



Sisters In Action Speak Truths to Reclaim Streets

Ashley Jones (from left), Cassie Holloway, Brleanna Loundy and Saharla Muhamed of Sisters in Action attend an afternoon of live music, dance, raps, poems and skits designed to dispel the myths about Christopher Columbus and expose the truth behind what the group considers to be the myth of revitalization in north and northeast Portland. Last Saturday's event drew over 150 students and community members who packed the parking lot at Stellar Coffee on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Mortgage Lending Bias Documented

Racial disparity in home loans grows more alarming

The Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN) documents increased racial and income disparities in the mortgage lending market.

The report analyzes data on a national scale and in 68 metropolitan areas, including Portland. Nationally, the study finds that, in 2001, African Americans were over twice as likely to be turned down for a conventional mortgage as white applicants, and Latinos were rejected over one-and-a-half times more often than whites.

This disparity is greater than it was in 2000 and an even bigger increase from what it was in 1996.

Residents of all races in low-income neighborhoods are over three times more likely to be denied than residents of upper-income neighborhoods when ap-

plying for a conventional home purchase mortgage, an increased disparity from 2000.

Even upper-income African Americans and upper-income

This disparity is greater than it was in 2000 and an even bigger increase from what it was in 1996.

Latinos in Portland are more likely to be denied than moderate-income whites.

In the Portland metropolitan area, African Americans were 2.38 times as likely to be turned

down as white applicants, and Latinos were rejected 2.19 times more often than whites.

These disparities are nearly 30 percent greater than they were in 2000 and in 1996.

Residents of all races in low-income Portland neighborhoods were 1.45 times more likely to be denied than residents of upper-income neighborhoods.

Low and moderate-income neighborhoods comprise 22.6 percent of the Portland metropolitan area but received just 11 percent of the conventional purchase loans in 2001.

Nationally, the number of conventional loans to African Americans actually fell from a year earlier, while the number of originations to white borrowers remained close to steady. Home loans to Latino borrowers increased substantially.

Forum on Health Care Measure

Anyone who has questions about Measure 23, Health Care for All Oregon, can find those answers at a public forum on Thursday, Oct. 17 at 6:30 p.m. at the North Portland Library

located at 512 N. Killingsworth. Attendees to the town meeting and panel discussion can get information on Measure 23 by the measure's chief peti-

tioner, Dr. John Partridge, and Dr. Douglas Bigelow, a professor at OHSU.

For more info call Pat at 503-289-2097 or Max at 503-252-8248.

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Safe Communities:

Ted is tough on crime and his record proves it. But unlike his opponent, Ted opposes racial profiling and will work to end the overrepresentation of minority youth in our criminal justice system. He wants to invest in schools, not prisons for our young people.

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