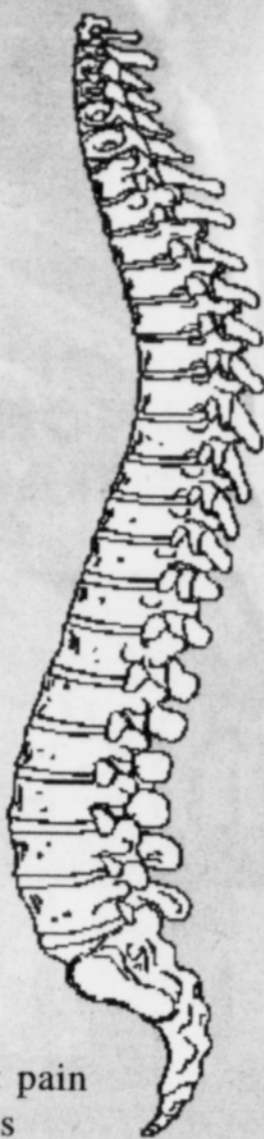


# LAW & JUSTICE

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## One Year Anniversary



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*Yo dawg is gonna look like a show dawg  
and your kitty will be pretty.*

## Honored in Cause for Equality

Trail Blazers Chief Operating Officer Sarah Mensah was honored by the Urban League of Portland with the Equal Opportunity Day Award at the civil rights group's annual Equal Opportunity Dinner.

The award is bestowed upon an individual each year who has made significant contributions to the cause of equality in one or more of the Urban League's focus areas, including employment, education, economic development or advocacy.



Sarah Mensah

One of the highest ranking women in professional sports, Mensah sits on the board of directors for the Northwest Autism Foundation, Portland Children's Museum, Oregon Sports Authority and All Hands Raised (formerly known as the Portland Schools Foundation).

Thomas Aschenbrener, president of the Northwest Health Foundation, was also presented with an Equal Opportunity Day Award at last month's ceremony.

## Seattle Police Used Excessive Force

### Probe finds officers quick to use weapons

(AP) -- Inadequate supervision and training has led Seattle police officers to too quickly resort to the use of weapons like batons and flashlights, and to escalate confrontations even when arresting people for minor offenses, the U.S. Justice Department said Friday.

The department launched an investigation last spring following the fatal shooting of a homeless Native American woodcarver and other reported uses of force against minority suspects. The probe was aimed at determining whether Seattle police have a "pattern or practice" of violating civil rights or dis-

criminatory policing, and if so, what they should do to improve.

Federal investigators said they found Seattle police have engaged in excessive force that violated federal law and the Constitution.

The Department of Justice is currently conducting 20 investigations of police departments across the country, including Portland, and the use of force is a prominent issue in most of them.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Washington and 34 other community groups called for the Seattle inquiry after a Seattle officer shot and killed woodcarver John T. Williams in 2010.

Video from Officer Ian Birk's patrol car showed Williams crossing the street holding a piece of wood and a small knife, and Birk exiting the vehicle to pursue him. Off camera, Birk

quickly shouted three times for Williams to drop the knife, then fired five shots. The knife was found folded at the scene, but Birk later maintained Williams had threatened him.

Other incidents captured on surveillance or police-cruiser video include officers using an anti-Mexican epithet and stomping on a prone Latino man who was mistakenly thought to be a robbery suspect; an officer kicking a non-resisting black youth in a convenience store; and officers tackling and kicking a black man who showed up in a police evidence room to pick up belongings after he was mistakenly released from jail.

There was no finding that the Seattle Police Department engaged in discriminatory policing, but federal investigators believe this area needs more research.

## Deliveries Stolen off Porches

Portland Police made an arrest last Thursday after a report of two people stealing shipping boxes off the front porches of homes in the

area of North Van Houten Avenue and Willis Boulevard.

A witness reported suspicious activity to police after seeing a man



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Expires January 31, 2012



Melissa Schwab

and a woman walking from her neighbor's yard.

Police located the pair nearby and arrested Melissa Schwab, 26, after finding a pair of stolen shoes hidden inside her coat. A box was also found nearby that was addressed to a residence in the 5900 block of North Hudson Street.

Officers went to that address and contacted the resident who told officers that he was expecting a package of Christmas treats from his sister in Seattle.