

# PORTLAND OBSERVER

25¢

USPS 959 690 8555  
Copyright Fair Publishing Co. Inc. 1988

Volume XVIII, Number 29

"The Eyes and Ears of the Community"

June 1, 1988

## NEWS IN BRIEF



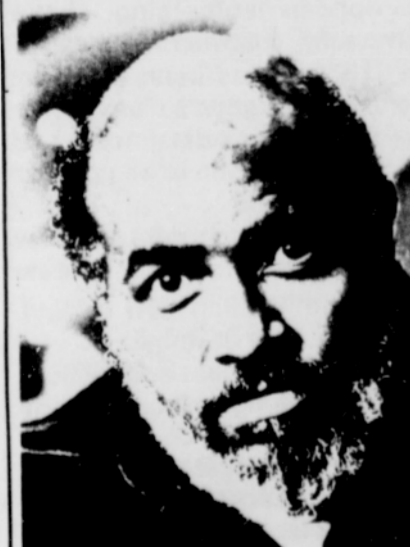
Twenty-five years since the death of her civil rights activist husband, Medgar Evers, Myrlie Evers has left Mississippi, remarried, and has assumed a challenging new career in public life, reports the June EBONY.

Since leaving the South, Mrs. Evers has earned her bachelor's degree, and worked in several professional capacities before writing the book, "For Us The Living," which was the subject of a 1983 made-for-TV movie of the same name, starring Irene Cara and Howard Rollins. She also launched two unsuccessful bids for public office before her recent appointment to the administration of Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley.

## INTRODUCING:



Loretta "Regis" Smith  
KBMS 1480AM D-Jay. Let Her  
S-o-o-t-h-e Your Soul From  
12 a.m. to 5 a.m.



Today, June 2, the musical director and engineering crew from Carsey-Warner, producers of the Cosby Show, will meet with Oregon Symphony music director James DePreist and the 84 member Oregon Symphony at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall to tape a new arrangement of the Cosby Show's theme music.

## The Black Family Reunion Celebration!!!

□ National Council of Negro Women works to bring Black Families Together ...



The O'Jays, pictured here with Rev. Jesse Jackson and Dr. Dorothy I. Height of the NCNW performed on the first day of the Black Family Reunion, performing their hit song "Family Reunion" before the thousands gathered.

The Black Family Reunion Celebration, widely viewed as the most significant live event in Black America in recent years, returns in 1988 with an expanded program, it was announced by Dorothy I. Height, president of the National Council of Negro Women. Called "a show of strength" by Newsweek Magazine, the Black Family Reunion Celebration has attracted over one million participants during its five previous events from September of 1986-87. Philadelphia will be added this year to the list of cities hosting annual Black Family Reunion Celebrations, including Atlanta, Los Angeles, Detroit and Washington, D.C.

The Black Family Reunion Celebration was created by the National Council of Negro Women for a three-fold purpose: to build upon the traditional, historical and cultural strengths of the Black family; to facilitate self-help solutions to the issues of teen pregnancy, drug abuse, unemployment, education and health as they impact Black families; and lastly, to create an umbrella by which government, public and private institutions, corporations, community-based organizations, the media and concerned individuals could work together on family-related issues.

"The response of more than a million people representative of

families of all compositions and walks of life is evidence of a significant movement of people who want to cut through the negativism," commented Dr. Height. "It has provided an opportunity for youth to take pride in their self-image, for people of all ages to speak up for the essence of Black heritage and pay tribute to the skills and the many ways Black people have not only survived but achieved."

The 1988 Black Family Reunion Celebration also increases the scope of its free program activities from the previous two years, which include pavilion areas devoted to Education, Health, Work Ethics, Children, Young Adults, Family Values, Roots: The Diaspora, Sports, Beauty and Family Films. The presentations, which feature entertainment, celebrity speakers, lectures, demonstrations, health checks, workshops, theatre, dance, music, storytelling, exhibits, among other activities, encompass over one hundred hours per day.

The first Black Family Reunion Celebration took place in Atlanta, May 27-29, followed by Philadelphia—June 17-19, Detroit—July 15-17, Los Angeles—August 12-14 and culminating with the national event in Washington, D.C.—September 8-11. Events in each city include a Black Family Leadership Day on Fridays (a forum in which community leaders ad-

dress concerns of the respective communities) and a Family Fellowship Day in cooperation with area churches for an ecumenical Sunday service.

Major funding for the Black Family Reunion Celebration has been provided by The Procter & Gamble Company, whose support along with other corporations such as Coca-Cola USA, Anheuser-Busch, Frito-Lay, Eastman Kodak, CBS Records and Eastern Airlines insure that the event is held free of charge to the attending public.

A fifty-two year old organization, the National Council of Negro Women serves as a clearinghouse for the activities of four million women, who are reached through its thirty-one affiliated member national organizations and its two hundred chartered community-based sections. NCNW women come from all walks of life and all economic, cultural and educational backgrounds. Since it was founded in 1935 by legendary educator and human rights activist Mary McLeod Bethune, the NCNW has worked tirelessly on behalf of Black women and families. "Commitment, unity and self-reliance" is both the motto and the objective behind the NCNW and its many programs aiding Black families.

## Project Payback Expanded

The Multnomah County Department of Human Services announced the expansion of Project Payback, a community program that provides jobs for delinquent youth and requires them to pay victim restitution. The expansion is possible due to the involvement of Wastech, a local waste recycling services business. Wastech anticipates employing at least 50 youth during the next year.



Gladys McCoy

"Project Payback is one of our most successful programs," said Gladys McCoy, Multnomah County Chair. "It gives young offenders on the job training and holds them accountable for their criminal activities. That's a combination that is hard to beat."

Project Payback began in March of 1987, as part of joint effort involving Multnomah County's Juvenile Division and the Boys and Girls Club of Portland.

## 17th Annual 'African Liberation Day'

By Stephen McPhearson  
Special Correspondent

Dawn of the 17th Annual African Liberation Day broke with angry Nimbus clouds hanging ominously over Portland. By noon the entire metropolitan area was inundated with a torrential downpour, including pea-sized hail. But almost as if by some pre-arranged signal, minutes before Joyce Harris opened the ceremonies in the auditorium of the Cascade Portland Community College Campus, a brilliant sun broke through the clouds as if to portend the very essence of this gathering. Similar celebrations were taking place over the entire nation.

From the very outset the brutal struggle for freedom has put young children in the forefront of the battle on the bloody fields of Africa. The importance of their involvement was vividly displayed in a presentation by students of the Black Educational Center. Standing twenty abreast with tiny arms folded across their chests first in pride and then in defiance they announced to the world not only their identity with Africa but also with the struggle of its people for freedom. In rap fashion they recounted the history of the struggle. Their young voices sang out their aspirations for the future of the motherland, "We want our land back. The land is changing hands. We had it. they stole it. We

are going to get it back!" Referring to the savage infanticide of Soweto, Azania commonly known as the Republic of South Africa, the young students like those who died in the savage Soweto



masacre proclaimed, "We are the children of Soweto. Europeans exploited our land and our people. They created the horrors of racism and oppression. We will not die. We will rise again. Azania will be free!" They ended their declaration by having the audience join them in singing "Oh, Soweto."

Useni Perkins, chief executive officer of the Portland Urban League, continued in the same vein with inspirational words. He noted that, "We are sending a signal to the larger community. It is the responsibility of us to teach children not only about our culture, but also to teach them what the struggle is all about."

Mr. Perkins then recited several poems which memorialized the infanticidal slaughter at Soweto. "They came early in the morning. The children of Soweto. The young lions walked bravely toward their adversaries. History denied their childhood. Hymns of their courage will be sung before they are written."

These words are very reminiscent of "The Voices of Rage" so eloquently dramatized by Wingate Pearse-Sheena. "I saw children coming down the street to confront the police with stones. Oh, my God! What are those children doing? The children tossed their rocks and the police fired into their ranks. Dozens lay dead. An eight year old boy mortally wounded lifted his frail arm and tossed still another rock. The guns of many soldiers blasted that small frail body into many pieces. His blood co-mingled with that of many others and eddied like a mighty river as it formed a confluence with the filth and stench of that Soweto gutter. Even the hospital was not a sanctuary for the wounded. The police shot tear gas into the emergency room. Oh, my God. This is my only baby! Don't let him die. We buried 800 babies and nursed the wounds of 2,000 others. Some were maimed or paralyzed for life.

The police would not permit parents to find those children whom they detained. Is this peace? Is this justice? After Sharpesville they said it would never happen again ... Oh! South Africa, why? Why? Why?

Michael Grant from the Passin' Art Theatre posed a series of questions about the heroic life and cowardly assassination of Steve Biko, one of Africa's greatest freedom fighters.

Art Alexander of the Black United Front and the children from the Saturday School were also present. The students recited their school pledge, "We know we can learn. We know we are smart. Excellence is our goal. We are proud of ourselves, our parents and our communities."

An improvisational ensemble led by Nyewusi Askari on the

drums, harmonica and maramba also included Arnold Pitre on the flute and briefly on the maramba and Art Alexander on the drums. Mr. Askari set the mood when he said that the group was going to make an attempt to get inside Steve Biko's head in life and death through the idiom of music.

Greg Gudger of the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission concluded the major presentations with a review of issues pertinent to Oregon and the divestiture of business interests in South Africa. He exposed a laundry list of recalcitrant American Companies that had not cooperated in the American initiative to cease doing business in racist South Africa. Listed among them were Texaco, Coca-Cola and Minute Maid.

## OBSERVER'S INDEX

EDITORIAL / OPINION.....	Page 2
ENTERTAINMENT.....	Page 3
RELIGION.....	Page 4
CLASSIFIEDS.....	Page 6-8
SECTION II — Special Careers Addition	
Classified / Display.....	(503) 288-1756
News Desk.....	(503) 288-0033