Frances Schoen-Newspaper Room
rsity of Oregon Library
ne, Oregon 97403

Volume XVI, Number 29
May 28, 1986
25c Copy
Two Sections

PORTLAND OBSERVER

African Liberation Day Held at Irving Park

by Jerry Garner

More than 200 people attended the fifteenth observance of the African Liberation Day Rally at Irving Park in Northeast Portland. The theme of the Rally was "South Africa Will Be Free."

The purpose of African Liberation Day is to honor and remember the thousands of men, women, and children who gave their lives in the war for freedom in Southern Africa.

The Rally began at King Neighborhood Facility, where 75 marchers walked through the neighborhoods chanting, "South Africa Will Be Free"; "Africa for Africans"; "Freedom Yes, Apartheid No", and "Free Mandela".

During the day-long Rally, people listened to a host of speakers, and were entertained with poetry and music by a local band called Q-Band.

Debra Cook, a human rights activist from Eugene, told the crowd they must participate in efforts to correct the brutal system of Apartheid. "This Beast (Apartheid) must not be allowed to grow; we must stop it," said Cook.

Ronnie Herndon, Co-Chair of Portland Black United Front, urged those at the Rally to contact elected officials in an effort to pressure South Africa to give Black South Africans basic political, economic, and human rights. He told the people at the Rally they should be proud of their work in an effort to dismantle the injustices which are occurring in South Africa. Herndon said Blacks in this country should be proud of their African heritage. "The history of Africa and its people are rich," said Herndon.

Cook and Herndon were joined by several other speakers at the Rally, including Avel Gordly, AFSC Southern African Program; Joyce Harris, Director, Black Educational Center; Kamau Sadiki, POSAF (Portlanders Organized for Southern African Freedom); Margaret Carter, District 18 Representative; and Lanita Duke, News Director, Grassroot News NW.

Those who participated in the Liberation Day Rally seemed to be dedicated in their desire to make a difference in South Africa. Tonya Fite said being a part of the Rally was her way of showing her support against the system of Apartheid. Fite said she brought her two children along with her to instill a sense of commitment to our fellow man who is suffering. "I hope when they grow up they will always be aware of the suffering of others, and work toward making the world a better place for all."

The speakers also reminded the crowd of the social problems in Portland. Problems such as jobs, inadequate education and health, lack of adequate health care, and police brutality. "We can make a difference about the situation in South Africa and in this country," said Debra Cook.

The African Liberation Day march and rally brought together a diverse community concerned about the treatment of Blacks in South Africa. They marched from the King Facility to Irving Park where speeches were made on the subject. The annual event is sponsored by the Black Educational Center.

Photo by Richard J. Brown

Are Blacks Losing Political Clout?

by Jerry Garner

Blacks are registering, voting and winning public office in record numbers, and represent a greater-than-ever proportion of the national electorate. According to the Join Center for Political Studies, there were 21 states in 1985, with more than 100 Black elected officials.

Despite this voting power by Blacks, many Blacks feel that the nation and the Democratic and Republican parties are moving in a political direction that is hostile to the concerns of Blacks. They point to the lack of policies in correcting Black unemployment, government aid to the poor and the retreat in civil rights laws.

During the 1980 and 1984 Presidential election, Blacks voted overwhelmingly against Ronald Reagan; and Reagan, thanks to the votes of conservative Whites, won both elections by wide margins.

In an effort to regain control of the White House, it appears that the Democratic party is shifting to the right at the expense of Black interests.

Some Black leaders say the Democrats in 1988 will pursue a racial trade-off strategy in which the party tries to woo back conservative Whites by ignoring the concerns of Blacks, who presumably have nowhere else to go.

This sentiment is shared by Michael Harrington, a group leader of the New Direction for Democrats, which consists of left-wing Democrats and labor leaders. "We are profoundly disturbed by the rightward drift of the Democratic Party," said Harrington.

Blacks are also disturbed by the Democratic Party's "threshhold" rule, under which a presidential candidate must get a minimum percentage of votes within a congressional district in a primary to win any delegates, which is unfair to minorities and outsider candidates. This rule was challenged by both Jessie Jackson and Gary Hart during the 1984 primary election for the Democratic nominee for President.

Overall, Black voters are facing a critical period in American politics, in which their voting powers are making a far smaller impact on politicians in both major political parties.

Jessie Jackson says, "the Democratic Party has built into its rules for '88 things that will disenfranchise people."

One of the major reasons for "African Liberation Day" is to educate people about Africa. There is also time for fun. One of the features at the rally was a dance contest for the young kids. Music was provided by the Randy Smith "Q" Dance Band.

Photo by Richard J. Brown

Oregonians Invited to Help Fill 1986 Time Capsule

EUGENE — What would you want your great-grandchildren to know about life in Oregon during 1986?

What do you think life will be like in 2086?

A contest inviting Oregonians to enter their suggestions and future prophesies for use in the University of Oregon's 1986 Villard Hall Centennial Time Capsule is underway.

It is hoped that the new time capsule, inspired by the 1885 Villard Hall Time Capsule which was opened last November, will be opened in 100 years, says Keith Richard, UO archivist.

Richard says items that reflect the ordinary lifestyles of today's Oregonians are of particular interest for the time capsule.

"Packing a time capsule is an act of optimism," Richard says. "Because the university belongs to the state, we're asking Oregonians to help create a bit of future nostalgia. After all, Villard Hall was the first building on campus that was paid for by taxpayers."

The new time capsule will carry forward the tradition set in 1885, when founders of the University of Oregon packed contributions from around the state into a copper box and buried it inside the cornerstone of Villard Hall. The capsule was forgotten until Richard discovered information about it in the university archives.

"We hope to do as well as our forebears," he says. "The 1885 capsule and its contents are unusual because everything was in vintage condition — including a still-green leaf picked from the grounds at Harvard University."

On Oct. 18, 1986, a public ceremony will be held to unveil the new time capsule before it is placed in the cornerstone of Villard Hall, the university's second-oldest building. The event will be featured as part of the 1986 UO Homecoming.

Winners of the Villard Hall Centennial Time Capsule Contest will have their entry included in the capsule and an opportunity to participate in the capsule ceremony, Richard says.

Contest categories include: civic and/or community groups, individuals and members of the University of Oregon community (students, faculty and staff).

Suggestions for items to be included in the time capsule must be accompanied by an explanation of why the item would be of interest, as well as the entrant's name, address, zip code, phone number and contest category.

Messages (or prophesies) must be typed and be limited to 500 words or less. Richard suggests that participants be as specific as possible about what living in Oregon will be like in 2086.

Ideas and messages may be mailed to: CONTEST, Villard Hall, Room 216, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403. The deadline is June 15, 1986.

Contest winners will be announced prior to the Villard Hall Centennial Time Capsule ceremony in October. Winners will be selected by the UO Villard Hall Centennial Committee.

For more information, contact the UO Department of Speech, 686-4171.

Statistics Indicate High Pregnancy Rate for Oregon Teens

One out of 13 Oregon teenage females ages 15-19 became pregnant in 1984.

Based on the latest State Health Division census data, statistics show there were 4,301 births to teenage mothers in 1984; 56 births to girls 10 to 14.

These findings result from research done by Family Planning Advocates of Oregon (FPAO), an organization that provides public information, education and advocacy on family planning issues.

The research findings also indicated that 20% of unwed teenage pregnancies occur the first month after sexual activity begins, but that teens typically delay seeking contraception for an average of 10 months after sexual activity begins.

These results indicate a significant need for birth control services and education to sexually active teens.

"Reasons most often given by pregnant teenagers for not using contraception are that they didn't expect to become sexually involved, they had sexual relations at a "safe" time of the month, that they feared the health consequences of contraceptive use, and that they were embarrassed to talk about sex and contraception", said Carrie Clark, coordinator for FPAO.

FPAO, which has been tracking teen sexuality trends in Oregon since 1973, also has some good news. Between 1980 and 1984 the pregnancy rate for Oregon's 15-19 year olds dropped 18 points.

"Outreach and education by family planning agencies such as Planned Parenthood, education in our public schools, and growing parental willingness to talk with their children about sexuality may be some of the reasons for the decrease in teen pregnancies in Oregon," added Carrie Clark.

Nationally, however, America's teen pregnancy rate of 96/1000 females leads the industrialized world. Its closest neighbor is England's teen pregnancy rate of 45/100, according to a report released last year by the Alan Guttmacher Institute.

A copy of the research, "Facts of Life for Teens — 1984", and another fact sheet covering research on family planning service needs in Oregon,

"Facts of life in Oregon — 1984", is available free to the public. All interested persons may contact Family

Planning Advocates of Oregon, 3231 S.E. 50th Ave., Portland, Oregon 97206.