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PASSING THE TORCH



VIDEO STILL FROM WHITTEN'S FB LIVESTREAM
Cameron Whitten, executive director of Know Your City, addresses the "Salem Stands for Love" rally at Salem Capitol, on March 25.

Black Man Assaulted at March

Portland activist Cameron Whitten says police failed to help

The Skanner News Staff

Portland activist Cameron Whitten was met with racist remarks, physical aggression and death threats during the pro-Trump rally, "Oregon Make America Great Again March" in Salem on Saturday. Onsite police did little to mitigate the hostile incident.

Whitten, the 25-year-old executive director of the nonprofit Know Your City — which provides educational and arts programs to youth and adults in Portland — attended the rally on March 25 because, he explained in a Facebook post about the encounter, "I personally

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PHOTO: AAMAQ NEWS AGENCY VIA AP
This image from March 2017 shows a veiled child in a park in Raqqa, Syria. As U.S.-backed forces bear down on the de facto capital of the Islamic State group, all men have been ordered to wear the jihadist "Afghan" garb, so attackers will be unable to distinguish militants from civilians.

World News Briefs

Brexit, Militants using civilians in Syria page 8

Rose Festival Court is Historically Diverse page 6



PHOTO BY MELANIE SEVCENKO

Kirby McCurtis (left) takes over as interim administrator at the North Portland Neighborhood Library, as Patricia Welch (right) says goodbye after almost 20 years as the branch's manager.

North Portland Library Says Goodbye

On Saturday, Patricia Welch will pass the baton to Kirby McCurtis

By Melanie Sevcenko
Of The Skanner News

Patricia Welch first fell in love with reading during story time at her public library in Baltimore.

She read everything — books, magazines, even the old newspapers her grandmother would lay out on the floor after waxing it.

"I just enjoyed reading," said Welch, who cites "Long Division" by Kiese Laymon and "This Side of Home" by Portland native Renée Watson as her current favorite books. "It

made me happy, especially when I figured out that I could learn things that adults didn't even know about."

Her junior high librarian also made an impression. She seemed to know everything, remembers Welch, and she always dressed so elegantly, which the young girl looked up to. Yet Welch never considered becoming a librarian until a career questionnaire in Seventeen magazine planted the seed.

She went on to earn a master's in library sciences from the University of

Michigan's School of Information, and for twenty years has been the administrator at the North Portland branch of the Multnomah County Library.

It's a position that brought her from Detroit to the Rose City — and the broader Pacific Northwest — for the first time in October of 1996.

Welch recalled her initial reaction to the North branch, when she discovered its Black Resource Center, a collection of over 7,000 items including scholarly and popular African American literature,

children's books, films, periodicals, and music.

"I just kept thinking, I want this job," Welch recalled. "This was the job I was supposed to have. This was the place I was supposed to be. I wanted to work with African American literature materials in a diverse neighborhood. I wanted to work someplace where I thought I could make a difference, and this job has been all of those things."

Welch wanted the job so bad, she gleefully told *The*

See WELCH on page 3

Former OHSU Employee Resigns

EEOC numbers say incidents involving nooses in workplaces have risen in recent years

By Christen McCurdy
Of The Skanner News

A former medical assistant at Oregon Health & Sciences University resigned her position at the end of February, three months after she discovered a coworker had posted a sign with a noose in a working area — prompting her union to file a grievance on her behalf and also prompting her to

take medical leave.

Maria Frazier told *The Skanner* she no longer feels safe at the institution, as after several meetings with university officials and media coverage by the Portland Tribune and KBOO, she was offered free counseling but not assured the physician's assistant who placed the noose and sign would be disciplined.

"They minimized violating my civil

See OHSU on page 3



PHOTO BY M.O. STEVENS VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

A medical assistant left her job at Oregon Health & Sciences University after a coworker taped a noose to a doorway in her working area last November.