


OSU on the move
Page 12



Happy Birthday Charles Jordan
Page 3



Exploitation of Black music
Page 8



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Jordan fights for MBE

Commissioner Charles Jordan pushed an amendment through City Council last Wednesday to insure that the City's regulation on minority contracting is complied with, and followed it this week with an emergency ordinance that will allow him

passage of an amendment that will fine Todd \$7,300 for each percentage point that he falls below ten percent on minority participation.

"Todd told me he thought he could make 10 percent but could only guarantee 4.6 percent," Jordan

land International Raceway. The Rose Festival Association will sponsor Championship Auto Racing Track (CART) racing in Portland if the raceway is upgraded. One ordinance establishes a \$230,000 fund to begin work. \$700,000 worth of

will be sold, including the... Another ordinance gives the authority to negotiate a... the excavation and drainage... Commissioner Strachan sought to... work until concerns of the... ea neighbors over noise can... ed, but Mayor Ivancie... or the work to begin imme... The track must be ready by... d if the rains come early it... ise the cost by \$82,000.

n assured that the 10 per... nity goal will be met... sioner Schwab expressed... ion that the financial penal... ontractors who do not meet... irement is to be applied to... ruction contracts.

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Page 1 & 2
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4 & 9

City Commissioner Charles Jordan... ceremony naming...

Miss A... Not ju...

Vanessa Williams, the Miss America, has some other differences from most of the previous Miss Americas — she is speaking out on issues.

Being Miss America was not Miss Williams' dream — she came by it accidentally. She entered the contest after a local pageant official saw her perform and after a professional theater production she was to appear in was cancelled. Her real goal is to be a Broadway star.

Miss Williams, 20, a junior at Syracuse University, has studied dancing since elementary school. Her parents, who are school music teachers, taught her piano, French horn and singing. Her family rule was that the children study music at least until they were 18 years old.

A registered Independent, she favors a Martin Luther King Holiday, the Equal Rights Amendment and the right to abortion.

Miss Williams does not feel race was a factor in her selection. "I was chosen because I was qualified for the position. The fact that I was Black was not a factor. I've always had to try harder in my life to achieve things, so this is regular..."

"It shows that all things are possible. To make it for any minority or any person, you've got to have a good education. I want people to respect me and think I'm better. I'm ambitious, I have a lot of drive, and I work hard to get somewhere."

She added, "At times I get annoyed because people and the press aren't focusing on me as a person and are

because I'm Black doesn't mean I'm going to support every Black position. I'm my own person with my own opinions."

Miss Williams will receive a \$25,000 scholarship and can make up to \$100,000 through public appearances. She hopes her title will help her achieve a career in show business.

First runner-up was Miss New Jersey, Suzette Charles, 20, who also is Black.

The Miss America contest, now 62 years old, banned Blacks from participation until the late 1950s. The first Black woman, Cheryl Brown of Iowa, entered the contest in 1970.

Benjamin Hooks, executive director of the NAACP, compared the selection with Jackie Robinson breaking the color barrier in professional baseball.



VANESSA EILLIAMS

the political and business philosophy of Arthur Palmer. Palmer is no ordinary Black businessman. He is the foremost authority in the Northwest on Bantuism and has incorporated his belief as a Bantu into his business practices.

Palmer told the story like this. "I was approached three times by a group of Oriental gentlemen who said they would give me a good figure for my business. I asked them if they would give my grandchildren a good figure or if they would give my people a good figure. They said they did not understand. I showed them our Bantu sign that meant the business belongs to the people. Until they understood that they would have to give my people a good figure there was no reason for them to try and buy the Bantu Laundry/Dry Cleaners."

Palmer's laundromat is located on 19th and Dekum. He said he became upset when he read an article which stated that Black businessmen all over the country were selling their businesses (stores, laundromats, etc.) to Southeast Asians who are ready to buy.

"I think that is a shame. We are selling our birthright. The businesses are being sold and are not getting handed down to other generations. It would make more sense if we, the Black businessmen, would use our energy to bring the young in and teach them to take over our businesses. If we permit our basic busi-

Palmer also owns New Rose City Cab. He stated, "Years ago when we started fighting for the cab company, a Black man could not drive a cab in Portland. I have had the company for 12 years and I bought it for the purpose of providing jobs. We don't look at our business by how much we make, but we look at it as making a living for ourselves — surviving."

Arthur Palmer lives and operates his businesses under the four pillars of Bantuism;

"The first law is that you must always seek knowledge.

"The second law is that you must have love and compassion to separate us from the lower animals.

"The third pillar is that you must always stand for the truth.

"The fourth pillar is to have the courage to stand up for the above three laws."

"Palmer continues, "If you seek knowledge, you will become a producer."

He said he was made aware of the heroes in Black history by his parents and grandparents. "I knew there was a Marcus Garvey before I knew there was President of the United States. My thoughts have always been to Africa and my works have always been trying to create incomes for my people."

Palmer said he wants his people to spend less time looking for a job and more time trying to create one. He stated, "In America, you have



Arthur Palmer, owner of the Bantu Laundry/Dry Cleaners and founder of the New Rose City Cab Co., tells Blacks "Don't look for a job — create one." (Photo: Richard Brown)

an opportunity to create and make your own job. Business is the way. If you would create your job you have a better chance for advancement without others coming in and limiting your ability. The one thing about being in business is that you

are limited to your own ability. My advice to the Black man in America is don't look for a job as hard as you work to try to get a license to compete in business. That is the American way and we should take advantage of it."