

The Portland Quarterly 25¢

Mrs. Frances Schoen-Newspaper
University of Oregon Libr
Eugene, Oregon
97403

From Mozambique To Springfield, Oregon High School: Young Olympic Hopeful Perseveres After Chilly Reception

by Prof. McKinley Burt

Maria Mutola, the young African woman who is one of the world's top ranked 800 meter runners, was placed in a very strange and inhospitable place to train for the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, Spain. Would you believe a Springfield High School class where, daily, the 19-year-old was subjected to the most outrageous taunts and insults from classmates and instructor?

In March 1991, Mutola was enrolled in this school by the Olympic Solidarity Committee, an arm of the International Olympic Committee that sponsors athletes from developing nations to train abroad (Eugene, the neighboring city is America's running Mecca). The idea was for her to compete for the school's track team, then shift to international competition after the prep season. Rival coaches made life miserable for the vulnerable teenager. The Midwestern League ruled Mutola ineligible for competition. "It appears that she is in school solely to run-not to get an education."

This claim was made on basis of the fact that Mutola entered school shortly before the track season began; a circumstance over which she had no control. And in any case, she was carrying a substantial class load including "English As A Second Language." Much of the information here comes from an investigative reporter on the staff of the Los Angeles Times and from a former student of mine now residing in that city. There is a world of difference in the reports in the Los Angeles press and those in Oregon newspapers.

California reporter Julie Cart quotes Mutola's coach, Margo Fund (July 8, 1992): "What I saw was a hurt girl who was trying hard to be a part of this new country where she obviously didn't fit in, colorwise, hairwise, speechwise. All of a sudden, there was one more thing setting her apart. I saw her hurt and I felt her hurt, but there was nothing I could do about it."

Linda Wheatly, Springfield High's teacher of English As A Second Language is quoted, "The kids never openly laughed at Maria, I think they have been intimidated. She has a presence. She doesn't joke with the other kids. She likes to be separate." Mutola's withdrawal is quite understandable given such classroom experiences as the following. The topic for the day is AIDS. The teacher directs the attention of the class to Mutola.

"OK, listen up people... We have this tape about a really serious problem, AIDS in Africa. We have a student, Maria, who is from Africa. Some people think that AIDS started in Africa. Maybe we can learn something from her." The snickering begins at the back of the class and rolls like a wave to the front. Cruel, insensitive, racist! How strongly can we put it. But many a minority student in Oregon can easily identify with this poor girl's treatment.

The slick, upbeat treatment of Mutola's Oregon experience in the local and Portland press reveals nothing of the shameful and possible psyche shattering treatment of this lonely African girl in a strange and threatening land. What god-given strength and perseverance it must take to maintain ones equilibrium and sanity under these circumstances. We are reminded of that spiritual which has sustained so many of us of African descent in times of trials and tribulations: "SOMETIMES I FEEL LIKE A MOTHERLESS CHILD."

The press releases are good; "just this week Sports Illustrated picked Mutola

to win the gold ahead of two Unified Team runners... She has qualified for both the 800 and 1500 meters... Mozambique will have only 10 or 12 athletes in Barcelona, and Mutola is by far the African country's top medal hope.... About a month ago, she signed a contract with NIKE. After the Olympics, she plans to attend Lane Community College and run international track as a professional."

These are accomplishments indeed for the young African woman who first attracted attention as a superb soccer player in her native land at the age of 15--on an all male team. When we saw the photo's of her winning the 1,500 meters at San Jose we felt a special thrill. But, then, we thought too of the rumor mill kept churning. According to the Los Angeles Times, the comments range from "She's really in her 30's to she's on drugs or she is a he" (Mutola has passed all her drug tests and the Olympics gender tests. She works out weekly with weights to strengthen those superb legs and it shows).

We think that there is a critical failure here on the part of both the Olympic Solidarity Committee and the International Olympic Committee in that they have failed to adequately monitor the circumstance and well being of this young person for whose welfare they bear responsibility. We hope for an immediate response to all of us who are reporting on this untenable situation. Words cannot convey our respect and admiration for the strength and perseverance of this capable young African woman, Maria Mutola. Good Luck Dear!



Maria Mutola

Oregon Seniors Need Help With Long-Term Care

BY OREGON SENATOR
BOB PACKWOOD

As I travel around Oregon and talk to seniors, I hear the same concern in Bend, Vale, and Medford. Seniors are worried about one thing above all others: how will they be able to continue to take care of themselves and remain in their homes?

While nursing homes work very well for some people, many seniors would prefer to stay at home, but need a little help. And we will only need more help with long-term care in the years ahead. The elderly population has doubled in the last 30 years, rising from 16 million in 1960 to 32 million in 1990. By the year 2030, the number will again double to more than 60 million. The need for long-term care increases as the population grows older.

We need to make changes so that seniors have lots of choices: staying at home with some help; spending time at adult day-care facilities; or going to nursing homes. And we need to make sure that these choices are affordable to all seniors.

I have introduced major reform legislation to address the growing need for long-term care. My bill will set up a federal program to provide long-term care for the needy in their homes and communities; help moderate-income people buy long-term care insurance; and remove barriers that discourage the growth of long-term care insurance.

The first part of my plan is to estab-

lish a new federal program to provide long-term care services to low-income elderly under the Social Security Act. As a result, long-term care services for seniors would be expanded and more people would be eligible for assistance. The new program would continue to cover nursing home care, while expanding the availability of home and community-based care. My bill would remove the requirement that people be on welfare to qualify for long-term care services. All states would be required to cover those with low incomes. Additionally, states would have the option of covering everyone with incomes up to \$15,888.

The second part of my plan would allow states join with the federal government and subsidize long-term care insurance for those with incomes up to \$26,400.

And finally, my plan would clear up the uncertainty about the tax treatment of long-term care. Because of this uncertainty, very few employers offer long-term care insurance to their employees. It's important that the law clearly states that all long-term care services are treated as medical expenses.

Providing high quality, available, affordable long-term care to those who need it is a high priority for me. We must take a big step forward in protecting Americans against the financial catastrophe that can result from severe and chronic illnesses.

Seniors want that -- and they deserve it.

The Reading Tree 1992 Irving Park

The Reading Tree is 21 years old, and is still going strong. There are about 100 children who come daily rain or shine to enhance their reading, writing, and listening skills. This program was designed to bridge the gap between school and summer vacation.

This program is being directed by B. Anderson, Director and her assistant, Mary M. Mounce, both certified teachers. Assisting them are three Private Industry Council students, and students volunteers.

The Irving program begins each morning at 10 a.m. with students singing ABC Rock, followed by children being placed in their grade levels to review and reinforce language skills. Lunch is served at noon, with a short period of play in the park. Story time on

the hill is the next activity, and then phonics games for all levels of reading. The program concludes at 2 p.m. with each child choosing a book or magazine and a glass of lemonade is provided before returning home. Students and parents look forward to coming to The Reading Tree, and the program is providing positive learning results with success which continues to grow.

There is also another Reading Tree at Alberta Park with 25 children who attend daily.

Ms. Anderson is in need of financial assistance to continue this program. Please send your contributions for The Reading Tree. Betty Walker, 3124 NE 17th, Portland, OR 97212, (503) 281-1768.

Key Bank And The Urban League Team Up For Summer Youth Employment Project

Key Bank of Oregon has awarded The Urban League of Portland an \$18,000 grant to provide jobs for seven inner-city youth this summer. The Summer Youth Employment Project will operate between July 6 and August 28. Participating youth will do maintenance work on homes owned by senior citizens living in North and Northeast Portland.

"We are happy to provide urban youth with an opportunity to get valuable employment experience and earn money this summer," commented Ted Winnowski, chairman of the board, president, and chief executive officer for Key Bank. "This is a 'win-win' project - the youth benefit from the work experience; the seniors are helped with tasks they may not be able to do themselves; and the appearance of the neighborhoods involved is improved.

The seven youth participating in this project will work with an adult supervisor Monday through Thursday, doing yard work and small maintenance jobs - painting, cleaning sidewalks, etc. - jobs seniors may have particular difficulty doing during the hot summer months. The youth also will be attending as a part of this program bi-weekly sessions in conjunction with The Urban League's Male Responsibility Program which focuses on teaching the youth to take pride in and value their community.

"We are very pleased to join Key Bank in this project," said Dr. Darryl Tukufu, president and CEO of The Urban League of Portland. "This is a positive example of what the business community can do to help inner city youth get on the path on a career. It also

gives young people a change to do something positive for their community and improve their self-esteem and ownership in the process."

Urban League Youth Profiles
Jerry Lincoln Crew Leader, Age 22, Graduate of University of Oregon his career objectives: Working with at-risk inner city youths;

Bernard Callman, Assistant Crew Leader, age 19, Education Catlin Gabel and University of LaVerne; Kallund Ervins, age 15, Education: Grant High School; Danny Thomas age 15, Education: Madison High School; John Allen-Roach age 16, Education Madison High School; David Marcus Hubbard, age 14, Education: Franklin High School; John Brown, age 15, Education: Open Meadows; Christopher Beene, age 15, Education: Benson High School.

Labor Commissioner Announces Reorganization Plans; Names New Civil Rights Chief

Labor Commissioner Mary Wendy Roberts recently announced that she is beginning the process of reorganizing the bureau and naming a new civil rights administrator.

Because of budget restrictions due to Ballot Measure 5, Commissioner Roberts must cut 25 positions from the current budget, which represent 20 percent of the agency's budgeted positions for the 91-93 biennium. To help meet this target, Roberts is cutting several positions, including two management positions, by eliminating the support services division and moving Johnnie Bell, the current support services administrator, to civil rights. Bell ran the bureau's civil rights division from 1981 - 1986. She replaces Raleigh Lewis, the current civil rights administrator who is leaving the bureau at the end of July.

"I am confident that Johnnie Bell has the broad understanding of the bureau as well as the personal commitment, management skills and the experience of help reorganize our resources and to help us meet the challenges of these tough times," said Roberts.

The functions of the support services division, which include administrative hearings, technical assistance, and information services move to the commissioner's office to form the office of administrative services. Deputy Commissioner Mike Kael will assume direct responsibility for budget, information systems and the bureau's business office. Legal Policy Advisor Kelly Hagan will supervise the technical assistance for employers program. These changes will be effective August 3.

Jobs Program Improvements Okayed

Oregon has received permission from the federal government to enhance its welfare reform program that helps move people from public assistance into the workforce.

The federal Department of Health and Human Services today granted seven waivers to federal regulations governing the JOBS for Oregon's Future program, which provides education and training services for welfare clients.

"We are gratified to be able to make the changes allowed by the waivers, since we believe they will put more welfare recipients to work in a shorter amount of time and will also help prevent a number of people from ever coming onto the welfare system in the first place," stated Stephen Minnich, administrator of Adult and Family Services (AFS).

The waivers allow AFS, which administers the JOBS program, to require more people to participate in JOBS activities, which includes basic education, drug and alcohol counseling, employment training and job search. The state will also be able to require clients to

spend more time in those activities. Among the specific changes allowed under the waivers:

*Welfare recipients with children aged 1 through 6 years must participate in JOBS up to 40 hours per week, instead of the current weekly maximum of 20 hours.

*Participants can be required to look for a job continuously after completing other JOBS activities. Currently, federal regulations limit job search to only four months a year.

*Parents under age 16, as well as those who are under 20 and pregnant, must attend basic education classes if they don't have a high school diploma. Currently, these teen are exempt.

*JOBS participants who need mental health or substance abuse diagnosis or treatment can be required to take part or risk losing part of their benefits.

*Participants who don't comply with JOBS requirements will have their benefits reduced for at least one month after the first occurrence. Currently, no reduction is required for the first failure to comply.

*The state will be able to provide JOBS activities to pregnant women who are in the Poverty Level Medical program but are not on welfare. Since a significant number of these women move onto welfare after their children are born, providing JOBS education and training during pregnancy could help keep them off public assistance.

"These waivers should help hundreds of Oregon families trade the dependence of welfare for the self-sufficiency of employment," Minnich stated.

"And they could mean a savings of \$6.5 million in state and federal funds during the first year, through increased job placements and shorter stays on welfare."

The federal government considers these waivers to be test situations, and the state will be setting up systems to analyze the effects of the policy changes. The new requirements are expected to become effective late this year and will affect approximately 1,250 public assistance recipients. The JOBS program is expected to serve a total of 21,000 people on welfare during the 1991-93 biennium.

Ron B. Tonkin Appointed To DADA'S Dealers Election Action Committee Board Of Trustees



Ron B. Tonkin

Washington, July 22 -- Ron B. Tonkin, president of Ron Tonkin Dealerships, Portland, Ore., has been appointed to the National Automobile Dealers Association's Dealers Election Action Committee board of trustees, the association announced today. DEAC is the political action committee of NADA.

Tonkin was president of NADA in 1989 and currently serves on the association's board of directors, a position he has held since 1983. Tonkin is also a charter member of DEAC's President's Club which recognizes donors who contribute the legal annual maximum of \$5,000.

Ray Green, DEAC chairman and 1991 NADA president, said, "Ron has a strong reputation among dealers throughout this country, and his support of DEAC during his presidency

contributed to DEAC's growth. I can think of no one better qualified to serve as a DEAC trustee." Oregon is consistently ranked as one of the nation's top contributors to DEAC thanks to the support of Tonkin and the franchised new-car dealers of the state.

During his presidency, Tonkin was voted Automotive News' Industry Leader of the Year, Dealer of the Year and the individual who had the biggest impact on dealer relations by that publication's readers' poll. He was also named Automotive News Triple Crown Champion on the 1989 All-Star Team of industry leaders and was selected as one of the top ten industry news-makers that year.

Tonkin has been a member of the Oregon Automobile Dealers Association and the Portland Automobile Dealers Association for more than 30 years, serving as president of PADA in 1971. He serves on the board of directors of the Portland Tri-Met, an organization coordinating public transportation for the three-county area Multnomah, Washington, and Clackamas. He was appointed to the board by the governor of Oregon in 1986.

The DEAC trustees set basic policy for the committee, determine fund-raising goals and programs on the national level and decide general levels of expenditures to candidates seeking election to the United States Senate and House of Representatives.

The National Automobile Dealers Association represents more than 19,000 franchised new-car and -truck dealers holding 35,000 separate franchises, domestic and import.