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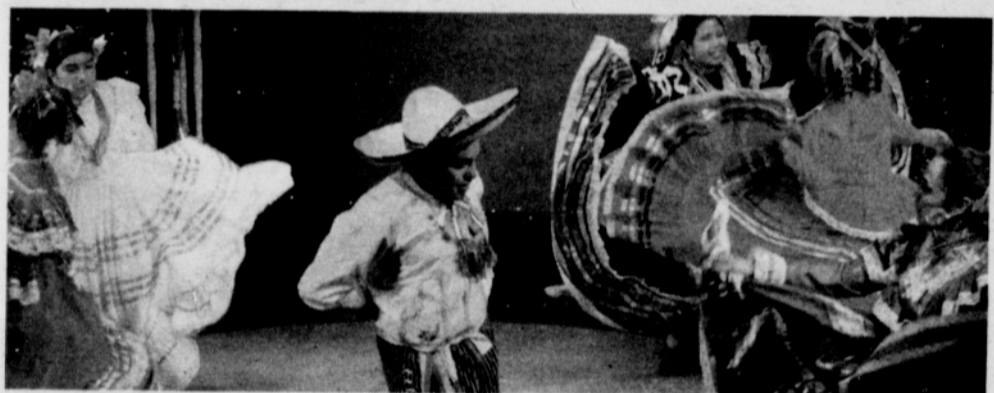
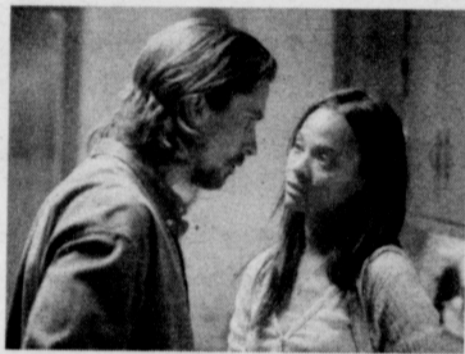
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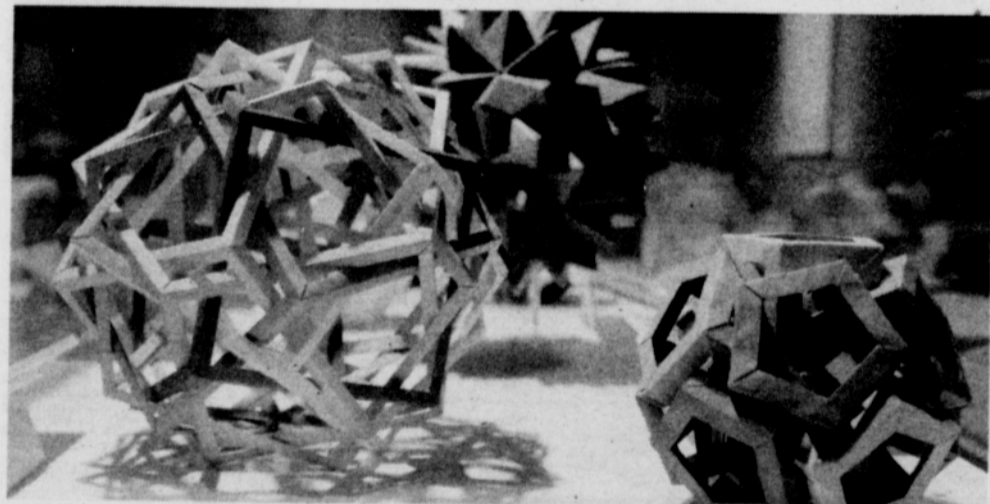
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What's on your list today?

LOCAL NEWS



PHOTO BY AMY ROSENHEIM

Lewis and Clark President Berry Glassner addresses a large crowd of students who rallied against racism on Friday during a protest on the southwest Portland campus.

Racism Ignites Protest

Lewis and Clark students call for more diversity

BY DONOVAN M. SMITH
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Lewis and Clark students and their Black Student Union are calling for more diversity on campus after a string of racist incidents.

Despite bitter cold temperatures, around 200 Lewis and Clark College students showed up Friday morning for an on-campus sit-in. Organized by the Black Student Union, the event generated major support from the southwest Portland school's mostly white students.

An unofficial 10-point list of demands made clear that the graffiti was only a symptom of a much larger problem at the school and in society; a lack of diversity.

From the faces sitting at the desks, to the ones teaching the material, to the material itself, the university creates and fosters an illusion of "whiteness" as the norm, the BSU students charged.

Lewis and Clark Senior Musa Ahmed, a BSU representative, recently detailed some of the problems in an opinion piece he authored for the school paper 'The Pioneer Log'.

When school started in August, he said a black dorm student had written "Welcome back" on a bulletin board outside her room and it

was changed to "Welcome back Nigg."

Other racist scribes have been found more recently across the campus, including a misspelled call of "Jim Crowe for life", and the words "Niggers Stink." Cheers of the so-called "n-word" and "white power" were reported to Ahmed as a resident advisor.

It is worth noting that blacks make up the second smallest racial segment of the 146-year-old private institution, making up around 2 percent of its total 2,150 undergraduates edging out Native Americans by a mere percentage point. It is also ranked as one of the most liberal

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Equity Officer Admonishes Police

Urges enforcement of professional behavior

The director of Portland's Office of Equity and Human Rights is urging the Portland Police Bureau to respond to recent reports of an officer using a racial slur as an opportunity for daily training and making reminders about expected professional behavior.

Dante J. James made the request last week after newspapers reported that a Portland police officer used the word, "nigger," during an interaction in October with a member of the black community.

James also praised the police bureau for racial sensitivity training given to its command staff and sergeants that was organized by Portland's Community and Police Relations Committee's training subcommittee.



Dante J. James

But for street officers who interact with community members every day, James recommends that the recent racial slur allegation be used as an opportunity to discuss professionalism at every roll call, in every training session, and in off-line discussions.

James said the word "nigger" can never be used by a white officer in interactions with someone on the street.

"People will argue that it is a double standard because some black people use the word. This is not an argument about who gets to use the word. This is an opportunity for PPB to remind its staff that any pejorative of this type is unacceptable. This is about professionalism, plain and simple, and this is the conversation that needs to happen," James said.