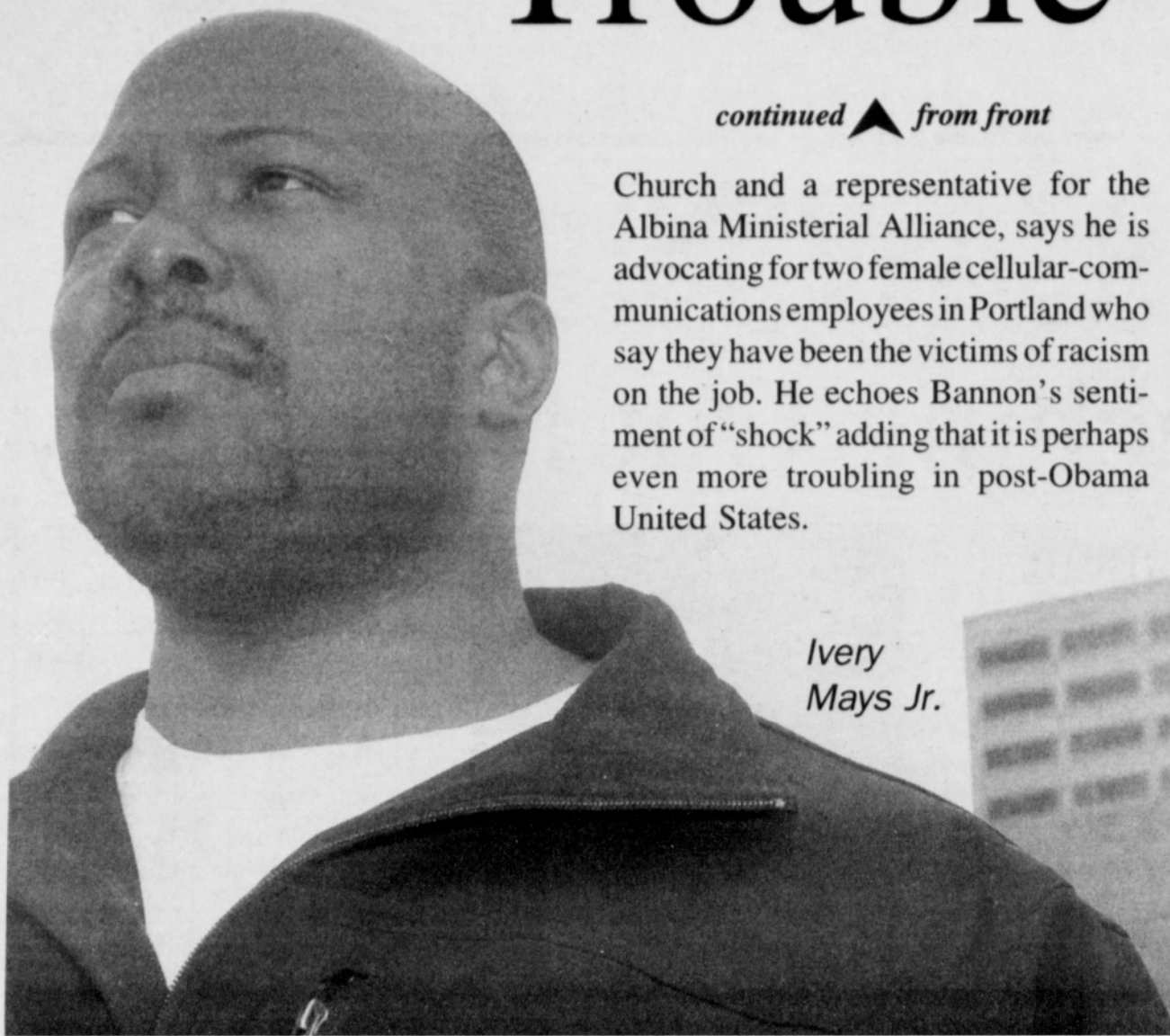


Trouble at the Workplace



Ivery Mays Jr.

continued ▲ from front

Church and a representative for the Albina Ministerial Alliance, says he is advocating for two female cellular-communications employees in Portland who say they have been the victims of racism on the job. He echoes Bannon's sentiment of "shock" adding that it is perhaps even more troubling in post-Obama United States.

"Although in situations like this it may not always be about race, we must stand with our community when we think there has been an injustice," says Haynes.

The Urban League of Portland has also been actively supporting the two employees as well.

Urban League President Michael Alexander says in a situation like this it is best not to take a position of "right or wrong" but make sure

all parties involved are best served.

"When people come to us, we're going to reach out to the organization and make sure they revisit their policies and are really doing their best to uphold them."

Mays currently maintains a full-time job schedule with Harder; the two communications employees have not been so lucky. Though both remain employees on the company's personnel files they have been without work or pay for several months now.

In all three incidents, the victims were the only African-Americans at their place of employment. As they all strive for a resolve to their individual accusations, all they can do is continue to fight and wait.

Many times issues of workplace discrimination can be handled internally, however in extreme cases it is often best to contact the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

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'City of Roses'



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See inside, pages 4-5

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Young, Black & Gifted

Recognizing kids on right track

BY JAKE THOMAS
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Portland's African-American youth are often caught up in a net of negative public perceptions brought by news of gang violence, the sobering achievement gap and school drop-out rates.

But there's plenty of young black kids in Portland who are on the right path, making good grades, headed to college, and are making positive contributions to the city. A new photographic tribute recognizes the hard work of some of these students and shows that there is still reason to be optimistic.

"Young, Black & Gifted," a photo essay putting the spotlight on the accomplishments of high-achieving African-American students, opens to the public on Monday, April 5 at Portland School District headquarters at 501 N. Dixon St. and will later be moved to the Lloyd Center Mall.

The project is the brain child of Reiko Williams, the district's family and community engagement manager, who said she got the idea after having a conversation with someone who seemed shocked when she mentioned an African-American student that was excelling. After the conversation she worried that all the attention on the hard work of young black students was drowning out the hard work of others.

"You hear so much about deficits and achievement gaps," she said.

Williams said the exhibit came together with a call for nominations of black students doing well district-wide, and the recruitment of a photographer and web developer.

Skyler Holt, a freshman at Jefferson High School is one of the 13 students featured in the exhibit.

Holt gets A's and B's in school. She does especially well in English classes, taught by Anne Novinger, one of her favorite teachers, and chemistry is getting steadily easier. Holt plans to go to college and is thinking about law school down the road.

"I'm enjoying it a lot," she said of her high school. "I like

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PHOTO BY JAKE THOMAS/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Skyler Holt excels as freshman at Jefferson High School in north Portland. Her contribution as one of the city's "Young, Black & Gifted" students is part of a new exhibit coming to school district headquarters and Lloyd Center Mall.