

**FOCUS**

# Collector Brings Unusual Cargo From Heart of Africa

Portland will see the arrival – within a week or so – of a most interesting consignment of treasures that have come to America from the heart of Africa.

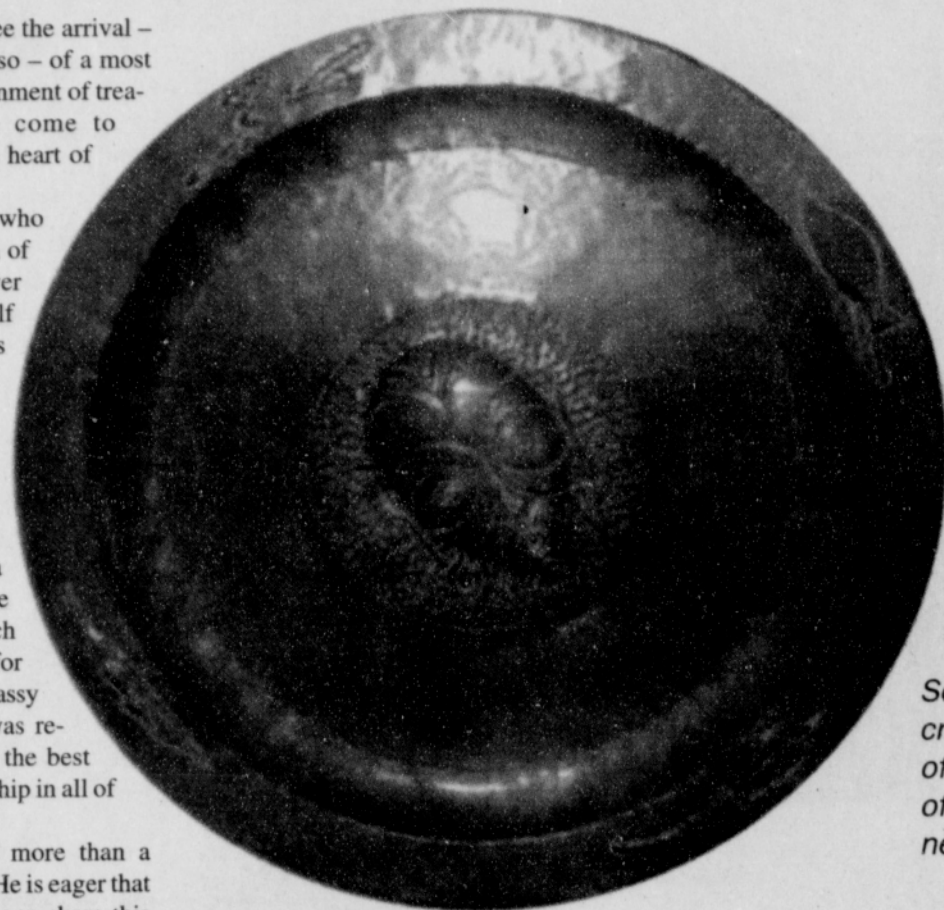
Al J. Venter, who lives at the mouth of the Columbia River and who spends half this year abroad as a foreign correspondent, spent a month-long assignment to Central Africa collecting African art.

He brought a container load of the art in Zambia, which a spokesperson for the American Embassy in Lusaka said, was regarded as among the best crafted workmanship in all of black Africa.

Venter bought more than a thousand pieces. He is eager that the people of Oregon share this discovery with him.

“What makes this lot different, is that so much of it is good old-fashioned African art. Very few tourists go to Zambia in any event, so what these people produce, they tend to make for themselves,” he explained.

There are some ‘touristy’ productions, like large carved tables, chairs and other items, all of solid



African teak, ebony or mukwa wood, but the bulk of the carvings are a sheer, natural delight. African hardwoods predominate. Highly polished, you can see the grain of the wood, deep inside.

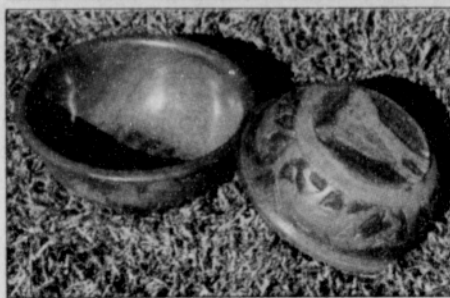
One of the advantages of buying art in Zambia, Venter said, was that the wood needed by the craftsmen was readily available.

“The people go from the cities into the forest and there they have all the wood they need. It’s for the taking. So while most of the artworks are modest, you have some very large, solid pieces. No wood veneers here. It’s not necessary,” he said.

Another part of the collection includes a copper frieze that’s



Some of the best-crafted workmanship of black Africa is part of an Oregon man’s new collection.



about six feet across. Venter maintains that it is as beautifully crafted as anything produced by a French master.

Is he likely to go back to Africa and do it again? He is not so sure.

“There are wars or unrest in three of the four countries that border on Zambia: Angola to the west, the Congo with a terrible

bloody conflagration to the north and Zimbabwe which, sadly, all hell broke loose. Why, you may ask, well, primarily because there had never been a hip-hop group who revolutionized the sound of hip-hop music as fast as they did.

Now, as one of the toughest and tightest emcees to ever grip the mic, Jadakiss, the Lox’s front man, is on the move to jump-start his solo career with his unprecedented album – “Kiss The Game Goodbye.”

Still, he reckons that Zambia is one of Africa’s loveliest countries. The African sale occurs on Sept 7th-9th. Call 360-777-8131 for info.

## Jadakiss, Hip Hop’s Young Kingpin



Jadakiss has attracted the attention of acclaimed megastars Sean “Puffy” Combs, and Notorious B.I.G.

When Jadakiss hit the rap scene with his deafening group, the Lox, all hell broke loose. Why, you may ask, well, primarily because there had never been a hip-hop group who revolutionized the sound of hip-hop music as fast as they did.

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**ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE**

**Meet Designer Misook Thursday, Sept. 6**

Misook Doolittle, designer of her namesake collection will make a personal appearance at Nordstrom Washington Square on Thursday, Sept. 6, from 3 p.m. – 8 p.m. in the Studio 121, Encore and Petites departments on TWO. Ms. Doolittle will be introducing her new knitwear collection pieces with color blocking in olive, raspberry and animal print as well as assist customers with their selections. Call 503-620-0555.

**Portland Bridge Exhibit Thursday, Sept. 6**

“Rediscovering Portland’s Willamette River Bridges,” an exhibit of contemporary and historic photographs and architectural drawings of Portland’s Willamette River bridges, opens with a First Thursday reception on Sept. 6 at the Region 1 Office of the Oregon Department of Transportation in Portland’s Oldtown. The reception will be from 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., in ODOT’s public meeting room lobby, 123 N.W. Flanders St.

**Swimming Free Sept. 6 – Oct. 27**

OMNI gallery will have an exhibit called “Swimming Free,” from Sept. 6 – Oct. 27. The celebrated artists will be Susan Trueblood Stuart, Reiko Kageyama and Terry Lyman. The show will run from Sept. 6 through Oct. 27. For more information, call 503-224-2754.

**Conference for Women Playwrights Sept. 6 – 9**

The Regional Conference of The International Centre for Women Playwrights, with registration and readings to all. “Down to Earth: Practical Sessions for Playwrights,” a Northwest Regional Conference for the International Centre for Women Playwrights, will be held in cooperation with Portland State University and Tygres Heart Theatre. The conference includes workshops on playwriting, marketing, dramaturgy, and production. For more info., call 503/590-6916, or go online to their web address at [www.InternationalWomenPlaywrights.org](http://www.InternationalWomenPlaywrights.org)

**Gospel Event of the Year Saturday, Sept. 8**

D & G Ministries presents the gospel event of the year with Gerutha Favorel in concert at the New Song Community Church, located at N.E. MLK & Russell St. on Saturday, Sept. 8 at 7:30 p.m. The concert is free and open to the public. Favorel, one of Portland’s premier gospel performers, will be joined by pianist Paul Greenidge who has played for national recording artists Patty Austin and James Ingram. Favorel was a former Rose Festival princess and has performed onstage in the US and Europe. Call 503-287-0042 or 503-872-2026.

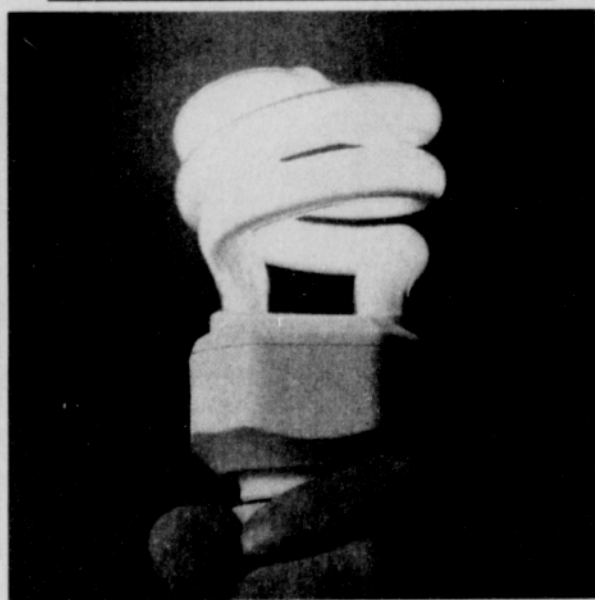
**Festival Latino Sept. 8**

Portland Parks and Recreation is sponsoring the event, Festival Latino will be having Latin music and dance from Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean, including Los Palmeros Mariachi, Ballet Folklorico Ollin, The Lions of Batucada and more. For more information, call 503/823-PLAY or go online to [www.PortlandParks.org](http://www.PortlandParks.org).

**Rose City Chamber Orchestra Sunday, Sept. 9**

On Sunday, Sept. 9 at 3 p.m. at Central Lutheran Church in N.E. Portland, Rose City Chamber Orchestra will kick off a new season with a classical mixture of Beethoven, Mozart and Myslivecek. This special performance will be conducted by guest conductor Mark Perlman. For more info., call 503-921-2785, or visit [www.rosecity.org](http://www.rosecity.org).

# Change is good.



## And it’s not as hard as you may think.

A lot of things, from the growth in high-tech industries to increased population, tell us the energy crunch our region is facing right now will continue for awhile. Dealing with it means that each of us has to change the way we use energy. And we have to start now.

Here are some changes and tips that will make a difference now and in the future:

- Switch to compact fluorescent bulbs in lights that remain on three or more hours per day. They use only one quarter the energy of regular bulbs.
- Clean lightbulbs and fixtures. Dust can reduce light output by as much as 10 percent!
- Turn off one 60-watt light that would normally be on during the peak summer hours of 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. If every one of our 1.5 million customers did, the energy saved could power about 45,000 homes.
- Install dimmers. The amount you dim equals your energy saved. For example, lights dimmed 15 percent reduces energy consumption up to 15 percent.
- Install motion sensors or timers to automatically turn lights on and off. Motion sensor lighting is great for outdoors and in your workshop or laundry room. Timers are the right choice if you’d like an indoor light switched on and off at specific times.
- Make saving energy a habit.

Do the bright thing. Call us at 1-800-222-4335, and ask for a copy of our Bright Ideas booklet.



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