

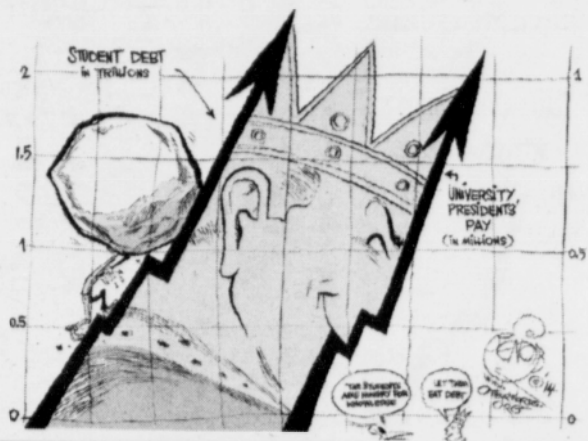
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What's on your list today?®

LOCAL NEWS

A Hidden History

Scholar Walidah Imarisha to lead civil rights talk

BY DONOVAN M. SMITH
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland is often quoted as being "The Whitest Major City" in America. Portland State University professor of Black Studies, Walidah Imarisha, examines this ever-quoted statistic with a more revealing question, "Why Aren't There More Black People in Oregon? A Hidden History." Her inquiry is the title of a seminar she's been taking across the nation.

Local residents are invited to hear Imarisha speak on the subject when the Oregon State Bar Civil Rights Section hosts a public commemoration for the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 on Thursday, July 10 at 7:15 p.m. at the Matt Dishman Community Center, 77 N.E. Knott St.

An authority in Oregon history relating to race, Imarisha hopes that more Oregonians will see that the small presence of blacks in the state, just 2 percent of the population, was mapped out by its founders, and the oppression and neglect of this community continues into today.

"Oregon was constructed as a white homeland, and that ideology of white supremacy has shaped every community of color - Black, Latino, Asian/Pacific Islander, Indigenous - in the state," says Imarisha.

Once inhabited heavily by indig-

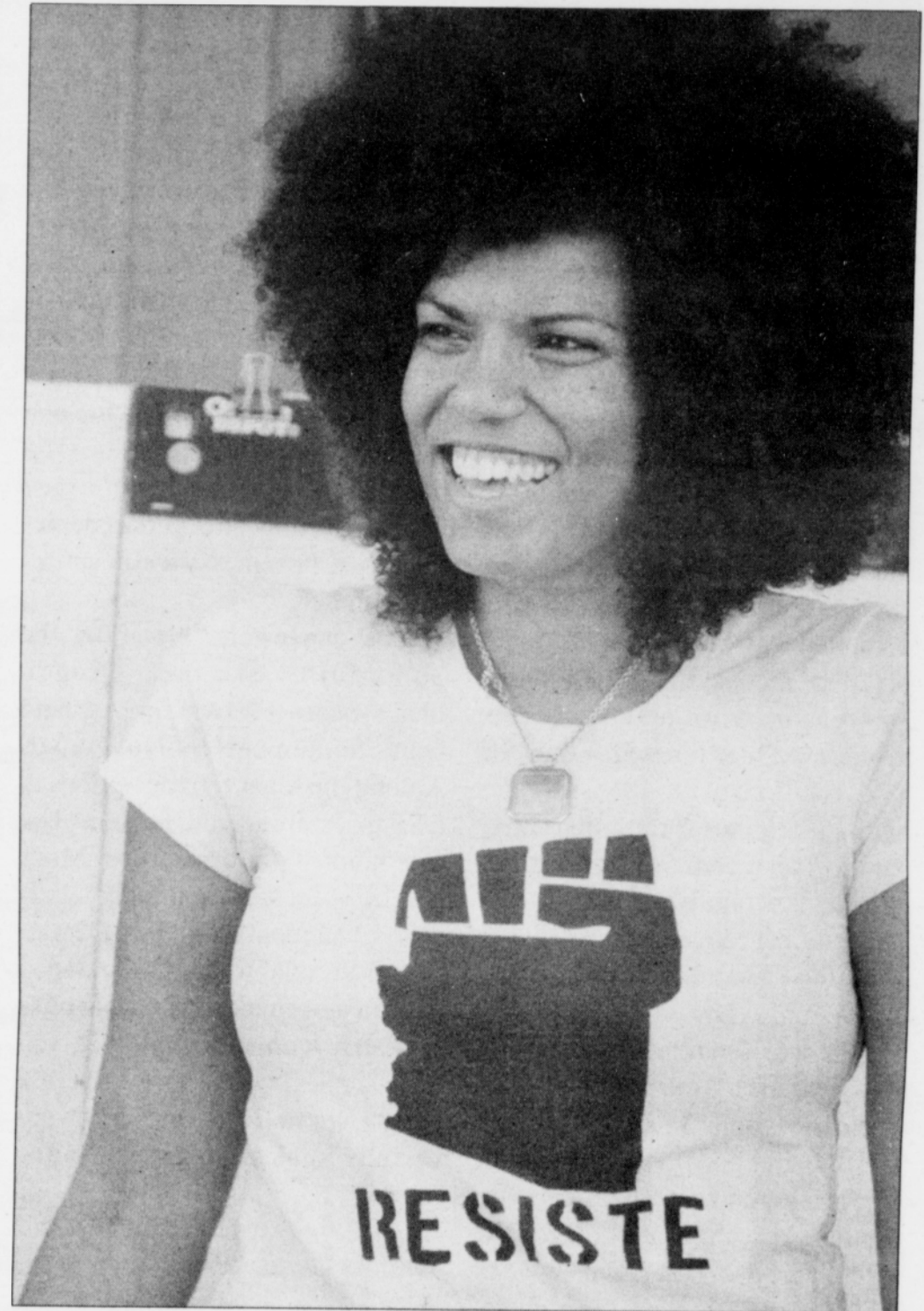


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Walidah Imarisha, a professor of Black Studies at Portland State University, and an authority in Oregon history relating to race, presents "Why Aren't There More Black People in Oregon? A Hidden History" during a public commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The free event, hosted by the Oregon State Bar's Civil Rights Section will take place Thursday, July 10 at 7:15 at the Matt Dishman Community Center, 77 N.E. Knott St.

enous tribes before the arrival of mostly white explorers and travelers, Oregon became the 33rd state of the United States of America in 1859. As reflected in many of the laws even before it became a state, Oregon at its core was to be com-

pletely void of black people.

The racism was clear; a law passed in 1844 stated that blacks were to be excluded from Oregon's borders, and if found, they would be

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Mississippi Street Fair Saturday

This Saturday, north Portland will be buzzing again when the Mississippi Street Fair makes a return for its 13th year. Stretching along Mississippi from Fremont to Skidmore streets, the multicultural fair promises to be one to remember with over 200 vendor and craft exhibits and six stages featuring more than 40 bands.

Some of the performers will include Holiday Friends, Atomic Arts



Theater, Ural Thomas and The Pain, and the Norman Sylvester Band. A Grandfather's rib-off competition,

dunk tank, beer gardens, food carts, and visits to the many shops and restaurants in the neighborhood are other features of the event.

The Mississippi Street Fair is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and is free and family friendly. Special promotions will benefit Self Enhancement Inc., Boise-Elliot School, and the Boise Youth Unity Project. For more information visit mississippiave.com/streetfair.