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City Commissioners Margaret Strachan and Charles Jordan congratulate Marie Smith during ceremony naming the Marie Smith Conference Room at King Neighborhood Facility. A long-time Portland activist, Mrs. Smith is a resident of the King neighborhood. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

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 to negotiate the International Raceway contract.

The Todd Building Company of Roseburg was low bidder on a \$7,340,000 contract to renovate the Paramount Theater, which will be reopened as the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. Todd had identified only 4.6 percent for minority subcontractors, while the City's ordinance, passed in 1979, requires 10 percent.

Jordan's refusal to vote for the contract would have denied emergency status and caused a 37 day delay in beginning the project, which is to be completed by the 1984 fall symphony season. In exchange for his vote, Jordan insisted on

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 said. "I told him I would be reasonable, but I would not support his bid unless he could convince me there was no way to meet the goal. But when purchasing agent Howard Vaughn provided a list of MBE's, he agreed to the amendment."

Commissioner Mildred Schwab was angry that Jordan brought the set-aside up at the last minute. "She said I brought it in without her knowing about it, but it was a simple amendment and didn't need prior notification. It was a simple matter; I just want to insure that minority goals are met."

Jordan proposed three ordinances Wednesday, September 21st, to expedite development of the Port-

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 bonds will be sold, including the \$230,000. Another ordinance gives Vaughn the authority to negotiate a bid for the excavation and drainage.

Commissioner Strachan sought to delay the work until concerns of the North area neighbors over noise can be allayed, but Mayor Ivancic pushed for the work to begin immediately. The track must be ready by May, and if the rains come early it could raise the cost by \$82,000.

Jordan assured that the 10 percent minority goal will be met. Commissioner Schwab expressed her opinion that the financial penalty on contractors who do not meet the requirement is to be applied to all construction contracts.

Budget ax wounds poor

Cuts in federal social and welfare programs under the Reagan administration have the greatest impact on households with incomes less than \$10,000, a comprehensive study by the Congressional Budget Office determined. A non-partisan arm of Congress, the CBO reached this conclusion after an analysis of federal funding in 26 human resource areas between fiscal 1982 and fiscal 1985.

In 1985, the average reduction of benefits as a result of budget cuts will be \$470 for households with less than \$10,000 income, as compared to \$280 in all households.

People in households of less than \$20,000 income will have suffered benefit cuts more than twice as

severe as families earning more — \$415 compared to \$175. Seventy percent of all Reagan cuts have been directed at households earning less than \$20,000.

Expenditures for the 26 programs will be \$110 billion less for 1982-1985; military outlays will increase by \$90 billion more.

- Of the \$110 billion in cuts, \$26 billion was in retirement programs including social security, veterans benefits and civil service retirement.
- \$27 billion came from cuts in income security programs such as food stamps, unemployment insurance, housing assistance, and AFDC.
- \$18.5 came from health pro-

grams, mostly medicare.

- Overall, the cuts averaged 7 percent, but some programs were cut more. Employment and training programs were reduced 60 percent. Training for disadvantaged, including youth, was cut 35 percent. Programs that would have created 60,000 public service jobs were eliminated.
- More than 325,000 families lost Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and from 325,000 to 350,000 had benefits reduced.
- About a million people lost eligibility for food stamps. School lunch participation was cut by 3 million. Some 700,000 fewer students received guaranteed student loans.

Miss America 1983: Not just a pretty face

Vanessa Williams, the first Black 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

focusing on me being Black. Just 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

'Don't look for a job — make one'

GRASSROOTS NEWS, N.W. — A nationwide trend of Black businesses being sold to Orientals was slowed this month in Portland by 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-

nesses to be taken over by any group, other than our own, we are undercutting everything we stood for and fought so long to get."

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."