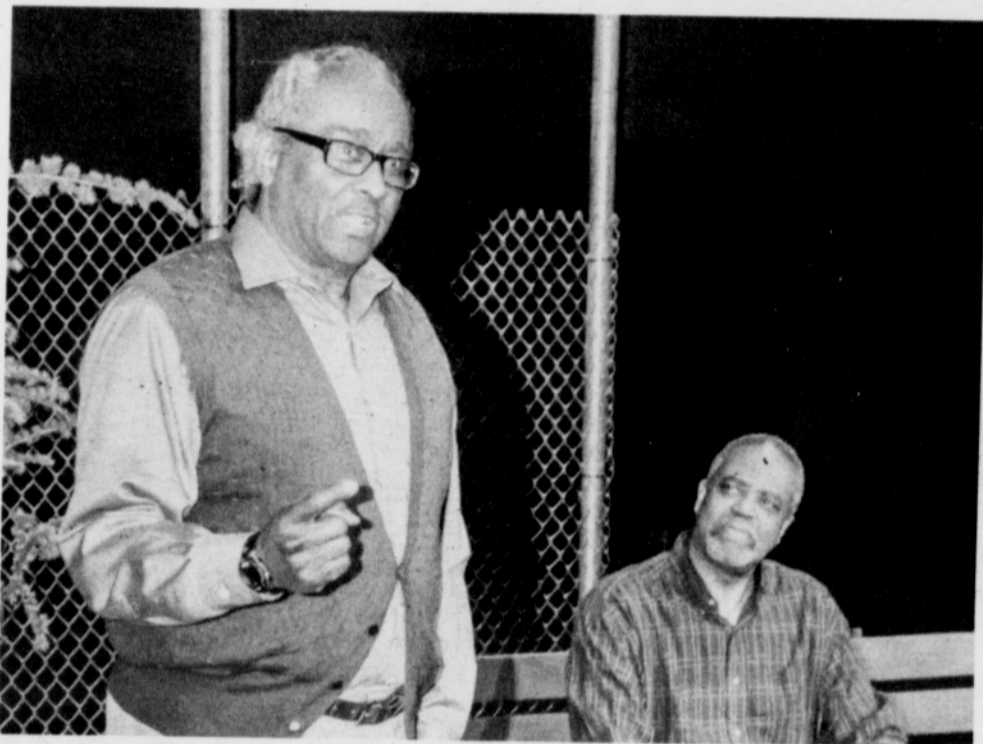


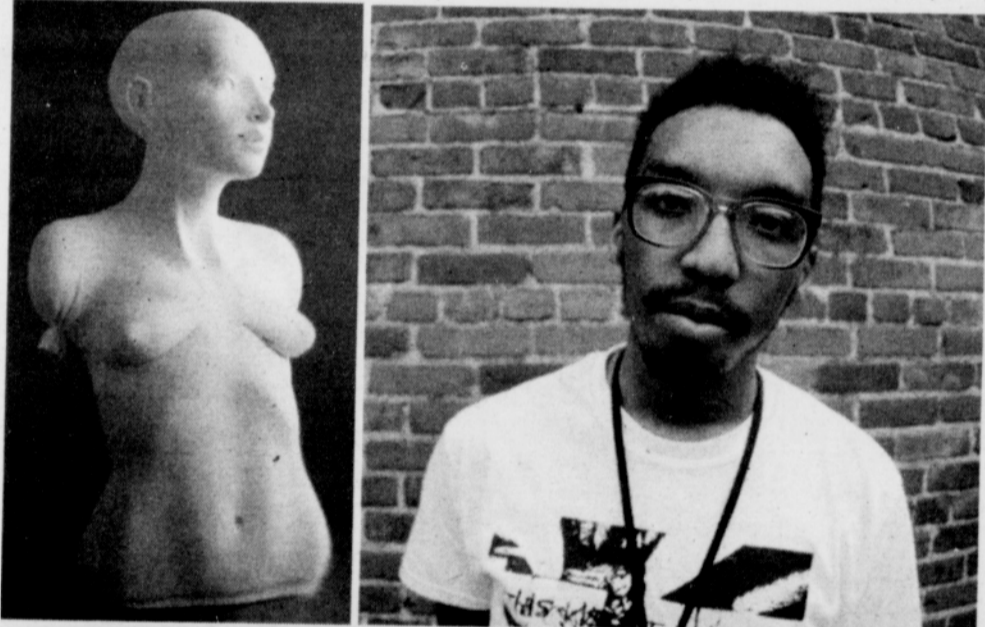
# The INSIDE

The Week in Review page 2

OPINION  
pages 6-7



MIETRO page 9

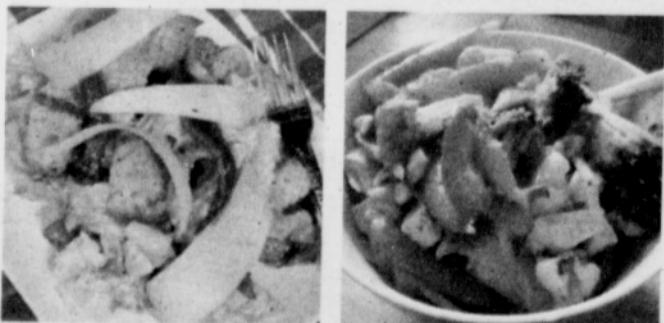


Arts & ENTERTAINMENT  
pages 8-13

CALENDAR page 10

CLASSIFIEDS page 14

FOOD  
pages 16



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## LOCAL NEWS

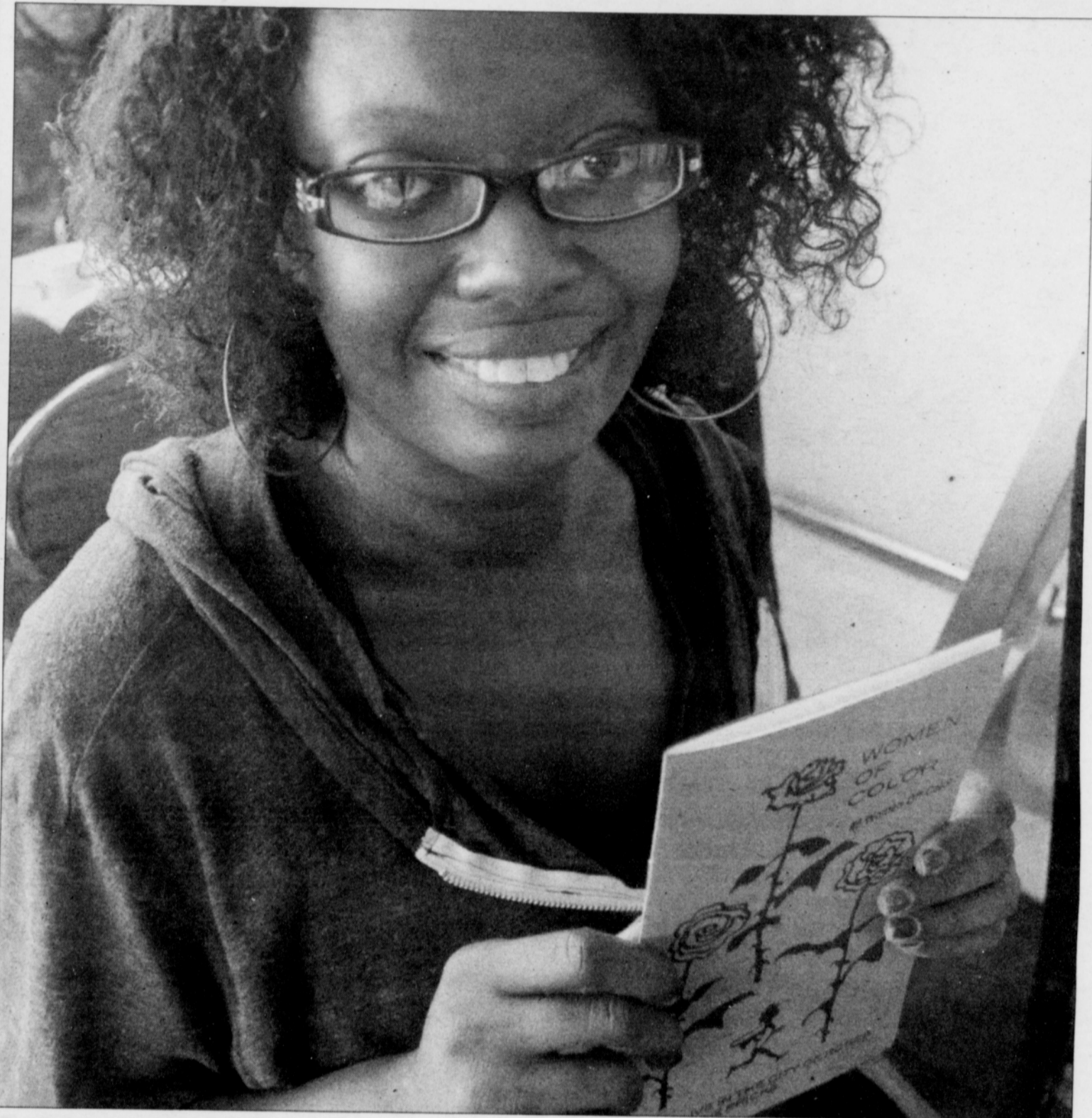


PHOTO BY DONOVAN M. SMITH/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Tonya L. Jones is encouraging diversity of thought in Portland's literary scene with *Women of Color Zines*, a group she formed to encourage the creation of self-made publications by local minority women. Jones says she was compelled to create the organization after attending the world's biggest zine symposium in Portland some years back and noticing a lack of diversity.

# Diversity in Action

### Women of Color Zines group fosters self-made publications

BY DONOVAN M. SMITH  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Art comes in all forms; the kinks that shapes a fro or a single lock of hair, the rain that reflects upon Portland streets, and sometimes it comes by way of a group of multi-racial women making their own mini-books in an artform called zines.

Right here in Portland, minority women in the community are fielding their creativity as part of a small group called Women of Color Zines. The Portland Observer sat down with the founder, Tonya L. Jones, to discuss what exactly "zining" is, and why she thought it important to have a culturally-specific organization around this ever-popular craft.

"Our focus is on women of color in Portland," Jones says, "so we talk about our experience as women of color in Portland."

Pointing to the neighborhood surrounding a hip coffee shop where we met for an interview at North Killingsworth Street and Albina Avenue as a point of possible inspiration, she described how female members of her group are tackling issues like gentrification, art and beauty, and housing.

Zines are self-made booklets. The craft is an artistic free for all, usually comprised of literary expressions in which the creator is free to add pictures, poems, stories, scribbles, and thoughts in all forms.

Jones, 40, jokingly refers to herself as an "oldhead" when it comes to the craft, but nonetheless has become infatuated with it since her introduction to it some years back. So much so that in

*continued* ▼ on page 4