to be discussed by scholars and others at the Whittier Institute for International Understanding, June 17 through 24. Talks will be given by civil rights leader Julian Bond, persons from Harvard University, and the president of the California Institute of Technology, Dr. Marvin Goldberger.

Alfonso Garcia Robles, 1982 Nobel Peace Prize recipient and head of the Mexican delegation to the Geneva nuclear disarmament talks, is tentatively scheduled to address the participants on June 18th. Bond, a member of the Georgia State Senate, is the kickoff speaker on June 17th.

The Los Angeles discussion will come during exploration of local possibilities for declaring nuclear free zones across the country. Included would be stopping the production, transportation and storage of nuclear weapons.

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