



Lamar "Dewayne" Gibson adjusts the shelves one last time at Emmanuel Temple's Renaissance Market. Gibson said employment at the market helped him turn his life around.

PHOTO BY DAVID PLECHL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Renaissance Market to Close

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acquire commercial lots on North Albina, Killingsworth and Jessup; and several homes on North Kerby, Killingsworth Court, Albina and Mississippi.

The process has raised questions about the sensitivity of campus policies and the school's practice of acquiring properties for campus expansion.

Bishop Samuel Irving, senior pastor of the Christian Life Christian Center, an African American church adjacent to the college on North Albina, said the school treated his congregation unfairly. Irving eventually sold the property to PCC and is now in the process of moving.

He said the church "was forced to accept less than we wanted."

Executive Dean of the Cascade Campus, Dr. Mildred Ollee, says the school has been

sensitive to the concerns of the community.

She cites four forums at the college where neighbors were invited to come and voice their concerns and take an active part in the design of the campus. She claims community

Grocers to Unified Grocers.

"We were hurting a little and starting to turn things around, then we ran into the college," Wells said

He explained that the store would have needed a cash infusion from Albina Bank to stay

Many of the employees that make up the Renaissance Market come from troubled backgrounds.

Store Manger Rich Murchinson spoke of the Renaissance' long-term vision as a training hub for the disadvantaged.

"Most employers," Murchinson said, "don't want to give someone a second chance. Here, I've seen lives turned completely around."

One such life is that of Lamar "Dewayne" Gibson.

Gibson came to the store almost four years ago. He couldn't keep a job and was involved with gangs and drugs. He describes the Renaissance as "a relief from that lifestyle."

Murchinson now calls Gibson his "right hand man."

"That's what I'm most proud of," Murchinson said. "Nobody else took the time to talk."

"We were hurting a little and starting to turn things around, then we ran into the college"

—Bishop A.A. Wells, Emmanuel Temple Church.

views have influenced policy.

"We try to be good neighbors," Ollee said. "We see ourselves as part of the community."

Wells admits that his market has struggled economically. He blames recent losses on switching from a problematic Associated

on its feet and, "would have stayed open," but in light of lagging discussions with the college, that money proved untimely and difficult to secure.

When the market opened its doors in 1996, Wells says he was unaware of any desire of PCC to acquire the property.

Black Author Leads Discussion on N-Word

A black educator and author, Randall Kennedy will be discussing the provocative subject of his latest book entitled "nigger: The Strange Career of a Troublesome Word," on Friday, May 17 at 5 p.m. in Hoffman Hall at Portland State University.

In his book, Kennedy, a professor at Harvard Law School, discusses the several complexities associated with the "N-word."

He chronicles the term by citing how its use and intent has evolved within American society, which has ultimately led to a passionate debate over who has the right to use the term, if anyone. This

question challenges one of the most fundamental American rights — freedom of speech. Nonetheless, African Americans across the country seem to be unified about the idea of exclusively owning the rights to use the word.

From the courtrooms of the legal justice system to the lyrics of hip-hop songs, the "N-word" has an undeniable influence on the lives of many Americans, and rightly so. Nigger is the definitive term of the oppression African-Americans have been subjected to ever since the torturous boat rides of the middle passage. The energy exuded from the term fiercely articulates the relation between white privilege and the attempt to rape a people of its culture and identity. But we seem to have become de-sensitized from the fatalistic intent of which the word was born.

Modern society, particularly young and middle-age African-Americans, have embraced the "N-word" within their intimate circle of companions. We justify using the term by making it a word that binds, rather than a word that breaks. There is merit in this stance

because we understand the boundaries of the term. The unofficial rule maintains that it is acceptable for no other than African-Americans to comfortably use the term. This can be described as a mechanism for empowerment. Taking a term that was used to devalue what you represent, then neutralizing its negative meaning to symbolize support and camaraderie created freedom, in a sense.

So who is right in this debate? Randall Kennedy suggests that

the "N-word" is usable by anyone. He believes is a word, just like all others, in the English language. According to him, if we are to

examine and analyze the root of race relations, we cannot ignore the most blatant reminder of the volatile climate in which the word has its origin. Kennedy explains this concept through an example using the Holocaust. As he states, how can one explore and ultimately learn from this horrific event without coming face to face with the most graphic and unsettling images that characterized that period. Here we are, in the 21st century, and the "N-word" still possesses the power to aggravate some peoples' comfort level.

This is one word that has the potential to ignite fury great enough to cause racial divide needs to be discussed and analyzed. Young people should communicate with the elders so that understanding can take place. Black people and white people need to engage in dialogue so that tolerance and acceptance will emerge. The conversation dealing with the "N-word" is critical to race relations and intra-race relations because its historical context limits the opportunity for us to grow as a community.



PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

The Black Cultural Affairs Board invites you to join us



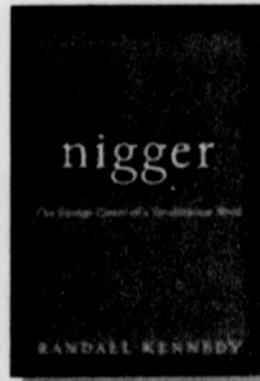
Also: Author of "Race, Crime and the Law" Robert F. Kennedy Book Award

Randall Kennedy Professor, Harvard Law School

Author of "nigger: The Strange Career of a Troublesome Word"

Friday, May 17th
Talk begins at 5:00 PM

Portland State University, Hoffman Hall
(On campus, near Community Rec. Field)



Talking about the "N-word"!

- ♦ Who is allowed to use the term, if anyone?
- ♦ How does the "N-word" influence the legal justice system?
- ♦ Does the word have the same meaning today as it did during racial segregation?

The BCAB thank; the following co-sponsors:
Reflection; Bookstore, Speaker; Board, Office of Student Affairs,
Center for Excellence in Writing, and Diversity Action Council

For more information call
503.725.5660

Ceasefire Oregon Collects Guns

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The site had collected 41 guns by noon. All the guns will have serial numbers checked to see if they were stolen or somehow involved in a crime. If the gun turns up a red flag, it is set aside as evidence and cataloged by Portland Police. Otherwise, all guns are destroyed.

One young man who saw

the collection as he drove by, came back later to turn in a rifle and a shotgun. He and his wife just had a baby and he didn't want the guns in the house anymore.

"I've been wanting to do it for a while," he said.

According to Ceasefire, one in four American homes contain at least one handgun, and handguns kill 10 children every day.

School, Neighborhood Launch Annual Multi-Cultural Fair

The first annual Portland Multi-Cultural Festival, Thursday, May 16 through Saturday, May 18, will celebrate Boise-Eliot Elementary School and historic North Mississippi Avenue with live music, multi-cultural food and children's activities.

The school is celebrating its 75th anniversary and more than 20 years as a strong multi-cultural magnet school.

Thursday activities at the school located at 630 N. Fremont include a morning storybook parade. Multi-cultural kid-friendly activities are scheduled after school, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m..

Friday night events will inaugurate the newly opened Mississippi Rising Ballroom at Mississippi and Shaver with a community talent show and outdoor movie starting at 7 p.m.

On Saturday, Mississippi Avenue features a main stage with entertainment scheduled for 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., to include India rock, gospel jazz,

world folk, zydeco, Native-American flute, and gospel hip hop. A Grandfathers Rib-Off Challenge will offer delicious barbecue from a host of Portland vendors competing for tastiest ribs as selected by a blind jury.

Other activities Saturday include an indoor children's theater by the Higher Stages Arts Academy, skateboard demos by the Department of Skateboard, a bug zoo exhibit by the Oregon Zoo, and a trike race for anyone who can sit on a tricycle race, sponsored by the Early Head Start Family Center.

In addition, there will be local crafts and a community garage sale offering unique and inexpensive treasures. Businesses along the newly revitalized Mississippi Avenue will show off the restaurants, florists and retail shops recently remodeled in this north Portland neighborhood.

For more information, contact Missy Schachner at 503-916-6171