

# Historical memory and place

*Words and photography  
by Kyle Weismann-Yee*

Does place retain trauma?  
Can it heal?

When I was a student at Grant High School, Kendra James and James Jahar Perez were killed after being stopped by Portland police. Their deaths were formative to my racial justice consciousness that had been initiated by growing up in Northeast Portland. It was during this time that I realized their deaths were a part of something larger. Something that was beyond the individual officers involved in the incidents, the Portland Police Bureau or the city. Rather, something deeper was at work. Something that impacted people's outcomes in life. It could be the difference between life and death. It was historical and systemic.

The deaths of Michael Brown and Eric Garner prompted me to examine locations in Portland where race and police force intersect. Many people remember the names and places. Many more likely don't. These photos are the locations where some of the better known cases of when fatal police force was used on African Americans in Portland. The photos were made for reflection on historical memory, shared trauma and place. Who sees the scars? Who doesn't? What is lost if the scars are not seen?

*Kyle Weismann-Yee is a lifelong Portland resident, photographer and program coordinator for Oregon Humanities.*



PHOTO BY KYLE WEISMANN-YEE

Aaron Campbell  
12800 block of Northeast Sandy Boulevard.  
Jan. 29, 2010

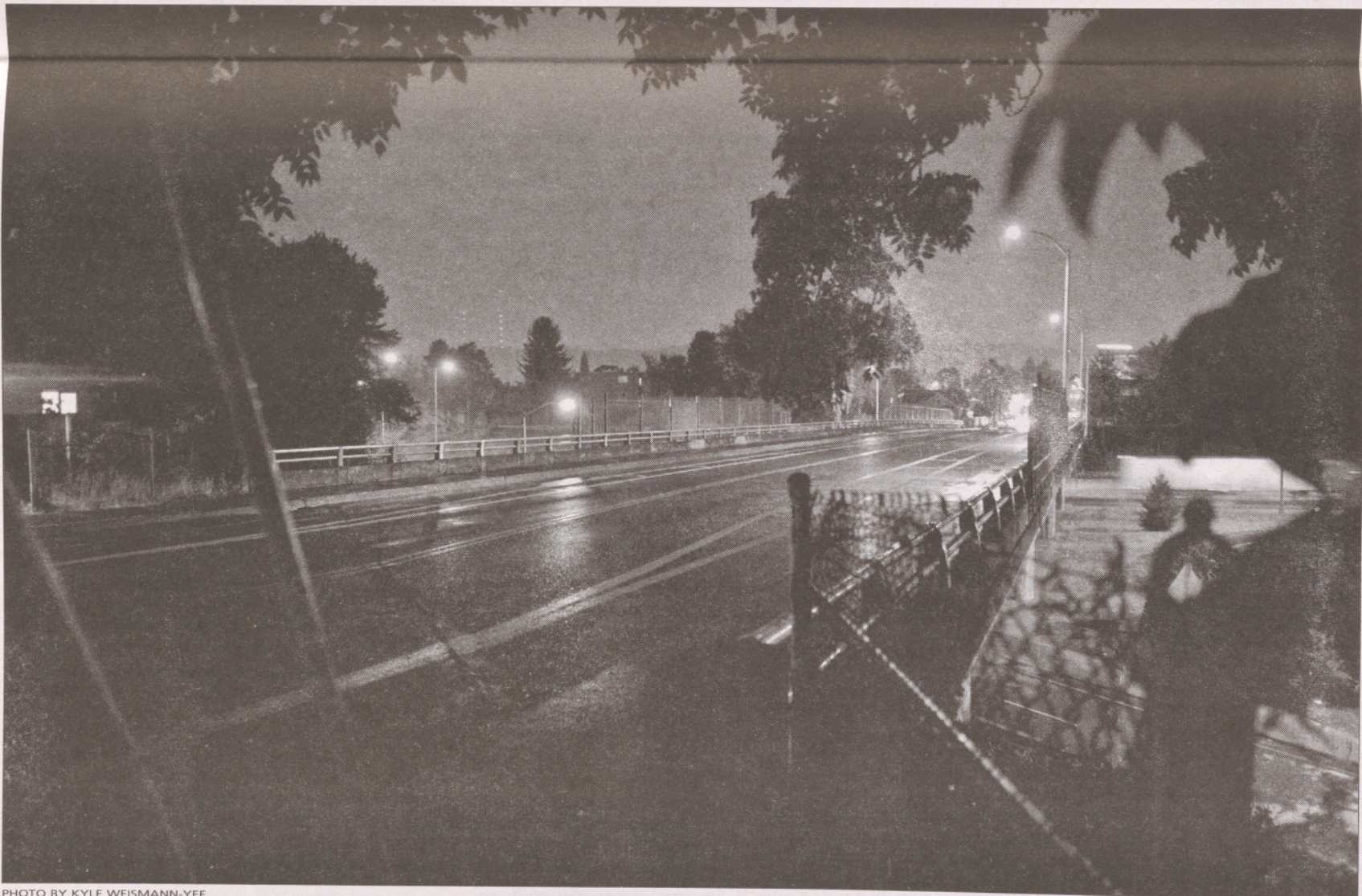


PHOTO BY KYLE WEISMANN-YEE

Kendra James  
North Skidmore I-5 overpass  
May 5, 2003