

### PORTLAND PRO-AM BASKETBALL LEAGUE 1989 SUMMER PROGRAM

The Portland Pro-Am Basketball League is underway for the third consecutive year at the Portland Community College Cascade Gymnasium. The best athletes in Portland will be there either as players or spectators because it will be the best basketball available this side of the Trailblazer season.

Talent from the NBA, colleges, and international league will complete a regular season schedule each Saturday and Sunday from June 10 to July 22. Games will be played at 2:00pm, 3:30pm, 5:00pm and 6:pm. Playoffs will begin on July 23 at the Salvation Army.

The eight teams are generically named after NBA mascots. The league play is governed with NBA rules and features the development for NBA referees.

The program has such outstanding competition and entertainment that league hopes to draw a cross-section of people throughout the community. With all the positive role models involved we hope to also have a positive influence on young people.

Call 287-9723 for more information or come to the PCC Cascade Gym

PORTLAND OBSERVER  
FAX #  
503)288-0015

### YOUTH UNLIMITED RECRUITMENT

Youth between the ages of 13 to 20 are now being sought to audition for Youth Unlimited's second video production. Auditions will be held Saturdays, beginning July 15th, 22nd and 29th, and August 5th, 1989. Call Youth Unlimited at 284-8082 for schedule and location.

The project utilizes youth in all aspects of the production from script writing to the actual performances. An avenue is provided in which youth can deal with real life situations through the use of video.

All performers selected (with the exception of extras) will be paid \$150.00 upon completion of the production. Youth Unlimited is a non-profit Oregon community based educational/video production founded in January 1988, by Gloria J. Fluker. Youth Unlimited has been funded in part by the The Lewis and Clark Chapter of March of Dimes and Standard Insurance Company.

In April, 1989, Youth Unlimited completed its first production entitled, "Before Parenting...A Simple Technique" which is being aired on Portland Cable Access.

Youth of color are encouraged to apply.



### Russia and the Negro: Blacks in Russian History and Thought

Allison Blakely's study provides an intriguing look at native Russians of African descent and black immigrants and visitors against the cultural and social background of Russian history from antiquity to the present. Abram Hannibal, the ingenious military engineer; his descendant, nineteenth-century writer Alexander Pushkin; thespian Ira Aldridge; and prominent African Americans, such as writers Claude McKay and Langston Hughes, performing artist Paul Robeson, and political activists George Padmore and Angela Davis are included among the accounts of celebrated Negro inhabitants or visitors to Russia and the Soviet Union.

This groundbreaking study won an American Book Award in 1988, presented by the Before Columbus Foundation for excellence in American literature. It provides a scholarly examination of Russia's centuries-old relationship with black Africa and Africans in the diaspora. It is an outstanding comparative study that reveals insights for the scholar and general reader alike.

# Perspective

## Black Interaction In Europe II

My goodness, what a fascinating panorama the worlds' history becomes when your true role is revealed. Let us move from Russia to merry England. How interesting that William Shakespeare's character Othello, is drawn from that reservoir of Blackness that Europe retained for all time to come after the African invasion by culture-bearing Moors in earlier centuries.

Of course, that is not the only reason for Shakespeare's immersion into the Black mystique. There were other elements (female) of the same dark storm whose infusion of mathematics, astronomy, art and philosophy lifted Europe from the misery of its Dark Ages and brought about the Renaissance. (However, we will keep in mind that, thousands of years earlier, Africans mounted documented expeditions to the British Isles to obtain tin for alloy with copper for their sculptures - and that later many came as warriors (and stayed) with the Roman Legions who conquered these lands).

We note that in the later times of which we speak now (1594 A.D.), there were a number of colorful and flamboyant balls put on each year, similar to our Mardi Gras - entertainments to parody the affairs of the English court and royalty. The Gray's End Revels were put on the Christmas of that year, the principal piece being the bard's "Comedy of Errors". An introductory farce centered around an Abbess of Clerkenwell who paid homage to the King on his day of coronation. This noble lady "was tall, statuesque, and haughty. Her name was Lucy Negro and she was in fact Black and an African." (See Hans W. Debrunner, Presence and Prestige: Africans in Europe, Basel, Switzerland, 1979)

This Lucy Negro was one of several Black ladies popular with fashionable gentlemen and nobles who patronized London's *The Swan*, a popular tavern on Turnbull Street. Dr. George Harrison, an authority on Shakespeare, says that he fell in love with Lucy only to lose her later to the Earl of Southampton. This researcher, like another, Dr. Leslie Hotson, says further that our Lucy Negro is "the origin of the Dark Lady" so eulogized in Shakespeare's sonnets."

Sonnet 127

"In the old age Black was not counted fair or if it were, it bore not beauty's name But now is Black beauty's successive heir"

Sonnet 130

"If hair be wire, Black wires grow on her head

I have seen roses damask'd red and white, but no such roses see I in her cheeks.

Hush your mouth William Shakespeare you rascal. We are indebted for much of our information to Dr. William Scobie, professor of Black History at City College, New York City.

Now, tell me, dear reader, have you caught on yet? Several years ago the world's foremost geneticists and anthropologists began telling us that they have established beyond doubt the fact that all of mankind today can be traced genetically through genes to a single individual or source of inheritance - an African woman to whom they have given the name LUCY. "Oh what a tangled web we weave, when first we seek to deceive". More on Merry England next week.

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