



Children of the Pacific Indian Pre-school demonstrate traditional dances during federal employees' celebration of Oregon American Indian Week. (left)

Pauline Willis and Ray Conner look at display of Indian art with Tony Thomas (left).

(Photos: Richard J. Brown)

Students celebrate African culture night

If one word could be used to describe last Friday's African Cultural Night at Portland State University, that word most likely would be UNITY. All the speakers in their eloquent deliveries stressed home again and again the importance of unity especially in these trying times of economic adversity and burgeoning racism.

It was the kind of evening to give one a good feeling all over. The crowd though smaller than last year's was very appreciative. If one criticism can be made of this particular night, it is that everything; the dances, speeches, plays, music, food, M-Cing was so good that the poor audience had to keep applauding every ten minutes or so. By the time we finally left at 1:00 a.m., our hands were almost blistered from all that clapping and cheering!

Program coordinator, John Trimble delivered the opening remarks and the vice president of the Association of African Students Eze Abuchi the welcoming remarks, Gambia's Jonathan Duphe Joiner

was the master of ceremonies and Dr. Nohad Toulan, the program chairman and dean of PSU's School of Urban Affairs and the AAS's faculty advisor, introduced the program.

The Talking Drum Dance Troupe opened the festivities with some very lively and imaginative dances, priming the audience for what was to come the next six hours.

The featured speaker, Dr. Abdulrahman Mohamed Babu from the University of California, Berkeley, spoke on Liberation movements in Africa and traced the evolution of Africa's fight for freedom from pre-world War II days up to today. The gist of his delivery was that what happened in one part of Africa inevitably influenced struggles in other parts and affected the whole range of struggles that were to follow. Moral: the struggle is by no means over until such a time as the whole African continent is under majority rule; until our people are in control of their destinies.

Jamaica's Wright H. Brumfield read a selection of poems and Leona

Franklin sang a couple of songs accompanied by her guitar. In between there was food and drinks of which there was so much that about half was left over - what a feast! And so scrumptious too! The African Dance Troupe led by Rolia Manyongai delighted us all with some spirited dancing; modern dance to African tunes. The steps were so fancy that when this writer tried to imitate them, he almost dislocated a shoulder! Fancy, fancy footwork, African Dance Troupe!

Tuwaire Malda of the All African People Revolutionary Party spoke on Pan Africanism reminding us once again of our oneness and the need for a concerted and renewed effort at coordinating our various struggles. Nigeria showed us how to dance and Kenya how to sing.

"The Significance of African Liberation Day" was the topic for Professor Melaku Lakew's speech and, in spite of the lateness of the hour - 12:15 a.m., this eloquent African scholar still did such a good job that he had half the audience, half out of their seat cheering. He

outlined Africa's need to take its economy into its own hands and stem the steady drain of Africa's meager resources. He emphasized the need for the continent to rearrange her priorities: corn (for local consumption) before strawberries (for export) and tractors before Mercedes Benzes so Africa can become self sufficient and, therefore, truly independent.

The Portland Observer's Fungai Kumbula representing the Republic of Zimbabwe, presented a ten minute one man one act play entitled "King Monomotapa I" showing the ancient African King teaching his sons the importance of unity, collective work and responsibility and the value of cooperation.

All too soon it was time to bring the evening to a close. For this the most interesting, enlightening and educational evening, we have to thank everyone involved: the planners, participants, supporters and the audience. Apparently, we have more friends out there than we realize. See you again May 29, 1981!

Students win national ACT-SO trip

By Pam Smith

Three students will represent Portland in the national ACT-SO competitions being held this year in Denver, Colorado from June 26 - 28. The students are Silver Medalists Julia Black from the Visual Arts category, Lisa McConnell from the Humanities category, and Cindy Phillips from the Performing Arts category.

The decision to send three students to the national competition reversed a previous decision not to send any student to nationals. The decision was a result of a reception held May 27 at Bethel A.M.E. Church. The purpose of the reception was to award students in three major categories who were overlooked the night of the Performing Arts competition held at the Willamette Center Auditorium.

The reception, MC'd by Art Alexander started off quiet, but

pleasant. Refreshments were served and the awards were presented. Not all students awarded were in attendance.

After the formal part of the program for that evening, a parent stood up to voice her opinion of the ACT-SO program. She was followed by another parent who was followed by the reading of a student protest petition. Soon the event became heated. Commissioner Gladys McCoy, Chairperson of the ACT-SO committee, announced that everyone would be given an opportunity to speak and she encouraged them to do so.

When the Observer initially spoke with the Chairperson of the ACT-SO committee, she explained that we, as humans, all make mistakes. The important thing is that we realize them and rectify them as soon as possible. At the reception Mrs. McCoy expressed her hopes that more parents and other in-

terested persons be involved in the actual planning of ACT-SO '82. She also encouraged students to be a part of the ACT-SO committee next year to insure the students input be a part of the planning process.

Portland has participated in the

national competitions for the past three years with national winners for two out of those three years. Mrs. McCoy says that now is the time for students interested in ACT-SO '82 to begin to formulate their plans.

Hanging on the Mall

By Nathaniel Scott

Downtown Portland isn't all that much, and if not for the main transit thoroughfare and a few other odds and ends, you probably could care less what happens there.

Not to say that things of note don't happen there occasionally, (as with the possum police demonstration, prisons are not what's needed, direction is what's happening, etc.), but, the migration of young teenage Blacks, (mostly males), focuses on one particular sector.

What? Why? And how come the sudden flocking of sparrows from the nest, emanating in out-cries of shock and horrors that has stirred a distant rumble that will surely get louder with the approaching of summer?

James, an 18 year old NE Portlander, sums up his whys, whys and how comes this way. "I come down here to see what's up. I've been trying but I can't get a job. I was suppose to get in this CETA school program, and after taking the test, waiting their required 20 weeks, they told me they wasn't going to let any more people in the program -- and I had to go through all the paper work again." He went on to say that while being out of a job and not enrolled in a program where he could be earning and learning, that he was going to do like everyone else, "Get mine."

Michael, a 17 year-old high

school student, transfers in the area daily, and like many is aware of the drug traffic, molestation, police taking pictures, etc., said "I think it's good that the police are watching this area, so they won't get the wrong people involved in the drug thing."

James, 19, another NE Portland Black youth, said, "There is nothing in the Black community for us to do. There is no recreation for the teenagers, and during the summer we only get maybe two bands in the parks. Why? Some other parks (particularly in the white sector) have things happening all the time."

The general consensus seems to be "lack" of educational opportunities, lack of jobs, lack of recreational facilities, and the very real lack of not being integrated into society. And the overwhelming impression of the atmosphere seems to be: identity.

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Athletes lead Starlight Parade

Oregon State University basketball stars Mark Radford, Ray Blume and Bill McShane were named Grand Marshals for the 73rd Portland Rose Festival Starlight Parade, it was announced.

The three Beaver standouts, who led Oregon State's team to two consecutive Pacific-10 titles the past two seasons, will appear on Satur-

day, June 6, in the Starlight Parade, which starts at 8:30 p.m. The Starlight Parade, now in its fifth year, is the first of three major parades in the Portland Rose Festival.

Both Radford and Blume were Oregon All-Starters in high school and attended Grant and Parkrose High School, respectively.

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