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**2017
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Classic**
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See photos, Page 9



**Fighting
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*Advocates
say political
climate has
emboldened hate*
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The Portland Observer

Volume XLVI • Number 23



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Wednesday • June 7, 2017



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PHOTO BY CHRISTA MCINTYRE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Rev. Jesse Jackson visits with local government officials and church leaders to help a city heal after a double murder on public transit committed by a man making racist and anti-Muslim taunts. Multnomah County Commissioner Loretta Smith (left) brought the national leader to northeast Portland's Augustana Lutheran Church on Friday where she and church pastor Rev. Mark Knutson (right) introduced him.

Healing from the Trauma

Rev. Jesse Jackson offers a path forward after transit murders

BY CHRISTA MCINTYRE
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Rev. Jesse Jackson, the national civil rights leader, former presidential candidate and friend and political ally to the late Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. says

Portland can reject a brand of violence in the aftermath of a double murder on public transit tied to a racist incident and instead send a powerful and multicultural message of peace and unity to the world.

Jackson came to Portland on Friday

to help the city heal from the May 26 attack on a TriMet light rail train near the Hollywood Transit Station. It happened after three male passengers were stabbed coming to the aid of two teenage girls of multicultural backgrounds, one wearing

a hijab, who were being harassed by a white man making racist and anti-Muslim taunts.

Jackson spoke Friday at Augustana

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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The Week in Review

Popular NBA Finals

The first two games of the NBA Finals were the most-watched since Michael Jordan's final championship in 1998. Despite two lopsided outcomes, Golden State's two home wins over Cleveland averaged 19.6 million viewers. Game three is Wednesday in Cleveland and will be broadcast at 6 p.m. on KATU Channel 2 (ABC).



Arrests in Cold Case Murder

After a two year investigation, murder charges have been filed against two men in the April 2015 shooting death of a Seattle man visiting friends in Portland near Woodlawn Park. Gary Lonell Black Jr., 31 and Cortez Treandre Wade, 25 were indicted last week for the murder of D'Andre Dickerson, 24.

Biketown Expanding

Less than a year after it started, the striking orange Biketown rental system is expanding to reach more inner city neighborhoods. Officials announced last week that the bikes will now be available in the Overlook Neighborhood of north Portland and further east to include the entire Alberta Main

Street district, and include parts of Northeast Ainsworth and Northeast 33rd Avenue.

DeVos Stirs Controversy

Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos was in the hot seat in an appearance before Congress Tuesday. She defended \$9 billion in cuts across the board which would eliminate afterschool and students with disabilities programs, and when Sen. Jeff Merkley of Oregon tried to get her to say the U.S. Department of Education wouldn't allow private schools getting vouchers to discriminate, DeVos would not commit.

Bill Cosby Trial Begins

Comedian and television celebrity Bill Cosby's sexual assault trial began Monday. The iconic TV actor is charged with three counts of felony aggravated indecent assault over a decade ago against Temple University employee, Andrea Constand.

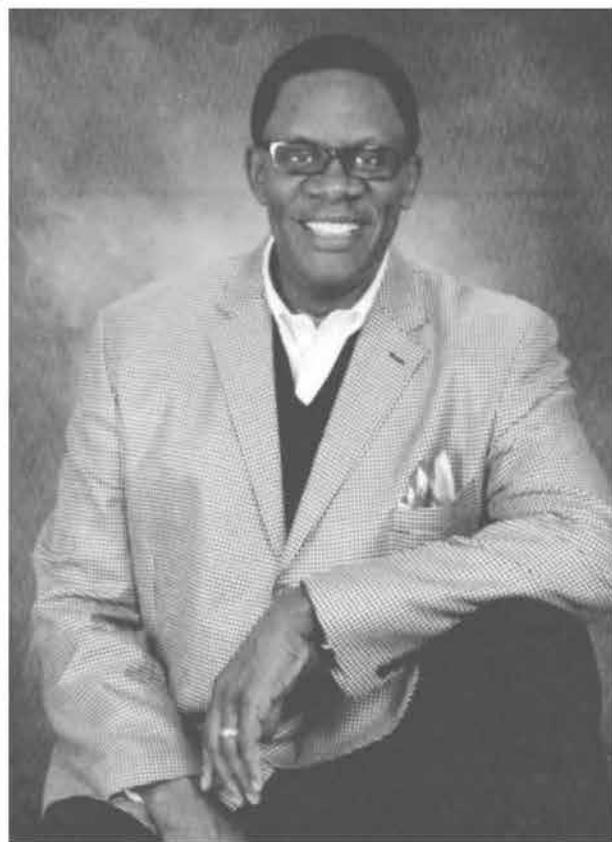
Arrest in MAX Hero Theft

George Elwood Tschaggeny, a 51-year-old homeless man, was arrested Friday in the theft of a wedding ring and backpack from a man who was fatally stabbed in last month's racially motivated attack on TriMet. Detectives said he was wearing the victim's ring.

Supporting Paris Accord

The NAACP issued a statement Thursday opposing President Trump for his withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement to limit fossil fuel air pollution emissions while also promising to do its part to adhere to the agreement and to continue to fight for environmental justice.

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What's on your list today?



PHOTO BY ZACHARY SENN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Police line Southwest Madison Street to separate a smaller alt-right rally in Terry Schunk Plaza on the left from a larger counter-demonstration across the street in Chapman Square. The opposing demonstration included members of labor unions, immigrant rights organizations and anti-fascist groups.

Dueling Protests

Activists counter white nationalism rally

BY ZACHARY SENN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Demonstrators representing the white supremacist alt-right movement squared off against a diverse coalition of Portland community groups and justice advocates on Sunday. The opposing rallies took place just 10 days after a racially motivated stabbing attack left two

people dead on a MAX light rail train.

The initial demonstration, which was billed as a "Trump Free-Speech Rally," by its organizers, took place on the federal

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



The family of Ricky Best attends his burial service with military honors Monday at Willamette National Cemetery in Portland. Best was one of two men killed May 26 during an attack on a Portland light-rail train. (AP photo)

Mourned as Martyr and Hero

(AP) -- Mourners remembered one of the men who was fatally stabbed trying to stop an anti-Muslim tirade against two teenage girls on a Portland light-rail train as a modern-day martyr and a hero who never stayed on the sidelines when others were in need.

At the funeral Monday of Ricky Best, 53, one of his teenage sons, Erik Best, said his father understood deeds were more important than words, calling his

father a "child of God."

Best, an Army veteran who worked for the city of Portland, also leaves behind a wife, two other teen sons and a 12-year-old daughter.

Prosecutors say Jeremy Joseph Christian killed Best, another man and wounded a third when they tried to stop Christian from verbally assaulting the girls, one of whom wore a Muslim head covering.

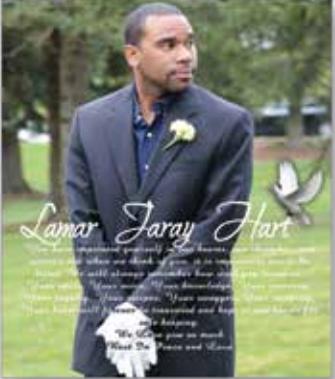
Christian, 35, faces aggravated

murder and other charges in the case. He has not yet entered a plea and has a court hearing later this week.

At Best's funeral, the Rev. Rick Paperini used the word "martyr" to describe Best's actions.

"It is a privilege to love," Paperini said. "I think Ricky understood love this way. He saw it as an opportunity and a privilege, and that's why he responded the way he did on the 26th of May, 2017."

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Healing from the Trauma

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Lutheran Church in northeast Portland at the invitation of Multnomah County Commissioner Loretta Smith, the only elected member in city or county government from Portland's African American community. About two dozen local religious leaders of all faiths and races joined them at the podium along with some 50 other attendees.

Jackson suggested that local leaders organize a massive, peaceful, and multicultural march to help deliver the message that the Portland will not allow violence to be the brand of the city. He described the passengers who sacrificed their lives to protect the young girls as very brave.

"There is a challenge today and we must rise to the occasion," Jackson said. "The vicious killing of the martyrs reminds us how deep the wound is, how much sickness there is and how much work there is to be done. In the face of it all, we must turn to each other and learn to live together."

The national civil rights icon went on to describe the many serious struggles ahead for people of color, workers, women and children across America, calling

out issues such as education cuts, criminal justice rollbacks and states limiting voting rights.

"We must not fight fire with fire, it makes the fire hotter. Fight fire with water," he said.

On the current political climate in Washington, D.C., Jackson pointed to a "counter-cultural revolution," which seeks to undermine the founding principles of democracy.

"America's revolution is give me your tired, your hungry masses. To lock out the immigrants, to lock out the refugees, to lock out all of Central and South America, this is a counter-cultural revolution," he said. "To privatize jails and close public schools, this is a counter-cultural revolution."

Jackson called for unity in the struggles ahead.

"Regardless of whether our skin is black, white or brown we need each other and we must turn to each other," he said.

Jackson took an overnight flight from San Francisco to arrive in Portland for the breakfast meeting at Augustana Lutheran. The guests included many local activists as well as members from several religious traditions, including leaders from Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist, Sikh, and Native American groups.

A small gospel-jazz duo played

Sam Cooke's Civil Right's anthem "A Change is Gonna Come." Several faith leaders spoke to the trauma of the attacks and how to move forward in the current national political climate.

Commissioner Smith, Augustana Pastor Mark Knutson and Dr. Rev. T Allen Bethel, senior pastor at Maranatha Church and president of the Albina Ministerial Alliance introduced Jackson.

"The tragedy that happened here a week ago today is so unthinkable. People are still trying to reconcile what they think about it," said Smith

Before taking questions from members of the press, the gospel-jazz duo returned with a heartfelt performance of "Keep Your Eyes on the Prize" with Jackson, Smith and the faith leaders joining together in song.

Jackson's next stops were meeting with Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler and with Micah Fletcher, the 21 year old Portland State University student hero who survived the tragedy.

The victims killed were retired Army veteran and city employee Rick Best, 53, and recent Reed College graduate Taliesin Myrdin Namkai Meche, 23. Jeremy Joseph Christian, 35, of north Portland has been charged with aggravated murder in their deaths.



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Dueling Protests

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

ly-owned Terry Schunk Plaza, which faces both City Hall and the Edith Green - Wendell Wyatt Federal Building. In response to the alt-right's demonstration, a loose collection of labor unions, immigrant rights groups and anti-fascist organizations showed up to protest the presence of white nationalist groups in Portland. The counter-demonstration took place in neighboring Chapman Square, and was permitted by the City of Portland.

Officers from the Portland Police Bureau, the Oregon State Police and the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Protective Service were present at the opposing rallies. Police made 14 arrests throughout the course of Sunday afternoon, and deployed crowd control munitions include flash-bang grenades, pepper spray and rubber bullets into Chapman Square. Police also seized dozens of weapons, including brass knuckles, make-shift shields and several bricks.




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Peace activist and change agent Getry Agizah.

Kenyan Peacebuilder to Speak

Kenyan peace activist and social change agent Getry Agizah will give two public presentations about her work to overcome election polarization in Kenya and the work of others to prevent violence during two appearances in Portland.

Agizah is the director of Transforming Communities for Social Change and is a Peace Teams coordinator for the Friends Church

in Kenya.

She will be the guest of the Multnomah Friends Meetinghouse, located at 4312 S.E. Stark St., on Sunday, June 11 at 12 p.m. with State Sen. Lew Frederick introducing the speaker; and again on Friday, June 16 at 7 p.m. with a potluck preceding the program at 6 p.m.

For more information contact Ron Marson at ronaldjymarson@gmail.com.

Cyclist Sues for Unlawful Arrest

A black Portland man stopped and arrested by Portland police while bicycling home from his job at New Seasons Market two years ago has filed a lawsuit against the city.

Anthony James Allen Jr. 23, said he was peddling with two bags of groceries on his bike a few doors away from his residence where he encountered a police lined perimeter and was told by officers the area wasn't safe and to go home quickly.

He said another police officer, Colby Marrs, appeared suddenly out of the shadows and knocked him to the ground, pressed his knee into his neck and shoulders, and handcuffed him. According to the suit filed May 17, the perimeter had already been lifted.



Anthony James Allen Jr.

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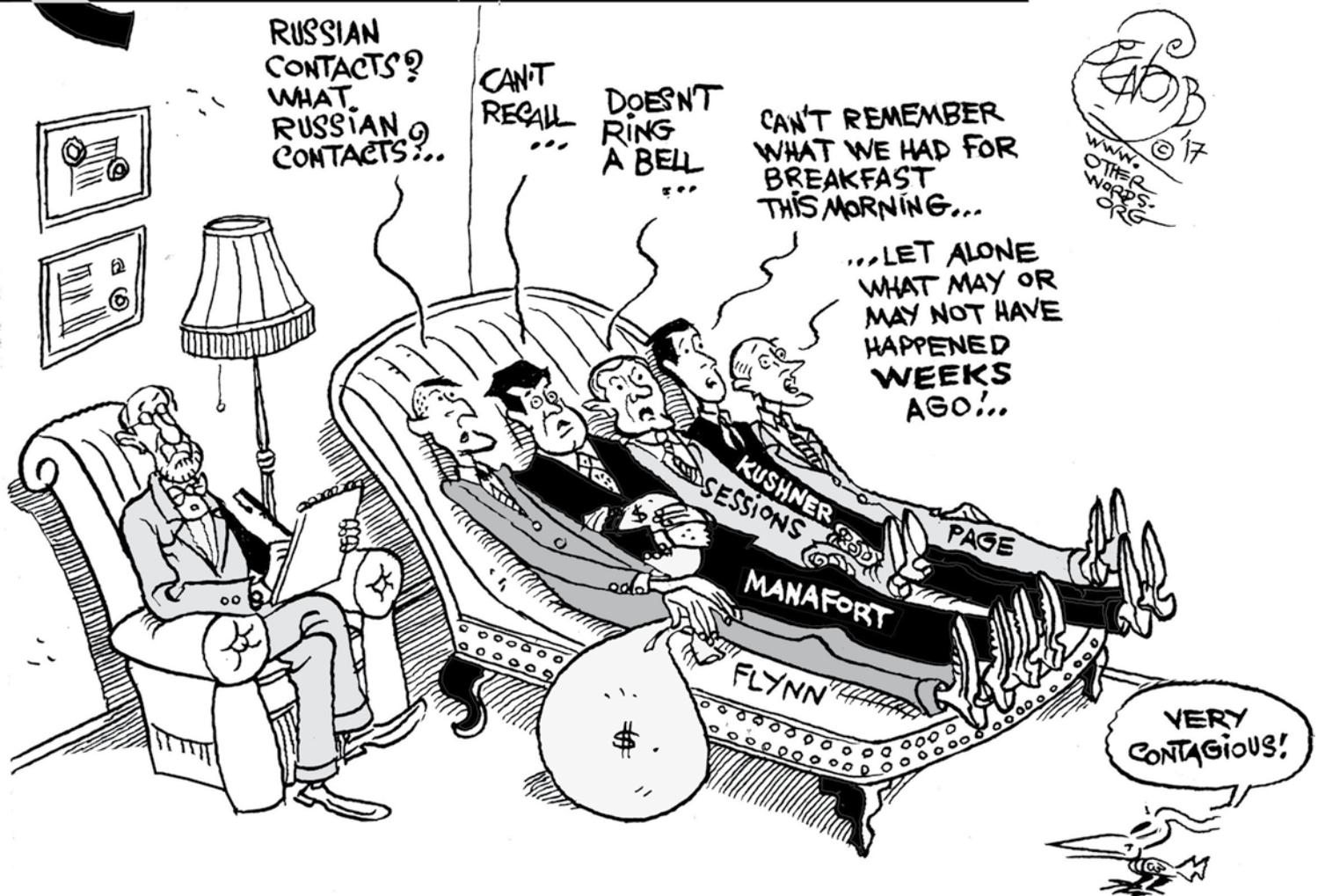
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OPINION

COLLECTIVE AMNESIA SYNDROME:



Fueled by Racism and White Supremacy

The common thread behind transit murders

BY DANTE J. JAMES

Let's call it what it is: Racism and White supremacy. As we grieve the loss of Rick Best and Taliesin Myrddin Namkai Meche, many of us have noticed a common thread in the discussion



around their murders. Media coverage and public conversations include terms like, "standing up to hate," "the alt-right," "ethnic slurs" and "biased language." This incident was fueled by racism and white supremacy, period. To call it anything less is to ignore the fundamental reason for the murders. Unless we acknowledge this reality and use these words, we will not be able to address the root causes of the problem. Words matter. The reality is that people of color

experience racism and harassment every day in Portland. We fear for our children and ourselves because the current political and social climate has emboldened bigots and white supremacists to be more comfortable, public, and aggressive with their hate. We are frustrated and disgusted when folks are surprised that such overt racism and hatred could exist in progressive, Portland, Oregon.

We need to be willing to admit that racism exists in our community and explore the root causes of blatant aggression. White allies must not assume that they've "got this," just because they consider themselves progressive or liberal. They must be willing to admit that in addition to the rise of deliberate racist aggression, under Portland's progressive veneer hide layers of institutional racism and a long history of oppression against people of color.

The hard truth is that Portland is progressive in a way that benefits white, straight, able-bodied, Christian men. Look at the data before you jump to the defense of Portlandia.

So, what are you willing to do to fight racism and help dismantle white supremacy? Educating yourself about Oregon and Portland's racist history of exclusion and violence against people of color, and understanding how the ghosts of that not-so-distant past still haunt us today, are good first steps.

You can also ask yourself a couple of questions, "Why does it take the death of two clearly courageous white men to spark this huge outcry, while many were silent after young and black Larnell Bruce was run down and murdered by white supremacists last year in Gresham?"

Do you notice any reluctance or discomfort on your part to use terms like, "racism," "white supremacy," or "genocide?" "Why or why not?" Connecting with, and supporting, social justice organizations will make you a better ally, and elevating conversations about racism and white supremacy in your existing networks will also help the fight.

If it is a true aphorism that, "If we don't go within, we will go without," then we must look within ourselves, and at our governmental actions, to determine why we cannot use the language of reality. People of color are going without and dying and we do not have the luxury of talking in euphemisms.

We cannot solve a problem that we are unable to correctly define. Dante J. James is director of Portland's Office of Equity and Human Rights.

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OPINION

Same Divisive Ideals Make Us Less Safe

Word choice doesn't change Trump message

BY DINA EL-RIFAI

All right, America. We need to have a talk.

The president recently returned from Saudi Arabia, where he gave his Muslim hosts a speech about the threats of "radical Islamist terrorism."

Because Trump steered slightly clear of his usual vitriol toward Muslims — he's repeatedly claimed in the past that "Islam hates us," and never misses a chance to complain about "Radical Islamic Terror" — some folks in the media credited Trump for not saying any-



thing "overtly" Islamophobic.

Even liberal-leaning outlets like The Atlantic and Vox judged the speech "politically correct" and "uncharacteristically inoffensive," respectively.

They seem to have missed the fact that Trump's language, while perhaps less direct than what he says to crowds of his supporters in the United States, was still drenched in the demonization of Muslims. And worse, the speech pointed to an escalation of militarism and violence against Muslim communities.

In other words, some folks are missing the forest for the teleprompter. Trump may have sounded more polite, but he advanced the same divisive ideas that make all of us less safe.

Right-wing extremists are increasingly visible in the U.S. —

from Dylann Roof in South Carolina to the man in Portland who recently stabbed three people for defending Muslims on a train. Yet Trump's speech still characterized violence and extremism as an exclusively Muslim phenomenon.

Indeed, Trump seemed to cast the Middle East as the home and source of all terrorism, calling whole groups of people there "barbaric criminals" and "foot soldiers of evil." For this reason he insisted that "Muslim nations must be willing to take on the burden to defeat terrorism and send its wicked ideology to oblivion."

But since when is bombing people into peace a thing?

After all, the U.S. dropped 20,000-plus bombs on Muslim-majority countries just in the past year, and has terrorized and killed millions in the name of a

war on terror. This country runs torture camps like Guantanamo and strips people of their civil and human rights. Who are we to define good and evil?

Yet once again, the world's 1.7 billion Muslims are being divided into "good Muslims" and "bad Muslims." The "good Muslims," according to this idea, support those "war on terror" policies that result in the expansion of violence against mostly innocent people. The "bad ones" don't — and so we're called terrorists.

But Trump went a step further by defining good Muslims as the wealthy ones in business with the United States (or himself). Trump valorized those who will profit off the violence that he calls for, including through a \$110 billion arms deal for Saudi Arabia to buy American weapons.

Those weapons will be used in Yemen, where a Saudi-led bombing campaign has killed more than 10,000 people and left 7 million civilians facing starvation.

So in his supposedly more polite and presidential speech, Trump defined whole groups of people as barbarians, and those who profit off the destruction and death of those people as civilized beacons of peace and goodness.

This isn't some new, miraculously un-Islamophobic Trump. Just because his speechwriters know how to modify his word choice doesn't change the hateful, violent, dangerous, anti-Muslim message that calls for the destruction of entire communities.

Dina El-Rifai is a Policy Fellow at the American Friends Service Committee. Distributed by OtherWords.org.

Whitest and Arguably One of the Most Racist:

The tale of two Portlands

BY TAI HARDEN-MOORE, JD

Portland, Oregon, known for its rainy weather, award-winning restaurants, hipsters, and all things Pacific Northwest, hides a very dark secret in plain sight — Portland, Oregon, is the whitest, and arguably, one of the most racist cities in America.

Growing up in Seattle, Portland has always been a second home to me. I first moved to Portland for college, and I have bounced between living in Portland and other cities over the last 20 years. Due to neighborhood gentrification, the systematic displacement of African-Americans in North and Northeast Portland, and a severe lack of affordable housing options, when my family and I decided to move back to Oregon in 2015, we



settled approximately 40 minutes outside of the city, in a small town with rent we could actually afford. It was clear that the Portland I knew had changed... a lot.

On Friday, March 26, 2017, an American terrorist, killed two men and injured one, as they intervened to stop his hateful verbal attack on two teenage girls, one wearing a hijab.

While many in our community were shocked by what happened, some were not — for some Portlanders, specifically communities of color, prejudice, bias, racism, microaggressions, and verbal and physical assaults are nothing new in the city that prides itself on its "progression."

Portland has a deep history of racism, from 1859 legislation forbidding Blacks from living in the state, to urban renewal plans that

led to thousands of African Americans losing their homes, to the enormous wage and homeownership gaps that continue to grow, Portland, Oregon has always been a place where people of color have been marginalized, and in some cases victimized, by the acts and decisions of white Portland.

While most racist encounters are not as overt as the tragedy that took place on that Friday afternoon, racism is still very much alive in Portland, hiding in plain sight largely as racially discriminatory policies and practices.

Portland, a city that promotes itself as progressive and inclusive, has allowed itself to endorse policies that have systematically oppressed communities of color and bolstered white supremacy for generations. The only difference now is that the disparate treatment and oppression of people of color is no longer hidden in Portland, as

racist feel emboldened to express their hatred like never before.

Tai Harden-Moore, JD is a

Portland-based writer and advocate. She graduated from Florida A&M University College of Law.

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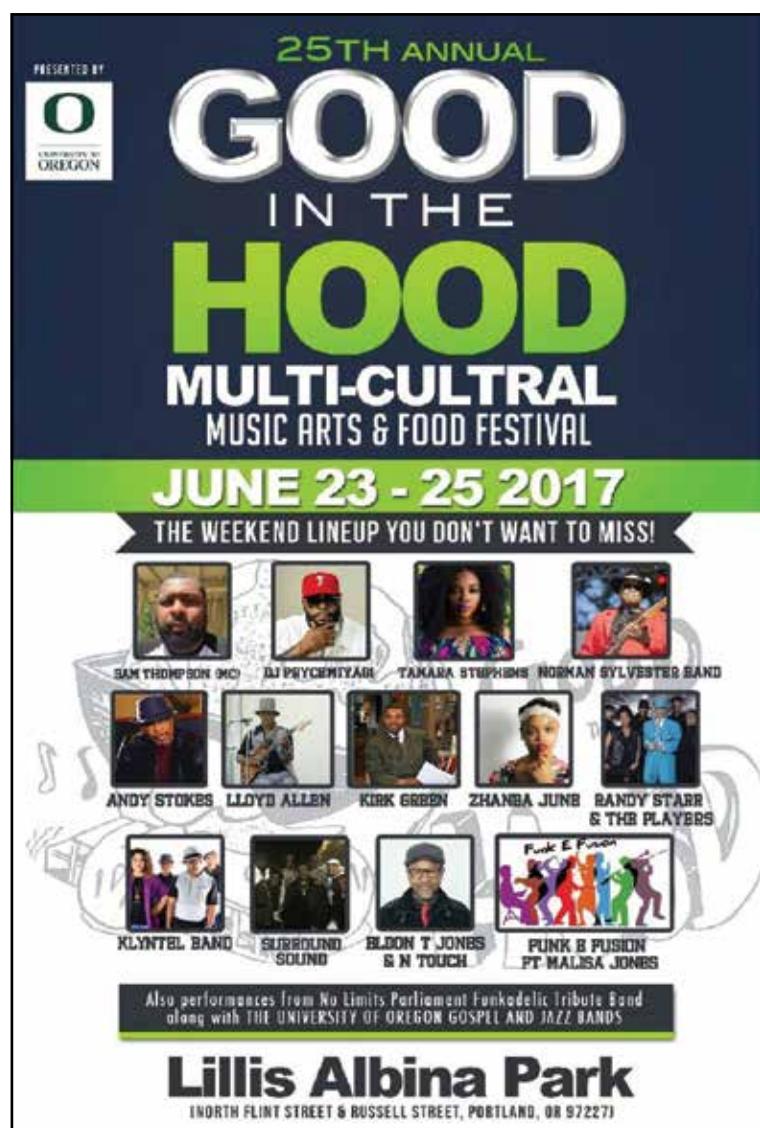
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503 Runnin' Rebels 4th and 5th grade girls with coaches (from left) Marlin McCowan, Van Johnson and James Johnson.



NAYA Warriors 4th and 5th grade boys with coaches Chenoa Landry (from left) and Jett Sheng. Coach Micah Johnson not pictured.



Portland Observer Ballers 4th and 5th grade boys with coaches Mark Washington (left) and Jeff Ta.



Breakdown PDX 4th and 5th grade girls with coach Thomas Gardner.



The Heat 4th and 5th grade boys with coaches Reggie Davis (left) and Phillip Mathews.



Breakdown PDX 4th and 5th grade girls with coaches (from left) Tremanie Channel, Thomas Gardner, MeLessa Patten.



Elev8Hoops 4th and 5th grade girls with coach DaRaysha Kennedy.



Team Fly 8th grade boys with coach Sean Overton.



Urban Sports 8th grade boys with coach Dominic Hernandez.



First Step Basketball 8th grade boys with coach Kari Bloodsaw (right) and assistant coach Jamaal Galloway.

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Returning All To Mother Nature

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

Portland Rose Festival -- The Portland Rose Festival's CityFair on the Tom McCall Waterfront runs through Sunday, June 11. The Grand Floral Parade will take place on Saturday, June 10 starting at 10 a.m. at Veterans Memorial Coliseum, spanning the east side via Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard to downtown via the Burnside Bridge. For information on all Rose Festival events, visit rosefestival.org.

R&B Artist on Tour -- Singer, songwriter and guitarist Corinne Bailey Rae performs with Jamila Woods, Wednesday, June 7 at the Wonder Ballroom in northeast Portland. Rae is a Grammy award winning artist from England with over 5 million albums sold and where she was voted the best R&B artist of 2016.

Norman Sylvester -- 'Boogie Cat' Norman Sylvester plays Friday, June 9 at 8:30 p.m. at the Trail's End in Oregon City; Saturday, June 10 at 9 p.m. at The Spare Room.

Free Youth Fishing Clinics -- The Mt. Hood National Forest is hosting annual free fishing clinics for kids 12 and younger. Next session is Saturday, June 24. Bring lunch, warm clothing, a rod and reel if possible and a cooler to bring home your catch! For more information, call 503-630-8801.

Exploring Black Cinema -- Featuring films by visionaries, rebels and pioneers willing to tell it like it is, the NW Film Center at the Portland Art Museum hosts a black cinema series though June 11 in conjunction with the museum's African American exhibit "Constructing Identity." For complete listings and advance tickets, visit nwfilm.org.

Children's African Dance -- The Kukatonon Children's African Dance Troupe's End of the Year Showcase will be held on Friday, June 9 at 6:30 p.m. at Jefferson High School and the community is invited. The showcase will feature performances by the Kukatonon dancers and drummers as well as guest performances from the West African dance company Sebe Kan and the African drumming ensemble Baramakono.

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PHOTO BY ZACHARY SENN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Two children carry powerful messages to the steps of the Hollywood/42nd Avenue Transit Center during a moment of silence to remember the two men killed in a racially motivated attack on light rail more than one week ago. The Friday noon observance was organized by TriMet which asked all buses and trains to pull over and stop for one minute in honor of the victims.

Advocates say political climate has emboldened hate

BY ZACHARY SENN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Racially—motivated fatal stabbings on a Max light rail train more than a week ago has raised concerns from a number of community leaders that a new connectivity on the Internet and a new sociopolitical climate has emboldened people with racist views, energized by the election of President Donald Trump.

Dante James, who serves as director of the Office of Equity and Human Rights for the city of Portland, has called on the media not to downplay the role that white supremacy and racism played in the Memorial Day weekend attack.

“Unless we acknowledge this reality and use these words,” James said, “we will not be able to address the root causes of the problem.”

Fighting Racism

In an interview with the Portland Observer, James explained that using diluted terms, such as “alt-right,” “ethnic slurs” and “biased language” in conversations surrounding attacks motivated by racism can inadvertently help white supremacist groups to propel their agenda.

“They have in fact become more mainstream and can now use euphemisms like “the alt-right” to be more readily accept-

ed,” James said.

James says that the campaign of President Trump has emboldened those with white supremacist sentiments to be more vocal and violent.

“The election didn’t create this,” he said, “It just created an opportunity for it to be more comfortable in doing what it wanted to do.”

Dr. Shirley Jackson, who serves as the

chair of Portland State University’s Black Studies Department, agrees that today’s sociopolitical climate makes it easier for racist speech to be made publicly.

“In the past, people may have felt that they needed to take these kinds of remarks to the back room,” Jackson said in an interview with the Portland Observer. “Now, there is this feeling that it’s okay to say certain things that in the past might have been characterized as inappropriate.”

Both Jackson and James believe that social media has played a role in connecting those expressing racist and white supremacist ideology.

“People on the Internet are looking for people who share their ideas,” Jackson said. “Like-minded people will find comfort in those types of relationships.”

James says that enhanced connectivity is one of the vectors allowing white supremacist messaging to continue to spread.

“You can have a mob mentality without ever being in the mob now, because of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

FUNDRAISER LEGGINGS SALE



On **Saturday, June 10th, from noon to 5 PM, Inhance Fashionistas** will be holding a fundraising at **Bethal AME Church, 5828 NE 8th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97211.** **Inhance Fashionistas** sells super soft leggings, capris, and tunics. All leggings will be \$5 and tunics. All leggings will be \$5 and tunics \$7. The proceeds from the sale, 100%, will be donated to **Ministry in Motion Dance Troup** in support of Lanaya and Ge'anna's trip to Las Angeles for their performance. These prices will only be offered on Saturday, June 10th. *Please share this one-time sale with family and friends.*

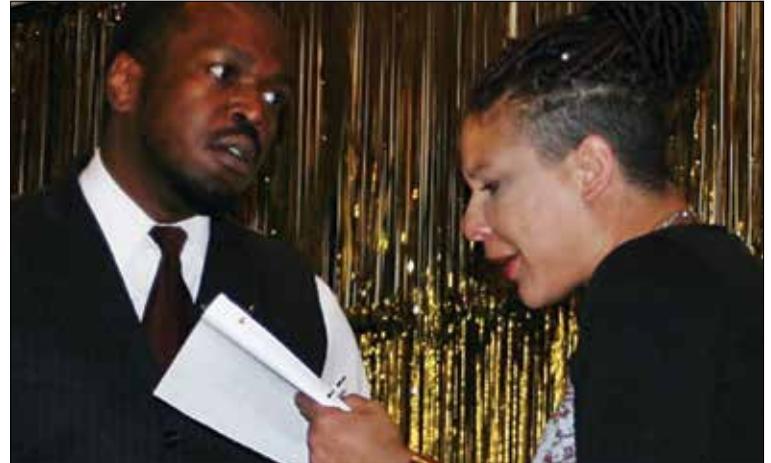
Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

From the Harlem Renaissance

Honoring female playwrights from the Harlem Renaissance, Triangle Productions continues its Brown Paper Bag series of staged readings of anti-lynching plays by black writers from the early part of the last century.

The dramatic genre arose in the early 1900s to showcase the devastating impact racist killings had on African American families.

Triangle and a powerful collective of local African American artists, including Josie Seid, Bobby Bermea, Skeeter Greene and



James Dixon and Andrea White perform in a staged reading of anti-lynching plays by black writers from the Harlem Renaissance.

others, bring these stories back to the stage to share a deeper understanding of our history and its connection to the present.

A discussion to open up community dialogue and foster cultural education will follow the

production, scheduled for Monday, June 12 at 7 p.m. at Triangle Production's home, the Sanctuary at Sandy Plaza, 1785 N.E. Sandy Blvd. To learn more or order advance tickets, visit trianglepro.org.

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Cully Market Opens for Season

PHOTO COURTESY CULLY FARMERS MARKET

The weekly Cully Farmers Market has made its seasonal return. Now in its eighth year in the heart of the Northeast 42nd Avenue Business District at 42nd and Alberta Street, the market offers fresh, healthy produce, affordable goods and services, and builds on community and business relationships. It also acts as an incubator for neighborhood entrepreneurs who can bring their budding business ideas or prototype products to sell at a community table. Hours are every Thursday, from 4-8 p.m. through August, and from 4-7 p.m. in September.



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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



Join Francisco Bautista, a 4th generation Mexican weaver, at the PDX Culture Keepers Festival, Sunday, June 11 at the Oregon Historical Society, 1200 S.W. Park Ave.

Festival of Cultural Traditions

Five folk artists will perform or demonstrate a variety of cultural traditions, from traditional Kenyan cooking techniques to Estonian folk dance at the PDX Culture Keepers Festival, Saturday, June 11 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Oregon Historical Society, downtown.

Rounding out the free, family-friendly program will be interactive demonstrations of Oaxacan weaving, Coquille/Coos canoe

paddle carving, and intricately woven nautical rope mats.

The featured artists include Francisco Bautista, a fourth-generation weaver from a village near Oaxaca City, Mexico, known for its weaving tradition, and Dennis Best, a maker of traditional nautical rope mats who will demonstrate his knotting techniques and invites guests to tie a few themselves.

Wambui Machua, a Kenyan

chef and local business owner who teaches African cooking classes, will prepare typical Kenyan dishes including ugali, a corn meal based dish, and samosas. And both the adult and youth members from the Estonian folk dance troupe, will perform, and visitors are invited to learn some steps and join in!



Participants learn the basics of composting at a Composting 101 workshop at the Columbia Springs urban natural area in Vancouver.

Turn Your Spoils into Soil

Want to begin composting your yard debris and some of your kitchen waste? A two hour class at the Columbia Springs urban natural area in Vancouver can help you turn your green matter into black gold and save money on your garbage bill.

The instruction will give you an introduction to the science

of composting and a close up demonstration of composting bins and systems in action. The next class is Wednesday, June 14 at 6 p.m. at the Columbia Springs Swift Classroom, 12208 S.E. Evergreen Hwy. Cost is \$5 and pre-registration is required. Visit columbiasprings.org or call 360-882-0936.



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These opportunities are open to First Opportunity Target Area (FOTA) residents: This area includes the following zip codes located primarily in N, NE and a small portion of SE Portland: 97024, 97030, 97203, 97211, 97212, 97213, 97216, 97217, 97218, 97220, 97227, 97230, 97233, 97236, and 97266, whose total annual income was less than \$47,000 for a household of up to two individuals or less than \$65,000 for a household of three or more.

Visit oregonmetro.gov/FOTA for the complete job announcement and a link to our online hiring center or visit our lobby kiosk at Metro, 600 NE Grand Ave, Portland.

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A voluntary pre-proposal conference will be held on **Wednesday, June 14, 2017, from 9 to 10:30 a.m.** at the Metro Regional Center, Room 270, 600 NE Grand Ave, Portland. Interested proposers and subcontractors are encouraged to attend the conference to gain information about the RFP requirements

Sealed proposals are due no later than 2:00 p.m., July 6, 2017 in Metro's business offices at 600 NE Grand Avenue, Portland, OR 97232-2736, Attention: Riko Frohnmayer RFP 3337

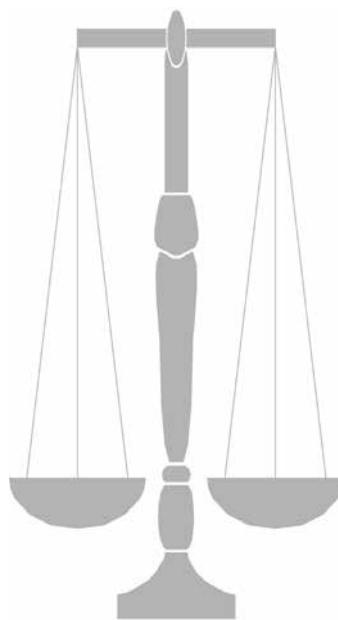
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Fighting Racism

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

social media,” James explained. “That’s a huge difference from days past.”

The policy director of the Asia Pacific American Network of Oregon, Zahir Janmohamed, says that while the stabbings have brought new media interest to the issue of racism in Oregon, Portland’s communities of color are well aware of the region’s historical white supremacist activity.

“This has been happening for quite some time,” Janmohamed told the Portland Observer. “We’ve seen the presence of white supremacist groups.”

According to a March 23 study released by the nonprofit investigative journalism group ProPublica, Oregonians reported the highest numbers of hate and bias crimes per capita in the country.

In a widely shared opinion piece that he penned for CNN, Janmohamed writes about how an extensive string of racially motivated attacks have been making waves in Portland’s communities of color over the past year.

James says that ignorance of Oregon’s racist past must be confronted for the region to move toward greater racial equity.

“White people in this state and in this city don’t know the area’s history,” James explained. “It’s not taught in schools.”

Oregon’s state constitution initially included a series of exclusion laws that banned black residents until 1926. These measures continue to haunt the state’s demographic makeup, as 2013 Census Bureau data reveals that just two percent of the state’s population is black.

Janmohamed says that Oregon’s white population has a responsibility to counter racism and white supremacy.

“I’m Muslim -- I’ve been hearing for as long as I can remember that I need to go to Muslims and talk to them about problems of violence and extremism,” he said. “I’m trying to address problems that I see within the Muslim community. Where are white Portlanders on this issue?”

Statements from other officials including Mayor Ted Wheeler and community organizations such as the Oregon AFL-CIO labor union and the Oregon Justice Resource Center expressed both condolences for the families of the victims and solidarity with the state’s immigrant communities.

James says that the community



PHOTO BY ZACHARY SENN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Visitors pay their respects to the victims of a racially-motivated stabbing attack on a MAX light rail train at the Hollywood/42nd Avenue Transit Center. The front of the station’s concrete façade has become a makeshift memorial.

and the city at large should continue to rally around and support the families of the two men killed, the man who survived the attack, and the two teenage girls the three heroes came to help when they were harassed by hate speech, including anti-Muslim taunts. One of the girls was wearing a hijab.

“I don’t want the two young girls to get lost in this conversation,” said James, “and in some sense I think they have been.”

Jackson says that while the incident is tragic, she is heartened by the willingness of the men who came to help the two young women and stand up against bigotry, Rick Best, Taliesin Myrddin Namkai-Meche and Micah Fletcher.

“They did it because it was the right thing to do,” Jackson said, adding, “I wish that we had more people who did those sorts of things so that we can engage in

a system of checking people’s behavior, hopefully without the loss of life.”

James says that as Portlanders mourn the lives lost, they must also remember the racially motivated hatred that resulted in the violence.

“This conversation is really about the need to understand what these motivations are,” James said. “This is about racism, pure and simple.”



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MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY

				1 ☾ Stand for Children Day	2 George Mendoza born, 1955 Radio Patented, 1896	3 First U.S. Space Walk By Ed White in 1965
4 Aesop’s Birthday First Ford Made, 1896. First Hot Air Balloon Flight, 1783	5 First Apple II computers sold, 1977 National Gingerbread Day	6 World Environment Day First Drive-in Movie Theater, 1933	7 Nikki Giovanni born, 1943	8 Frank Lloyd Wright Born in 1867	9 ☉ World Egg Day Donald Duck born, 1934	10 Maurice Sendak born, 1928 National Yo-Yo Day

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