

# FBI Considers Hate Crime in Shooting Spree

continued ▲ from Front

"The car we can replace, but if that was one of my loved ones, how could I replace that?" he said.

The NAACP joined Debnam in a press conference last week in front of his home where they pleaded with the neighborhood and city to come together and deal with the tragedy as a community. The group asked Mayor Vera Katz and Gov. Ted Kulongoski to speak up and let the state know that racially motivated crimes will not be tolerated.

Two days later, the FBI said it had joined local police to determine whether or not a firearm was used in a commission of a federal hate crime.

Those arrested were identified as Andrew T. Sherwood, 15, of Portland; Denis P. Fahey, 18, of Redmond; Joshua D. Ridley, 19, of Milwaukie; and Brian S. Heath, 21, of Gresham.

The four currently face charges of intimidation, criminal mischief and unlawful use of a firearm under Oregon law. The FBI said if the accused are convicted of a federal hate crime, each defendant could face a mandatory sentence of 10 years in prison.

Detective Brian Gross with the Portland Police Bureau said the four



PHOTOS BY WYNDE DYER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
Robert Larry, Chad Debnam and a group of NAACP members give a press conference on Jan. 21 to call for action in a suspected racially motivated shooting spree where four young white men were accused of driving through northeast Portland shooting at cars, houses and at least one person.



Chad Debnam shows the damage done to his car during a Jan. 19 shooting spree that may have been motivated by hate. "The car we can replace, but if that was one of my loved ones, how could I replace that?" said Debnam, whose brother died three decades ago in a racially motivated shooting.

were childhood friends who now live in different cities. He said the shooting spree began with some target practice in an empty lot. Gross said drugs and alcohol were involved. He also said the boys told him they specifically targeted African Americans.

During a Multnomah County grand jury hearing Monday, police testified that Heath told them he shot up several cars because he was "drunk and upset" after being harassed by an unidentified black man on a bus in Portland.

Heath said he bought the pistol-

grip shotgun from Ridley before the shootings. According to court documents, he said he shot out several car windows at random as he stood through the open T-top roof of Ridley's 1991 black Chevrolet Camaro, and pointed the shotgun at an unknown black man

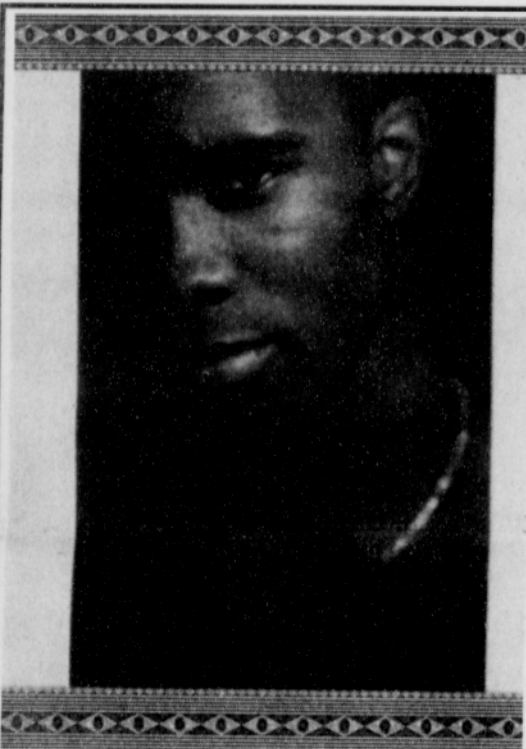
to "scare him."

Sherwood told investigators that Ridley suggested driving to northeast Portland to "shoot up" black people but when Sherwood protested that he didn't want to hurt anyone, Ridley instead suggested they shoot up a neighborhood

where blacks live.

According to court documents, after police responded to reports of shotgun blasts, Heath threatened to shoot Ridley if he didn't try to outrun officers.

The Associated Press contributed to this article.



### Free HIV Testing in NE Portland

Tuesday and Thursday Evenings  
5:00-8:00 p.m.  
(last check in at 7:30 p.m.)  
NE Health Center  
MLK Jr. Blvd. And NE Killingsworth  
(Enter in rear door near Emerson, go to 2<sup>nd</sup> floor)

Se habla español los Martes  
For more information on HIV and testing  
Call the Oregon AIDS Hotline 1-800-777-AIDS

Multnomah County Health Department

## HIV Testing Urged



PHOTO BY DAVID PLECHL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
Stephen Herrera, a community health specialist for Multnomah County, prepares a sample for a HIV test at the county's health clinic on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

Hours extended  
to reach more  
African  
Americans

BY DAVID PLECHL  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
The Multnomah County Health Department is serious about AIDS. The department's outreach program at 5329 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. has extended testing hours to help identify African Americans living with AIDS and help keep those free of the virus safe from infection.

"We're trying to identify people living with HIV that may not know it," said Ronnie Meyers, co manager of the county's HIV Community Prevention Program.

Clients who wish to be tested can come in on both Tuesdays and Thursdays between 5 and 8 p.m. Spanish speaker workers are available Tuesday evenings.

People who wish to remain anonymous can test with number verification. All other tests are strictly confidential. Tests can be taken orally or with a blood draw.

Though the increased testing hours are intended to promote testing in the African American community, everyone is encouraged to be tested.

"When people are tested it gives them the opportunity to think about what it would be like to live with HIV," Smith said.

The county health office will also be open for HIV testing on National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day on Friday, Feb. 7th from 3 to 6p.m. A march will follow a short meeting at 3:30 p.m. at the Urban League Multicultural Senior Center.



### Come Celebrate your Community!

#### Community Mural Dedication

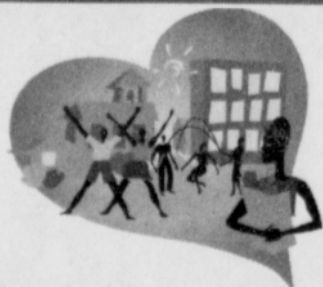
Who: The African American Health Coalition, Inc. and the Alberta Cooperative Grocery

What: A vibrant health-promoting mural will be dedicated to the N/NE community in honor of Black History Month

When: Saturday, February 1st at 10:00 a.m.

Where: Alberta Cooperative Grocery on N.E. Alberta and 15th Street

## Please come join us!



# REACH

Racial & Ethnic Approaches to Community Health  
A program of the AFRICAN AMERICAN HEALTH COALITION, INC.  
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For more information contact:  
African American Health Coalition, Inc.  
2800 N. Vancouver Street, Suite 100  
Portland, OR 97227 (503) 413-1850

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Sylvania Campus CRN 15208  
Mon. 6:00 - 8:50 pm  
2/10 to 3/20 Room SS109  
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