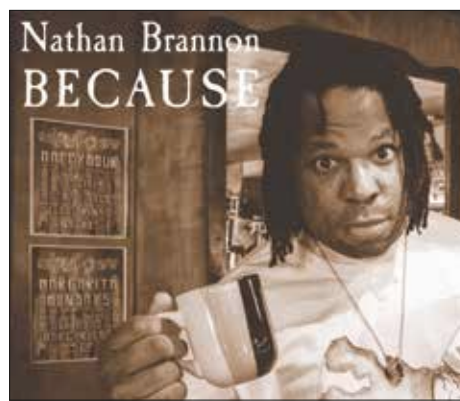




**Recruiting
Candidates**
*Color PAC
executive hits the
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**Comedy in
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Trump**
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navigates tense
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Portland Observer

Volume XLVII • Number 4



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Wednesday • January 24, 2018



Established in 1970
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PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

New Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw, the first African American woman to lead the Portland Police Bureau, draws support from members of her Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, the oldest African American female sorority in the U.S., after taking a ceremonial oath of office Monday in front of the Oregon Historical Society's new civil rights exhibit 'Racing for Change, Oregon's Civil Rights Years.' Outlaw challenged the city and law enforcement to address racial inequities during her address.

With Honor and Integrity

New police chief makes pledge; speaks to racial inequities

Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw championed the long worn path to civil rights progress and challenged the city and law enforcement to address racial inequities that still exist during her ceremonial installation as the city's first African American female police chief Monday.

Three months into her new position, Outlaw chose the Oregon Historical Society's new exhibit "Racing for Change, Oregon's Civil Rights Years" as the setting for the

formal Portland Police Bureau ceremony, saying the location was no accident.

"I chose this venue because the exhibit Racing to Change: Oregon's Civil Rights Years affords us the opportunity to address an elephant in the room," Outlaw said. "Why we are here today? This isn't just about black history or Portland's history, this is our history."

Before an audience of about 150 guests, including mem-

bers of her own family, friends and supporters, Outlaw presented a snapshot of the roots to racial inequity in Oregon and around the country, and the role police historically had in enforcing discriminatory laws based on race or turning a blind eye when justice failed minority populations.

"Here in Portland the history of racial inequality and dis-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

The Week in Review

Portland Protests Mark Trump's First Year in Office

Portlanders observed President Trump's first year in office and last year's Women's March with weekend protests in downtown Portland. Speakers rallied against sexual assault and protested Trump on the anniversary of his inauguration.

US Senate Ends Government Shutdown

The Senate voted for a three-week funding measure Monday to reopen the government and potentially provide a path forward on a larger immigration agreement. Many Democrats said they felt encouraged by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's assurance that the Senate would proceed to an immigration bill soon.

Man Shot, Killed in Car Downtown; Shooter Arrested

A Portland man was shot inside a parked vehicle about 5:40 p.m. Sunday at Southwest Fourth and Stark Street. Police said Ellante Davone Williams, 30, died shortly later. Aaron Drake Birt, 24, was arrested and charged with his murder.

TriMet GM Search Narrows with Finalist Named

TriMet's Board named current TriMet Chief Operating Officer Doug Kelsey as a single finalist in the search for a new General Manager last week. The board will now consider public comments and input from various stakeholders before moving ahead on the hiring or resuming a search for another applicant.



Portland Residential Speed Limits Reduced

The speed limit on residential streets in Portland will soon be lowered from 25 mph to 20 mph after the new limits were approved by the Portland City Council last week. The proposal was part of the city's Vision Zero campaign to eliminate all traffic deaths.

Jazz Legend Activist Dies

Legendary South African jazz musician and anti-apartheid activist Hugh Masekela has died at the age of 78 after a decade-long fight with prostate cancer, his family reported Tuesday. The "Father of South African jazz" scored an international number one hit in 1968 with "Grazing In The Grass."



New Office on Collision Course with Civil Rights

The Trump administration's plans for a "conscience and religious freedom" division in Health and Human Services seems to pave the way for health care workers to refuse specific types of care, like birth control or abortion, based on their religious or conscience objections. Critics charged last week that the move could hurt civil rights protections for lesbian, gay and transgender people, and hurt patient care.



PHOTO BY TRACEY STADAMIRE

Jimmy Sassalos, 82, poses in front his Overlook Restaurant in north Portland just days before closing the landmark to retire and redevelop the property.

Beloved Diner Shuttters Doors

A beloved Greek diner that has been a welcoming presence and neighborhood institution for generations has put its 'closed' sign up for good, after 43 years.

The Overlook Restaurant on North Skidmore Street, just east of Interstate Avenue, was owned and operated by 82 year old Jimmy Sassalos and wife Jane. Sassalos opened the diner after coming to America as an

immigrant at the age of 25 with no money or prospects. The last day of business was Sunday.

"I will miss the public, staff, and restaurant," Sassalos said.

A two-building, 158-unit project, with 59 spaces of parking, and retail space and designed by Holst Architecture is slated to replace the spot.

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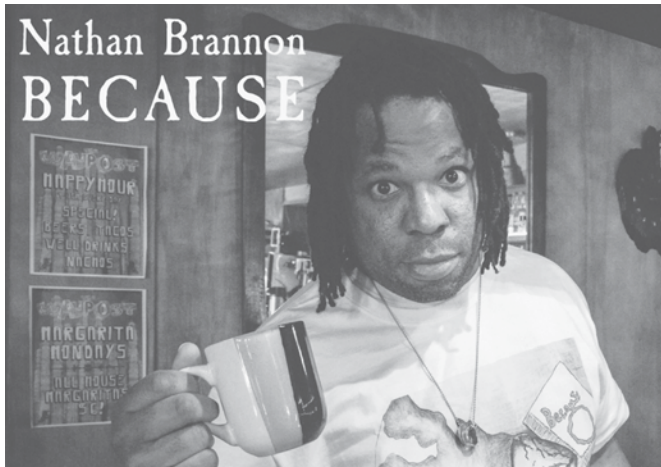
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What's on your list today?

Recruiting Candidates

Color PAC executive hits the ground running

BY DANA LYNN BARBAR
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Color PAC, a local organization dedicated to improving equity in public policy by recruiting, training, and supporting candidates of color for state and local office, has expanded its mission with the hire of their first-ever state director.

Ana del Rocio, endorsed by Color PAC during her successful campaign last spring for a seat on the David Douglas School Board, started her duties with the New Year and is tasked with creating and cultivating a plan to engage the broader community with the political organization's mission.

She plans to visit different parts of Oregon over the next few weeks to meet with leaders from diverse communities and explore the possibilities and opportunities for growth.

"I'm committed to Oregon, and want to make sure it's a place where my family, and families that look like mine, can thrive," she said. Del Rocio is of Peruvian descent.

One of del Rocio's main goals is to reach more people of color who are leaders in their communities and arm them with the information and tools they need to offset any notions of whether they have "what it takes" to be an elected official.

She hopes that her own story as an elected official will inspire "regular" people like her



Ana del Rocio is the first state director for Color PAC, a local organization recruiting candidates of color for public office to improve equity in public policy.

to move past doubts and play a role in shared governance.

Del Rocio finds that many people in racial and ethnic minorities feel that they cannot hold public office for a variety

of reasons, a large one being the historical lack of representation of people similar to them holding these roles.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Sentenced for Strip Club Murder

(AP) -- A woman who fatally stabbed another woman at a Portland strip club was sentenced to 15 years in prison Monday.

Rinita Lowe, 25, pleaded guilty to first-degree manslaughter and unlawful use of a weapon in the 2016 murder of Shantina Turner at the Club Skinn nightclub near Northeast 60th Avenue and Prescott Street.

Authorities said Lowe had been arguing with Turner at the establishment when she pulled the knife from her purse and



Rinita Lowe

stabbed Turner three times in neck.

Lowe's defense attorney, Jason Steen, said surveillance video from the June 2016 incident showed Turner choking Lowe just before Lowe stabbed her.

Deputy District Attorney Kevin Demer said the women had known each other since childhood and had a history of tension.

Lowe apologized to Turner's family at Monday's court hearing.

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PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

With the Oregon Historical Society's new exhibit 'Racing for Change, Oregon's Civil Rights Years' as a backdrop, Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw (right) takes the oath of office Monday from retired Portland Police Officer Carmen Sylvester, the first African American female officer to be hired by the city in 1973.

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With Honor and Integrity

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

placement still lurks in the undercurrent of a very progressive city," she said. "If we are to be effective, we must first seek to listen and understand the perspective of those who differ from ourselves."

Outlaw emphasized the integral role law enforcement must play in the preservation of civil rights for the future, promising even more transparency, and the use of de-escalation techniques as a priority in police training.

"I will carry out my duties to the best of my ability each and every

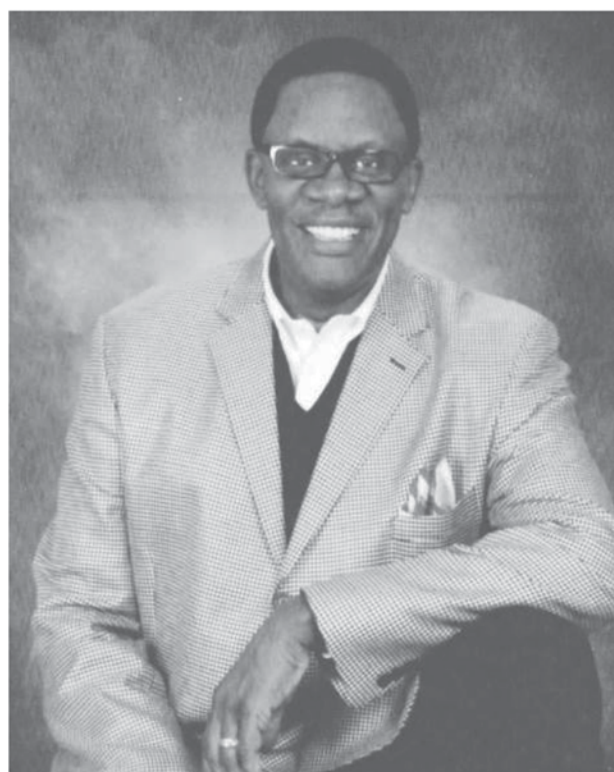
day and it will be done with grace, with mercy, with kindness, compassion, with courage, with honor and integrity," she said.

The swearing-in ceremony also included educators, entrepreneurs, business owners, public sector representatives, community organizers, advocates, legislators, union representatives and the media.

A former assistant police chief from Oakland, Calif., Outlaw was introduced by Mayor Ted Wheeler during the ceremony. The mayor emphasized that the new chief "was picked not because she was a woman, not because she is black,

but because she was the best candidate for the job."

Wheeler said he plans to partner with Outlaw to create an accountable and transparent police bureau, aligned with community policing principles from former President Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing. "I trust that she will become... somebody who will work with us as a community to improve police and foster meaningful and trusting relationships between the police bureau and the community that the bureau serves. Her success is our success," Wheeler said.



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Activist Derides Remark Takes to social media when guard asked about bomb

When a security guard at City Hall searched a bag from a Portland activist and community leader and joked about searching for a bomb, the resident, an immigrant from Somali and an official candidate for political office in Oregon, wondered if he was being racially targeted.

Kayse Jama, director of the nonprofit organization Unite Oregon and a candidate for the state senate from Portland, told the story this weekend in a Facebook post.

"Are there any bazookas or bombs?" the security guard asked as the bag was checked through security, Jama said.

"He clearly saw I am an immigrant and I have an accent. To me this is not a joke. I am wondering if I was being identified by him as someone from Somalia or if this has happened to others."

A wave of Facebook comments criticized the guard's remark as racist, while others said it was just a poorly thought-out joke. Many offered their sympathy and support to Jama.

Most who commented said they'd never heard a remark like that and derided it as inappropriate, unacceptable racial



Kayse Jama

profiling. Others, some identifying themselves as white residents, said they'd been subjected to similar low-brow humor from security personnel.

Jama updated his post after the comment thread, saying, "It is evident that this is not just something that happens to people of color or immigrants or refugees. I posted to learn. To be clear, I have no interest in punishing this guard or 'getting him fired.'"

But Jama said he still found the remark discomfiting and chalked it up to a system failure. He called for better training for security guards on how to communicate to the public, in particular to "those who are impacted by the current environment around race and immigration."

At Unite Oregon, Jama helps immigrants and refugees navigate inequality issues.

Recruiting Candidates

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

"I'm just a single working mother, and people can look at me and see a regular person who happens to be in office," she said.

On average, it takes a potential candidate of color being asked to run for office eight to 10 times before they agree, according to Jesse Beason, board chair at Color PAC. He noted however, that since the presidential election in 2016, people have been more willing to get involved and take action.

Color PAC is run by a board of volunteers which helps build a network of recruiters to find and encourage people of color to engage in local politics, and provide them with tools to help them succeed. These include individual trainings on how to run a campaign, fundraise, and

engage volunteers.

"We need people in office who represent who Oregon is and is becoming," said Beason.

Another main priority for the board is to provide ongoing support for candidates after they have been elected.

Champions of color have historically lacked political infrastructure in Oregon, and find that most current systems are not designed for their leadership and ideas, and thus rarely serve more than one term.

"We want to help candidates not only run and win, but govern effectively when they get there," said Beason on the importance of retention. "Inequity stems from public policy, so we need more people of color to be decision makers, with their personal influences that stem from their lived experience of race," he added.



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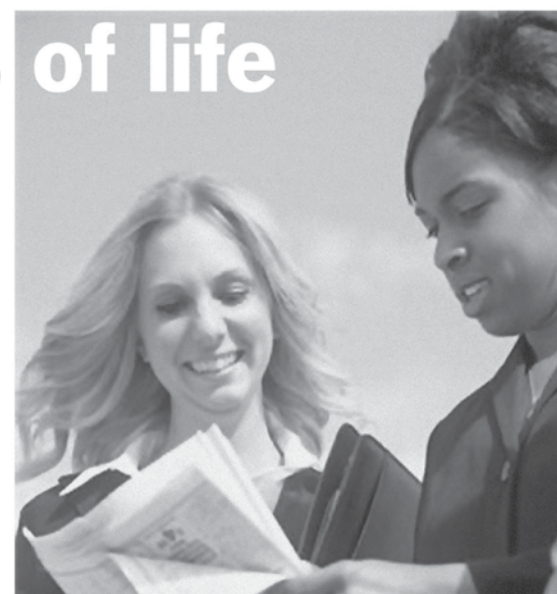
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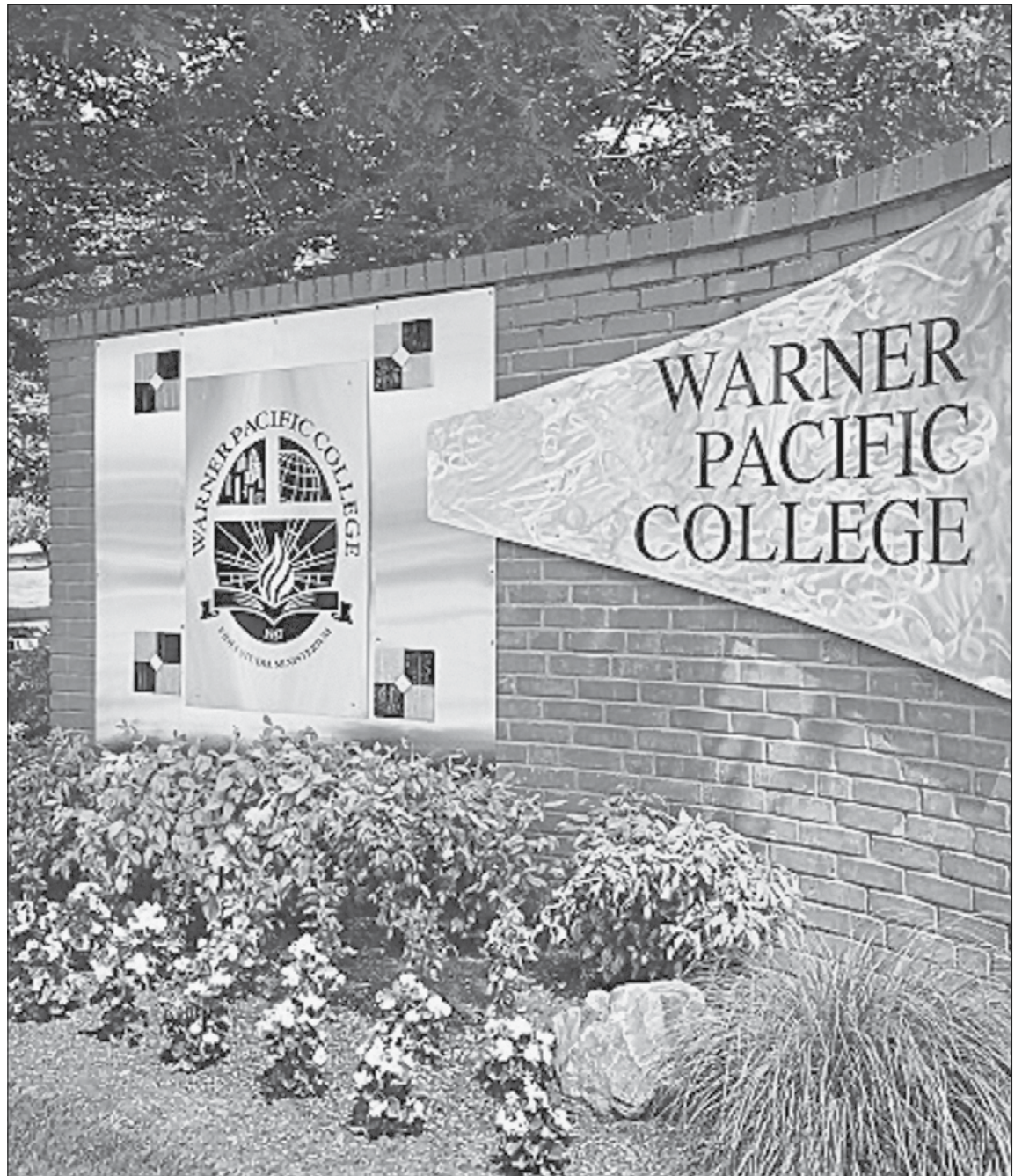


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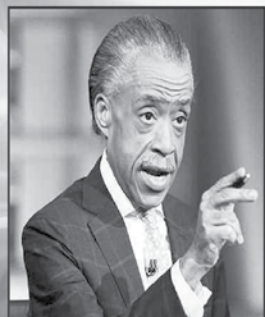


Warner Pacific College has changed its name to Warner Pacific University.

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Changes at Warner Pacific

A name change, decreased tuition and more class offerings are being implemented at Warner Pacific College—now Warner Pacific University. The school announced the name change last week, citing growth and development and a broader appeal for international students whose meaning of 'college' sometimes refers to high school or secondary education.

In addition, starting in fall 2018, Warner Pacific's tuition and fees will be cut by nearly 24 percent, providing the most affordable private college or uni-

versity in Oregon at just \$18,660 for the 2018-19 academic year.

In addition to the nearly \$6,000 reduction in tuition in 2018, the University will add numerous programs including medical lab science, nursing, digital media and communications, criminal justice, sports, medicine, population health and gerontology.

With a mission of equitable access to education, 63 percent of the Warner Pacific students come from racially and ethnically diverse backgrounds and 57 percent of students are the first in their families to go to college.

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Obituary

In Loving Memory

Dennis G. Payne Sr.

Dennis G. Payne Sr. was born Jan. 23, 1948 and died Jan. 21, 2018.

He was a former Portland resident and a stepfather to members of the Portland Observer's Washington family.

Three Celebration of Life services are planned. The first will be held on Feb. 17 at 11 a.m. at Hyde Park Bethlehem United Methodist Church, 3999 Hyde Park Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio. The second in Portland on Feb. 23 at 2 p.m. at Bethel AME Church, 5828 N.E. Eighth Ave. A spreading of the ashes ceremony will follow the next day with the time and location to be determined. The third service is scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 25 at 11 a.m. At Ebenezer AME Church, 902 Park Ave. in Bremerton, Wash.

"Life is fragile. Fragile enough to lose. Your wisdom was strong. Strong enough to get through when I thought I knew everything. Your prayers were strong enough to keep me when I didn't know enough to pray for myself. The kingdom you built here on earth is stronger



than life.

I am smarter, wiser and more peaceful because you were my leader. You were a builder of a kingdom with strength to sustain. My neck is stiff and my head is held high because you were my dad. I'll be living on your prayers for years to come. Thank God for a dad and a leader like you. Always proud to be your son, Happy Birthday dad," **Dennis G. Payne Jr.**

In Loving Memory

Gertrude 'Trudy' Rice

Funeral services are pending for Gertrude 'Trudy' Woods Rice, a beloved Portland mother and one of the first members of the African American community to work as a registered nurse in Oregon.

Woods was born Feb. 26, 1941 and died Jan. 16, 2018. She was just 4 years old when her family moved from Louisiana to Vancouver and then Vanport. She was one of the first graduates of the nursing program at Portland Community College in 1968. She worked in the nursing industry until her retirement and was an inspiration for others to enter the nursing field. She had five children. First married in 1969, she divorced in 1974 and married again in 1989, and was widowed in 1991.

A funeral is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 31, time to be announced, at the Sharon Seventh-day Adventist Church, 5209 N.E. 22nd Ave. Updates on portlandobserver.com.



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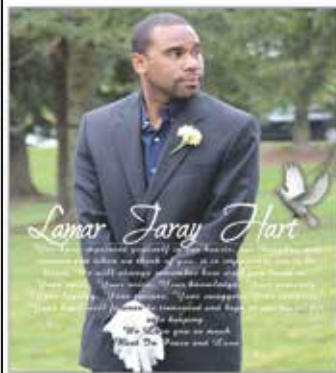
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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



Darrell Grant

Piano Prodigy in Portland

Musician performs new work by Darrell Grant

Award-winning pianist Isata Kanneh-Mason, 21, will be performing a new composition by acclaimed Portland musician Darrell Grant and other works in a series of performances, Jan. 25-27, and at various locations.

Kanneh-Mason, an undergraduate at The Royal Academy of Music in London, has garnered numerous awards and scholarships for her piano playing since taking up the instrument at age



Isata Kanneh-Mason

10. She has made several BBC television and radio appearances, and even performed with Elton John.

Grant is a Jazz Society of Oregon Hall of Fame inductee and prolific musician whose album 'Black Art' was listed as New York Times Top 10 Jazz Albums in 1994. His music centers on themes of hope, community, and place and his newest work, 'Dark-

er Angels,' which Kanneh-Mason will be performing, was inspired by the work of classical composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, one of the first classical musicians of African descent to gain international recognition.

Her upcoming performances are part of Portland Piano International's Rising Star series. Tickets and the full line up can be found at Portlandpiano.org/risingstars.



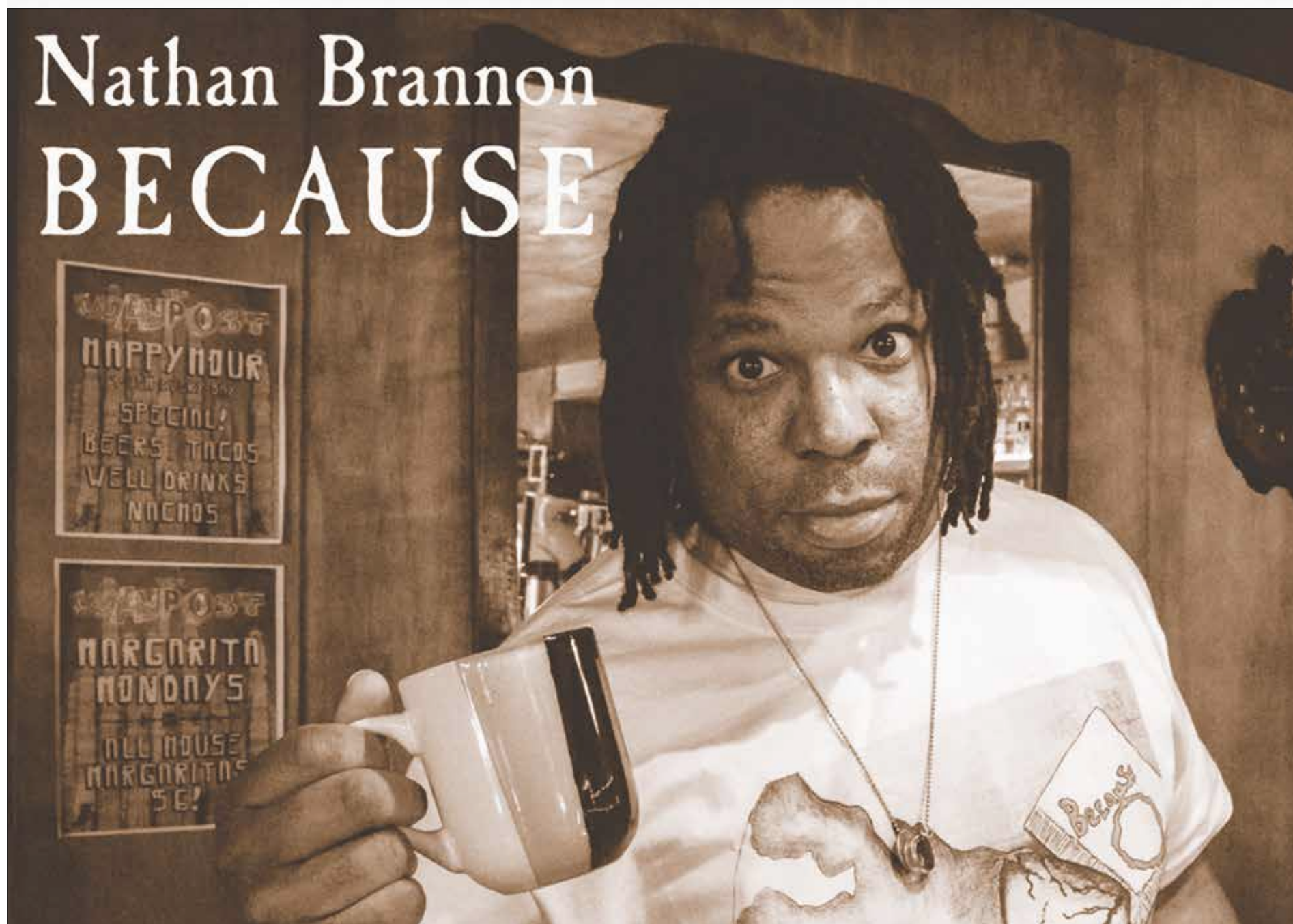
“King Kong” Terrorizes New York

At the time of its 1933 release, *King Kong* was the greatest spectacle the filmgoing public had ever seen. The Northwest Film Center at the Portland Art Museum presents this classic tale of adventure and reckless exploitation as part of its Animated Worlds: Stop Motion Classics Series on Sunday, Jan. 28 at 2p.m. Tickets are \$9 general, \$8 for students and \$6 for children.

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Portland comedian Nathan Brannon finds the humor in today's tense political climate.

PHOTO BY WILL WATTS

Comedian navigates
race relations on
stage and in podcast

BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Nathan Brannon, 34, is a stand-up comedian from Portland who has appeared on Comedy Central, travels throughout the country to perform, and is currently promoting his second comedy album, 'Because,' which came out in October 2016 under record label Kill Rock Stars. It's a follow up to his first, self-produced album, 'I Black Out.' He's currently recording his third album called 'Nobody's Listening.'

Brannon first started doing stand-up comedy on a dare when he was going to Willamette University in Salem in his early 20s

"I went up for like five minutes and it was awesome immediately. The whole

crowd laughed. Then I came to Portland after college. And then I started out there with open mics, just kind of jumped into it full feet, so to speak."

Brannon is known for navigating around race relations on stage and he also tack-

les racial issues by hosting a podcast, The Hamster Village, which was born out of wanting to connect with other people in interracial relationships — he is black and his wife is white -- to talk about their experiences.

Comedy in Age of Trump

"I wasn't really [seeing] any kind of support group or anything like that to kind of share experiences or concerns and things like that. So that's basically how it started. I kind of said, 'Well, I couldn't find what I was looking for.' So I started it myself."

Brannon said he and his wife have experienced a lot of "stares and glares" at restaurants and hotels as well hate mail from people who "don't dig interracial relationships."

"That was actually a part of the reason I started looking for support groups and things like that. There's a lot of things that happen in an interracial relationship that go along those lines. And then it's not easy for every couple to put themselves in their spouse's shoes and understand how those situations make them feel," he said.

Naming the podcast The Hamster Village was Brannon's metaphor for what society could be.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



Kayla Brianna



Devvon Terrell

Weird Nights Tour

Two young singers making a splash on the national stage are making their stop in Portland.

Devvon Terrell, a Brooklyn hip hop talent, joins Kayla Brianna, who has been making a name for herself in Hollywood through music, acting and fashion, for Terrell's "Weird Nights Tour" performing on Thursday, Jan. 25 at the McMenamins Mission Theater in northwest Portland.

Terrell has taken the Internet by storm recently, showcasing his talent on various remixes and covers on YouTube that have collectively generated over

a 100 million views. On Christmas Day 2015 he dropped an album "Coast 2 Coast" with Futuristic that debuted at #12 on the Hip-Hop Billboard chart.

Brianna was born and raised in a family that was immersed in music and the entertainment industry. Her grandfather, American lyricist Gerry Goffin, wrote hit songs such as "Locomotion" "Natural Woman" and "Saving All My Love For You." Her grandmother, singer Earl-Jean Reavis, sang backup vocals for the legendary Ray Charles. In addition, her father is NBA icon Kenny "The Jet" Smith.



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The annual Clark College Jazz Festival brings musicians from over 60 area schools for three days of exhilarating big band jazz.

Stage Set for Big Band Jazz

Clark College in Vancouver hosts its 56th annual Clark College Jazz Festival this week, three full days of exhilarating big band jazz on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Sixty middle and high school jazz ensembles from throughout Washington and Oregon are scheduled to perform in this year's

competition with trophies presented to the top three jazz ensembles for middle schools and A through AAAA division high schools.

The Clark College Jazz Ensemble will perform at 5p.m. on Thursday, noon and 8:30 p.m. on Friday, and at 12:20 p.m. on Saturday. Last year's Sweepstakes Band, Garfield High School Jazz

Band from Seattle, will hold the spotlight on Saturday evening at 8:30 p.m.

All events are open to the public. Admission is \$5 per day. Clark College students and children under 12 accompanied by an adult will be admitted free of charge.

For more information, visit clark.edu.

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Norman Sylvester -- 'Boogie Cat' Norman Sylvester plays Friday, Jan. 26 at Clyde's and Saturday, Jan. 27 at the Rogue Pub in North Plains.



Jaw Dropping Funk and Hip Hop -- Legendary hip hop choreographer Rennie Harris returns to Portland's White Bird Uncaged with a thrilling new work 'Lifted!' The Philadelphia-based group is acclaimed for showcasing funk, breaking, popping and locking, along with other jaw-dropping hip-hop moves. Four performances, including a 2 p.m. Saturday matinee, will be held Jan. 25-27 at Lincoln Hall at Portland State University.

Fertile Ground for New Works -- The annual Portland-grown Fertile Ground Citywide Festival of New Works completes its 11 day run this week. New "acts of creation" from Portland's artistic community are taking place on stages, nooks and crannies all over the city through Sunday, Jan. 28. A full list of events is available by visiting fertilegroundpdx.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.

Nehalem Winterfest -- Portland jazz legend Mel Brown and his talented quartet will join Oregon's own Quarterflash, fiddle virtuoso Kevin Burke and other musicians for the first annual Nehalem Winterfest music festival on the Oregon Coast. The event is held Friday, Feb. 2 through Sunday, Feb. 4 at the new Nehalem Performing Arts Center. Brown performs Sunday. For tickets and more information, visit ncrd.org.

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 brining 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.



Priced Out Documentary -- Portland filmmaker Cornelius Swart's investigative and personal look at how skyrocketing housing prices are displacing Portland's black community and reshaping the entire city. 'Priced Out,' gets a free open-to-the-public screenings, Wednesday, Jan. 24 at 6 p.m. in the Moriarty Arts and Humanities building at Portland Community College's Cascade Campus in north Portland.



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?"

Discount Tickets -- Low income families and individuals can purchase \$5 tickets to classical musical performances in Portland as part of a unique 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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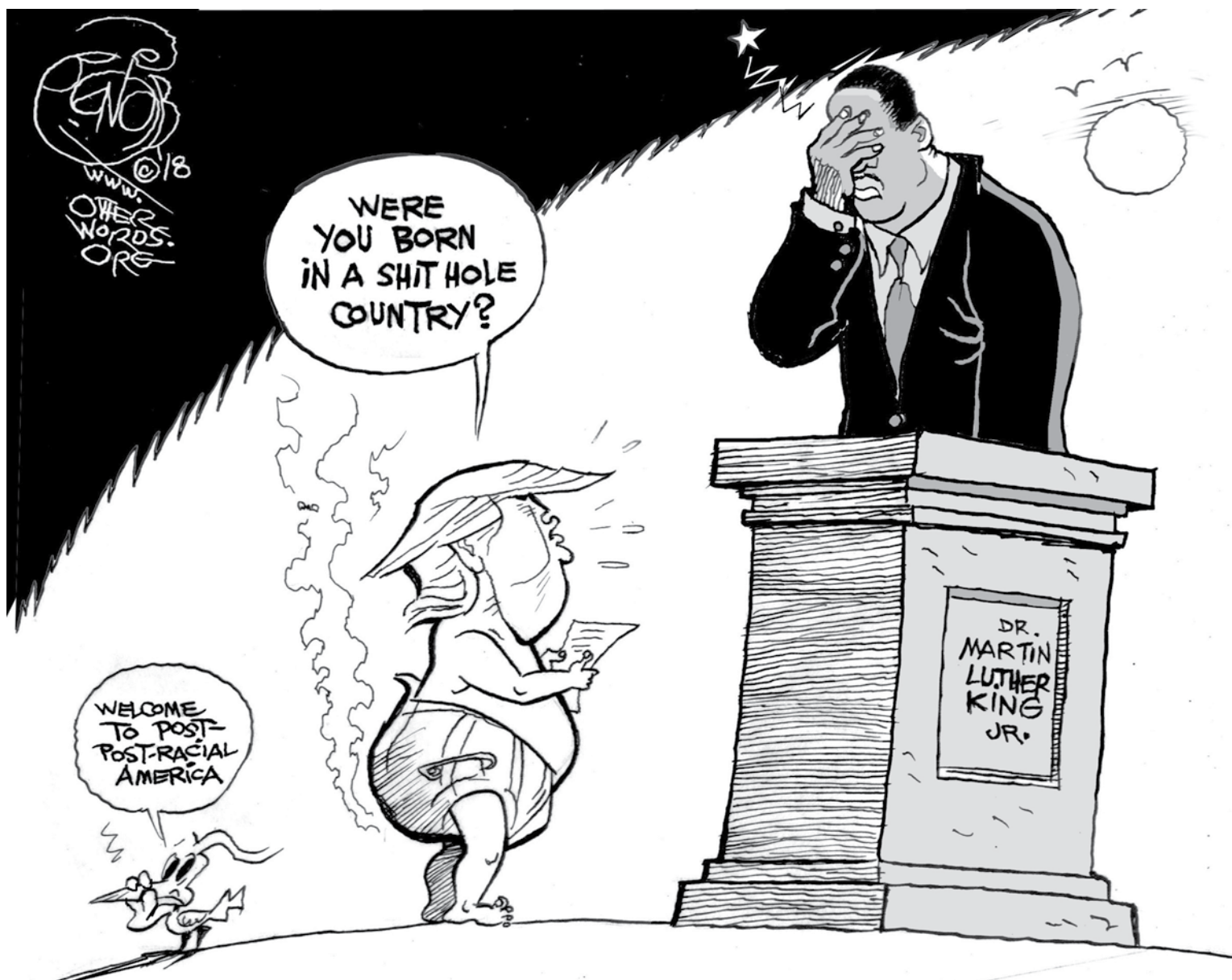
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OPINION



Our Common Humanity Makes Each Culture Great

America loses by shunning rest of the world

BY JILL RICHARDSON

We recently learned that Donald Trump referred to African nations and Haiti using a derogatory and profane term. (Accounts differ, but all seem to agree it ended with "hole.")

Writing off an enormous percentage of the world's landmass and population as inferior isn't just nasty, it's incorrect.

It's true that some nations have oppressive, despotic, or corrupt governments. Some have high rates of poverty. I don't envy the citizens of North Korea, as they have both.

But human nature is universal. Human beings in every country demonstrate the same levels of courage and bravery, compassion and kindness, and intelligence and ingenuity as we

do here in the United States.

I've traveled to five continents (all but Australia and Antarctica) and I've met people in each place who excel in ways Americans value — such as by attaining college educations or succeeding in high paying careers.

But I've also encountered incredible people proving their greatness in other ways.

In Mexico, I visited boarding schools in which the children, some as young as seventh grade, grew, harvested, and cooked their own food every single day, in addition to attending class and completing homework.

They did this without tractors, refrigerators, or stoves. Making breakfast meant waking up before dawn to light a fire (with wood they chopped themselves) and cooking beans and tortillas from scratch.

In the Philippines, I visited a community that was being exploited by a multinational corporation. The community called in an international non-profit organization to investigate and publi-

cize what was happening. Then they bravely gave their names and told their stories publicly, risking retaliation as they attempted to fight for their rights.

In Kenya, children spend far more time in school than Americans do. I stayed with a family whose two kids arrived at school earlier and stayed later than I ever had to — and they went back for more on Saturdays. In Kenya, such dedication to school work is normal.

In Cuba, I found people who could invent just about anything from simple materials. One man created a hydraulic irrigation device out of a few soda bottles and some plastic tubing. With no electricity, the device turned the water on and off at regular intervals, providing the right amount of irrigation to the man's guava seedlings.

These were not unusually extraordinary people. Just as many Americans exhibit brilliance, creativity, and hard work, so do people everywhere.

However, there is value in diversity. By traveling and meeting people from five continents, I not only encountered diversity

in skin colors, languages, and cuisines — I also encountered diversity in ideas.

Americans can only lose if we shun people from the rest of the world. When we meet and work with people from each different culture on earth, whether here in the U.S. or outside it, we gain from their unique perspectives just as they gain from ours.

Some of the most exciting developments I've witnessed have come from two or more cultures working together, combining the ideas of each to create something more than the sum of its parts.

A nation's poverty isn't a mark of its people's intelligence — or their value. By all means, criticize oppressive governments. Hate poverty, war, and disease. But remember that people everywhere possess the same common humanity that makes each culture on earth great.

OtherWords columnist Jill Richardson is the author of Recipe for America: Why Our Food System Is Broken and What We Can Do to Fix It. Distributed by OtherWords.org.

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.

OPINION

Racist Past of Immigration Policy Retooled

What sort of country do we want?

BY JOSE-ANTONIO OROSCO

The condemnation of Trump's remarks on immigration has been swift and widespread. Most of the denunciations cast his ideas as seriously out of line with American ideals on immigration. The problem is that they aren't really. From the very beginning of our nation, there has been a white nationalist core driving our immigration priorities. Even as we struggled to be a "nation of immigrants," most of the people we allowed in were chosen on the basis of national origin from the "whitest" parts of Europe.

The first US naturalization law of 1790 required that anyone who wanted to become a citizen had to be a "free white person." At its start, the Framers envisioned the US as a political society for members of a specific racial caste. This requirement stayed in place until the mid-20th century.

In 1924, the US passed the Johnson Reed Act, one of the most significant



comprehensive immigration reform bills in our history. It limited the number of immigrants each year and those allowed were selected on the basis of their country of origin. Immigrants from North and Western Europe (such as Norway) had almost no restrictions on entering, while Southern and Eastern European immigrants were severely controlled. Immigration from Asia had been almost completely prohibited for several decades by this point.

The shocking issue with the act is its little known origin story. The law was the brainchild of a notorious white supremacist named Madison Grant. In 1916, Grant wrote a book, *The Passing of the Great Race*, which argued that the truly white people in the US, the Nordics, were at risk of going extinct because of the massive influx of Poles, Italians, Greeks, and Jews who Grant did not consider white.

Grant's book became a bestseller and reading groups were formed among members of Congress. Grant chaired the committee to advise Congress on immigration. The result was Johnson Reed. Grant went on to inspire the Racial Integrity Act for the state of Virginia that prohibited interracial marriage. It was

widely copied throughout the US. So for almost 40 years of the 20th century, US immigration policy and marriage law was specifically designed to create a white majority population.

Congress didn't remove this system until 1965, replacing it with one that shifted the demographic makeup of most immigrants. Since 1965, the large bulk of immigrants have been from Asia and Latin America. The new policies today favor creating a diverse pool of immigrants rather than one based on national origins, and they encourage immigrants, once here, to bring their family members in a process called "chain migration."

Trump's remarks, and the policy proposals on immigration that he has released in the past year, indicate that he wishes to return US immigration policy to the way it was under Grant. Clearly, his preference for individuals from Scandinavia versus Africa or Latin America would have pleased Grant immensely.

Trump's advisors have also proposed to reduce the total number of immigrants that can enter each year and those allowed would be selected by a merit system. Those immigrants demonstrating English proficiency and the right job

skills would have a preference. This obviously will favor immigrants from those countries with the educational systems that can give people experience with the American way of life. Such a system will drastically limit immigration from Latin America, Asia, and Africa by eliminating chain migration.

About a century ago, Americans struggled to find a language to describe what a multicultural, racially diverse, and democratic society would look like. One group of progressive thinkers, led by figures such as John Dewey, Alain Locke, and Jane Addams, urged us to imagine a nation where immigrants were not forced to assimilate to a single mold, but encouraged to keep their traditions and enlarge the possibilities of what it means to be an American. This theme is missing from public discussions on immigration today. But if we are looking to the past for hints today about what to do with our immigration policy that do not involve reinventing a white nationalist vision, then perhaps this is a conversation we need to remember.

José-Antonio Orosco, Ph.D., writes for PeaceVoice and is an associate professor of philosophy and director of the Peace Studies Program at Oregon State University.

Empower Black Women Running for Office

Give them the consideration they deserve

BY JESSICAH PIERRE

Oprah Winfrey's remarkable Golden Globes speech rocked not only the event's A-list attendees, but almost all of America.

Winfrey cited the under-told story of Recy Taylor, a young black woman who was raped by six armed white men during the Jim Crow era. Despite threats to her life, Taylor reported her story to the NAACP — where Rosa Parks made it her mission to help her find justice.

That justice was never seen, but Oprah ended her speech on an optimistic note. "A new day is on the horizon," she said. "A lot of magnificent women" and "some pretty phenomenal men" are "fighting hard to make sure that ... nobody ever has to say 'Me too' again."

In typical modern fashion, #Oprah2020 began trending on Twitter.

I'm a huge fan of Oprah. But I disagree with the masses who want her to run for president.

Not because she's a political amateur,

but because America has a history of looking to black women to save Americans from themselves — while not providing the proper recognition for their labor or even respect.

John Dean, a White House counsel under Obama, tweeted an endorsement that sums this up: "She could end Trump's, and the GOP's, misogyny and racism like no one else!" he predicted, tagging his post #Oprah2020.

But why should the burden of cleaning up Trump's mess fall on a single black woman?

America has always trusted black women to do the work, but it's always come at the expense of their well-being. This notion goes all the way back to the days of slavery, when enslaved black women were forced to breast-feed their slave master's babies with their own breast milk. Known as wet-nursing, this exploited the motherhood of black women while forcing them to disregard their own children.

Since then, black women have been at the forefront of social movements in America — dating back at least to Harriet Tubman's leadership of the Underground Railroad, which helped 100,000 people escape from slavery.

Whether it was the women's suffrage or civil rights movement, African Amer-

ican women were "the critical mass, the grassroots leaders challenging America to embrace justice and equality for all," as an exhibit at the Women's National History Museum puts it.

And when America's earliest forms of feminism began to unravel, it was Sojourner Truth who inserted what's now known as intersectionality — recognizing not only gender discrimination but also its overlap with racial discrimination — in her famous poem "Ain't I A Woman?"

The list goes on. Black women like Ida B. Wells-Barnett and Mary Church Terrell fought passionately for women's voting rights without ever getting the recognition that better known white suffragettes enjoyed.

Even today, the cultural revolution around sexual assault and harassment owes a huge debt to the #MeToo movement founded by Tarana Burke, a black woman who started the movement a decade before it went viral.

And it plays out through our elections.

In the Alabama Senate race, 98 percent of black women voted for Doug Jones. They're the reason he beat Republican Roy Moore, who was widely known for making inappropriate sexual advances on teenage girls.

Many Americans did recognize the black women who kept Moore out of the Senate. That's good news. But it was still a white former prosecutor they were sending to Washington, who may now shy away from black women to please conservative whites in his deep-red state.

If we're serious about having black women lead, we can't stop at recognizing them. We need to empower them both economically and politically.

Over 100 black women are running for state and local offices this year. Giving them the consideration they deserve would say a lot more than simply counting on Oprah — or anyone else — to clean up Trump's mess alone.

Jessica Pierre is the inequality media specialist at the Institute for Policy Studies. Distributed by OtherWords.org.

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Request for Statement of Qualifications documents may be obtained from C-TRAN at 2425 NE 65th Avenue, Vancouver, WA 98661; by calling (360) 696-4494; via e-mail to procurement@c-tran.org; or accessing our Web page at www.c-tran.com and click on Bid on Projects.

Proposals will be accepted until 11:00 a.m., local time, Thursday, February 15, 2018.

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Comedy in Age of Trump

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

"My analogy was that if you walk into a pet store, they don't have all the hamsters separated," he said. "They all have different colors, some have spots and all that stuff, yet they're getting along just fine. And I thought, how is it possible that these little creatures with these tiny brains are able to look past each others' outward appearances and get along and live together in peace."

His guests are folks from all over the country, and have included Jennifer Noble, a professor who has talked about the rise of interracial families in America; Preacher Lawson, a comedian and former America's Got Talent contestant who is in an interracial relationship; and a same-sex interracial couple who've been together for 35 years.

Brannon's next comedy show in Portland comes Monday, Jan. 29 when the Minority Retort, a premier stand-up comedy showcase featuring comedians of color, is held at the nonprofit Hollywood Theater in northeast Portland from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

During the show, he plans to recount a disturbing racist encounter he had while performing in Sand Point, Idaho. It happened after a white supremacist group was passing out fliers, saying "Negroes aren't people, and you know, things like that, white genocide, all that stuff," he said.

When a reporter told him about the fliers before the show, he was not deterred. Brannon still performed and even videotaped the reactions at the end of the show, which was sold out. Audiences were chanting his name



PHOTO BY JULIE ADAMS-PERSON
Nathan Brannon, pictured with his wife and young son, hosts a podcast about being in an interracial relationship.

in approval and cheering. All seemed normal.

"I was prepared to put the show online to kind of say, 'Hey look, there are great people here. Just because there are a few idiots doesn't mean the whole town is terrible,'" Brannon said.

But when he reviewed the video, he saw something odd. One table near the front was cheering like the others, but they all held up what seemed like an innocuous hand symbol, in unison.

"You connect your index finger and your

thumb and then your other three fingers are kind of extended, like a 'W' I guess," he said. "I found out it's a white pride or white power sign. It used to mean 'OK.' That's what I thought they were saying, at first. Like, yeah that's all right. But I guess it's kind of treated more as a dog whistle [for white supremacists] these days, since the election," Brannon said. "It's going around, I think, a lot. Like, that's one of the newer symbols."

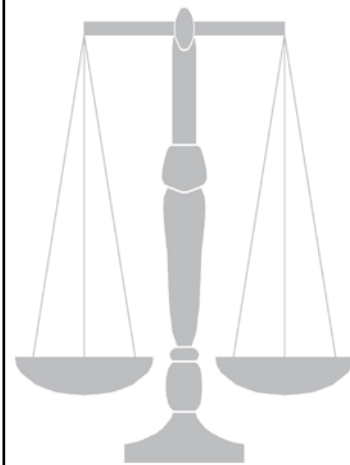
The Outline, a news website dedicated to stories about racism in today's culture confirmed that prominent members of the alt-right like Milo Yiannopoulos, ex-Breitbart writer Mike Ma, and others have been adopting the gesture since the election as a symbol of solidarity with President Trump, who also frequently uses the gesture in his speeches. It's also a frequent pose of alt-right adopted meme Pepe the Frog.

Brannon appreciates the many other members of the audience who were extremely supportive.

"They were really troubled by it and stuff like that so I did my best to bridge the gap or try to use comedy to try and diffuse that whole situation," he said. "I think right now, the way our society is, if we're not willing to go and talk to people at the ground level, and meet people face to face, then we're going to let all these hateful groups get a hold of the narrative and I don't think we can afford for that to happen."

Copies of Nathan Brannon's comedy albums 'I Black Out' and 'Because' are currently available on iTunes and Bandcamp. His podcast, The Hamster Village, is available on iTunes, GooglePlay, and Podbean.

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January 2018

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY

<p>22</p> <p>Brian Wildsmith born, 1930 National Blonde Brownie Day</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Measure Your Feet Day National Handwriting Day National Pie Day</p>	<p>24</p> <p>☾</p> <p>Eskimo Pie Patent- ed, 1922, Christian Nelson Gold Discovered in California At Sut- ter's Mill, 1848</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Opposite Day First Winter Olym- pics held, 1924</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Australia Day (first settled, 1788)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Lewis Carroll National Geographic Society Founded (1888)</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Jackson Pollock born, 1912 (Artist) National Kazoo Day</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Baseball Hall of Fame established (1936) National Puzzle Day</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Franklin D. Roosevelt born, 1882 (23rd President)</p>	<p>31</p> <p>○</p> <p>Backwards Day Jackie Robinson born, 1919 (Base- ball Great)</p>	<h1>CALENDAR</h1>			

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