

METROPOLITAN

Educators preserve oral tradition

by Lanita Duke

Grassroot News, N.W.—A group of educators from N.E. Portland have imported the oral tradition of West Africa to Portland for a three-day community celebration which starts October 21-23.

The group is called Kukatonno Institute, Inc., and was co-founded by Remel Moore, Ivy Boslough, Rolia Angie Manyongai and Philip Moore. Kukatonno is a Liberian word meaning "we are one." According to the co-founders this is the premise of the institute as they gear up to share with their neighbors the culture of Liberia. To express the Institute's philosophy, Remel Moore said, "We are interested in the commonality of all humanity. We are focusing in on Africa because of our own heritage as Afro-Americans. Our first effort is with the Liberian culture."

Historically, Liberia and Afro-Americans have always been linked. In the 1800s, Liberia was the country designated by President Lincoln for the newly freed Blacks to return to. In the 1920s, the father of Pan-Africanism, Marcus Garvey, chose Liberia as the first country in Africa to reclaim. Kukatonno acknowledged that the rich background between Liberia and America inspired their research.

In July of 1983 three members of the Institute visited Liberia to conduct research on the oral tradition and establish a network with persons associated with cultural, educational and artistic endeavors.

Rolia Manyongai, a native Liberian, found the trip back home rewarding but noticed many things had changed in the country and within herself. Liberia is now run by a military government. She said she found it difficult to communicate to her countrymen and women because she broke away from the traditional role of the woman in African society.

"I believe in women's freedom. I don't believe in a woman being a slave under the man. This is a different type of oppression and is a way of life in many parts of Africa. I am an international, independent woman and some of the men resented that. They did not want me talking with the women who had been brainwashed into believing that the man is always the ruler, on top, and



Educators dedicated to the preservation of the African oral tradition include (L-R) Philip Moore, Rolia Angie Manyongai, Ivy Boslough, and Remel Moore. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

he has to be the boss. I was coming and saying it doesn't have to be that way. You don't have to be equal with him physically but mentally you are just as strong."

Philip Moore said because of their visit they plan to present the culture of Liberia from a different perspective. "We are looking at Africa from the perspective of an Afro-American. We are bringing authentic folktales handed down from generation to generation. This is an opportunity to see the culture which has not been influenced by outside interests."

Not only will oral tradition be portrayed but the correlation between Afro-Americans and Liberians will also be examined.

"A lot of the times," Remel continued, "Black Americans do not have any desire to go to Africa because they have been embarrassed by the way the white man has portrayed Africa. We want to portray us—Black Americans and Africans—as the way we really are. I don't think it should be viewed as threatening. We want to lift pride, create awareness and understanding."

Manyongai concluded, "I have

lived in Portland for five years and the majority of people I have run into are into education. I was raised on the folktales I will narrate. I will paint a picture to make people think about life experiences they never had thought about before. It will be more than entertainment. It will be real."

Kukatonno will present the Afri-

can/American life exhibit Saturday, October 22, at the Interstate Firehouse located at 5340 N. Interstate, at 8 p.m. Expect to absorb a uniquely coordinated presentation which will include slides, photos, clothing, art, dancing and a folk tale with "Mr. Spider." Proceeds from this event will be donated to the Bright Foundation School, Monrovia, Liberia.

\$700,000 raised for peace

Just over 150 walkers raised more than \$16,000 in pledges from 1,800 sponsors in the October 1st Freeze Walk-A-Thon in Portland. About \$700,000 is pledged nationally for the Freeze by 100,000 sponsors. 240 walks took place around the country.

Portland had the highest ratio of dollars pledged per walker in the country, at nearly \$110 each. Portland sponsors were, on average, more generous than those around the country. The average pledge in Portland was about \$8.88 each while the nationwide average was \$7 per sponsor.

According to the Walk-A-Thon organizer Chuck Goodmacher, 40 per-

cent of the net proceeds from the Portland Walk-A-Thon will be sent to the national Freeze Campaign for lobbying and other organizing work at the national level. About ten percent will be shared with member groups of the 30-member Nuclear Weapons Freeze Coalition of Greater Portland. The remaining money will be utilized to continue public education and outreach in general and to help finance such specific projects as the noon-time October 22nd Euromissile Rally at Waterfront Park.

For more information on how you can work for peace here in Portland, contact the Freeze Coalition at 226-6932.



TREAT YOURSELF
to a new short style cut at
PRO STYLE SHOP

For only \$10

917 SW Alder
Lower Level of
Proline Beauty Shop

Haircutting specialists Jackie, Stella, and Andre will cut, condition and style your hair.

CALL TODAY FOR APPT. 224-8401

HOURS: Mon.-Sat. 9-6 • Walk-ins welcome • Evening appts. available Tues.-Thurs.

sears



SAVE \$30 to \$50 on bikes for the family

SAVE \$30 on 10-speed racer
26-in. for men or women. Positron derailleur. Regular \$149.99
\$119.99

SAVE \$50 on lugged frame racer
Lugged frame for lightweight and strength. 10-speeds. Shimano derailleur system. Regular \$229.99
\$179.99

19.99 Sleeping bag
3-lbs. of insulation. Machine washable. Regular \$32.99

\$50 REBATE on TI 99/4A home computer
16K memory. 48 alpha-numeric keys on typewriter-like keyboard. Great for beginners. \$149.99. Your cost after mail-in rebate. 99.99



SAVE \$50 when you buy this weight bench and weight set

124.98 Reg. sep. prices total \$174.98

700-lb. capacity (user plus weights) bench. Regular \$99.99 69.99
177-lb. weight set. Reg. \$74.99 54.99

Fitness equipment requires some assembly



99.99

SAVE \$20 on wheel cycle

Closeout! While quantities last. 20-in. cycle. Speedometer/odometer lets you measure your progress. Was \$119.99



9.99

Spalding sweat clothes

Choose from v-neck sweat shirt or sweat pants with elasticized waist. Polyester and cotton. Regular \$12.99



49.99

2-drawer file

22-inch. Cam lock. 7 bright colors. Letter-size. Was \$89.99



79.99

4-drawer file

22-inch. Top 2 drawers lock. Letter-size. In 2 colors. Was \$149.99



179.99

Electric 2 typewriter

Correction at the keyboard. Power return. Reg. \$219.99



SAVE \$15 on electronic blood pressure monitor

39.99

Use three ways: hang up, stand or hold in hand. Large dial with flashing light and beeper indicators. Battery included. Drawing carrying pouch. Regular \$54.99. Not carried in Albany, Eugene, Longview, Pasco, Walla Walla or Wenatchee.



25% OFF All Timex watches

The watchword at Sears is savings! Timely styles for men and women, from conventional to alarm-chronograph, elegant to sporty. Choose one to fit your lifestyle. Here are 4—come see them all. Reg. \$9.95 to \$120 **7.39 to 89.99**

Not all styles in all stores. Not available in Walla Walla.

PORTLAND - PHONE 238-2311
N.E. GRAND at LLOYD BLVD. - PARK FREE
Monday and Friday 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. - Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.

WASHINGTON SQUARE - PHONE 620-1510
HIGHWAY 217 at GREENBURG RD. - PARK FREE
Monday thru Friday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. - Sunday noon to 5 p.m.

There's more for your life at **Sears**



Joel Gunz and Becky Hartman, essay contest winners.

Jeff High seniors win national writing contest

Two Jefferson High School seniors have been named national winners in the prestigious National Council of Teachers of English writing competition. Becky Hartman, a Kenton Elementary School graduate, and Joel Gunz, who graduated from Ockley Green, have both attended Jefferson all four years. They are two of Oregon's eight winners.

"Their winning is such an accomplishment," beamed Linda Christensen, English Department Head. "Based on our school population we were only able to submit three entries, and to have two of the three named as national finalists is a real tribute to our program and the teaching staff here," she continued. The students worked hard to reach their achievement. They wrote, re-wrote and spent many hours on their entries. Both Jefferson winners entered the essay category. In 1981 Susan Thompson won with a short story.

The Jefferson students appear to be well on their way to achieving what many high school youngsters miss: an education as fine as any in the world. According to a Septem-

ber *Newsweek* article, "Rx for High Schools," which discusses a comprehensive report on the American High School just released by the Carnegie Foundation, "all students should acquire the ability to communicate effectively in the English language."

Both Becky and Joel, who have been enrolled in the advanced English classes at Jefferson, point to their teachers as being significant influences in their education. "I have had five different English teachers, and they all care about what they are teaching," explained Becky. Vice-Principal Shirley Glick said, "It's a real pleasure to see teachers working with students in a way that brings them this kind of success." As a result of their honors, the NCTE will advise colleges across the country of the contest's winners.

Approximately 200 Jefferson High School students are enrolled in the advanced English program, and nearly all complete four years even through only three are required for graduation. Students are led through a sequence of skills. They discuss, analyze, and evaluate classical and contemporary literature.