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Opal Tometi (left) and Alicia Garza, co-founders of Black Lives Matter, spoke at PSU Tuesday.

## Activists Take Stage at PSU

Scheduled Black Lives Matter speakers give stage to activist to address campus issues

Christen McCurdy  
Of The Skanner News

**A** Tuesday night discussion featuring two nationally prominent activists remained somewhat abstract until moments before the scheduled question and answer session — when a student activist was invited to the stage to call for the disarmament of Portland State University’s security.

Alicia Garza and Opal Tometi, two of the three women credited with creating the #BlackLivesMatter hashtag, who have since founded a national organization bearing the same name, spoke at PSU’s Peter Stott Center Tuesday night at the annual Martin Luther King, Jr.

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## Somali Refugees

Former newcomers have gained respect in Maine community

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**Celebrity Interview:**  
**Isaiah Washington**

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# LEGISLATIVE DAY



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

Verleen Jones and Kristen Wilder from the A. Philip Randolph Institute joined the Washington Christian Leaders Coalition, the Seattle All City Black Student Union and the Black Law Students Association in chanting “Black Lives Matter” in the rotunda of the Legislative Building Feb. 15 on African American Legislative Day.

## NoAppFee Wins Technology Competition

Service seeks to streamline the process of applying for rental housing

By Arashi Young  
Of The Skanner News

**W**hile working as a family advocate in a homeless shelter, Tyrone Poole would help homeless families find out if they qualify for rent assistance. He would find families vouchers and write award letters that would pay the cost of rent for a year.

But again and again, these families would leave the shelter without housing, because they could not

find an apartment to rent. They would blindly apply to units to be disqualified for credit histories, criminal backgrounds or eviction records. All the while spending limited funds on housing application fees.

Poole — who won this summer’s Pitch Black event for African American entrepreneurs in the Portland area — said this was devastating to those who were trying to get their lives in order.

“Housing is fundamental. You can’t do anything

before you are housed,” he said. “If you are homeless, that is like not having air, it’s like not having water.”

One day, Poole had a revelation to build a system that would match renters with qualified housing. Out of this idea, NoAppFee was born.

NoAppFee has grown from a local creation into a national database and has been getting attention from the tech industry. On Feb. 4, NoAppFee won the regional 1776 Challenge Cup in San Francisco. The

1776 Challenge Cup seeks out promising and transformative technologies.

NoAppFee also won the Portland Development Commission’s 2014 Startup PDX Challenge for diverse entrepreneurs and the local 1776 Challenge cup for Portland.

The technology start-up will now advance to 1776 Challenge Global Cup, which will be decided in June in Washington D.C. The winner of the global cup will receive \$1 million.

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## Toxins Not Just Coming From Glass

Mary Peveto, founder of Neighbors for Clean Air, says arsenic, chromium are in North Portland air

By Lisa Loving  
Special To The Skanner

**P**arents are turning out by the hundreds at public hearings about air toxics in Southeast Portland.

But is that the whole story?

Both the Bullseye Glass and Urobros Glass companies have stopped using the toxic substances cadmium and arsenic in response to recent reports of neighborhood pollution pos-

sibly linked to their operations.

But not only have those chemicals been tracked in Southeast Portland since at least 2009, but arsenic and chromium discharged into the air are among an array of cancer-causing poisons in the air that have been watched in North Portland for more than a decade without any meaningful action by state regulators.

Mary Peveto, founder of Neighbors for Clean Air, has studied these is-

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Mary Peveto, founder of Neighbors for Clean Air, says arsenic and chromium discharged into the air are among an array of cancer-causing poisons in the air that have been watched in North Portland for more than a decade without any meaningful action by state regulators.