



OBSERVATIONS

FROM THE SIDELINES
by Kathryn Hall Bogle



DR. ANITA RAE (Photo: Richard Brown)

and Sinte Robinson for outstanding performances. Costuming, by Chonitia Smith, was fresh, interesting in use of tie-dye and color, and in selection from among African designs.

Smith has a successful company on his hands. Sponsors were the Metropolitan Arts Commission and the Northwest Artists Workshop.

Metal sculpturist Al Goldsby exhibits this week at the Sandpiper Gallery at Cannon Beach. Goldsby does some interesting things in brush work and he is showing some of these along with his nature studies in metal.

The Oregon Association of Colored Women's Clubs, during the past week, brought to Portland a dynamic woman, a veritable powerhouse of energy and inspiration. She is Otelia Champion, president of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, Inc.

Betty Thompson, co-chair of the OACW banquet honoring the distinguished visitor, introduced Champion as "Everybody's Person." She was, indeed. The banquet, held at the Cosmopolitan Hotel, drew about 250 members and friends of OACW Thursday evening to hear Champion's message to the membership in an open gathering.

Strength of character, kindness and good will are in her face as she extends her hands in greeting. Champion is a musician — a pianist and vocalist. She holds a degree in music from the Chicago Conservatory of Music. Champion also has a degree from Northwestern University in business administration, she has a master's degree from Northwestern in Counseling and is working on her doctoral degree in education. She has been teaching music in Chicago's public school system for nearly 35 years and has been director of music in her church (Zion Baptist) for 28 years. This she intends to keep doing, she said.

Champion is also a club woman. She joined her mother's club when she was a girl growing up in Chicago. The club was called the "Womans Improvement Club." Eventually she became president of this club and the members kept her in office for 17 years, while they gave scholarships to young people, helped needy families and found speakers to address the community.

Champion began visiting the executive board meetings of the NACWC "a long time ago" and, in

1976, she became a first vice-president. In 1980, Champion became president of the NACWC, with its 1,000 clubs representing 100,000 colored women in the United States. Proudly Champion states: "This is the oldest national organization of black women in the country. It was organized in 1896 by Mary Church Terrell and has been in the front line of the civil rights struggle ever since." Champion was counted by *Ebony* magazine among "100 Most Influential Black Americans," in 1982 and 1983.

Champion knows the civil rights struggle is still going on — she's a booster for Benjamin Hooks. For Susan B. Anthony, too. And for Mary McCloud Bethune.

As she addressed her audience Champion reminded them that 14% of black children are not in school. She discussed the disparity in education between black children and white children and urged her listeners to bestir themselves to correct and compensate for these disparities. Champion drew attention to the widening gap in preparation for life and jobs between black children without proper motivation and white children.

"How Does Your Chair Fit" was the title Champion gave her speech — meaning: "What kind of Club member selects a straight back chair, a good reading chair, a soft comfortable chair, a rocking chair, or a lounge chair — reflecting the life style.

The challenge was thrown to the members to "light your candles" — "Lift as you climb" — "rise up from your chair and do your work."

The OACWC has as its affiliates: Altruistic Club, Carrie Holliday, president; Fleur de Lis Club, Lillian Bell, president; Harriet Tubman Club, Alberta Randolph, president; Kathryn Gray Club, Ida Johnson, president; Literary Research Club, Marie Smith, president; Multnomah Women's Club, Thelma Sylvester, president.

For the musical portion of the evening, Calvin Almon sang to his own piano accompaniment, and also accompanied Mattie Ann Spears, soloist. City Commissioner Charles Jordan presented greetings and a book to Champion; Walter Morris, Equal Opportunity Officer, presented a set of Scott Joplin stamps on behalf of the U.S. Postal Service to the visitor.

Mae Rose was general chair for the evening. Pauline M. Bradford is president of the OACWC.



National Association of Colored Women's Club banquet participants included: Betty Thompson and Mae Rose, banquet co-chairs; Otelia Champion, national president; and Pauline Bradford, Oregon Association president. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Tri-Met plans schedule change

The Tri-Met Board of Directors has been briefed on a proposal which would make the bus system more efficient by cutting 2,000 service hours from schedules on a weekly basis. The recommendation will be taken to community meetings, public hearings and formal Board meetings before being finalized in late October for implementation January 29, 1983.

Citing employment figures which see 10% fewer metropolitan area residents traveling to jobs than were working in 1980, the staff noted that payroll tax revenue and farebox returns had been negatively affected.

Four meetings will be held with residents and riders throughout the region at 7:30 p.m. on the evenings of July 18, 19 and 20 at Fernwood Middle School in Northeast Portland, Milwaukie High School and the Multnomah Center; and on July 21 at noon at the Portland

Building.

The Tri-Met Board of Directors will then consider the proposal in the form of a formal resolution at its regular monthly meeting on September 26. That resolution will be the subject of two public hearings September 27 at noon and 7:30 p.m. at the Portland Building. The Board will take final action on the recommendation at its regular monthly meeting on October 31.

In addition to the community meetings and public hearings, the Tri-Met staff will take the proposal to neighborhood associations, civic groups and service organizations. The meetings and explanations will be complemented by an extensive effort on the part of the staff to make sure that riders on all the lines affected by the suggested January adjustments know about them before the Board makes its final decision.

Friends by the score gathered last Sunday evening at the home of Vessie and Allen Bowns to greet and congratulate Dr. Anita Rae on the completion of her medical education at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Mrs. Terri Wickcliff was co-hostess for the joyous event.

The degree of medical doctor was conferred on Dr. Rae in early June with her parents, Gertrude and Arvill Rae, among the many friends in attendance at the ceremonies. Dr. Rae, at 26, was one of eight new black doctors in the class of 150 to receive medical degrees. "I feel I have had a good education at George Washington," the quiet, modest young woman said. "I was pleased to be among the talented and gifted students the university attracts to the campus."

A Portlander by birth, Rae attended Alameda elementary school here and was enrolled for all four years of her high school at Oregon Episcopal Schools where she discovered her own serious interest in science. "Fortunately OES is well equipped for instruction in the sciences, and they encouraged me to develop my interest in this direction," said Rae. "I entered University of Portland and was graduated in Life Science in 1978. I won a fellowship to study nuclear medicine for eight months at the Argonne National Laboratory and later I had a similar opportunity to study viral oncology for six months at the same institution. Now that I have been graduated, I will begin my residency at Washington Hospital Center and will practice internal medicine for three years there.

"Do I like living in Washington? Yes," said the pretty young physi-

cian, "I really do. I like all the wonderful cultural experiences available there — music, theatre — all of it. My goals? — I hope someday to specialize in neurology."

Dr. Rae was the inspiration for a special Thanksgiving mass conducted by the Rev. M. Ramsey Schadewitz at St. Phillip Church on Sunday afternoon preceding the reception. Her visit in Portland would be short, she said, as she expects to return to Washington to begin her residency at Washington Hospital Center within a few days.

Bruce Smith, director and lead drummer for the Northwest Afrikan American Ballet, played to a full house when he presented his company at Jefferson High School recently. The crowd was enthusiastic and appreciative of the skill of the dancers and the driving force of the drums with all their intriguing poly-rhythms.

Smith sought to educate his audience in the ancient dance form and rituals of Africa. He did just that. There were dances of Ghana, some from Mali and others from Senegal. Some were dated from 13th century Mali. Some dances were children's dances performed by the Talking Drum Dancers of the local Black Educational Center. Other dances were incredible performances by professionals in acrobatic and contortionist style.

Assisting Smith were master drummers Obo Addy, Israel Annoh and Amon Kotey along with Smith's regulars, Caton Lyles and Tracy Sanders.

Special mention and special applause were meant for dancers Ruby Burns, Robert Foucher, Richard Green, Eno Washington

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