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A Brush with Terror

Calls for unity follow bomb plot

BY MELISSA CHAVEZ
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

With the arrest of Somali-born Mohamed Osman Mohamud, 19, for the foiled bomb attack Friday on Pioneer Courthouse Square's tree lighting ceremony, local residents and minority populations in particular are questioning their safety.

From attendees of the downtown festivities—who were, thanks to the FBI, never in any real danger—to the local Somali and Muslim populations—who are worried about acts of retaliation after an arson fire at the Corvallis-based Salman Al-Farisi Islamic Center—it seems that everyone is more closely looking at their community.

A Portlander who attended the tree-lighting, and who was later asked about the incident, was more concerned with the FBI's role in providing support to the teenage suspect in the bombing plot.

"What is distressing about the incident is not so much that the FBI

arrested or otherwise intervened," said resident Joe Clement, 24, "but that the FBI used him to create a scenario that scared a lot of people."

This sentiment was echoed in social media outlets, where Portlanders asked Mayor Sam Adams about the possibility of FBI entrapment in the case, to which Adams answered, "The FBI says 'no' but a trial will air out that issue."

On Monday at Mohamud's arraignment hearing, his attorney did mention a defense of entrapment, as the defendant plead not guilty.

Within the Somali community, Kayse Jama, executive director of the Center for Intercultural Organizing on North Killingsworth Street, says that, "This is a time for unity within the community ... bringing it together as one."

Somalis are the largest African immigrant population in Oregon, with an estimated 8,000 to 10,000 members in Multnomah and Washington counties alone.



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Intern Shamsa Hussein and Executive Director Kaysa Jama of the Center for Intercultural Organizing on North Killingsworth Street field questions and encourage the support for struggling immigrant youth in our community in the aftermath of a bombing plot tied to a Somali-born teenager who grew up in Beaverton.

But that community is also disjointed at times, Jama says, because the United States' culture is so different for youth to adjust to.

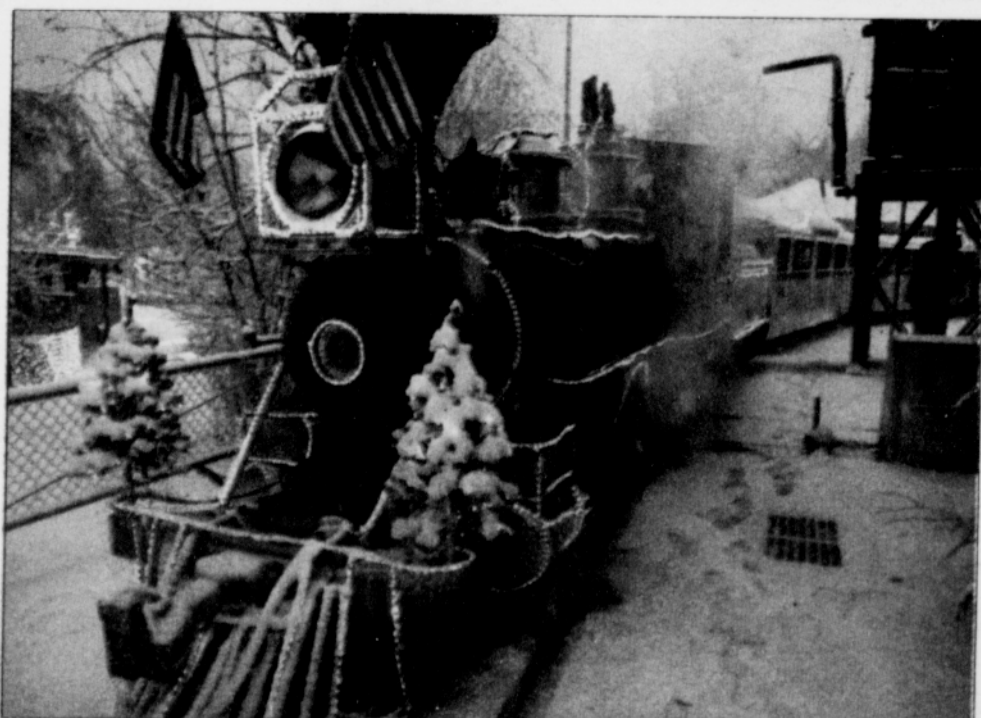
Jama stresses that "This is not only a Portland-, or an Oregon-

specific issue, but a national issue concerning Somali youth. We're asking for all community members to join together to help the youth; to support them, and make them feel a part of the community... both

the American and Somali ones."

In the aftermath of the fire, Jama said, "The community is trying to go back to normal day-to-day ac-

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The Oregon Zoo is a winter wonderland with the annual Zoo Lights display bringing more than a million colorful lights to festivities that continue nightly throughout the holidays.

Holiday Lights Delight

Zoo visitors treated to annual tradition

ZooLights, the Oregon Zoo's annual winter wonderland, is even more wonderland-y this year.

Among the 1.25 million colorful lights, visitors should keep an eye out for silhouettes of Alice, the Cheshire Cat and other characters from "Alice in Wonderland." The characters are part of a scavenger hunt that can earn sharp-eyed visitors a free gift from the Zoo Store.

ZooLights, supported by The

Boeing Company, runs through Jan. 2 at the zoo. This traditional holiday light show has delighted zoogoers for more than two decades with its dazzling life-size animal silhouettes and moving light sculptures.

New this year is an interactive barnyard display, where visitors can press a button to make animal silhouettes light up and moo, neigh, crow or oink. An animated cat will prowls its way into the

open-air plaza at the zoo's Predators of the Serengeti exhibit, joined by a 3-D secretary bird, returning to the ZooLights display after several years' absence.

In keeping with the zoo's commitment to sustainability, most of the lights displayed are light-emitting diodes (LEDs), which use only about 1 percent

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