

## National Public Radio Horizons Salutes Black History Month

In the early 19th century, African-Americans used music to preserve their history, passing stories down through generations by song. In time, music became a vehicle for social commentary, reflecting the changes in society as seen through the eyes of African-American artists.

To honor Black History Month, National Public Radio (NPR) will chronicle the African-American experience with a special four-part series titled "Songs Tell the Story." The series airs on NPR's acclaimed documentary series HORIZONS, with host Vertamae

Grosvenor. (Check local public radio stations for broadcast times.)

Produced by Njemile Carol Rollins, the program features songs created and performed by African-Americans, from the pre-Civil War era through 1990.

Kicking off the special is "Songs Tell the Story: 19th Century," featuring an array of the spirituals, field "hollers," shouts, and work songs that accompanied slavery and Reconstruction through the end of the 19th century. Since that time, the strains of "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" and "Joshua Fit de Battle of Jericho" have been heard

across the American musical landscape.

Developments in African-American music paralleled social, political, and economic developments in American society. During the 1800s, the spirituals slaves created expressed their anger and frustration, as well as their faith in God, an communicated messages that slavemasters were unable to interpret.

Rollins says this music was rooted in the ancient worship traditions brought from African and "blended with the Christian religions that European settlers forced slaves to adopt."

Spirituals like "Oh Freedom,"

"Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel," and "Sometime I Feel Like a Motherless Child" have been passed on for generations, and "today speak to many other forms of economic and social injustice African-Americans have experienced since the onset of slavery," Rollins says.

In the second documentary, "Songs Tell the Story: 1900-1940," HORIZONS recalls widespread lynchings, the evolution of the Marcus Garvey movement, migration of many African-Americans from the rural South to northern cities, the Harlem Renaissance,

and the Depression.

This documentary featured music created after the turn-of-the-century through the New Deal" rags, jazz, rural blues, boogie-woogie, and classic gospel.

During the first half of the 20th century, African-American musicians sang and played the blues in rural southern towns, in New Orleans street parades, and elsewhere. For composer and saxophonist Sidney Bechet, vocalist Alberta Hunter, and others, the blues were like musical prayers.

### A Discussion And Reception Honoring Historians

You are invited to attend a discussion and reception honoring historians of Northwest African American history on Sunday, February 10, 1:30-5:00. It will be at the Beaver Hall, Oregon Historical Center. Enter the building at main ellipse, S.W. Park Ave. and Madison or through the Bookshop, S.W. Madison and Broadway.

An evening of poetry readings by members of the Northwest African American Writers Workshop will be held Thursday, February 7, 7-9 p.m. at the Beaver Hall, Oregon Historical Center.

### Cascade Festival Of African Films

You are invited to the Cascade Festival of African films that will be held in honor of Black History Month on the Cascade Campus of Portland Community College. Four outstanding African films will be shown on successive Wednesdays throughout February at two different times: 12 noon and 7:30 p.m., in Room 122, Terrell Hall. Admission is free and the public is welcome.

The four films that will be shown are the following:

February 6 - The Camp at Thiaroye, the Oregon premiere of the new film by Ousmane Sembene of Senegal, Africa's

foremost director.

February 13 - Yeelen (brightness) produced and directed by Souleymane Cisse of Mali.

February 20 - La Vie Est Belle produced and directed by Ngangura Mweze and Benoit Lamu of Zaire.

February 27 - Faces of Women, a film from the Ivory Coast directed by Desire Ecare.

We expect the Cascade Festival of African Films to be one of the most exciting cultural events of the new year. We hope that you will be able to attend all of the films.

## Black History Month Highlights Winter Season On OPB

Winter is a good time to stay home and keep warm, and this season Oregon Public Broadcasting has a line-up of programs to make those cozy evenings even more appealing. These include shows on the Black experience in American, music ranging from Mozart to Beale Street, and the gamut of science from dinosaurs to astronauts.

### Black History Month

The highlight of the season is programming for Black History Month in February. The six-part series Eyes on the Prize (Sunday-Tuesday, February 3-5 and February 10-12, 10PM) details the spirit, stories, and events of the civil rights struggle in America between 1954

and 1965. Each program focuses on an even or series of events critical to the understanding of the overall progress of the 1950s and 1960s, and contemporary interviews with more than 100 participants on all sides of the civil rights struggle.

"The Colored Museum" on Great Performances, (Saturday, February 9, 10PM) George C. Wolfe's satirical comedy-drama, is an irreverent exploration of black stereotypes. The play parodies such sacred icons as "A Raisin in the Sun," Ebony magazine, and afro haircuts.

The story of a visionary, The Road to Brown (Wednesday, February 13,

10PM) chronicles the career of Charles Hamilton Houston, the black attorney who led the legal campaign to overturn the Constitution's sanction of racial segregation, helping to launch the civil rights movement.

Local Color (Monday, February 18, 10PM), is an encore presentation of OPB's own exploration of the history of Portland's black population. This documentary tells the story of how the black residents of Portland, and to some extent the rest of Oregon, endured and how blacks and whites together started the state's first civil rights movement.

Black men: Uncertain Futures (Tuesday, February 19, 10PM takes a

tough look at a generation of young black men whose chances of landing in jail for outweigh their chances of attending college. The program illustrates the problems that are developing as a consequence of this "lost generation"-problems affecting minority communities and society as a whole.

The American Experience series presents the Academy Award nominated "Adam Clayton Powell" (Thursday, February 21, 10PM), chronicling the rise and fall of the charismatic black preacher from Harlem who, at the height of his career, was one of the most powerful and controversial politicians in America.

## PCC Presents Black History Month Events

The public is invited to attend a variety of "Black History Month" events at Portland Community College during February. All events are free of charge and most events will be held at PCC's Cascade Campus, 705 N. Killingsworth St.

The theme this year is "We Shall Be One," said PCC counselor Ken Adair, chairman of the college's 1991 Black History Month committee.

"The theme reflects a unification of African-Americans across the country with Africans across the world, in thought and in spirit," Adair said. "The theme also reflects a unification of all people," he added.

Black History Month kicks off with a Monday, Feb. 4 panel discussion, "Racism on College Campuses." The discussion will be held at 1 p.m. in Room 122 of Terrell Hall at the Cascade Campus. Audience participation is encouraged.

A month-long "Festival of African Films" features a Portland premier of the new film by Africa's foremost film director, Ousmane Sembene of Senegal, on Wednesday, Feb. 6. Showings will be at noon and 7:30 p.m. in the Terrell Hall auditorium on the Cascade Campus.

Three other African films will be presented on successive Wednesdays at noon and 7:30 p.m. during the month: Feb. 13, "Yeelen" (Brightness), directed by Souleymane Cisse of Mali; Feb. 20, "La Vie Est Belle," directors Ngangura Mweze and Benoit Lamu, Zaire; and Feb. 27, "Faces of Women," directed by Desire Ecare from the Ivory Coast.

The Chargette's, a modern African dance troupe from Humboldt Elementary School in Portland, will perform at noon Friday, Feb. 8 in the Cascade Hall auditorium on the Cascade Campus.

The choirs of three Portland churches will present a Gospel concert from 6 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9, in the Cascade Hall auditorium, Cascade Campus.

Sonia Sanchez is PCC's 1991 Black History Month keynote speaker. She will speak on Friday, Feb. 22 at 7 p.m. in the Cascade Hall auditorium. Nationally and internationally known to millions as Sister Sonia Sanchez, the author, poet and playwright was a pioneer of Black studies and Black consciousness. A reception for Ms. Sanchez will follow.

"Black Business Expo '91," featuring product and service displays of up to 70 business associations and businesses owned by African-Americans, is set from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 23, and noon to 5 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 24 in the Cascade Campus gymnasium.

### The History Of African-Americans In Aviation

In 1917, Eugene Jaques Bullard, an American who faced racial discrimination in his country's armed forces, joined the French Foreign Legion and became the only black pilot to fly in World War I. With his pet monkey "Jimmy" on his shoulder, Bullard flew missions on the Western Front, downing two enemy aircraft. Forced out of his position by the discrimination of high ranking American military officials, Bullard was grounded. But the spirit of his achievements inspired African-Americans the world over to take wing. In his footsteps, the history

of Blacks in Aviation was off and running.

In tribute to this forgotten page of history, NEPCO, Inc. is organizing a traveling exhibition to salute the brave men and women who have dedicated their talents to this field. A comprehensive look at the contributions of African-Americans in Aviation History, from Eugene Bullard through the Space Age, is being scheduled for a twelve-city tour, beginning in Atlanta in the fall of 1991.

Unfortunately, few records have been kept recording this exciting and important period of our history. A research

team is currently working on compiling information about commercial, military, and private contributions to Aviation to place on display in the tour. Because of the relatively short history of Aviation as a whole, we are in hopes that some of you may have been eye witnesses to history. Readers with any information or memorabilia regarding the history of African-Americans in Aviation, particularly prior to 1940, are encouraged to contact: Keith Resseau, National Ethnic Promotions Co., 3819 Oakcliff Industrial Court, Doraville, GA 30340.

#### CREED OF THE BLACK PRESS

The Black Press believes that America can best lead the world away from social and national antagonisms when it accords to every person, regardless of race, color, or creed, full human and legal rights. Hating no person, fearing no person, the Black Press strives to help every person in the firm belief that all are hurt as long as anyone is held back.

## You are invited to attend:

A discussion and reception honoring historians of Northwest African American history

Sunday, February 10, 1:30 - 5:00

Beaver Hall, Oregon Historical Center

(Enter building at main Ellipse, S.W. Park Ave. and Madison or through the bookshop, S.W. Madison and Broadway)

An evening of poetry readings by members of the Northwest African American Writers Workshop.

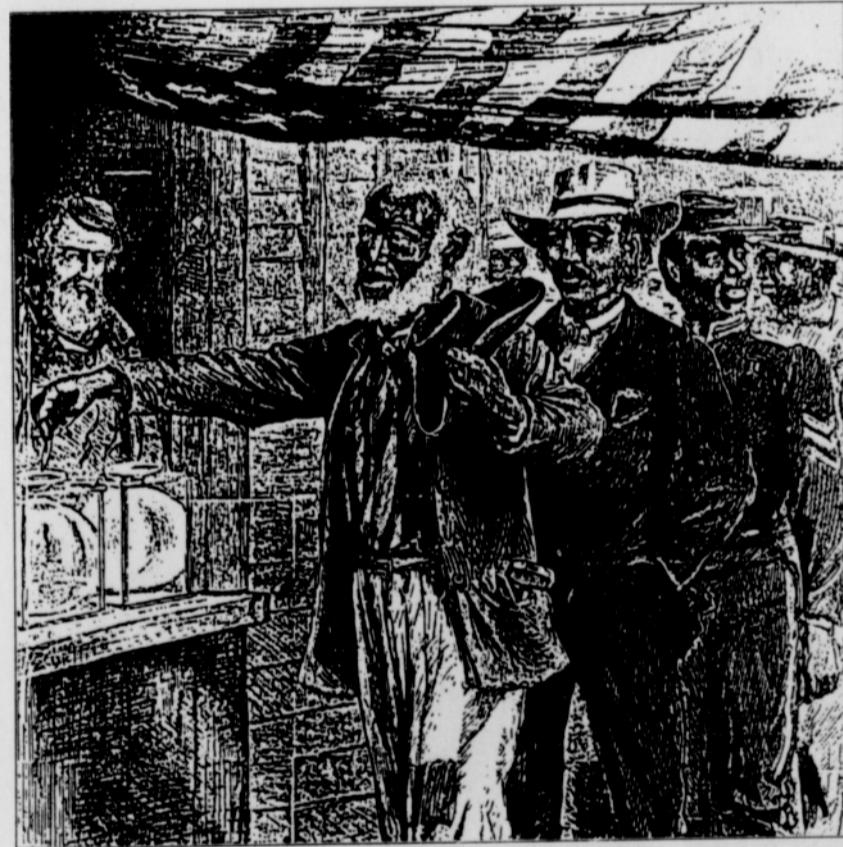
Thursday, February 7, 7-9 p.m.

Beaver Hall, Oregon Historical Center

(Please enter the building through the Madison St. parking structure)



Additional information: Oregon Historical Society, 1230 S.W. Park Ave., Portland, 503/222-1741, x 80.



This illustration depicts the first Black vote in America and appeared in an 1867 issue of Harper's magazine.

## PDC Salutes Black History Month February 1991

For the third year, Portland Development Commission employees will observe Black History Month through this year's theme: A Matter of Color: The Meaning of Race in American Culture.

PDC employees will participate in brown-bag lunches and discussion forums, share educational displays, view films and participate in lectures.

The opening program will be held Friday, February 1, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Portland Building second floor auditorium. It will feature Dr. Darrell Millner, Chairman of Black Studies at Portland State University, as keynote speaker and special guest soloist, 16-year old Master Goldie Irby. PDC invites other City employees to join in the opening program.

Through the month-long program, employees will explore the evolving nature of the meaning of race in America. Through this examination we can share a clearer view of the past to help understand the present and participate in the character of the future.

