

Hussen

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student leader. (A profile of Monroy will run in next week's edition of *The Skanner News*.) We asked Hussen about her internship, the D.C. conference and her plans for the future.

The Skanner News: Could you describe your work with the Boys and Girls Club?

“The only way to make a change is by getting involved with things that are happening in our communities

Hawi Hussen: I mostly worked on the overall data that was submitted to the administration office of Boys and Girls Club. For example, some of the things I worked on were making report cards about each club by analyzing attendance, activities, camps, etc.

TSN: What did you ultimately learn from the student leader program?

HH: Through working in a non-profit organization, I have learned the difference organizations such as Boys and Girls Club make in different communities. The Regence club is located in a low-income community and most of the kids that go there are from a low-income family. It has many educational and fun activities for the kids.

One of the educational activities that resonated with me was a math class that helps kids improve their math skills. This class was developed through partnership with Rosa Parks Elementary School. Some of the children in the math class were below their grade level. This program helped kids develop their math skills, so

they can do well in their classes.

TSN: What did you enjoy about interning with the Boys and Girls Club?

HH: What I enjoyed the most about interning at the Boys & Girls club was getting to interact with people who work at the club. During my time there I was inspired

because I noticed the employees were really passionate about what they do. Their work ethic shows how much they care about the children who go to the Boys and Girls Club.

TSN: Why do you think this work is important?

HH: I have always dreamed of working in an organization that helps people not to profit from it but, for the sake of helping people who need it. Working at the Boys' and Girls' Club has given me perspectives on community involvement and how I can be a helpful citizen to my community.

While working at the Regence club, I saw many volunteers that helped with activities. Those people were giving their time to give back to their community and make the children's day bright. Those volunteers were my motivation to give back to my community. As I establish my ground at Oregon State University, I plan on joining clubs and volunteering in the community.

Read the full interview at TheSkanner.com

Presidential Medal of Freedom

Earlier this week, President Obama announced 17 recipients of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, including Oregonian civil rights activist Minoru Yasui (1916-1986). In 1939, Yasui became the first Japanese American to graduate from the University of Oregon School of Law and the first Japanese American member of the Oregon Bar. He made national history by challenging the constitutionality of the military curfew imposed on Japanese American citizens in World War II. To learn more about Yasui, visit The Oregon Encyclopedia at http://oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/yasui_minoru_1916_1986/#.VkzzznarR9N.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

KKK

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about it, because we don't want to give them a platform," Oregon City Police Department spokeswoman Sgt. Cynthia Gates told *The Skanner*. "I'd rather just make it quiet, make it go away, and not give them the attention they're

“No information was put through to the sergeants, dispatch, or me and I didn't see anybody on social media Tweeting any photos that verified it

hoping to get from this.”

West Linn Police Department spokesperson Sgt. Dave Kempass mirrored Gates' sentiments, "It doesn't seem to be a real issue," he said, adding that should more flyers appear, the bureau may reconsider.

On Nov. 12 rumors circulated rapidly on social media sites that the KKK was holding a rally, in full regalia, outside of the Nike Factory Store located on Northeast Martin Luther King Boulevard in Portland.

"KKK members are at the Nike Outlet Store on MLK," Portland resident Israel Fin wrote on Facebook in a post that was shared close to 60 times. "Find a buddy to wait at your bus stop, walk you to your car, stay where you are at if

that is an area of town you have to walk/bike/bus through and can't be in a car."

Rumors later spread to say that the Klan had headed away from the store, toward downtown.

Portland Police Bureau spokes-

person Sgt. Pete Simpson, say outside of hearsay, no evidence of the Klan being in either part of town when we spoke to him the following day, adding that no photos of their activity had surfaced either.

A reporter from *The Skanner* drove by the area at about 7 p.m. and did not see anything out of the ordinary, and an Oregon Public Broadcasting reporter's calls to police and staff at the Nike store also turned up no leads.

"No information was put through to the sergeants, dispatch, or me and I didn't see anybody on social media Tweeting any photos that verified it, which to me would amplify it," he said.

No recruitment flyers have been reported as appearing in Portland.

Criminal justice historian J.D. Chandler has done extensive research on the Ku Klux Klan and other White hate groups in Oregon.

Chandler says documentation of Klan activity can be hard to track given that they are a secret society, but estimates that at their peak popularity had around 35,000 members in the state in the 1920s.

"Don't fool yourself - Portland may be a liberal city, but there is support right here for the KKK," Chandler said, adding that the group enjoyed a lot of political power across the state with members in the police department and elected positions as well.

Though he says he's unsure of the validity of the group's recent purported activity, he said groups with similar ideologies have always operated here.

"It's not just the KKK. [They're] just the most visible and charismatic manifestation of [White hate groups]. What's really dangerous is other groups, that are considered mainstream, like the American Legion, have worked for exactly the same purposes."

Data released by the FBI shows the majority of the 66 reported hate crimes in Oregon in 2013 were race- or ethnicity-based.

March

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to \$30 billion of that money on clothes, and more than \$6 billion on tobacco and alcohol.

Farrakhan says the buying power of Black America must be harnessed more productively in order to combat the many disparities in their communities, and that a collective reframe from excessive spending this Christmas season is a beginning of that.

The Skanner spoke with some Portlanders who made the over 2,800 mile trek to D.C. last month to see if and how they will be implementing Farrakhan's call for a Christmas boycott this year.

Native Portlander John Slaughter tells *The Skanner* he is on board with the Minister's call-to-action.

"We need to show that our dollar means something. For me that's part of the effort to make sure that we are trying to make a change," Slaughter said.

Adding that withdrawing spending

isn't enough, Slaughter said African Americans, especially in Portland, must do a better job at communicating to each other about Black-owned businesses where they can spend their money.

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"You don't have to buy your kid 20 Christmas gifts. Buy them two. Don't tell them it came from the anti-Christ, or a White guy who doesn't work. Tell him it came from Mommy and Daddy. Tell them they're not getting as many gifts this year because you are sacrificing for the greater good of our people," Slaughter said.

Ahjamu Umi, head of the All-African

Peoples Revolutionary Party of Oregon, said after attending the first march in 1995, he was again impressed this year at Farrakhan's work against capitalism and continues the organization of Black people in Portland.

"I respect him because I respect organization. Farrakhan and the Nation of Islam have twice organized over a million Africans to come together. Positive spirit and energy. No violence, and a desire for action. That's what 60 years of organization gets you," Umi said.

The average American spent \$704 on Christmas gifts last year, totaling more than \$465 billion in spending.



On Nov. 29, 2013, shoppers browse through coats during Black Friday shopping at Macy's in Chicago.