

Humiliated Couple Cries Foul

continued ▲ from Metro

From their perspective it was police harassment because of discrimination – against being African American, their status as lottery winners and especially the reputation of the Howard name.

"This is a personal thing with the Howards, we don't have a police officer in Oregon that likes us," said Liz, 47, adding "it's really personal now that we won the lottery."

The city tells a different story, stating in the lawsuit "livability on the cul-de-sac changed drastically after July 13."

The Chronic Public Nuisance Code stated neighbors' complaints of "traffic at all hours, illicit drug sales, drug use, prostitution, fighting on the street, public sex acts, domestic violence, urinating and defecating in public, unsupervised children roaming the streets, vehicles blocking access to driveways, offensive littering, loud music at all hours of the night and intimidating behavior against cul-de-sac residents."

But the Howards say they are

only guilty of one thing – hosting daily gatherings for their very large extended family. The couple says they have at least 14 sisters and brothers each, and each sibling has three to four kids apiece.

"Parties?" Liz asked. "We had family barbecues. If five of them came over to visit, it's going to look like a party."

Regardless of the definition of their gatherings, the noise complaints diminished after police raided the house just before dawn on Nov. 1.

They made no arrests and found no drugs, but police said they found heroin residue and a glass crack pipe.

The couple says they have not seen this evidence, adding that they are recovering addicts and do not allow drugs in their home.

The city says neighbors presented a strong case – that they essentially lived in fear of the couple and their frequent visitors.

Deputy city attorney Roland Iparraguirre said if the Howards sell their home to someone not associated or related to them, they will drop the suit.

If they remain in the home and the lawsuit is successful, the city has the power to close and board up the property for six months to a year. The Howards could then move back in, and possibly be the subject of a second suit if alleged activity continued.

The Howard's cul-de-sac is fairly quiet these days; they say they've minimized family visits, opting to visit their homes instead. Surrounding residents aren't saying much. A woman to the left of the Howards has only lived there about a month, and a family to the right moved in around the first of the year. Neither had a comment about their neighbors.

The Howards have recently put their house on the market – one of several currently for sale in the cul-de-sac. The couple invested around \$20,000 to replace the windows police busted with rubber bullets during the November raid. They have also put in new carpet and installed French doors after police ruined the slide patio doors. The small front yard was recently landscaped, after their parked vehicles left deep ruts on the lawn.

While the Howards say the inci-

dent made them victims of police harassment, the city claims they are making a point – that problematic property owners cannot continue to ignore police warnings. Portland has been gaining momentum by enacting the rarely used chronic nuisance code twice in the past few months. They've also filed a complaint against Betty Mae Ceaser, owner of a home at 4910 N. Vancouver Ave., where police have responded to drug activity since 1995.

The civil enforcement is part of an increased aggressive stance in neighborhoods, Iparraguirre said, especially in northeast Portland. He said they anticipate more lawsuits because "the process is working."

"There's already a few coming down the pipe," he added. "It seems like neighbors are pretty happy."

The Howards are asking \$350,000 for the 5,100-square-foot home. Liz says she just wants the city to back off, let them sell their property and move on.

"Hopefully we can buy a few acres so we can have family around," she said.

Bringing Diversity

continued ▲ from Metro

Thomajan said he hopes to within the next few months.

"The process is akin to dating," he said.

With a 20-person board including African American, Asian, Hispanic and Latino members, plus sexual minorities across a broad age range, in which direction can Campfire take its pursuit?

"This has been an exceptional opportunity to have frank discussion of what diversity is," Thomajan said. "It gave us a chance to assess our board's current make-up, and consider where we want to be in terms of diversity one, two and three years from now."



Ella Booth

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This public service announcement provided by the Portland Observer Newspaper.

More Young Women Join Rose Court



Sascha-Eden Preston - Roosevelt High School

Sascha-Eden Preston

Roosevelt High School Rose Festival Princess Sascha Eden Preston was crowned on Thursday, March 15. The 18-year-old is the daughter of Judith DeEtte Preston, and Douglas Owen and stepmother, Mary Kate Preston. Her siblings are Dina DeEtte Siquina-Teninty, Russell-Payton Gilkey, and Ricci-Joan Danielle Preston.

Preston is very much interested in the media side of things as a student of the School of the Arts, Communications and Technology program at Roosevelt. After graduation she plans to major in theatrical arts at Portland Community College before transferring to Biola University in La Mirada, Calif. where she will study film, television and radio.

While at Roosevelt, Preston has participated in advanced placement classes, National Honor Society and Student Leadership, and has been a recruiter for the Roosevelt Blood Drive. Preston is also a recipient of the Honors Academic Award.

Outside of school, she has completed service work as a "weekend warrior" with Bridgetown Ministries. Her hobbies include dancing, acting, singing, ceramics, fine arts and bowling.

Elizabeth Anja Larson

Elizabeth Anja Larson was crowned Rose Festival Princess for Lincoln High School on Tuesday, March 13.

She is the daughter of Tom and Margaret Larson and sister to Michael, Claire and Martin. Larson, 17, is a senior at Lincoln, and in the fall plans to attend Oregon State University where she will work towards a double degree in Early Childhood Education and International Studies.

At school she is involved in Outdoor School as a student leader, is a peer mediator and student tour guide, and is a member of Student Assembly among many other student activities. She also served on

the Darfur lecture panel and runs track and field. Outside of school Larson is a Sunday school teacher, partakes in African drumming and studied abroad in Costa Rica last summer.

Her hobbies include babysitting, working with Save Darfur.com, traveling, reading and going to Long Beach, Wash. and Mt. Hood.



Kaia Range - Grant High School

Kaia Range

Grant High School senior Kaia Range was selected as the 2007 Rose Festival Court Princess on Friday, March 16.

Range, 17, is the daughter of Janet Range and Eric Swehla and is sister to Nigel Swehla. Range is very much interested in Japanese culture, and after graduation she plans to attend college and study international relations and affairs. She also wants to continue her Japanese and Spanish studies, which she will use to pursue a career in public relations.

Range plays flute in Grant's Wind Ensemble and is a member of her school's Pep Band, the Environmental Club and the Gay Straight Alliance.

Apart from school, Range volunteers at Tryon Life Community Farm and Friends of Trees, and is a

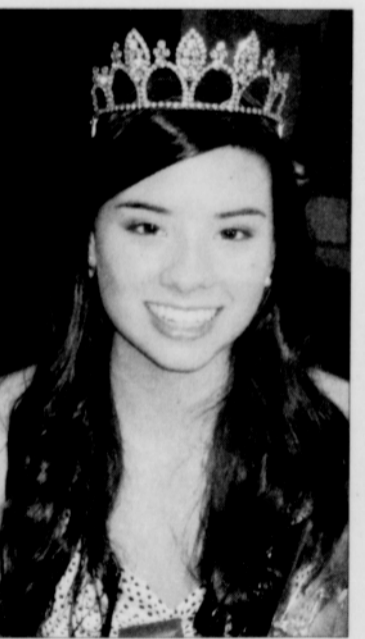
drummer for the Neighborhood Taiko Drum Group. In her spare time, she likes to sing and dance, read, play soccer and create art and she enjoys spending time with her family and friends.

Tiffany Loanzon

Tiffany Loanzon became Cleveland High Schools Rose Festival Princess on Monday, March 19. Loanzon is the daughter of Jesse and Marci Loanzon and the sister of Brandon Loanzon.

The 17-year-old has had the opportunity to visit the Philippines three times in her life, the home country of her father, Jesse. She credits the experiences for giving her an appreciation of different cultures, customers and lifestyles. She plans to attend a four-year state college and major in broadcast journalism. She would also like to have an internship at a music channel or news station.

Her hobbies include listening to music, dancing and driving. Her school activities include being a part of the dance team for four years and having the title of dance captain. She has also been in choir for four years. She is also a delegate for the senior class cabinet and co-president of the Asian Club.



Tiffany Loanzon - Cleveland High School

Tiffany has volunteered at the Starlight Run, made stockings for the homeless that were stuffed with toiletries and gives blood to the Red Cross.



Chelsea Allison Linn - David Douglas High School

Chelsea Allison Linn

Chelsea Allison Linn was named David Douglas High School Rose Festival Princess on Monday, March 12.

Linn is the daughter of Ronald and Dawnelle Linn, and is sister to Ronald Even Linn, Angela Marie Linn, Ethan Matthew Linn and Chance Quentin.

Linn, 18, loves to dance, read, surf, and act and is interested in interior and fashion design. She was accepted to Brigham Young University for the coming fall to study science and dance.

As a senior at David Douglas, Linn is active in many areas, all while maintaining a 4.0GPA. She is captain of the varsity dance team and participates in Science Club and the National Honor Society. Linn recently played the role of Tiger Lily in the school musical Peter Pan.

Outside of school, she is leader of her Young Women's church group, is a Girl's Camp Junior Counselor and Girls' Camp President and is a member of the dance committee.



Elizabeth Anja Larson - Lincoln High School



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