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Bringing the International Symposium on African Culture to a close, William Amoaku (left) called on Obo Addy (right) to join him, and together they enter-

tained the conference participants.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

## First Senior Power Day held

by Robert Lothian

The first Oregon Senior Power Day conference last Saturday brought together 200 people to discuss health care, budget cuts, Social Security and other issues, and to hear an address by former Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, Dr. Arthur Flemming.

The purpose of the Power Day, held at the Longshoremen's Hall on N.W. Front Ave., was to give seniors a chance to talk about legislative issues and about how to affect local and federal legislation, said conference host Lloyd Kennedy, president of the Longshoremen's pensioners association for the Columbia River area.

"It concerns all people," Kennedy said of the conference, where the general feeling was that the Reagan administration and its New Right supporters were neglecting and even attacking programs that benefit seniors.

Bob Van Houte, president of United Seniors of Oregon, sponsors of the conference, outlined the issues: a national health plan, putting a stop to raids on Social Security funds by other agencies, halting the closing of Social Security offices, opposition to federal plans to tax hospital and medical coverage, opposition to plans for abolishing the Oregon Human Resources Department, continuing homeowners' and renters' relief (HARRP), reducing crime, and fighting utility rate hikes.

Speaking in front of a huge banner that said, "Seniors Fight Back," Flemming attacked the Graham-Rudman legislation that, if passed by Congress, would allow for drastic budget cuts in social services and other federal programs by 1991.

"It's the most irresponsible piece of legislation that I've seen... in the fifty years I've been watching legislation in

Washington," Flemming said.

Flemming described the court suit he initiated to stop raiding of the Social Security Trust Fund, which has gone down from \$34 billion to \$8 billion.

"We were told that all of that is going to be paid back with interest," said Flemming, who added that the suit was initiated "to make sure those funds were used for Social Security beneficiaries." The case is still pending, he said.

Regarding health, Flemming said the rising costs of medical care and Medicare red tape are causing many Americans to go without adequate health care, and he described the situation as America's number one domestic issue.

Medicare was meant for the medically indigent but many can't qualify, he said. "The only way they can qualify is by spending down all of their resources so they qualify for welfare, and that doesn't make sense."

Over 35 million Americans are going without health care and the figure is rising steadily, he said. "We're the only nation in the world that allows this condition to exist except South Africa," Flemming said. The situation is responsible for "tragedy after tragedy," he said.

Flemming called for a National Health Care Plan financed with funds from health industry cost containment, and he pledged that it would be a big issue again in the next Congress and in the 1988 presidential elections.

That night, the former president of the University of Oregon was presented the E.B. McNaughton Award by the American Civil Liberties Union for his civil rights advocacy. At the University of Oregon, Flemming worked for minority student recruiting, equal pay for women and ending discrimination in fraternities and sororities.

## International Symposium on African Culture

by Nathaniel Scott

The coordinator of the International Symposium on African Culture said the first half of the conference was a success. Portland State University (PSU) Black Studies Professor Dr. William Little, coordinator of the conference said the success was in terms of "depth and quality."

The focus of the conference, "African Cultural Continuity in American Society," will end with

three days of cultural presentation during PSU's winter quarter.

The first two days of the conference were held Nov. 14 and 15. With the exception of an evening of poetry reading by Sonia Sanchez at PSU, the events were held at the North Portland Branch of the Multnomah County Library. The last three days of the conference, Feb. 5, 6 and 7, will be held at the Hilton Hotel.

The first two days of the conference included presentations on religion, language, music and the impact

of film, Little said.

Several of the people who participated in the conference were invited to speak at different locations within the community, Little said. Even though each individual was operating on a tight schedule, each managed to give of his or her time. Some of the conference participants were William Amoaku, Central State University; Roslyn Jeffries, City University of New York; Wayne Williams, University of Washington; and Monica Gordon, University of

Oregon.

With the success of the first half behind us, so to speak, Little said plans for the second half of the conference are well under way. Little said the focus will remain the same and that participants will include both educators and non-educators.

The keynote speaker will be Delories Aldridge, chairperson for the National Council of Black Studies.

For additional information, contact the Department of Black Studies, PSU, or call 229-3472.

## American Jewish Congress commends Jesse Jackson

The American Jewish Congress last week praised the Rev. Jesse Jackson for confronting Soviet leader Mikhail



S. Gorbachev on the plight of Soviet Jews.

A statement issued by Theodore R. Mann, president of the American Jewish Congress stated, "Because we have been critical of certain of the Rev. Jesse Jackson's actions and statements in the past, it is gratifying to welcome his remarks to Mikhail S. Gorbachev on the plight of Jews in the Soviet Union. We commend him for his persistence in pressing the issue, despite Mr. Gorbachev's effort to sidetrack it, and his eloquence in projecting the views of all Americans on this subject.

"We deplore Mr. Gorbachev's callous and disingenuous attempt to ignore a fundamental question of human rights by declaring that the 'so-called problem of Jews in the Soviet Union does not exist.' As the Reverend Jackson correctly noted, the American people recognize this protestation for the lie that it is."



DR. ARTHUR FLEMMING

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

## POSAF benefit set for November 29

by Nathaniel Scott

Monqui Presents, presents a one-night, two-show benefit for Portlanders Organized for Southern African Freedom (POSAF) Friday, Nov. 29 at Starry Night, N.W. 6th Ave. and Burnside St.

Eddie Kendrick and David Ruffin will be the featured performers for the one-night stand.

Kendrick and Ruffin were members of the original Temptations singing group. The Temptations have "thrilled" the world of music with their unique sound since the 1960s, Christopher L. Monlux, co-owner of Monqui Presents said, as he explained Monqui's involvement with POSAF.

"We like to do benefits, this way we can do a couple of things. We can bring Ruffin and Kendrick to town, generate some funds for POSAF and heighten the public's awareness about

apartheid," Monlux said. "The South African ordeal is outrageous."

Monqui Presents is about two years old, Monlux said. "Me and my partner Michael Quinn plan on doing more shows of this nature."

Monlux believes there is a need for involvement. He believes people need to express their opinion about apartheid, nuclear disarmament, and other issues. "The world is getting smaller and smaller," he said. "People need to speak out."

Certain time for the two shows will be 8 and 11 p.m. Tickets are \$14.75 in advance at GI Joe's, The Jeep Machine, Music Millennium, Everybody's Records and the usual outlets.

Monlux said this is an opportunity for Portlanders to see Kendrick and Ruffin and to support the cause of freedom at the same time.