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PORTLAND OBSERVER

"The Eyes and Ears of the Community"

288-0033

ST. MARY'S AFRICAN-AMERICAN SISTERS CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH

African-American History is celebrating a glorious month here in the City of Roses. Recently 21 young women from St. Mary's Academy located at S. W. Market and Fifth were inspired by the very rich heritage their forbears have given freely to the benefit of the world community for more than three millenia. As a result of that recollection they

organized themselves in an effort to share with their 400 student body at St. Mary's Academy the richness of our culture. Recently, they presented the results of their efforts to a capacity audience which included the entire student body of St. Mary's Academy and invited guests in a program they called "Black Sisters Together."

The entire history of the Black experience here in the United States was compressed into less tha 60 minutes through the media of dance, song, poetry and allegory.

St. Mary's Academy also shares a proud history with this country. It is older than the state of Oregon, itself, having been established in 1859 by the Montreal Sisters of the Holy Name of Jesus. They boast the proud claim of the oldest high school continuously operating in the state. More than 18% of their students are African-American young women who receive on the average a \$1,294 financial assistance each year from the

school. A very impressive moment in their presentation was when the group did their rendition of "Lift Every Vooice and Sing", the rousing African-American National Anthem. In tribute to that effort the entire audience rose en masse in respectful silence to honor the meaning of those poignant words as they thundered off the walls and ceiling of the venerable St. Mary's Academy auditorium.

At one point in the program there was the observation that, "I believe that nothing lasts forever. We gave ourselves and our lives to America, I too, am an American."

Then in an assertive finale 21 proud African-American young women stood tall and declared that "We are Black sisters together. We ,too, are Americans!" The presentation could not have been possible without the assistance of Bobby Fouther and also the directrion of Chisao Hata of the American Dance Theater.

SOMEONE IS LYING

President for Life of the central African country of the Congo/Zaire, may be coming to Los Angeles during February to be wined and dined by some of southern California's biggest Black bigwigs. He is also supposed to be traveling to Washington, DC for a meeting with George Bush00the first African head of state to be received by the new President. Mobutu came to power after collaborating with the CIA in the 1961 assassination of Patrice Lumumba, the first and only popularly elected prime minister of the Congo-as Zaire used to be called. Since that time Mobutu has amassed a personal fortune of more than five billion dollars as the leader of a country which--although it has colossal mineral wealth--is the eighth poorest in the world, a country where one out of every three children dies before the age of two, a country where half the population is dying of starvation.

A partner in crime of the apartheid South African regime, Mobutu is also a valued ally of the U.S. government. Successive administrations have used Zaire's strategic central African location as a base of military operations to defeat liberation movements throughout sub-Saharan Africa and to assist the "contras" of southern Africa, Jonas Savimbi's UNITA forces, in their efforts to overthrow the popularly elected socialist government of Angola.

Who invited one of the world's most corrupt and repressive dictators to this country? Who is behind the effort to make this friend of apartheid and violent abuser of human rights a "respectable" African leader? Who is trying to clean Mobutu up? For now, no one will admit it. But there are some likely suspects. Some weeks ago a group calling itself the Friends of Zaire Committee sent out a letter detailing the itinerary and budget of Mobutu's California trip. The Committee's letterhead identified los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley as its "honorary chairman"; its executive committee members included California Congressmen Mervyn Dymally, Julian Dixon, Augustus Hawkins and four L.A. -based state and local politicians.

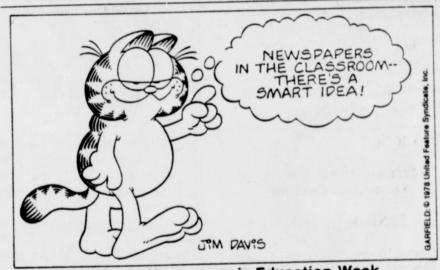
Mobutu Sese Seko, the pro-apartheid Anti-apartheid activists got in touch with Bradley and the others to dissuade them from rolling out the red carpet for Black Africa's staunchest ally of apartheid, asking how they had come to be on the Committee. It turned out that all had been approached by FOZ.

Did Palmer deliberately misrepresent the names and offices of some of California's leading Black political figures? Were she and her co-chair, Los Angeles real estate developer Bondi Gambrell, trying to lend respectability to a visit which promised not only a hug public relations success for the Zairian dictator, but a windfall in investment possibilities for those doing business with Mobutu? Neither Palmer nor Gambrell will discuss who was, and is, behind it. Someone is lying.

Congressman Dymally, the outgoing chairperson of the Congressional Black Caucus, is Mobutu's most outspoken defender on Capitol Hill. He is one of the few members of the CBC who has steadfastly opposed H.R. 3355, legislation introduced by his colleague, Congressman Ron Dellums, that would cut off all economic aid to Zaire unless and until there is substantial improvement in the dismal human rights situation there. Mr. Dymally says the Mobutu trip has been canceled. But Zaire's official press agency insists that it's on, and that the invitation came from the Congressman himself. Someone is lying. Any Black leader who tries to make Mobutu acceptable to our people is selling out our struggle and the struggle of our African sisters and brothers for liberation and self-determination. It is no wonder that those who have been so eager to betray us now have nothing to say. But sooner or later we will learn who is lying.

Dr. Lenora Fulani is the national chairperson of the New Alliance Party and a practicing Social Therapist in Harlem. She can be contacted at the New Alliance Party, 2032 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10027 and at (212) 427-

Contact: Annie Roboff **Public Relations** 212-362-1818



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JACKSON NAMED GENERAL **COUNSEL AT MEHARRY**

NASHVILLE, TN - Dr. David Satcher, president of Meharry Medical College has announced that Richard E. Jackson, J.D, has been appointed general counsel for the college and its teaching hospital, Meharry/Hubbard Hospital. Jackson had served as a legal consultant to Meharry prior to his appointment.

A graduate of Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Jackson earned his juris doctorate from the University of Cincinnati (Ohio) in 1975. He was a partner in the law firm of Manson, Jackson and Associates and an adjunct faculty member at the School of Social Work of the University of Tennessee, Tennessee State University and Fisk University prior to joining the Meharry administration.

Jackson, a Nashville native, is a member of numerous committees and boards, active in the Nashville Urban League and the Tennessee Black Leadership Roundtable, legal advisor for the A.M.E. Church in Tennessee and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., in Tennessee and Kentucky. He is a member of the Tennessee and Napier-Looby Bar Associations.

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