

HAPPENINGS

Introducing "Bean" Keller, Entertainment Editor!

As the new Entertainment Editor of the *Portland Observer* I am pleased to have the opportunity to be the voice of the Black Entertainment community in Portland, Oregon.

As we know Portland is fast becoming an entertainment center and our community has a lot to offer to this growing industry. My job will be to expose the community's untapped talent and take it to the public. *The Observer*, along with myself, feel that is our responsibility as a form of the media to inform the public of the vital resources available in our community.

I began my musical background 18 years ago as a saxophone player,

later becoming a lead singer. In 1979, I decided to go into the entertainment business as a promoter after seeing the lack of exposure the Black artists were receiving in the community. I am now the owner of B.E.A.N. (Better Entertainment Attractions Network) and my agency represents Music, Dance, Theatre and Education. For the past five years I have promoted and exposed a number of the community's artists and artistic groups by holding summer festivals in the city parks along with various indoor events. B.E.A.N. has been affiliated with a number of businesses and organizations throughout the Portland Metropolitan Area. I am currently in the process of expan-



JOE "BEAN" KELLER
(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

ding my business not only to be a promotional but a booking agency. I feel it is time to expand our artistic community and have it recognized throughout the city.

The *Portland Observer* and myself would like to work with you, the public, in an effort to expand our artist community. We would like for you to send us suggestions about things you would like to see or read about in the Entertainment section of the paper. Send to: The *Portland Observer* c/o the Entertainment Editor, 2201 N. Killingsworth St., Portland OR 97217.



Louise Norris-Moaning (left) Ayanna Patterson (center) and Ruby Reuben (right) will be at Portland Community College Cascade Campus: May 26th, 8 p.m.; May 27th, 7 p.m.; June 1st, 8 p.m.; and, June 3rd, 7 p.m. Tickets are on sale now at Cascade Campus Book Store, 706 N. Killingsworth and Mrs. C's Wigs, 707 N.E. Fremont.

Sojourner Truth Poets profile

The Sojourner Truth Poets are a Portland-based group consisting of three professional Black women poets. They perform as an integral part of the Sojourner Truth Theatre Performing Arts Troupe, and independently as a totally women-oriented performing arts troupe. The Poets have been instrumental in presenting the works (writings) of women, Black women writers, in particular.

During the past three years, the group's repertoire has included more than one hundred performances throughout the Pacific Northwest. Some of the more noted are: The Northwest Conference of Black Officials, International Women's Day Celebration '83-84, University of Portland's Black History Celebration '83-84, Portland's First Annual Black Women's Gathering, Art Quake 81-82, Black Community Television 23, KPTV-12 and the Urban League of Portland Annual Fundraiser '82.

The Poets have had their work dritiqued by Mr. Kalamu Ya Salaam, Editor-at-large, *The Black Collegian Magazine*, New Orleans, Louisiana, and by Mr. Robert "Bumps" Blackwell of The Blackwell Academy for the Performing Arts, Los Angeles, California. In 1983, each of the Poets received the Sojourner Truth Theatre Director's Award for "Most Improved Actress," "Best Actress," and "Best Individual Performance."

Ruby Reuben. A member of Sojourner Truth Theatre since November 1981, Ruby has performed in over seventy-five presentations, ranging from Readers' Theatre to big stage productions. A student-in-training for two years, she turned professional in 1983, joining with two other female students, to form the Sojourner Truth Poets. In 1983, she was awarded the Director's Award for "Most Improved Actress," after her performances as lead actress in an original production, "It's for the Both of Us." Special recognition for her acting has come from the National Council of Negro Women, and Portland's Black Women's Gathering. Her other professions include: computer instructor, (Turtle Graphics) business manager, (Sojourner Truth Theatre) and, modeling.

Ayanna Patterson. An original member of both the Sojourner Truth Theatre, and The Sojourner Truth Poets, Ayanna turned to acting in 1981. Her love for performing original works caused her to write *Atlanta Heartbreak*, in collaboration with three female members of the troupe. Dealing with the 1981 murders of Black children in Atlanta, Georgia, the complete work was first presented at "ArtQuake 81," and by June 1982, had become one of the most popular, dramatic presentations in the theatrical community. In 1983, her portrayal of an Atlanta mother won her the "Best Individual Performance," award. Ayanna is also a computer instructor, a computer programmer, and historian for Sojourner Truth Theatre.

Louise Norris-Moaning. Since joining Sojourner Truth Theatre in May 1982, Louise has set the theatrical community on its head about her refreshing style of acting. She received City-wide recognition for the lead role in "Red, Beans & Rice," an original production by Portland's Black Repertory Theatre, under the direction of Ms. Rosemary Allen. A student of drama, acting and poetry, Louise has redefined poetry as a medium of expression. In 1983, she received the "Best Actress Award," for her overall acting under the directorship of Nyewusi Askari. Her other professions include: TV production, cultural presenter and she is employed by Multnomah County.



Michael Jackson, age 25, is the youngest person ever to be chosen by the "Ebony" magazine editors as one of the 100 most influential Black Americans. The Jacksons are preparing for a U.S. tour which MAY include Seattle!

Jacksons firm up tour plans

While cities from coast to coast compete to be among the twelve or so reached by the upcoming multi-million Jacksons Victory Tour, the Jacksons (Tito, Marlon, Jackie, Randy, Jermaine and Michael) continue to solidify their plans for the upcoming concert series. There is rumor of a Seattle concert this fall.

After weeks of auditions, Tito and Randy Jackson have finished choosing the musicians who will back the Jacksons onstage. There will be three guitarists for the tour: Tito plus Greg Wright and Dave Williams. The three keyboardists

will be Randy Jackson, Pat Leonard and Jay Winding. Bassist will be Jermaine Jackson. And the drummer will be Jonathan Moffit.

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