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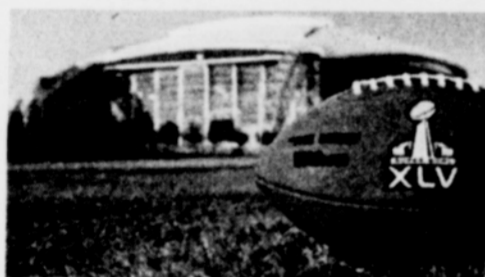


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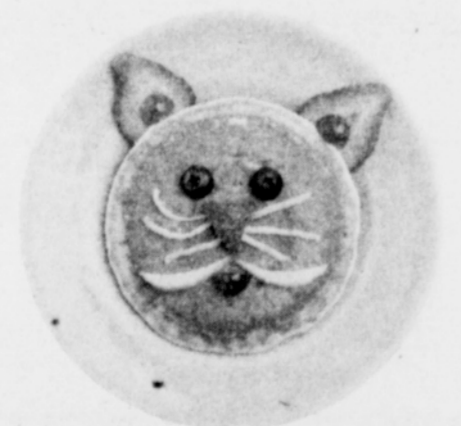


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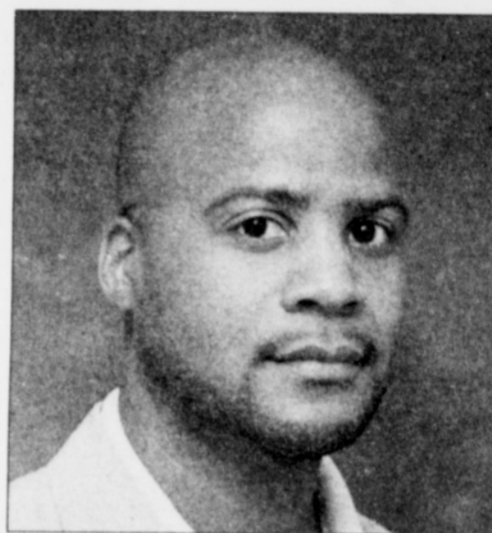
Fred Meyer

What's on your list today?

LOCAL NEWS

Sports Culture and Race

Local professor challenges notions of progress



Thabiti Lewis

Thabiti Lewis, associate professor in the College of Liberal Arts at Washington State University Vancouver, has published a book challenging the notion that sports culture is a pioneer for racial progress.

"Ballers of the New School: Race and Sports in America" is a thought-provoking analysis of minorities in the sports industry that critically re-examines the mythologies and social uplift narratives that dominate our culture.

Sports are often hailed as a way for minority athletes to achieve fame and wealth. In his book, Lewis deconstructs the Cinderella story of scoring big in the major leagues and asks why there is little minority representation at the corporate level.

Lewis contends that American sports have not contributed to racial progress as much as our culture has been led to believe.

"This is more media spin than truth. It's a figment of imagination aided by modern technology armed with 24-hour sports reporting, unlimited sports television channels and a culture that cultivates anti-intellectualism," said Lewis.

"Ballers of the New School: Race and Sports in America" begins with

Through essays, my book examines how racist sports media coverage perpetuates, rather than alleviates, racial tensions in our society. I want readers to understand that the icons they see are not the norm and do not reflect the dire social, educational and economic status of many people of color in America," said Lewis.

Lewis lectures widely on topics such as hip-hop, film, black masculinity, race and sports in America. He has been a columnist and freelance writer for The Source, the St. Louis American and News One. His work has appeared in several book anthologies and in publications such as Mosaic Literary Magazine, Oregon Humanities, Crisis Magazine, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and AmeriQuests.

Lewis's book tour includes stops in Philadelphia, Seattle, Iowa City, Iowa, and Kansas City, Mo. He will discuss his work and sign copies of his book at 12 p.m. March 1 in the WSU Vancouver library.

"Ballers of the New School: Race and Sports in America" is available through The Bookie, Borders, Powell's Books, Third World Press, Amazon and his website, ThabitiLewis.com.

Governor Hires Rights Advocate

Gov. John Kitzhaber has hired an Oregon attorney with a civil rights and victim rights record as his general counsel.

Liani Reeves received both her undergraduate and law degrees from Willamette University. She has worked at the Oregon Department of Justice in many capacities, most recently as the deputy chief trial counsel. She's also served as an attorney for the National Crime Victim Law Institute to promote, advance and enforce crime victims' rights.

Reeves served as the co-chair of the Oregon Minority Lawyers Association from 2002-2008. She



Liani Reeves

received the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Award from the Willamette University College of Law honoring work and dedication toward the ideals of equal civil and human rights and was recognized as an up and coming leader by the Portland Business Journal. She mentors law students and has been named Mentor of the Year by both Willamette and Lewis & Clark College.

"Working as the Governor's general counsel allows me to continue in public service working on issues with broad implications throughout the state," said Reeves.