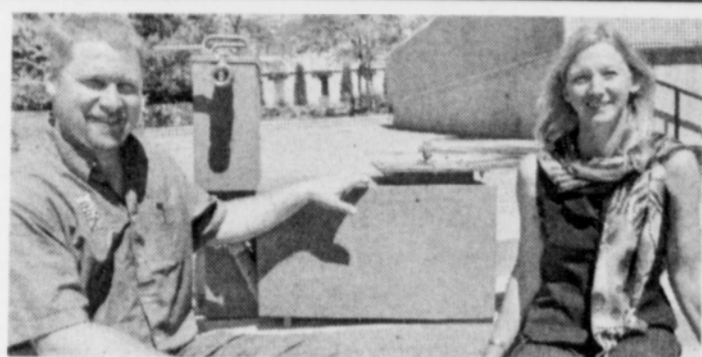


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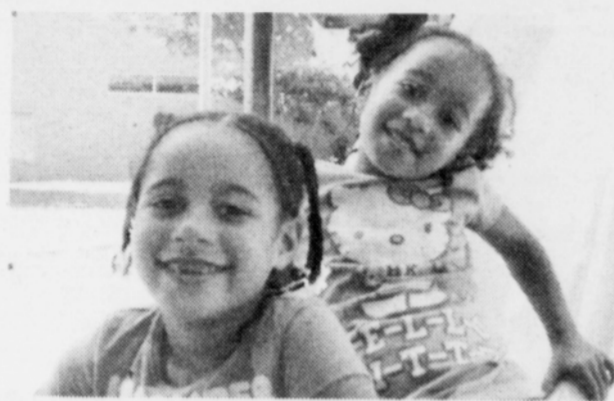
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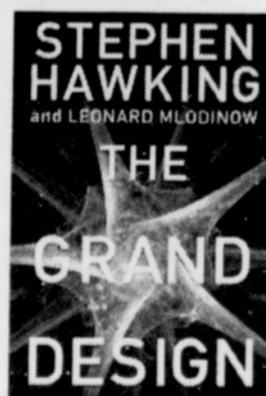
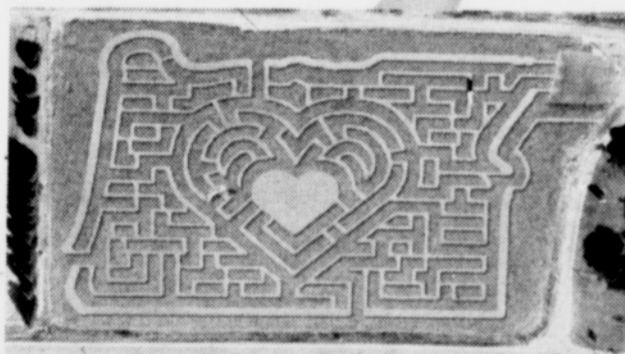
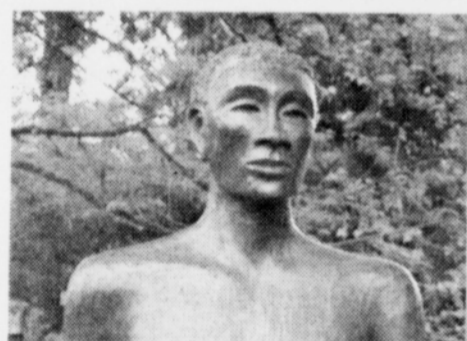
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# Fred Meyer

What's on your list today?

# LOCAL NEWS

## Black Woes Growing Worse

### New Urban League report evaluates conditions

An updated report by the Urban League of Portland shows that the economic and social conditions of African Americans in Oregon have deteriorated since the civil rights group released a comprehensive report on the topic a year ago.

The original investigation, titled "The State of Black Oregon," revealed that members of the state's African American population was at the bottom of nearly every meaningful social category, facing higher unemployment and more problems accessing quality housing, healthcare, and education than their white counterparts. Additionally, it also showed that blacks were over-represented in the adult prison, juvenile justice and child welfare systems.

The updated report shows that the recession has taken a particularly high toll on African Americans in Oregon. Between 2008 and 2009, unemployment for white Oregonians rose from 6.2 percent to 11.1 percent. But for the state's African Americans, that number shot up from 11.1 percent to 15.2 percent



Marcus Mundy

during the same period.

African Americans in the state also suffered the highest percentage of foreclosures, closely followed by Latinos, due to subprime lending practices. The new figures also showed that the dropout rate has improved for every demographic student group except for blacks in Oregon, whose dropout rate remains stuck at 7 percent.

Marcus Mundy, the president of the Urban League of Portland, called on local governments to collect more racial and demographic data and set solid disparity reduction targets. He said that the most recent report for his organization shows that the response to his ini-

tial report has been inadequate.

"The current economy continues to fuel widening socioeconomic disparities amongst black

Oregonians," Mundy said. "Our opportunity now lies in ensuring that emerging jobs, health, education and related policy is equitable for all Oregonians. Our data shows that without setting targeted goals, disparities will persist and in many cases, worsen."

The Urban League is proposing that the City of Portland, Metro, and the Oregon Department of Transportation, and other government entities overseeing new economic development initiatives, particularly projects funded by the federal stimulus, to devote a percentage of each project's workforce to lifting up groups disproportionately affected by unemployment.

The league is also calling for the creation of a city-wide task force to look into the social and economic woes, and for Portland Public Schools and health facilities to devote more resources toward improving the condition of African Americans.

"On the legislative side, the league is calling for lawmakers to preserve and expand the earned-income tax credit and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, in addition to enacting legislation that will require an analysis of the racial impacts of any change in sentencing policy.

## Program Saves Cost on Textbooks

### Cascade Library to place books on reserve

A test program to use college textbooks could save Portland Community College students a lot of money and help the environment.

Beginning fall term, the PCC Cascade Campus Library will have on reserve at least one copy of every required text being used on the campus, located at 705 N. Killingsworth St.

Thanks to this trial project,

textbooks will be on a two-hour checkout for all students. The project was made possible thanks to \$25,000 from the campus Green Initiative Fund, which is an effort to make PCC more environmentally sustainable, and a total of \$5,000 more by Cascade Campus President Algie Gatewood and Dean of Instruction Scott Huff.

"The idea is that, by having a copy of all required books on reserve, some students may choose to not purchase a textbook, and instead rely on the library copy to do their homework," said Tony Greiner, refer-

ence librarian at Cascade who is spearheading the trial program. "A textbook normally has a life of about three years before a new edition comes out, and we teach four terms a year. So even if only one student per term decides to use the library copy instead of purchasing one, at the end of three years we will have reduced the amount of books printed, shipped and then recycled in a landfill by a factor of 12."

Greiner said that another benefit of this initiative is having these

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