

# Lott's Cousin Tied to Racism

Man was with group that hung an effigy of Kay Toran

U.S. Senator Trent Lott, R-Miss., who resigned last Thursday from his position as Senate Majority Leader, isn't the only member of his family to have his actions scrutinized for possible racist motivations.

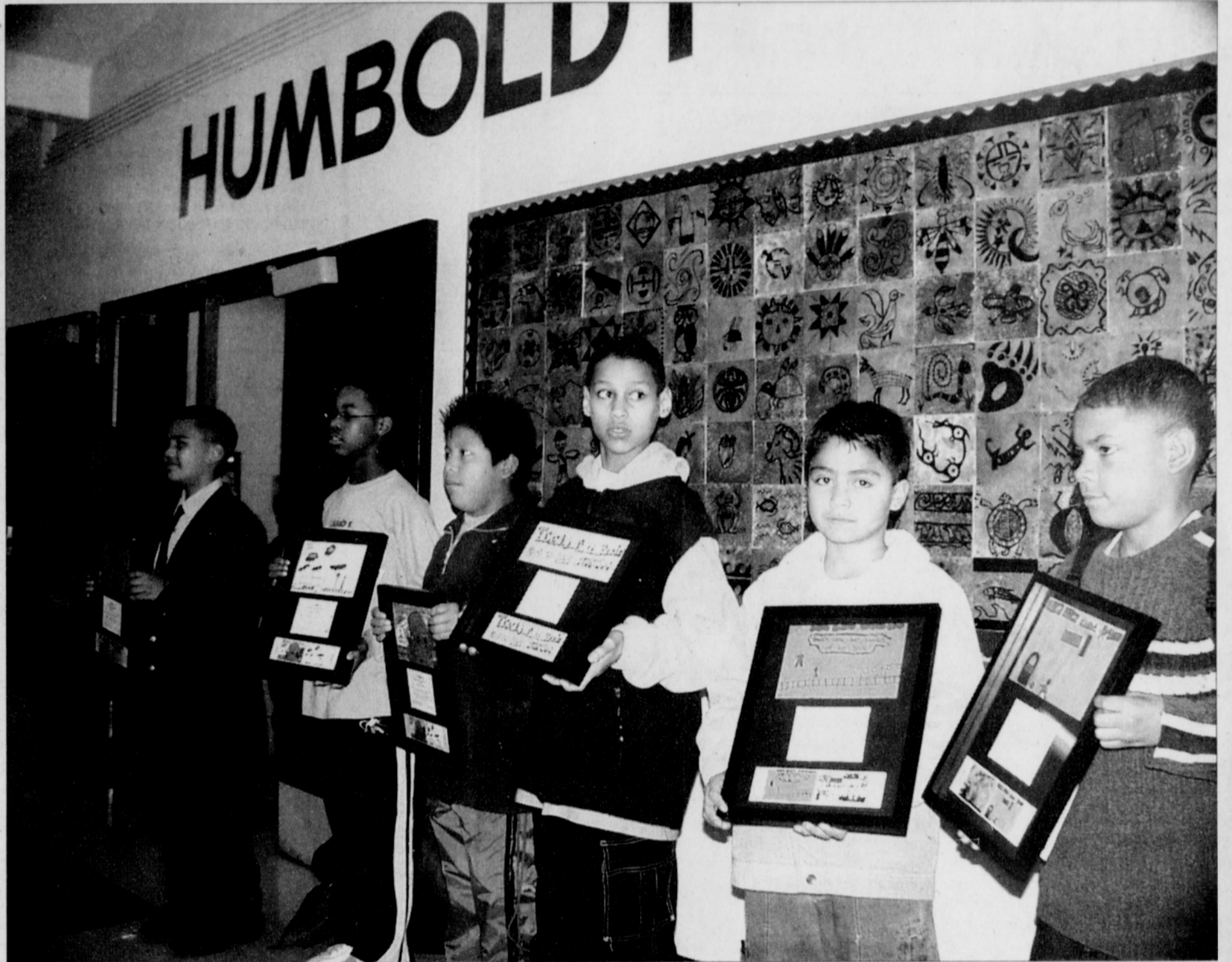
Lott's Oregon cousin Jesse Lott was part of a group of protesters who gathered at the Oregon State Capitol in Salem and hung an effigy of Kay Toran, a prominent African American from Portland.

The 1997 incident was part of an rally in support of a family whose daughter had been taken away by the state's Office for Services to Children and Families. Toran was the top executive of the agency at the time.

Three state legislators - Margaret Carter, George Eighmey, and Ron Adams ran out of the capitol and pulled the figure to the ground. Effigies of their own likenesses were hung a week later.

Jesse Lott, 57, a Clackamas County Republican, maintains that the mock hanging had nothing to do with race.

"Toran just happened to be black," he said at the time. Lott also noted that the man who actually hung the effigy, Lawrence Carver, is African American.



## Humboldt Kids Honored for Safety Effort

Students from Humboldt Elementary, 4915 N. Gantenbein, hold the awards they received from TriMet for helping the transit agency develop a campaign for pedestrian and traffic safety around Max light rail lines, including the new Interstate Max scheduled to open in 2004. The students created original drawings for the project that will be made into bookmarks and distributed this summer at local libraries.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

## Gala Presents College Queens

The Bridge Builders is hosting a group of campus queens from historically Black colleges during its sixth Kwanzaa Gala and Gentlemen's Ball on Saturday, Dec. 28.

The guests will honor a local group of young men who recently graduated from four-year colleges with songs of praise.

The young women are Darcie Chism of Fisk University, Margaret Gunn of Tuskegee University; Tanya Luckett of Lincoln University and Brooke Myatt of North Carolina A & T State University.

This marks the second year that the organization has hosted college campus queens. Last year's representatives were from Stillman College, Howard University, Fisk University, Tuskegee University and Lincoln University.

The Bridge Builder's mission is to strengthen the African American community by administering rites of passage programs that promotes spirituality, scholarship, entrepreneurship and community building.

Saturday's gala and gentlemen's ball will be held at the Portland Center for the Performing Arts Newmark Theatre. Tickets are available at all Ticket Master locations and the PCPA box office. Proceeds benefit the Bridge Builder's scholarship program.



Brooke Myatt, Miss North Carolina A & T State

## North Portland Family Found Murdered

(AP) — Dozens of police and volunteers searched on foot and by air Monday for a North Portland man whose wife and three young children were found dead in the Tillamook State Forest.

The bodies were found Saturday, the same day Renee Morris, 31, and her children, Bryant, 10, Alexis, 8, and Jonathan, 4, were reported missing from their St. Johns residence by relatives.

Police were looking for Edward Morris, 37, and the family's gray 1993 Dodge Caravan. Neighbors of the victims said the husband was a landscaper who had recently begun a job at a Target store.

Dozens of police, FBI agents and volunteers searched a 5-square-mile area while Coast Guard helicopters searched from the air for the missing van and other clues.

A tip line was established to help find Morris.

"We are very, very happy right now that the tip line that was established last evening is successful. We're receiving a lot of good background information," Tillamook County Sheriff Todd Anderson said Monday.

"We do not know if Mr. Morris is a victim," said Anderson, who described Edward Morris as a person of interest. "We're expanding the grid search to see if there are more victims."

The family lived in a single-story white home in north Portland, strung with Christmas lights for the

season. Neighbors said they were very religious, and that the well-behaved Morris children were home-schooled.

The case was being investigated as a homicide, though the causes of death had not been determined and authorities had not ruled out a murder-suicide,

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