

According to Black, walking into Odessa's is like walking into your grandma's house. When you come to this kid-friendly joint, you're greeted with a sample of the day's soups. While choosing among the popular candied yams, collard greens, cornbread, brisket and homemade desserts, you can enjoy art from the First Thursday art show or the marketplace arts and crafts sale that the eatery hosts every last Saturday.

While Black enjoys his mac 'n' cheese, his waiter said Odessa's Taste of Chicago is a customer favorite. For \$24.95, two people can enjoy ribs, beef brisket, barbecued chicken, mac 'n' cheese, baked beans, potato salad, candied yams, collard greens, cornbread and one dessert.

Black, who has lived in Portland for 14 years and volunteered at Esther's Pantry for seven, knows how to make people feel welcome. "Most women come by more than one time with their loves, and of course all my gay friends come in 'cause they like my cooking," he said. When asked about the atmosphere at Odessa's Café, one customer shouted, "I'm home, honey!"



Odessa's offers homestyle atmosphere.

northwest

Portland Celebrates Women's Day

The 2007 Portland International Women's Day, co-sponsored by the Portland State University Women's Resource Center and Native American Center, will celebrate women. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 4, an estimated 2,000 people will converge for the cause of exploring concepts of women and community at PSU's Smith Center Ballroom, 1825 S.W. Broadway.

The mission of Portland International Women's Day is to provide opportunities for women and the community at large to discover similarities and learn from differences in a respectful and inclusive environment in which the values and points of view of all women are supported.

Several workshops will be conducted; topics include creating an eco-healthy home, Filipina women's resistance and empowerment, nutrition and breast health and one titled "The Vulva Museum." Aysha Ghazoul, the queer owner of Zaytoon, will be presenting her documentary, *My American Grandmother*. Keynote speaker Winona



Winona LaDuke is the keynote speaker at Portland International Women's Day.

LaDuke—best known for her work as a Native American activist, writer and Green Party vice presidential candidate—will speak at 4 p.m.

Maile McCluskey, volunteer self-defense instructor of the Portland Police Bureau's WomenStrength program, will present a personal safety workshop. Although no physical self-defense skills will be taught, people will learn how to recognize when they are targeted for an attack, various prevention strategies and the pros and cons of their options for ending the attack. Discussion will help attendees recognize and evaluate their own strengths. "We'll be bringing to the surface different strategies we may already possess but haven't thought about," said Sara Johnson, queer director of WomenStrength. "People will walk away with more knowledge and tools regarding the potential of preventing an attack."

A full-day lineup of performers promises entertainment in addition to education. The Portland Lesbian Choir will start the event off at 11 a.m. Myshkin's Ruby Warblers will play at 1:15 p.m., and DJ Puppet of Booty fame will spin from 3 to 4 p.m.

Portland International Women's Day is free. Tickets for LaDuke's lecture are \$3 and will go on sale at 10 a.m.

Brother to Brother Expands

Brother to Brother added to its staff Jan. 25 with the hire of Chonitia Suhailah-Smith. She is the client services and advocacy coordinator, connecting people living with AIDS to services related to health care, housing and other needs.

"Anything that will help them get connected to services," said Suhailah-Smith. "It's going to be work, but it's something I can do."

Suhailah-Smith has spent her career as a medical assistant working with high-risk groups in counseling, prevention and harm reduction models, essentially "meeting people where they are," to make their life and behavior safer.

Besides providing HIV testing to men who have

Continued on Page 8

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