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HOOD TO COAST



The West Coast Steppers pose for a group picture at the 2016 Hood to Coast relay event August 26 - 27, 2016. The walking team walked on behalf of *The Skanner News*.

The Skanner News Screens 'Wake of Vanport'

Newest segments discuss construction of town, complex racial politics

By Arashi Young of *The Skanner News*

Over 68 years ago a flood destroyed the most racially diverse city in Oregon, Vanport — but the stories live on through the oral histories of the survivors

Last Friday, *The Skanner News* hosted a showing of "The Wake of Vanport," at the downtown Embassy Suites hotel ballroom. The media piece showed short films capturing the experiences of those who lived in Vanport before the flood.

Lee Moore, who was a child when he lived in Vanport before the flood, spoke to the audience before the showing of the film. Moore described a city of utility — a quickly constructed public housing project built to house Kaiser Shipyards workers during the Second World War.

"How long does it take to build a community of 42,000 people?" Moore asked the crowd. "110 days." Moore's mother worked in the shipyards, his grandfather was a barber and his aunt worked as a seam-

stress — all parts of a thriving wartime community.

The work brought people from all over the country searching for opportunity. Vanport offered furnished houses, schools, recreation centers and a movie theater. More than 40 percent of the population of Vanport was African American.

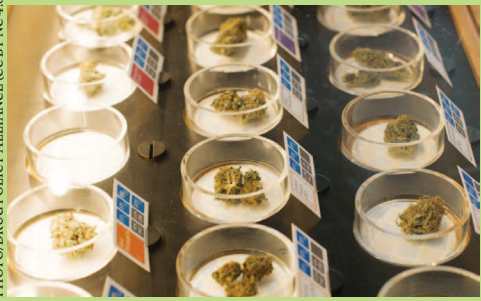
Moore described a town that was both integrated and segregated: people of different races worked together but did not live together. There was much more racial cohesion for

the children of Vanport — Black, White, Native American children who went to school with each other.

After the flood hit Vanport on Memorial Day, May 30, 1948, many of these families were left with few possessions beyond the clothes on their backs.

"The only thing my parents were able to salvage from the flood was a photo album... and everything else was lost," Moore said.

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PHOTO/DRUG POLICY ALLIANCE (CC BY-NC 4.0)
A proposed 3 percent tax on recreational cannabis — which Portland voters will decide on this November — would create a fund to help businesses owned by women and minorities.

Pot Tax Would Fund Minority Businesses

Proponents say tax could help address harms of War on Drugs

By Christen McCurdy of *The Skanner News*

The Minority Cannabis Business Association and the Coalition of Communities of Color say a proposed 3 percent tax on cannabis sales in Oregon could bring as much as \$3 million to minority communities, and may help people of color get started in the cannabis industry.

Portland City Council voted in June to refer the tax to voters, who will decide in November whether to accept or reject it. Put forward by commissioner Amanda Fritz and written with help from the industry as well as city stake-

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AP PHOTO/ABDELJALIL BOUNHAR, FILE
In this May 6, 2015, photo, former President Bill Clinton speaks during a plenary session at the Clinton Global Initiative Middle East & Africa meeting in Marrakech, Morocco. Clinton has promised to step down from the foundation if his wife wins the election in November.

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Calls for Measure 11 Reform

Black Male Achievement event discusses problems with treating youth offenders as adults

By Arashi Young of *The Skanner News*

Underneath the sweltering mid-day sun, Sang Dao described his coming of age within the criminal justice system.

Involved in drugs and gangs, Dao was in and out of juvenile detention since he was 13-years-old. When he was 17, about to turn 18, he was arrested for a Measure 11 offense and was given a plea agreement of 150 months in jail.

"For someone who couldn't plan a day or a week ahead, 12 1/2 years

seemed like my whole life right there," Dao said.

Community members gathered at Woodlawn Park in NE Portland to hear about the impact of Measure 11 on incarcerated youth. The event, "Rise Above: Measure 11 Reform" was a youth-led community engagement project from Black Male Achievement.

The measure, which was placed on the ballot by the tough-on-crime group Crime Victims United and voted in by Oregon voters in 1994, has changed the nature of juvenile justice for a generation of young Black



PHOTO BY ARASHI YOUNG
Black Male Achievement members James Jiles, Jamal Magee, Herman Singleton, and Ben Smith hand out programs for the Rise Above: Measure 11 Reform community event.

men in the state. The measure requires that all youth 15 and older be tried as adults. Judges cannot give shorter sentences than the mandatory minimums and

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