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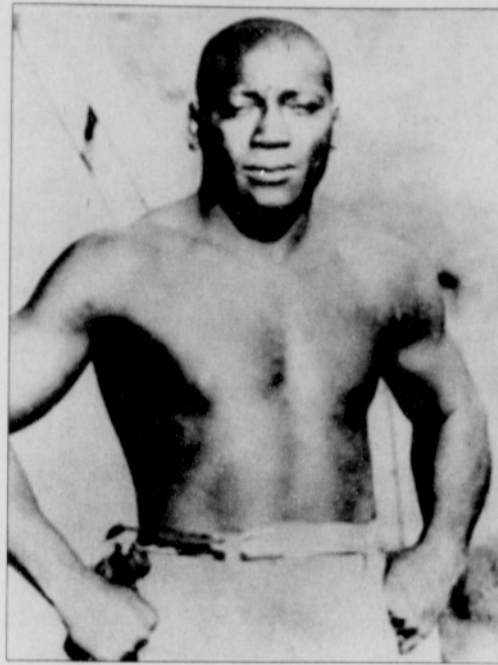
Pardon Sought for Jack Johnson Boxer convicted over relationship in 1913

(AP) - Congress is urging a presidential pardon for Jack Johnson, the first black heavyweight champion who was convicted in 1913 in a case based on his consensual relationship with a white woman.

"No one should be punished for choosing to go their own way," said Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who has led the effort in Congress to pass legislation for a pardon.

Johnson became the champion in 1908 and was convicted under a law that banned the interstate transport of women for immoral purposes.

The boxer was a flamboyant celebrity whose rise led challenger Jim Jeffries to come out



Jack Johnson

was derailed by the conviction. He fled the country as a fugitive, agreeing years later to return and serve a 10-month jail sentence.

Last year, the Senate passed a version of the McCain bill, but the House did not vote on it. Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., is now pushing the House version of the bill.

"He was a victim of the times, he was a victim of the racial ethos," King said. The case for pardoning Johnson has gained momentum since a documentary by filmmaker Ken Burns was broadcast on PBS earlier this year.

"Unforgivable Blackness: The Rise and Fall of Jack Johnson,"

examined the prosecution of the case and the sentencing judge's admission that the conviction was meant to "send a message" to black men about relationships with white women.

The trial itself was marked by unusual turns as Johnson flouted social mores in the era of Jim Crow laws.

The government charged him in 1912 with abducting Lucille Cameron, but then lost Cameron as a witness when she married Johnson, the second white woman to do so. By law, a wife cannot be forced to testify against her husband. Instead, prosecutors found a former mistress to testify against him.

Johnson, born in Galveston, Texas, died in 1946 and is buried in Chicago.

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Uphill Battle for Measure 11 Changes

Lawmakers cancel hearings

(AP) — Mandatory prison sentencing laws are the sacred cow of Oregon politics — just ask some lawmakers, who have so far canceled two public hearings on the topic this session.

The laws are popular with voters, getting 66 percent support in a 1995 ballot measure, known as Measure 11. Five years later, 73 percent of Oregonians defeated a repeal attempt.

But critics argue that the state could save money by shaving some

time off the mandatory sentences, an argument that might appeal to lawmakers coping with a tight budget.

"Our corrections budget is totally out of control," said Geoff Sugerman with the Western Prison Project. "All we're doing is building more prisons. We're not locking up more people. We're just locking them up a lot longer."

A bill in the Senate would allow non-Measure 11 inmates to earn more time off their sentences, which would slow the rate of prison growth.

Another bill would allow Measure 11 inmates to earn up to 20

percent off their sentences, just like other inmates.

And a third would give juvenile offenders a shot at release after serving half their Measure 11 sentences if a judge determines that they have reformed.

But Sen. Ginny Burdick, D-Portland, who chairs the Senate Judiciary Committee, said any changes may be hard sells.

"In a political context, no one wants to look soft on crime," she said. "Public safety is the No. 1 concern."

Supporters of Measure 11 say it costs the state just \$27 per citizen each year, and metes out severe

punishment to the most dangerous of criminals.

"Measure 11 does cost money," said Howard Rodstein, policy analyst for Crime Victims United. "This is for one of the most important functions, if not the most important function of government — public safety. Measure 11 has saved thousands of Oregonians from violent crime."

Fueling the proposed changes is a 33 percent increase in the governor's recommended budget for the Department of Corrections in 2005-2007. The state plans to build 1,688 new prison beds in the next two years.

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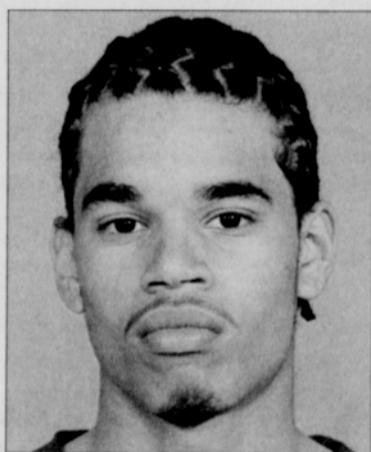
Second Strike Turns Child Into Adult

Portland Police arrested 17-year-old Michael Anthony Canell on charges of a felon in possession of a firearm and unauthorized possession of a short-barreled firearm while leaving the Youth Employment Institute on Broadway on Wednesday, April 6.

Although underage, Canell is now considered an adult offender because of a prior Measure 11 conviction.

Officers recovered the shotgun loaded with five rounds of ammunition at the time of his arrest. Oddly enough, officers were at the school at the time, attending a meeting on teen violence.

A subsequent investigation revealed that the shotgun may have passed between other individuals and may have been used in at least



Michael Anthony Canell

one prior shooting.

Youth Gang Outreach workers have agreed to an enhanced enforcement program in and around the alternative school in an effort to enhance safety there.



Matthew Hale

(AP) - Avowed white supremacist Matthew Hale was sentenced to 40 years in prison April 6 for trying to have a federal judge from Chicago killed - the same judge whose husband and mother were murdered five weeks ago by a deranged man with no connection to Hale.

Hale, the 33-year-old leader of a group that preaches racial holy war, was sentenced after a rambling, two-hour speech in which he claimed he was the victim and even recited part of "The Star Spangled Banner." He showed

Racist Receives Maximum Sentence

no emotion and sat staring at the defense table as the sentence was handed down.

Prosecutors argued for the maximum sentence, saying Hale's crime amounted to an act of terrorism, and the judge agreed.

"Mr. Hale is not concerned about taking someone's life, but rather how to do it without getting caught," U.S. District Judge James Moody said in imposing the sentence. "I consider Mr. Hale to be extremely dangerous and the offense for which he was convicted to be extremely egregious."

Man Defends Against Road Rage

Authorities say Travis Ayotte and Jared Nelson, both 24, are charged with chasing a black man down Sunset Highway 26.

The men allegedly flashed their headlights, and the passenger

leaned out the window to shout racial slurs at Willard Johnson Jr.

The 54-year-old exited at 185th Avenue and thought he lost the suspects. However, when Johnson reached his house, they ap-

proached him. Johnson stabbed Ayotte in the chest in what he said was self-defense. Police say he will not face charges.

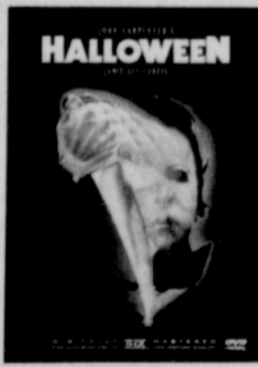
The two attackers face robbery and intimidation charges.

Woman Accused of Murdering Brother

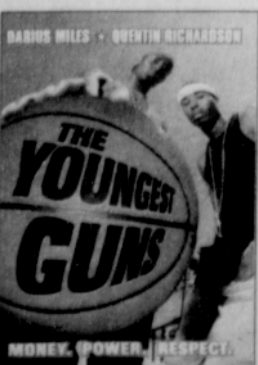
Detectives arrested a 46-year-old woman for the alleged murder of her brother. Police rushed to the north Portland house at around 9:30 a.m. on April 2. There, they found a man bleeding from a gunshot wound. He died at the scene. Gloria Johnson has been booked into the Multnomah County jail on one count of murder.



Gloria Johnson



Halloween



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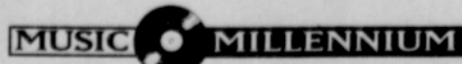
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