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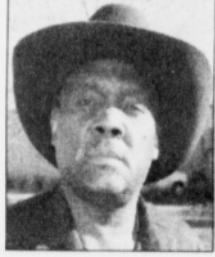


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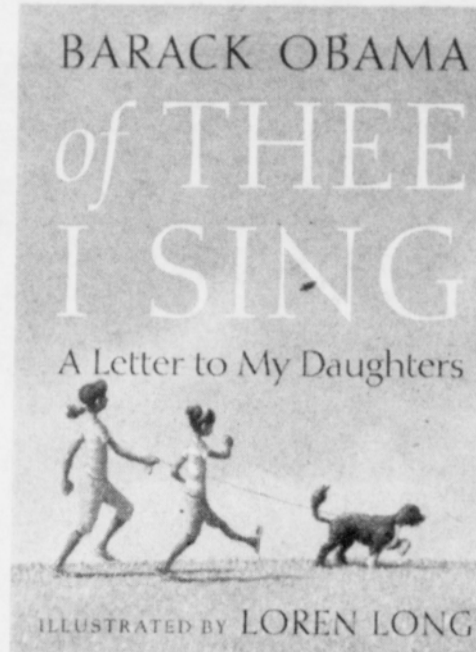
# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

## Obama Children's Book a Hit

(AP) — An inspirational book for children from President Barack Obama about American pioneers was already a top seller last week, two days after the book was announced and 2 months before its scheduled release.

"Of Thee I Sing: A Letter to My Daughters" is a tribute to 13 groundbreaking Americans, from the first president, George Washington, to baseball great Jackie Robinson to artist Georgia O'Keeffe. It will be released Nov. 16 by Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Random House Children's Books.

Obama's book is illustrated by Loren Long, whose many credits include Watty Piper's classic "The Little Engine That Could," Randall de Seve's "Toy Boat" and Madonna's "Mr. Peabody's Apples." Long wrote and illustrated the children's stories "Otis" and



is intended for readers ages 3 and up.

"It is an honor to publish this extraordinary book, which is an inspiring marriage of words and images, history and story," Random House publisher Chip Gibson said. "Of Thee I Sing: A Letter to My Daughters" celebrates the characteristics that unite all Americans - the potential to pursue our dreams and forge our own paths."

Obama's 40-page book will have a first printing of 500,000 copies and a list price of \$17.99. Both of Obama's previous works, the memoir "Dreams From My Father" and the policy book "The Audacity of Hope," are million sellers.

The president will donate any author proceeds to "a scholarship fund for the children of fallen and disabled soldiers serving our nation," the publisher said in a statement.

"Drummer Boy." His cover design for "Of Thee I Sing" is a sunny impression of presidential daughters Sasha and Malia Obama walking their dog, Bo, along a grassy field.

Random House children's president and publisher Chip Gibson lauded the new Obama book, which

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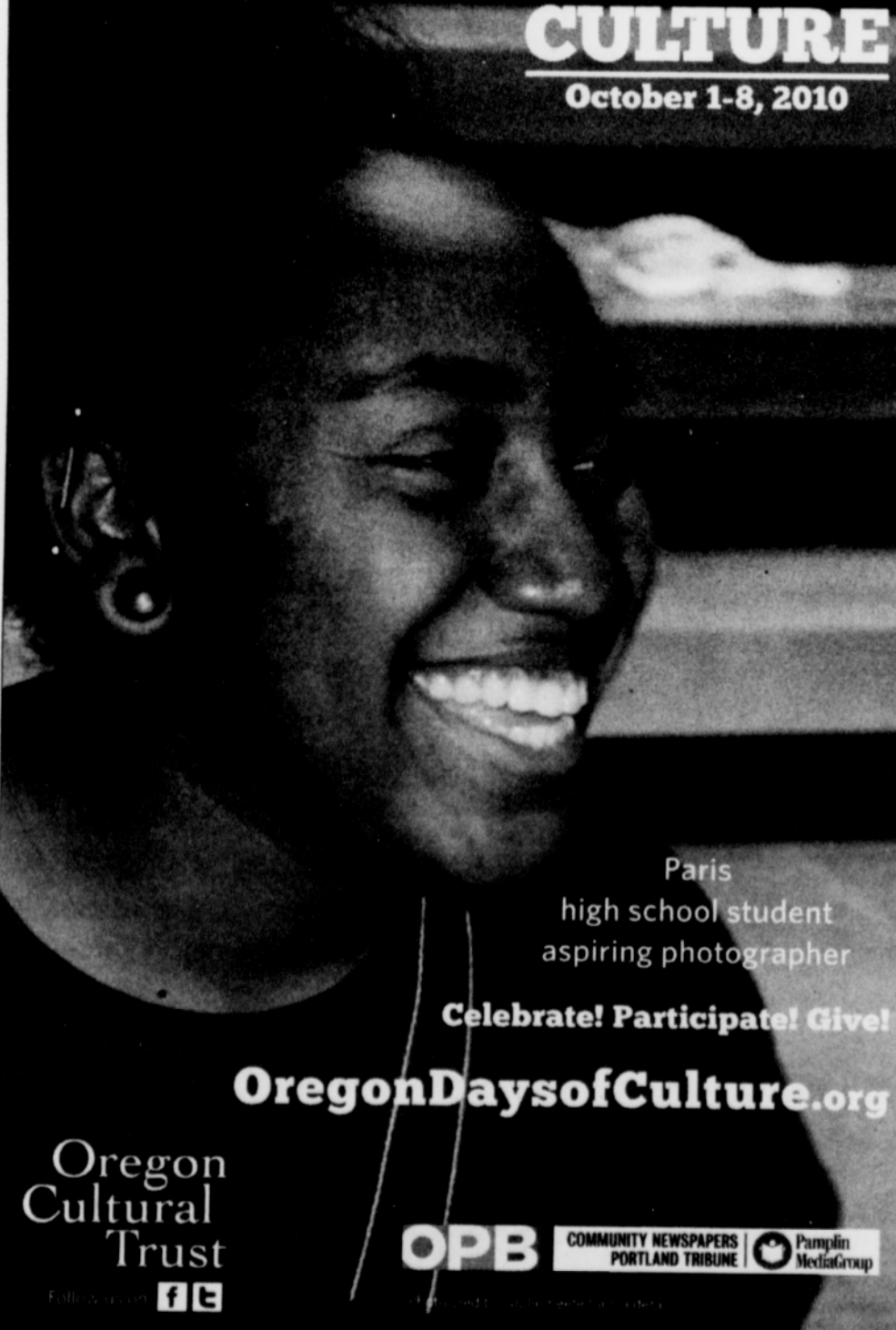
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