

## COURT AGAIN DENIES APPEAL FOR GERONIMO PRATT

Friday, July 7, the Ninth Circuit Court of appeals refused to reconsider its decision of one year ago to throw out Geronimo Pratt's appeal on an insignificant legal technicality. Pratt, a former Los Angeles Black Panther Party leader has been in jail for more than 19 years for a crime he did not commit. And for 19 years he has fought to uncover and expose the FBI/COINTELPRO (counterintelligence program) campaign of murder and disruption against the Black Panther Party and others--a program which took the lives of 38 of Pratt's Panther brothers and sisters.

Last year, after scheduling the appeal, after rewarding the briefs, after hearing oral argument exposing the COINTELPRO frame-up which put Pratt behind bars, the panel of three Nixon and Reagan appointees said "judicial integrity" required Pratt's appeal be thrown out solely because it was filed a few days late! The full panel of the Ninth Circuit refused to reconsider that decision, but in December the same three judges, without explanation, ordered reargument solely on the question of the late filing. Two days ago they again shot down Geronimo's hopes without even touching the merits of his case.

Thousands have endorsed Pratt's fight for freedom. Congressman Ron Dellums, Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, has introduced House Resolution 109, calling for the immediate release from prison of Elmer 'Geronimo' Pratt." The

Partisan Defense Committee calls on all of Pratt's supporters, for labor and civil rights activists to redouble their efforts to generate the widest campaign of protest and publicity to demand "Freedom Now for Geronimo Pratt."

"If they had no intention of letting Pratt have his case heard, why did they call for a rehearing?" asked Valerie West, staff counsel of the Partisan Defense Committee. "Are they trying to break the spirit of a man who, like Nelson Mandela, remains unbroken and committed to the cause of black freedom?"

To get Pratt behind bars the FBI withheld evidence and knowingly allowed an FBI informant to testify as a chief prosecution witness while denying he was an informant or had ever worked for the FBI. In 1987 CBS' "60 Minutes" aired an expose of Pratt's frame-up in which jurors at the initial trial stated they would have voted to acquit had they known these facts!

Pratt has long sought the release of FBI wiretap logs which would prove Pratt was in Oakland at the time of the Los Angeles murder. The FBI claims these records have been "lost." At a 1985 hearing in the federal district court in Los Angeles retired FBI agent Wesley Swearingen, who saw the logs, testified on Pratt's behalf. Swearingen has publicly stated that "Pratt was set up."

The racist refusal to free this fighter for the rights of blacks and other minorities comes on the heels of recent

U.S. Supreme Court decisions gutting the ability of blacks and other minorities to challenge discrimination through the courts, giving the green light to execute juveniles and threatening women's fundamental right of abortion. The Ninth Circuit's refusal to consider Pratt's appeal illustrates the increasing obstacles to challenging state court frame-ups in the federal courts, the judicial affirmation of the segregationists' cherished "states rights." "It recalls what Justice Taney said in sending Dred Scott back into slavery, that 'blacks had no rights which the white man was bound to respect' " said Don Andrews, of the Bay Area Labor Black League for Social Defense. "Pratt, a decorated black Vietnam vet has spent nearly half his life behind bars--for committing no 'crime' other than opposing racist oppression, while Oliver North, a criminal responsible for the death of tens of thousands of starving Nicaraguan workers and peasants, spends not one day in jail."?

"Once again it is shown that COINTELPRO resides in the august chambers of the federal bench," said the PDC's West. "The court has inherent power to waive any procedural defect, 'in the interests of justice.' But to those given their lofty positions by the same men who put Pratt where he is today--Nixon, Reagan, Meese--finally setting free America's foremost class-war prisoner is not in the interests of American capitalism's racist 'justice.'"

## TOP LEVEL WELCOME!



New Orleans Mayor Sidney Barthelemy, center, welcomes Michael Green, Manager, Black Consumer Marketing, Pepsi-Cola Company and Ronald Harrison, Director, Community Relations, PepsiCo, to New Orleans recently for the 49th Annual Convention of the National Newspaper Publishers Association. The mayor brought greetings during the luncheon meeting sponsored by PepsiCo and Pepsi-Cola. Dr. William Robinson, Director, Minority Health Services, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, urged the publishers and their guests to join in the federal agency's attempt to improve the health of the African American family. Dr. Robinson spoke on behalf of Dr. Louis W. Sullivan, Secretary of Health and Human Services.

### Registered Nurse (Substitute On Call)

Provide health care to students enrolled in public schools pre-kindergarten-12th, in multnomah county.

Salary: \$100.38/Day  
Appl deadline: 8/4/89 pm  
Call 255-1841, Ext 207 for Multnomah Education Service District, application form and additional information.

## SHAKE, RATTLE & SOUL

Henry Weinhard's Private Reserve Presents:  
**THE TEMPTATIONS**  
**ETTA JAMES & THE ROOTS BAND**  
**BODY & SOUL**

Friday, August 18 at 7:30 p.m.  
Pioneer Courthouse Square

The biggest block party of the summer! Tickets are available at all G.I. Joe's TICKET MASTER locations and Powell's Travelstore on the Square. Or charge by phone 999-7495. Tickets \$18.00 plus service charge. Proceeds benefit Pioneer Courthouse Square.

Kisn 97.5 FM MEIER & FRANK Henry Weinhard's  
The Oregonian Willamette Week

TCI Cablevision of Oregon, Inc.



presents

## PACIFIC BALLET THEATRE'S TAPPIN' WITH MASTERS

PERFORMANCE

July 21 and 22, 1989 - 8:00 p.m.  
Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall

with Honi Coles as Master of Ceremonies

Featuring: Terry Brock, Eddie Brown, Brenda Bufalino, Steve Condos, Lynn Dally, LaVaughn Robinson, Jimmy Slyde, Dianne Walker, Sam Weber and The Jazz Tap Ensemble

Tickets: Available at: Pacific Ballet Theatre 227-6867  
\$9.00-\$25.00\* PCPA 248-4496 All GI Joe/Ticketmaster Outlets

Post Performance Party with Michael Harrison and the Tappin' Masters on July 22. For information call 227-6867.

AA American Airlines



\*All tickets subject to surcharge.

## GALA NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE CONCERT TO FEATURE TOP ENTERTAINERS LOU RAWLS, ASHFORD & SIMPSON, O'JAYS AND LEVERT

A gala benefit concert will be held on Monday, August 7 at 7:30 p.m. during the National Urban League Conference at the Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C.

Headlining the concert will be the popular songwriting/singing team of Ashford & Simpson, four time Grammy award-winner Lou Rawls, the legendary O'Jays, and LeVert of "Casanova" fame. The concert is sponsored by Anheuser-Busch Companies, CBS RECORDS INC., Coca Cola Company, and Warner Communications Inc.

The concert, open to the public and conference participants, will be held in Hall A of the Washington Convention Center. Tickets will be sold through advanced registration and will be available through Washington area Ticketron outlets and at the Washington Convention Center Box office.

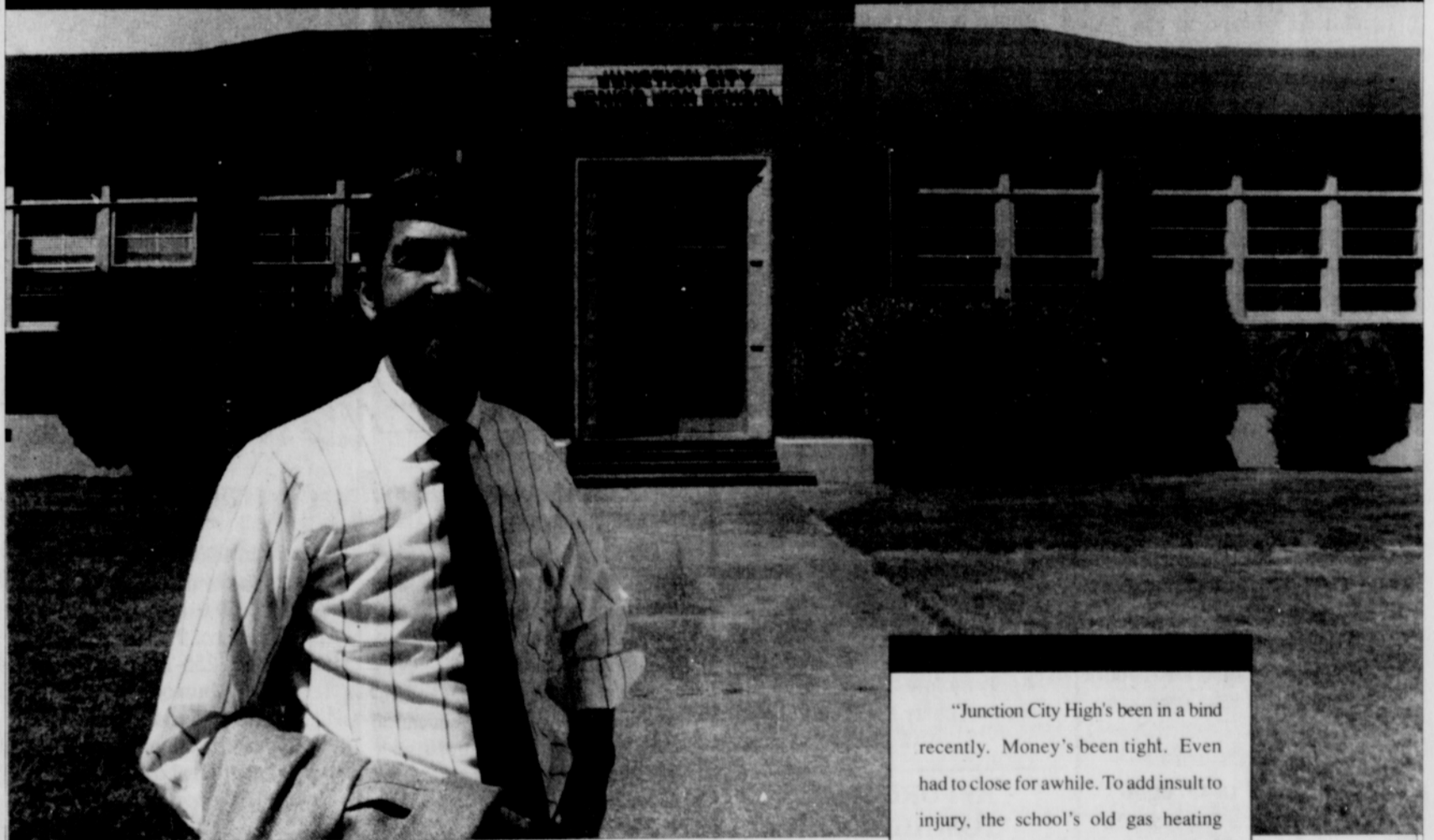
Ticket prices are \$20 for General Admission and \$100 for Premium Admission. Those purchasing \$100 tickets will enjoy premium seating at the concert, plus an invitation to the Post-Gala Reception with the concert stars. Special Benefactor Packages will also be available that will include unique gifts and events.

For inquiries, contact the Conferences Department, National Urban League, Inc. 500 East 62nd Street, New York, NY 10021, (212) 310-9033.

Support Our Advertisers!  
Say you Saw It In The  
Portland Observer!

HEAT PUMP TECHNOLOGY IN SCHOOLS IS ENERGY SERVICES.

*"To save the school, we went back to the ABCs and 123s."*



From where Superintendent Ike Launstein stands, Dave Nixon is a good teacher. Maybe not the kind in school but certainly the kind who can teach you your basics.

His story, on the right, is a good example of how we can help solve a wide range of problems with innovative energy-related solutions.

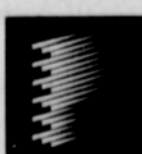
Today, we can help you discover new ways to expand opportunity, reduce costs and improve efficiency with a growing number of energy products and services. How can we help you?

"Junction City High's been in a bind recently. Money's been tight. Even had to close for awhile. To add insult to injury, the school's old gas heating system started giving out, and it was costing a mint just to keep it running."

"So we pitched in, combined some basic arithmetic with some textbook heat pump systems and came up with a solution that was cheaper to run, easier to maintain. And gave them cool air as part of the bargain."

"Something their old outdated gas system would never have been able to offer."

"I was happy we could lend a hand, and solve their problems. It made a difference for our community, and our kids."



PACIFIC POWER  
ENERGY SERVICES  
Expect More From Us.