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Week in The Review

Freightliner Plant to Close Daimler Trucks of North America, formerly known as Freightliner, announced Tuesday that it is closing its 39-year-old Portland manufacturing plant in June 2010, eliminating about 1,000 jobs. See story, page A9.

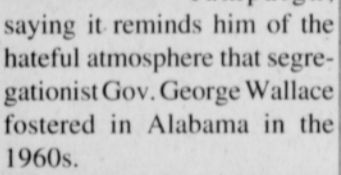
ACORN Defends Voter Drive The activist organization known as ACORN on Tuesday defended its voter registration practices amid new allegations of voter fraud and a call from Republican lawmakers to investigate irregularities. See story, page A9.



Obama Makes Play for Gamers

Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama has made a play for online videogamers, placing campaign advertisements in a series of popular titles from videogame giant Electronic Arts.

Lewis Warns of Hateful Tone Rep. John Lewis, a Georgia Democrat and veteran of the civil rights movement, on Saturday blasted the negative tone of the Republican presidential campaign, saying it reminds him of the hateful atmosphere that segregationist Gov. George Wallace fostered in Alabama in the 1960s.



King Children in Court The children of Coretta Scott King and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. faced off in an Atlanta courtroom Tuesday in a dispute over their mother's personal papers that could derail a lucrative book deal.

Inmate Loses Death Row Appeal The Supreme Court cleared the way Tuesday for a Georgia man to be put to death for killing a police officer, despite calls from his supporters to reconsider the case because seven of nine key witnesses against the African American man have recanted their testimony.

Winds Whip California Fires Ferocious desert winds pushed one of three major wildfires burning across Southern California to nearly double its size overnight, firefighters said Tuesday, the third day of blazes that destroyed dozens of homes and forced thousands to flee.

Gay Couples Rush to Wed Gay couples from around California and the country are feverishly tying the knot ahead of Election Day to avoid missing out if California voters approve a ballot initiative aimed at banning same-sex marriage.

Sentencing Measures Opposed

Church leaders say more prisons not the answer

BY LAURA MEEHAN THE PORTLAND OBSERVER After voters approved Measure 11 in 1994, many people felt the imposition of mandatory minimum prison sentences for violent criminals was discriminatory or ineffective. Now two more measures to increase prison terms for other crimes will appear on the November ballot.

Along with the enormous cost to build prisons, Measures 57 and 61 are bringing some of the same objections over fairness versus the need to bring justice to victims and enhance

public safety. Worried about citizen-proposed Measure 61's affects on the community, the legislature came up with Measure 57, which supposedly only incarcerates repeat offenders, incarcerates fewer women and includes a fund for addiction treatment.

However, Rev. Leroy Haynes, vice president of the Albina Ministerial Alliance,



Rev. LeRoy Haynes

says the group of black church leaders is against both measures. "We are thankful for the Legislature's attempt to offset [Measure 61] in terms of the rehab and everything, but we do not believe that the solution is more prisons, when we are already straddled with high taxes," Haynes said. "We must get to the root cause

of crime, which is economic illiteracy, the lack of education and job opportunities. Instead of putting the money into prisons, we should put it in education and creating job opportunities," he said.

Haynes believes discretion on sentences should be in the hands of the judges, who must be allowed to determine the need for rehabilitation as well as the presence of any mitigating factors.

Since mandatory-sentencing laws such as Measure 11 became more common in the mid-1980s, prison populations have boomed, though crime levels

have not declined with the same intensity.

In the U.S., more than 2.3 million, or one in 100 adults, are in jail, and since 91 percent of those are in local or state prisons, it costs state governments more than \$50 billion annually.

Oregon's prison population increased by 80 percent after the passage of Measure 11, and now Oregon is one of five states that spend as much or more on prisons than it does on higher education.

It is also well-known that our corrections system is racially bi-

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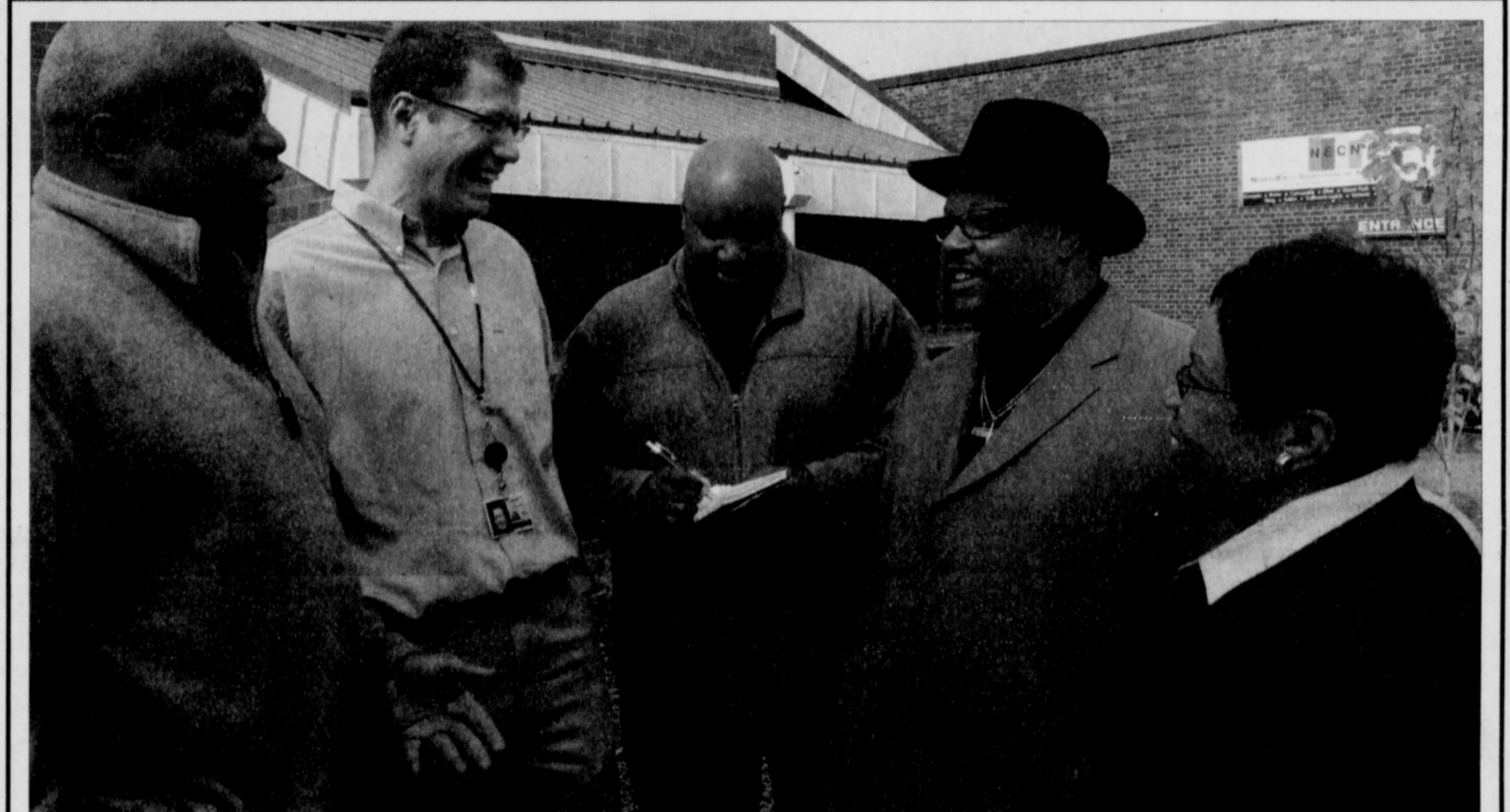


PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Philip Johnson and Cynthia Thomas (right) are the directors of New Decision, the first certified African-American foster care agency in the state. They work with members of the juvenile justice system, including counselors Daryl E. Winchester (from left), Dave Riley and Leslie Taylor to serve at-risk youth.

Couple Makes a Difference Runs foster care agency for youth of color

BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON THE PORTLAND OBSERVER A northeast Portland couple is making a major difference in

the lives of young people as directors of the first certified African-American foster care agency in the state providing culturally-

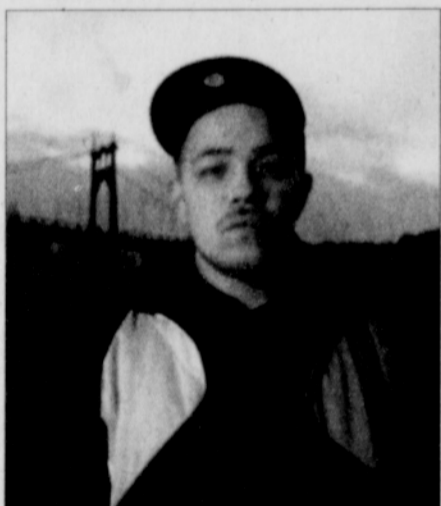
competent treatment services to local youth. Philip Johnson and Cynthia Thomas and their New Decision

Treatment Foster Care agency is a minority and women-owned business established as part of an ongoing effort to decrease the number of minorities in the juvenile justice system.

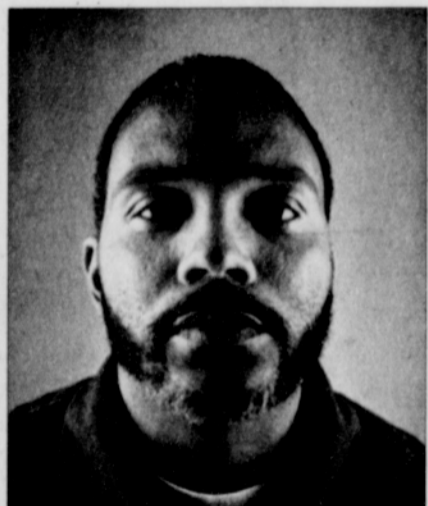
Johnson has over 15 years experience working with gang-affected youth for the Portland

House of Umoja, Janus Youth Homes, Services for Humanity, and Central City Concern. He serves as a board member for the Miracles Recovery Club, Just Men in Recovery and serves middle and high

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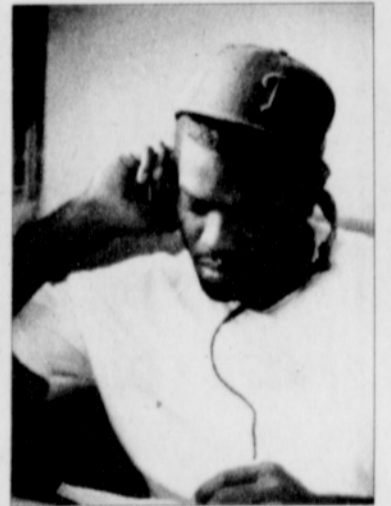
Illmaculate comes to Berbat's on Wednesday, Oct. 22.



Large Professor performs Thursday, Oct. 23 at the Soday Lounge.



Mistah F.A.B. performs Friday, Oct. 24 at Berbat's.



One Be Lo performs Saturday, Oct. 25 at The Ash Street.

Portland Hip Hop Festival Turns 10

Four nights of entertainment set

Terrance Scott, also known as Cool Nutz, is reaching out to bring word about the upcoming Portland, Oregon Hip-Hop Festival (POH-HOP), scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 22 through Sunday, Oct. 25 at multiple venues.

"We have some amazing shows and the event should be great," Scott said.

POH-HOP was a monumental and historic event when it was created in 1995. Scott, along with David Parks and Steven Spyrty had a vision to create an event that



gave local hip-hop artists an outlet to expose their art to the masses.

With the support of the community and some of the cities music industry luminaries, the festival exploded

on the scene and was successful even beyond the expectations of its creators and supporters.

Over the past 10 years, POH-Hop has featured some of the most talented local artists, as well as national stars like The Luniz, Spearhead, Mac Dre, Ras Kass, Andre Nickatina, and more.

This year POH-HOP 10 spans over four nights, and features appearances from some of the regions hottest talents, as well as headliners Illmaculate(World Battle Rap Champion), Large Professor(Main Source), Mistah FAB(Snoop Dogg and Thizz Ent.), and One Be Lo(Binary Star and Fat Beats).

POH-HOP is the epitome of independent music and has set a standard for enjoying true independent art. The festival has become a staple in the Northwest music scene.