

# HAPPENINGS

## O'Jays, others back South Africa boycott

by Lanita Duke

Grassroot News, N.W.—Should entertainers boycott South Africa? Yes, is the answer you will receive from over one-third of the entertainment world. Also, from the United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid.

The singing group, The O'Jays, are part of an international campaign to educate their fellow entertainers to the problem of Black people living with a foot on their necks.

Sammy Strain, the newest member of the O'Jays, signed a resolution in Portland calling for an end to academic, cultural and sporting exchanges with South Africa. The organization mobilizing local support for the boycott is Portlanders Organized For Southern African Freedom.

Strain said his group was classified as an honored "white." "What struck me was at the end of the day all the Blacks made a major motion to get out of the city. It was a mass exodus." In 1981 The O'Jays performed in South Africa and said they would never go back.

"We have made a commitment to ourselves and Black people to do all we can to persuade all entertainers, both Black and white, to stay away from that place until humanity is restored."

In South Africa, everyone is registered by race. No Blacks are allowed in the city after dark without a special permit and all Africans (Black) over 16 are required to be fingerprinted and carry a passbook.

The population of South Africa is



Sammy Strain, singer with the O'Jays, calls for an academic, cultural, and sports boycott of South Africa at Portland press conference. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

mainly Black, but whites control the economic, political and social aspects of everyday life. The majority live below the poverty line and the infant mortality for urban Blacks is 69 per 1,000 and 282 per 1,000 for rural Blacks. Blacks cannot vote, or hold office, and their land has been taken away by the government, forcing them to live in camps where hunger and disease are commonplace.

These facts have created a campaign called Artists and Athletes against Apartheid. Led by Harry Belafonte and Arthur Ashe, this group is obtaining pledges from Paul Newman, Tony Randall, Bill Cosby, and other colleagues to join

a boycott against South Africa's inhumanity toward man.

This organization states that performances in South Africa by American artists gives credibility to the government. The National Black United Front, the Congress of South African Students, and other organizations have called for a boycott of artists who perform in South Africa.

In March of 1983, the Portland chapter of the Black United Front boycotted Tina Turner's performance at a local Portland nightclub. Marchers chanted, "She sold her soul for South African gold," and Ronnie Herndon said, "Black leadership in this country has made a request asking artists not to go to South Africa. Tina Turner and a few others have accepted this blood money from South Africa."

Roberta Flack rejected an offer of \$2.5 million to perform in South Africa. Phyllis Hyman, Ben Vereem, Gladys Knight and the Pips, the Floaters, and Lena Horne have also refused to go and perform.

The government of Japan announced in June 1974 that no visas would be issued to South Africans for the purpose of interchange in the field of sports, culture and education. The Netherlands also suspended its cultural agreement with South Africa after the Soweto massacre in 1976 where 1,000 students were shot by the police during a peaceful protest.

Not all entertainers have joined in the boycott. Frank Sinatra performed in South Africa without apologies. Also, Peter Braham, a South African promoter, boasted that he has signed Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes, the Stylistics, the Drifters, and the Temptations.

Portlanders Organized For Southern African Freedom stated in a press release that, "We want it to be known that we will protest against any groups or individuals who come to Portland, who have performed in South Africa. And we will support or encourage the efforts of those who have refused." For more information regarding the efforts of POSAF contact Avel Mayfield, 230-9429.

### Happenings

On New Year's Eve you can party til the sun comes up at Starry Night Nightclub, 8 N.W. 6th. There will be music, full bar and champagne available. Shock will sizzle you and Cool'r will make this the funk-est New Year's you will ever have.

Tickets are \$10.00 in advance and \$13.00 at the door.

Happy Holiday Season



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## Places and Faces

A visual trip through the world of hair, fashions and make up.

Cocktail Hour: 7:00 p.m.  
Show time: 8:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. per person  
Black Tie

Dec. 30, 1983  
**Melody Lane**  
Ball Room  
615 SE Alder



**\$15<sup>00</sup>**  
Per Person

Ticket locations  
Stevens & Son Jewelers  
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Advance Ticket Sales Only

**Special statement from Grassroot News, N.W.'s news director, Lanita Duke:** "In our Dec. 1 issue I wrote, *Sorry Night at Starry Night*, which dealt with the O'Jays concert. I wrote about how the audience had been treated. Since publication, Starry Night has made overtures to the Black community, apologizing for events that were beyond their control. Their statement to the community is worth reading and understanding."

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Under regrettable circumstances, the O'Jays decided to go on stage three hours late, showing less than a professional attitude toward their fans. Since the O'Jays were getting paid a very huge sum of money, Starry Night found it sad that their fans should suffer with the confusion that this caused for both fans and the club. The miscommunication between the O'Jays management and Starry Night on details, we feel was not sufficient cause to treat the crowd this way. A court of law will decide who will be held responsible at a later date.

It is Starry Night's desire to have entertainment of all varieties from around the world. Having never experienced something like this before, and never planning to again, we wish to extend a free pass to our New Year's Eve Spectacular for anybody with an O'Jays ticket stub, and apologize for any inconvenience caused that evening.


Merry Christmas from Starry Night!

STARRY NIGHT PRESENTS

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Featuring the hottest rock and funk sounds of

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Music until 5 A.M.  
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Dance the Night Away

Ticket outlets: House of Sounds, G.I. Joe's, Meier & Frank Bass ticket centers, Everybody's Records, Music Millennium  
Everybody's Records, Music Millennium

TICKETS SUBJECT TO SERVICE CHARGE

### Kwanzaa festival set

**Monday, December 26: Umoja/Unity.** Children's program, Black Educational Center students, 7:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, December 27: Kujichagua/Self-Determination.** Naming ceremony, 7:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, December 28: Ujima/Collective Work and Responsibility.** Beautiful Black Art Co. art exhibit. Films: Haile Selassie I, Bob Marley, 7:30 p.m.

**Thursday, December 29: Ujamaa/Cooperative Economics.** Supporting our own Black businesses, speakers, 7:30 p.m.

**Friday, December 30: Nia/Purpose.** Egypt: *Our Story*, slide presentation, Kamau Sadiki, 7:30 p.m.

**Saturday, December 31: Kuumba/Creativity.** Karamu: *The Feast*—Bring a dish and share in the festivities, 7:30 p.m.

**Sunday, January 1: Imani/Faith.** Family Day: Reflect on the Kwanzaa festivities with your family.

All festivities will be held at the Black Educational Center located at 1640 N.E. Alberta St.

### Party a success

Nearly 1,000 youths and parents gathered at Jefferson High School on Saturday, Dec. 17th, to attend the 20th Annual Children's Holiday Christmas Party. Toys and other prizes from local merchants were presented to the youngsters as well as Christmas stockings which were donated by *Oregonian* readers.

Miss Tan Portland 1983, Tracy Clay, Gene Diamond and Farmer John, led Christmas carols and helped the youngsters patiently await the arrival of Santa Claus (played by Jimmy Bang-Bang Walker). Wally Scales brought along the newest Trail Blazer film that was a big hit with the audience. Music was also provided by the Jefferson Jazz Band.

The annual event is sponsored by the Jimmy-Bang-Bang Walker Youth Foundation.



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**The GRAND BALLROOM of the MASONIC TEMPLE**  
Downtown Portland  
December 31, Sat. 8:00 PM, 1119 S.W. Park  
Age: 21 yrs. and older  
**DON'T MISS THIS ONE!!**  
Full Bar - Food - Happy Hour All Night Long  
Voter Registration table for Jesse Jackson's campaign

tickets \$7<sup>00</sup>