

2012 Year in Review

The Portland Observer looks back at some of our top stories from 2012

A Voice beyond Category

Feb. 8 – Portland Art educator and poet Turiya Autry speaks to what it means to be a black woman and all the things that entails.



Your strong
voice & tireless
advocacy
will be missed

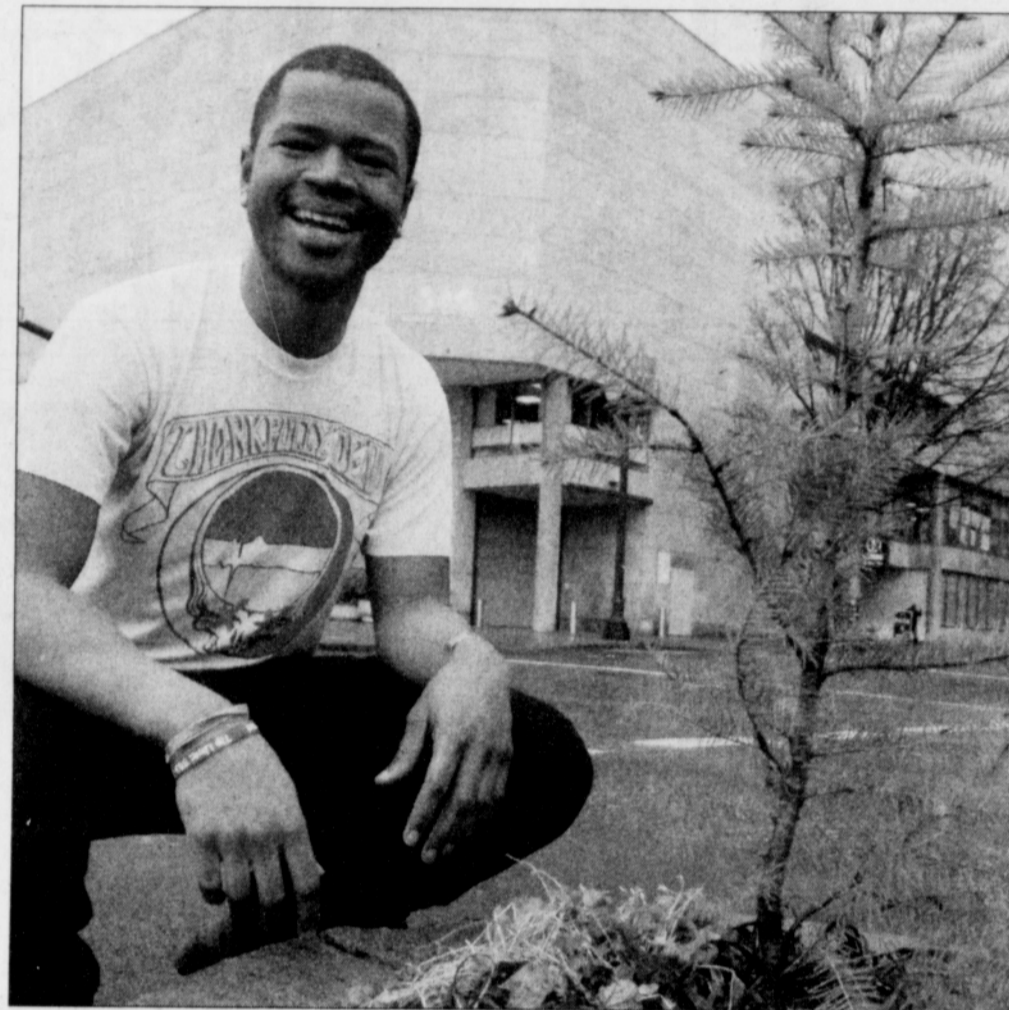
Thank you
for your service
to our community,
Charles Washington

1952-2012

Portland Observer Publisher & Editor-in-Chief

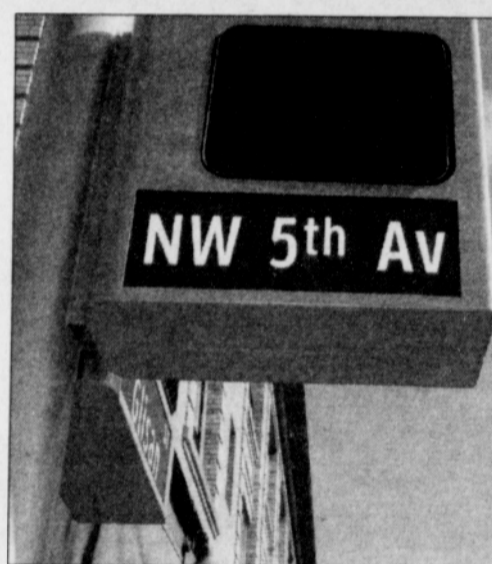
Fred Meyer

16-12-4-75973 (DRC,CNG,TXM)



Whatever It Takes

Jan. 25 – Activist Cameron Whitten, a 20-year-old northeast Portland resident, arrested several times in solidarity with the Occupy Portland movement, fights social injustice by entering the May Primary race for Portland mayor.



Burdened by Rent

Feb. 29 – Although sounds of construction echo throughout the Portland area as new housing units are built, developers are having trouble meeting the increasingly high demand from residents who depend on lower rent to make ends meet.

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Driving High

continued ▲ from front

Portland officers are certified to give to determine how impaired a person is by a controlled substance.

Certified officers like Ladd can give the evaluation anywhere like the precinct or jail. If a person blows .00, the officer can rule out alcohol as the problem and look for other signs of drug use by continuing the rest of the 11 steps.

"The process we use to evaluate is not to pinpoint the drugs a person is on," said Ladd, "It's to eliminate the possibility of drugs they might be on."

The last step is a urine analysis, which in Oregon, is the preferred method because it is more affordable and less intrusive than a blood analysis. Only DRE certified officers can ask a person for a urine sample.

Police can only draw blood by issuing a warrant through a judge. Blood samples are typically only taken in high-profile cases like a fatal crash.

If THC toxicity surfaces in a person's urine or blood, police can confirm their suspicions as to whether or not the person was under the influence of a controlled substance, said Ladd.

Police in both states still have the right to make an arrest that leads to conviction based on their testimony as to whether or not the person was impaired at the time they were pulled over. Blood and urine results are either confirmation or data.

"If a person is impaired, it doesn't matter if it's medicinal marijuana or bought off the street, crack or cocaine. Impairment is impairment and it doesn't change," Ladd said.