

Paint The Town Black

One of the senior members of Portland's performing arts club is Ralph Black, a singer/musician of refined talent and personable social grace. He arrived in the Portland area in 1959, and since that time, he has performed in nearly every lounge where jazz music is played.

Ralph Black signed with the World Pacific Jazz label in 1962 and has added his vocal expertise to such well-known local groups as Billy Larkin & The Delegates, the Ron Steen Trio, and Tom Grant. For those who can still remember The Three Star Restaurant and Lounge or the Upstairs Lounge, both prominent night spots of the late 1960s, an integral part of those memories is Ralph Black and his competent blend of jazz and blues. In the early 1980s, he was a voice that could be heard at Bourbon Street, where he and his band, The Ralph Black ensemble, played nightly and on through the 80's. He graced the stages of Father's, Atrium, Third Avenue, and Brasserie Montmartre, most recently having finished a two

year billing at The Lake, where he combined his talents with those of Benny Wilson.

His interest in community activities became known when he participated in a fund raiser for Jesse Jackson during the 1988 Presidential campaign, and his resume now includes the Vice presidency of the Cotton Club Revisited Foundation that exists to provide College scholarships for musically gifted students. For any community-based charity event, he can be depended on to lend his time and considerable talents.

Ralph Black will be making his first appearance as part of the Inner City Blues Festival on March 21, and he is available to play at weddings, parties or social dances, accompanied by Ron Steen. Interested persons can contact him at 287-3759. An entertainers entertainer, Mr. Black plans to release a compact disc with the also venerable Leroy Vinegar. Three decades of performing in the Portland area and Ralph Black shows no signs of slowing down.



Ralph Black

Representative Katz Urges Governor Roberts To Continue Gang Fight



Rep. Vera Katz

State Representative Vera Katz urged Governor Barbara Roberts to continue funding state law enforcement, prosecutorial and social service programs addressing youth gang and hate crime violence in Oregon. In a letter co-signed by five other Portland state representatives, Katz asked that Governor Roberts maintain or expand the state's commitment to the Youth Gang Enforcement Team, dedicated gang prosecutors and social service programs targeted at youth gang members.

"We can no longer deny that we in Oregon have a problem with gang vio-

lence and hate crimes," wrote Katz. Katz noted that law enforcement officers and community leaders expressed concern that failure of the state to maintain its financial support and commitment of personnel could jeopardize current public safety efforts.

"To prevent the loss of momentum in the fight against gangs, funding for the multi-agency law enforcement presence, the dedicated gang prosecutors and the juvenile court counselors needs to be maintained at present levels, if not increased," added Katz.

Katz also made a personal appeal to Roberts to become involved in coordinating the various state and local agencies responding to the gang crisis. More importantly, your personal leadership presence is needed to ensure that the various law enforcement, court and social service agencies brought together by Governor Goldschmidt are not allowed to gradually drift apart, leaving the state with no coordinated response to the gang problem," wrote Katz.

Katz was joined in the letter by other Portland legislators, including Reps. Beverly Stein, Mike Burton, Margaret Carter, Ron Cease, and John Minnis.

A Lion At Bay?

Continued from front page

naive enough to assist the establishment media in an effort to convert an educational travesty into a CLASSIC GREEK TRAGEDY, featuring two bigger-than-life black protagonists (Remember the old ghetto joke about two slave masters' bet'cha my nigger can whip your nigger (sic)??? No! Let them do some REAL 'investigative reporting'. What has transpired fiscally in this district the last two decades may yet have the Proposition 5 supporters crying "Beyond waste! This looks like a Contra Affair".

A standoff centers now around an arbitration process forced upon the administration and school board by pressures from the community and the Black United Front led by Ron Herndon. The first two meetings of a "Task Force" were fairly impressive. Most outside appointees indicated a serious intent to carry out their charge of reform--and, importantly, within a short but attainable time frame. However, it is not clear if their mission goes beyond an effort to implement the controversial "12-point plan" for remedial action. An accountable school board will be the key to the success of the task force mission.

When we speak of "two decades" of contempt, consider the follow-

ing (and I was not alone). Between 1969 and 1971, I was in conflict with both administration and board over their refusal to even consider implementation of proven technology for enhancing performance of minority students (I had won a "National Science Foundation Award" in the Dalles for a classroom-based computer/communications project, and my book, "Black Inventors of America", was already in use in many districts around the country.

Thoroughly disgusted and frustrated, I flew to Washington, D.C. for a week's seminar conducted by Dr. Julius Hobson (1971). He was the black economist who successfully sued a "Portland-type" school administration and board, "Hobson vs. Washington, D.C. Board of Education". He established malfeasance and the deliberate neglect of black children, ranging from texts and equipment, to history and curriculum--and reclaimed millions of dollars of federal "minority program funds" diverted to construction, repairs, overhead, other salaries, etc." Next week I will detail why this case is so important, and why I failed in my effort to institute a similar suit here while head of the Minority Teachers' Organization in 1974 (the system could have been reformed years ago).

Center Closure Eminent Without Funds...Now

From front page

The current amount in arrears is approximately \$20,000 including growing interest and penalties.

In addition to letter writing and phone calling, Board Chair Ralph Davis and Stan Peterson have contacted banks in the community. It was hoped that a loan could be arranged using the building as collateral. The building is free and clear and valued at about \$150,000. It was planned that the proceeds from a loan of approximately \$50,000 would be used to pay off the past due and current IRS bill and some other operational bills also past due. The balance of the proceeds would be used to help meet operating costs for a few months until the current funding campaign could get into full swing and anticipated funding could begin to materialize. Those plans include but are not limited to applying for some 8 to 10 grants, in person presentations to 5 to 7 key contributors with substantial means to help the Center, a fee increase (anticipated April 15, 1991) and an all out campaign to appeal to the members of the community, countless numbers that have been somehow connected with the Center down through the years. There are plans to appeal again to the community churches, after an unsuccessful attempt in October 1990. Virtually all the churches have members with connections to the Center and several of the churches have used the Center facilities in past years and some conducted worship services before they went on to obtain their own building. It was always Miss Collins policy was not to charge for use of the building. One Board member commented recently that if every person who has gone through the Center would give just \$20.00, there would be enough money to take care of the pressing problems until the new funding efforts pay off.

After all these years of tireless service to the community and a battle with Children's Services Division, it would appear that this institution may not survive this situation with IRS. It is estimated that the Center has until March 15 before operations will be forced to a halt. There is yet optimism that one of a few things will take place: the community will respond in mass, some generous benefactor will step in with a bridge loan, or the IRS will somehow grant the Center another month.

If you have resources or ideas that will help the Center with this pressing need, you are encouraged to contact Stan Peterson at the Center of Ralph or LaVerne Davis.

Jesuit High Placement Exam

Jesuit High School invites all interested eighth grade boys to take the school's Placement Test on Saturday morning, April 6, from 8:30 to 12:15. There is a \$10.00 fee for the exam. Refreshments will be served. Test takers are not obligated to enroll, but those who plan to enroll as freshmen next year must take the test.

Applications for the 1991-92 school year are being accepted now. Please call Jesuit High School at 292-2663 for reservations and further information.

New Book Links Marcus Garvey To Harlem Renaissance

The Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s represented perhaps the most concentrated outpouring of African-American artistic talent. All the arts seemed to bloom at once and the big names of the era have become legendary. They include poets and writers like Langston Hughes, Claude McKay and Countee Cullen; musicians such as Duke Ellington and Bessie Smith; artists and sculptors such as Augusta Savage; actors like Paul Robeson and many others.

The renaissance has traditionally been seen as gathering momentum in the mid-1920s and stimulated largely by white patronage. Tony Martin, professor of Black History at Wellesley College, now suggests that the renaissance started several years earlier and owed much to the influence of Marcus Garvey. His argument is contained in African fundamentalism: a Literary and Cultural Anthology of Garvey's Harlem Renaissance, published by The Marjority Press.

Marcus Garvey's Universal Negro Improvement Association, headquartered in Harlem, became in the 1920s the largest African-American and Pan-African mass movement in history. Historians have long credited Garvey with pro-

viding the underlying African consciousness that infused the work of the renaissance.

Martin demonstrates, however, that Garvey's influence was much more pervasive. The Garvey movement itself entered directly into the literary and cultural arena and produced a vast quantity of the earliest writing and artistic work of the period. Garvey's own weekly newspaper, The Negro World (the most widely circulated Black newspaper in the world at the time), published a vast amount of poetry, short stories and articles of literary and artistic criticism. The organization produced plays (some written by Garvey himself) and supported several in-house choirs and orchestras.

Some of the biggest names of the Harlem Renaissance got their careers via Garvey's movement. Contralto Marian Anderson sang at Liberty Hall (the movement's meeting place) in 1922. Zora Neale Hurston published her earliest poetry and stories in Garvey's newspaper. Augusta Savage, later one of Afro-America's most famous sculptors, was married to one of the Garvey organization's leaders. Arthur Schomburg, Afro-America's most famous bibliophile,

published in Garvey's Negro World, as did hundreds, perhaps thousands of others, famous and unknown, from around the Black world.

Martin has shown that the Garvey movement published Afro-America's pioneer regular book review section in the Negro World. It also organized the earliest literary competition of the renaissance era, in 1921.

The Garveyite artists were perhaps even more race conscious than their later counterparts of the mainstream Harlem Renaissance. In many ways the Garveyite renaissance resembled the Black Arts movement of the 1960s and 1970s, which provided a literary counterpart for the Black Power movement.

The title, African Fundamentalism, is taken from Marcus Garvey's most famous essay of the same name. The book contains the Harlem Renaissance poems, stories, book reviews and literary, dramatic and musical criticism of those who appeared in Garvey's publications. The list includes Alain Locke, Hubert H. Harrison J.A. Rogers, Zora Neale Hurston and many others. Tony Martin has provided an introduction, commentaries and notes.

Talent Sought For Oregon State Fair

Talented Oregonians can gain valuable exposure and name recognition by appearing on the Oregon State Fair's Showcase Stage this year between August 22 and September 2. The Showcase Stage is becoming more and more popular among fairgoers and performers alike, so performers should

sign up soon, said Chris Cummings, Showcase Stage Coordinator.

Musicians, magic acts, comedians and other stage performers wishing to be considered for this year's program should contact the Oregon State Fair, 378-3247, and ask for an application.

METRO WASHINGTON PARK ZOO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR AFRICAN CULTURAL PERFORMANCES AT METRO WASHINGTON PARK ZOO FRP #91R-5-ZO

The Zoo Department of the Metropolitan Service District (Metro) is requesting proposals for a summer cultural show to complement the opening of the new Africa Rain Forest exhibit. Proposals will be due on March 29, 1991 at 5:00 p.m. PST at the Reception Office, Metro Washington Park Zoo, 4001 SW Canyon Road, Portland, OR 97221. Details concerning this proposal can be obtained by contacting Ms. Jane Hartline, Metro Washington Park Zoo, (503) 220-2447.

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