

OBSERVATIONS

FROM THE SIDELINES
BY Kathryn Hall Bogle



DID YOU EVER nibble a petal of a flower? The flowers of Chef Tommie Burkett make for a spectacular centerpiece and are good for you to eat. He makes daisies, roses, lilies and never-never blossoms out of thin, thin slices of turnips, carrots, a bit of green pepper or even parsnips. It takes only a deft turn of the decorator knife in Burkett's skilled hands and presto! There is a ruffly mum or a petunia.



Tommie Burkett

Burkett can whip out one of these enchanting vegetable flower displays in a short while and then can put together lunch or dinner for 125 or 500. Burkett does the breakfast, lunch and dinner bit every day at the Swan's Nest. He's the new chef on duty at Bess Kaiser Medical Center's new restaurant out on Greeley Avenue overlooking the Willamette River—and Swan Island.

Bill Medak, the assistant administrator at Bess Kaiser has recently had the architects and interior designers tear out the old and put in a new up-to-date, efficient and convenient food preparation center (kitchen) and a comfortable, quiet and restful dining room for employees and visitors to Bess Kaiser. "It's a change of atmosphere for employees," said Medak.

"We've just completed, in 1983, a five-million dollar job of remodeling in the rest of the buildings, but that didn't extend to the restaurant we had for employees. We spent another bundle for this and decided to open it for public use. It's receiving approbation from everyone who comes in. The neighbors across the way have found it is a pleasant and

inexpensive way to "eat out." Many of them are senior citizens who find it is handy to choose from the cafeteria service. Burkett cooks only for this restaurant—the Swan's Nest," said Medak. "We have separate rooms, separate refrigerators and a separate system altogether for food for patients' meals."

Burkett says he likes cooking for the public as he gets to use his versatility in preparing sea foods, meats and salads as well as his talent at baking. After all, he's been cooking since he was a child. He can remember, later on, peeling 500 pounds of potatoes—by hand, one by one. His lifetime experiences of cooking in posh hotels, cooking aboard ocean vessels and cooking in college fraternity houses have led him to this snug harbor—the Swan's nest on a ledge behind the leafy trees above the river at Bess Kaiser.

CARLA KELLY, Editor of the PSU Vanguard, and Paquita Garatea, a PSU student, honored the writer and poet, Nathaniel Scott, at a Sunday evening buffet supper at their home on the Alameda. Exotic foods of Mexico and Italy were spread for about 30 of Scott's friends, fellow students, instructors and professors at PSU. Champagne glasses were raised for Scott's graduation from the university. Toasts were also made honoring the presence of Scott's parents, Leola and David Wardlaw, who came from Detroit, Michigan, to attend their son's commencement. Scott plans to return to the PSU campus to study for a masters degree.

GLADYS MCCOY, Multnomah County Commissioner since 1979, has long combined an active life in business, civic and government leadership together with an active life with her family. She has had many awards during her working career and recently she was the recipient of new honors at the matrix banquet held at the Red Lion Inn at Jantzen Beach by Women In Communications, Inc.

McCoy was recognized by the Portland Professional Chapter as one of three civic leaders receiving the Chapter's top awards for 1984. Other recipients were John Piacentini who received the Edith Knight Hill award for his contributions to



Looking at program booklet for 1984 Ethnic Minority Conference II, which opens today at the Thunderbird Motor Inn at Jantzen Beach. (l-r) Franklin Jenkins, Conference Coordinator; Bobbie Nunn, Board of Directors N/NE Community Mental Health Center, Inc.; and, Michael L. Benjamin, Executive Director. About 350 persons are expected to participate in the two-day event, one of the first of its kind in the scope of its planning and presentation to assist personnel of a variety of public agencies in upgrading their skills and sensitivities in working with people of color.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

improve the quality of life in Oregon. The Honorable Bob Packwood received the Tom Lawson McCall award for his contributions to the freedom of information. McCoy received the Abigail Scott



Gladys McCoy

Duniway award for her contributions to the status of women in Oregon. In her career McCoy has served eight years on the Portland School Board; she was named Oregon Mother of the Year for 1980, and she served as co-chair of the Oregon Women's Conference in 1977. The Chapter considers McCoy to be both a model and a contributor to the status of women. Other recipients of the Abigail Scott Duniway Award have been Norma Paulus, Maurine Nueberger and Judge Betty Roberts.

WITH THREE graduations of family members to celebrate, the Isaac Shamsud-Din family has had a high level of excitement sending them all out to three different schools this past few days with hearty congratulations pouring in from countless well-wishers. Daughter Christina, 18, received her

diploma from Lincoln High School on May 31st, with all her family there to witness. Several days later, Lurlene, the 40-year old mother of eight children, received her diploma at the Memorial Coliseum, along with the hundreds of the 1984 graduating class of Portland State University.

On Tuesday of this week, the third son, Dawud Shamsud-Din, a 13-year old eighth grade Tubman student, was promoted to the ninth grade for the fall term. The family turned out again, this time for Dawud.

Dawud will go to Benson to begin high school, Christina has chosen to attend Clark College in Atlanta in September, and Lurlene, their mother, plans to register again, in the fall, at Portland State to begin classwork towards a masters degree. "It took a lot of hard work and the cooperation of my family," Lurlene said. "Their cooperation made it all possible."

Teen art workshop offered by center

A summer art workshop program, sponsored by the Metropolitan Arts Commission, will include classes on drawing for children and teens, and free-form mural painting for people of all ages.

All classes will be held at the Black Portland (284-9552). Each workshop class is three weeks long, two days a week. Workshops are \$5.00 for Northeast Portland residents, \$10.00 for others—per workshop class. There are discounts for those signing up for more than one workshop. Pay in person, preferably, before the first class.



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Business jogs into N.E.

by Chuck Goodmacher

When community representatives approached Nike, Inc., about opening a store on Union Avenue and recycling some of the profits back into the community, Nike executives thought of the project as an act of charity and responded positively, says Philip G. Knight, Nike co-founder and board chairman.



Philip G. Knight

"Now," said Knight during an exclusive interview with the *Observer*, "it's definitely a great business opportunity for us." And, said Nike Community Relations Director Jack Walsh, "if there is an opportunity for growth, we get into it."

Nike opened its retail outlet in the Union Avenue Square at 3044 N.E. Union, and early indications show the community is proving Nike has once again made a wise business decision. LaRue Martin, manager of the store, said sales are going very well; more than 20 people were in the store during one period Saturday.

The Nike store carries both shoes and apparel at reduced prices since the goods are designated "B" grade, but customers told the *Observer* the merchandise is definitely first-rate.

Knight said the business community's perception of Northeast

Portland is "a little bit negative generally...there is a perception rightly or wrongly that you can't make a profit."

Walsh added, "It takes somebody bringing it (reality) to your attention." Still, he added, "it's not easy to go into a community and do something different. We feel that we are late, but we find we are first."

The Black United Front spearheaded the effort to bring Nike into the community. A formal agreement will be signed within a few weeks through which a portion of the Union Avenue Nike store's sales will be returned to the community.

Said BUF Representative Linda Johnson, "Nike has approached this from a strict corporate responsibility position."

Knight said Nike fully expects the Union Avenue store to turn a profit and that Nike may open other "B" grade retail outlets in other communities across the nation.

Nike is contributing to a major grand opening celebration of Union Avenue Square to insure their store's success. The celebration will include gospel and jazz music, break-dancing, a hot air balloon, live broadcasts by KBOO and KMJK and more.

"If we don't do what's best for Nike," said Walsh, "everybody suffers—our stockholders, our employees, our suppliers, the community."

Knight also told the *Observer* he believes "Oregon is really structured in many ways...to attract the cream of the crop, especially high-tech and other clean industries." Although he said the lack of a sales tax hurts Oregon's development potential, he added, "I'm not turned off by the general level of the burden."

Knight said the inter-state competition for business is increasing, but, "We're an Oregon company, period. We're staying."

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