### BLACK HISTORY MONTH and the American Experience

# Grass Roots Bookstores transcend labels



PHOTO BY SARAH BLOUNT/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Black Rose Collective has transitioned from a free porch to a bookstore and political information shop on North Mississippi Avenue. Many of its books feature Portland writers and publishers, making them a rare find at many traditional booksellers.

continued A from Front

a meeting space free for community use. The plan is to build partnerships and offer reciprocity discounts to its neighbors like Ethos, North Portland Bike Works and the Alberta Co-Op, Burns said.

into the neighborhood's busy activist scene that focuses on race and ethnicity.

"It's our intention to use feminism to effectively impact multiissue social activism," she said. "It's a criticism of feminism that race and class aren't on the front burner, but where I stand personally, it's all facets of the same fight."

The Black Rose Collective is former "free porch" turned political information shop at 4038 N. Missis- plus a handful of volunteers, run sippi near Shaver Street. Since its the shop from noon to eight p.m. humble beginning as a jumble of free clothing, food and household items, the collective remains dedicated to a principle of providing services, not turning a profit.

"All we do is try to make enough mural in the near future.

to pay our rent," collective member

Genevieve Moore said.

The house next door is the Mississippi Avenue Co-op, an eightbedroom communal living space serving as an alternative to the renter/owner status quo. It was during one of their monthly meet-She hopes the bookstore will fit ings that a member proposed the idea of expanding their free porch into an infoshop. About a year later, with help from the Portland Alliance of Collective Workers, the Black Rose opened.

> The tiny shop is a collection of political, feminist and anti-racism books, exclusively from independent presses. These books are a rare find in traditional bookstores, and a local section spotlights Portland writers and publishers.

> The collective's six members, Tuesday through Sunday. The collective also keeps a growing list of at least 100 people willing to lend a hand with future projects, including plans to create a community

The installation of windows marks the first days of business for "In Other Words," a bookstore for and about women at its new location at the corner of Killingsworth and North Williams Avenue.

> PHOTO BY ISAIAH BOUIE/ THE PORTLAND OBSERVER



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## Forum on Living Wage Jobs

#### Lawmaker addresses local issues

State Rep. Chip Shields will Brooks, chair of OAME. host a series of community forums over the next several weeks spotlighting issues for residents in his inner north and northeast forums will cover living wage jobs, the war in Iraq, health care and schools.

"At this critical time in Oregon's history, it is more important than ever that we come together as a community to share ideas and concerns on these vital issues," Shields said.

will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 15 can Health Coalition. from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepre- April 5 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the neurs, 4134 N. Vancouver, with Irvington Elementary gym, 1320 guest Tom Chamberlain, president N.E. Brazee with guest Shannon

Iraq War: A Local Response will take place March 8 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Emmanuel Temple Church, 5123 N. Michigan with guest State Portland House District 43. The Rep. Paul Holvey, whose son served in Iraq.

The meeting on health care will be held on March 22, also from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Irvington Village, 420 N.E. Mason St. with guests State Rep. Mitch Greenlick, chief petitioner for the statewide health care initiative HOPE for Oregon Families and Corliss McKeever, presi-The forum on living wage jobs dent and CEO of the African Ameri-

The schools forum will be held of Oregon AFL-CIO and Sam Campion of Stand for Children.

### Salvation Army Captain to Speak

Captain Robert Marshall of the Salvation Army will be the featured speaker when the Allen Temple Joshua Men present their third Annual Men's Day Program under the theme "Christian men Wear God," on Sunday, Feb. 12 at 4 p.m. at Allen Temple CME Church, 4236 N.E. Eighth Ave. The public is wel-

come. Marshall has served as an officer and pastor of The Salvation Army for the past 10 years. He was appointed to serve as Captain in charge at the Portland Moore Street



Robert Marshall



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