

METROPOLITAN



"Buffalo Soldiers," charcoal and gouache on bristol vellum, 1983, by Isaac Shamsud-Din.

Perspectives 3: Isaac Shamsud-Din

An exhibition of 27 drawings and oil sketches for the *Bilalian Odyssey* by Isaac Shamsud-Din, one of the Northwest's foremost Afro-American artists, will be on view at the Portland Art Museum from Dec. 10 through Jan. 26.

The *Bilalian Odyssey* (or Afro-American Journey) is the subject of the mural Shamsud-Din created for the new Justice Center in Portland under commission from the One Percent for Public Art Program. The mural is "the culmination of two years work and nearly 20 years of research," according to the artist. It documents "the struggles and accomplishments of the African-Americans,

determined to share in the challenge of the discovery, opening up, and settlement of the Western frontier." The mural includes representations of historically important but little known figures such as York, translator for the Lewis and Clark expedition, Bill Pickett, star of international Wild West shows and Beatrice Cannady, first Black woman to practice law in Oregon.

In preparation for the mural, Shamsud-Din developed the composition and figural details in preliminary drawings. Mary Priester, curator of the exhibition, comments that "the surviving sketches are valuable both as independent art

works and as documents of the artist's process. They range from spontaneous sketches to finished drawings and convey the vigorous draftsmanship and sensitivity to the figure that are characteristic of Shamsud-Din's work."

Following its showing in the Portland Art Museum's Contemporary Gallery, *Perspectives 3: Isaac Shamsud-Din* will begin a two-year tour throughout Washington and Oregon organized by Exhibit Touring Services. The *Perspectives* series is made possible by the support of the Eleanor Anderson Lieber Charitable Trust.

Heart of Black man used in transplant

by Jerry Garner

The heart of a Black man was used in the first heart transplant in Oregon. The heart of Robert L. Olive, 27, was used last Thursday to transplant into the chest of Wesley Merrill, 44, by doctors at the Oregon Health Sciences University (OHSU).

Olive was shot last Wednesday during an alleged burglary attempt at a Northeast Portland apartment. Olive was shot once in the face by the resident of the apartment and was pronounced clinically dead at Emanuel Hospital.

Olive's family authorized that his heart be donated in order to help save Merrill's life. Doctors said that Olive's heart was in good condition and was strong.

Merrill is said to be doing fine and is improving unusually fast. Before the transplant, Merrill was told by doctors that he would die unless he received a new heart. The operation took three hours to complete.

The heart program at OHSU is one of two in the Pacific Northwest. The other program is at the University of Washington Hospital in Seattle. The first heart transplant in the Northwest was performed at the University of Washington on Nov. 18 of this year.

Local artist to Africa

Next week Chonitia, a local African-American artist will be leaving for Egypt to study the ancient pyramids and their African origins, with the renowned African historian Dr. Ben Jochannon. Chonitia has spent the last 17 years studying Egyptian history, culture, languages, and ancient and modern African arts.

To help sponsor her trip, Chonitia will be holding a sale of African arts, jewelry, clothing, ornate candles, kufis, sculpture and incense. Avoid the shopping center crowds and contribute to a worthy cause at the same time. For details, call 285-1092 after 5 p.m. Donations and contributions welcome.

Epics of Ancient India

The Epics of Ancient India: A Mystical Interpretation. The Mahabharata and the Ramayana, the two great epics of India, tell the story of the soul's search for unity with God. A Vedic scholar from Toronto, originally of Bangalore, will discuss some of the hidden meanings in these Eastern scriptures and explain what these classic war stories have to say about peace. 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 17, World Peace University, 3829 N.E. Tillamook, 282-0280. Free.

Jefferson H.S. displays WPA lithographs at IFCC gallery

The Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center (IFCC) Art Gallery will exhibit a collection of lithographs and other artworks created under the Works Progress Administration (WPA), selected from the collection of Jefferson High School, from Dec. 10 through 21, at the IFCC, 5340 N. Interstate Ave., on Tri-Met Bus Routes 5 and 71.

About 75 lithographs, some of which are hand-colored, have been selected from the Jefferson collection, which totals some 200 pieces, including large wood parquet panels, a Louis Bunce oil, and some fabric proofs of Timberline Lodge draperies. On display at the IFCC will be a series of lithographs detailing construction of the Golden Gate Bridge, several portraits, and botanical prints from the Mt. Hood National Forest, which were later hand-colored by a different artist. There are also cartoons by Lute Pease, Oregonian cartoonist who won the 1948 Pulitzer Prize.

All of the works (with the exception of the cartoons) were created between

1935 and 1943, the duration of the WPA. Begun in 1935 as part of Franklin Roosevelt's "New Deal," the Works Progress (later renamed "Projects") Administration developed programs to "persevere persons' skills and self-respect by providing useful work in a period of massive unemployment." Works created under this program were then distributed to agencies such as the public schools. This collection has been in storage at Jefferson High School for some time, and has only recently been fully catalogued and framed for display, thanks to the initiative of Principal Nathan Jones and Art Department Head Henry Sjoblom. The exhibit at IFCC will be hung as a class project by advanced art students; the remainder of the collection remains on display at the high school.

The IFCC Art Gallery is open 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and before and during weekend performances. Call 243-7930 for information.

Captured by Contras, Witness tells harrowing story



Dr. Ed Meyer (left) recounts his experiences in Nicaragua for Rev. Tom Kinzie, during his visit to Portland. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

by Robert Lothian

One of the Witness for Peace volunteers who was captured by contras in Nicaragua last summer visited Portland Nov. 19.

Dr. Ed Meyer, a physician from Wenatchee, WA, told his harrowing story to a small audience at a church in Southeast Portland.

Meyer said that he and a delegation of other volunteers, along with several reporters, were kidnapped for 30 hours as they travelled down a river near the Costa Rican border.

The delegation was in the area, he said, to prove that contras were operating inside Nicaragua. Renegade contra leader Eden Pastora had said the witnesses would be shot if they came into the battle area, but Meyer

said that aside from a little discomfort, they were unharmed. Press attention was probably responsible for their relatively benign treatment, he said.

A strenuous walk through the mud to a jungle camp was very hard on several older and overweight Americans, he said, however. "In terms of torture, they were tortured."

Meyer said that during their captivity, the witnesses talked with their captors and even sneaked a few snapshots of them. The contras, mainly young boys, told them some of the same criticisms he had heard from Sandinista critics in the capital, he said.

Meyer said that out of 1500 Witness for Peace volunteers who have gone

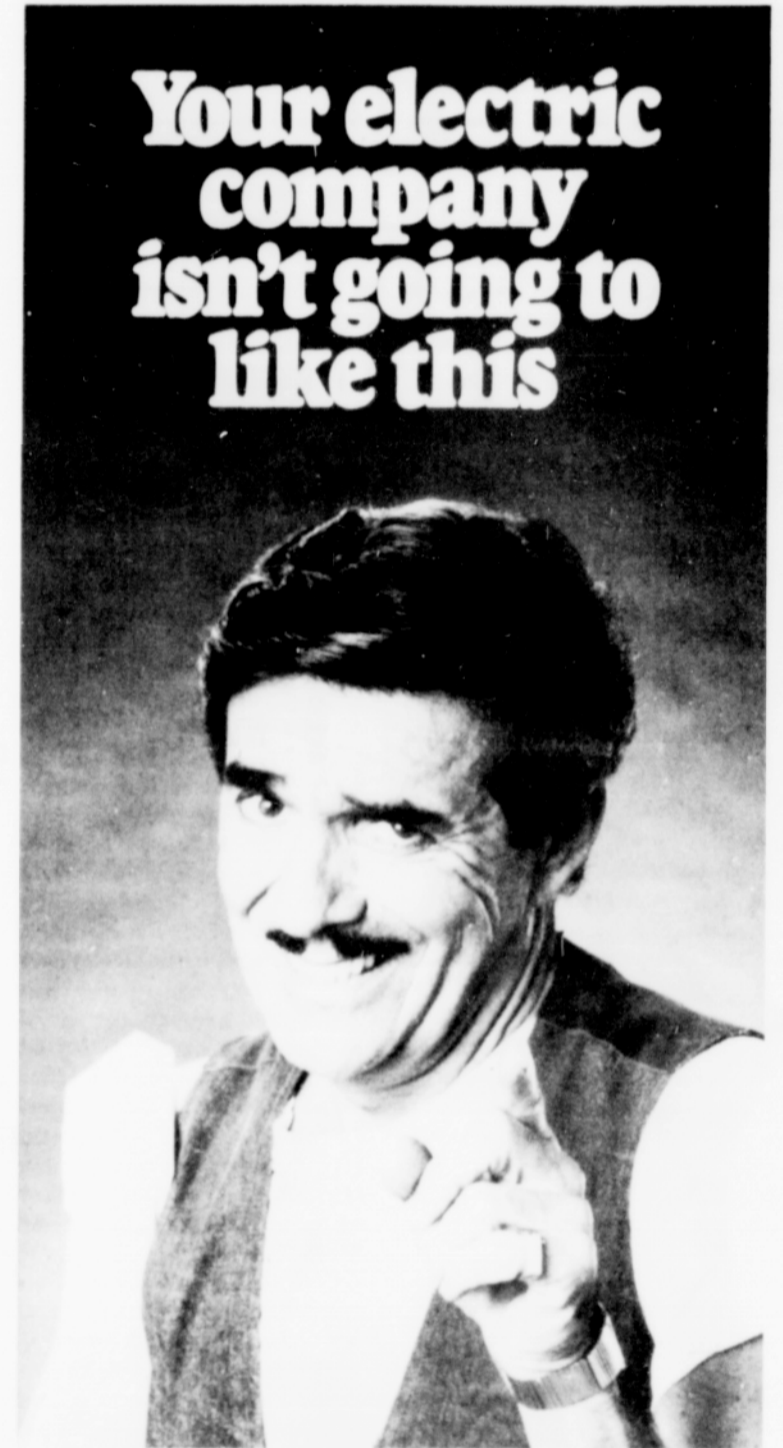
to Nicaragua to witness contra atrocities, none have been harmed. They have gone into dangerous areas, but last summer's was the first major incident.

His slides showed volunteers from the United States planting corn and helping at day-care centers in Northern Nicaragua. Some of the slides showed burned villages and equipment destroyed in contra attacks, and gruesome wounds inflicted on civilians.

"Contra attacks are aimed almost exclusively at civilians—the Nicaraguan government gives arms to the people so they can defend themselves," he said.

A common contra tactic, said Meyer, is to kidnap young boys and force them to attack their own families and townspeople. "You either cooperate or you're eliminated."

Another of his slides showed the wreckage of a helicopter from the United States, piloted by Americans and "sent from a CIA camp in Honduras," that was shot down with small arms fire.

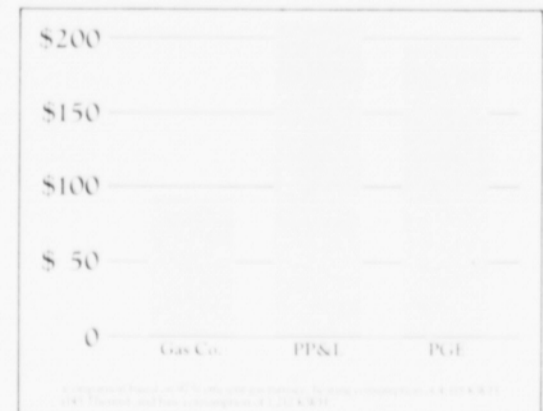


Your electric company isn't going to like this

But you will

Just switch from an electric furnace or electric baseboard heat to a high-efficiency natural gas furnace.

You'll cut your heating bills in half. Just look at the chart.



Convinced? Then call Northwest Natural Gas. They can help with everything from sizing up your heating needs to financing. So don't give another thought to what the electric company is going to think.

Natural gas costs a lot less.



NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS

Portland 226-4211 Lincoln City 994-2111
 Albany 926-4253 Salem 585-6611
 Astoria 325-2511 The Dalles 296-2229
 Vancouver 694-2511 Eugene 342-3661

Hock Shop
 FOR SALE
 Leather coats, \$10-\$20
 Bikes, \$15-\$90
 5600 NE Union - 287-5330

JACKSON'S
 OWL BRAND,
 TV & RECORD CO.
 "Northwest's Largest"
 Gospel Record & Tape Selections
 Authorized Zenith
 Color, C. V. Sales and Service
 SALES & SERVICE SINCE 1952
 WISE T. JACKSON, SR. Owner
 GARY A. JACKSON, Control Technology
 & Service Manager
 4623 N. Vancouver
 Portland, OR 97217
 Office: 287-2042

No Need to Fear
Low Prices are Here!
 Men - Women - Kids

Underwear T-Shirts
 Socks Baby Clothes
 Stockings and Much
 Dresses More to See

Robin & Chris Clothing Store
 525 N.E. Killingsworth
 282-8252