

PSU Black Studies seeks masters program

The Portland State University Black Studies Department has requested a masters degree program, a transfer to the Social Science Division and a name change. According to department head Dr. Bill Little, the masters program would allow more intensive research, publication and community service.

The department now offers a Certificate in Black Studies to students who earn their degrees in other fields. Approximately 600 students take course in the Department with 150 in the Certificate Program. Of

these approximately 40 per cent are Black Americans, 15 per cent are African and 20 per cent are Arab.

The masters program will develop persons who can correct omissions and errors of past scholarship and who can serve in teaching, foreign service and many other fields.

Little proposes to change the name of the department to African/Afro-American Studies to more nearly reflect the department's focus. Classes are currently taught on African history and economic development, and the course offer-

ings will be expanded to include Brazil and the Carribean.

"Black Studies implies to many people only the study of Blacks in the United States, which is a small part of the study and research we anticipate," Little explained. Black Studies is the study of the peoples of African descent, both on the African continent and in Diaspora. The proposed program would be concerned primarily with the experiences of African-American, African-Carribeans and Africans in Africa. Africa will be the focal point of examining the forces that have

shaped the lives of Black people throughout the world.

Little also hopes to take Black Studies out Urban Studies and into Social Science where he feels it belongs academically. The masters program would allow expansion of staff and would involve close relationships with other departments such as geography, history, anthropology and literature.

Since it would draw more advanced students, the masters program would allow more intensive research and publication and

would assist the development of communication with other research institutions. This would help the department better respond to community requests for information and assistance.

Among the community services now provided are three major lecture series: the Charles Chestnut Literary Series, the George Washington Bush Black Leadership Series and the W.E.B. DuBois Black History Series. The department sponsors approximately ten workshops each year and has published several

major research projects.

The department, which has often suffered lack of support and commitment from the University, still has its problems according to Little. Although there is support from the president and vice president, the faculty committees tend to be negative and throw up obstacles. The faculty committees opposed department status and at a time of shrinking budgets are competing for staff and funds. "The battle for the masters program will be fought on resources; rational goes out the window."

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A very happy Annette Mikes cuddles up in the fur coat she won at Le Cartier Productions Fashion Show and Disco Dance Saturday Evening at the Jantzen Beach Red Lion. Looking on is Master of Ceremonies George Smith. Miss Mikes is also one of nineteen young ladies seeking to represent Portland in the Miss Black America Contest.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Carter nominates Jones

President Jimmy Carter this week announced his intention to nominate James E. Jones Jr., of Madison, Wisconsin, to be chairman of the Special Panel which was created by the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 to resolve conflicts between the Merit Systems Protection Board and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in employment discrimination cases.

Jones has been a professor of law and industrial relations at the University of Wisconsin since 1969 and con-

sidered an expert in both civil service and civil rights law. He has been on the staff of the Institute for Research on Poverty since 1970 and has been director of the Center for Equal Employment and Affirmative Action at the University's Industrial Relations Research Institute since 1974.

He was born June 4, 1924, in Little Rock, Arkansas. He received a B.A. from Lincoln University in 1950, an M.A. from the University of Illinois in 1951, and a J.D. from the University of Wisconsin School of Law in 1956.

Civil Service adopts minority list rule

The Portland Civil Service Commission, after a lengthy hearing, decided last Friday to change the 80 year old "rule of three." According to that rule, applicants for a city position must be selected from among the three persons with the highest civil service score.

Many blame the City's lack of attainment of its affirmative action goals on the fact that minorities tend to score lower than whites on civil service tests, and therefore place lower on the lists. The current City workforce is about 8 percent minority (compared to 9 percent minorities in the work force), but a large percent of

the minority members are in the Human Resources and Administration and Finance Bureaus.

The new rule will allow a department that has an underrepresentation of minorities to request affirmative action status. That department will receive two lists - one with the three top candidates and the other with the top three female or minority candidates. The manager can, but is not obligated, to hire from the second list. Although the new rule will make minorities and women available to those managers who wish to hire, it does not guarantee that they will be hired.

Making the motion to accept the rule change, Civil Service Commissioner Rudolph Westerband said court orders against consideration of race in employee selection were made "in an attempt to get qualified people into jobs who had been denied."

"Unfortunately there are not enough jobs for everyone. Historically minorities and women have borne the brunt of scarcity in the past; they still bear the brunt. It's a sad situation that courts must take account of the imbalance in employment with the work force and decide that a statute that prohibits discrimination must in

some circumstances be applied in a way that considers race and sex. The Supreme Court has decided that the only way to make the statute work is to consider race and sex.

"It is now 1980 and statistics prove that not withstanding the 1964 Civil Rights Act and statutes passed by the Oregon Legislature in 1949 the largest and most populated city in the state has a problem -- a serious problem. It's employment figures do not reflect the people that the City serves."

Although opposed by the major city unions, the rule change was passed unanimously.

Jordan uses new minority certification

Captain Robert A. Schwartz, personnel officer for the Police Bureau, said Tuesday that Commissioner Charles Jordan has asked that affirmative action certification be authorized for the Bureau.

Stating he doesn't know yet how the new two list system will work, Schwartz expects the Police union to file a suit asking for an injunction against use of the new system.

Placing minorities and women on a separate list won't accomplish the goal of hiring minorities "because female whites are higher on the list than minorities."

Schwartz credits the fact that Blacks score lower on the written test to lack of education. "When Blacks have the same education as whites, they do as well on the written test. Blacks do as well as whites in the other areas - the psychological, oral interview, medical and background analysis. The physical agility test, used to rule out female applicants, "has been altered until it now screens out no one."

With 800 to 1200 persons competing for 50 jobs, the competition is great. The average candidate having

about three years of college, "with some notable exceptions this has built a tremendous police force."

The last examination was slanted in a way that it gave preference to Oregon residents and people who are or have been police officers, so that the first fifteen in the list were officers in other cities.

Recruiting of Black applicants has not been successful. Captain Schwartz believes college educated Blacks, who

would be successful candidates, have better opportunities in other fields so are not interested. Recruiting efforts in Los Angeles, San Jose, Utah, Cleveland and other cities have been "abject failures." A few years ago a recruiting team brought six Black officers from North Carolina, but only two remain and one of those is resigning. Schwartz said he does not know why the turn over of Black officers is so high, but they might have

been affected by "culture shock" - coming to Oregon from the South.

The Bureau now has a full time minority recruiter and is planning a scholarship program where minority students would work for the Bureau during the summer and go to college during the school year. There are also tutorial programs to acquaint potential applicants with police procedure (Please turn to page 10 Col 3)

Fauntroy represents Kennedy

The Oregon for Kennedy Committee announced today a series of appearances by Congressman Walter E. Fauntroy, Democrat of Washington D.C., on behalf of Senator Edward M. Kennedy.

Walter E. Fauntroy, the first person to represent the District of Columbia in the U.S. House of Representatives in 100 years, was elected Delegate to the House in 1971.

Fauntroy was the chief architect of legislation in 1973 that permitted the District of Columbia to elect its own Mayor and City Council and engineered the passage by both the U.S. House and Senate of a Constitutional Amendment calling for full Congressional representation for District of Columbia citizens in the U.S. Congress. That resolution is now before state legislatures for ratification.

Since his election to Congress, he has continued to build a record of achievement, having played key roles in the mobilization of Black political

power from the National Black Political Convention of 1972 to the presidential elections of 1972 and 1976.

In the 95th Congress Walter E. Fauntroy was a member of the House Select Committee on Assassinations and Chairman of its Subcommittee on the Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. He is now a member of the House Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs Committee and a Member of the House District Committee where he serves as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Government Affairs and Budget.

He is Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and Vice President of the Martin Luther King Center for Social Change. He is pastor of New Bethel Baptist Church in Washington D.C.

Congressman Fauntroy will address the Oregon Assembly for Black Affairs at the Airport Holiday Inn at (Please turn to P 2 Col 4)



REP. WALTER FAUNTROY



Bill Russell of CBS Sports takes time out to rap with Ulysses Tucker, Jr., Portland Observer Reporter.

(Photo: Jimmy Robinson)

Bill Russell: A living legend

By Ulysses Tucker, Jr.

Bill Russell, who revolutionized professional basketball with his defensive wizardry and the man who was an inspiring college and 1956 Olympic's player, traveled to Portland recently with CBS Sports.

Russell teamed up with play by play announcer Brent Musberger to bring America "The Best In Basketball" when Portland played host to the Seattle Supersonics in a N.B.A. miniseries contest.

After performing his duties, Russell slipped through the crowd ignoring the calls from several fans. "Hey Big Bill," "Look, there's Bill Russell," "Billy baby," and "Hello Mr. Bill." Others did not recognize the massive broadcaster; they only worried about the traffic on the freeways going home.

Finally, he made it to the CBS mobile bus which was parked in the rear of Memorial Coliseum. Inside he

confirmed his flight time to Seattle where the final game of the series was telecasted. Now he and Brent Musberger were off to their hotel rooms.

"Mr. Russell, excuse me but could you spare a moment?"

"I'm sorry, but I'm in a hurry," said Russell.

"But all I need is about five minutes of your time."

"Okay," he said. "But not for long."

"How do you feel as a role model for thousands of youngsters around the United States?"

"I never think about it," said the five time MVP in the National Basketball Association. "All I can do is the best I can. I've been pretty fortunate to have been able to do some of the things I have done in life."

"Like I told my son once before when he told me that he didn't think I'd ever be proud of him because I've been so many places and done so

many things. I told him that he could make me proud by being able to take care of himself out in society."

A graduate of McClymond High School in Oakland, California, Russell became an All-American at the University of San Francisco. He helped the Dons win 60 consecutive games, an all-time collegiate record that still stand. USF won back to back NCAA championships with Russell, (1954-55 and 1955-56).

He kept his winning tradition going by playing on the United States team that won the basketball gold medal in Melbourne, Australia, with an unbeaten record, (8-0).

Russell joined the Celtics in 1957 as their No. 1 draft pick and immediately led them to their first NBA title, their first of 11 during his 13-year pro career, including a unprecedented eight in a row. The streak was snapped in 1967 by the Philadelphia 76ers and Wilt Chamberlain (Please turn to page 10 col. 2)