

PORTLAND OBSERVADOR

PICA Presents "Stuff"

A Performance by Coco Fusco & Nao Bustamante, January 23-25 at the Clinton Street Theater



Nao Bustamante and Coco Fusco "Stuff"

The Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (PICA) presents Stuff, a new performance piece by Coco Fusco and Nao Bustamante, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, January 23, 24 & 25 at 8 p.m. at the Clinton Street Theater in Portland. Stuff is a grandiose performance banquet which explores Western culture's fear and desire for food, satiation, nurturing and erotic pleasure and how this has shaped perception of Latin women. Tickets are \$14 (\$12 for PICA members) and can be purchased in advance by calling PICA at 503/242-1419.

As Latin women growing up in America, Fusco and Bustamante

were acutely aware of Western attitudes and stereotypes surrounding their lives. Bustamante is the daughter of immigrant farm workers whose family was involved with the Chicano political struggles of the 1960s and 1970s. Fusco's family emigrated from Cuba, a country that gained a reputation in the 1950s as an international whorehouse and that, once again, has reverted to sex tourism in response to its present economic crisis.

A year ago, they decided to create a performance piece that dealt with Latin women, food and sex. Fusco traveled to Cuba to interview women in the once-again burgeoning sex in-

dustry there. Both women then journeyed to Chiapas, the center of indigenous cultural tourism in Mexico, and the site of the 1994 Zapatista insurrection, where they spent several weeks in conversation with women and children whose livelihoods were linked to their daily contact with foreigners.

The result is Stuff, a performance piece that is part new age ritual, part erotic infomercial, in which audience members are treated to a lavish meal, a host of exotic legends, an occasional rumba, and at least one Spanish lesson as part of a satirical look at relations between North and South.

The 1996 Spirit Awards for Athletic and Community Excellence

BY JIM GREEN

No athlete from a historically black college has ever won the Heisman Trophy, Lombardi Award, Outland Trophy, or any of college football's major awards. Reginald Rutherford, creator and executive producer of The Spirit Awards (formerly The Robinson Awards) and president of the Los Angeles based Rutherford Group recognized that something was wrong with this picture.

So in 1994 Rutherford created an award show that would recognize the football talent at the historically black colleges and universities while at the same time paying homage and honoring the legends that have gone before and paved the way. Since its inception, The Spirit Awards have brought to light the accomplishments of football greats such as Paul "Tank" Younger, the Grambling State University student who went on to become the first athlete from a historically black university to play in the NFL.

"I feel athletes at historically black schools have been well shunned," says Rutherford. "No Heisman winner. No Lombardi winner. No Outland winner, and you had players like Roosevelt Brown (Morgan State), Art Shell (Maryland Eastern Shore), Walter Payton (Jackson State), Jerry Rice (Mississippi Valley), and Doug Williams (Grambling State) coming from these schools. There's a history there."

The Spirit Awards have become a part of history in a way that the Heisman, Lombardi and Outland Awards have not, by recognizing and honoring the athletic and community

excellence of both past and present football greats at historically black colleges and universities.

Voting was done by a nucleus of sports writers, coaches, athletic directors, conference commissioners, and sports information directors. The results were tabulated by the certified public accounting firm of Winkler and McDavid, Ltd. of Chicago.

Candidates for this year's award are as follows: Offensive back, Antonio Leroy (Albany State); Defensive back, Sean Woodson (Jackson State); Linebacker, Darrell Flythe (Hampton); Defensive Lineman, John Green (Norfolk State); Offensive Lineman, Jamie Nails (Florida A&M); Receiver, Darius Blount (Norfolk State).

On Friday, January 10th 1997, the winner will be announced in Los Angeles, California at the Regal Biltmore Hotel. The event will be co-hosted by Rolanda Watts, television host and Jim Hill of KCBS-TV Sports. This year's Special Career Achievement Award recipient will be Jim Brown, Hall of Famer. And the key note speaker will be Tampa Bay Buccaneers' head coach Tony Dungy.

Historically black colleges and universities have produced 14 Pro Football Hall of Famers and sent more than 1,000 players into the professional ranks. But most of them were virtually unknowns coming out of college. Officials and followers of black college football say The Spirit Awards is a project that's long overdue and will give black college athletes and their schools the recogni-

tion going into the pros. Many even envision it becoming just as the Heisman among college athletes.

The Spirit Awards brings to light the phenomenal athletes at black colleges, hence closing the gap of ignorance and under-representation of the talent at these schools. By remembering the great talents of the past like Willie Davis, Buck Buchanan, Lem Barney, Harold Jackson and Willie Lanier, The Spirit Awards affords historically black colleges and their talented athletes the opportunity to be recognized, honored and acknowledged for their contribution to the sport of football.

Sounding alarm on information super highway

Brian Townsend, President, West Coast Black Publishers Association, right, greets telecommunications panelists for the Association's 13th Convention workshop on the electronics revolution the information super highway. With Townsend (Precinct Reporter, San Bernardino, CA) are, from left: Edward A. Alston, President, Telecom Education Consultants; Lynne Joy Rogers, Executive Director, Urban League Ron Brown Information Technology and Business Center and Gwen Moore, President, GeM Communications. The panel's discussion proved to be one of the most popular of the convention's events. It touched on both fears and hopes the participants have for the electronics



revolution. Panelists urged participants to create, as much as is possible, experts sympathetic to their own communities. The Association serves 18 major commercial markets. Its 22-

member publications are located in Arizona, California, Nevada, Oregon and Washington, a region noted for its commercial leadership in the modern-day information super highway.

A Desperate cry for dialogue

BY FRED HEMBRY

1997--A date critically close to the new millennium. In the United States, Black slavery is behind us by 132 years. The "civil righteous" stopped marching 22 years ago.

How much freedom have these periods bestowed upon our youth? Have they been considered as engineers to "Build a bridge to the 21st century." In the sound-bitten words of Bill Clinton?

Progress... Its a relative word as it pertains to African-American youth who are disproportionately miss-educated, police-brutalized, and stereotyped as saggy-panted animals; salivating at the concept of their next felonious venture.

How has the Aboriginal fallen

from princess and prince to subhuman? On January 11, 1997 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at Reflections Book Store (446 N.E. Killingsworth) Anubius Productions will point it's finger to the people of Portland for answers and solutions to these queries and more.

What is Anubius Productions?

Anubius was founded in 1995 by a group of people who remain anonymous. It was founded to outreach to youth in the areas of business, media, and education. It also serves a public function as a conduit from the grass roots to the masses, via various mediums.

I was able to coax a couple anonymous from the group.


Why public forums?

"Because the conditions that youth face today need to be addressed. A public forum gives the people a chance to speak their mind."

Is this only for black people?

"No. Anubius is for the betterment of all people; but we as individual races must first help self before we can be able to help others. We encourage all to attend our events."

Today, more than ever, we as a people need to meet as a family at times to discuss serious issues. The lack of conversation on this level leads to general misconceptions, and suppressed anxiety. This has led to a strong over-current of the usual "isms", and violence. Anubius productions challenges you, the people to speak your mind.



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What Our Future Will Be


Saturday, January 11, 1997
6:00 to 8:00 P.M.

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446 N.E. Killingsworth
288-6942

Andrew Young, one of the highest respected elders of the civil rights movement, has written a manuscript of his long anticipated memoirs. He delivered rare insight, and passion, with a 'I was there' immediacy. He poignantly recounted perhaps one of the greatest social eras of this century. As a result of his direct involvement with Dr. Martin Luther King, and subsequent triumphs for human rights, Young delivered an unparalleled vision of the past, present, and future.

Please join Reflections in welcoming this very special guest!
BEAT THE RUSH! COME ON DOWN AND GET YOUR ADVANCED COPY NOW!!

Coming Next Week, Friday January 17 to Reflections



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Send entry in a plain white envelope no larger than 4 1/2" x 9 1/2" to: MEGABUCKS DOUGH Second-Chance Drawing, PO Box 14280, Salem, OR 97309.

Annexation census shows progress

Most homes in the city of Vancouver's east county annexation area have visited by census takers. Over 50 census takers have been combing in order to get accurate new population figures for the city.

The census of east county annexation area homes will define the amount of state funding that is returned to the community for provision of public services.

"We have visited most of the

housing units so far," says David Perlick, associate planner for the City of Vancouver. He notes that about 60 percent of the residents have been at home to respond to the census takers.

At remaining housing units, census takers have left door hangers with a postage-paid return postcard and a hotline phone number. Almost 1,000 people have responded to the mail-back and call-in request.