

# ENTERTAINMENT



## BEHIND THE SCENES

by Lisa Collins

### ON THE MONEY

**Black Sculptor's Battle IN Supreme Court Could Mean Millions For Freelance Artists:** Nationally renowned homeless activist Mitch Snyder has charged that James Earl Reid, a black Baltimore sculptor has been blinded by dollars. Reid, on the other hand, has said "the real greed" is on Snyder's side. What they're battling over is rights to reproduce a life-sized sculptor of a homeless family (dubbed "Third World America"), that Reid created for Snyder's Community For Non-Violence in Washington, D.C. Reid, who donated his services, is fighting for the right to profit from reproductions of the work, commissioned by a corporate sponsor on behalf of Snyder's center. Corporations maintain they should control works they commission. Freelance artists insist that millions are at risk. A decision is expected in June.

**Maverick Black Designer Patrick Kelly To Launch A More Affordable Line:** Large multicolored buttons, buttons made of real dice, and stuffed teddy bears affixed to lycra body dresses are the mark of designer Patrick Kelly, a Vicksburg, Mississippi native whose rise in today's fashion industry has been meteoric. His collection averages in the \$500-600 price range, and some of his favorite clients include Princess Diana. Next year, he is said to be offering a secondary collection called "Patrick Kelly Loves You", and at half the price of his primary collection. Fact is, Kelly has proven himself to be quite the businessman. He is the first American to be accepted into the Chambre Syndicale, a federation of top Paris designers. This year, estimates are his wholesale volume will top \$7 million. So incredible is Kelly's own rags-to-riches story, that on his most recent visit to Los Angeles, he took a meeting with a film producer to discuss a project based on his own life story.

**Dressing The Stars At Top Dollar?** As a top Hollywood stylist, Cecile Parker specializes in creating a total celebrity look for clients such as Janet Jackson, Natalie Cole, Karyn White, Miki Howard, Jeffrey Osborne, and has on occasion Sylvester Stallone and Neil Diamond,--mostly for public appearances from live TV to promotions, even inter-views. Said Parker, "it's not so much that they don't dress well, but they have other things to worry about." And for a fee of about \$100 per hour (with three-hour minimum, Parker reorganizes closets in order to assess needs, ventures out on shopping expeditions (searching out the latest from designers like Patrick Kelly, Ralph Lauren, Valentino, and Donna Karan), and even suggests hairstyle and makeup for a total look, matching personality and lifestyle. As far as cost, Parker says "most celebrities don't look at cost. Whatever they want, they'll pay for it." Parker got into this line of work quite by fluke. While working as a fashion coordinator and assistant manager at a Yves St. Laurent boutique, she put together outfits for other stylists, before realizing she was doing their work, and could make a pretty penny doing it for herself. Top stylists earn up to \$100,000 per year.

**Court Outlaws FCC Distress Sales To Minorities:** A federal appeals court has deemed that federal rules giving minorities preference in the purchase of "distressed" radio and TV stations. A panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals said the Federal Communications Commission's "distress sales" rules, which allow quick sales at reduced rates of defunct or disenfranchised stations to minorities, violate the equal protection provisions of the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution, stating that there was no indication the FCC "sought to employ race-neutral programs to aid minorities before resorting to a racial set-aside." Next week: we'll find out what some black radio owners have to say about this.

### Saluting: Rose Festival Princesses And Court. Marshall And St. Marys



Deanna Connell, St Marys

Left To Right Sarah Hieman, Michele McKee, Christina Galmiehe, Deanna Connell, Debbie Spitznagel and Amy Rogers



Lora Durst, Marshall

Left To Right Melanie Rouse, Pauline Pangaviban, Erica Larson, Nicolette Hortsch, Lora Durst and Tracy Guy

## BROADWAY BOUND REPORT



### "YANKEE DAWG YOU DIE," AT IPCC

by Garland Lee Thompson

The Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center opens its latest production, "Yankee Dawg You Die," a new dramatic comedy by Asian American playwright, Kan Gotanda. This Oregon premiere is billed as a "provocative social commentary," on the plight and problems of Asian American actors searching to build professional acting careers in the "horror halls of Hollywood" and the American film industry. The character of "Vincent Chang," played by Harold Shirakawa is the proud older Asian American, Veteran of stage and screen, who has come up the hard way, taking the only roles available to him in Hollywood, at that time; "bits, day players and walk on heavies."

The racist climate of Hollywood and the United States in the World War II era made it very difficult and next to impossible for actors of Japanese descent to be cast in film roles during that time, so he was forced to change his name to "Chang" and take what roles he could get, "passing" for Chinese.

The role of "Bradley Yamashita," played by a new-comer, Eddie Mui, is the brash young "new wave" of Asian American theatre and actors, who is fired by his new ethnic pride. He insists that his acting career be on his own terms, and is determined never to take "a stereotypical oriental" role, such as a part with demeaning lines like, "Yankee Dawg You Die," etc. (Can you blame him?)

Directed by Bea Kiyohara, who is Artistic Director of the Northwest Asian American Theatre of Seattle, "Yankee Dawg You Die," opened Friday, April 21st, and runs through May 21st, 1989, playing Fridays, Saturdays at 8:00 pm and Sundays 2:00 pm. The IPCC Theatre is located at 5340 N. Interstate Avenue in Portland's Northeast community.

The IPCC Theatre production staff, under Executive Director, Sue Busby, includes set design by Charles Tyndall, costumes by Wanda Walden, lighting by David Harrington and sound design by Ralph Coulson. The ticket prices are \$10 on Fridays and Saturdays, and \$9 on Sunday matinees. For reservations or more information, call Tery Nelson at IPCC, 243-7930.

### CASTING CALLS FOR NEW BLACK WOMAN'S PLAY

The PassinArt: A Theatre Company, is casting for a new play, Black woman playwright, P.J. Gibson's tragic drama, "Long Time Since Yesterday." It includes six Black professional, middle-class women, who have gone through the turbulence of the sixties and have come into various levels of success and failures in the eighties. The "juice News" of the project is that PassinArt company manager, Connie Carley is scheduled to direct this new production. Write on, Connie!

The playwright, P.J. Gibson, who came out of Brown University, in New

England, first had her work read at the Frank Silvera Writers' Workshop in New York City, where I produced readings of several of her plays, in the mid-seventies, and she taught writing at the Fredrick Douglas Creative Arts Center, also in New York. She has won playwright grants and her powerful play, "Long Time Since Yesterday," was originally produced by my good friend and associate, Woodie King Jr. at his New Federal Theatre in New York City in 1985. It won the New York AUDELCO AWARD for Best Black Drama for that year. This will be the Oregon premiere on this work. Write on, P.J. Gibson!

### THE "DREAMS OF CHILDREN" REVEALED AT AMERICAN DANCE THEATRE

What did you dream as a child? This was the primary theme of a dynamic Spring dancer concert program that I caught at the American Dance Theatre (SW Park & Alder in downtown Portland) Saturday evening, April 15th (It ran April 6, 7, 14, and 15, 1989). Chisao Hata Elizabeth Abts, took the audience "boldly where no else has been" (or dare to go), on a "astral trip" into the minds of their young and very exciting company of dancers (ages 9 to 109!) of both girls and boys too (Whoray!) Ms. Hata's little ones (in size only), those "dipped darlings" (bless their little hearts), "held court," with an "iron grip in a cuter little pony-tail," for the first half and her "partner-in-crime-of-the-arts," "Betsy, the floor bumer," Abts, brought the point "home" to us during the second act with her piece, "Work" and the news and sign of "The times."

From "War dreams," that "first date" in first grade, to "Car dreams" (shades of the Broadway show "Grease" & burger TV ads) and weird things that run through their TV cluttered "little" minds, we experienced the inner workings of (ah...) sweet youth. The key to this unique dance company is energy, a sense of humor and unity (everybody works hard, "busting their chops," on and off stage; striking the set and props)! They should "get their act together and take it on the road!"

The next time the American Dance Theatre is performing in town, check them out! They are not just cute, all colors, teenager-bubbly and pimply, they are damn talented, bordering on powermad for the performing arts! Since I have a daughter, who is also a dancer, I know how all those ADT parents must feel seeing their super-kids flying around the very functional stage of the large studio of the American Dance Theatre, a block off Broadway. It's a great space that would cost millions in New York (Don't tell the landlord, please)!

And I believe the very next performing event for this strong new company of "monster dream-kids," is their Spring Concert with Michael Harrison's band, May 4th, 5th, 8:00 pm, and 6th, 2:00 pm MAT., & 8:00 pm at the Winningstad Theatre of the Portland Center for the Performing Arts. Dance on, ADT company! For more information, call (503) 227-0911 (Better yet, book 'em)



### THE JEFFERSON DANCERS

MAY 4 · 5 · 6 · 7 - 8 pm Intermediate Theatre  
Portland Center for Performing Arts

### IT'S TOUGH TO BE A BLACK HERO.



UNITED ARTISTS PRESENTS IVORY WAY PRODUCTIONS A RAYMOND KATZ PRODUCTION PETER MCCARTHY PRODUCTIONS  
I'M GONNA GIT YOU SUCKA - KEENA IVORY WAYANS - BEARNE CASBY - ANTONIO FARIAS - COAC HAPS - JIM BROWN - JANET DUBOIS  
JANI BROWN - ROBI REED - MICHAEL R. MILLER - TOM RICHMOND - RAYMOND KATZ - ERIC L. GOLD  
ERIC BARRETT - TAMARA RAMPT - PETER MCCARTHY - CARL CRAIG - KEENA IVORY WAYANS

Starts Friday!



### E.U. WINS SOUL TRAIN HONORS

Virgin recording artists E.U. have taken go-go music to new heights by winning the prestigious Soul Train Award. E.U. won the award for "Best R&B/Urban Contemporary Single by a Band or Group" for their recording of "Da Butt."

The title to watch for next year's round of awards is the latest offering from E.U. "Buck Wild," the first single release from their debut album "Livin' Large."

"Buck Wild" is #21\* on the Billboard black singles chart and is breaking out on airwaves across the country.

Band leader and founder of E.U.,

Gregory "Sugar Bear" Elliott said, "It is a thrill to finally reap the fruits of over a decade of hard work and maintaining our go-go roots."

They will be touring the Southeast with headliners, Salt & Pepa and Guy. The schedule includes dates in their hometown of Washington D.C., Michigan, Kansas, and North Carolina. E.U. can be seen on Soul Train on May 6th, Ebony/Jet Showcase later that same month and in the pages of Essence, Right On! and more. The band is singing and appearing in Spike's new feature film, "do The Right Thing," due this Summer.

### African American PLAYWRIGHTS: THEIR CRAFT & LEGACY

GARLAND LEE THOMPSON PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY  
PLAYWRIGHT-FACILITATOR S.W. BROADWAY AT MARKET STREET

- Introducing:
- WILLIS RICHARDSON
  - GARLAND ANDERSON
  - ANITA BONTemps
  - WILLIAM BRANCH
  - ALICE CHILDRESS
  - LANGSTON HUGHES
  - LORRAINE HANSBERRY
  - OSSIE DAVIS
  - RUBY DEE
  - LEHOI JONES (BARAKA)
  - JAMES BALDWIN
  - JOHN O. KILLENS
  - GERTRUDE JEANETTE
  - ED BULLINS
  - RICHARD WESLEY
  - CHARLES FULLER
  - DOUGLAS TURNER WARD
  - LORNE ELDER III
  - CHARLES GORDONE
  - ELAINE JACKSON
  - KATHLEEN COLLINS
  - P.J. GIBSON
  - FTOZAKE SHANGE
  - ANDRIENNE KENNEDY
  - RON BILNER
  - FRED SHINE
  - EMER BOGDON
  - BEN CALDWELL
  - A. MARCUS HENPHILL
  - J.E. FRANKLIN
  - BILLY GRADIN
  - GARLAND LEE THOMPSON
  - ARCHIE SHEPP
  - HAYWELL GLANVILLE
  - CLIFFORD MASON
  - OLIVER FITCHER
  - PHILLIP HAYES DEAN
  - JOSEPH A. WALKER
  - AUGUST WILSON
  - GEORGE C. WOLFE



## BLACK THEATER IN AMERICA

UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF BEGINNING WEDNESDAY EVENING  
THE BLACK STUDIES DEPARTMENT MARCH 29, 1989  
A SPECIAL 10-WEEK COURSE 6:40 P.M. TO 9:20 P.M.

### AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM AT NE YWCA

The Northeast YWCA has begun an After School Program for the last few weeks of school.

The elementary After School Program is for children in the 1st through 5th grades. The program will offer cultural enrichment, recreational activities and personal growth and development. Tutorial and home work assistance will be provided to those who request it. The program will be developed into a six-week summer program this year.

The program will run Monday-Thursday from 3:00pm - 5:00 pm at the NE Center, located at 5630 NE Union Avenue. There is no fee to participate. Parents can drop by to fill out a registration form.

For more information, contact the NE YWCA at 282-0003.

### PORTLAND OBSERVER

"The Eyes and Ears of the Community"

288-0033