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BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Special Edition



The Portland Observer 44

'City of Roses'

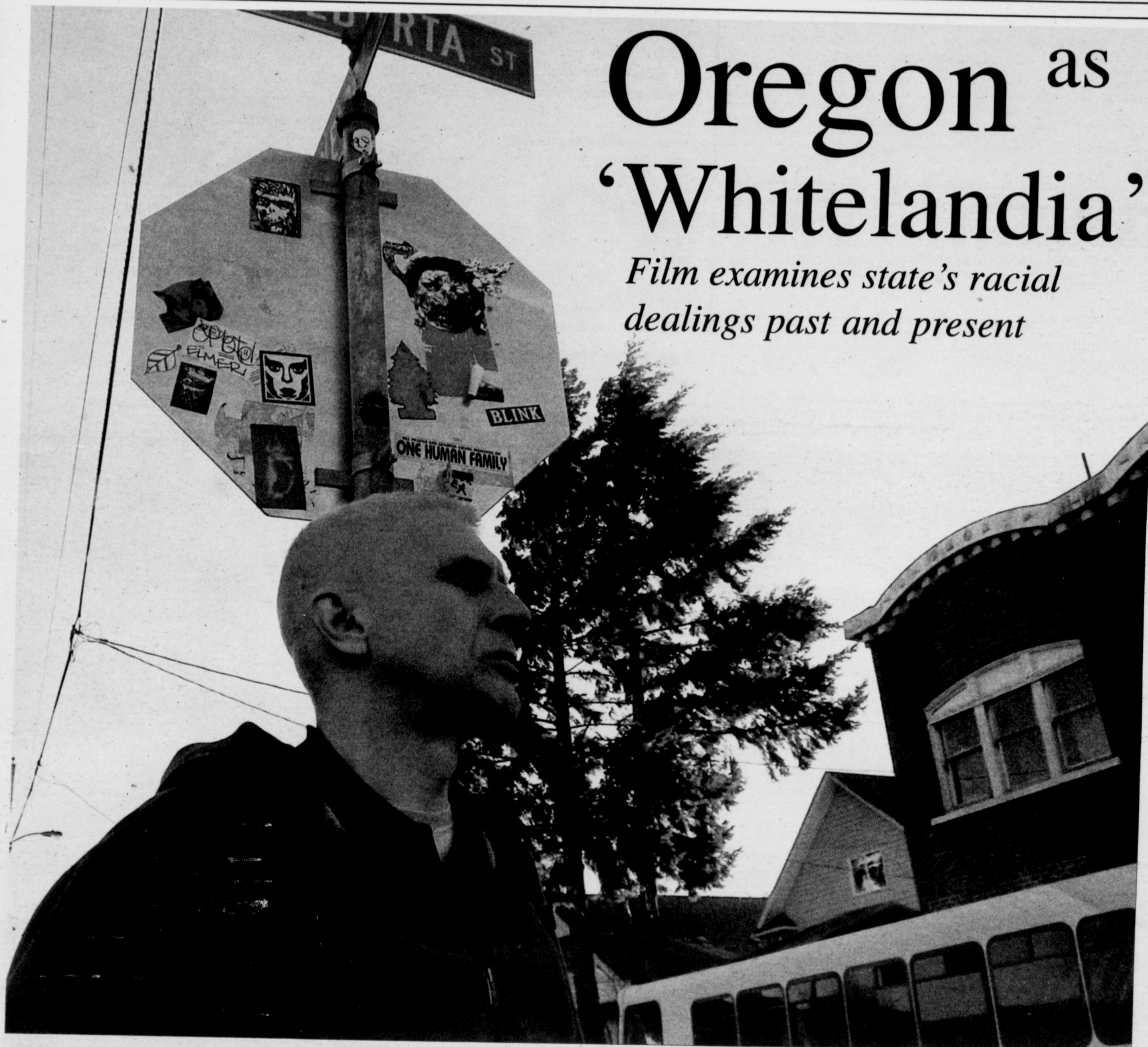


Volume XLIV
Number 7



www.portlandobserver.com
Wednesday • February 12, 2014

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Oregon as 'Whitelandia'

Film examines state's racial dealings past and present

Filmmaker Matt Zodrow surveys his heavily gentrified neighborhood along Northeast Alberta Street. He and filming-partner Tracy MacDonald have set out to document Oregon's storied racial history, including the current issue for people of color being displaced from their historical neighborhoods, to the racist laws that excluded blacks from living in the Oregon territory during the mid 1800s.

PHOTO BY DONOVAN M. SMITH/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

BY DONOVAN M. SMITH
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Oregon's history with race relations even leading up to present-day dealings would perhaps be best described in a word as tumultuous; but two local filmmakers have created

a whole other term for it, "Whitelandia."

Seasoned filmmakers Matt Zodrow and Tracy MacDonald of Portland recently set out to capture the layered, unique, and often unattractive relationship black Americans have had in Oregon since the state's inception.

Though Zodrow said he was familiar with some of the state's back story around being a hotbed for Ku Klux Klan membership, racist redlining laws, and the more recent talk-

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