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# Black History Month

'Love in Our Times' African American photographic art. See page B8

# The Portland Observer

'City of Roses'

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## Week in The Review

### Toothbrush love

Americans consider the toothbrush the most important invention ever, according to a recent survey that places the motorcar in second place, followed by the personal computer, the microwave oven and the mobile phone. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology poll shows that 42 percent of adults and 34 percent of teenagers consider the toothbrush, which dates from the 15th century, the most important invention.

### No love for 'Jihad' Valentine Day card

Target Corp. pulled boxes of "I Spy" Valentine's Day cards from its shelves after one contained the word "Jihad" and a parent in Pittsburgh, Penn., interpreted the message, referring to an Islamic holy war, as a veiled terrorist threat. Among several other items, the card contained the word "Jihad" and the message, "It's Time to Be Mine." The FBI said it was looking into the origin of the card.

### Overnight train

A drunken man sleeping between railway tracks in southern Japan suffered only minor cuts when he was run over by an express train that did not even wake him. Railway officials say the 73-year-old fell asleep on the track, his body fitting between the lines, as the five-carriage express train approached. The conductor tried to stop but the train ran over the man and continued for some ways before stopping.

### Sleepy suspect

A burglary was bungled when the suspect was caught sleeping on the job in Fort Worth, Texas. A man was arrested Saturday morning when he was found taking a nap after breaking into a store owned by the wife of the county district attorney, police said. After the shop owner found a black pistol on the bathroom counter, she heard snoring coming from a display bed. The man was irritated after being awakened by police, saying, "Hey, I was asleep!"

### Tequila river

More than 1,000 gallons of tequila spilled into the sewer system in Louisville, Ky., Monday after a worker tried to unload it from a truck into an already full storage tank at a distillery, officials said. The tequila overflowed at a rate of 100 gallons per minute, resulting in 1,500 to 1,800 gallons entering the city sewer system, said Phil Lynch, a spokesman for the Brown-Forman Distillery.

### Man wants Jesus to represent him in court

A southwest Missouri man can have Jesus Christ as his attorney, but only one licensed to practice Missouri law will be allowed to speak for him during trial on charges he tampered with a judge. Defendant Richard John Adams, who described himself as a patriot and a Christian, told the Ozark County judge presiding over his case that under that ruling, he was "being restricted to the

## Pay Back Time

Reparations movement enlists veteran of political battles

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The impassioned supporters and opponents of the modern reparations movement agree on at least one thing - they're fighting about a very hot topic.

Portlander Billie Jean McCray has been on the front lines of controversial politics for some 40 years, as an activist marching for civil rights in the 60s, the women's movement in the 70s and now she's back in the trenches fighting for

reparations.

She founded many non-profit organizations in Portland, including Friends of Sisters on the Street, a group benefiting the children of prostitutes, and Black Friday, a group to the death penalty.

On a sweltering day last August, McCray marched in Washington, D.C. to get attention for the burgeoning reparations movement, with Congressman John Conyers of Michigan at the forefront. Conyers' reparations bill has gained publicity and provoked nationwide debate since the march last summer.

"I want it acknowledged that yes, we deserve to be paid for our ancestors enslavement. Yes, it is due," McCray said. "I might not

live to see it, but I want it to come to pass and not get pushed under a rug."

Reparations, the idea that descendants of slaves are entitled to payment for the work of their ancestors, has been around in some form or another since slavery was abolished. An early promise to freed slaves was 40 acres and a mule, and while property is still a desirable commodity, the options for back-payment are endless. Some believe that the government should be responsible for paying individuals for the work of their ancestors. Others think that money should be routed toward scholarships and other public institu-

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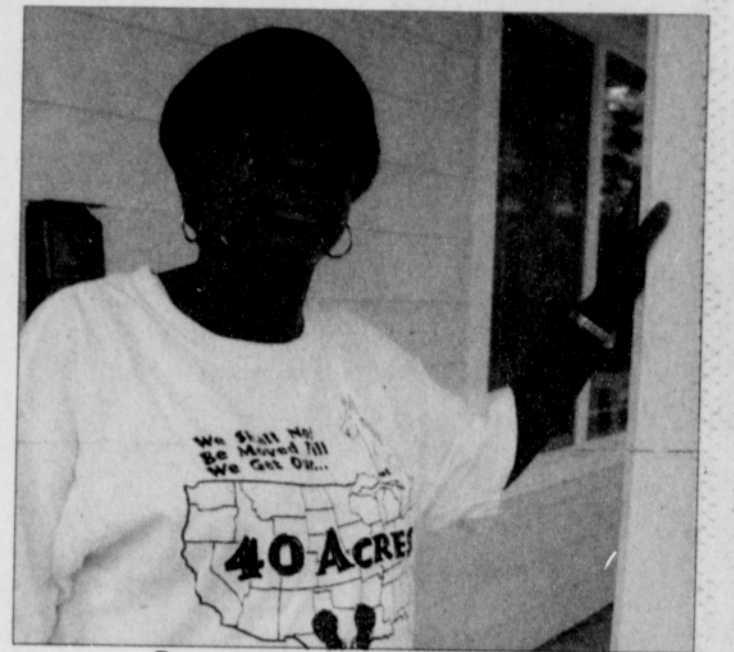


PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Reparations advocate Billie Jean McCray of northeast Portland has been on the front lines of controversial politics for some 40 years.



PHOTO BY WYNDE DYER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Helen Sherman, second vice president of the NAACP Portland chapter, protests against hate and violence during a Saturday morning march and rally against hate inspired by a recent racially motivated shooting spree that damaged five cars in a predominately black northeast Portland neighborhood. About 300 people attended the march, which traced the route of the shooters.

"I think the turnout sends a clear message that we are not going to tolerate this any more. This country was built on racism. We need to be real about what's going on and put an end to it."

—NAACP President Robert Larry

## Movement Against Hate Gains Momentum in NE

Saturday's rally and march along the path of shooters was well attended

BY WYNDE DYER  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Bright skies and brightly colored signs reading 'No Hate - Not in Our Town' greeted roughly 300 people who came out for Saturday's rally and march against hate in northeast Portland.

The peaceful event, which started at 11 a.m. in the northeast Portland Police Precinct and marched along eight blocks of the Humboldt and Piedmont neighborhoods, was inspired by a racially motivated shooting spree in which five cars were damaged by shotgun fire.

"I think the turnout sends a clear message that we are not going to tolerate this any more," said NAACP President Robert Larry. "This country was built on racism. We need to be real about what's going on and put an end to it."

The march was attended by representatives of several churches, social justice organizations and members of the communities affected by the shooting spree, for which three men and one teenager face multiple counts, including intimidation charges.

Around noon, the boisterous group set off down Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard led by an impromptu percussion ensemble and followers who chanted, "Enough is enough," and "No hate in this town." Cheerleaders with pom-poms encouraged the group to sing along as marchers made their way west on Alberta, north on Mallory, west on Emerson and south on Cleveland to Alberta, tracing some of the route the shooters followed.

Families brought along young children and pets and tried to garner honks from passing cars with their heart-shaped signs that read 'Stop Hate.'

Rosalyn Scaife said she came out to the rally as a peaceful form of

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## Activist to speak at Vancouver Campus

Black History event features NAACP

leader and renowned historian

The Vancouver campus of Washington University will bring Seattle NAACP member and noted historian, author and speaker Carl Mack to campus Feb. 18 for a lecture that will focus on several elements of black history.

The 7 p.m. event is scheduled for the Student Services building lecture hall and is free and open to the public.

Mack's lecture will center on aspects of black history that are often overlooked, such as the role of African Americans in the American Revolution.

"For African Americans to feel a sense of belonging in America, we need to know about the significant contributions we have made to the culture and development of the United States," he said.

As an adolescent, Mack learned little about African American culture. As an adult, he learned about his "rich,



Carl Mack

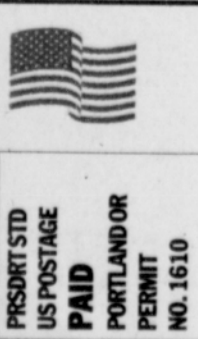
deep and beautiful heritage" and became motivated to educate others. He created "Black Heritage Day," a daily black history calendar that he hopes will educate all of America about "these contributions and present us in a new light to others, but more importantly, to ourselves."

Mack works as an engineer with Metro Transit in King County and coordinates the county's Minority Engineering Internship Program. His work in the community includes educating

children, prison inmates and corporate organizations about black history. Mack also has received numerous awards for his community involvement and humanitarian efforts.

Mack's dynamic speaking style has gained him national media recognition, and his lectures are said to engage audiences of every age, gender, race and ethnicity.

Sponsors for the event include WSU Vancouver Student Services, Associated Students of WSU Vancouver and the WSU Vancouver Diversity Task Force. WSU Vancouver is located at 14204 N.E. Salmon Creek Ave., east of I-5 and I-205, off the 134th St. exit.



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