

# METROPOLITAN

## Black Studies loses in PSU budget cuts

by Nathaniel Scott

Portland State University's Black Studies Department suffered a 0.1 FTE loss in the latest round of budget cutting decisions. The loss amounts to a \$2,000 cut in the Department budget.

In the meantime, the Department began planning the implementation of two programs. One, a summer school program, which will involve art, music, anthropology, literature and history, will focus on the cultures of Africa, Afro-Caribbean and Afro-America. To be presented on campus in the summer of '84, plans call for the course to be taught in the Caribbean during the summer of 1985. Professor Primus St. John, a poet whose field of expertise is African, Afro-American and Caribbean literature, is coordinating the Caribbean section of the course. Assisting in the formulation and holding responsibility for teaching areas are Candice Goucher, art, art history and history; Trevor Purcell, a faculty member of Reed College, in anthropology and social sciences; and Adolphus Turkson, African and Afro-American music. St. John will teach the literature section of the course.

The second program is an African Diaspora program, dealing with the movement of the African people from Africa to the Caribbean and into the United States. Long-range plans for the program call for it to be taught, possibly at summer quarters in Africa.

William "Bill" Little, who will

visit some African countries while completing his year of sabbatical leave, said, "The Department already has a working relationship with Ghana and Kenya."

According to Darrell Millner, Chairman of the Black Studies Department, it is important that people understand that the programs are in the planning stage. No money has been allocated and grants are yet to be submitted. Nevertheless, he, St. John, and Goucher, pleaded the need for such programs.

The scenario at PSU, even among Black students, is—why do I need Black Studies? How does it fit in with my curriculum requirements?

The questions, advanced by some knowledgeable in the field of Black Studies, reflect the narrowness of Black Studies and past concepts of what constitutes Black Studies. Is Black Studies more than song and dance? "Hell, yes."

Primus St. John said, "I don't think the program [Black Studies at PSU] is weak; it's small, but that is simply a matter of development."

St. John contends that all disciplines are interrelated, and, within the confines of Blackness, the inter-relatedness or connectedness has to be shown.

He added, "You not only have to study races and cultures, but also other cultures, and how they relate to cultures."

Goucher is "very excited" about the plans for both programs. She said, "Hopefully, it is the beginning of a long-term commitment of interdisciplinary studies: viewing African History in a much wider context."

The Black Studies Department will hold a Christmas open house, Friday, December 16, from noon until 3:00 p.m., for students and friends. Refreshments will be served.



Broadway Hair Weavers operators Hattie Porter and Flenard Grisby will go on tour soon to teach their perfected art of hairweaving. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

## Hairweaving taught

by Lanita Duke

Grassroot News, N.W. — On a national scale, Hattie Porter, proprietor and operator of Broadway Hair Weavers, has received recognition and acclaim for excellence in hair weaving.

Hair weaving is the process of lengthening or providing thickness to existing hair. "We take what is there and add to it. The hair can be curly, kinky or straight."

At her salon, located on 7th and N.E. Broadway, the acclaim from her peers hangs on the walls in the form of awards of trophies. The recognition she receives locally is in the form of a very successful business she built from the bottom up.

Porter remembers, "I started weaving hair in 1969. My first shop was located on Union Avenue and business got so good I had to find a larger location."

She said her clientele consists of both sexes and all colors. "Men will come in for a weave when they notice their hair is thinning. Women will come in when they want the length."

The chemical curls that are currently very popular have not affected her business. "If anything it has boosted business because of the way people will wear it and many times they would want length to get their curl styled the way they want it."

Porter and co-operator Flenard Grisby will close their shop down for a month to go on a tour promoting and teaching the art of hair weaving.

"People have heard about hairweaving and they want to learn. We not only will teach but I plan to give shows with models displaying how a weave will look."

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## Heat bill help for low income

by Robert Lothian

Hundreds of people hoping to get help with their winter utility bills are lining up at the Urban League offices at 5329 N.E. Union.

But according to coordinator Bob Harris, budget cuts mean there will be less money available this year through the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP). More people are applying, he said, and some may be turned away.

Harris said that in 1983 the program helped 4,000 low-income Northeast residents with cash grants or utility credits of up to \$200 each.

"This year," he said, "we're going to need to serve more people than that, but I don't know if we'll have the money."

The first step toward receiving a grant or energy credit is to sign up for an appointment several weeks in advance. During the appointment, applicants must show proof of income, a current utility bill and social security card. If they qualify under low-income guidelines, applicants are awarded up to \$225 for oil heat, \$240 for electricity, \$165 for gas and \$210 for wood.

"The standard amount is not enough to pay people's utility bills," said Harris. "It's to help with the high cost of energy."

In most cases, he said, the money is credited to the recipients utility company account.

Harris said that money for the LIEAP program comes from the large oil companies through the windfall profits tax. The tax was instituted as a result of the "gas crisis" of 1972-73 when "the oil companies got caught with their hands in the cookie jar," he said, and were penalized by the federal government for raking in too much in profits.

"The idea is to get some of that money back to the people," said Harris. "People do need this program. Each year, more and more people are needing it, and more and more money is being cut. This year, there's going to be a lot of frustrated people."

Harris said that for those who don't make it into the LIEAP program, help is available through Project HELP, administered by Pacific Power and Light Company and the Salvation Army, and through assistance programs sponsored by Portland General Electric and Northwest Natural Gas Company.

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