



# Portland Observer

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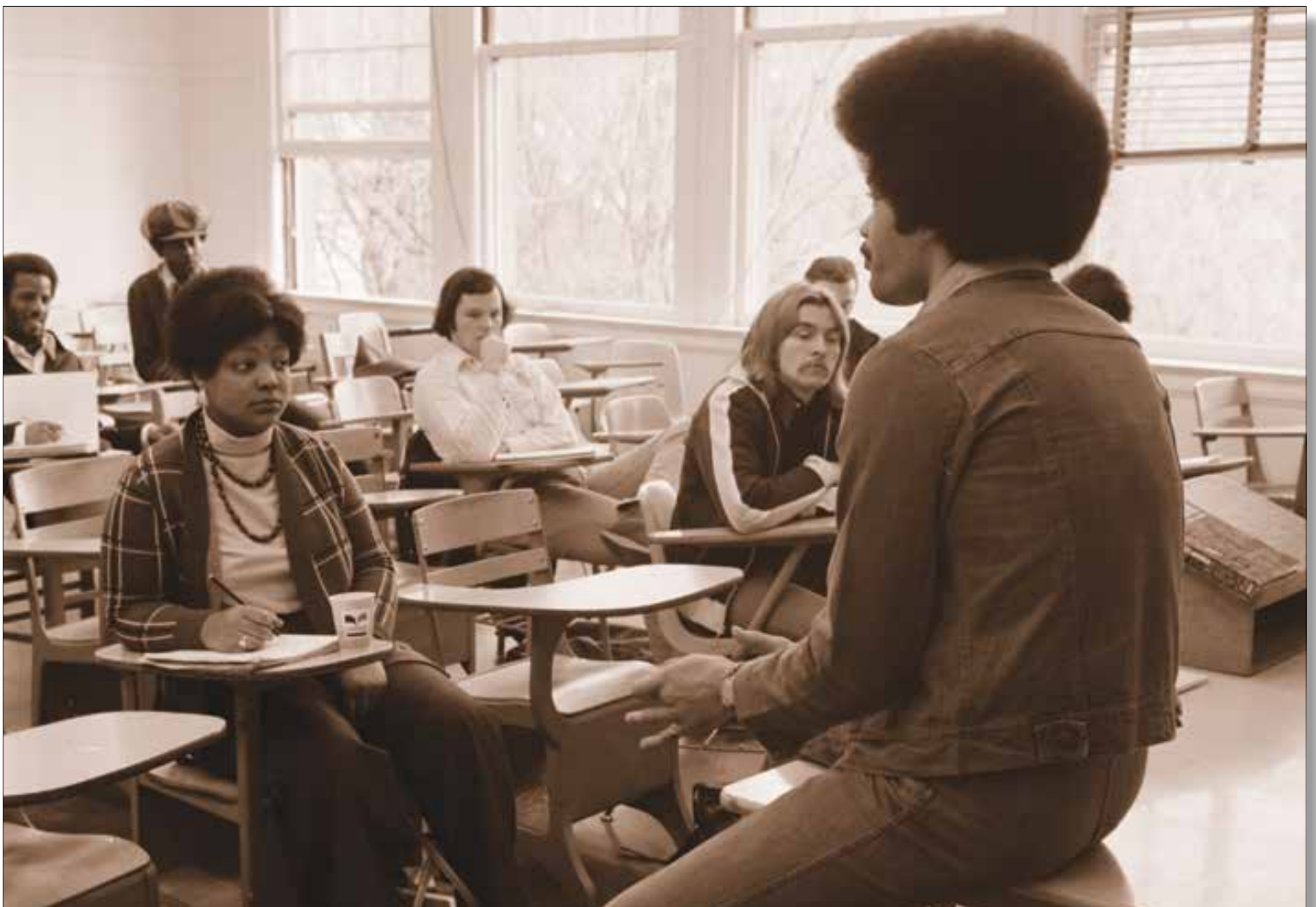
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Committed to Cultural Diversity



PHOTOS COURTESY PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

Portland State University faculty member emeritus and former longtime Black Studies Chair Darrell Millner lecturing in a PSU classroom in 1975.

## 50 Years of Black Studies

PSU department was first in Northwest

BY DANNY PETERSON  
 THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

50 years ago, Portland State became the first college in the Pacific Northwest to offer a program in black studies following the greatest decade of change for African Americans since the Civil War

Over the years, it went from being an

experimental program that was criticized by some in the academic community who questioned its legitimacy as a discipline to a full-blown--and accepted--department. After a half-century, it remains unique to the region.

"I think not only Portland State, but the whole Portland community should be proud of that," PSU professor emeritus and former department chair Darrel Millner told the Portland Observer.

While other universities in the North-

west offer courses in ethnic studies or African-American studies, PSU is the only one with a full degree-granting department with the word "black" in its name.

"At the time of our founding, 'black' was a very powerful and political term," said current department chair Shirley A. Jackson. "It was a way of throwing off the older ways of referencing people who had black skin."

An influential assortment of students and faculty pushed the idea of starting the pro-

gram in 1968 and 1969 as part of a wave of other universities around the country doing the same. Millner, who joined the department in 1975, said the effort was a product of the often student-led movements that characterized the civil rights and anti-war efforts of that era.

Portland State— which had just gained university status — approved the Black Studies program as an "experiment" on

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

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## Honoring Unsung Women

The community is invited to celebrate Women's History Month and explore the complex and inspirational roles black women play as positive role models when the empowerment group Sistas hosts its second annual "Visibly Invisible: Honoring Our Unsung Sherones award ceremony.

The event will be held Saturday, March 9, from 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at The Old Church Concert Hall, 1422 S.W. 11th Ave. Admission is a suggested \$10 donation and all are welcome.

Special honors will be given to local women who through their resilience, perseverance and commitment to speaking truth to power are empowering warriors fighting for justice and equality for our society and families.

The evening will also feature the photo exhibit Albina Queens from the Portland African American Leadership Forum (PAALF). Shalonda Menefee, founder of the Sistas group, will present her spir-



Shalonda Menefee

it art dolls, and a marketplace with black women entrepreneurs will be included along with the serving of light refreshments. There will also be a creative cultural expression of African dance, a libation ceremony honoring ancestors and an African inspired print fashion show.

You can reserve a seat to the Sistas celebration online at [empoweredistas.com/events](http://empoweredistas.com/events).

## The Week in Review

### Listening Session Chaotic

A listening session hosted by Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw and Mayor Ted Wheeler at Maranatha Church in northeast Portland drew concerns over police interactions with right-wing groups and perceptions of bias against liberal groups. But the session before a packed crowd also resulted in a lot of yelling, stomping and hissing as people from various political perspectives aired grievances.

### R. Kelly Posts Bail

R. Kelly walked out of a Chicago jail Monday after posting \$100,000 bail on charges that he sexually abused four people dating back to 1998, including three underage girls. The recording artist has been trailed for decades by allegations that he violated underage girls and women and held some as virtual slaves. Kelly has consistently denied any sexual misconduct.



### House Passes Rent Control

A statewide rent control policy and new eviction protections was passed by the Oregon House on Tuesday sending the bill to Gov. Kate Brown who plans to sign it. The bill would cap annual rent increases to 7 percent plus inflation throughout the state. It exempts new construction for 15 years, and landlords would be free to raise rent without any cap if renters leave of their own accord. Subsidized rent would also be exempt.

### Fire Damages Rail Bridge

A large fire on the Burlington Northern rail bridge that spans the Columbia River between north Portland and Hayden Island was extinguished Tuesday by Portland firefighters who called in a fire boat to stop the fire which was caused by railroad maintenance workers, officials said. The bridge is used for freight and for Amtrak's north-south route between Oregon and Washington.

### Diversity at the Oscars

"Green Book," a film about a black musician and his white chauffeur driving in the segregated South, won best picture at the 91st Academy Awards on Sunday. The Queen biopic "Bohemian Rhapsody" took home four awards, while "Roma" and Marvel's "Black Panther" won three. Director Spike Lee won his first Oscar for best adapted screenplay award for "BlacKkKlansman."



### LGBTQ Community Rallies

Hundreds gathered Sunday for a town hall at the Q Center in north Portland to support each other and talk about personal safety amid rumors of escalating violence against people in Portland's LGBTQ community. A trans woman was hospitalized after an alleged assault in southeast Portland on Feb. 10.

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PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Students occupy Portland State University's Campus Public Safety building in October following the campus officer-involved shooting death of Jason Washington.

# Armed Police Get Nod

## PSU recommendation at odds with campus survey

BY DANNY PETERSON  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A special board meeting at Portland State University has been scheduled for next Thursday, March 7 after consultants hired by the university released a report Friday recommending keeping armed officers at PSU even as it presented a new survey showing a slim majority on campus were opposed.

The consulting firm Margolis Healy found that 52 percent of polled students, faculty and staff want the school's campus safety officers to disarm.

The accompanying 213 page report, which was commissioned by PSU, comes after campus public security officers responded to a disturbance last June 29 that resulted in the death of Jason Washington, a 45-year-old African-American Veteran, father,

grandfather and postal worker, outside the Cheerful Tortoise bar, near the Southwest Portland campus.

Witnesses said Washington was trying to break up a fight and a gun fell from his body before he tried to pick it up. He was shot multiple times by two responding PSU officers, marking the first officer-involved shooting at the school since campus police were armed in July 2015.

The officers were cleared of all wrong-doing by a Grand Jury. Body-cam video captured from both officers during the incident that seemed to show Washington holding a gun. The weapon was later determined to be his friend's, but Washington had a permit to carry a concealed handgun.

Student-led protests and occupations of the Campus Public Safety building followed with the protesters over arcing demand for disarming campus officers.

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# Police Cleared; Family Responds

## Mayor, police chief promise additional review

The family of a legally blind and mentally challenged black man who was shot and killed in an officer-involved shooting met with Mayor Ted Wheeler and Police Chief Danielle Outlaw Friday hours after a Multnomah County Grand Jury found



Andre Gladen

no criminal wrongdoing against the police officer involved in the shooting.

The jury determined the police officer was acting in self-defense on Jan. 6 when Andre Gladen, 36, threatened the officer with a knife and was shot and killed. Police were first called to a report that Galen was sleeping on a porch in the 9600 block of Southeast Mark Street and then he ran inside the home when police arrived and refused to leave, authorities said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



1974: Commissioner Charles Jordan is sworn-in as the first African American elected to the Portland City Council.

## Prosper Portland celebrates Oregon's black pioneers

Prosper Portland invites you to learn more about the courageous and influential men and women who led the Civil Rights movement in Oregon through the Oregon Black Pioneers' exhibit and programming. Visit their blog for opportunities to celebrate African American contributions to Portland's history:

[oregonblackpioneers.org](http://oregonblackpioneers.org)



## Armed Police Get Nod

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

The consultants' poll included 4,150 surveyed people, out of the roughly 27,670 people who work and learn at PSU. 37 percent of respondents wanted police to keep their weapons, while another 10 percent had no opinion.

Though the slim majority of respondents said they'd like the officers to be without guns, the consultants said the trend for major American universities is to have armed police on duty. They rec-

ommended having a mix of armed and unarmed officers at PSU, constructing more lampposts near MAX transit stations, and creating a "mini police academy" that would include 80 hours of in-service training per year, including some bias and de-escalation training.

The Portland State Board of Trustees special meeting to discuss the consultant's report on March 7 will take place from 9 a.m. to noon at PSU's Smith Memorial Student Union Ballroom.

## Police Cleared; Family Responds

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

The officer apparently fired three shots from a lethal weapon after first using a taser that was unsuccessful in subduing Gladen. Members of Gladen's family, who live in Portland, claim he was not armed. They said police should have seen that he was confused and suffering a mental health crisis, and they should have de-escalated the confrontation. Gladen suffered from schizophrenia and was in town from Sacramento, Calif., visiting a cousin, the family said.

Police Chief Outlaw and Mayor Wheeler, who is Portland's Police Commissioner, met at City Hall with Gladen's fam-

ily, at their request. Outlaw said she is awaiting additional information from the Grand Jury transcripts, but reassured the family that "a thorough investigation and review" would be done.

As is standard procedure for use of force instances, the Portland Police Bureau will conduct an internal review of the entire incident and the case will go before the Police Review Board, which is comprised of community members, police members, and representatives from the Independent Police Review Division, officials said.

Police anticipate releasing investigative materials that were not part of the internal review to the public on or about March 8.

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Many believe that only black students take courses in the Black Studies Department at Portland State University, but department chair Shirley Jackson says the curriculum is really for everybody.

# 50 Years of Black Studies

## CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Aug. 22, 1969.

"It was deemed experimental because it was so new — there was no guarantee that this would actually be something that would continue to exist," Jackson said.

Charlotte Rutherford, a former civil rights attorney with the NAACP Legal and Educational Fund who donated a vast collection of her family's black memorabilia to the PSU Library, earned her certificate in the program in 1976. She said she took classes from the program — and continues to support it — through her desire to learn "about our history as black people both in Oregon and the in the history of the U.S."

"The public school system then and probably now does little to teach race history and the true story of how black people (and other people of color) have contributed to and been treated in this country," she said. "I always knew there had to be more information than I had been given in school but I had no idea so much information had been suppressed."

Initially, the program focused on the African American experience, based on what was happening around the country at the time. The few years before its founding saw marches on Washington, D.C. and in the American South, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the assassinations of both Malcolm X

and Martin Luther King, Jr., the founding of the Black Panthers in 1966, numerous race-fueled riots in American cities, and the emergence of the Black Power movement.

The program also had the mission of providing assistance and support to Portland's black community.

"At that time the majority of Portland black residents resided in an area known as Albina," recalled Phil McLaurin, the center's first director. "Black Studies offered courses to Albina-area residents at a PSU-funded facility known as Albina Presence, and was actively involved in all issues impacting the community residents."

The mission broadened in the ensuing years to include courses on the black experience in Europe, the Caribbean and Latin America. It added travel opportunities, and next December will offer study in Santiago de Cuba and has plans to develop a study trip to New York City — probably the most diverse black population in the United States.

The curriculum is multidisciplinary, covering history, sociology, cultural anthropology, literature, film and other fields. Although many believe that only black students take courses in Black Studies, Jackson said it's really for everybody.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

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— Martin Luther King, Jr.



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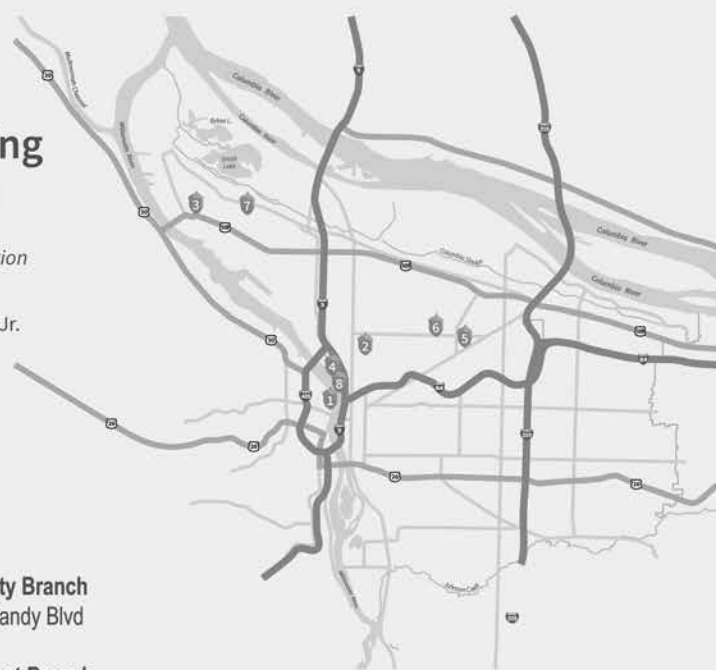
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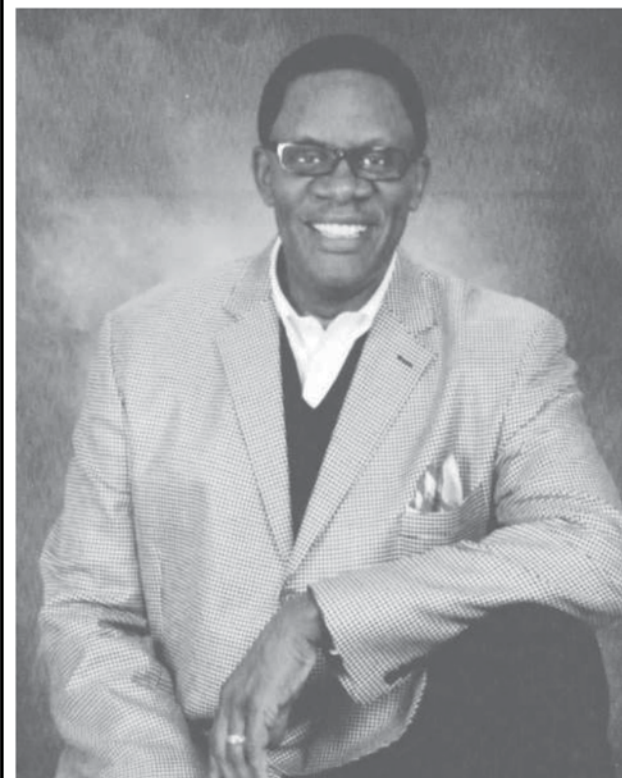


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18 <b>President's Day</b> <i>Former planet, Pluto, Discovered by Clyde Tombaugh in 1930</i>	19 ○ <i>Phonograph Patented, 1878, Thomas Edison Mr. Roger's Neighborhood Debuted, 1968</i>	20 <i>John Glenn Orbits Earth, 1962 Love Your Pet Day</i>	21 <i>Malcom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



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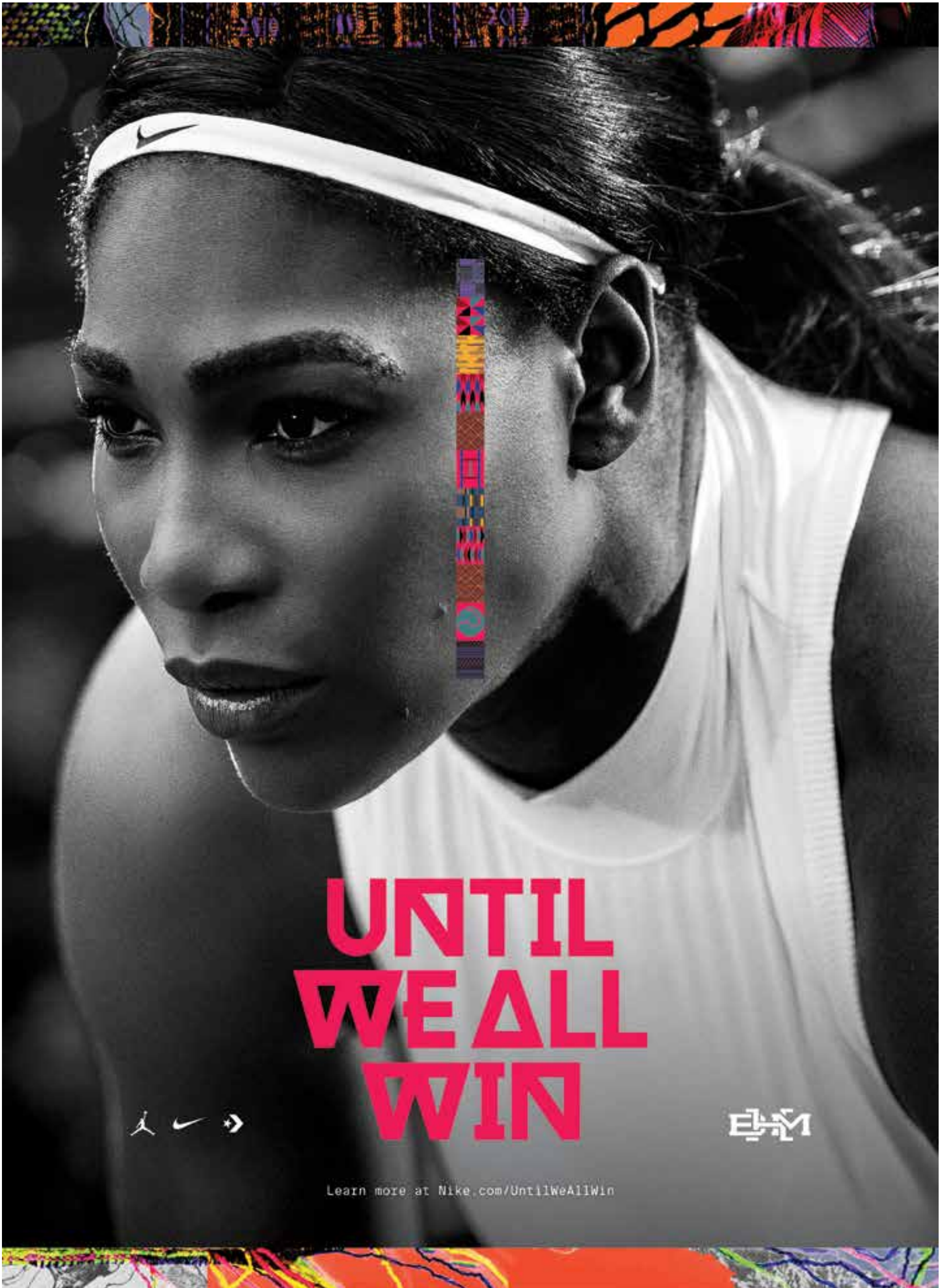
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# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

## Let it Flow for Smooth Jazz

### Jones fronts salute to Grover Washington Jr.

Portland's Eldon "T" Jones and his band N Touch will perform a "Let It Flow for Grover Washington Jr." concert on Friday, March 1 as part of the 2019 Biamp PDX Jazz Festival.

The concert at 7:30 p.m. in Revolution Hall at the former Washington High School in southeast Portland will also feature Gerald Veasley and Marcus Strickland and the Delvon LaMarr Organ Trio.

Jones is a Portland jazz icon who touches the hearts of audiences with his profoundly genuine saxophone playing and a groove jazz style he's honed with his band N Touch. He credits the late Grover Washington Jr., considered by many to be the founding father of smooth jazz and a master of the jazz funk genre, for making a huge impact on his playing.



Portland's Eldon "T" Jones and his band N Touch will perform Friday, March 1 at Revolution Hall in the former Washington High School in a concert salute to jazz great Grover Washington Jr., as part of the 2019 Biamp PDX Jazz Festival.

Eldon started N Touch in 1995, recording their debut album in 2001. In 2015 Eldon contributed the song "Love Will Find a Way" to the Bespeak Love collaboration which reached the top 10 UK soul charts.

He continues to play in church and can be found performing at community events such as the Oregon Symphony's Gospel Christmas,

Good N the Hood, the plays Who I Am Celebrating Me and Vanport the Musical, events supporting Stomp Out Abuse, Self Enhancement, Inc. and Black Parent Initiative, and World Arts Foundation, Inc.'s annual MLK Tribute where in 2017 Jones received a lifetime achievement award recognizing his music as a blessing to the community.



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*Rise Up, the Hamilton Tribute Band, based in Seattle, performs two concerts on Saturday, March 2 at the Alberta Rose Theater in northeast Portland.*

# Hamilton Tribute Concert

An ensemble of top Seattle vocalists and musicians will perform the amazing music of the hit musical "Hamilton" for two concerts, at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., on Saturday,

March 2 at the Alberta Rose Theater, 3000 N.E. Alberta St.

Rise Up: The Hamilton Tribute Band has performed extensively in the Northwest, delighting theater,

festival and club audiences. The show is not a theatrical performance of "Hamilton" but a non-dramatic performance of selected individual songs from the musical and other

material.

Tickets can be purchased online at [albertarosetheater.com](http://albertarosetheater.com), by phone at 503-764-4131 or in person at the box office.

# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

## Black History in Song and Film

### 'From Maxville to Vanport' encore shows

The Portland Jazz Composers Ensemble and vocalist Marilyn Keller present encore performances of "From Maxville to Vanport," original songs and short films inspired by Oregon's blue-collar black history on Thursday, Feb. 28 at 7:30 p.m. at Oregon State University and on Sunday, March 3 at 8 p.m. at Portland's Mission Theater.

Drawing from jazz, R&B, and blues, From Maxville to Vanport celebrates the history of two Oregon towns that reveal distinctive viewpoints of the state's under-represented black history. The music, brilliantly composed by Ezra



A diverse group of Portland writers and musicians are the creators behind "From Maxville to Vanport" a new CD of songs and original music telling the stories of two Oregon towns rooted in early African American history." Pictured (from left) are Gwen Trice, Douglas Detrick, S. Renee Mitchell, Marilyn Keller and Ezra Weiss.

Weiss with lyrics by poet S. Renee Mitchell, honors their resilience, humor, and contributions to Oregon while also looking honestly at the prejudice and hardships they faced.

The performances will also feature a 10-minute documentary film "The Making of From Maxville to Vanport" by Sika Stanton. The documentary will play at 7 p.m. to be followed by a conversation with project collaborators ahead of Sunday's musical performance.

From Maxville to Vanport premiered last year in eastern Oregon and at the Vanport Mosaic Festival in Portland. The Portland Jazz Composers Ensemble released an album of the recorded music in November.

For tickets to the encore performances or more information, visit [pjce.org](http://pjce.org).

"We may have all come on different ships,  
but we're in the same boat now."  
— Martin Luther King Jr.



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# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

## Actor Hosting Fancy Pants Ball

Actor Russell Hornsby, a Portland celebrity for his work on the NBC series Grimm and more recently for starring opposite Denzel Washington and Viola Davis in Fences and Michael B Jordan in Creed II, will be the master of ceremonies when the Portland Children's Museum hosts a new signature fundraising event called "Fancy Pants Ball."

Having spent years in Portland shooting Grimm, Russell



Russell Hornsby

said he will be elated to be back in town to emcee the gala and to stop off for a visit to Portland Children's Museum with his two young sons.

The Fancy Pants Ball will take place on Saturday, April 13 at Ecotrust's Irving Street Studio. Some levels of sponsorship include a VIP meet and greet with Hornsby. To join as either a sponsor or a guest, visit [portlandcm.org/fancypants2019](http://portlandcm.org/fancypants2019).



PHOTO BY MATTHEW MURPHY/BROADWAY PORTLAND

## Musical Soars on Human Spirit

Cultures clash and nerves run high but uneasiness turns into trust and enduring friendships in "Come From Away" a Tony award-winning Broadway musical that tells the remarkable true story of 7,000 stranded passengers after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 and the small Canadian town that welcomed them. The play presented by Broadway Portland opened Tuesday at Keller Auditorium with shows running through Sunday, March 3.

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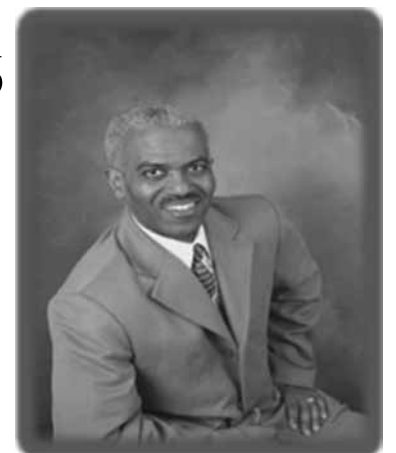
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# OPINION

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](mailto:news@portlandobserver.com).

## Police Forfeit Benefit of Doubt Argument

Commitment to accountability is what's needed

BY LAKAYANA DRURY

Our city made national news with the explosive release of text messages between a police lieutenant and leader from Patriot Prayer, an alt-right group with white supremacist sympathies. Was this an egregious breach of protocol or just a misinterpretation of standard conduct? It depends on who you ask.

I spoke with a police officer who said there weren't enough facts to determine the situation. I spoke with community members who sent me articles showing that this was just standard police procedure. I spoke with others who were alarmed but not at all shocked. What concerns me most was how quickly and confidently people were willing to extend the benefit of the doubt to police.

Who is afforded the benefit of the doubt in our country? At face value it would seem that everyone should be afforded the benefit of the doubt. But when we take a closer look we see that the benefit of the doubt is closely tied to privilege and dominant culture.

In light of the text incident, I was alarmed by the number of people who were willing to give the Portland Police Bureau the benefit of the

doubt. Considering the history of Portland as a safe-haven for white supremacists, the fact that the police bureau is under a Department of Justice settlement for excessive use of force, and its troubled history of race relations, why are Portland police given the benefit of the doubt that this was just another gross misunderstanding?

The fact is that black people and young black men in particular are never given the benefit of the doubt in our country. Trayvon Martin was not given the benefit of the doubt when he was walking home with a bag of skittles and ice tea, minding his own business. Tamir Rice was never given the benefit of the doubt when he was shot and killed by the police in a park in Cleveland, Ohio before it was later discovered that the suspicious object he was holding was a toy gun.

Quanice Hayes was not given the benefit of the doubt as he crouched down on all fours here in Portland. Jermaine Massey was not given the benefit of the doubt when he was speaking on the phone with his mom in a Portland hotel lobby. Black people are never afforded the benefit of the doubt; not at Starbucks, not when we are holding our personal belongings, not when we are in school. So why are we so willing to be lenient with the police and willing to consider the situation and facts when that same right is not afforded to black people and

people of color? From jokes about shooting black people, to use of force when other options are available, the Portland Police Bureau is continually given the benefit of the doubt. In the larger scale of society, white people and white men in particular and white culture as a whole are also always given the benefit of the doubt. Whether it be clothing that masquerades with racist imagery or politicians that make racially charged comments or white people who commit crimes, the benefit of the doubt is always extended to them immediately and insulates them from criticism.

On the other hand, black people are almost always presumed guilty or in the wrong. For whites, the benefit of the doubt is a matter of a slap on the wrist or jail time, for blacks, it can often be life or death. I challenge us as a community to replace that benefit of the doubt with the commitment of accountability. The benefit of the doubt is an unearned privilege that must be rejected and further damages the relationships within the community. Accountability holds us responsible and unites communities.

The commitment of accountability means that instead of asking, "In this situation, was the officer overly friendly with a leader of an alt-right group?" to instead asking, "How does PPB hold its officers accountable and reform policies to stand against white supremacy?" Accountability isn't just about disciplining the individuals who com-

mitted the act as much as it is about changing the policies, systems and culture that gives those individuals the power to act in the first place. The benefit of the doubt protects individuals whereas the commitment of responsibility challenges institutions and systems and holds individuals responsible for their actions.

I am less concerned with the individual officer in this incident and more concerned with how PPB plans to change policies and institutional culture so that it firmly stands against white supremacy. I am less concerned with the officers on the street and more concerned with the policies that shape how they respond to calls and what behaviors are tolerated. The benefit of the doubt focuses on intent and commitment to accountability centers on the impact.

The impact of the "text incident" is that it fuels the narrative that PPB is not to be trusted in communities of color and that they are colluding with or at the least sympathetic to alt-right organizations. Many in the city are working to improve relationships between the police and the community including myself, and events like this make our work that much more challenging and lead us to question how invested police are to this process. The Portland Police Bureau must take the commitment to accountability seriously and focus not only on explaining the context of the messages and disciplining those involved but more importantly make a clear statement on where it stands

in regards to white supremacy. They should not shy away from the incident nor deflect blame but step boldly into the situation and firmly clarify where they stand.

The community should not have to doubt whether its police force stands against white supremacy and to have any doubt should alarm us all. PPB must focus on policy reform, transparency and work culture to change the current power dynamics. At every opportunity they should reject the benefit of the doubt argument which weakens trust and does not address institutional racism and bias. White community members must also reject the benefit of the doubt plea and not hand it out whenever controversy arises. The police must realize the racial roots of this benefit and realize that this benefit is not extended to their black neighbors.

The benefit of the doubt argument is tone deaf and privileged. White people must be allies to communities of color as we work to dismantle systems of oppression and demand the commitment of accountability from our institutions and leaders. We in the black community do not want the benefit of the doubt either. We want to benefit from life: To work, play, sit, talk and live like everyone else. That benefit starts with a commitment to accountability.

*Lakayana Drury teaches social studies at Rosemary Anderson High School and is a community activist on efforts to build more positive relationships between young black men and law enforcement.*

## They're Still Angry about the Pharaohs and the Moors

Why white people hate us so much

BY LEGRAND H. CLEGG II.

Several months ago, I wrote an article claiming that one of the driving forces behind White racism and animosity toward black people is that of retaliation. In summary, on a deep, subconscious level the white collective has inherited from its ancient and medieval ancestors an entrenched resentment of black people that was originally caused by black ostracism, domination and enslavement of primitive whites when Africans ruled the world. Given the fact that this is February of the Black quadricentennial year (1619-2019) of enslavement in America, and given recent racist events in this country, I have chosen to revisit and elaborate on my theory of global white resentment and retribution toward people of African descent.

The latest FBI crime statistics (2017) reveal that African Ameri-

cans remain the chief victims of hate crimes in the United States. School segregation is as pervasive as ever. Republican legislators are suppressing

black votes and gerrymandering local and statewide districts. Black people still suffer the highest unemployment rates and have the lowest net worth in the nation. African Americans are given the most severe sentences for criminal violations and are more likely than any other group to be victims of violence at the hands of the police. Furthermore, President Trump has condemned peacefully protesting black athletes as "sons of bitches."

In our confusion over the persistence of white racism across generations and in our effort to become accepted as ordinary American citizens just as everyone else, we, as black people, have appealed to the white collective with demonstrations, protests, petitions, prayer vigils, etc.; none of which has led to a genuine cessation of racism on the part of the white establishment or masses.

Rather than continue these modes

of thought and action, I believe we as a people should pause, gather our wits about us and calmly evaluate the true nature of white racism toward us. From such analysis we will find that today, as in the past, we are not just facing racial prejudice and intolerance but, rather, a deep-seated, visceral, reflexive loathing of black people by whites on a global scale that appears to defy all logic, has persisted over the centuries and is gaining renewed momentum during the age of Trump.

I theorize that this persistent white behavior toward people of African descent, which we call racism, is a result of at least three thousand years of black Pharaohs and generals (including Sesostrius, Thutmose III, Ramesses II, Taharka, Batricus, Hannibal and the Moors) raiding, invading, conquering, dominating, colonizing, oppressing and enslaving various European and Asian populations.

These periodic incursions and extended colonizations culminated in the European exploits of the great Carthaginian general, Hannibal; in the nearly eight hundred year reign (i.e., 711 A.D. to 1492 A.D.) of the Black

Moors over the Iberian Peninsula (Spain and Portugal) and in Moorish naval fleets dominating the Mediterranean Sea during the Middle Ages.

Although the Muslim Moors civilized Spain and Portugal (just as the ancient Egyptians civilized the white Greeks), ushered Europe out of the Dark Ages and laid the foundation for her modern hegemony, Europeans deeply resented Moorish rule. By 1492, the Spanish regained power, began driving the Moors from the Iberian Peninsula and exterminating many who remained. (Some black scholars believe that the Spanish bull fight and bull run are symbolic reenactments of Europeans driving the Moors from Spain).

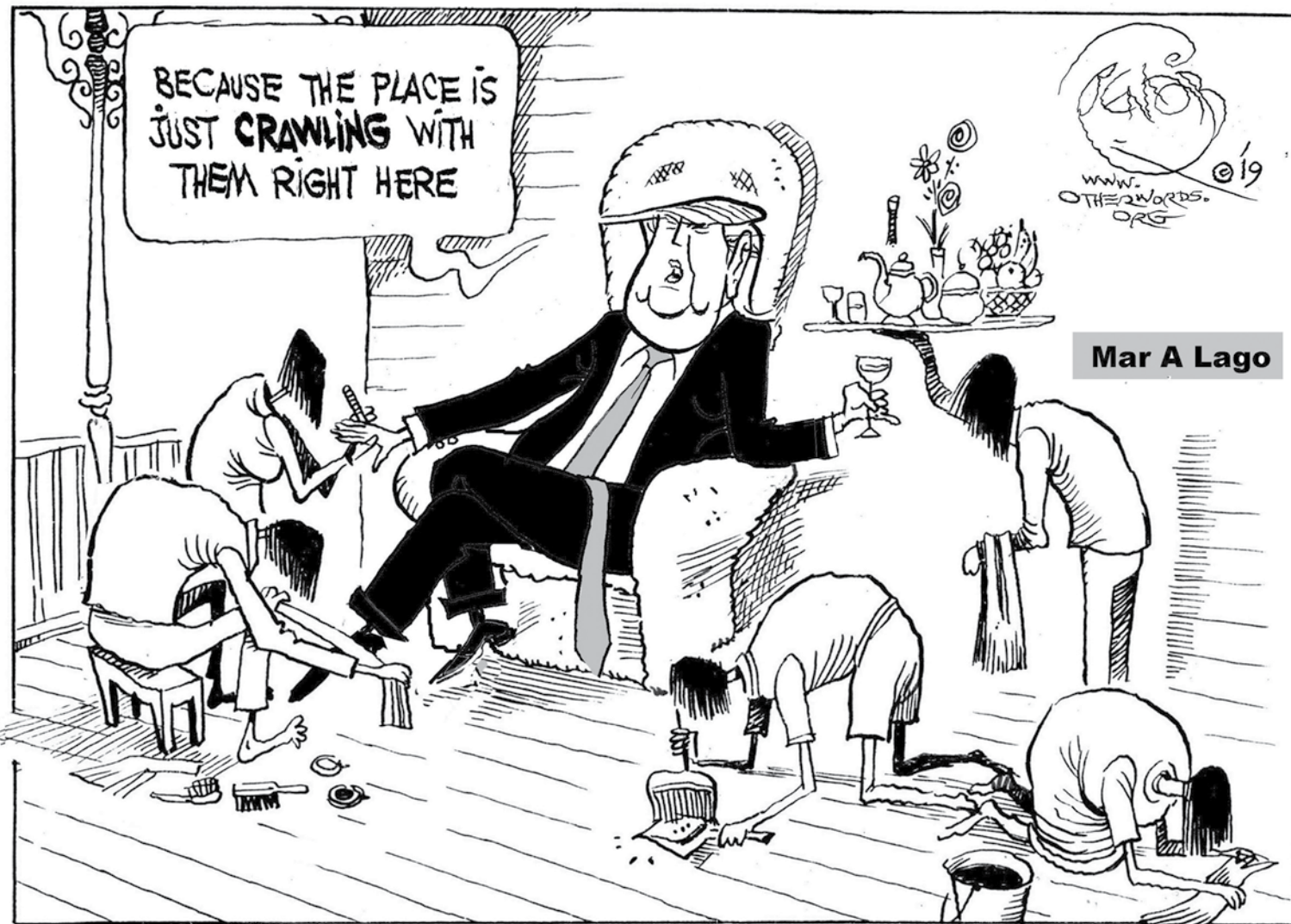
When the tables were turned and the Portuguese and Spanish began enslaving Africans, whom they called Moors, the longstanding European hatred and resentment of their former African masters morphed into contempt and animosity toward black people in general. His sentiment became institutionalized and spread throughout Western Europe, crossed the Atlantic and reached the New World during

the African slave-trade. For centuries this internalized sense of white enmity and racism -- which I describe as subconscious vengeance -- that has been widely manifested toward people of African descent, has proven itself to be virtually impervious to change in the face of black appeals and agitation. Therefore, I humbly suggest that we, African Americans, cease appealing to the collective white conscience for change and, instead, utilize our vast consumer power to withhold our financial patronage (boycott) in wise and strategic ways, just as our revered leader, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., did with the successful Montgomery Bus Boycott of the 1950's that led to the end of segregation in public transportation. This is truly the best way to effectuate change in a capitalist system dominated by white supremacy and racism.

*Legrand H. Clegg II is the city attorney emeritus for Compton, Calif., president of the Western Region of the Association for the Study of Classical African Civilizations, and producer of the documentary "When Black Men Ruled the World."*

# OPINION

**WHY IS THE PRESIDENT IN MAR A LAGO IN THE MIDST OF A NATIONAL EMERGENCY AND "ILLEGALS" ARE OVERRUNNING OUR SOUTHERN BORDER?**



## Addiction Doesn't Start at the Border

Treat the root causes instead

BY JILL RICHARDSON

As the sister of a brother lost to an opioid overdose, Trump's claim that we need a border wall in order to keep drugs out is offensive to me on multiple levels. Fact checkers also report that his claims are not true — a border wall would not keep drugs out of our country.

After the death of my brother a decade ago, I went looking for answers about drugs and addiction. Gabor Mate, a medical doctor who treats addicts in Vancouver, B.C., found that his patients had all suffered severe trauma before succumbing to addiction. He wrote a book, *In the Realm of Hungry Ghosts*, explaining how trauma makes the brain more susceptible to addiction.

That was also the finding of the Adverse Childhood Experiences study. The study surveyed patients about whether they experienced 10 different types of stressful or

traumatic experiences in childhood: various types of abuse, parents divorcing, a parent going to prison, or a parent suffering addiction or mental illness. Then it correlated their scores with a number of illnesses.

The higher your adverse experiences score, the more likely you are to suffer alcoholism, drug addiction, or a host of other health problems.

My brother and I both experienced childhood trauma. I ended up suffering anxiety, depression and chronic migraines. He developed panic attacks and coped with

pain took a form that was less deadly and more conducive to getting help. His death was my catalyst to get therapy. It's taken a decade, but I finally feel like my life has turned around.

When just getting through everyday life hurts so very much, drugs present a welcome relief. I don't think I'm a better person than he was; I was just luckier. Trauma left him susceptible to addiction, and for some reason it just landed me with 20 years of migraines.

The U.S. has tried to solve its drug problem by cutting off the

*The U.S. has tried to solve its drug problem by cutting off the supply of drugs coming through its borders since at least the 1980s. It hasn't worked.*

his pain by binge eating and using drugs. I'm told the day he overdosed was only the third time he'd ever used heroin. He was alone in his apartment, age 23.

Through random chance, I was luckier than he was. Life dealt us both severe pain, but for me the

supply of drugs coming through its borders since at least the 1980s. It hasn't worked. Neither has prison sentences for nonviolent drug offenses. In fact, these approaches have only made the problem worse, and created many others besides.

If we want to cut down on our drug problem, we need to cut down on the factors that cause addiction in the first place. We must work on reducing the amount of trauma, poverty, and despair Americans experience and offer help to those who've suffered so they can overcome it.

We should also reduce demand for illegal drugs by offering safe, legal, and regulated drugs when they can provide health benefits, as medical marijuana has done for me.

Even if a border wall were a cost effective and feasible way to keep drugs from coming over the border (which according to virtually every expert, it isn't), it would do nothing to address the root causes of addiction in America.

When people are in pain, they'll find a way to get drugs. So long as there's a market for illegal drugs, traffickers will find ways to produce them here or bring them in. The real answer to the illegal drug trade is addressing the root causes of addiction.

*OtherWords columnist Jill Richardson is pursuing a PhD in sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She lives in San Diego. Distributed by OtherWords.org.*



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# 50 Years of Black Studies

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

"This is a degree that really helps students prepare for working with people in diverse communities, and not just the black community," she said. "It's about learning to deal with differences and becoming culturally aware."

Millner added that a complete view of America's past must deal with the racial aspects of its histo-

ry, making the field of black studies "an essential component to any educational experience."

Jackson, Millner, Portland civic leaders, the Oregon Historical Society, and others are planning a big birthday celebration for the Black Studies Department's 50 year milestone in October.

*John Kirkland of Portland State University communications contributed to this article.*

*Lenwood Davis (left), director of the Black Studies Center at Portland State University in the early 1970s, with Clarence Barry, the first student to earn a Black Studies certificate from PSU, in a picture from the 1972 PSU Viking yearbook.*



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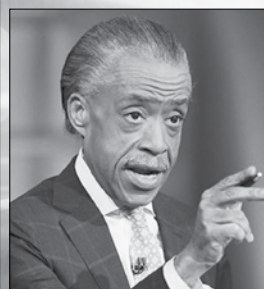
to come and get preregistered to participate, by getting listed/adv. in the "20/20" African American Bus. Directory, the directory that will showcase what African American Business owners are doing here in the N.W. region of the USA; cities such as Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, etc. Come meet/see Lottie 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](mailto:aabd2016@outlook.com)

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KENNY SMOOV

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

9 P.M. - 12 Midnight  
MIKE SHANNON

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**Decolonizing Beau-**

**ty** – Explore what it means to think and live beyond colonial structures and understandings of beauty and bodily worth. The Kenton Library presents Cory Lira and a panel of black, indigenous and other people of color for the discussion titled Decolonizing Beauty, Sunday, March 3 at 2 p.m.



**Jesus Christ Superstar!** – Portland's Stumptown Stages presents the hit rock opera Jesus Christ Superstar! Now playing through Sunday, 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.

**Performing at Linfield** – Marcus Johnson, 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.



**Norman Sylvester Band** – "Boogie Cat" Norman Sylvester plays 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.

**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

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**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.

**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 Sunday, March 3. For a full schedule, visit africanfilmfestival.org.



**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 Saturday, March 2. For tickets and more information, call the box office at 503-236-7253 or visit milagro.org.

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