



# Celebrating BLACK HISTORY MONTH



## Portland Observer

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# Inspired to Keep Others Out of Gangs

She knows  
Portland's history  
because she lived it

BY DANNY PETERSON  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Nicky Taylor's personal story of growing up with gangs in Portland and then escaping from gangs, a story inextricably tied to the city's history of murder and mayhem on the streets is now a half hour long documentary, "The Nicole Taylor Story," released last month on Amazon Prime.

Taylor said her mother, who died from cancer three years ago, inspired her to continue telling the next generation about the perils of gangs, a mission she helmed since 1999 when she published a book for young adults about her experiences and co-authored by educator Frances Mejia Caldwell.

Now a billboard advertises her movie and book on Northeast 82nd and Ash Street, which Taylor said is a big deal.

"On the billboard I'm sitting there and



PHOTO BY CHRISTA MCINTYRE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Nicole Taylor, Portland author of the young adult book 'Ask Nicky,' has transformed her personal story about the consequences of gangs to the production of a new documentary 'The Nicole Taylor Story.'

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# Court Pick Apologizes for Racist Remarks

Oregon nominee  
says college writings  
were misguided

BY BEVERLY CORBELL  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Federal prosecutor and Oregon native Ryan Bounds has come under fire for making racist, sexist and homophobic attacks on multiculturalism back in college, and although he apologized Friday, his nomination from President Trump for a lifetime appointment to the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals still reflects who is today, according to the activist group, Alliance for Justice.

The alliance sent a "snapshot" report to media earlier this month stating that while a student at Stanford University in California back in the 1990s, Bounds complained in opinion pieces



Ryan Bounds

that "race-focused groups" should not be allowed on campus and used racist and offensive language to describe people with backgrounds and beliefs that were different from his own.

The group also claims that Bounds wrote "condescendingly and dismissively" about sexual assault on college campus and that alleged perpetrators should be punished or expelled only if their guilt is "beyond a reasonable doubt," the same words the president used when defending a recently-dismissed West Wing staff member.

The writings reveal strong biases that call into question Bounds' ability to fairly apply the law and dispense even-handed justice to all, the Alliance for Justice wrote in their Feb. 2 report which is available online at afj.org.

Bounds, 44, responded to the claims on Friday in an email to the Multnomah County Bar Association's Committee on

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, a panel he chairs, apologizing for "misguided sentiments" in his youthful writings.

In a copy of the email obtained and shared by the Oregonian, Bounds said the remarks no longer reflect his views and called them "ill-considered, tone-deaf, and mortifyingly insensitive pronouncements of one's youth."

If confirmed, Bounds, an Assistant U.S. Attorney for Oregon, is predicted by some to become the president's standard-bearer where immigration rights are concerned. Others are concerned that the administration is packing federal courts with right-wing justices who can hobble progressive objectives for decades to come. But for some — Oregon Sens. Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden included — the way Bounds was nominated is even more troubling because they were left out of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



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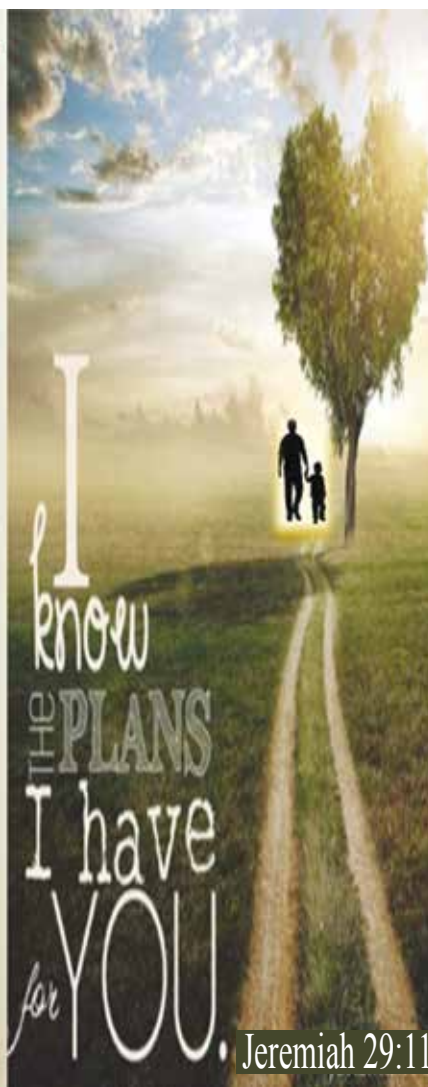
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# Black Parents Name Smith

The Black Parents Initiative, an organization that helps local families prepare children for academic success, announced Wednesday that it has named Chuck Smith as its interim leader, and has suspended executive director and co-founder Charles McGee as it investigate allegations of sexual assault made against him.

Smith has served the non-profit organization as program director for four years and has over 35 years experience in human ser-



Chuck Smith

vices.

McGee was the subject of an investigative story in the Willamette Week last week about the sexual assault of a woman he knew six years ago and who pledged to make her story public if he ever ran for public office.

Last Tuesday, apparently in anticipation of the article, McGee announced he was no longer running for Multnomah County Commissioner, for a seat that will open next year because of term limits.

### Lying About Videotaping Rights

A veteran Portland police sergeant admitted to investigators that he deliberately told a protestor in 2016 that he could get arrested for videotaping police and that misleading the public on such legal practices is common among police, the city's Independent Police Review panel reported last week. The findings are expected to result in disciplinary actions for the officer in question.

### Shelter Roof Leak Ousts Families

Over 100 parents and children were displaced last week from the city's largest homeless shelter for families, located on Southeast 160th Avenue and Stark Street, after a roof leak sparked safety

## The Week in Review

concerns. The families moved to a church across the street, then to motels as county officials evaluate and decide on repairs.



### Unity Kicks Off Olympics

North and South Korea leaders sat side-by-side and shook hands in an unexpected display of unity as the 2018 Winter Olympics kicked off Friday in Pyeongchang, South Korea. Yuna Kim, South Korea's figure skating gold medalist, was shepherded to light the torch by two athletes from the unified Korean ice hockey team.

### Portland Teachers Receive Raises

Portland Association of Teachers has won a bargaining contract with Portland Public Schools after the school board voted 7-0 last week to ratify a new 3-year agreement. An 8 percent raise, spread out over three years, and the con-

tinued coverage of current benefits is part of the contract.

### OHSU Drops Policy Denying Transplants to Undocumented

An antiquated policy at Oregon Health & Science University prohibiting an undocumented mother of four children, who has lived in the local area for decades, a life-saving liver transplant, has been rescinded. The ACLU began a petition to reverse the policy and when it was brought to the attention of hospital leaders, it was discontinued.

### Residential Speed Limit Reduced

The Portland Bureau of Transportation started changing speed limit signs on residential streets from 25 mph to 20 mph last week, the first phase of a new attempt from the city's Vision Zero Initiative to eliminate traffic fatalities over the next decade.

### Free Tuition for PSU Transfers

Beginning this fall, some low-income Oregonian college students transferring to Portland State University will no longer have to pay tuition, so long as they are enrolled full time and are eligible for a Pell Grant, the university announced last week. The program will cover tuition and fees up to 15 credits for transfer students of a four year college or community college.



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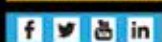
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This page  
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# Fred Meyer

What's on your list today?



PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON

Venus Hayes speaks out for justice in the police shooting death of her 17-year-old son, Quance Hayes, as she gathered with family and friends at City Hall on Thursday to file a notice of bring a wrongful death lawsuit against the city, one year after Hayes was killed.

# Family Seeks Justice

BY DANNY PETERSON  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The family of Quance Hayes wanted to deliver their intent to sue the city to Mayor Ted Wheeler directly, but had to settle for the mayor's Chief of Staff Maurice Henderson.

Surrounded by friends and family, Venus Hayes and her brother Steven Hayes hand-delivered the lawsuit notice to City Hall on Thursday, demanding accountability for what they believe was a wrongful death of their 17-year-old son and nephew.

The mayor had a prior commit-

ment at a previously scheduled event, according to his representative, but it did not sit well with the family. Witnesses reported seeing Wheeler exit a back door of City Hall just a half hour before the family and supporters arrived.

Terrence Hayes, a cousin of Venus Hayes, criticized the mayor for his lack of a presence, "I think it's offensive... our family put a lot of trust in Ted. In the beginning, we were hopeful, he was genuine and not 'Ted the politician,'" he told the Portland Observer.

Quance Hayes was unarmed when he was shot while on the

ground following a police chase after a reported armed robbery near Northeast 82nd Avenue one year ago. His family says he was on his knees and complying with officer instructions when he was shot, but the officer said he was reaching for his waistband. A replica toy gun was found nearby.

A grand jury ruled in March that the shooting was justified, and the police officer shot Hayes, Andrew Hearst was cleared of charges. It marked the second time of him using justified lethal force during his career.

# Church Hosts Obama Advisor on Faith

The community is invited to join a diverse Portland congregation for an evening with Joshua DuBois, former President Obama's faith advisor, as he addresses "Faith in America Today" with music from some of Portland's finest jazz musicians.

The event will be held Tuesday, Feb. 20 at 7 p.m. at Augustana Lutheran Church, 2710 NE 14th Ave., on Tuesday, Feb. 20 at 7 p.m.

DuBois is one of our country's top voices on community partnerships, religion in the public



Joshua DuBois

square and issues impacting African Americans. He led the White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships under President Obama and was called the President's "Pastor-in-Chief" by TIME Magazine.

Also attending will be Rev. Kip Banks, senior pastor of East Washington Heights Baptist Church in Washington, D.C. Rev. Banks currently serves as the Director for Advocacy for the Progressive National Convention, which was founded by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



# Court Pick Apologizes for Racist Remarks

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

the process.

On Monday, Merkley and Wyden released the names of four possible nominees chosen by a bipartisan committee, comprised of attorneys appointed by the two senators and Oregon U.S. Rep. Greg Walden. The list includes Bounds, Medford trial attorney Kelly Anderson, Portland appellate attorney Thomas

Christ, and Renata Gowie, another assistant U.S. attorney for Oregon.

But Wyden and Merkley made their feelings about Bounds abundantly clear:

"After the committee finished its work, we learned that Ryan Bounds failed to disclose inflammatory writings that reveal archaic and alarming views about sexual assault, the rights of workers, people of color, and

the LGBTQ community," they said. "While we have followed through on our commitment to forward to the White House the names reported by the committee, we do not believe Mr. Bounds is a suitable nominee for a lifetime appointment to the bench."

Bounds, who grew up in eastern Oregon, was first nominated for the Ninth Circuit by President Trump last year, but the year ran out before his nomination could come up before the Senate Judiciary Committee. This was after the administration ignored Merkley and Wyden's call to nominate U.S. District Judge Marco Hernandez for the post, as well as their lack of endorsement for Bounds.

Instead, the president accepted the recommendation of Bounds by Walden, Oregon's lone Republican congressman. Bounds was re-nominated again last month, again without consulting the Oregon senators, who have continued with their own bi-partisan committee's process of considering nominees.

Trump, as he promised on the campaign trail, appears to have delegated court nominations to the conservative think tank, the Federalist Society, defined on its website as, "a group of conservatives and libertarians dedicated to reforming the current legal order...to say what the law is, not what it should be."

Gil Carrasco, a law professor at Willamette University, an expert in the law as it pertains to civil rights, immigration and the constitution, said the tradition that the administration consults with home state senators when considering a judicial appointment has its underpinnings in Article II of the Constitution and sidestepping that process is a troubling break.

"It is disturbing that this

White House has affirmatively chosen to ignore a tradition that has existed in Oregon for over two decades," he said.

Carrasco also hinted that Bounds' appointment reeks of nepotism. "This departure from our longstanding tradition is particularly problematic given that Ryan Bounds' sister is the chief of staff of Representative Walden."

Tung Yin, law professor at Lewis & Clark Law School, said he doesn't give a lot of weight to things that Bounds wrote when he was in his late teens or early 20s.

"I don't think it's irrelevant, and he would certainly be asked about at confirmation hearings," he said.

The problem with Bounds is that it's difficult to know where his sentiments lie since he's never been a judge and "doesn't have a paper trail" of judicial rulings to survey, according to Tung.

"If somebody is so far outside the mainstream, if they're too extreme, they won't get confirmed," he said. "But it's hard to tell with Bounds."

But it's not hard to tell the effect of the administration's tactics for Lena Zwarensteyn, director of strategic engagement of the American Constitution Society, which follows a progressive agenda.

The administration is "trying to achieve through the courts what they can't achieve legislatively," she said, by making lifetime appointments to relatively young, white male conservatives to district courts throughout the country.

"The president touted throughout the campaign his Supreme Court list, overturning *Roe v. Wade*, (his views on) the Second Amendment, and a bit of a hostile role toward consumer interests, clean air, clean water," she said.

At the same time, he is attempting to "de-diversify the federal bench."

"Obama nominated women and people," she said. "We are a very large, diverse community and that does need to be represented on the bench, for the public's trust of the bench, to see people who reflect them on the bench," she said. "This administration does not see that as a great benefit."

According to a January article by the McClatchy news service, there are five vacancies on the 9th Circuit and two more will open up in the coming eight months and could dramatically affect the makeup of the liberal-leaning court. "That means Trump could significantly influence the West Coast judiciary by nominating the type of young, ideologically conservative judges he has tapped for other courts," the article states.

Of the 24 judges now sitting on the 9th Circuit, according to McClatchy, 18 were appointed by Democrats and six were appointed by Republican George W. Bush. "If Trump is able to get all of his appointees confirmed this year, that split will shrink to 17-12," the article states. "Republican appointees could exceed Democrat appointees by the time Trump leaves office."

Zwarensteyn says these moves by the administration are "scary" because Trump's appointments to these lifetime positions can outlast anyone currently holding office.

"It's one thing to nominate predominantly white men, but it's another thing to nominate white men who have made hostile comments about marginalized and diverse communities who want to feel like they have a fair shake," she said. "It's pretty terrifying but also a time to look at who we want in these offices."



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# Envision Best Use for Russell Block

## Open House to hear hopes, concerns and aspirations

A diverse group of community representatives tasked with leading the visioning and development process for the Hill Block project at North Russell Street and North Williams Avenue will hold an open house and information session on Tuesday, Feb. 20, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at nearby New Song Community Church to collect feedback from community members regarding their hopes, concerns, and aspirations for the property.

The city of Portland and Legacy Health announced plans to develop the property last summer and the upcoming event will mark the transition of project stewardship from institutional partners to the community-based Project Working Group.

The block is located within an area that Prosper Portland and the City of Portland condemned in the early 1970s under urban renewal for an expansion of the hospital campus, displacing 171 families,



*Envisioning the best future use of this vacant lot next to Legacy Emanuel Hospital on North Russell and Williams Avenue, a property that was once the center of black life in Portland but has stood idle for decades, will be the reason for an open house to collect community feedback on Tuesday, Feb. 20 at the nearby New Song Community Church.*

74 percent of which were African American.

The focus of the new development is to honor Portland's African-American community, support community housing and economic needs, and further Legacy Health's mission of promoting health and wellness for children and families.

"This is a historic opportunity

to acknowledge the mistakes of the past and learn from diverse voices, expertise and vision to deliver a project that honors the African American community and fosters opportunity for wealth creation," said Prosper Portland Executive Director Kimberly Brannan.

Dr. George Brown, president and chief executive officer of

Legacy Health, said, "In looking ahead at Legacy's needs and the community's needs, as well as looking at what opportunities Prosper Portland and the City of Portland can offer, I am exceptionally pleased that we can be a part of what I believe will be a historic partnership."

Nominations to the Project Working Group involved outreach

to more than 20 organizations and community groups and focused on racial and generational diversity and a broad set of perspectives and skills.

The Project Working Group will oversee a year-long visioning and development process that is meant ensure a transparent, community-serving project, officials said.

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**"It feels good," says Charles.  
"It feels good to be alive."**

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For more about Nita and Charles, please visit:  
[careoregon.org/nitaandcharles](http://careoregon.org/nitaandcharles)







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The pre-apprenticeship program "Constructing Hope," a certified African American-owned training facility in northeast Portland offers 180 hours of classes and hands-on training for jobs in construction.

## Job Training Investment

### Prosper Portland helps local nonprofit expand

The African-American led nonprofit Constructing Hope will expand its construction training facility in northeast Portland thanks to an investment of \$300,000 from Prosper Portland, the city's economic development agency.

Construction Hope provides skill training for people wishing to enter construction careers with middle-class wages and defined benefits.

Plans for a larger facility will increase the organization's ability to training more participants, from 100 to 200 annually. The expansion will also support business equity in the community through the use of certified Minority, Women Owned and Emerging Small Business contractors and architects. Constructing Hope will complete funding of the \$500,000 project through other grants and community donations.

Constructing Hope provides no-cost, 10 week construction training programs, placement services, and career advancement support. Graduates enter construction apprenticeships that are the pathways to careers as carpenters, laborers, roofers, electricians, iron workers, masons, painters, sheet metal workers, heavy equipment operators, and HVAC technicians.

Last year, the organization placed 83 graduates into employment with an average starting wage was \$16.74 hourly.

Prior to entering the program these graduates faced barriers like a lack of work experience, little or no advanced education, experience with the criminal justice system, and race discrimination in the workplace.

Executive Director Patricia "Pat" Daniels says, "Construction is one of the few industries that will hire people with a criminal record. For communities of color, who are overrepresented in the criminal justice system, this can be a life saver."

The program works by helping

participants move from building small projects like a complex sawhorse to capstone projects like tiny house construction. Participants get a head start toward employment with transportation support for their first job, driver's license assistance, professional certifications, tools, work boots, and personal protective equipment. At the same time, they learn life skills such as budgeting, personal goal setting, and career development strategies.

Constructing Hope graduate Raleigh Morrison shared, "With a criminal background, Constructing Hope gave me opportunity I didn't think was possible. They've given me a whole new life." So inspirational was Morrison's experience and resulting middle-class wage of \$26.85 per hour; that two of his sons followed in his footsteps and are currently working together on a large concrete project.

Community members who are unemployed and seeking no-cost construction training can visit [constructinghope.org](http://constructinghope.org) or call the front desk at 503-281-1234.



**Joyce Washington**

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*Joyce Washington Believed in this Community  
and all those that made this Community Great.*

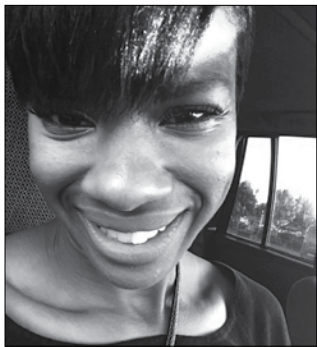
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## Fitness with 'JJ'

BY JANITA  
'JJ' JONES

## The Flu Took Me Out!

Can we please give a round of applause for the worst flu season ever! Oh my goodness, when I say it took me out... I mean it took me out!

I was so weak I couldn't even pick up my son. I went into urgent care and was given two bags of saline due to severe dehydration. This is not only my story but the story for a lot of us.

My social media feed is full of this nasty crud attacking families all around. The debate on whether to get a flu shot or not is not one I am looking to get into. Everyone is my family got flu shots and every one in my family got the flu. Hydrating with Pedialyte became a staple in my fridge for three months.

A simple stroll into the website for the Centers for Disease Control will show you that every week this year activity for influenza has increased. Face masks are a must if you are in close contact with potentially sick people. We have all been around that person that should have stayed home with all of their germs but decided to get out and spread the love anyway.

Continuously washing your hands and disinfecting high traffic areas is also a must. That means targeting door knobs, cell phones,

steering wheels and shopping carts.

I had a friend ask me for any old school remedies to help kick her crud. The list was a pretty good compilation of some favorite health comforts, like Vicks or Euclyptus oil on the bottom of the feet with socks or using the menthol products in a steamy shower. Other aids are vegetable broth, jalapenos and hot sauce soup, sleep with a hat on your head, pho with garlic, ginger and apple cider vinegar.

When you are sick and under the weather do not expect to work out. Some people are able to sweat it out and stay active while sick. Depending on your level of sickness, the good old fashioned remedies of rest and relaxation may help you get on the path of recovery faster! Listen to your body and do not over do it or push it until you are ready!

*Janita "JJ" Jones is a fitness professional and sports journalist for the Portland Observer. Find her cheering on her alma matters the University of Nevada and Benson High School, chasing after her baby dragons, coaching amazing athletes or teaching exercise classes. She can be reached via email at [jj@theportlandobserver.com](mailto:jj@theportlandobserver.com).*



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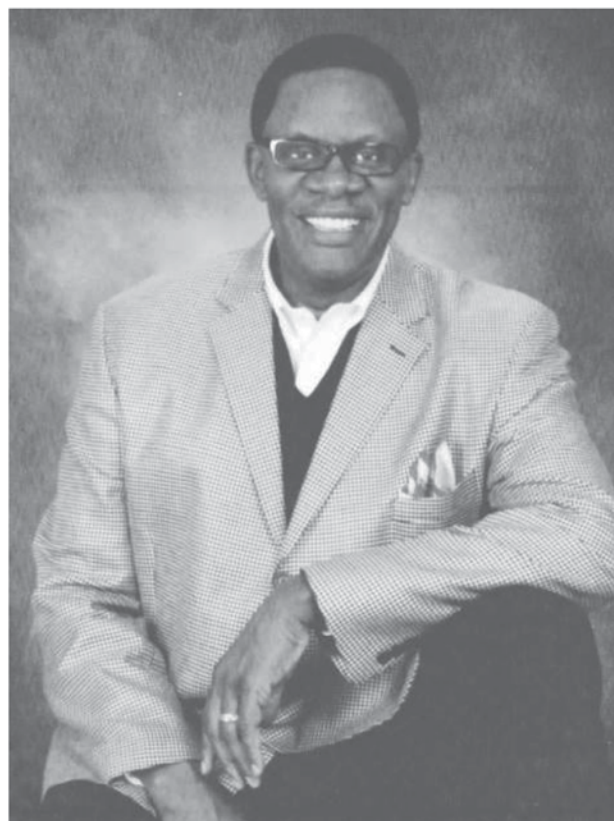
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extreme pain. Your problems could be nerve-related and therefore, stand a very good chance of being relieved by Chiropractic.

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**A:** Drugs work primarily on relieving pain, but not on treating the cause of the headache. What's more,

drugs have serious side effects. The only side effects of Chiropractic are relief from pain and a healing of the cause of pain. To find out how Chiropractic could help relieve your headaches or for answers to any questions you might have about your health, please call us at the telephone number listed directly below.

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3 A.M. - 7 A.M.  
TOM JOYNER

7 A.M. - 10 A.M.  
TONI TERRELL

10 A.M. - 1 P.M.  
REV. AL SHARPTON  
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1 P.M. - 3 P.M.  
KENNY SMOOV

3 P.M. - 7 P.M.  
D.L. HUGHLEY

7 P.M. - 9 P.M.  
PAPA SMURF

9 P.M. - 12 Midnight  
MIKE SHANNON

#### SUNDAY

12 Midnight - 3 A.M.  
MIKE SHANNON

3 A.M. - 6 A.M.  
TOYA BEASLEY

6 A.M. - 12 NOON  
SUNDAY MORNING GOSPEL  
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3pm - 7pm



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## Inspired to Keep Others Out of Gangs

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

it's my mom's picture that's over my shoulder, so it just made me think, 'she's watching over me,' Taylor said. "I promised her I wouldn't stop."

Taylor said the movie, which she collaborated with a former rival gang member to create, is also set to premiere at the Los Angeles Film Festival later this year.

"I promise you I am so excited about this. Lord, I can't believe this," she said.

New sections of her book were also added to include modules on cyber-bullying, domestic violence, and mental health—using

stories others have shared to make the curriculum well rounded.

Taylor is also one of the founders of Neighbors Against Violence, a community organization founded by other female former gang members.

She said she witnessed firsthand the beginning of Portland's history with gangs brought in from California in the 1980s. The film goes back even before that when many of her friends were affiliated with a gang called "15th Hood" in northeast Portland which became the "Woodlawn Bloods" when the larger gangs arrived, she said.

Taylor was a witness to the first confirmed Bloods gang slaying which happened right outside her house as she celebrated her "Sweet 16" party in October 1987.

"I wasn't in the gang at that time," Taylor said. "I was friends with the Crips and I was friends with the Bloods. But you can't control your whole environment that you're in."

Distressed by the killing and suffering from the shock of a seeing a church pastor drop dead from natural causes in the middle

in 1999 she began to rethink her lifestyle.

"It just all came like domino effect."

Knowing she didn't want her son involved in gangs, she decided to write a book to serve as a cautionary tale for the next generation, preceding her son's birth in 2000.

Taylor recalled a time at the height of her gang involvement when her auntie plucked her from a street corner where she was dealing weed and took her to church, returning only to find a yellow-taped crime scene and somebody dead lying right where she had stood. She chalked up the close call to divine intervention.

She also credits her grandmother, mother and auntie for being positive influences on her.

In 2015, gang-related violence in Portland reached a peak with 182 gang-related shootings, stabbings or assaults, the highest number since the bureau began tracking the data in 1998. More than a third of the 34 killings that year were believed to be gang-related. There were 81 gang-related shoot-

*"I wasn't in the gang at that time. I was friends with the Crips and I was friends with the Bloods. But you can't control your whole environment that you're in."*

—Nicole Taylor, author of 'Ask Nicky'

of a sermon the next day, Taylor, unfortunately, found comfort from the dozen or so Blood members on her neighborhood corner. They enveloped her into their bosom. That same day she threw on a red Pendleton and started down the path of gang banging for the next decade.

"I used to wake up be like 'damn, who am I going to shoot today?' You know, for real. That was our thing," Taylor said. "It's crazy 'cause now-a-days we got Crips killing Crips and Bloods killing Bloods."

She stopped her gang activity briefly in the 90s when she started popping pills to cope.

"I think that has something to do with like depression--seeing too many bodies, going to too many funerals, and being shot," Taylor said. "Your bones never, they never come back to normal. I be achin' in this cold," she lamented.

When Taylor became pregnant


ings in 2017 and in January five homicides suspected to have had gang involvement occurred.

Taylor now dedicates her life to keeping the next generation out of the gang life. Her book, Ask Nicky, which comes in a teacher and student edition, has a built in curriculum of exercises and activities designed to help young people make decisions that won't negatively impact their futures. She has gone on tour with the book and plans another west coast tour with both the book and movie this spring. Eventually she'll also release "The Nicole Taylor Story, Part Two," currently in post-production. Both the book and movie are available on Amazon.

Taylor also plans to expand the reach of her Neighbors Against Violence organization this summer by educating more youth about gangs and providing them with activities like t-shirt printing in a program called "Lots of Love Factory."



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# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

*Voyage to Vietnam is a new Portland Children's Museum exhibition to promote understanding of Vietnam culture and showcase the traditions, customs and values exemplified by the annual celebration of Tet.*



## Voyage to Vietnam

The Portland Children's Museum has opened a new exhibit giving children and their caregivers a delightful opportunity to discover the beauty, sights and sounds of Vietnam.

Voyage to Vietnam: Celebrating the Tet Festival showcases traditions, customs and values exemplified by the annual celebration of Tet. Through interactive exhibits, families will immerse themselves in Vietnamese culture, gain appreciation for traditions, values, and daily experiences of people who live in Vietnam, and discover similarities and differences between

their lives in the U.S. and the lives of children in Vietnam.

"This exhibit advances our museum's commitment to inclusion and global understanding as we learn about the similarities and differences of family celebrations," said Ruth Shelly, the Portland Children's Museum's executive director. "My hope is that seeing Vietnam through the eyes of children will make us all more empathetic and appreciative of the rich cultural diversity within our own community."

Voyage to Vietnam runs through May 6.



# Metro

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PHOTO BY PATRICK WEISHAMPEL/BLANKEYE.TV

## Love in Unlikely Places

Tina Chilip stars as the waitress and Ryan Vincent Anderson as the policeman in "Kodachrome" a world premiere play about characters trying to connect – to love, themselves, to someone else – or in some cases to disconnect. The production originated with Portland's JAW: A Playwrights Festival in 2015. Now showing through March 18 at The Armory, downtown. Tickets start at \$25.





The two-week Portland International Film Festival opens Thursday, Feb. 15 with two showings of 'The Death of Stalin,' a satiric depiction of the frantic power struggle that ensued when Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin died. The opening night screenings will be held at the Portland Art Museum and Regal Fox Tower.

## Getting immersed into an array of cultures at PIFF

BY DARLEEN ORTEGA

My favorite time of year is about to begin! Two weeks of world cinema will be scattered all over the city as the Portland International Film Festival begins Thursday, Feb. 16 and continues until March 1. It's a refreshing change from the overly art-directed recycled stories that dominate so much Hollywood fare, and a chance to see stories from all over the world and dip into an array of cultures. 57 countries are represented in 90 feature-length films and a variety of short films as well.

The opening night film, playing in two venues, is **"The Death of Stalin,"** from the United Kingdom. Written and directed by Armando Iannucci, who also wrote and directed the hilarious **"In the Loop,"** the film is a satiric depiction of the frantic power struggle that ensued when Joseph Stalin dropped dead. Like **"In the Loop,"** it promises a fiercely funny, rapid-fire takedown of

bureaucratic dysfunction.

From then on, each weekday evening and full weekend days until March 1 offer a dazzling array of options. Among them:

**"Hochelaga, Land of Souls"** is my early favorite; it was Canada's submission for the Academy Awards, and should have but didn't secure a nomination for best foreign language film. It's a complex and moving exploration of the various generations of people who have lived in the land that we now know as Montreal, but centers the

# A Lens to the World

perspectives of indigenous people in a way that we basically never see on film. The first scenes are set in 1267 after a battle decimates an Iroquois community and a shaman intones prayers over the lost warriors. The film returns often to those prayers, which set the tone for a view of the land itself and of successive generations that resets our perspective on whose influence on North American land runs deepest.

The film's central story involves a present-day archaeological dig headed by a grad-

uate student of Mohawk descent, moving back to various periods of Quebec history reflected in the findings of the dig. At each historical moment, indigenous perspectives are honored and, in most, are prominent and even central, and the film constructs a sense of reverence for ancestors and of connectedness across various generations and cultures that I can't recall ever seeing attempted in a studio release. All of the 300 indigenous characters and extras are played by indigenous people, and the film paves a way to disconnect from centering white/European perspectives and to respect our connections to prior generations that moved me deeply. It plays on Feb. 19 and 21 and is worth prioritizing, since a U.S. release may not happen; critics appear to miss its significance beyond its depiction of Canadian history.

**"Lean on Pete"** is a British production that tells an American story set and shot in Oregon. It centers on Charlie, a gentle 15-year-old boy living an increasingly precarious existence. He lives on the edge of poverty with his father, whom he loves but who offers him little in the way of guidance,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



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# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO BY KATHY STREET, COURTESY OF THE OREGON ZOO

## New Kids on the Block

Three newly arrived baby goats receive a bottle feeding behind the scenes at the Oregon Zoo. The goats made their debut last week joining the resident chickens, sheep and adult goats at the zoo's Family Farm area.

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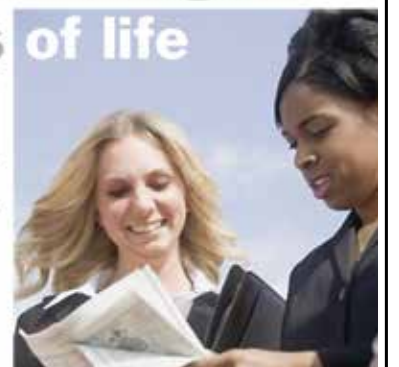


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# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

## ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

**Black Film Fest --** The nonprofit Hollywood Theater hosts a month long



c i n e m a t i c showcase of African-American stars and filmmakers for Black History Month. Actor Joe Morton will join the festival for special screening of his 1984 film 'The Brother from Another Planet,' on Saturday, Feb. 24 at 7 p.m., with Q&A to follow. A complete festival lineup is available at [hollywoodtheatre.org](http://hollywoodtheatre.org).

**Everybody Reads --** Multnomah County Library's 16th annual community reading program is underway with 5,750 copies of Moshin Hamid's 'Exit West' now being distributed across the district so readers and students can engage with the book's themes of safety, migration, displacement and conflict. Hamid will speak on Thursday, April 5 at 7:30 p.m. at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall in a public talk presented by Literary Arts.



**Norman Sylvester --** 'Boogie Cat' Norman Sylvester plays Friday, Feb. 16 at the Vinyl Tap; Friday, Feb. 23 at Clyde's; Saturday, Feb. 24 as a guest of Ants in the Kitchen at Al's Den; and Saturday, Feb. 28 at the Half Penny in Salem.

**Black History Festival NW --** World Stage Theatre, a multi-cultural local organization committed to performances that inspire social reflection, hosts its first annual Black History Festival NW this month with the stage performance "Who I Am Celebrating Me." There's also a game night at Jefferson High School on Saturday, Feb. 17, and a Black History Unity Gala at Self Enhancement, Inc., featuring ESPN correspondent Jemele Hill as the keynote speaker, on Saturday, Feb. 24. For more information, visit [blackhistoryfestival.org](http://blackhistoryfestival.org).

**OMSI Exhibit on Arctic Thaw --** "Digging into Permafrost" is a new exhibit at OMSI addressing the subject of climate change as viewed through the lens of a thawing Arctic using exciting interactive features such as an Alaskan permafrost tunnel replica, fossil research stations and interactive games.

**Priced-Out Documentary --** The Beaverton City Library presents the documentary 'Priced Out: 15 Years

of Gentrification in Portland, Oregon' on Sunday, Feb. 18 at 2 p.m. The feature-length film by Cornelius Swart explores the complexities and contradictions of gentrification and what neighborhood life means after the era of 'the ghetto.'

**Valentine Dinner and Show --** Portland entertainer Tony Starlight and the Tony Starlight Showroom, 1125 S.E. Madison, is celebrating Valentine's Day with two shows, one featuring favorites for lovers and dancers in mind on Wednesday, Feb. 14 at 8 p.m., and the other playing love songs by request on Saturday, Feb. 17 at 8 p.m. Tickets available at [tonystarlight.com](http://tonystarlight.com)

**Music of John Williams --** Music from some of John Williams' most memorable scores, including Jaws, E.T. The Extra Terrestrial to the Star Wars franchise will take center stage when the Oregon Symphony, with Principal Pops Conductor Jeff Tyzik, performs on Saturday, Feb. 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. For more information, visit [orsymphony.org](http://orsymphony.org).

**History Hub --** Oregon Historical Society exhibit for young people explores the topic of diversity with interactive objects and pictures that tell the stories of the people of Oregon, past and present. With puzzles, touch screen activities and board games, History Hub asks students to consider questions like "Who is an Oregonian?," "How has discrimination and segregation affected people who live in Oregon?," and "How can you make Oregon a great place for everyone?"

**Zoo for All --** The Oregon Zoo has launched "Zoo for All," a new discount program that provides \$5 admission for low income individuals and families. Visitors may purchase up to six of the \$5 tickets by bringing a photo ID and documentation showing they participate in low income service, like the Oregon Trial Card, Medicaid, Section 8, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, and Head Start.

**Discount Tickets --** Low income families and individuals can purchase \$5 tickets to classical musical performances in Portland as part of a program called Music for All. Participating organizations include the Oregon Symphony, Portland Opera, Oregon Ballet Theater, Chamber Music Northwest, Portland Youth Philharmonic, Portland Baroque Orchestra, Friends of Chamber Music, Portland Chamber Orchestra, Portland Piano International, Portland Symphonic Choir, Cappella Romana and Portland Vocal Consort.

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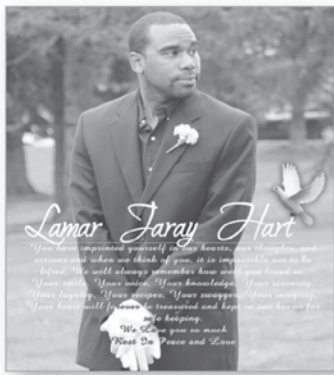


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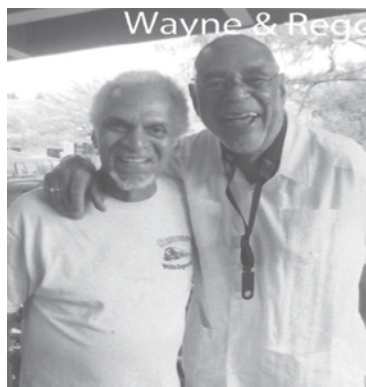
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The history of Native American peoples are unearthed from a long-vanished Canadian village and a reverence for ancestors and of connectedness across generations comes to life in Francois Girard's 'Hochelaga, Land of Souls,' one of the dramas coming Monday, Feb. 19 and Wednesday, Feb. 21 to the Portland International Film Festival.

# A Lens to the World

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

safety, or even emotional and physical sustenance. Charlie takes a job working for a man who races horses and develops a bond with a horse named Lean on Pete; a natural at working with horses, Charlie's work leads him to a dawning recognition of the harshness of the horse-racing world just as his own world crumbles. Anchored by the remarkable performance of Charlie Plummer as Charlie, the film is a perceptive depiction of the American underclass, revealing with compassionate but clear eyes the little lies that adults tell themselves in order to avoid looking at their vulnerability and culpability. Watching Charlie's vulnerability made me weep for all the children who somehow manage to survive unthinkable odds while suffering right in plain sight. The film plays on Wednesday, Feb. 28.

"The Third Murder" from Japan is a compelling crime drama that asks bigger questions about the nature of truth and what qualifies one to judge another person. The story revolves around a lawyer who takes the open-and-shut case of man who has confessed to a murder that would be his third, of his former boss, the owner of small factory. The defendant tells wildly inconsistent stories and does not present as one would expect from a serial murderer. The lawyer, the son of a prominent judge who convicted the defendant of the murder of two loan sharks 30 years before, is motivated by a desire to find a good legal angle, and the meetings of the defense team feel more like script meetings than a search for the truth. But as the investigation and each confusing conversation with the defendant raises more questions, the lawyer finds himself drawn into a quest for the truth

that humanizes him in surprising ways. The film plays on Sunday, Feb. 18 and Sunday, Feb. 25.

"Our Time Will Come," the work of Hong Kong director Ann Hui, tells a story of the Hong Kong underground during the Japanese occupation in World War II. The film focuses on a number of stories, primarily that of an earnest primary-school teacher, Fang

window into a chapter of Hong Kong history that is little known in the West. It plays on Tuesday, Feb. 20, and Thursday, March 1.

You can find info and order tickets or a screening pass at [www.nw-film.org](http://www.nw-film.org) or at the box office inside the art museum. Paper guides are all over town and the online guide contains links to previews of most of the films. It pays to show up at



'Our Time Will Come,' the work of Hong Kong director Ann Hui, tells a story of the Hong Kong underground during the Japanese occupation of World War II. The film is one of the 136 films and 48 shorts to be screened this month at the Portland International Film Festival. For a complete schedule, visit [nwfilm.org](http://nwfilm.org).

Lan, who lives with her mother and becomes radicalized after seeing how a visiting intellectual whom she admires is smuggled to safety by members of the Dong-jiang guerrillas. Fang is then recruited by the fierce guerilla leader, Blackie Lau, and eventually becomes a leader herself. While the film is in many ways standard patriotic fare, director Hui focuses on more personal stories, such as Fang's relationship with her mother, and her ex-boyfriend's quiet courage working for the Japanese undercover. It's an interesting

least a half hour ahead of every show with an advance ticket, as Portland demonstrates every year what a great movie town it is by the enthusiastic audiences who come out in force. I'll have more reviews next week of some of the 40 films I plan to see. Come join the feast!

Darleen Ortega is a judge on the Oregon Court of Appeals and the first woman of color to serve in that capacity. Her movie review column *Opinionated Judge* appears regularly in *The Portland Observer*. Find her movie blog at [opinionatedjudge.blogspot.com](http://opinionatedjudge.blogspot.com).

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# February 2018 CALENDAR

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY

February is **Black History Month**. Famous and influential black individual's birthdays throughout the month are included below. Also see listings throughout the year at <http://www.blackintime.info/black-birthday-monthly.html>

1

Nat. Freedom Day  
Robinson Crusoe Day  
Langston Hughes,  
1902-1967 (writer)

2

Groundhog Day  
William Artis, 1914-  
1977 (ceramacist  
and sculptor)

3

Elizabeth Blackwell  
born 1821 (1st  
female doctor)  
Dennis Edwards,  
1943-2018, R&B  
Singer

4

Create a Vacuum  
Day  
**Rosa Parks born,  
1913 (civil rights  
leader)**

5

Weatherman's Day  
Disaster Day  
Henry "Hank"  
Aaron, 1934- (Co-  
median, actor)

6

Monopoly Board  
Game Goes on  
Sale in Stores,  
1935



7

Charles Dickens  
born, 1812  
Laura Ingalls Wild-  
er born, 1867

8

Gary Coleman,  
1968-2010 (Actor,  
1970s and 1980s  
television child  
star)

9

Alice Walker, 1944-  
(Pulitzer Prize-win-  
ning author)  
Toothache Day

10

Umbrella Day  
Leontyne Price,  
1927- (Award-win-  
ning operatic  
soprano)

11

National Inventors'  
Day (In honor of  
Thomas Edison's  
birthday)  
White T-Shirt Day

12

Arsenio Hall, 1956-  
(Actor, Comedian)  
Abraham Lincoln  
born, 1809 (16th  
President)

13

Mardi Gras  
Emmett J. Scott,  
1873-1957 (Chief  
aide to Booker T.  
Washington)

14

Frederick Douglass,  
1818-1895 (Ex-  
slave, abolitionist,  
statesman)  
**Valentine's Day**

15

Brian Holland, 1941-  
(Songwriter &  
Record Producer)  
Susan B. Anthony  
born, 1820

16

**Chinese New Year  
- Year of the Dog**  
Levar Burton, 1957-  
(Actor and Televi-  
sion peronality)

17

Random Acts of  
Kindness Day  
Michael Jordan,  
1963- (Basketball  
Superstar)

18

Pluto, Discovered,  
1930  
Toni Morrison, 1931-  
(Nobel & Pulitzer  
Prize author)

19

**President's Day**  
William "Smokey"  
Robinson, 1940-  
(Grammy-winning  
Music Legend)

20

John Glenn Orbits  
Earth. 1962  
Sidney Poitier, 1927-  
(Acadamy award  
winning Actor)

21

Malcom X Assassi-  
nated (1965)  
Nina Simone, 1933-  
2003 (musician,  
civil-rights activist)

22

George Washing-  
ton born, 1732  
Julius Erving, 1950-  
(boxing champion  
in 6 catagories)

23

International Dog  
Biscuit Apprecia-  
tion Day  
U.S. Flag raised at  
Iwo Jima (1945)

24

Steve Jobs born,  
1955

25

Quiet Day  
Donald Quarrie,  
1951- (Olympic  
gold medalist  
sprinter)

26

"Fats" Domi-  
no, 1928-2017  
(best-selling R&B  
artist)

27

Marian Anderson,  
1897-1993 in Port-  
land OR (opera  
singer)  
Polar Bear Day

28

Public Sleeping  
Day  
Charles A. "Bubba"  
Smith, 1945- (NFL  
player. actor)







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# OPINION



## Morally Dead and Leaves Vulnerable Children Behind

Trump's address  
was silent  
on shameful  
problems

BY MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN

As I listened to President Trump's State of the Union Address waiting to hear even a kernel of hope for our country's most vulnerable children I became more and more distressed and disgusted as these children's needs were once again left behind along with the values of the America and all great faiths that so many of us love and respect.

The President's address was silent on the shameful problems of homelessness, hunger, the lack of poor quality early childhood and educational opportunities, needed reforms in our child welfare and juvenile justice systems, and the violence that plagues too many children in their families and communities that I laid out in

a letter urging him to address the state of America's children. This silence is a national embarrassment.

While the address included a few broad brushstrokes that might help improve the odds for some children, at best these solutions would fill only a very small hole in the moral chasm of child needs – help to grow up healthy, safe, educated and excited about the future.

The President dramatized the horrible effect of the opioid crisis that is ravaging our country but failed to commit to the urgently needed investments necessary to help babies and other children who are its faultless littlest victims or their families. He spoke about getting tough on “drug dealers and pushers” but was not clear that pharmaceutical companies or physicians contributing to the crisis were targets. And there was no attention – none – to the great need for investments in treatment.

The President highlighted important job growth but made

no mention of the critical need for safe, quality and affordable child care to enable parents to take these jobs. The \$1.5 trillion in federal, state and local state investments mentioned in infrastructure improvements included no recognition that today's children will form the core of tomorrow's workforce, but millions – especially the more than 13.2 million living in poverty – need significant investments in their own futures before they can contribute to our nation's future.

Other references were grossly at odds with the actual challenges threatening children today. The President's pride that “we are totally defending our Second Amendment” ignored the fact that most recent data show eight children and teens killed by guns every day. There was no sign of a commitment to protect children over guns.

Immigration was perhaps the saddest discussion of all as we see the lives of almost two million young people with promising futures and eager to contribute to our land being held hostage for a

border wall and anti-family policies that threaten the safety and stability of many seeking refuge in our country – for most the only country they know.

His comment that “Americans are dreamers too” sowed more ugly seeds of division and dissent and his highlighting the tragic MS-13 murders of two young girls stoked the flames of hate and fear that we have felt too often over the last year.

I urge the President and all of us to recall Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s truth: “Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.” Protections for Dreamers in our land – their land – must be preserved.

A nation that does not stand for children does not stand for anything and will not stand blameless before God when asked to account for every sacred child entrusted to our care and protection. Our nation's children deserve better. We all deserve better.

Marian Wright Edelman is President of the Children's Defense Fund.





Opinion articles do not necessarily represent the views of the Portland Observer. We welcome reader essays, photos and story ideas. Submit to [news@portlandobserver.com](mailto:news@portlandobserver.com).

# OPINION

## Martin Luther King Jr. and Passing the Baton

### Reviving an anti-poverty crusade

BY MARC H. MORIAL

"We read one day, 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.' But if a man doesn't have a job or an income, he has neither life nor liberty nor the possibility for the pursuit of happiness. He merely exists." — Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

It is near universally known that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had a dream. For the most part, that dream is closely tied to his courageous work around racial inequality and injustice. This dream conjures up images of little black boys and girls joining hands with little white boys and girls as brothers and sisters.

But Dr. King had another dream. It was a dream of economic justice for all of our nation's poor. Tragically cut down by an assassin's bullet before the start of the new Poor People's Campaign, Dr. King would not live to see the launch of his dream for economic justice. Fifty years later, as the baton passes from the legacy of Dr. King



to the leadership of Rev. William J. Barber II, the poor of our nation have another advocate to fight on their behalf.

Rev. Barber is no stranger to social justice movements centered on fighting for the poor and the most vulnerable. During his time as the president of the NAACP's North Carolina chapter, Rev. Barber led "Moral Mondays" protests at the North Carolina state house. His coalition of protesters transcended race, socio-economic or ideological divides. They were united in a multi-issue struggle, mirroring the kind of coalition Dr. King and Ralph Abernathy envisioned for the Poor People's Campaign a half century ago.

The conditions of poverty that spurred Dr. King to action in 1968 continue to motivate Dr. Barber in 2018. According to the latest census figures, more than 40 million Americans live below the federal poverty line today. During Dr. King's time, 35 million Americans lived in poverty. While the latest job figures show that racial gaps in employment are slowly closing, yawning income inequality and the consolidation of wealth at the top of the economic food chain remain stubborn fixtures of our top-one-percent centric economy.

Dr. King spoke of "the presence of a kind of social insanity which could lead us to national ruin" in 1968. Today, we are

bracing for the impact of the regressive Tax Reform law—legislation that permanently cuts taxes for corporations, but offers this relief temporarily for middle and working-class Americans. Members of Congress pushed hard to give tax cuts and breaks to the wealthiest Americans, but have not found the same political will to fund the Children's Health Insurance Program, leaving millions of American children at risk of losing vital healthcare coverage.

Politically, our country is a far cry from the "war on poverty" declared by President Lyndon Johnson in 1964, when the federal government's priority was "not only to relieve the symptoms of poverty, but to cure it and, above all, to prevent it." Today, as we watch the social safety net is systematically unraveled beneath our feet, it is clear that we are fighting a targeted war on the poor.

For thousands, that fight will be fought under the banner of "The Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival," led by Revs. Barber and Liz Theoharis. The agenda is "to challenge the evils of systemic racism, poverty, the war economy, ecological devastation and the nation's distorted morality" with close to five weeks of action at statehouses around our country and at our nation's capital.

We in the Urban League Movement were privileged to engage with Rev. Barber and

discuss his mission and vision first-hand when he spoke at our 2017 Conference in St. Louis. His address left us energized and inspired to continue the work of my predecessor, Whitney M. Young, who worked hand-in-hand with King and other leaders of the era as executive director of the primary civil rights organization dedicated to economic empowerment.

The work of the Poor People's Campaign culminated with a Poor People's March on Washington shortly after Dr. King's assassination, and a six-week occupation of the Washington Mall by march participants and advocates. With campaign's revival soon upon us, it is clear that the spirit of 1968 is alive and well—and its spirit has a newfound home in Washington.

I was recently honored with an invitation to discuss Dr. King's economic justice dream at the new exhibit of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, "City of Hope: Resurrection City & the 1968 Poor People's Campaign." We stood among the relics and pictures of past but felt very connected to our struggles in the present. Dr. King's struggle remains our nation's struggle, and we must continue to move towards equality and economic justice for all.

Marc H. Morial is president and chief executive officer of the National Urban League.

## Handicapping African-American Progress for Decades

### A war of ideas between black folk and white liberals

BY OSCAR H. BLAYTON

In January of 1963, I was in my senior year at my all-Black high school and required to take a course in U.S. Government. Our teacher was a World War II veteran who was also the basketball coach with an easy-going manner. We spent more time discussing current events than dead presidents and supreme court justices.



The most recent civil rights demonstration was usually the topic of discourse. But one day, in the middle of that month, our teacher asked the class if we knew who Malcolm X was. Every hand in the room went up. But when asked to explain who he was, few of us were able to say more than he was a "Black Muslim" and that he had once been in prison.

Two weeks earlier Malcolm had led a demonstration at New York County's Criminal Court Building, in Manhattan, protesting police hostility toward two Nation of Islam Muslims who had been selling Muhammad Speaks newspapers in Times Square on Christmas Day. This demonstration received national attention

and 30 years later was portrayed in Spike Lee's film bearing Malcolm X's name. But as a 17-year-old high school student at the time, I had not been paying much attention.

A few weeks later, Malcolm led a demonstration of 230 Muslims in Times Square, protesting police brutality. America was now paying even more attention to Malcolm X and the Nation of Islam. The immediate response from white America was that the Nation of Islam was subversive and dangerous, a fringe group led by Elijah Muhammad and Malcolm X that preached a hatred of all white people.

But a year earlier, in 1962, Malcolm had been speaking less about the racially skewed teachings of Elijah Muhammad and had begun getting more involved in seeking civil rights and justice for African Americans. But the damage had been done. The worst of Malcolm X's words were weaponized against him and he was declared as being beyond redemption. By the time of his assassination in February 1965, he had been condemned as an anathema to America and its values. This was a view held by conservatives, most liberals and many Blacks.

In January 1999, the United States Postal Service issued a stamp in honor of Malcolm X.

Malcolm could not have changed from the time of his assassination until his being honored by the Postal Service. He was dead. What had changed was America. It became clear to our nation that the wrongs

and injustices against which Malcolm fought were real and his struggle had virtue. Despite his offensive words in his earlier career, Malcolm sought to make America a better place.

In recent weeks, news has surfaced that Barack Obama stood for a photograph in 2005 with Minister Louis Farrakhan, the current leader of the Nation of Islam. The overheated reaction by numerous white liberals to this revelation is reminiscent of the reaction to Malcolm X 50 years ago. This inability of these white liberals to contextualize Malcolm X within the American fabric in 1965 and Louis Farrakhan in 2018 reveals a daunting problem that has handicapped the progress of African Americans for many decades. Too many white liberals want to make Black folk in their own image. In the mental construct of the world they wish to create there is a place for Black folk, but not Black folk like Malcolm X or Louis Farrakhan.

To some white liberals, the Malcolms and the Farrakhans are wrinkles in the American fabric that must be removed if a future liberal America is to be smooth. But those wrinkles have been created by centuries of racism, both in the U.S. and abroad and they cannot be removed without destroying the fabric itself.

Too many white liberals see African Americans as two-dimensional cutouts that can be disbursed throughout a liberal America. Our presence would be devoid of our history of slavery, Jim Crow and

modern-day oppression and the social complexities which they have created. Our presence would also be disconnected from other oppressed people of the world. In a word, our presence would be non-threatening to the preferred world order of most white liberals. But that is a white liberal fantasy that cannot exist in a world as complex as ours. It is a flawed national view and a flawed worldview.

One person who typifies the white liberals holding these flawed views is Alan Dershowitz. The Harvard law professor emeritus has championed many liberal causes and shown himself to be deeply concerned with civil rights. Nonetheless, he is reported to have said on Fox News recently that had he known of the Obama – Farrakhan photograph taken in 2005, he would not have supported Obama's presidential bid in 2008.

Citing offensive remarks attributed to Farrakhan about Judaism and Israel, Dershowitz has denounced him as a subversive, un-American anti-Semite.

The problems with Alan Dershowitz's position regarding Obama's taking a picture with Farrakhan are two-fold. First, by associating Obama with Farrakhan's views he is painting with too broad a brush. Many politicians have their pictures taken with individuals with whom they do not agree politically or ideologically. In 2005, Farrakhan, as a resident of Illinois, was one of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18



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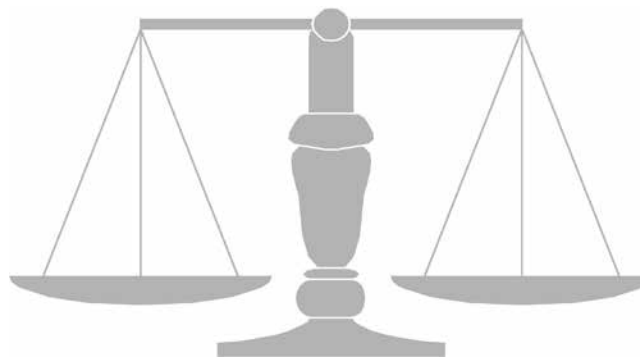


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The Portland Observer

## Handicapping African-American Progress for Decades

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

Obama's constituents. Farrakhan also was the religious leader of many of Obama's Illinois constituents.

To categorically state that Obama should not have taken a picture with Farrakhan ignores the complexity of the African American community and takes Obama out of that context by asserting that his main concern should have been the comfort level of white liberals.

There is not enough room here to list the many interactions of Obama's predecessors with controversial figures that drew little attention, but I feel compelled to mention one. In 1915 Woodrow Wilson hosted a screening of D.W. Griffith's extraordinarily racist film "Birth of a Nation." It was one of the first screenings of a film at the White House and members of Wilson's cabinet were in attendance along with their families. Wilson's hosting the screening of "Birth of a Nation" barely rates a footnote in American history while Obama's having his picture taken with Farrakhan has some white liberals like Dershowitz in conniptions.

The disparate responses to these two events point out a war of ideas between Black folk and many white liberals. A war that has simmered in this nation since its birth and continues to this day.

We can love our allies, and still have a concern that they do not speak against our interest when our interests diverge from theirs. Alan Dershowitz and others of our allies must come to understand this.

*Oscar H. Blayton is a former Marine Corps combat pilot and human rights activist who practices law in Virginia.*

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- 1 pound kale, stemmed, chopped
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- 1/2 cup thinly sliced red onion
- 1/2 teaspoon toasted sesame seeds
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
- 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 14-ounce can unsalted chickpeas, rinsed, drained
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper

### Directions:

1. Massage and coat kale with olive oil and 1/2 tspn salt large bowl for 2 minutes. Let stand at room temperature for 15 minutes to 1 hour.
2. Rinse onion in sieve. Combine onion and sesame seeds in a small bowl. Combine juice, mustard, and garlic in a small bowl.
3. Add all ingredients to softened kale; toss well. Top with onion mixture.




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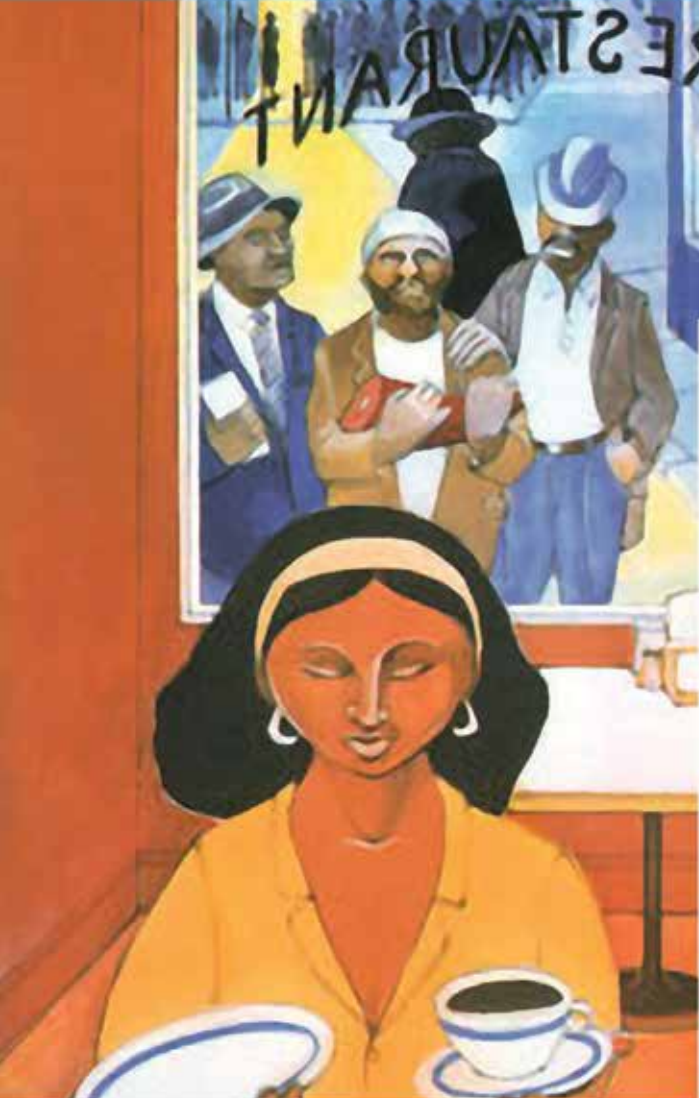


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