

OBSERVATIONS

FROM THE SIDELINES
by Kathryn Hall Bogle



Herstory, an evening of poetry and song about women, was presented by (L) Mary Rose and (R) Magnolia Raine.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Magnolia Raine teamed up with Mary Rose for a program of music and poetry presented in dual style at the North Portland Library on the evening of September 7. Herstory, the presentation

was called. Told simply, without the frills of staging, lights, or curtaining, the women told their stories well. They reached the audience effectively, perhaps because of the absence of

artifice. Mary Rose opened the evening with her performance of "Come All You Fair and Tender Ladies," accompanying her lyrics with her guitar. Magnolia Raine followed with a "Coquette Conquered" interpreted in the prevailing dialect of its time. This poem was by Paul Laurence Dunbar.

The women moved the audience through time and the space of growth for women and woman's place in the scheme of life (and man's intention for them) from Mary Rose's "Working Class Woman" to a song by Dolly Parton called "Nine to Five."

Magnolia Raine revealed the climb upward through her rendition of "Keep Climbing Girls" by Beah Richards and her coquettish "Wanna Bet?" also by Richards. Raine closed the presentation with "A Black Woman Speaks," a dramatic and moving piece that gripped the audience to the last word.

Raine and Rose, one Black and the other white, share similar views on the past and present attitudes of women and their changing roles in society. Raine is a writer, an organizer and publicist and mother. Rose is a mother, an English and music teacher, as well as a performing artist.

Both women are active in NOW, the YWCA and other organizations of the feminist movement. Their talents are available to club groups, alone or as a duo. Telephone: 284-7034.

Pauline Bradford, expressed her appreciation for the excellent turnout of Portlanders who donated to the scholarship funds. These funds are scheduled for expenses of Les Femmes' 1983 crop of debutantes who expect to be presented later this year in Les Femmes' Cotillion. Harriet Boyd is Les Femmes president.

A pictorial display, utilizing scrapbooks of stories and photographs, told the history of this very active women's club group. Club colors of pink and green were used in the rooms.

Scholarship Tea Chairwoman,

There was Constant Comment, Lemon and Spice and everything nice at the Annual Scholarship Tea. This year titled "Selecciones de la Te," arranged at the Prince Hall on Sunday afternoon, September 18, by members of Les Femmes.



(L-R) Pauline Bradford, Scholarship Tea chair; Harriet Boyd, Les Femmes President; and Kimberley Love. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

The "Families Away from Home Program" is alive and doing well for the 13th year, says Dr. Thomas Odoo, president of University of Portland.

Dr. Odoo welcomed FAH guests at a Sunday noon brunch in the University of Portland Terrace Room. Presiding with Dr. Odoo was Dr. Harold Wesby, vice-president of the university. Both men gave credit to Vernon Chatman for originating the idea of establishing a local family support group for athletes joining basketball and/or football teams on the UP campus. "I want to thank all the fine people in this program who have made the program so highly successful," said Dr. Odoo. "I am amazed and gratified that so many families have opened their homes and offered their time and talents so that others may grow and adjust to the university.

"If students are happy and comfortable in their settings, they can study effectively (which is the primary purpose of the university) and perform well on the court and on the football field, thereby growing into responsible and capable people," Dr. Odoo said.

Dr. Wesby pointed out that Chatman has worked "tirelessly" in

coordinating the efforts of the university faculty and staff with that of the Portland Urban League. "The Urban League does the 'outreach' of the program," Wesby said. "We have never had an incidence of failure among the students in this program. The records show that 95% of the athlete-students in the program have been graduated, and I can recognize four of them present today who participated as students in this program and who are now married with families of their own. They now want to become host parents for other younger students entering the program."

Recognition for 13 years of service to the FAH program was accorded by Chatman to Judge Belton Hamilton and Mrs. Hamilton, to George Rankin, and to Ernest and Jeanne Hartzog, all charter members of the select group of support families. Ten other couples were awarded pins for their ten years of service to the FAH program and six families were given five-year pins.

Ken Berry, pianist, supplied dinner music and the "Joyful Sounds," the a capella choir of Margaret Carter, sang their beautiful spirituals and jubilee songs during the afternoon.



The Families Away from Home program honored Mr. and Mrs. Donald Dixon (2 yrs. service), Ken and Harriet Adair (6 yrs. service), and Ernest and Jeanne Hartzog (over 10 yrs. service).

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

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