



# Speak Out

by Arnold Pitre

## Some Dreams Never Die

The observance of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday as a national holiday commemorates an extraordinary man of an extraordinary era whose work and dedication to the civil rights movement inspired a generation, and which will continue to inspire generations to come.

Martin Luther was both a man and a symbol. Not only must we commemorate Martin Luther, the man, for his many courageous deeds, but we must strive to uphold the symbol, freedom, that he so unselfishly dedicated his life for.

As we struggle through the calamities of life, as we bicker with our own, as we criticize those that we place in positions of power, as we are horrified at the plight of the adolescent drug user, as we are amazed at the ease with which our children are taught to be uneducated, we are, and should be, constantly reminded of this most unusual man and his dream.

This man dared to reveal to the world his dream, a dream that seemed to be incomprehensible to a hostile society, a dream that appeared to be so out of context that, for what seemed to be an eternity, it fell on deaf ears.

This man was not one to be quieted. This man could not be held back. This man was a man of utter determination, and continued to voice the contents of his dream until he was heard by all.

Martin Luther King did not live to see his dream fulfilled, but his words live on; and all mankind has been touched by his words. We are now charged with the awesome responsibility of continuing the struggle. Our struggle has been made easier, but it is not complete. The path has been shown to us; we must make the journey. We must follow in the footsteps of the most peaceful warrior of our time.

## CALENDAR

Installation of the Rev. Paul R. Swanson as Bishop

Saturday, Jan. 16 at 1:00 p.m. there will be a service to install The Rev. Paul R. Swanson as Bishop of Oregon Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America at Trinity Episcopal Church, 147 N.W. 19th Ave., Portland, OR. The installation will be conducted by The Rev. Herbert W. Chilstron, Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

### NAACP Monthly Meeting

Jan. 17, 1988, 4 p.m., Bethel AME Church, 5828 N.E. 8th Ave., Portland, Oregon. Principle speaker: Dr. Jessica Bailey, Vice President, Portland Community College.

### Naz Ebrahim to Speak

Friday, January 22, 1988, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at PSU, Smith Center Ballroom, about her experience with demolitions and forced relocation of communities by the Apartheid Regime. Ebrahim is the Chairman of Residents and Ratepayers Association in South Africa. Donations welcome. Call 464-4452.

### Jesse Jackson Campaign Office Grand Opening

Friday, Jan. 22, 1988, 6 to 9 p.m., 3024 N.E. Union Ave., Union Plaza, \$10 donation. Benefit features: Calvin Walker, Janice Scroggins, Street Corner Singers, Dee Wig-gens and Black Velvet.

## Community Mental Health

by Danny Bell

### Community Crisis Services

Would you know what to do if a crisis situation arose concerning depression, schizophrenia, alcohol, drugs, emotional distress, suicide, homicidal behavior, or a crisis involving your family or children? The N/NE Community Mental Health Center, Inc., can help with services specifically designed to assist people confronted with such dilemmas.

The N/NE Community Mental Health, Inc., serves the area bounded by the Willamette and Columbia Rivers to the west and north, and by 82nd Avenue and the Banfield Freeway (I-84), east and south.

The Center's office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. You may reach N/NE Community Mental Health Center, Inc., by calling 239-8871. An answering service refers calls to an on-call person during other-than office hours on a 24-hour-a-day basis, 7 days a week in case of emergency. Depending on the severity of the situation, a staff member or members will see a client immediately or as soon as possible within a reasonable amount of time.

A special team of professional clinical workers, which make up the crisis team, will work with a person for up to a period of 90 days. If necessary, the team will refer the person for on-going therapy. In some cases a medical staff person is available to assist with and evaluate medical needs.

In situations where grave consequences may arise, such as imminent harm to others or the possibility that an individual may cause injury to himself/herself, there are various procedures in place that may avoid a tragic outcome.

There are four ways to put into action the procedure for what is called the "involuntary commitment" program:

- 1) Police: The police can place an individual in a psychiatric unit.
- 2) Two Party: Any two people in the community can initiate the process by calling their local mental health agency and filling out a "Notice of Mental Illness" statement, stating the behavior they feel is dangerous. This will result in an investigation of the person in the community to determine if a commitment hearing is needed. If there is a hearing and the person is committed, they will be placed in the State Hospital for a period of time not to exceed 180 days.
- 3) 23/24: Police may be alerted to place a person in a hospital psychiatric unit if a N/NE Community Mental Health Center crisis team member determines that the individual is a danger to himself/herself or others.

4) 2 Physicians: Two physicians may place a hold on an individual for reasons of both danger to self/others or due to inability to care for basic needs.

Following the placement of an individual in a hospital psychiatric unit, Oregon state law requires that the individual's behavior be investigated within five working days. Consequently, an investigator representing the county will interview the client and appropriate parties involved to make a recommendation to the court. A hearing, in turn, is held, usually within a week, at which time a judge determines whether the individual concerned is to receive further hospitalization or be returned to the community.

Private hospitals and state hospitals have different approaches to addressing this problem. However, in the case of the indigent and low-income individuals, the N/NE Community Mental Health Center has developed a program that works well with both sectors of the health care field. The center has had a long-standing working relationship with Holiday Park Hospital. Holiday Park has been very open and receptive in working with clients from the N/NE Community Mental Health Center's area. In most cases there is a joint staffing to determine follow-up treatment and housing. Other local hospitals that work in cooperation with the Center are Oregon Health Sciences University and Providence Medical Center.

The N/NE Community Mental Health Center is an advocate of returning the individual to their family after hospitalization. If this is not possible, efforts are then made to find a foster care home placement. N/NE Community Mental Health Center, in addition, owns "Sacramento House", which is a respite home used in case of emergency stabilization.

On the road to recovery, it is vital that the person returning to the community finds a resource that is supportive and encouraging. However, professionals in the clinical field have observed that Black Americans, in reality, are less than adequately receptive to the predicament of the mentally ill when it involves family members.

The N/NE Community Mental Health Center, Inc., would like to bring to the attention of concerned individuals, organizations, and agencies that their staff are available to make presentations regarding any of the issues discussed in this column.

Readers of the Community Mental Health column are invited to write to us in care of James Edmondson, N/NE Community Mental Health Center, Inc., 310 N.E. Oregon Street, Portland, Oregon 97232.

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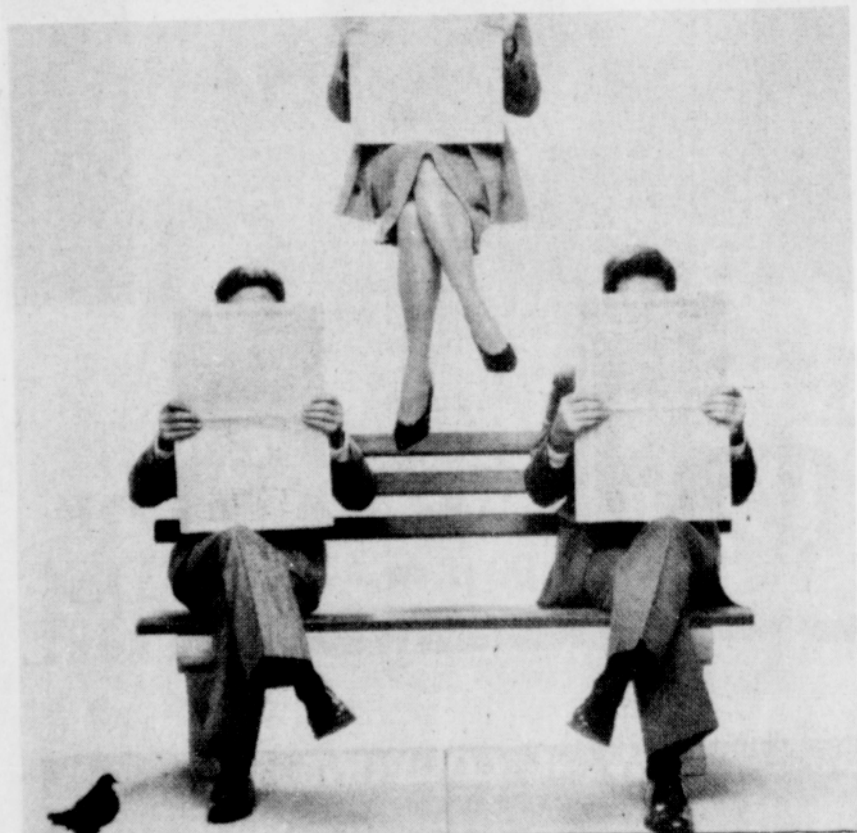
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2108 N.E. 41st Ave.  
Mon 7:00 p.m.  
Tues 7:00 p.m.  
Wed 9:30 a.m. &  
Thurs 7:00 p.m.  
Fri 9:30 a.m.

### Temple Baptist Church

1319 N.E. 7th  
Freestyle Room  
Tuesdays (Brown Bag Lunch Class) 12:00 noon  
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Rivergate Community Church  
4737 N. Lombard St.  
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University of Portland  
300 N. Vancouver St.  
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