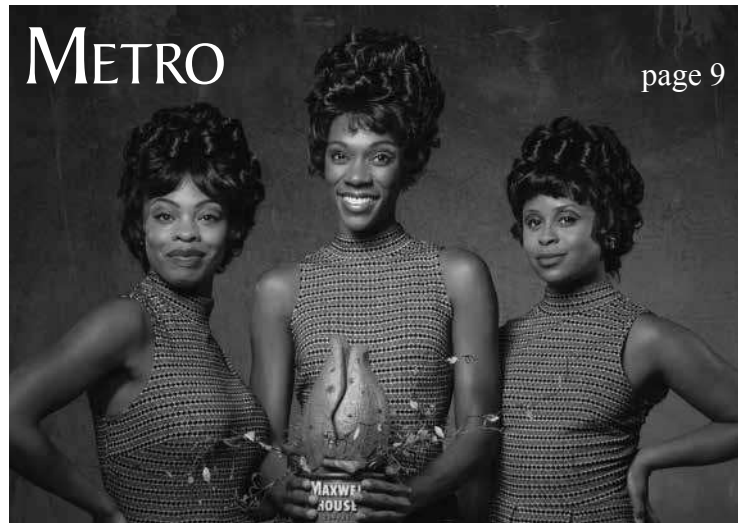
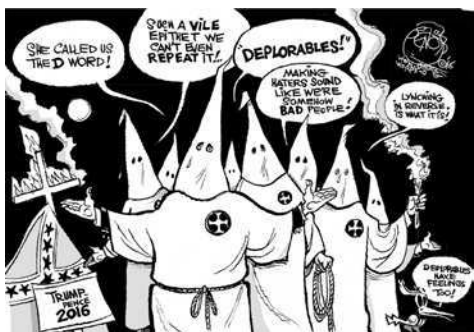


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What's on your list today?®

LOCAL NEWS

Family Attacked

Toxic substance used in bias crime

BY CERVANTE POPE
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The victims of an ugly attack being investigated as a bias crime are drawing support from members of the bicycling community. BikePortland columnist Taz Loomans has organized a "Cycling Against Hate" rally for Sunday at 2 p.m. at the site of the incident to show solidarity and "extend our love to those who were targeted."

Police said three African American males, ages 12, 11 and 7, and two adult family members were attacked with a toxic substance by a cyclist on the evening of Sept.

13 near Northeast Killingsworth and Ninth Avenue.

Foia Frazier, 32 and Patricia Garner, 62, the respective mother and grandmother of the boys, said the family was getting inside their vehicle outside of their home when a male cyclist southbound around and sprayed them with what was originally thought to be pepper spray, but turned out to be a bear repellent. The suspect was said to have yelled racial slurs at the family before riding away.

Police and paramedics responded to the scene. One of the boys required further treatment and was transported to the hospital, according to a family representative.

"In fact, it was so severe that when he got to the emergency

room the medical professionals were choking from the fumes emanating from his body. He eventually needed to be sedated," Laurel Carrasco told the Oregonian.

The assailant was described as white or Hispanic in his 20s, 5 foot 9 inches in height and around 160 pounds, riding a road bike, and wearing black spandex-styled bicycle clothing with a black and grey helmet.

The family also reported he had a white box attached to the back of his bicycle that was later found near the scene, but police say that there was nothing inside that could help identify the suspect.

Due to the nature of the crime, the Police Bureau's Bias Crimes division is handling the investigation. Anyone with information on the suspect or the incident is encouraged to contact Detective Jeff Sharp at 503-823-9773 or jeff.sharp@portlandoregon.gov.

Confronting Death Row

Exoneree and former prison official speak out

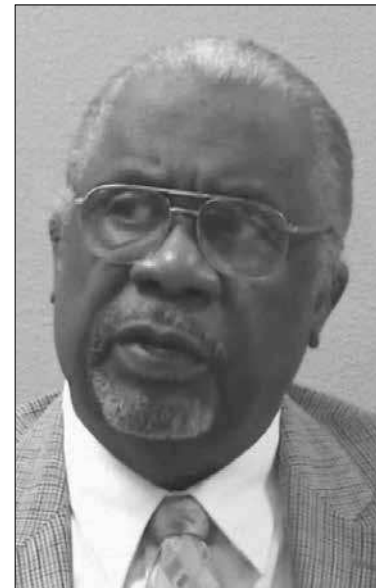
Two men who've experienced the devastating impact of the death penalty will be sharing their stories in Portland next week at a public event sponsored by the Oregon Justice Resource Center and the Ending the New Jim Crow Social Justice Action Group of First Unitarian Church of Portland.

Anthony Graves spent nearly two decades on death row in Texas for a crime he did not commit while Frank Thompson oversaw the last two state executions to take place in Oregon. They will speak Thursday, Sept. 29 at First Unitarian Church and explain why they believe the death penalty should have no place in Oregon's justice system.

Graves was wrongly convicted of the murders of six members of a family due to a false accusation by another defendant in the case and the deliberate concealment of mitigating evidence by the prosecutor. Throughout his many years on the row, he fought for his life, eventually proving his innocence with the help of attorneys and volunteers who pieced together the evidence needed to free him. Now he speaks out for criminal justice reform and an end to the death penalty.



Anthony Graves



Frank Thompson

Thompson is the retired superintendent of Oregon State Penitentiary. He oversaw the only executions that have taken place in the state since the 1960s. In 1996 and 1997, he was responsible for planning, organizing, and leading the executions by lethal injection of two men. The experience changed his mind about the death penalty and today he is a prominent voice in Oregon and elsewhere against capital punishment.

"We're delighted to be able to bring together two such powerful

voices on the death penalty as Anthony Graves and Frank Thompson," said Bobbin Singh, executive director of Oregon Justice Resource Center. "Their authority to speak about why capital punishment is a failed policy is unquestionable. They know all too well that it risks killing innocent people and it places an intolerable burden on the prison staff who must carry out executions."

Tickets for "Death Row from Both Sides" are on sale online at eventbrite.com.