



BLACK WOMENS GATHERING COMMITTEE. (BACK ROW L-R) STAR WATERS, CHRIS POOLE, DONNA MAXEY-POMERANTZ, FAYE WILLIAMS, FAYE BURCH, (FRONT ROW L-R) PIER ORMOND, BOBBIE GARY, GINA WOODS, DONNA KELLEY, JEAN VES— SUP. AVEL GORDLY, ANTOINETTE EDWARDS. NOT IN PHOTO: PAM SMITH, MATTIE PETERSON. PHOTO BY RICHARD BROWN

Fourth Annual Black Women's Gathering Held

by Jerry Garner

More than 400 women attended the 4th Annual Black Women's Gathering, which was held Saturday at the Matt Dishman Center. During the day long gathering, Black women of all ages and professions were treated to entertainment by local artists.

The Saturday gathering marks the first time in which men were allowed to participate in the forum. Several men were escorted on stage and paid tribute to Black women through the reading of poetry and the singing of songs. The men praised the leadership, wisdom, strength, importance and contributions of Black women to the Black experience, both in Africa and America.

Besides poetry reading by the men, those present at the gathering listened and watched local female artists which included: dancer Ruby Burns; poet Alicia Locke; singer Ira Hammon; soprano Claudia Humphrey; and pianist Janice Scroggins. Each performer received a thunderous ovation from the crowd at the end of their act.

There were several exhibits at the gathering featuring arts, crafts, clothing, and information pertinent to Black women. Faye Burch, co-Chair of the Gathering's Planning Committee, called the event a success. "I was overwhelmed with the number of women who attended the Gathering. What made the event unique was the fact that women from all professions and age groups were present."

Burch said the Planning Committee decided to include men in this year's Women's Gathering after a group of men suggested that they could enhance the gathering. She said the men did just that.

During the gathering, the follow-

ing individuals were presented Community Service Awards for their contributions to the community. District 18, Representative Margaret Carter; Deloris Legrone; Mariah Taylor; Charlotte Lewis; Art Alexander; Iyoka Kambom; and Nana Phillips.

One of the most interesting aspects of the Women's Gathering was the open mike session. Issues such as health care, sex education, drugs, employment opportunities and Apartheid were discussed. Information regarding organizational needs and upcoming events were also announced during the open mike session.

The Black Women's Gathering's purpose is to provide a place to network and build support structures for Black women in Portland, according to Avel Gordly. Gordly, who is also co-Chair of the Planning Committee, said former Oregonian reporter Linda Williams thought of the idea to hold a Black Women's Gathering back in 1982.

Child care was provided by male volunteers at St. Phillips Church.



A Poetic Tribute to Portland Black Women's Gathering

by Nyewusi Askari

June 28, 1986. Portland, Oregon. Portland Black Women's Gathering was - soulfully spunky/spirritly funky & downright beautiful! It was soothin'/it was koolin. It was flowin, it was all knowin. It was keen/it was downrightsideup meean-meanin-right onononon.

It was soulful realwomen motion/ bearin the ancient present Afrikan notion that our being is worthy of serious for real celebration. It was a needed revelation. It was soulful language diction/without any un-soulful language fiction. It was Black feelins not hidden. It was Black warmth not forbidden. It was our Motherland Afrika, revisited.

It was indeed Afrikan tender/ wrapped in Afrikan-American splendor. It was a total sweet surrender of the best that we have to offer each other. It was a meetin place/ a greetin place/a burial ground for negative whatchamacallits & thing-amajigs. It was what our future is going to be like on the day we decide it.

It was Black women sweet. It was Black women neat. It was precision. It was vision. It was dance. It was song. It was where all of us Black men belonged/ on this day.

And when it ended/I spoke a prayer to myself that said, "thank you sisters for being so kind/loving & gentle to me. Thank you for my existence." & as I walked away, I knew that this gathering would never be over/that we all will meet again & again & again & again/ in a new place/in a new space/ at a new time/because as Brother Master Drummer Poet Bruce Smith reminded us, "The rhythm never changes."

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Nyewusi Askari

"A Flight For Justice"

On Thursday, July 3, 1986, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. a plane will fly overhead with a banner saying "Lady Justice" pulling for true justice to prevail. The news media and TV stations have all been alerted to the fly in. It is a flight for justice and an end to the injustice and false imprisonment of George Elmer Redwine. Josephine County's false imprisonment of George Elmer Redwine of Grants Pass, Oregon, is being displayed. Constitutional violations have been bestowed upon him.

Watch the skies over the Salem Capitol and the Oregon State Penitentiary and I-5.

This event is sponsored by Friends and People For True Justice For George Elmer Redwine.

Latin Jazz Group

Urubamba, a six-piece Latin Jazz group performs at Blue Lake Park on Thursday, July 10 at 6:30 p.m. The two hour concert is sponsored by Multnomah County Parks and is the third concert in the "Music by Blue Lake" series.

Urubamba presents a fresh, new sound. Latin Jazz is a popular style of music with its sound of different cultures and lively feeling. The group consists of vibes, piano, bass, sax, flute, timbales and congas. The sound is reminiscent of Cal Tjader; strong jazz with a variety of Latin rhythms.

Blue Lake Park is located at 223rd Avenue, between Marine Drive and Sandy Blvd. Bring a picnic dinner and enjoy the facilities of the park. There is a \$3 charge per car which will be used to help defray the cost of a new stage.

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Portland Opera Players In Pioneer Courthouse Square

"Let Us Serenade You," a delightful concert of selections from popular opera and musical theater works, will be performed by the Portland Opera Players, Portland Opera's touring company of talented area singers, on Monday, July 21 at 6:30 p.m. in Pioneer Courthouse Square.

Featured are excerpts from such favorites as "Madam Butterfly," "Porgy and Bess," "Carmen," "The Mikado," "Rigoletto," "Don Giovanni," and "Kismet." During the performance Barbara Custer, Nancy Emrick, Ron Brallier, Laurance Fee, Patteye Simpson and Roland Harris change costumes from a wonderful old travel trunk, while a narrator sets the scenes in a way that evokes Vaudeville at its prime.



This event is free and is part of "Summer Classics in the Square" series, sponsored by the Oregonian, KKS, Meier & Frank, and Willamette Savings.

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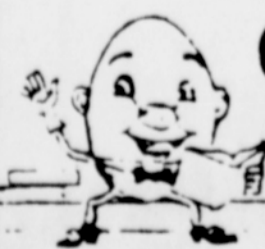
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