



Established in 1970



PO QR code



## Saved for Albina Head Start

*Church property  
purchased with  
community help*

See Local News, page 3

## Youth of the Year

*Inspiring role  
model serves  
her community*

See Metro, page 8



# The Portland Observer

Volume XLVIII • Number 45



'City  
of  
Roses'

www.portlandobserver.com  
Wednesday • November 20, 2019

Committed to Cultural Diversity

## PSU Black Studies at Risk, Professor says



PHOTO BY BEVERLY CORBELL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Professor Ethan Johnson, who heads up the Black Studies Department at Portland State University, says he doesn't feel like celebrating the department's 50th anniversary because the university is failing to support the department and even more is failing to listen to the concerns of minority students and teachers at the school.

### Administration called out for toxic environment

BY BEVERLY CORBELL  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

This school year is the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Black Studies Department at Portland State University, a momentous occasion for celebrating the formation of a degree curriculum devoted

to the history, culture and politics of black people, but the African-American director of the department doesn't feel much like celebrating.

Ethan Johnson, who has headed the department for the past 15 years, says the university is failing to support the black studies curriculum and even more is failing to listen to the concerns of minority students and faculty at the school, a result that is disastrous to their wellbeing.

In a blistering four-page letter, Johnson accounts for the dismal support PSU

gives his department and for black students on campus in general, from the arming of campus security with guns to not supporting black professors and administrators for hiring and promotion, issues he believes affects the health and even threatens the lives of black employees and students at PSU.

As an example, Johnson said that it was not long after the school's Board of Trustees, whom he referred to as "an unelected group of overwhelmingly white men" voted to form a campus police force, that Jason Washington, a black man, U.S.

Veteran, postal worker and father of two, was killed by campus police on the edge of PSU campus. Johnson said virtually all faculty and students were opposed to arming PSU security.

Added to that danger, Johnson says, as shown in peer-reviewed articles, is that the stress of daily doses of racism affects overall health as it "gets into our bodies and overworks us, causing breakdowns in our hearts, reproductive systems and other

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4





Rev. William Barber II, (right) a national leader for social justice and grassroots activism, and the guest speaker for a Thursday lecture on race, equity, inclusion and diversity, is greeted by Dr. Audry Terrell, an educator and mentor from Portland's African American Community.

## Activist Pastor on Moral Crisis

### Group brings national speaker on social justice

Rev. William Barber II, an outspoken advocate for social justice and grassroots activism, spoke last week at Alberta Alley as part of the Meyer Memorial Trust Equity Speaker Series on race, equity, inclusion and diversity. The event was sponsored by the Meyer Memorial Trust in partnership with the Coalition of Commu-

nities of Color and the Oregon Center for Public Policy.

Barber, pastor of the Greenleaf Christian Church in Goldsboro, N.C., was named a recipient of the 2018 MacArthur Genius grant for his work as a faith leader and social justice advocate building a broad-based grassroots movement grounded in the moral tenets of religious communities and the United States Constitution to confront racial and economic inequalities

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



PHOTO COURTESY PORTLAND ROSE FESTIVAL

Portland 2019 Rose Festival Queen Mya Brazile and the new mural of her image created as part of a new street art display in the north pedestrian tunnel at Portland International Airport.

## Queen Mya Mural at PDX

Rose Festival Queen Mya Brazile is one of the featured images in a new street art mural created by local artists Alex Chiu and Jeremy Nichols for the north pedestrian tunnel at Portland International Airport.

Wearing the official Crown of Rosaria, rarely seen in public outside of the Coronation, Queen Mya and Rose Festival staff joined the dedication last Wednesday and toured the mural featuring Ms. Brazile's larger than life image.

The likeness, taken from her crowning moment in the 2019 Rose Festival Coronation ceremony, is one of many of images representing "diversity, family,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



### Avalon Flowers

520 SW 3rd Ave., Portland,  
OR 97204 • 503-796-9250

A full service flower experience

- Birthdays • Anniversaries
- Funerals • Weddings

Cori Stewart--  
Owner, Operator

Open: Mon.-Fri. 7:30am til 5:30pm  
Saturday 9am til 2pm.

Website: avalonflowerspdx.com  
email: avalonflowers@msn.com  
We Offer Wire Services



### Michael E Harper

Agent

Providing Insurance  
and Financial Services

Home Office, Bloomington, Illinois 61710

We are located at:  
9713 S.W. Capitol, Portland, OR

503-221-3050 • Fax 503-227-8757

michael.harper.cuik@statefarm.com

State Farm®



## The Week in Review

### 25,000 Sign Up for Low Income Fares

TriMet released figures Tuesday showing its low-income fare program has enrolled 25,000 people in less than 18 months, savings an estimated \$3.3 million for riders. The program is available to local residents who have a government-issued ID and proof of income less than double the federal poverty level, \$25,000 for an individual and \$51,000 for a family of four.

### New Chocolate Shop Drops Name

A new Portland chocolate shop will drop its name amid critics who said the 1670 New American Chocolate House ignored a connection between its name and branding and the slave trade of 1670. The decision was announced last week by the owner of the shop, still under construction at Northwest 14th and Glisan.

### Blazers Sign Former Allstar

The Portland Trail Blazers officially signed former All-Star forward Carmelo Anthony to a contract Tuesday. Anthony has a career average of 24 points per game over 17 NBA seasons. He appeared in only 10 games for the Houston Rockets at the start of last season and has not played in the NBA since then.



### Patrick Throws Presidential Hat in Ring

Deval Patrick, the former two-term governor of Mas-

sachusetts and the state's first black chief executive, formally announced a bid for the Democratic presidential nomination Thursday, adding more candidates to an already crowded field. "I've had the chance to live my American dream," he said. "But I've seen the path to that dream closing off bit by bit."

### Biden Stops in Portland

Former Vice President Joe Biden held a small private fundraiser in Portland on Saturday, gathering donations for his 2020 presidential race. About 110 people attended the fundraiser, said Biden's press secretary Meghan Hays.



### Discriminatory Behavior Cited

Former Clark College President Bob Knight engaged in inappropriate, discriminatory behavior against women, and particularly women of color, during his tenure at the Vancouver community college, according to an investigatory report from the college provided to The Columbian on Friday. Knight retired in July.

### Actress Files Lawsuit Against Netflix

Academy Award-winning actress Mo'Nique filed suit last week against streaming giant Netflix, alleging that they discriminated against her as a black woman. The suit states that Netflix offered the star \$500,000 to appear in a one-hour comedy special, while signing multi-million dollar deals with other comedians.





# The INSIDE

## The Week in Review

page 2



Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

page 7



METRO

page 8

OPINION

pages 9

CLASSIFIED/BIDS

pages 10

page 12

FOOD



# LOCAL NEWS



PHOTO FROM WIKIPEDIA COMMONS

Albina Head Start has negotiated the successful purchase of the Woodlawn Methodist Church at Northeast 15th and Dekum thanks to supporters who provided free legal services and the church which offered to sell the property at a discount so that the nonprofit education and community building organization can continue to house its Tina Clegg Albina Early Head Start and Head Start Center at the site along with other services.

## Saved for Albina Head Start

### Nonprofit buys property with community help

BY BEVERLY CORBELL  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The presence of Albina Head Start in Portland's diverse Woodlawn neighborhood will continue thanks to the successful purchase of the Woodlawn Methodist Church at Northeast 15th and Dekum, providing a permanent home for the organization to serve low income residents from the African American community and other disadvantaged populations.

Thanks to footwork by the nonprofit's pro bono law firm and support by church leaders to sell the property at a discount to maintain its community use, Albina Head Start becomes the new owner of the site and its long-running Tina Clegg Head Start and Early Head Start Center can remain operating and grounded to its roots.

Ronnie Herndon, director of Albina Head Start, said the building also houses administrative offices for Head Start community pro-

grams, coordinating and providing other services for many additional families. The work includes child growth and development services and education to strengthen and enhance the abilities of children and their families to successfully function in life.

Five Albina Head Start centers in Portland currently serve close to 400 children from birth to age five and their families.

The Albina Head Start in Woodlawn was notified of a pending sale early this year from the owner, the Oregon-Idaho Conference of the United Methodist Church. Until 2016, the building was also the home of the Woodlawn United Methodist Church, and also currently houses the Deliverance Center of Generation X.

In an earlier letter to the community, church spokesman Greg Nelson said the conference decided to not start another Methodist church in the location to take Woodlawn United's place and to sell the property. Nelson wrote that the conference was "especially mindful of the decline of communities of color" and would give preference to nonprofit groups,

but at the same time, the sale had to safeguard "the donations and assets of the church."

Supporters of community use were worried the church property would be lost to commercial re-development. And finding a suitable replacement building was a daunting task considering the difficulty of locating affordable space in Portland's competitive commercial real estate market that would not be too far away for those in need of services. Many low-income people have trouble finding transportation which creates significant barriers to vital services.

That worry was increased in mid-May when real estate agents started actively advertising the building on the open market, even though a May 1 letter from the church conference spokesman stated that it would prefer to sell to a nonprofit. Herndon said the move raised alarm bells since both Albina Head Start and the nonprofit Deliverance Center had made their own purchase inquiries and were waiting for answers.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

## College Promotes Diversity Officer

Citing the respect she has earned from her peers, students and the community, Clark College has promoted Rashida Willard to the position of Vice President of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

Willard is "a strong and effective leader," Clark College Interim President Sandra Fowler-Hill said Thursday on making the appointment. "She's leading the effort to create a culturally competent campus to help students succeed."



Rashida Willard

Willard joined Clark College in Vancouver four years ago as Operations Manager of Administrative Services. She has taught as an adjunct professor, has served as Director of Operations and Risk Manager, and for the past 17 months has served as Interim Associate Vice President of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

"I am deeply invested in this

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10





**MCS Still in Business**

## Martin Cleaning Service

**Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning Residential & Commercial Services**  
**Minimum Service CHG. \$50.00**

A small distance/travel charge may be applied

### CARPET CLEANING

**2 Cleaning Areas or more**  
\$30.00 each Area

**Pre-Spray Traffic Areas**  
(Includes: 1 small Hallway)

**1 Cleaning Area (only)**  
\$50.00

Includes Pre-Spray Traffic Area and Hallway

**Stairs (12-16 stairs - With Other Services): \$30.00**

**Heavily Soiled Area:**  
\$10.00 each area  
(Requiring Pre-Spray)

### Area/Oriental Rug Cleaning

**Regular Area Rugs**  
\$25.00 Minimum

**Wool Oriental Rugs**  
\$40.00 Minimum

### UPHOLSTERY CLEANING

Sofa: \$70.00

LoveSeat: \$50.00

Sectional: \$110 - \$140

Chair or Recliner:

\$25.00 - \$50.00

Throw Pillows (With Other Services): \$5.00

### ADDITIONAL SERVICES

- Auto/Boat/RV Cleaning
- Deodorizing & Pet Odor Treatment
- Spot & Stain Removal Service
- Scotchguard Protection
- Minor Water Damage Services

**Call for Appointment**  
**(503) 281-3949**

# PSU Black Studies at Risk, Professor says

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

areas.”

Johnson said those are the more subtle ways racism affects black bodies, but said the violent death from gunfire at the hands of campus police and slow deaths from stress-causing racism are interconnected.

He cites the example of an outspoken PSU black professor who was denied tenure because, Johnson believes, he actively called out racism on campus and clashed with more conservative higher-ups. He died at 50 from a heart attack and Johnson wonders if the frustration of being one of the few voices speaking out against white supremacy and not getting the support of the university led to his

early demise.

The school also has not correctly supported the Multicultural Center on campus, which promotes activities for non-white students, Johnson said.

He said the center's former coordinator, for example a person of color, expanded the center to better serve all minorities, even opening it up for Friday prayers for Muslim students. But several years ago, the job was elevated to a director position and a white woman was hired to head it up.

The former black male coordinator was passed over for promotion to the new position despite his experience and success at “truly practicing equity,” Johnson said. The man then died of a stroke in his early 60s, which Johnson at-

tributes, at least in part, to stress he experienced with being treated unfairly by PSU.

Johnson is not alone in his criticism. He said a study of the Black Studies Department conducted by PSU two years ago found that faculty in the department were “exhausted and overextended” and predicted without new faculty the department was unsustainable.

“So, in the celebration of Black Study's 50th year in existence, we also get to watch its death,” Johnson said. “Without the faculty to run the department, Black Studies will not be able to fulfill its course rotation, student advising and research responsibilities. It will disappear.”

To add insult to injury, Johnson said the school gave his department only \$5,000 to stage a 50th anniversary celebration, and that's not enough to do it right, he said.

“That's nothing as far as flying someone (a guest speaker) in, housing them and renting a space,” he said. “That's nothing. It's really a slap in the face.”

Johnson cites a decrease in administrative support for the Black Studies Department over the past few years, to that point that PSU administrators refuse to fill vacancies in his department, while claiming budget constraints.

Larger departments have had their faculty vacancies filled, Johnson said, but his is the small-

est department on campus, and the cuts have a huge ripple effect that is diminishing the black studies program.

“They say we're not growing and there's no evidence we need more,” he said. “They say we don't have lots of majors and minors, but that's actually not the case.”

Johnson says “there is no excuse” for the university to not invest more in his department, which can't be expected to grow if it's not supported.

“You can't grow unless you have the capacity to grow,” he said.

For PSU to claim that it has a supportive campus for diversity is disingenuous, Johnson said, and the school should step up and do the right thing by hiring more instructors for black studies.

Hiring five or six more instructors would allow the black studies department to add more courses to the curriculum to attract more students, which would help the program grow, he said.

“It's hard to complete majors sometimes because courses aren't offered,” he said. “I'm not trying to throw dirt. I'm only concerned about growing our department.”

(Editor's note: See Professor Ethan Johnson's critical paper in its entirety in the opinion section of this issue on page 9)



**north by northeast**  
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

North by Northeast Community Health Center is the only clinic in Oregon focused on African American health. We provide welcoming, high quality health care to adults who have Oregon Health Plan. Since 2006, our priority has been to serve the local African American community and to reduce the deadly effects of high blood pressure and diabetes. We are accepting new patients, and if you're uninsured, we can help you get covered!

To make an appointment or learn about our services, contact us:

**(503) 287-4932 | www.nxneclinic.org**

714 NE Alberta St., Portland Oregon 97211

**CANNON'S RIB EXPRESS**  
3625 NE MLK Jr Blvd,  
Portland OR  
Call to Order: 503-288-3836  
Cannon's, tasty food and friendly neighborhood atmosphere.  
**Open (hours)**  
Mon-Sat: 11am-7pm  
Sunday: 11am- 6pm  
Closed Tuesday

**The Portland Observer** Established 1970  
USPS 959 680  
4747 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Portland, OR 97211  
CALL 503-288-0033 • FAX 503-288-0015



PO QR code



PUBLISHER: *Mark Washington, Sr.*

EDITOR: *Michael Leighton*

ADVERTISING MANAGER: *Leonard Latin*

Office Manager/Classifieds: *Lucinda Baldwin*

CREATIVE DIRECTOR: *Paul Neufeldt*

REPORTER/WEB EDITOR: *Beverly Corbell*

PUBLIC RELATIONS: *Mark Washington Jr.*

OFFICE ASSISTANT/SALES: *Shawntell Washington*

The Portland Observer welcomes freelance submissions. Manuscripts and photographs should be clearly labeled and will be returned if accompanied by a self addressed envelope. All created design display ads become the sole property of the newspaper and cannot be used in other publications or personal usage without the written consent of the general manager, unless the client has purchased the composition of such ad. © 2008 THE PORTLAND OBSERVER. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED, REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR IN PART WITHOUT PERMISSION IS PROHIBITED. The Portland Observer--Oregon's Oldest Multicultural Publication--is a member of the National Newspaper Association--Founded in 1885, and The National Advertising Representative Amalgamated Publishers, Inc, New York, NY, and The West Coast Black Publishers Association.

news@portlandobserver.com • ads@portlandobserver.com •

subscription@portlandobserver.com

Postmaster: Send address changes to Portland Observer,  
PO Box 3137, Portland, OR 97208



**ACCREDITED BUSINESS**





## Saved for Albina Head Start

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

But thanks to the help of Owen Blank of Tonkon Torp, the Albina Head Start's long-time pro bono law firm, Albina was able to secure some off-cycle grants from local community foundations in a short time frame. And the firm quickly helped Albina Head Start sign a Letter of Intent that included a "no-shop" clause, which ended the active marketing of the property.

Finally, a below-market purchase price was agreed upon this summer and the sale recently closed, according to a news release from Tonkon.

Although fundraising is not a typical role for the Tonkon attorney, Blank initiated successful conversations within his own network of contacts which, along with Albina's efforts, helped pave the way for Albina to raise more than the minimum required down payment from several Oregon-based foundations, Tonkon officials said.

Herndon said the work of Blank and his firm was indispensable but also reliant on community support, for which he is grateful.

"I think this is a major victory for the community," he said. "With everything that's happening with gentrification, this means that building will be able to continue to serve literally hundreds of low income children. Were it not for community support, we could not have accomplished this."



An artist's rendering shows the bicycle and pedestrian bridge coming to I-84 at Northeast Seventh Avenue providing a new connection between neighborhoods by crossing seven lanes of traffic, two railroad lines and Sullivan Gulch.

## I-84 Bridge to Connect Neighbors

Neighborhood advocates, community members, and officials with the Portland Bureau of Transportation, joined U.S. Rep. Earl Blumenauer and Portland Commissioner Chloe Eudaly this month to break ground on the future Blumenauer Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge over I-84 at Northeast Seventh Avenue.

The new bridge will be 475-feet long

and 24-feet wide, spanning over seven lanes of I-84 traffic, two active railroad lines and Sullivan's Gulch.

Originally called "Sullivan's Crossing" during its design and development, the bridge was named the Congressman Earl Blumenauer Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge by Transportation Commissioner Eudaly in May to honor the Congressman's steadfast,

decades-long advocacy for cycling and pedestrian issues in Portland and across the country.

The new bridge will also be seismically resilient and serve as a backup route for emergency vehicles over I-84 in the event of an earthquake. In addition, the project includes two new public plazas and landings on the north and south sides of the bridge.



Gambling  
Not Fun  
Anymore?

Treatment is FREE,  
Confidential and Effective

CALL: 877-MY-LIMIT

or

VISIT:

**OPGR.ORG**  
OREGON PROBLEM GAMBLING RESOURCE



# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



## 100th Anniversary of Modern Dance

In celebration of the 100 year anniversary of modern dance icon Merce Cunningham's birth, French company CNDC-Angers/Robert Swinston will perform two Cunningham masterworks, *Beach Birds* and *Biped*, for three performances Thursday, Nov. 21 through Saturday, Nov. 23 at 7:30 p.m. at the Newmark Theater, downtown. Presented by White Bird, the performances are the only ones planned in the Northwest of Cunningham's work and feature live music by Gavin Bryars.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL DURHAM/COURTESY OREGON ZOO.

On Friday and Saturday, Nov. 22-23, the Oregon Zoo will host BrewLights: a ZooLights experience just for the 21-and-over crowd.

## Brewlights for 21+ Crowd

The Oregon Zoo's annual walk-through winter wonderland of brightly colored lights gets a preview this weekend exclusively for the 21+ crowd.

On Friday and Saturday, Nov. 22-23, the zoo will host its third annual BrewLights, a unique

ZooLights experience for adults with beer, live music, food carts and more. From 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., visitors can sample local beers, seltzers and ciders while strolling among forests of brightly lit trees and dazzling 3-D light sculptures.

"If you've ever wondered what ZooLights would be like without the kids, BrewLights is for you," said zoo event coordinator Barbara Bennett-Heck.

Admission includes a souvenir light-up cup and 10 tasting tickets. Visit [oregonzoo.org/brewlights](http://oregonzoo.org/brewlights).

## THE SPINAL COLUMN™

An ongoing series of questions and answers about America's natural healing profession.

### Part 17

#### Understanding Pain: Why do you have it? How can you get rid of it?

**Q:** My friend constantly takes pills. I've tried to convince her to see a Chiropractor. Can you make any suggestions?

**A:** You might try asking your friend this: "If you heard a fire alarm going off in the middle of the night, would you call the Fire Department or would you

Yank the wires out of the wall and calmly go back to sleep?" You see, pain is your nervous system's fire alarm. Pain pills may alleviate the pain but will do nothing to take the stress off the spine and nervous system. When the body yells, "Fire!" and you experience pain; it is trying to get your attention that it is being injured. When there is stress in the nervous system, this is a serious problem.

The nervous system controls every other function of the body and left untreated can cause ill-



**Dr. Billy R. Flowers** health in other areas of the body as well. Our specialty is finding the cause of your problem and taking care of it, painlessly, without drugs...Just as nature intended. If you suffer from pain, stop pulling the alarm wires from the walls. Together, we can put the fire out...for good!

To find out how Chiropractic might be able to help you or for answers to any questions you might have about your health, please feel free to call us at the phone number shown below.

**Flowers' Chiropractic Office**

2027 Lloyd Center Mall,  
Portland Oregon 97232  
**Phone: (503) 287-5504**



Terra Heilman helps a resident pick holiday fabric for reusable gift wrapping bags as coordinator for The Repair Clark County reuse and recycle program which helps residence reduce their waste.

## Cut Waste with Reusable Wrap

A reuse and recycle program in Vancouver is helping residents reduce their waste this holiday season by sewing reusable wrapping bags from upcycled fabric and distributing them to the public.

Sewing pros will transform fabric into reusable holiday gift wrapping bags during three free events, Friday, Nov. 22 and Saturday, Nov. 23 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Vancouver Night Market, located at Warehouse 23, 100 Columbia St.; and on Sunday, Dec. 1 at the Holiday Farmers Market, located at the Vancouver Hilton, 301 W. Sixth St., from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Residents can bring their own treasured fabric (vintage table cloth, linens or tree skirt for example) or choose from a limited selection of recycled holiday fabric. There is a limit of three bags per person. The events are sponsored by Repair Clark County, a program of the Columbia Springs Natural Area.

## HARRIS PHOTOGRAPHY



**503-730-1156**

On Site Printing

4x6

5x7

or 8x10

[antonioharris@mac.com](mailto:antonioharris@mac.com)

4545 N.E. MLK 97211



## Obituary

# In Loving Memory

### Lois Alfreda Jackson

Lois Alfreda (Graze) Jackson was the youngest of eight children born to the union of Johnnie Clifton and Chauncey Earle (Hightower) Graze of Beaumont, Texas. She graduated from Martin High School in 1946. Nathan Joseph Jackson Jr. was the first young man her mother allowed her to call her boyfriend and on her deathbed in November 1946 she sent for Nathan and his mother and asked him to marry Lois and take care of her and he did just that until his death in 2012; they had been happily and lovingly married for 65 years. Lois and Nathan had four daughters: Brenda Gail, Phyllis Jeanette, Janet Denise and Kathy Renee. In 1951, with Brenda and Phyllis in tow, they migrated to Tacoma, Wash., where Janet and Renee were born.

Lois and Nathan doted on their three grandsons: Frelimo Mott, Robert (Bobby) Janisse Jr. and Marcellus Jackson. The family was long-time members of St. John Baptist Church under Dr. J.A. Boles and later Shiloh Baptist Church under Rev. Earnest Stonewall Brazill (Nathan's cousin). In 1987, after Nathan's retirement, they decided to move back to Beaumont, and united with St. John Baptist Church under Rev. O.J. Beasley Jr. After 10 years in Texas they relocated to Portland where they joined Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church under Pastor J.W. Matt Hennessee. Lois loved her church and was a very active member



-- she served as a Deaconess, was on the Mother Board, and was the church photographer. She made the beautiful hat quilt that hangs in the church's fellowship hall and volunteered where ever needed. She also created memorial pages for deceased members of the church and The Miracles Club.

Lois was a very talented and accomplished person. She was an excellent seamstress. As their four daughters were growing up, she made all their clothes for school, church, proms, cotillions, and her eldest daughter's wedding gown. Nathan willingly wore all the suits, shirts, and ties she made, which fueled her creative confidence and honored the memory of her mother who taught her to sew at an early age. Lois also designed and made her own clothes, including a dozen crocheted dresses. She was a true fashionista and was known for wearing hats, high heels and plenty of bling bling. Lois also was an avid crafter, quilter, and furniture upholsterer; she laid ceramic tile, designed and made drapes, designed and made all her greeting cards, made stained glass windows, made macramé wall hangings, painted ceramic figurines, and crocheted afghans (gave away over 50). Lois was an amateur photographer and loved to enhance her photos with Photoshop which she learned after the age of 80; she became proficient in restoring scratched and torn photographs. She recited Black poetry and had an amazing 100+ poems

committed to memory. Her Black doll collection includes 500+ dolls many of which she made, painted, cleaned up and/or redressed; 135 of her celebrity dolls are on display at Self Enhancement, Inc. She also had a green thumb and loved to garden and raise beautiful flowers. To top it all off, Lois was an excellent cook and she loved cooking for her family and others. She worked expertly in so many creative fields that her slogan became "Leave it to Lois."

Lois was preceded in death by parents Johnnie and Chauncey; husband Nathan; three sisters, Johnnie Mae Konigar, Margaret Eloise Graze, and Ella Jean McCarter, three brothers, Ulysses Clifton Graze, Winfred Talmon Graze and Edgar Earle Graze; and a grandson Robert (Bobby) Janisse Jr. Lois' legacy of love and memories will be cherished by her sister Dorothy Mae (Dear) Williams (101 years old) of Beaumont; daughters Brenda Polk (Jerome) of Portland, Phyllis Jackson of Los Angeles, and Janet Jackson and Renee Brown (Kenney) of Chicago; grandsons Frelimo Mott of Los Angeles and Marcellus Jackson of Chicago; goddaughter Adrienne Breckenridge of Baltimore, Md.; special daughter Eva Miles of Portland; and a host of cousins, nieces, nephews, church family and loving friends, including the Polk/Mullen Family, the Bubbling Brown Sugar Social Club and AARP N/NE Portland Chapter 5264.

Memorial donations in the name of Lois A. Jackson will be gratefully accepted by the non-profit agency Self Enhancement, Inc., 3920 N. Kerby Ave., Portland, OR 97227, [www.selfenhancement.org](http://www.selfenhancement.org).



**\$5.00 TEES**

CLUBS

FAMILY REUNIONS

SCHOOL CLUBS

BUSINESSES

SCREEN PRINTING

**971-570-8214**



**971-276-8674**

Cut, trim, edge,  
power washing,  
hauling, leaf removal,  
cleanup, anything!

**FREE ESTIMATES**

**FAIR PRICING**

**Your best health.**  
**It's why we're here.**



**We help you get great care with the Oregon Health Plan.**

Learn more at [HealthShareOregon.org/OHP](http://HealthShareOregon.org/OHP)

**health share**

Health Share of Oregon







PHOTO COURTESY BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF PORTLAND METRO AREA

Joliesse Carmona-Perez (far right) is the new 2020 Portland Youth of the Year for metro area Boys & Girls Clubs. She is joined by all five of the other deserving youth who were candidates for the honor, Arianna Perez-Garcia, TreNisha Shearer, La'Markus Causey, Gia Sevier and Alexa Ramirez-Hernandez.

## *Inspiring role model serves her community*

Blazers Boys & Girls Club member and Wilson High School freshman Joliesse Carmona-Perez has been named the 2020 Portland Metro Youth of the Year, recognized for being a role model who serves her community.

An outspoken and inspiring young woman, Carmona-Perez aspires to become a lawyer and politician in order to advocate for others. She has been the recipient of multiple Boys and Girls Club awards, including for outstanding leader-

# Youth of the Year

ship and excellence in community service and as student of the month.

Her innovative ideas have made a difference in her academic community: She founded a school newsletter, becoming chief editor, and distributed an advice column to peers. She combated bullying by creating a student leadership team that recognizes academic successes and providing mentorship to younger students. She also serves on the Youth Against Violence Committee for the Multnomah County Youth Commission.

Five other outstanding Boys & Girls club

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



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

# OPINION

## Death and Dying as a Black Studies Professor

### The toxicity of racism at Portland State

BY ETHAN JOHNSON

While some might think it hyperbole to begin a paper claiming a relationship between death and dying and being a tenured professor at a large public university, I think it is a valid claim. It is just a fact that many of the Black people, most of them men and some of whom were and are my friends, at Portland State are sick, dying or dead.

After the PSU Board of Trustees, an unelected group of overwhelmingly white men, voted to arm PSU security, the first person campus police shot and killed was Jason Washington, a Black person, married and a father of two. A fight broke out in front of a bar on campus and he was carrying a gun which he was permitted to carry. It fell out in the fight and when he tried to grab it the cops shot and killed him. As is usually the case, the rule of impunity prevailed here and no one was held accountable in any substantive way. The struggle against arming the police force was strong and overwhelmingly students and faculty expressed they did not want an armed police force on campus. We already have one, the Portland Police Bureau, who have a long history of killing Black and poor people with impunity.

I have taught in the Black Studies Department for 15 years at PSU. One of the courses I teach is called Racism. For years I have used a video in this class called Unnatural Causes, which has a section in it called "When the Bough Breaks." This part of the documentary makes the case that racism not only maintains inequality across institutions, it also makes us sick. The literature is well established here with many peer reviewed articles demonstrating how the stress of daily racism gets into our bodies and over works us causing break-

downs in our hearts, reproductive systems and other areas of our bodies. I remember one young Black woman student realizing after seeing the video that if she wanted to have children she should have them young because if she did not, the compounded stress of racism on her reproductive system could very likely endanger her child. This is premeditated murder.

Mainstream white society has the facts to show that racism makes us sick and causes premature death, but does nothing to change the conditions. A very frustrating part about this is we Black people can sometimes and often do blame ourselves for our failing physical and/or mental health. However, as

When I first arrived to PSU, I was hired to fill the position of a young Black man from South Africa. As I understood it, he was popular among his students. The then chair of the Black Studies Department did not recommend him for tenure. When I walked into his office, which became mine, what I could not take my eyes off of was a plaster sculpture of a white man almost life size with a removable stick up his butt. I didn't know what to think when I saw this and it quickly disappeared. In hindsight, what it probably indicated was his upfront resistance to anti-Black racism, which was why he was popular with his students. The chair of the department who did not support his tenure and rarely uttered the

struggle just to walk the streets of Portland. The Portland metro area is the whitest large city in America, which is no accident. Oregon is the only state in the Union to have in its original constitution of 1857 an exclusion clause that made it illegal for Black and other people of color to live here. Today, Oregon has the highest pushout/dropout rate in the country for Black high school students, most of whom live in the Portland area. Furthermore, the homicide and incarceration rates in the Portland area are higher than national averages for Black people. The original state constitution of exclusion helped pave the way for a white homeland, and while removed from the constitution in 1926, the injustice is nevertheless

is much whiter than Portland, also has one of the most accessible voting processes in the country. However, as I and others have pointed out these policies are due to the city and state being so white. Without a large non-white population, struggles over transportation, housing, schools, voting and other public services don't confront resistance because these institutions generally serve the majority white population. White middle-class people in particular in the Portland area don't have to share buses and housing with Black people because of our small numbers, so they fund their public transportation system, libraries and schools.

Someone who I considered my friend used to be the coordinator for what is called the Multicultural Center at PSU. Much of the student activities on campus that serve non-white students come out of this center. An African, he was very supportive of the Black Studies Department. He regularly made his space available for the department to conduct what we call the Black Bag Speaker Series. This event invites people and organizations doing work that focuses on Black life locally and nationally to share their efforts with students and faculty. The topics include police brutality, art, music, literature, health, gender, immigration, sexuality and many other issues. It was the only Black-centered forum on campus, but never received institutional funding from PSU. My friend collaborated with me often to share expenses to help run the event. My friend also supported the Muslim students on campus for which I am sure many were not happy. He opened the Multicultural Center's doors to the Muslim students on campus to hold prayer in the main room of the center on Fridays. I remember

*I argue, as Vargas does, that the immediate death by police/vigilantes and/or the slow death by sickness and stress are interconnected. Anti-Black racism justifies them as the fault of Black people who are deemed criminal, lazy and without restraint.*

Joao Acosta Vargas shows in his article "The Liberation Imperative of Black Genocide," it is society built on white supremacy and anti-blackness that must be held accountable.

Jason Washington's death is, as are the hundreds of others that happen each year at the hands of the police, understood among many Black people as the state's intent to keep Black people down. More subtle forms, while not always causing death, do cause suffering and remain much easier for mainstream/white society to exculpate themselves from and us to blame ourselves for or to just remain confused.

I argue, as Vargas does, that the immediate death by police/vigilantes and/or the slow death by sickness and stress are interconnected. Anti-Black racism justifies them as the fault of Black people who are deemed criminal, lazy and without restraint.

word racism or white supremacy was probably threatened by a colleague who called out anti-Black racism regularly. Several years ago, a colleague of mine informed me that the professor died of a heart attack. He was just 50 years old. Could it be that the stresses of coming to PSU and working in a Black Studies Department that did not support him and where he was one of the few voices speaking out against white supremacy contributed to his death? Or was it because he had poor eating habits and did not exercise enough?

Like my colleague who died prematurely, I imagine he was much like me. When I first moved to Portland from Oakland, Calif., a city that continues to be majority non-white, I was and continue to

still with us in spirit.

More than ironically, Portland and much of Oregon benefits from having a reputation as one of the most politically progressive places in the whole country. I jokingly tell my students you can smoke weed here legally, ride your bike with thousands of other mostly white people naked (Portland has a naked bike ride every year) and Oregon has its own public defender specifically hired to protect animals, something which Black people do not have. More seriously, Portland also has a politically progressive reputation for having a descent public transportation system, probably one of the most extensive bike path systems in the country and a no growth boundary to prevent sprawl. Oregon, which

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

### Letter to the Editor

### On Post Office Jobs

Thanks for printing Keith Combs commentary ("Honor Veterans and Protect the Postal Service", Nov. 13 issue). Another critical service that the USPS provides veterans is delivery of pharmaceuticals. The Veterans Administration ships all their medications through the postal service. And finally, your readers should know that the postal service has provided a pathway to living wage jobs for hundreds of thousands of African Americans (21% of the USPS workforce), many of them veterans.

*Jamie Partridge, retired letter carrier from northeast Portland*

# JESUS

## Coming Again

## SOON!!



*"Dear G-d, Please forgive ALL my sins. I accept Jesus into my heart as my Lord and Savior, Amen"*

[JesusIsComingAgain@usa.com](mailto:JesusIsComingAgain@usa.com)  
PO Box 231023, Tigard OR 97281



# CLASSIFIED/BIDS

## SUB BIDS/SUPPLIER QUOTES REQUESTED

### Hillside Manor Renovation 2889 SE Hillside Street Milwaukie, OR 97222

**Bids Due: Dec. 13, 2019 @ 2:00 PM**

Hillside Manor is an existing 9-story concrete frame affordable housing building with 100 units. The project will be occupied during the work, but the bulk of the unit work will take place when the unit is vacated.

#### MWESB Companies Only

Survey, Final Cleaning, Demo and Abatement, Earthwork, Striping, Site Concrete, Steel, Painting, Drywall and ACT Ceilings, Specialty Supply, Signage, Window Treatment, and Landscaping.

#### All Companies

Cast in place Concrete, Finish Carpentry, Casework, Insulation, Roofing, Sheet Metal Flashings, Doors/Frames/Hardware, Operable Partitions, Security Grill, Flooring, Storefront, Appliances, and Countertops.

#### Plans are available at:

Walsh Construction Co., contractorplancenter.com, iSqFt.com, bxwa.com, mcip-pdx.org, and oame.org.

**Special Notes: BOLI Commercial and Davis-Bacon Building Prevailing Wages; Certified Payroll; 25% MWESB participation goal - certified businesses are encouraged to bid.**



**2905 SW First Ave | Portland, OR 97201  
(503) 222-4375 | FAX (866) 446-0681  
Contact: Bennett Barnwell or Kim Smith  
ORCCB # 147267/WALSHCC962LD**

**Walsh Construction Co. is an equal opportunity employer and requests sub-bids from Minority, women, disadvantaged and emerging small business enterprises.**

ORCCB # 147267/WALSHCC962LD

## REQUEST FOR BIDS

### MWH CONSTRUCTORS PORTLAND WATER BUREAU'S CORROSION CONTROL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

**Bids due 1:00 pm, 12/11/2019**

MWH Constructors is soliciting subcontractors to cut and remove trees. If interested, please contact Ben McGeachy at [ben.mcgeachy@mwhconstructors.com](mailto:ben.mcgeachy@mwhconstructors.com)

### Lateral Police Dispatch Trainee

**Closing Date/Time Mon. 11/25/19 11:59 PM Pacific Time**

**Salary \$26.05 - \$33.89 Hourly**

**Job Type Regular**

This is a trainee position for journey level emergency communications dispatchers from other jurisdictions who have gained the skills via training and employment in order to effectively perform dispatching work in the field of emergency communications, with the exception of fire dispatch. Incumbents are responsible for participating in formal classroom training, on-the-job-training, simulation training and directed self-study. Prior to promotion to the police dispatcher classification, incumbents must be able to demonstrate proficiency to operate telephone, use radio and computer equipment to record requests for emergency services, and dispatch police field units; and monitor the status of field units. The ability to work any shift, on any day, and to work overtime is an essential function of the job. Typical shift configurations for experienced employees are four - 10 hour days; employees are not required to report to work on their days off.

For more information, please visit our website:  
<http://bit.ly/2XeOfch>

# College Promotes Diversity Officer

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

work, and am passionate about creating inclusive, safe and welcoming environments where all students have maximum opportunities to succeed," Willard said. "I am eager to move forward in community and collaboration, building on our team's momentum of the last several months."

Her current research explores strategies that faculty and staff employ to create culturally engaging spaces for students of color attending predominantly white institutions and how campus racial climate affects their persistence and completion rates. The research will be used to examine and identify strategies to close the equity gap among students of col-

or in higher education.

Willard holds a master's degree in Business Administration, a bachelor's degree in Business Administration, and an associate degree in Organizational Dynamics. She is currently attending Concordia University, pursuing a doctorate in Education with a concentration in Professional Leadership, Inquiry and Transformation.

# Queen Mya Mural at PDX

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

sharing food and nature," that travelers will appreciate while coming and going along the lengthy airport passage.

Chiu, a second generation Chinese-American said his art is about

redefining what being American means. "America is a nation of racial diversity, immigrants and refugees, different languages, different spiritual beliefs, and different cultural practices. I want to celebrate our differences. I want people to relinquish their fears of

the "other." My art is about breaking those barriers."

Nichols, who grew up traveling between upstate New York and Tokyo, his birthplace and his family's home country, said he brings an "outsider looking in" approach to his artwork to give the viewer a sense to how he feels and sees the world around him.

# Activist Pastor on Moral Crisis

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

in America.

In Portland, Barber spoke about his vision for a "moral impeachment and moral reset," addressing racism in government policies.

He told the group it was the

right of the people to alter government policy when government is not living up to the rights and liberties for all, according to Dr. Audrey Terrell, a Portland educator, mentor and nonprofit founder who attended the lecture.

He explained how "freedom" was not in the constitution but

"liberty" was, calling for a reset of our moral values, Terrell said. He also called on the audience to rise up and build a movement for justice together, urging participating in a Poor People's Campaign march this coming June 20 in Washington, D.C., a repeat of the 1968 march organized by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. before he was assassinated in April of that year.



*Funerals ~ Memorial Services ~ Cremation ~ Preplanning*



**"Dedicated to providing excellent service and superior care of your loved one"**

*Funeral Home staff available 24 hours*

**503-249-1788**

**Terry Family Funeral Home  
2337 N Williams Ave, Portland, Or 97227  
[www.terryfamilyfuneralhome.com](http://www.terryfamilyfuneralhome.com)**

**Advertise with diversity in The Portland Observer  
Call 503-288-0033 or email [ads@portlandobserver.com](mailto:ads@portlandobserver.com)**



# Youth of the Year

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

members also vied for the Youth of the Year title, including Arianna Perez-Garcia, TreNisha Shearer, La'Markus Causey, Gia Sevier and Alexa Ramirez-Hernandez. As title finalists that uphold and represent clubs' core values, each receives a \$500 scholarship along with their own prize packages.

As the winner, Carmona-Perez received a \$1,000 scholarship and a prize package containing a new backpack, laptop and other items to help her achieve academic success. Next March, she will represent the Portland metro clubs in the statewide Youth of the Year selection process, held in Portland.



Joliesse Carmona-Perez, a member of the Blazers Boys and Girls Club in northeast Portland and a freshman at Wilson High School has been named 2020 Portland Youth of the Year for metro area Boys & Girls Clubs.

## Fighting for the Right to Fight: African American Experiences in World War II

On loan from the National WWII Museum through Jan. 12, The Oregon Historical Society, downtown, presents exhibit on the African American experience in World War II and in the Civil Rights era following the war.



**Play Gives Voice to Economic Truths** – A local group of actors raise their voices to collaborate with Portland playwright Damaris Webb in "SOUL'D: The Economics of our Black Body" a new play that delves into the economic dreams and realities for black Americans, now playing through Nov. 24 at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center in north Portland.



**All Things Being Equal** – A thought-provoking look at how art can show how modern culture perpetuates discrimination, titled "All Things Being Equal" by African American artist Hank Willis Thomas, runs through Jan. 12 at the Portland Art Museum. Features more than 90 works, including sculptures based on archival photographs, quilts constructed from sports jerseys and prison uniforms, video installa-

## ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

tions, and more.

**Vancouver Mall Santa** – Now through Dec. 24, children and their families are invited to drop off letters to Santa,

share their Christmas wish lists and have a professional photo taken with Santa Claus as part of a new "The Polar Express" holiday exhibit on the lower level near H&M. For hours and more information, visit [shop.vancouvermall.com](http://shop.vancouvermall.com).

**La Ruta** – Artists Repertory Theatre presents 'La Ruta,' a harrowing story that gives a voice to women who have gone missing or have been murdered in the border community of Juarez, Mexico. Bouncing back and forth in time and featuring live music, the play gives a passionate voice to the women who have disappeared. Now showing through Dec. 1 at Portland Opera, 211 S.E. Caruthers St. For tickets, call 503-241-1278 or visit [artistsrep.org](http://artistsrep.org).

**Macbeth** – Local favorites Chantal DeGroat, Dana Green and Lauren Bloom Hanover star in a piercing, stripped-down production of Macbeth, Shakespeare's infamous tale of political gluttony and supernatural vengeance. Now showing through Sunday, Nov. 24 at Portland Center Stage at The Armory. Tickets at [pcs.org](http://pcs.org) or call 503-445-3700.

**Norman Sylvester Band** – The "Boogie Cat" Norman Sylvester and his Band plays Friday, Nov. 22 at Clyde's; Saturday, Nov. 23 at the Vinyl Tap; Friday, Nov. 29 at the Half Penny in Salem; and Saturday, Nov. 30 at 6 p.m. at the Ilanai Casino Line & Lure Room in Ridgefield.

PETER CLARKE



Broker Licensed in Oregon  
503-333-5809  
[peter@livingroomre.com](mailto:peter@livingroomre.com)



LIVING ROOM  
REALTY

YOU CALL, WE HAUL



Johnny Huff  
(owner/operator)



Scrapping Metal  
& Landscape Maintenance

Cell: (971) 263-5516



5010 NE 9th Ave  
Portland, Or 97211  
Phone: 503 284-2989

We specialize in a variety of cuts for men and women, hot towel razor shaves, braiding, hair extension, Shampoo, blow dryer and Platinum fade.

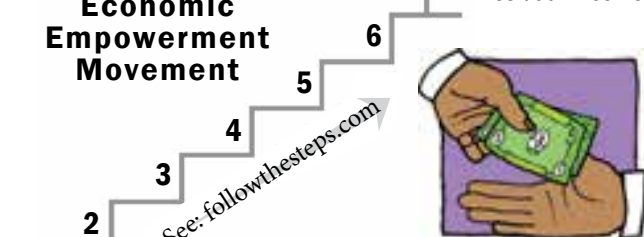
Call Today or Walk in !!!

• COLLEGE STUDENTS • ATHLETES • PASTORS • MOMS

BUSINESS OWNERS • RETIRED PEOPLE

Join the "Team"  
Economic  
Empowerment  
Movement

\$10,000/Mo.  
Residual Income



Call/Listen Mon, Tues, Thurs  
5pm (PST) 319.527.9660

Discover how a "One-Time" (No Monthly) Start of \$25 (\$27.03 incl. Processing) can move you and your team to over \$10,000 per month within 6-9 months, by following a 6-steps plan.

Get started today at [income4you.2by2foryou.com](http://income4you.2by2foryou.com)  
Travel & save at [income4u.my1dollarbusiness.com](http://income4u.my1dollarbusiness.com)  
?s call Coach John at 503-358-9655

Providing Insurance and Financial Services  
Home Office, Bloomington, Illinois 61710

Ernest J. Hill, Jr. Agent

311 NE Killingsworth St,  
Portland, OR 97211  
503 286 1103 Fax 503 286 1146  
[ernie.hill.h5mb@statefarm.com](mailto:ernie.hill.h5mb@statefarm.com)  
24 Hour Good Neighbor Service®

State Farm®





# FOOD


## Slow Cooker Mock Lasagna

**Ingredients:**

- 1-10 oz pkg lasagna broken into bite-size pieces
- 1 lb. ground turkey
- 1/2 lb Italian Sausage
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 12 oz Mozzarella cheese,

**Directions:**

Cook noodles according to package directions until tender; drain. Brown ground turkey and sausage; drain. Put in lightly greased Crock-Pot. Add all remaining ingredients. Stir to mix thoroughly. Cover, cook on low 7 to 9 hours (high: 3 to 5 hours). Makes 6 servings.



# Death and Dying as a Black Studies Professor

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9**

thinking what an important message my friend was sending to our students and faculty. A cultural group who is ostracized across our country is being put front and center within the university. He was truly practicing equity.

About six years ago, Portland State went through restructuring. The Multicultural Center ‘coordinator’ position was shifted to a ‘director’ title and my friend was summarily removed with no offer to be considered for the director position. I recall that the university hired a white lesbian to do this restructuring work (This policy of bringing in underrepresented groups to implement racist policy is something I have noticed in other parts of the Portland area. Recently, for example, the Portland Police Bureau hired as their

chief of police a Black woman from Oakland.) My friend was made to disappear from PSU. Two years ago, I received an email from a colleague telling me my friend had died of a stroke. I was very upset. My friend was under much pressure as a Black African person coordinating the Multicultural Center. I wonder how it felt for him to be removed from his position with so little appreciation? My friend was in his early 60s when he died. Was it his bad eating habits and lack of physical activity that killed him or might it have been the stress that came with his job and being summarily removed that contributed to his early death.

While I know of no other deaths of Black people who worked at PSU, two of the previous chairs of Black Studies are both showing signs of wear. One has cancer and

had to retire and the other is suffering from physical ailments. He too has retired, but continues to teach as an emeritus professor. One of the current professors in the Black Studies Department is also suffering from health issues and is going to have to retire this year. Another Black colleague of mine, who worked in the School of Urban Planning, has fallen sick and had to retire. I attended her retirement ‘party’ during the summer. As far as I know I do not have cancer or some other disease. I regularly do get check-ups for prostate cancer because my dad died of this. Black men have the highest prostate cancer rate in the country. I did though have to take a leave of absence because of the stress I have felt working at Portland State. I have twice now admitted myself to the hospital because of chest pains to see if I was having a heart attack.

The Black Studies Department is a stressful place to work. Our students for example are constantly expressing to us the racism they experience in their classrooms. We regularly have to beg for resources to hold events. Being the smallest department on campus means if one of us fall sick or leaves, it causes a huge disruption in the daily running of the department compared to larger departments. Lastly, teaching about Black life (inequality, resistance, death, joy) takes its toll on you. Similarly, a professor who worked in the Black Studies Department, but left last year because he found PSU to be a toxic place, also had to take a leave of absence due to stress. Last year alone 10 Black administrators and faculty left Portland State University joining the many others from previous years. I talked to most of them and asked why they left and each expressed to me they ‘got out’ because they did not feel supported. The anti-Black racism on campus is so thick and unacknowledged that they did what is best for them and ‘got out’. I completely understand.

This year the Black Studies Department is supposed to be celebrating and honoring 50 years of existence at Portland State. I am the chair of the department and I am the lead organizer of the events we are going to put on. The president of the university provided 5,000 dollars to the Black Studies Department to support the 50th Anniversary. PSU is a large public university with over 27,000 students. The money allocated would easily be used up in expenses for food, flying a speaker out, paying for their room board, providing an honorarium and paying for the venue. I see this as more than a slap in the face.

PSU regularly uses the Black Studies Department and the Chicano/Latino Studies and Indigenous Studies programs to tout itself as addressing diversity. If you look at the university’s main website Black and other people of color are usually central. However, the Black Studies Department is the smallest department on campus and the other two do not even have departmental status. The last time I looked we are on Indige-

nous land and the Latinx population is the largest non-white population on campus. Portland State likes to claim it is the most racially and culturally diverse university in Oregon, but it does little to substantively address the needs of Black students and faculty. Black students have the lowest graduation rate on campus (their grades are on par with other groups. They mostly leave due to stress and financial reasons), but there is not one university wide initiative to address this. The one initiative they do have focusing on Black people is providing opportunities for mostly white students to come into prisons to teach writing classes to Black and brown inmates. Why don’t they invest in Black students so they don’t have to go to prison in the first place?

Last year, two of the faculty that left PSU came from the Black Studies Department. The administration of the university has refused to offer to hire new faculty so that Black Studies can replace these positions. The administration’s answer to my request for replacements is ‘budget deficit’. Black Studies has lost half of its tenure line professors, while other departments that are much larger have been able to replace theirs. So, in celebration of Black Study’s 50th year in existence, we also get to watch its death. Without the faculty to run the department, Black Studies will not be able to fulfill its course rotation, student advising and research responsibilities. It will disappear. An external review conducted by Portland State two years ago on the Black Studies Department found that faculty in the department are “exhausted” and “overextended” and without new faculty, the department is unsustainable.


Like my friend who was made to disappear from his position, and the death of the South African professor who was here before me, and the many others that are sick, including me (I suffer from depression because of this job), Black Studies under the stress of denied white supremacy is on death row.

*Ethan Johnson is Associate Professor and Chair of the Black Studies Department at Portland State University.*


# 1480 KBMS

## Take Us To Work, Home Or Play

Listen Live At [Portlandmedium.com](http://Portlandmedium.com)  
(Click On KBMS icon)




**Rev. Al Sharpton**  
10am - 1pm




**D. L. Hughley**  
3pm - 7pm

MONDAY - FRIDAY	SUNDAY
12 Midnight - 3 A.M. MIKE SHANNON	12 Midnight - 3 A.M. MIKE SHANNON
3 A.M. - 7 A.M. TOM JOYNER	3 A.M. - 6 A.M. TOYA BEASLEY
7 A.M. - 10 A.M. TONI TERRELL	6 A.M. - 12 NOON SUNDAY MORNING GOSPEL WANGELA
10 A.M. - 1 P.M. REV. AL SHARPTON (KEEPING IT REAL)	12 NOON - 1 P.M. HIGHLAND C.C. LIVE BROADCAST
1 P.M. - 3 P.M. KENNY SMOOV	1 P.M. - 4 P.M. PAPA SMURF
3 P.M. - 7 P.M. D.L. HUGHLEY	4 P.M. - 12 Midnight DOUGLAS WILLIAMS
7 P.M. - 9 P.M. PAPA SMURF	
9 P.M. - 12 Midnight MIKE SHANNON	



**Tom Joyner**  
3am - 7am



KBMS Radio  
1480 \* AM  
Portland's best music station