



P E R S P E C T I V E S

By Professor McKinley Burt

Chief Mandela: "I Shall Return"

You heard him! The great personification of human freedom and dignity, Nelson K. Mandela, has declared unequivocally, "I shall return...to see the Indians!" We do hope that he will not allow himself to be subjected to one of those patronizing ceremonies where visiting politicians are adorned with gaudy headdresses made from the feathers of the nearest endangered species -- and then are made honorary "Chiefs" of the sponsoring tribe. But, then again, he might be invited to "Spotted Owl" country where economic losses would thereby be reduced.

We do give Mandela credit for acknowledging the strong support that African Americans gave to him and organizations of the Antiapartheid struggle during his long and cruel imprisonment. The quality and tenor of the descriptions given of his magnetic presence and forthright pronouncement of "self-determination" for his people could be generally classified as to whether they came from the white or black media. Those recitations ranged from that of a "bopping" Mandela, "caught up in the fervor of handclapping of a rhythmic crowd and the beat of African drummers" (Judie Glave, Associated Press) -- to "Nelson

Mandela today is the peerless symbol of a people's yearning for freedom from cruel and debilitating bondage." (local Black press).

As was to be expected of a "state visit" of this magnitude, there were, of course, a few lapses in the complicated planning and scheduling process. There seems to have been only two major "out-of-sync" failures at the "Mandela-African American" interface. One of these incidents occurred in New York where the Black press contingent had to make frenzied requests of Mr. Mandela's protocol people in order to reinstate a promised press conference that had fallen through the cracks. In the major stop of Atlanta the same fancy footwork was employed to restore order to a pattern of scheduled meetings with Black officials and organizations. All and all, though, a most laudable restraint has been exercised in the reporting and evaluation of Nelson Mandela's visit. Excepting, of course, the overwhelmingly admiration shown by millions of Americans.

Apropos to the more somber side of Mr. Madela's visit, he did state that he "did not see any media reports of his taking the United States to task for its long history of racism and discrimination. What he did do was speak very harshly of Israel's treatment of the Palestinians, asking for the return of their "occupied territories," and their recognition as an "independent state." However, he did not follow up on Secretary of State Baker's indictments of Israel for selling "cluster bombs" to the

Ethiopian government to be used for further bombing of villages where many women and children are being maimed -- nor did he comment on Associated Press Reports that "Israel sold thousands of shotguns to South Africa"

It gets even more complicated when one considers that Nelson Mandela unequivocally lists Castro, Khudafi, Arafat, and Jonas Sauimbi as staunch supporters and friends of the Antiapartheid movement -- a posture that gives fits to the administration and allies. Many "mainstream" African Americans have great difficulty in dealing with that one. The right-wing American press is making the most of what they feel is an opportunity to denigrate Mr. Mandela.

What is indicated here is that African Americans need to be thoroughly briefed on the intricate twists and turns that make a valid assessment of international affairs so difficult. And if really interested in making appraisals of any depth, they need to read more than one of the current books out on related subjects. Me, I always suggest beginning with the basics because usually you find that the very same game has been played for centuries. I'd start with, "How Europe Underdeveloped Africa" by Walter Rodney. Then you'd understand the ugly comedy of the alleged U.S. sanctions against South Africa: excluded are 10 of the most valuable and expensive minerals on earth (vital to the U.S. economy and military). And, "naturally," GOLD AND DIAMONDS!

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN, INC.

The Portland section of the National Council Of Negro Women, Inc. (NCNW) will present Sew & Show-Taste & Tell on Sunday, July 15, 1990 at Matt Dishman Center, 77 N.E. Knott Street from 2:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.

This was previously an annual event which presents a fashion show with many of the fashions having been sewn by those modeling. After the fashion show, those present are given an opportunity to taste many of the favorite foods of the NCNW members.

The NCNW was organized on December 5, 1935 by Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune and the Portland section was chartered in February 1966. The NCNW works to advance opportunities and improve the quality of life for women and their families.

Edna M. Pittman, president of the Portland section, stated that the event was so successful, many have requested that it again become an annual event. Jessie Porter, chair-person of this event, stated that all models will be local non-professionals, and will range in age from the very young to senior citizens. The public is invited.

Mass Choir Concert

Greater St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church will present in full concert the Mass Choir of Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church of Seattle, Washington on Saturday, July 14th at 7:00 p.m.

This 40 voice choir is known throughout the Seattle-Tacoma area for their spiritual presentation in worship. They will be accompanied by their Pastor, the Rev. Cecil L. Dodson. Many guests will be a part of this musical presentation.

Also on the following Sunday July 15th at 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. the Pastor's Aid Ministry will sponsor their Annual Day. Sis. Bettye J. Coppage is the Pastor's Aid Ministry President. Special guest for the occasion is the Rev. Cecil L. Dodson accompanied by his choir. Rev. Dodson will preach at the morning worship service and at the afternoon worship service, and the choir will sing at both services.

Pastor Robert E. Houston, Sr. invites the public at large to come and share in these services at 3922 North Williams Avenue, Portland, Oregon.

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

Portland Alumni and Delta Alpha Chapters proudly presents our second annual JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION (African American Independence), a family celebration of African American History, Tradition & life. This community event will take place on Saturday, July 14, from 2:00-10:00 p.m. at Portland State University's Smith Memorial Center Ballroom. Sponsors for this event include the METROPOLITAN ARTS COMMISSIONS, and WORLD ARTS FOUNDATION, INC.

With the complexity of issues facing our community today, the purpose of JUNETEENTH is to provide an educational experience and a cultural enrichment activity focused on bonding family relationships.

Live entertainment will be provided by Timesound Ensemble, OASIS/Mary Lockridge, Typhni & Danny Osborne, Crystal Rose featuring Kirk Green, Mariam Maysfield, Tracey Clay-Harris, James Johnson, JoAnn Bliss, Wyonona Jackson, Portlandaires, Brown Sisters, Jennette Brown, special guest Rodney Mayfield (Memphis Tenn), and much more. The legendary INK SPOTS will be honored for their many years of contribution to the field of music and entertainment.

Historical perspectives will be presented throughout the day by host Sharon Mitchell (KGW-TV), Donny Adair (Department of Human Services, State of Oregon), Gina Woods (State of Oregon).

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION will be broadcast live on radio station KBOO (90.7 fm).

Tickets are \$5.00 and available through KAPPA Alpha members and at the PSU box office. Proceeds from this event will be used for scholarships.

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MISS TAN PORTLAND SCHOLARSHIP PAGEANT

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For more information call 282-7436.

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Skipper Bob Tallman, former Pacific ocean commercial fisherman, says he knows of several "secret" chinook salmon holes near the Sellwood Bridge, "downriver, just a ways." Tallman and the Dolphin are also available by the hour, day, or weekend to host small parties (either moored or moving), and to show the City's residents and guests from a different elevation--events and sites that are more than nautically Northwest. Discount for Seniors. For rate information, call (503) 245-5921.

FAST BREAKING NEWS-HOW TO CAPTURE IT

"VIDEO SHOWCASE"
Saturday, July 14, 1990
7:30-9:30 pm
Portland Cable Access (PCA)
2766 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Portland, OR 97212

Morris Banks of KOIN-TV Channel 6 will host Video Showcase on Saturday, July 14th at 7:30 pm. Mr. Banks is currently a photojournalist at KOIN-TV, where he has worked since 1981. He is very experienced in handling fast breaking stories, and will bring his news expertise to this free monthly event. Video Showcase provides access producers with a forum for feedback and informal discussion with members of the video community.

Producers are invited to show five minute excerpts from finished or in-progress works. The public is invited. For more information call Phyllis Cole at Portland Cable Access, 288-1515.

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