

OBSERVATIONS

FROM THE SIDELINES
BY Kathryn Hall Bogle



BLACKS IN Government/Columbia River Chapter joined with the Equal Opportunity Committee of the Federal Executive Board to produce a memorable occasion celebrating the birthday of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. The event combined a luncheon and program arranged for over 300 persons at the Red Lion Inn at Lloyd Center on Monday, January 16th. Mistress of ceremonies was Shirley Hamilton, manager for the Bonneville Power Administration's Office for Equal Employment Opportunity Advice and Assistance Programs.

Invocation was by the Rev. Curtis Kirkpatrick of Lents United Methodist Church. Welcome was by M. Eldon Green, Chair of the Federal Executive Board. Comments during the program were by James Robinson, president of Blacks In Government/Columbia River Chapter who is an auditor for BPA.

Principal speaker was City Commissioner Charles Jordan, pinch-hitting for Oregon Symphony Conductor James DePreist who could not attend. Jordan chose to involve his audience in reflection on a personal commitment to precepts laid down by Dr. King in his many sermons about "love and hope and the brotherhood of man." "Thousands," said Jordan, "will join hands today, but not with their hearts. We have learned to walk on the moon, but not with each other."

He revealed a little of his own personal philosophy, saying that, "I believe that every man is good. I believe that he will do that which is good, right, and decent, but that because of fear, jealousy, or insecurity, he may not. . . . We forget who we are—children of God." He asked his audience, "What are you going to do about the principals taught by Dr. King?" Charging his audience to relax and to remember who they are, he reminded them that "when you put the man in place, the world comes together."

Prior to Jordan's address, Herb Cawthorne, orator, actor and Portland School Board member, emotionally involved his audience in the life of Dr. King by his portrayal of the charismatic leader. Cawthorne's forte as an actor is soliloquy and he was at his best in "Memories of Dr. King."

The muted voices of Margaret Carter's "Joyful Sounds" gospel choir were used effectively in the closing portions of the Cawthorne



Margaret Carter, director of Joyful Sounds; Salome Miller, EO Committee, F.E.B.; Carolyn Robinson, vice-president of Blacks In Government; Commissioner Charles Jordan; Herb Cawthorne; Shirley Hamilton, Mistress of Ceremonies; and James Robinson, president of Blacks In Government, following the Blacks in Government/Federal Executive Board luncheon.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

soliloquy.

The popular choir, under the direction of Carter, sang several gospel songs *a capella* as their contribution to the commemorative program.

Salome Martalla-Miller, who introduced the keynote speaker, is chair of the Federal Executive Board Equal Opportunity Committee. William Berger, EEO Officer for the Army Corps of Engineers, was chair for the luncheon's planning committee.

INVITATIONS ARE OUT for "The Jazziest Event of the 1984 political season." Featured personality is to be Barbara Roberts, a candidate for the office of Secretary of State. The affair, scheduled for Tuesday, January 31, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., will be staged at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Bell. Janice Scroggins will be at the piano (piano courtesy of Moe's Pianos) playing her scintillating jazz offerings. There'll be hors d'oeuvres, fine wine and a donation

from each guest.

Hosts for the jazzy affair include Al Goldsby, Ernest Hartzog, Alma Hill, Tom Kennedy and Gail Washington.

IF YOU are interested in films or film clips about Black people and featuring Black actors and artists, programs put together for this month and next by the Northwest Film Study Center are sure to interest you.

The films are being shown at the Berg-Swann Auditorium in the Portland Art Museum. *Gospel*, presented Saturday evening, January 14th, was received by an enthusiastic audience of young sophisticated types. *Gospel*, not for sophisticates only, was a taping of the performances of several gospel music aggregations. It was wild, loud to the nth decibel, and entertaining to the last note. They worked hard and fervently, those singers and musicians. When was the last time you saw the director of a gospel choir take the sticks out of his drummer's hand to get him to stop? The drummer was

entranced by his own driving beat and they helped him away from his drums to recuperate in the wings. And that's *Gospel*.

Next important show is to be January 25th, part of the "Labor on Film" series, which will feature two films on the black work experience, *Miles of Smiles—Years of Struggle*, and *Where Did You Get That Woman?*

Don't forget to go to see Michael Grice, live, on Sunday, January 22nd at the Art Museum, conducting a slide show on railroad days. The Grice show is in conjunction with the Museum exhibits of Labor photographs.

BOBBY GARY has been elected to the presidency of the Black Women's Network. Gary will wield the gavel beginning in February and is to have Jennie Portis as vice-president. Other officers are: Francetta Cross, secretary; Myrtle Carr, treasurer; Bobbie Nunn, parliamentarian; Iris Bell, historian. Members-at-large will be Amelia Lanier and Gail Washington.

Artists demonstrate talents

The talents of Portland's Black artists will be showcased at an African American Cultural Festival on Sunday, January 29, 1984, from noon to 6:00 p.m. at Matt Dishman Community Center located at 77 N.E. Knott St. The festival will be a six-hour social and educational event consisting of exhibits, demonstrations and performances. Admission is \$1.00 for adults, children are free. The festival will be a tribute to Portland's Black artists and addresses the need to expand the Black artist's audience both within and outside of the Black Community. An important goal of the festival is

to provide the artist with the support and encouragement that comes from knowing that their contributions add to the depth, continuity and life of Portland's artistic community.

A souvenir directory profiling Portland's Black artists will be printed in conjunction with this event.

The festival is sponsored by the Black Educational Center with a grant from the Metropolitan Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts. Festival Coordinator is Joyce Harris. For further information call 284-9552.

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