



# THE SKANNER

CHALLENGING PEOPLE TO SHAPE A BETTER FUTURE NOW



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## Private Security Profiling?

### Hip hop artist says he was singled out in SmartPark incident

By Brian Stimson  
Of The Skanner News

Just days after Christmas, local hip hop artist and educator Mic Crenshaw was given an official exclusion from the city's SmartPark garages.

Crenshaw, who regularly works out by jogging up and down the SmartPark stairwells after lifting weights at a nearby gym, says he was racially profiled by Clean and Safe security officers in the downtown garage.

He chose not to make an official complaint about the incident — which the private security officers told him he had five days to appeal.

“But I thought, if this shit is happening to me, I know this shit is happening to hundreds of people on a day-to-day basis, who get profiled for being in the wrong place at the wrong time, maybe their skin is the wrong color, their age, their clothes fit a certain profile,” Crenshaw said. “It’s problematic.”

The Portland Business Alliance — which subcontracts the Clean and Safe security that patrols the garages — says cracking down on trespassers is an effective way of reducing crime in the downtown area.

Crenshaw’s case illustrates an authority that the Portland Business Alliance’s Clean and Safe private security officers have — the power to issue criminal trespassing notices that can then be used by city police to make arrests if the notices are ignored.

And while the Business Alliance’s patrol hands out trespassing exclusions, they do not keep track of race, age or gender data that official city law enforcement does.

### Wrong Place, Wrong Time

Crenshaw says the incident began innocently enough.

As a member of the Bally Total Fitness on First Avenue and Yamhill Street, Crenshaw often parks in the city-owned SmartPark

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# RO DEEZY ON O.G.ONE



PHOTO BY JULIE KEEFE

MaryEtta Callier admires the book she purchased during the “meet the author and the subject” event for Rochell D “Ro Deezy” Hart’s biography of William “O.G. One” Jackson Jr. at the Talking Drum Bookstore in Portland on Jan. 15.

## Civil Rights, History Stories Sought

### Those who have lived or worked in Oregon are invited to participate

**W**anted: Your story about Civil Rights and race.

Two upcoming projects are highlighting local experiences by heading out into communities to find personal stories of change and struggle.

This Saturday, Jan. 29, Our United Villages hosts a panel of local residents sketching out the history of Northeast Portland.

And in a separate effort, Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industry Director Brad Avakian is inviting anyone who has lived

or worked in the state to submit personal anecdotes about their experiences in Oregon’s Civil Rights Movement to MyCivilRightsStory.net, a website where testimony will be published and some stories selected for an upcoming book project. The deadline is Feb. 14.

“We think of the Civil Rights movements of our country in terms of great events,” Avakian told The Skanner News. “The 1960s marches for freedom, the ‘I Have a Dream’ speech, the Emancipation Proclamation —

and these were all significant of course.

“But none of these things occur without the swell of experience that individuals have that lead to those huge events,” he says. “To really understand the progress of Civil Rights in Oregon, I think you have to hear it from the families who lived it themselves.”

Avakian said some contributors so far have tracked their families’ experiences to the present day.

“We’ve already had a lot of

stories come in,” Avakian told The Skanner News. “We’re getting some stories just about discriminatory things that have happened to individuals, but we’re also getting wonderful stories about how families emigrated to Oregon and what their experience was when they got here — sometimes 100 years ago.”

He said one notable story explores the history of a Japanese family that immigrated to Oregon, opened a busi-

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## ‘New School Ballers’ Author Speaks Jan. 29

### Professor Thabiti Lewis examines Black men and sports in new book

By Helen Silvis  
Of The Skanner News

**I**mages of successful Black athletes inspire the dreams of millions of young Black men. That matters in a culture where athletes are viewed as demigods, yet positive images of Black masculinity are hard to find. Author Thabiti Lewis takes a hard look at sport, racism and images of

Black masculinity in his groundbreaking new book ‘Ballers of the New School: Race, Sports and American Culture.’ A professor at Washington State University, Vancouver, Lewis has a full schedule that includes talking to young men and women in cities across the country about masculinity, sport and race. Teens are especially welcome at this event.

Lewis will speak at 2 pm Saturday, Jan. 29

at Reflections book store, 446 NE Killingsworth St., Portland. The Skanner interviewed Lewis by phone Jan. 25.

**The Skanner:** In your book, you write a letter. What’s that about?

**Thabiti Lewis:** I write a letter to my cousin, who is turning 16. I had a call from

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