



Portland Observer

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PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Community leaders break ground Friday on a new 70 unit affordable housing complex at Northeast Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks Way. The project by Portland Community Reinvestment, Inc. (PCRI), a housing provider rooted in the African American community, is the nonprofit's second major effort to create housing for people who have been displaced from inner north and northeast Portland. Pictured (from left) are Nancy Merryman of Merryman Barnes Architects, Oregon Public Health Institute Chief Executive Officer Cyreena Boston Ashby, PCRI Executive Director Maxine Fitzpatrick, former City Commissioner Dan Saltzman, Colas Construction's Andrew and Hermann Colas, Office of Mayor Ted Wheeler representative Cupid Alexander, Umpqua Bank Affordable Housing Manager Gina Leon, and US Bank CDC Manager Jodi Enos.

Mitigating Displacement

Nonprofit breaks ground for second major build

BY DANNY PETERSON
 THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A new 70 rental-unit affordable housing development in the heart Portland's historic African American community began construction Friday, marking continued progress on a longtime housing provider's effort to mitigate and reverse displacement of primarily the black community, indige-

nous populations, and other long-term and low-income residents, in partnership with the city of Portland.

Officials with Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives, Inc. (PCRI), the nonprofit behind the soon-to-be Kings + Parks building on the corner of Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Rosa Parks Way, said the effort is a part of

its Pathway 1000 initiative designed to address a long history of urban renewal and other actions by city government in north and northeast Portland that have historically marginalized and displaced many residents, mostly low income and people of color.

"King Parks is another step in the right direction that seeks to correct the hous-

ing issues caused by income disparities in the city of Portland and State of Oregon. Beyond the brick and mortar development, this project, implemented through the Pathway 1000 strategy, also addresses unemployment, under employment, wage disparities and the inequitable treatment

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The Portland Observer

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PUBLISHER: *Mark Washington, Sr.*

EDITOR: *Michael Leighton*

ADVERTISING MANAGER: *Leonard Latin*

Office Manager/Classifieds: *Lucinda Baldwin*

CREATIVE DIRECTOR: *Paul Neufeldt*

REPORTER/WEB EDITOR: *Danny Peterson*

PUBLIC RELATIONS: *Mark Washington Jr.*

OFFICE ASSISTANT/SALES: *Shawntell Washington*

CALL 503-288-0033

FAX 503-288-0015

news@portlandobserver.com

ads@portlandobserver.com

subscription@portlandobserver.com

Postmaster: Send address changes to

Portland Observer, PO Box 3137,

Portland, OR 97208

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Jaquona Lakaya Goggans

Woman's Death Suspicious

The death of a woman whose body was found inside of a car in southeast Portland has been called "suspicious" by police and the family of the deceased said they believe she was killed.

Police identified the woman last week as Jaquona Lakaya Goggans, 43, after initially reporting that the victim was male. Her body was found on Feb. 7 around 12:30 a.m., after police were called to investigate a body that had been found in a parking lot in the 13500 block of Southeast Division Street, adjacent to Foxy's Den Eatery.

Googans' mother, Annette Campbell, told KOIN at a vigil Saturday night that she believed her daughter had been killed and left in the trunk of a car.

"I'm really upset. I'm angry that somebody would do this to another human being," Campbell said.

The family of Goggans, who was a mother and grandmother, has established a GoFundMe page to help pay for funeral expenses.

The investigation is ongoing and anyone with information should contact Detective William Winters at 503-823-0466.

Terrorism Task Force Exit Approved

Citing a deep distrust in the ability to root out terrorism while upholding the civil rights of residents, the Portland City Council voted 3 to 2 last week to withdraw from participation in the Joint Terrorism Task Force, a partnership between local and federal law enforcement. The issue was a key campaign promise for Portland City Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty and follows a similar move done by San Francisco in 2017.

Blazers Sign Enes Kanter

The Portland Trail Blazers signed free agent Enes Kanter last week. The 26 year old center previously garnered an average of 14 points, 10.5 rebounds, 1.9 assists and 25.6 minutes in 44 games during the 2018-19 season with the New York Knicks. Kanter ranks 14th in the NBA in rebounding.



Tenant Protection Bill Passes

The Oregon Senate passed a bill last week

The Week in Review

that provides basic protections for tenants Senate Bill 608, which includes protections from predatory renting practices, and other mechanisms to stabilize housing for families, must still be passed by the Oregon House of Representatives before coming before Gov. Kate Brown, who has voiced support for it and said she'd sign the bill.

States Sue over Border Wall

16 states, including Oregon, filed a lawsuit Monday challenging the national emergency President Trump declared in order to pay for a US-Mexico border wall. The lawsuit argues that Trump is circumventing Congress in order to fulfill a key promise of his 2016 presidential campaign.

Bernie Sanders to Run Again

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, whose 2016 presidential campaign helped reshape the Democratic Party, announced Tuesday he will run again in 2020. The 77-year old who lost the Democratic nomination to Hillary Clinton in 2016 enters the race this time with a crowded field of Democratic presidential candidates, many of whom have embraced his socialist policy ideas.



Trimet Debuts New Look Buses

Dozens of new buses are getting ready to be rolled out by TriMet, the transportation agency announced Friday. The Gillig 3900 series will feature a number of upgrades including debuting a new look: a splash of bold, orange striping on each side over their classic blue base. The new buses will grow TriMet's fleet to 712 and bring the average age of their vehicles to about five years.

THE TIME IS ALWAYS RIGHT TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



More Pathway 1000 affordable home ownership opportunities coming in late 2019!

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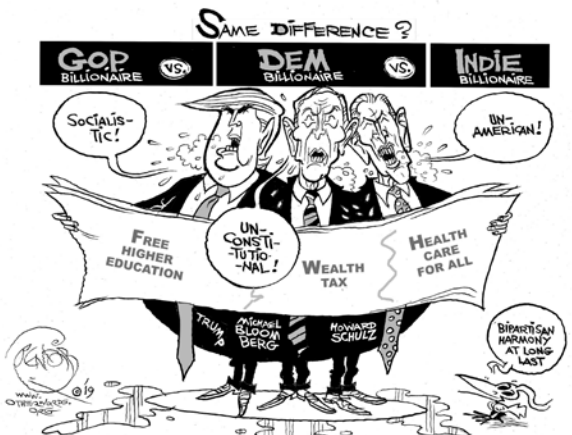


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What's on your list today?®



Counter protesters tear a Nazi flag during a demonstration downtown in this Aug. 4, 2018 file photo from AP.

Friendly Texts Review

City to look for police bias in dialogue with far-right

BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A revelation that hundreds of text messages were exchanged between a Portland police lieutenant in charge of overseeing protests and the leader of a far-right group has spurred outrage from the mayor and other community members. Now, the mayor will allow an independent investigation of the Portland Police Bureau to look

for any wrongdoing and call for added police training to help them identify white supremacist groups.

The bureau has temporarily removed Lt. Jeff Niiya from his position on the rapid response team which monitors and responds to protests. He has been ordered to

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Input Wanted on Police Body Cams

Portland Police Bureau is asking for community feedback as they move through the early stages of developing a pilot program for officers to wear cameras on their body while on duty.

Having completed one of three planned forums this past weekend at East Portland Community Center, their next meeting is scheduled for this Friday at the Matt Dishman Community Center, 77 N.E. Knott St. from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Officials said the forums are designed for community members to help shape the policy on how the cameras will work and how the video recordings will be used.

Following a request for proposals from body-cam vendors, the police bureau will select the top two devices to test out in the field for six months, at both Central Precinct and the Traffic Division, starting this summer. If it's determined that body-worn cameras would be a viable and useful tool



PHOTO BY RYAN JOHNSON

A police officer equipped with a body-worn camera.

at the end of the pilot, in January 2020, Portland police will move forward with its implementation, officials said.

The community can also provide feedback on the body camera project on the bureau's website, portlandoregon.gov/police/78485.



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photo by Danny Peterson/The Portland Observer

After an initial struggle to fill the Beatrice Morrow, an 80 unit affordable housing building on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard that uses the city's innovative "preference policy" for former displaced residents of north and northeast Portland, the building is now almost completely leased-up. It opened in November and is named after a renowned civil rights advocate from early 20th-century Oregon.

Mitigating Displacement

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

that lead to these noted disparate outcomes which hit-low income and communities of color especially hard," PCRI Executive Director Maxine Fitzpatrick said.

Pathway 1000's aim is to build 100 new affordable housing per year for the next decade, which began coming to fruition in November with the completion of the Beatrice Morrow Cannady building at 3340 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Similar to the Beatrice Morrow, the new King + Parks building will be rental units available by application through an innovative city "preference policy" specifically designed to prioritize the formerly displaced residents. It gives preference to those who were pushed out because of an urban renewal action from the city. Adopted by Portland City Council in 2016, the preference policy was designed in part with input from Fitzpatrick, who pioneered the idea with a similar "right to return" initiative within PCRI, in 2014.

After an initial struggle to get the 80-unit Beatrice Morrow building filled—only seven were either moved in or scheduled to move in on Dec. 7—the building is now leased up 94 percent (75 units moved in or scheduled to move in), according to documents PCRI provided the Portland Observer.

The temporary difficulty getting the building filled was resolved after an outside property management company PCRI contracted with to lease up the place was let go and PCRI took over the duties directly, Fitzpatrick told the Portland Observer.

The 70-unit King + Parks building, which is slated to be completed in May 2020, will contain two or more bedrooms for families for 70 percent of the units. One third of the units will be set aside for very

low income tenants, making 30 percent or lower of the median family income (MFI), and with a focus on those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The majority of the units will be set aside for those making 50 percent MFI, as well as one market rate unit, for a building manager.

The housing developments spearheaded by PCRI come after years of longtime displacement due to redlining, blight, market forces, discriminatory housing practices, and often in the wake of city-led urban renewal projects. Most recently the establishment of the Interstate Corridor Urban Renewal Area in 2000 impacted many traditionally black neighborhoods. From 1990 to 2010, 11,450 African American residents were displaced from their historic black neighborhoods in north and northeast Portland, according to the city's website.

PCRI, the African American-owned firm Colas Construction, and Merryman Barnes Architects, are the parties selected by the Portland Housing Bureau and then-City Commissioner Dan Saltzman to develop the King + Parks building. A longtime city-owned lot, the property had remained vacant for many years, before its ownership was transferred to PCRI through a competitive city request for proposals. The city also helped fund the project.

A land acknowledgement ceremony at the groundbreaking also paid homage to the indigenous Native Tribes of the land. The dedication also paid tribute to civil rights activists Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks, whose names adorn the intersecting streets of the development.

"Based on what has happened in regard to housing in Portland, what better way can the community, PCRI, and the city of Portland advance the recognition of their efforts?" Fitzpatrick said.

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Unlikely Brotherhood

Retired cop addresses racial divide in new book

BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A retired black cop and a white criminal defense attorney, both from Portland, recount how their combustible relationship was transformed into a lasting friendship in 'Unlikely Brotherhood,' a new book that address the cultural divide between white and black America.

The book is the story of Larry Anderson, a former police officer for the Portland Police Bureau and Wendell Birkland, a Portland lawyer and former Multnomah County prosecutor, and is written with Ken Koopman of Portland, his third book.

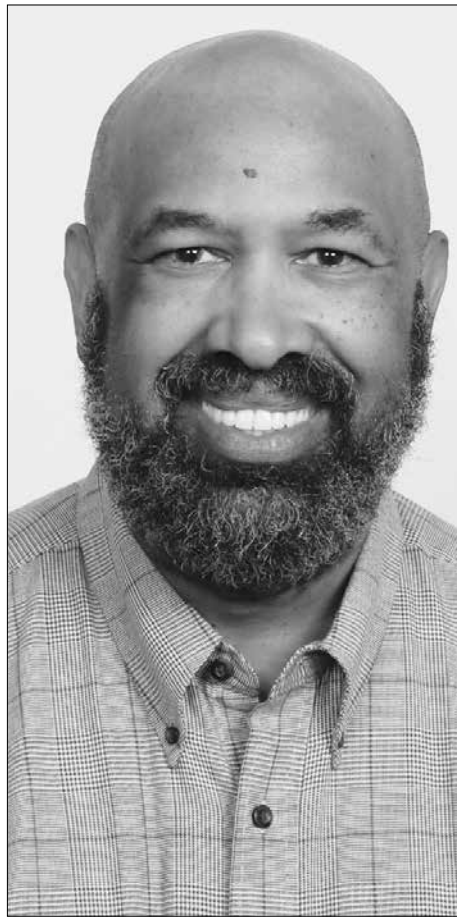
Coming from extreme opposite backgrounds, defined by their skin color and economic upbringings, the story tells how two men collided in bigotry and hatred in their first encounter. But years later, an improbable friendship binds them together. Hearts are changed as the men of faith declare their intent to love one another as brothers, and move past deadly and racially-charged incidents that impacted their lives on the streets of Portland.

Anderson told the Portland Observer the book resonates with today's issues of race and the growing social divisions that define America. He hopes the book inspires others on how to build authentic and loving relationships no matter the color of their skin.

The differences are stark. In "Unlikely Brotherhood" Anderson's recounts the first time he heard the n-word. He was a young child visiting the home a white neighbor friend and the boy's white grandfather yelled out wanting to know who brought the n----- to the house.

From a completely opposite upbringing, Birkland writes how he never met a black person growing up and had a carefree childhood of delights, like riding ponies on his grandfather's farm, Alpenrose Dairy.

The book shows how these two men from different worlds came to a deep friendship over a 25 year history



Retired Portland police officer Larry Anderson addresses the racial divide in 'Unlikely Brotherhood' a story about two men who collided in bigotry and hatred. But years later, an improbable friendship binds them together.

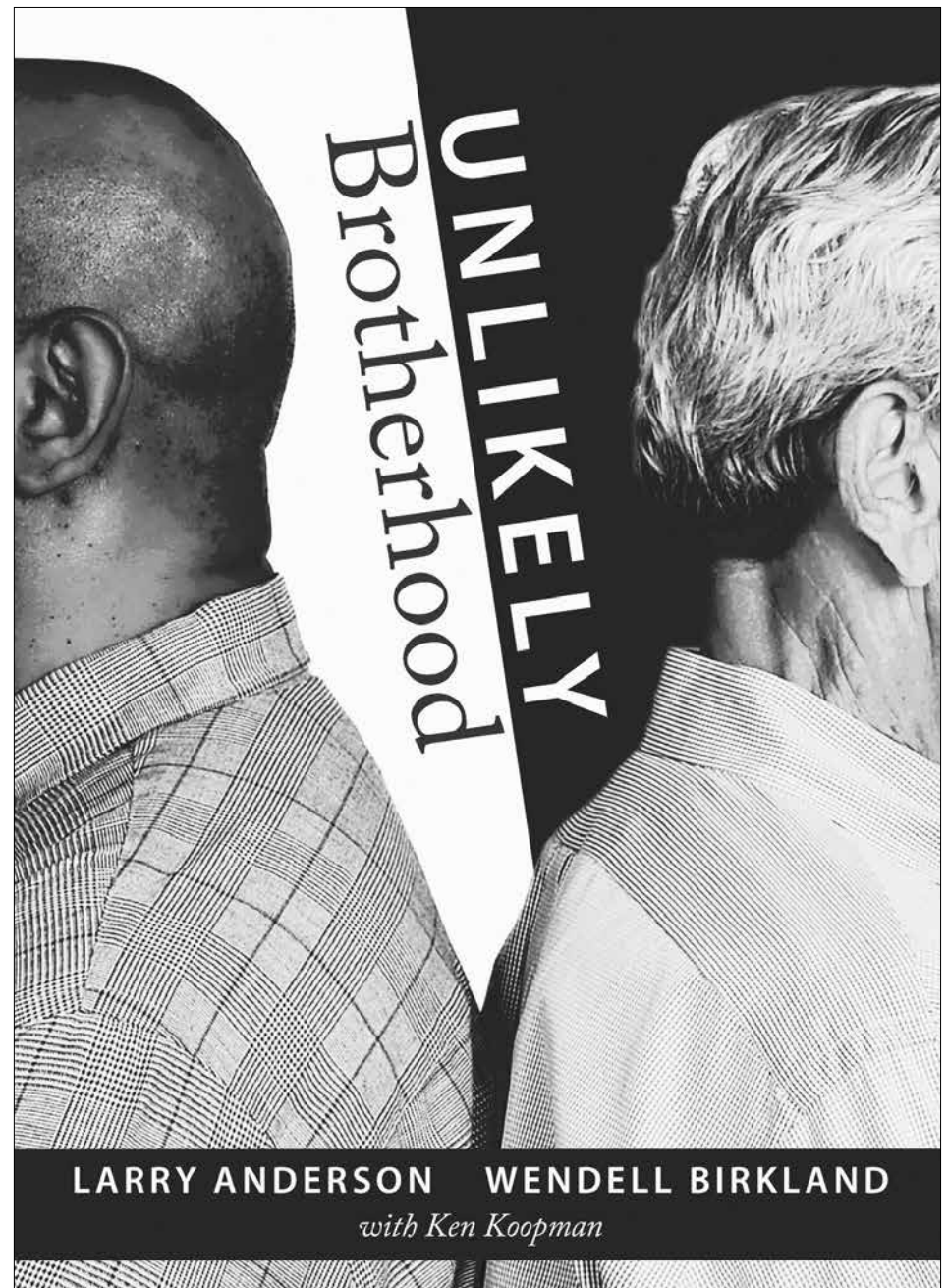
of being involved in the so-called racial reconciliation movement in Portland, forming regular weekly meetings with others to forge friendships across chasms that divide people by race.

Drawing on his religious beliefs, Anderson points a way forward. He says he doesn't look for reconciliation between races when there has never been conciliation. He said because there's only one human race and God doesn't identify man as black or white, there can only be reconciliation to God.

"As long as I see myself as a black man and you see yourself as a white man, by the very nature of our definition we're meant to oppose each other," he writes. "We've got to get men of God talking about first needing to reconcile to our Creator; then you go about figuring out how to love your neighbor."

Anderson said the key to forging brotherhood between the races is getting to know each other with authentic relationships.

Unlikely Brotherhood is now available in paperback, hardback and eBook from the most popular online book retailers, including Amazon and Barnes & Noble.



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My Picks for Best Films of 2018

OPINIONATED JUDGE

BY
DARLEEN ORTEGA



As usual, the more than 150 films I saw this year includes all of those that populate most critics' top 10 lists. My own list of the year's best films includes some overlap—but once again five of the films on my list were virtually unrecognized by critics. I'm left savoring a gorgeous reflection on the life of a central but marginalized person; two distinct but game-changing depictions of black beauty and culture; a film that prioritizes indigenous perspectives on the history of this continent; a surprisingly honest depiction of an adolescent girl; a particularly astute examination of how racism affects what we perceive; an Israeli drama that examines patterns of violence; an under-celebrated historical drama with a feminist lens; a documentary that examines systemic injustice in food production; and a profoundly insightful story about one man's experience of conversion therapy. So here's the whole list, with fuller descriptions below:

1. **Roma**
2. **If Beale Street Could Talk**
3. **Hochelaga: Land of Souls**
4. **Eighth Grade**
5. **Blindspotting**
6. **Foxtrot**
7. **Mary, Queen of Scots**
8. **Eating Animals**
9. **Boy Erased**
10. **Black Panther**

1. Some years it is a contest which of my favorite films will make the top of my list. Not this year. "**Roma**" is one of the best films I have seen in any year, a

journey of the soul in which virtually every shot is suitable for framing and for fuller contemplation. Director Alfonso Cuarón has turned an examination of his own childhood memories into a model for contemplative seeing, situating his own story and that of his family in proper relationship to the perspective of a marginalized person, his nanny, here called Cleo (and played with real gravity by first-time actress Yalitza Aparicio). Centering Cleo's perspective not only illuminates what is true for others, but also demonstrates how central she actually is to everyone else's story. This film deserves the critical notice it is getting and then some; we'll see if the Oscars do more than pay lip service to its greatness with a slew of nominations. [In Spanish, Mixtec and English; rated R for graphic nudity, some disturbing images, and language; nominated for and should win Academy Awards for Best Picture and Best Foreign Language Film; Best Director (Cuarón); Best Original Screenplay (Cuarón); Best Cinematography (Cuarón); Best Sound Editing; Best Sound Mixing; Best Lead Actress (Yalitza Aparicio); also nominated for Best Supporting Actress (Marina de Tavira).]

2. There is no one better than writer-director Barry Jenkins to bring black experience to the big screen. He has followed his celebrated "**Moonlight**" with an adaption of James Baldwin's novel "**If Beale Street Could Talk**" that aches with beauty and sor-



Yalitza Aparicio stars as the live-in housekeeper Cleo in '**Roma**,' a film that prioritizes the perspectives of those who are relegated to the margins. The film is no. 1 on Portland Observer and Opinionated Judge movie critic Darleen Ortega's best 10 films list for 2018.

row in appropriate measure, and that captures profoundly aspects of African American life that are most precious and hardest to name. Regina King's performance as the clear-eyed mother of one of two young people whose love is the focus of this film deserves the raves she has gotten--and she is surrounded by a host of equally fine and under-celebrated performances, including by those two leads (Stephan James and Kiki Layne), by Brian Tyree Henry, and by Colman Domingo, Michael Beach, Teyonah Parris, and Aunjanue Ellis. All of them outshine the still-so-white slate of Oscar nominees. Once again Jenkins has given us a taste of the riches we have been missing in terms of black stories and talent, buoyed by gorgeous cinematography and a score that also deserves an Oscar. More films like this, please! [Rated R for language and some sexual content; nominated for, and should win, Academy Awards for Best Supporting Actress (Regina King), Best Adapted Screenplay (Barry Jenkins), and Best Original

Score (Nicholas Britell); also deserved nominations for Best Picture, Best Director (Barry Jenkins), Best Lead Actor (Stephan James), Best Lead Actress (Kiki Layne), Best Supporting Actor (Brian Tyree Henry), and Best Cinematography (James Laxton).]

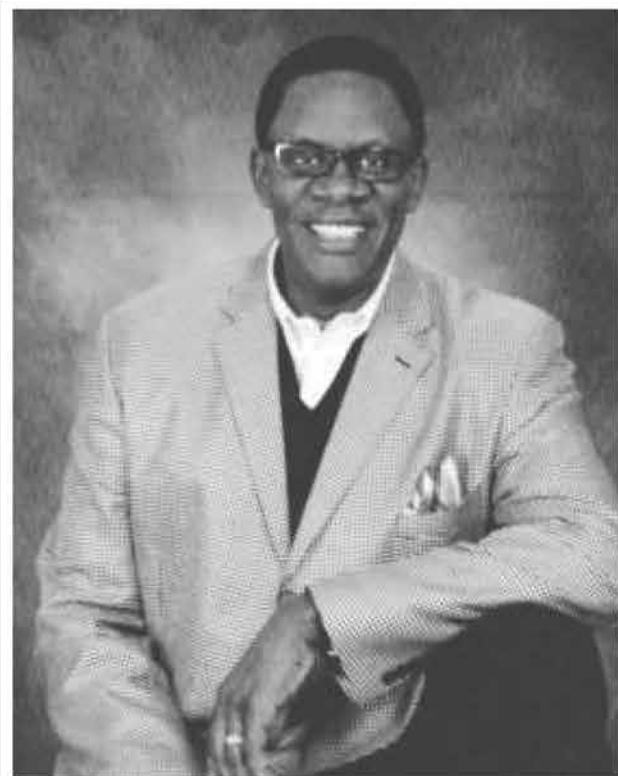
3. "**Hochelaga: Land of Souls**" never got a U.S. release and is hard to find here at all despite good critical notice in Canada--yet it profoundly altered my own consciousness about the indigenous peoples who populated this continent for centuries longer than the Europeans who all but destroyed their cultures. Prioritizing the perspectives of its indigenous characters in a way that I have not seen before, this film affords what were for me defining images of colonizing arrogance that refused even to treat indigenous cultures as cultures, and places current life into a more accurate historical arc. It speaks a language that Hollywood doesn't yet understand, and offers a perspective of current relationship with the past occupants of this land that we des-

perately need. Find a way to see this movie, and may it change you as it did me. [In French, English, Mohawk and Algonquin; not rated; deserved Oscar nominations for Best Foreign Language Film, Best Director (Francois Girard), Best Picture, and Best Cinematography (Nicolas Bolduc).]

4. "**Eighth Grade**" offers the most humane and truthful depiction of adolescence--particularly as experienced by girls--that I have ever seen. Kayla (an astounding Elsie Fisher) is a good kid lurching through eighth grade convinced that she is the only one who can't figure out how to pull off the perfect, air-brushed and Emoji'd life that all her peers and everyone else on Snapchat seems to be enjoying. First-time director Bo Burnham, not even a decade past adolescence himself, gives us a compassionate and humane film that helped me understand how the current internet culture further complicates life for adolescents, and sparked a quality of reflection on my own childhood that most of us avoid. [Rated R for language and some sexual material; deserved Oscar nominations for Best Picture, Best Director (Bo Burnham), Best Original Screenplay (Bo Burnham), and Best Actress (Elsie Fisher).]

5. "**Blindspotting**" received nowhere near the attention of films like "**BlackkKlansmen**" and "**Sorry to Bother You**," yet far outshone both those films in illuminating how racism endangers and kills black people and creates fissures of alienation amongst all of us that we can scarcely grasp, let alone heal. Co-writers and stars Daveed Diggs and Rafael Casal

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



Dr. Billy R. Flowers

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Friendly Texts Review

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

cease further conversations with any protest event organizer pending a police internal investigation. The text messages involved Joey Gibson, whose Vancouver-based right wing group, Patriot Prayer, has frequently drawn white supremacists and other extremists to rallies, which often have been held in Portland and resulted in violent street brawls with masked antifascists.

First reported by the Willamette Week and the Portland Mercury last week through a public records

request, the text messages showed Niiya having a chummy rapport with Gibson, discussing protest plans, and even providing tips about where leftist protests, on the opposite side of his right-wing group, were taking place, in 2017 and 2018.

Mayor Ted Wheeler called the text messages “disturbing” and said they “appear to cross several boundaries,” adding that they “also raise questions about whether warrants are being enforced consistently and what information is being shared with individuals who may be subject to arrest.”

In one exchange, Niiya appeared to give advice about one of Gibson’s associates, Tusitala “Tiny” Toese, in regard to the likelihood he would be arrested at a protest while having an active warrant. Toese is a member of Proud Boys, a documented hate group.

“Just make sure he doesn’t do anything which may draw our attention,” Niiya texted on Dec 9. “If he still has the warrant in the system (I don’t run you guys so I don’t personally know) the officers could arrest him. I don’t see a need to arrest on the warrant unless there is a reason.”

CAIR Oregon, the Oregon Justice Resource Center, and Western

States Center said in a statement that the text messages show “an inappropriate and disproportionate response to alt-right groups.”

Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty said the texts confirmed police’s “collusion with right-wing extremists.”

Hardesty and the aforementioned civil rights groups called for a second, independent investigation, which was swiftly obliged by Wheeler, who said Friday that Police Chief Danielle Outlaw

agreed the move would be a “necessary next step.”

Wheeler said he and Outlaw are implementing training to PPB in order to identify white supremacy, part of a resolution passed unanimously by city council earlier this month condemning hate groups.

In addition, Portland Police Bureau is holding a community “listening session” on the matter on Thursday, Feb. 21 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Maranatha Church, located at 4222 N.E. 12th Ave.

Obituary

In Loving Memory

Louise Marie Burton

A celebration of life service for Louise Marie Burton will be held Monday, Feb. 25 at 11 a.m. at Maranatha Church, 4222 N.E. 12th Ave.

She was born on May 20, 1937 in Austin, Texas to Frankie B. Slider and Tom L. Slider Jr. and died Feb. 9, 2019 in Portland. She and her brothers James T. Slider and Ralph B. Slider and sister Tommie M. Slider were raised in a home filled with love for God and family. The Slider family eventually moved to Vancouver and then Portland/

Louise was not only beautiful with a great personality, but very smart in school. After her primary grades in Austin, she graduated from Lieser Elementary School and Fort Vancouver High school in Vancouver. It was in high school that she was smitten by a young man named Donald Richard Malone. They were married in 1952 and had one child, Michelle Marie in 1953.

At an early age she subscribed to her family tradition of helping others and giving back to the community. She enrolled in a nursing program in 1954-1958 at St. Vincent Hospital and worked as nurse at St. Vincent, Wilcox Memorial and Holladay Park hospitals. She also worked in the hospitality industry at the prestigious Benson Hotel. Later she became ready to open her heart again by meeting Buford Leon Burton better known as “Jack.” They were married in 1957 and little Kimberly Renee was born in 1959.

Louise developed the love of being an outstanding cook from her mother. She shared many special family recipes with her daughters and grandchildren. It was one of the many ways she shared her love during family breakfasts, Sunday dinners, picnics, birthday parties, barbecues or just entertaining friends.

She later entered a social work



program from 1973 to 1975 at Portland Community College. The experience from both her nursing and social work careers combined to help her with positions in the Women In Transition Project, Albina Action Center, Beech Street Project, Urban League of Portland and Albina Ministerial Alliance. She was a dedicated community servant changing lives for more than 30 years.

No matter life’s challenges she was guided by her faith, love of family and believing in God’s plan for her life. Being the eternal optimist, she eventually met the love her life Clyde A. DuBoise at a chance meeting at Grant High School attending one of Michelle’s school activities. They were both at life’s crossroads and realized their journey was destined. Families blended had a wonderful life together filled with the love and joy of cooking and traveling together. They were happily engaged together in a 35 year relationship until he preceded her in death. They can now dance together again.

Louise was an amazing daughter, sister, wife, aunt, cousin, niece and extraordinary mother and grandmother and friend. She loved her children and grandchildren dearly. Her zest for life and love was infectious.

She leaves to cherish her memory, brother Ralph Slider and sister-in-law Anna Slider of Portland; daughters Michelle Harper of Portland, Kimberly Edwards and son-in-law Jessie Edwards of Portland, grandchildren Jayvin Harper and Kimberly Davis of Portland, great-grandchildren, September and Ernest Spinks Jr. of Portland, and host of cousins, nieces, friends, and a beloved community.



I-5 ROSE QUARTER
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

PUBLIC INVITED TO COMMENT

You are invited to review and submit comments on the Project’s environmental study, including Sections 106 and 4(f), from February 15 to April 1, 2019 at 5 pm. You may review the document and provide comments in the following ways:

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101 N Weidler St, Portland, OR

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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

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TOYA BEASLEY

6 A.M. – 12 NOON
SUNDAY MORNING GOSPEL
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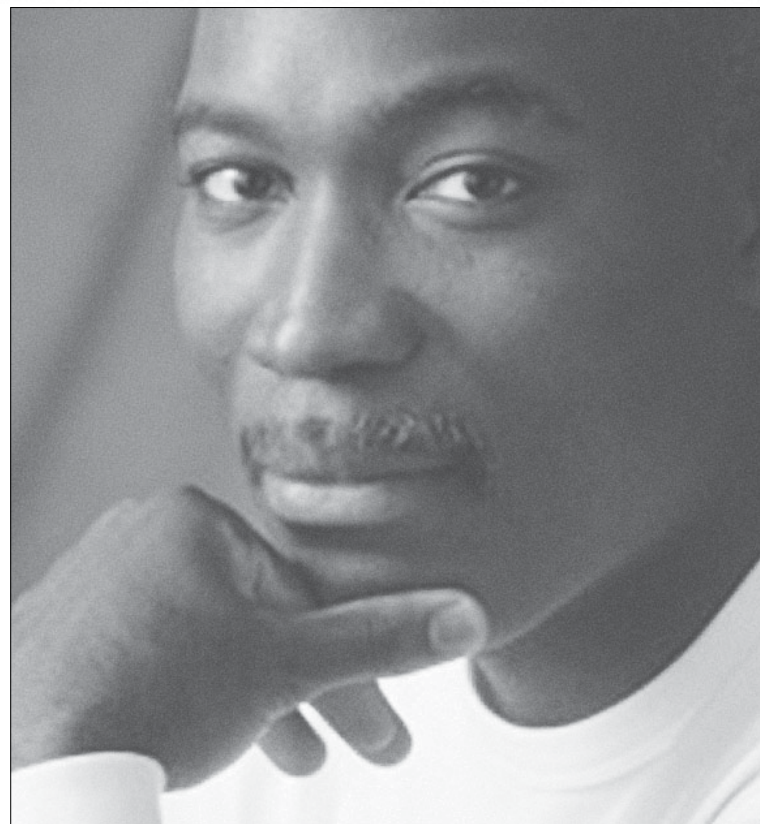
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WIKIPEDIA COMMONS PHOTO BY EVERT-JAN HIELEME

New Orleans trumpeter Christian Scott is the opening night performer for the 16th annual Biamp PDX Jazz Festival.



Darrell Grant

PDX Jazz Fest is Back

The 16th annual 2019 Biamp PDX Jazz Festival — set for Wednesday, Feb. 20 through Sunday, March 3 — will include a wide array of headliners, which celebrates Black History Month. While the festival traditionally opens on a

Thursday, it will kick off a day early this year with an exciting performance by New Orleans trumpeter Christian Scott.

Ramsey Lewis, who was initially announced to perform, has retired from active touring and has been replaced by NEA Jazz

Master Pharoah Sanders. This year marks the 50th anniversary of Sanders most iconic work, “The Creator Has a Master Plan.”

In honor of Blue Note Records 80th anniversary, trumpeter Terence Blanchard returns with his E-Collective band;

Farnell Newton will pay tribute to Donald Byrd; Devin Phillips with special guest Brian Lynch performs Electric Mode for Joe; and Eli Degibri pays tribute to Hank Mobley.

Portland’s Darrell Grant will be honored as this year’s Port-

land Jazz Master.

Among other headline pianists set to appear are Patrice Rushen, Harold Mabern, Aaron Diehl and Matthew Whitaker. For a complete Biamp PDX Jazz Festival list of performers and events, visit pdxjazz.com.



Jazz Pianist Earns Respect

The Biamp PDX Jazz Fest will welcome the Patrice Rushen Trio with Alphonso Johnson and Marvin “Smitty” Smith and special guest Ernie Watts on Saturday, Feb. 23 at 7 p.m. at Revolution Hall in the former Washington High School in southeast Portland. For tickets, visit pdxjazz.com.

Rushen is a multi Grammy award-nominated

PHOTO COURTESY PDX JAZZ FESTIVAL
Patrice Rushen, a multi Grammy award-nominated artist, performs Saturday, Feb. 23 at Revolution Hall in the former Washington High School as part of the annual PDX Jazz Fest.

pianist, composer and producer who is fashioning her career after the legacy of her long-time friend and mentor, Quincy Jones. Considering one of the world’s top jazz pianists, she has definitely earned the respect of her peers.

Rushen has performed with and produced for such esteemed artists as Stevie Wonder, Herbie Hancock, Prince, Lionel Hampton, Carlos Santana, Boys II Men, George Benson, Jean Luc Ponty, Tom Jones, Nancy Wilson, Michael Jackson, Dianne Reeves, Sheena Easton, Stanley Turrentine, Joshua Redman, Bobby Hutcherson, among countless others.

Two-time Grammy award winner Ernie Watts is one of the most versatile and prolific saxophone players in music.



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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Oregon's Black Pioneers

Largely unknown history explored in new documentary

OPB will premiere a new historical documentary on Monday, Feb. 25 at 9 p.m. called "Oregon's Black Pioneers," which explores the largely unknown history of African-Americans who have helped shape the state. From fur trappers and explorers, to farmers and merchants, the earliest black Oregonians lived, worked and built communities despite the racist

laws of white settlers who tried to force them out.

This half-hour Oregon Experience documentary explores the many stories of black pioneers, including that of Markus Lopeus, the earliest-known person of African descent in the state. He was a sailor who arrived at Tillamook Bay in 1788 with merchant sea captain Robert Gray. It is documented that Lopeus died during a dispute with local Native Americans.

In the years that followed, more African-Americans arrived in the Far West as fur trappers and explorers. Some were brought to the region as slaves, and others were free-



A Lakeview woman and an unknown man are images of black Americans living in Oregon in the mid to late 1800s. The photos are courtesy of the Oregon Historical Society.

ROSA

I would like to be remembered as a person who wanted to be free... so that other people would also be free.



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men looking for a new life. They opened boarding houses and stores; worked farms and mined for gold. At the same time, as more white settlers arrived over the Oregon Trail, the newcomers not only brought their own prejudices with them, they passed discriminatory laws against black people.

In the 1840s, the region's

provisional government forbid slavery while also banning black people from settling in the area. When Oregon became a state in 1859, it was the only state admitted to the union with an exclusion law in its constitution. That law remained until voters removed it in 1926, while the original racist language stayed on the books until 2002.

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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO BY ANDIE PETKUS

Long time Portland resident Charlotte B. Rutherford will give a presentation on the history of Portland's black population through personal recollections and the Rutherford Family Collection at Portland State University.

Forum on Black Portland

Long-time Portland resident and Portland State University Black Studies alum Charlotte Rutherford and Cris Paschild, head of Special Collections at Portland State University, will give a special presentation on the history of Portland's black community through personal recollections and the Rutherford family collection housed at PSU's library. Anyone interested in learning about this valuable collection and hearing more about Portland's black history is encouraged to attend. The event takes place Tuesday, Feb. 26 from noon to 1:30 p.m. in PSU's Millar Library, room 106.

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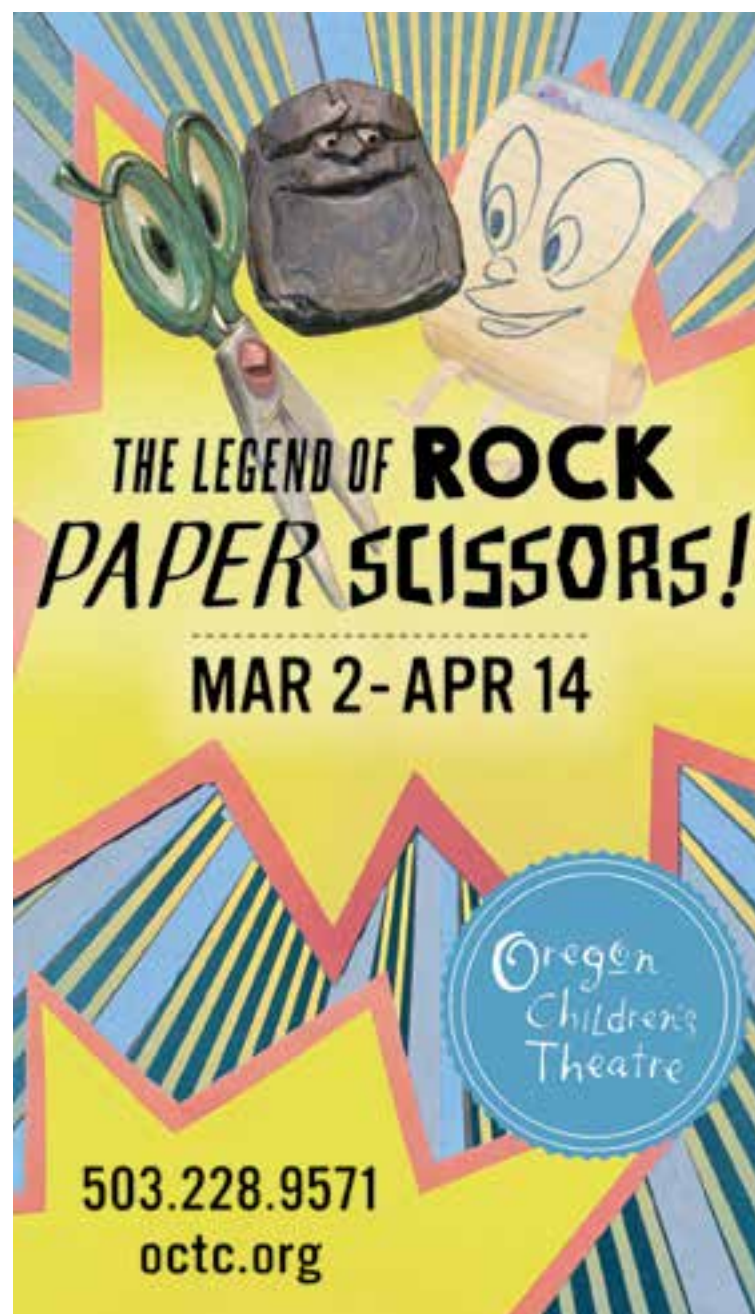
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Northeast Portland is getting a faster connection to Slabtown, Good Samaritan, Providence Park and more. Starting March 3, Line 24 will be extended across the Fremont Bridge through Northwest Portland to West Burnside.

Line 24 is just the start. Visit trimet.org/new24 to see Line 24's route plus the other new ways to go by transit rolling out March 3.



Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



A City Resource Fair for the black community of Portland draws a crowd. On Sunday, Feb. 24, another such event comes to the Montavilla Community Center in southeast Portland, hosted by the City African Network (CAAN).

Black Family Resource Fair

A resource fair and dinner for the black community of Portland to celebrate Black History Month will be hosted by the City African American Network (CAAN) on Sunday, Feb. 24, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Montavilla Community Center, 8219 N.E. Glisan St.

Free meals will be provided by local Black-owned businesses, including Kee's #Loaded Kitchen,

Trap Kitchen PDX @trapkitchenpdx, Rose City Eats; and Black Star Grill.

Activities for the whole family will include a bouncy house, teen center, kids zone, more than a dozen City bureaus, community organizations and two workshops on how to apply for jobs to the city and how to do business with the city.

"The Black Family Festival is important because we are not only investing in Portland's black community, but we are honoring and celebrating the black family" said Sabrina Wilson, a city employee and representative for CAAN.

Good in Hood Plans Made

Portland's Good in the Hood multicultural festival has set a date for this year's celebration and has elected new officers.

Angie Harris is now president of the non-profit group, Simone Carter is vice president, Denise Millhollen is secretary and Deborah Roache, treasurer.

Good in the Hood will be celebrating its 27th year at King School Park on June 21-

23rd featuring entertainment, food court, parade, kids' area, marketplace, and informational village.

Organizers say they are proud to bring family and the community together to celebrate the northeast culture of Portland. Good in the Hood festival is staffed by dedicated community volunteers and funded by local businesses and organizations.

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Norman Sylvester Band – “Boogie Cat”

Norman Sylvester plays Friday, Feb. 22 at Clyde's; Saturday, Feb. 23 at the Half Penny in Salem; Friday, March 1 at Catfish Lou's; Saturday, March 2 at Prime Time in Forest Grove; Friday, March 8 at the Rogue Pub in North Plains; Saturday, March 9 at the Spare Room; and Friday, March 16 at Mac's Place in Silverton.



Jesus Christ Superstar! – Portland's Stumptown Stages presents the hit rock opera Jesus Christ Superstar! Now playing through March 3 at Portland's Brunish Theatre at Antoinette Hatfield Hall, downtown. For tickets and more information, call the box office at 800-273-1530 or visit stumptownstages.org.



Cascade Festival of African Films – Portland Community College's Cascade Campus in north Portland hosts the 29th annual Cascade Festival of African Film with more than 30 feature, documentary and short films by established and emerging African directors from 18 countries. Runs through March 3. For a full schedule, visit africanfilmfestival.org.

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,

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

Portland Symphonic Choir, Cappella Romana and Portland Vocal Consort.



Cautionary Tale of Love – Portland's Latino theater group Milagro presents the North American premiere of La Segua, a cautionary tale of vanity and narcissism for all to heed. A Spanish language show with English supertitles, La Segua is now showing through March 2. For tickets and more information, call the box office at 503-236-7253 or visit milagro.org.



A Habit Forming Musical – Join the Little Sisters of Hoboken for a hysterical variety show to raise emergency funds for the convent. The Rose Theatre Company presents “Nunsense” at the Broadway Rose New Stage in Tigard, 12850 S.W. Grant Ave. Now playing through Sunday, Feb. 24. For tickets, visit broadwayrose.org, call 503-620-5262 or visit the box office.

Life under Nazi Rule – The Portland Art Museum and Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education jointly present two exhibitions featuring photographs by the late Polish-Jewish photojournalist Henry Ross offering an extraordinary rare glimpse of life under Nazi rule. Both facilities are offering offer a full slate of exhibit-related programming.

Zoo for All – The Oregon Zoo has launched “Zoo for All,” a 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.



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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



Performing at Linfield

Marcus Johnson, an internationally acclaimed jazz keyboardist with more than 18 Billboard-charted CDs, will present a free concert open to the public on Friday, March 1, at 7:30 p.m. in the Richard and Lucille Ice Auditorium at Linfield College in McMinnville. Johnson is an NAACP Image Award nominee, Billboard-ranked jazz keyboardist, and chief executive officer of Flo Brands, a lifestyle company that includes Flo wine. His sound ranges from contemporary smooth jazz to pop-rock rearranged with a jazz spin to the electronica featured in his last album, “Flo Paks.” For more information about the concert, call 503-583-2408.

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My Picks for Best Films of 2018

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

and director Carlos López Estrada have assembled a nimble exploration of how what we expect to see shapes what we actually see. The story is built around a long-term friendship between a white man (Casal) and a black man (Diggs) whose lives and paths are beginning to diverge in ways the white man especially cannot begin to appreciate. Humor and poetry and inventive imagery help to carry this film well beyond what most even attempt, and help us to see and hear what we mostly aren't able to name. [Rated R for language throughout, some brutal violence, sexual references, and drug use; deserved Oscar nominations for Best Picture, Best Director (López), Best Lead Actor (Diggs), and Best Original Screenplay (Diggs and Casal).]

6. **"Foxtrot"** won an audience award at last year's Portland International Film Festival--which is especially noteworthy for a com-

plex film about grief and cycles of violence in families and countries. The film opens with an Israeli couple being informed that their son has been killed in action--but all is not as it seems. By telling a particular family's story extremely well, this brilliant film finds a way to surface the most difficult of larger questions; it feels both immediate and cosmic. This film deserves the most focused attention, as it shifts back and forth between locations and time periods to tell a story that would not have this impact told any other way. [In Hebrew; rated R for some sexual content including graphic images, and brief drug use; deserved Oscar nominations for Best Foreign Language Picture, Best Director (Samuel Maoz); Best Original Screenplay (Samuel Maoz); Best Actor (Leor Ashkenazi); Best Actress (Sarah Adler).]

7. I'm surprised and disappointed that **"Mary, Queen of Scots"** did not fare better this awards season. For my money,

there is no better performance by a lead actress than Saoirse Ronan in the titular role, and both she and Margot Robbie as Queen Elizabeth deliver complex and quite satisfying portraits of what it feels like to have positional power but not practical power (something I happen to know something about). Both women were monarchs by birthright, but in a world in which men controlled everything, and the film makes a convincing case that they chose conflicting routes to managing all that compromised power and male energy--and wisely, the film leaves as an open question who chose best. No film directed by a woman was nominated for Best Picture this year; no woman director was nominated for Best Director; and the best performance by a woman, who happened to be playing a powerful and clear woman leader, also wasn't recognized. Accident? I think not. See this underrecognized film, and give some thought to how the dynamics depicted have morphed but



Stephan James and Kiki Lane star as a young couple relying on their love to sustain them through unspeakable hardships in *"If Beale Street Could Talk."* Photo courtesy Annapurna Pictures

not disappeared--and learn about two fascinating women. [In English, French, Scottish Gaelic and Latin; rated R for some violence and sexuality; nominated for and should win Academy Award for makeup and hair; also nominated for costume design; deserved nominations for Best Picture, Best Director (Josie Rourke), and Best Actress (Saoirse Ronan).]

8. My favorite documentary of the year, **"Eating Animals"**

was not widely released, though you can now stream it on Amazon Prime. I saw it at the Portland International Film Festival--and I'll admit I was not enthused about seeing it, fearing that I would learn a bunch of horrifying information and not know what to do in response. That is indeed what happened--and yet I loved the film and found the energy to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19



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2019
CALENDAR
February

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
18 President's Day <i>Former planet, Pluto, Discovered by Clyde Tombaugh in 1930</i>	19 ○ <i>Phonograph Patented, 1878, Thomas Edison</i> <i>Mr. Roger's Neighborhood Debuted, 1968</i>	20 <i>John Glenn Orbits Earth, 1962</i> Love Your Pet Day	21 <i>Malcom X Assassinated (1965)</i> <i>Washington Monument dedicated (1885)</i>	22 <i>George Washington born, 1732</i> Be Humble Day World Thinking Day	23 <i>International Dog Biscuit Appreciation Day</i> <i>U.S. Flag raised at Iwo Jima (1945)</i>	24 <i>Steve Jobs born, 1955</i> <i>Wilhelm Carl Grimm born, 1786</i>
25 Quiet Day <i>Artist Pierre Auguste Renoir born, 1841</i>	26 ◐ Levi Strauss born, 1829	27 <i>Uri Shulevitz born, 1935</i> International Polar Bear Day	28 <i>Public Sleeping Day</i> <i>Gold Seekers arrived in San Francisco (1849)</i>			

OPINION

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.

Send a Message to End the War on Cannabis

Oregon's Wyden and Blumenauer are on board

BY JUSTIN STREKAL

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., has introduced legislation in the Senate, S. 420 — The Marijuana Revenue and Regulation Act — to permit states to establish their own marijuana regulatory policies free from federal interference. In addition to removing marijuana from the United States Controlled Substances Act, this legislation also removes enforcement power from the US Drug Enforcement Administration in matters concerning marijuana possession, production, and sales — thus permitting state governments to regulate these activities as they see fit.

Senate Bill 420 is another sign that the growing public support for ending our failed war on cannabis consumers nationwide is continuing to translate

into political support amongst federal officials.

If we are truly going to move our nation towards sensible marijuana policies, the removal of marijuana from the Controlled Substances Act is paramount. Annually, 650,000 Americans are arrested for nothing more than the possession of small amounts of marijuana and now is the time for Congress to once and for all end put an end to the national embarrassment that is cannabis prohibition.

With marijuana legalization being supported by a supermajority of Americans while Congress' approval rating hovers around 20 percent, ending our country's disastrous prohibition against marijuana would not just be good policy, but good politics.

Upon introduction, Sen. Wyden said, "The federal prohibition of marijuana is wrong, plain and simple. Too many lives have been wasted, and too many economic opportunities have been missed. It's time Congress make the

changes Oregonians and Americans across the country are demanding."

U.S. Rep. Earl Blumenauer, the Portland Democrat who will carry the House companion legislation, said "Oregon has been and continues to be a leader in commonsense marijuana policies and the federal government must catch up. The American people have elected the most pro-cannabis Congress in American history and significant pieces of legislation are being introduced. The House is doing its work and with the help of Senator Wyden's leadership in the Senate, we will break through."

Thirty-three states, Washington, D.C. and the U.S. territories of Guam and Puerto Rico have enacted legislation specific to the physician-authorized use of cannabis. Moreover, an estimated 73 million Americans now reside in the 10 states where anyone over the age of 21 may possess cannabis legally. An additional 15 states have passed laws specific to the possession of cannabidiol

(CBD) oil for therapeutic purposes.

Sixty-eight percent of registered voters "support the legalization of marijuana," according to 2018 national polling data compiled by the Center for American Progress. The percentage is the highest level of support for legalization ever reported in a nationwide, scientific poll.

Majorities of Democrats (77 percent), Independents (62 percent), and Republicans (57 percent) back legalization. The results of a 2017 nationwide Gallup poll similarly found majority support among all three groups.

For far too long, our Congress has been intransigent regarding marijuana prohibition. Now is the time for lawmakers to come together and hash out a way forward to end the failed and cruel policy of criminalization.

Add your voice to the growing chorus demanding reform; send a message to your lawmakers in support of S 420!

Justin Strekal is the political director for NORML.

During Black History Month We Celebrate the Legacies

Freedom begins with freedom for the most marginalized

BY TRACEY L. ROGERS

When I visited the African American Civil War Museum in Washington, D.C., a volunteer docent asked the following question: "Who freed the slaves after the Civil War?"

There were about 10 of us in the group. Some looked around wondering if it was a trick question, while others blurted out, "Abraham Lincoln!" After some time, the docent finally offered his response: "Enlisted slaves freed themselves, with the help of Union soldiers."

I had a powerful reaction to this response, because history tells a different story of Lincoln as the "Great Emancipator."

The truth is, President Lincoln knew the Union army would be unsuccessful in its Civil War campaign without more able bodies to defeat the Confederate army.

When he issued his Emancipation Proclamation, he didn't merely announce the end of slavery in rebel territories. Lincoln also asked blacks to en-

list in the Union army, inviting "people so declared to be free" to be "received into the armed service of the United States." Lincoln knew he needed troops, but he also knew he couldn't make such a request without freeing the slaves.

My ancestors didn't go to war to help the Union army, or to prevent the South from seceding. Nor did they fight alongside Union soldiers because of a shared cause for a coun-

try undivided. My ancestors fought in the Civil War because freedom was the reward after centuries of enslavement.

My ancestors fought in the Civil War because freedom was the reward after centuries of enslavement.

Blacks knew what was at stake. This wasn't about politics, nor was it about patriotism. This was about freedom — freedom for themselves, their grandchildren, their great grandchildren — and freedom for me, a distant descendant. There was no other way around it. Sadly, war was their only hope.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once

said, "No one is free until we all are free." What he meant at the time was that we couldn't dare refer to our nation as "Land of the Free" when not all of us were.

This was a contentious debate even for the founding fathers. During the Revolutionary War campaign for freedom from the British monarch, leaders of the new nation were viewed as hypocrites abroad for enslaving Africans.

Matched only by America's treat-

a too-short 28-day memorialization highlighting the contributions of black Americans — I invite you to consider how their contributions benefited the greater good of society despite malicious attacks on our freedom.

Harriett Tubman literally brought slaves to freedom via the Underground Railroad. She was also a political activist and armed scout for the Union Army during the Civil War.

Sojourner Truth, meanwhile, was an early advocate for women's rights alongside Susan B. Anthony. Her work paved the way for future leaders like Tarana Burke, founder of the Me Too movement that's done so much to raise awareness about pervasive sexual assault in our society.

If you want life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, just look to black Americans at the helm of freedom and justice movements throughout the nation.

Barack Obama said, "Our freedom depends on you being free too." Freedom for all begins with freedom for those marginalized. The black community has been denied basic freedoms for centuries, which is why we inherently understand what it means to truly be free.

Tracey L. Rogers is an entrepreneur and activist living in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. Distributed by OtherWords.org.



OPINION



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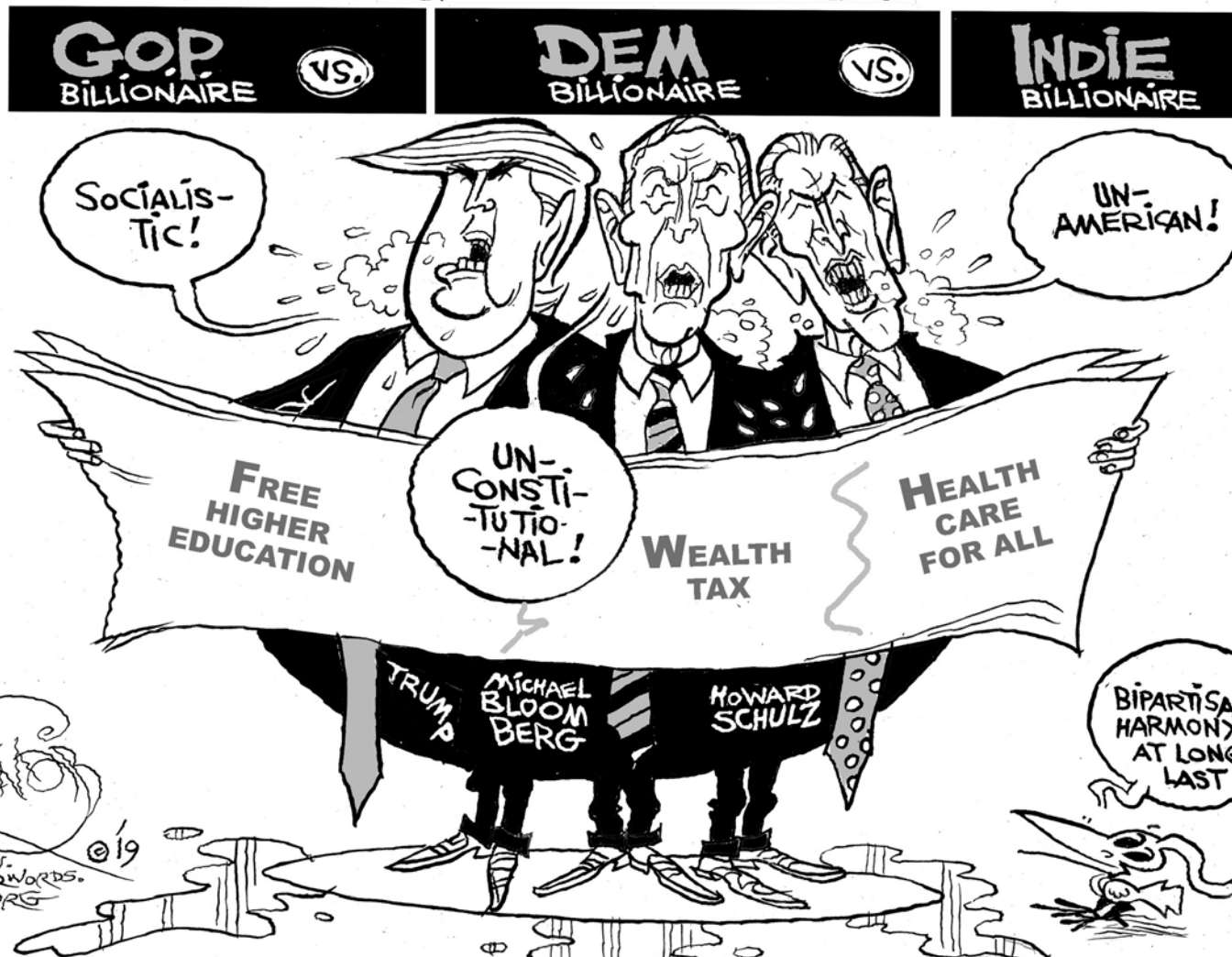
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SAME DIFFERENCE?



NAACP, St. Helens District Address Racism

Editor's note: The following was submitted by the Portland NAACP.

Recently the NAACP Local branch 1120 received a complaint bringing attention to a recent game between JV and the varsity girls basketball teams from Parkrose High School and St. Helens High School. The complainant alleged that student attendees of St. Helens High School began screaming racial slurs (the n-word) during the game then later trailed the young female students from Parkrose to their bus while continuing to shout racist comments while imitating the sounds of monkeys. The NAACP Portland branch issued a statement calling for swift action from the St. Helens school district to address the appalling and heinous actions displayed by the St. Helens students. NAACP President E.D. Mondainé and St. Helens School District Superintendent Scot Stockwell met and discussed the best and most immediate courses of action necessary in moving forward and bridging the gap between communities. Attached is a joint statement from St. Helens superintendent Stockwell and Portland NAACP president Mondainé.

The St. Helens School District has remained relatively silent about the recent events with the Parkrose girls' basketball team because we believed publicly debating the details of this incident would do more damage than good. It does not matter who, where, or how many, what matters is it happened and we should be furious that it took place at all. Nothing can justify discrimination. The vast majority of our community, like most all com-

munities, is repulsed by racism. We are rightfully disturbed by the entire situation as well as the picture painted of our community. Even so, we are taking ownership and action to address discrimination, racism, and ignorance. It is naive to believe this is only an issue in St. Helens.

The problem of discrimination and racism is bigger than the girls basketball game with

In collaboration with the NAACP, we hope to not only prevent a similar situation in St. Helens but prevent it from being repeated anywhere in the state of Oregon. Over the next 18 months, we will work with the NAACP and convene a team of action minded activists. The group's task will be to bridge the differences between urban and rural communities.

St. Helens and Parkrose. The focus shifted to a larger stage. The St. Helens School District is taking multiple steps to develop and instill cultural competence across our system from student forums and lessons to professional development and community outreach. We know we cannot do the work alone and are grateful for our emerging partnership with E.D. Mondainé and the NAACP. We understand that it is a long process to make a significant lasting change that can't be fixed by a single feel-good assembly.

We look forward to creating a stronger

School District where all people, regardless of who they are or where they come from, feel welcomed and our differences celebrated.

In collaboration with the NAACP, we hope to not only prevent a similar situation in St. Helens but prevent it from being repeated anywhere in the state of Oregon. Over the next 18 months, we will work with the NAACP and convene a team of action minded activists.

The group's task will be to bridge the differences between urban and rural communities. One area of focus will be on the opportunity presented through school activities. The overall goal will be to develop a pilot program leveraging relationships by bringing together rural and urban communities to form better understandings of each other. It is through this work that we will celebrate our differences, highlight our similarities and begin to undo racism at its core.

Scot Stockwell, St. Helens School District
E.D. Mondainé, Portland NAACP

Trillium School May Close

The Portland School Board will hold a public hearing Wednesday to move forward with the termination of the district's contract with Trillium School, a kindergarten through high school public charter school, located at 5420 N. Interstate Ave.

District staff cited dwindling academic performance and lack of financial viability at Trillium

due to low enrollment for the past three years as reasons for the move, and the school board's charter committee agreed. Trillium now faces having its charter terminated effective June 30, 2019, despite the school's request to stay open. The hearing occurs Wednesday at 4 p.m. at the district's headquarters at Blanchard Education Service Center at 501 N. Dixon St.

CLASSIFIED/BIDS

SUB BID REQUEST

PROJECT: Lake Oswego City Hall

Bid Package:

No. 1: Shoring/Dewatering & Glass/Glazing

BID DATE & TIME: March 12, 2019 @ 2:00pm PST

Bids will be received at Howard S. Wright Constructors offices located at 1455 NW Irving Street, Suite 400, Portland, OR 97209.

Bids may be E-mailed, Faxed or hand delivered.

Bid Package No. 1 includes the following: Design-build Shoring systems, design-build dewatering systems and all glass/glazing systems.

HSW Contact: Aaron Braun brauna@hswc.com phone: 503-757-0366.

Bid Documents: E-mail Aaron Braun for bid documents.

All bidder questions must be submitted in writing by March 05, 2019 @ 5:00PM.

All bidders must comply with requirements of the prevailing wage law in ORS 279C.800 through ORS 279C.870.

All bidders must be registered with the Construction Contractors Board at the time of bid submission.



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Wanted

Calling on African American Business owners (young/older) community org; churches, etc., to come and get preregistered to participate, by getting listed/adv. in the "20/20" African American Bus. Directory, the directory that will showcase what African American Business owners are doing here in the N.W. region of the USA; cities such as Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, etc. Come meet/see Lottie Cross of Seattle WA (the premier organizer of the Directory). She will be in Portland, Saturday afternoon, March 16th, from 1-3pm at the North Branch Library, located at 512 N. Killingsworth, Portland, Oregon. For more info phone J. Olive at 503-358-9655 / R.London at 360-723-8407, or call Lottie (direct) at 206-271-0311 or email at aabd2016@outlook.com



PHOTO COURTESY MULTNOMAH COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS

Visitors to the Multnomah Board of County Commissioners check out a room adorned with more than 60 portraits celebrating local black women in honor of Black History Month.

Portraits Honor Black Women

Celebrating survival and empowerment

The Multnomah Board of County Commissioners have proclaimed February Black History and Future Month and celebrated by displaying 60 portraits celebrating local black women and female artists.

The annual proclamation honors the vital role of African-Americans in the history and

culture of Multnomah County and beyond. It also acknowledges the troubling history of inequity and oppression that the black community continues to face.

"What a joy it was this morning to walk in to this room in the presence of these radiant powerful portraits, in the presence of these radiant powerful women," said Commissioner Susheela Jayapal, who sponsored the proclamation. "I am so thrilled to be celebrating this year's Black History and Future Month in Multnomah County, with a focus on

the arts and our local black woman/femme artists."

During the recent board meeting, the room was filled with the 24 by 30-inch portraits of "Albina Queens," women from the community solicited by the Portland African American Leadership Forum (PAALF) from more than 160 nominations and then photographed in colorful and intricate head wraps.

The head wraps signify not only a history of oppression, but also the "resiliency, resourcefulness, and creativity that black women have employed as a method of survival and self-empowerment for centuries." Rob Lewis, the art director at the Portland creative agency, Kamp Grizzly, was the photographer on the project.

The Albina Queens photo project represents a spectrum of ages, genders, and abilities. They range from Justice Adrienne Nelson of the Oregon Supreme Court, City Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty, and poet S. Renee Mitchell, to young girls in their mother's arms.

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Margot Robbie as Queen Elizabeth I in 'Mary Queen of Scots.'

My Picks for Best Films of 2018

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

watch it again. Director Christopher Quinn, working from and extending Jonathan Safran Foer's book of the same name, provides a far-reaching and clear analysis of systemic evil inside the production of meat in the U.S., focusing his gaze on factory farming. Although Quinn doesn't offer any solutions, I wouldn't trust easy solutions in this context. What he does instead is to connect the dots of greed and dishonesty, and to

sight. As someone who knows the world of evangelical Christianity from the inside, I was amazed to watch this film avoid the cheap shots and shortcuts that tend to happen with stories like this one; instead, the story is told with compassion and real insight, and far surpasses other, similar material. And Lukas Hedges in the lead role is an absolute marvel. [Rated R for sexual content including an assault, some language, and brief drug use; deserved Oscar nominations for Best Lead Actor (Lu-

some awards notice, where are the awards for hair and makeup? Nowhere has there ever been this much black beauty shown to full advantage. It must be celebrated! [Rated PG-13 for prolonged sequences of action, violence, and a brief rude gesture; nominated for, and should win, Academy Awards for Costume Design; also nominated for Best Picture, Production Design, Sound Editing, Sound Mixing, Original Song ("All the Stars"), and Original Score; deserved nominations for Best Director (Ryan Coogler) and Best Supporting Actor (Michael B. Jordan).]

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.



Chadwick Boseman in a scene from Black Panther. (Marvel Studios/Disney)

help viewers learn a host of questions we should be asking. (Not rated; deserved an Oscar nomination for Best Documentary Feature.)

9. "Boy Erased" likewise has not received the critical notice that it deserves. Based on a memoir by Gerrard Conley, whose loving Christian parents sent him to conversion therapy when he was a teenager, this film manages a very honest look at how such a horrific thing could happen. It's an exceedingly important story, and also an exceedingly difficult one to tell; director Joel Edgerton co-wrote the screenplay with Conley and they have managed to tell it with compassion and in-

kas Hedges) and Best Adapted Screenplay (Gerrard Conley and Joel Edgerton).]

10. Finally, no list of 2018's best films is complete without "Black Panther," which dazzled with black fierceness and beauty and creativity that put the lie to Hollywood's long years of neglect and racism and delivered an actually interesting superhero story. Although I did wish for more complexity in the portrayal of the film's essential conflict, the film nevertheless realizes a vision of black dominance and power that inspired and that changed the cultural conversation in profound ways ("Not today, colonizer!"). Even though it has garnered



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