

The Portland Observer 25¢

Multi-Cultural Holiday Showcase To Premiere At Interstate Firehouse Culture Center

December 12-15 at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, Oregon Dance Consort will present a lively alternative to traditional holiday programs. Called HARMONIA, the showcase will feature some of the Northwest's finest ethnic and contemporary artists in a festival of music, dance and storytelling with a global perspective.

Featured artists include: Ruby Burns in a moving new solo inspired by her travels in Africa; Diana LoVerso and members of Amor Espana performing the fiery dance and music of Spain; Jerry Mouawad and Carol Uselman of the international mask and mime troupe, Imago; Ray Terrill of ODC premiering a new work set to Debussy's "Dances Sacred and Profane;" Joe Morales, internationally recognized contemporary dance artist; Diana Hinatsu and Kanahae Fujima of the acclaimed traditional Japanese company Fujinami Kai; and distinguished Native American Storyteller, Ed Edmo.

African American dancer/choreographer Ruby Burns has long been recognized as one of the Northwest's finest interpreters of African forms of dance. Since coming to Portland from New York in 1978, she has played a vital role in focusing attention on the diversity and power of the many styles of African music and dance. She has shared her enthusiasm and her expertise with hundreds of young people of all races through

her popular classes at Dancers' Workshop and at area schools. Ruby has also been a strong voice for the development of minority artists through participation on grants panels and in numerous conferences.

In her new solo, premiering as part of HARMONIA, Ruby was inspired by the landscape in western Africa, the Baobab has a life expectancy of over 500 years and embodies seasonal mystical traditions for the many people who live in its shadow.

Performances of this premiere holiday event run December 12-15 and seating is limited: 8:00 PM Thurs/Fri/Sat, December 12-14; 2:00 PM Sat/Sun, December 14-15; and 7:00 PM on Sunday, December 15. Tickets are \$10 General Admission; \$8 for Students/Seniors and Dance Coalition members. A special family rate of \$5.00 per ticket is available for the two matinee performances and Sunday evening. For reservations call the IFCC at 823-2000.

HARMONIA, is funded in part by the Oregon Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts. It will also be presented for one night only at the beautiful Newport Performing Arts Center on the Oregon Coast. HARMONIA on the coast will happen Friday, December 20th at 8:00 PM. Tickets are available through the performing arts center box office: 265-2787 in Newport.



Ruby Burns of HARMONIA, a showcase of ethnic and contemporary artist presented by Oregon Dance Consort.

Packwood Introduces Major Health Care Legislation

Oregon Senator Bob Packwood has introduced a major health care proposal that would guarantee access to medical treatment for all Americans.

"Every Oregonian, every American, deserves decent health care. We can no longer turn our backs on the millions of uninsured people in this country who suffer needlessly. Our current system, which leaves so many out in the cold, is unethical and impractical," said Packwood.

"Very simply, my plan requires all employers to offer a basic package of health insurance to all full-time employees and their dependents. This bill also gives tax credits to small employers and lower-income working families to ease the financial burden. Those who work part-time or are unemployed would be covered under a health insurance program administered by the state," he continued.

Packwood's new health care initiative is similar to the Comprehensive Health Insurance Plan (CHIP) which he introduced in 1974. That bill, however, required employers to "play or pay" -- that is, to provide health insurance for employees or pay for their coverage under a state-administered program. The new bill does not allow employers to shift employees to a state program. They must offer health insurance for basic health care.

The Packwood bill (CHIP of 1991) outlines a broad definition of basic benefits equivalent to the benefits available under medicare. Additionally, the basic benefits must include preventive and child health care as well as prescription drugs. Full-time workers are defined as those who work more than 25 hours a week for a minimum of 20 weeks in a year. The bill requires employers to bear most of the burden for the premiums, with employees paying no more than 30 percent. The tax credit for lower-income families is doubled to help them pay for their share of the insurance premiums.

"The two major issues in health care today are access and cost. My plan will give everyone access to health care at a reasonable cost by promoting competition among insurers to lower costs, and encouraging cost-effective health care," said Packwood.

This major initiative is the fourth part of Senator Packwood's legislative agenda on health care. Packwood legislation aiding rural hospitals passed in 1990. The second part of his rural health legislation, and long-term health care legislation, were introduced earlier this year. Packwood has also been the leading advocate in Congress of the Oregon Medicaid waiver, which would allow Oregon to prioritize health care procedures.

Multnomah County Offers Energy Assistance To Low Income Citizens Eligible Households Can Apply Now

The Multnomah County Department of Human Services has announced the annual start-up of a federally funded program that will provide financial assistance to those who need help with this winter's heating bills. The program is called the Low Income Energy Assistance Program or LIEAP, and has been in existence since 1978. At a cost of \$2.6 million, over 12,000 households in Multnomah county received assistance through this program each year.

Multnomah County households who need financial help to pay their winter heating bills can apply for assistance from December 2 until the funds are

depleted. Eligible households must have a total gross income at or below 125% of the federally set poverty level. A household of one would be eligible if the occupant's income does not exceed \$8,275 per year or \$690 per month. For each additional household member this income limit can be increased by \$2,825 per year or \$235 per month.

Based upon income and household size, payments will vary from \$95 to \$250 and will be made on a one-time only basis. Renters and homeowners receive comparable payments. In most cases payments are made directly to energy suppliers.

For more information about this program citizens can call the LIEAP Hotline at 227-5437 or obtain information at the following Portland intake agencies: Albina Ministerial Alliance (Pacific Power Community Room) 3535 NE 15th, 284-2776; Transition Projects, 435 NW Glisan, 274-7850; Friendly House, 1910 NW Everett, 288-4337; Human Solutions, Inc. 2900 SE 122nd, 761-9234; Portland Impact, 924 SE 45th, 239-4328; St. Johns YWCA, 8010 N Charleston, 286-2165.

All of these agencies will be open during regular business hours.

50th Anniversary Of Japanese Attack On Pearl Harbor to be Commemorated

Need for Racial Harmony Emphasized

The 50th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor will be commemorated on December 7, 1991. On Thursday, December 6 at 9:30 a.m., the Multnomah Board of County Commissioners will mark this significant occasion with the adoption of a resolution to honor those who died, to emphasize the need for racial harmony among people of diverse backgrounds, and to call for a lasting peace.

The commemoration will be a time

when all Americans reflect upon this tragic event. The events of Pearl Harbor and beyond were also momentous times for Japanese Americans. The internment of 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II (4,500 of whom were Oregonians), and other acts of violence during that time in our nation's history were the direct results of racism.

The Japanese American Citizens League and others are concerned that

the 1980's have brought on a dramatic increase in hate crimes and negative sentiments directed at Asian Americans, including "Japan-bashing" which has resulted largely from economic and trade frictions between the United States and Japan. The Japanese American Citizens League joins the Board of County Commissioners and other community leaders to mark the occasion of this anniversary to work towards increased racial harmony.

There are only 20 days until Christmas. Have a safe and happy holiday season.

A Bush/Duke Ticket In 1992

By Prof. McKinley Burt

That is not as outlandish an idea as would have seemed a month ago, is it? Such a slate, under ordinary conditions, might be put forward as the plot of a television situation comedy or as a contemporary farce in a revival of vaudeville. But, today, there is nothing funny at all about this dude in the White House who has not yet grasped the crisis nature of the economic and moral problems facing this nation.

How really dangerous is this man, George Herbert Walker Bush--who at one moment sees himself as the creator of a NEW WORLD ORDER, bringing peace and prosperity to all in the composite role of a Napoleon and a Ma-

hatma Ghandi--and at another refuses to advance any meaningful programs that could achieve equivalent goals at home. And, who finally signs a watered-down Civil Rights Bill, while simultaneously directing his legal henchman, E. Gordon Gray, to advise all Federal agencies to "forget it--I all know I didn't mean it!"

We have here a modern version of the Greek god Janus who had two sets of facial features on one head and at a 180 degree angle to each other. This original *talking head* was undoubtedly the model for this administration as it began to craft what was believed to be an easy repeat of the

1988 victory. They still do not understand the depth of the frustration and fear that is abroad in the land as they flirt with some of the most reactionary and racist of conservatives. Gary Trudeau ("Doonesbury") may be driven to even greater heights of caricature.

Amazingly, that great group of endangered poor Americans who were blessed (and brainwashed) with the modern title MIDDLE CLASS are suddenly awakening and discovering that they are not in the middle of anything except *poverty*. Soon, they will further learn that for forty years this class of scores of millions (mostly

white) has been the victim of the greatest advertising, marketing and demographic scam since Marx raised the curtain on his version of "voodoo economics." As they line up for unemployment compensation, food stamps and welfare--right next to the blacks and hispanics--they might get nasty about the whole thing, and that opportunity to cater to a racist backlash is what makes this administration "dangerous."

Now, before World War II, "MIDDLE CLASS" in this country meant that you did not have to get up in the morning and go to work on somebody's job. You had people

working for you who opened the store or office, or fired up the boiler at the plant. Mostly, you had at least one servant and employed hired caterers for social affairs. In terms of today's money your ordinary income was from \$100,000 to a half million dollars and your clubs, schools, frats and sororities were exclusive amenities that made the same kind of statement as your clothes and jewelry. As a high school youngster I worked for these kind of people after school. There was also a WEALTHY CLASS, but you *stayed in your place*.

So what has Madison Avenue and the media done? They have used the

potent imagery of television--accompanied by the juicy icons of Japanese imports--to convert millions of carpenters, truck drivers, painters, plumbers, sales people, teachers, oncologists, nurses and anesthesiologists into naive hordes of Middle Class pleasure seekers, pursuing the good life and for the most part happy they were not born a minority.

As the administration fast disabuses them of this mistaken notion--abetted by Savings and Loan and Junk Bond Contributors--they are beginning to ask questions of their leaders (even about banks and credit cards).

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