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Local Woman Chosen as Ambassador to Expo '86



Janice Harris Photo by Richard Brown

by Jerry Garner

Ms. Janie Harris was chosen as one of the Ambassadors to represent the State of Oregon at the 1986 Expo World Fair to be held in Vancouver British Columbia. Ms. Harris will depart Portland July 14 for Expo '86 and return August 26.

Ms. Harris is a Retired Senior Volunteer (RSV), who has served 9 years as a receptionist for Holladay Park Hospital. She was highly recommended by the RSV to represent Oregon at the World Fair.

As an Ambassador representing Oregon, Ms. Harris' goal is to promote the State as a desirable travel destination for tourists; to increase requests for travel information; to increase awareness of Oregon within the travel trade; and provide media with information about Oregon. Harris said her mission at Expo '86 is to sell Oregon to the rest of the world.

Harris' trip is sponsored by the Oregon Economic Development Department. The group's primary advertising markets are California, Washington, British Columbia, Idaho, Utah, Arizona and Nevada.

Tourism is an important part of Oregon's economy, ranking third behind forestry and agriculture. Some 13.2 million visitors come to Oregon yearly, spending some \$2.2 billion.

Harris was asked why did she feel that she would be a good Ambassador to represent Oregon at Expo '86? She replied, I enjoy working with people and also have experience as an information and desk receptionist. I am comfortable giving out and retaining information, such as phone numbers and directions. I care about others and like to be involved and active.

During her stay in Vancouver, the State will pay Harris a salary and provide accommodations. Nike will provide uniforms and shoes. Harris is a long time member of New Hope Baptist Church.



District 18 Rep. Margaret Carter makes a point after the endorsement of Neil Goldschmidt for Governor by the Black Leadership Forum. Photo by Richard J. Brown

Black Leadership Conference Endorses Goldschmidt

by Bob Lothian

Candidate for governor Neil Goldschmidt was endorsed Saturday by the Black Leadership Conference.

The endorsement was announced at a Saturday morning meeting of 60 community residents at Vancouver Avenue Baptist Church. It followed a month of meetings with the three main candidates, and assessment of their positions by the conference steering committee.

Goldschmidt received the highest rating on his answers to questions of interest to the black community.

"The process was very good," said Steering committee member Ron Herndon, co-chair of the Black United Front. The assessment was based on "objective reasons and just reasons and not on who had the best handshake or the best Ipana smile," Herndon said.

Conference members and community residents will be helping in

Goldschmidt's campaign with fundraising, voter registration and publicity, he said.

Herndon added that the positions of candidates for other offices will be assessed during the next month and conference recommendations made in early May.

"We didn't cut any deals" with Goldschmidt, said Herb Cawthorne, steering committee member and president of the Urban League of Portland. "In exchange for his support, we would hope that he'd be interested in what he can do for this community," Cawthorne said.

State representative Margaret Carter said Goldschmidt's background and connections in the nation's capital means he has the leadership and resources to deal with problems "right here in Northeast Portland."

She said Goldschmidt's positions on education, unemployment and jobs, and economic development, were better than those of any previous state leader.

"I think Neil Goldschmidt will bring not only a lot of energy to the governor's seat, but he will also bring the national attention that will bring a better working relationship between Oregon and Washington, D.C.," Carter said. "We're going to be helping in whatever way Neil sees as important."

Pam Smith, communications director of the Urban League who staffed the assessment process, said that while Goldschmidt and Paulus came close in the ratings, the committee received a better feeling from Goldschmidt. She said the committee will continue discussions with Goldschmidt on incorporating the community's interests in his platform.

ANC Representative Visits Portland

by Bob Lothian

After his talk at Portland State University last week, Victor Mashabela was asked how long it will take to end apartheid.

"It will be in my mother's time, and she's 55," said Mashabela, U.S. representative of the African National Congress assigned to the United Nations observer mission.

"Brothers and sisters," he addressed the mainly student audience on behalf of "the oppressed but struggling people of South Africa."

Mashabela urged the students to continue their efforts to isolate the apartheid regime by pushing for college divestment. He warned them against corporate liberalism, the attitude that "Divestment will hurt black people."

"Such compassion. All of a sudden these corporate leaders love black people."

While their computers help the system run more efficiently, the profits roll in, he said. "These people are going to South Africa because of apartheid and not in spite of apartheid. Cheap labor attracts corporations."

In South Africa, "Black people are not more than instruments of labor," a situation that translates into super profits for multinational corporations, he said.

"Approach them through the language of profits. Divestment will talk to their wallets, and that is what they really understand."

Mashabela said the point to South Africans is not to argue about whether IBM and other corporations contribute directly to apartheid. The point, he said, is that they are exploitive foreign corporations that the people want "Out!"

Furthermore, talk of reform coming from white South African leaders is mere window dressing. "Apartheid cannot be reformed," he said. "The only thing that will satisfy us is the destruction of apartheid."

"As far as the ANC is concerned, we have nothing to learn from fascists."

He also dealt with the difficult question of why black people are sometimes killed by enraged mobs. "Black agents of the regime are its most efficient tools of repression," which explains why they are seen as legitimate targets, he said.

The attacks on black collaborators are not random, according to Mashabela. "People generally know who's doing what."

Mashabela said violence grows out



ANC Speaker Photo by Richard Brown

of a situation where the whites live in communities similar to Beverly Hills while 50% of black babies die before age five, in a country with the highest per capita prison population in the world and the highest rate of executions.

"We live under fascism," is how he described the daily lives of black South Africans. "It's a racist system imposed at the point of a gun... dripping with the blood of our people."

The African National Congress was founded just after the founding of the white regime in 1912. Accusers who describe the ANC as a tool of Soviet aggression don't understand that it was founded before any communist regime existed, he said. "Our struggle began centuries ago. We do not need anyone anywhere to tell us we are oppressed."

The ANC struggled above ground, organizing peaceful protests, until it decided to become a guerilla organization after 69 people were killed at Sharpeville in 1960. Massacres since then include Soweto in 1976 when 76 died, Langa in 1985 when 40 were killed, and 30 dead at Alexandra in March, 1986.

The ANC's goals, said Mashabela, are to replace apartheid with a non-racist, non-racial, democratic society, "where the wealth belongs to those who live there." The ANC Freedom-Charter further stipulates that all will have the right to vote, all national groups will have equal rights, all will share the wealth, and all South Africans will have access to work, housing, education and medical care.

"Brothers and sisters, our people have nided be free," Mashabela said.



Photo by Richard Brown

Student Wins Mathematics Award

Kenneth Kelly Jr., 13, a student at Portsmouth Middle School, has been named National Award Winner in Mathematics by the U.S. Achievement Academy in Lexington, KY.

Kenneth lives with his grandmother, Rosie L. Kelly, is an eighth grader and an Honor Roll student at Portsmouth. The student was nominated for the honor by his mathematics teacher, Judi Stanford, who said he was a "Good, conscientious worker."



Dick Bogel Photo by Richard Brown

Bogel's Vote Surprise Many

by Jerry Garner

Commissioner Dick Bogel's vote in favor of making three police officers testify before the voter approved Police Internal Investigation Audit Committee surprised many followers of the Committee.

This is because in the past Commissioner Bogel had voted against requiring the officers to testify before the Committee. Bogel, who is a former police officer, was perceived by some as being closely allied with the Portland Police Association.

Although Commissioner Bogel said that he believed the Audit Committee does have the power to subpoena police officers, PIAC must ask questions of that witness which do not go beyond the limits of PIAC's jurisdiction as granted by law.

"When hearing an appeal from an

investigation by the internal investigations unit, the scope of PIAC's consideration of the appeal is limited to those subject areas relevant to determining the nature and quality of the investigation by the Police Bureau in that particular case, or related decisions," said Bogel.

Bogel said the law does not authorize PIAC to investigate complaints made directly to it, nor does PIAC have the authority to conduct a new investigation into the facts of an incident underlying a complaint filed by a citizen with the Internal Investigations unit of the Bureau of Police.

"I hope that this approach will get us over the present hurdle and allow us to start working together in a way which will ultimately benefit the Police Bureau, its officers, and the citizens," said Bogel.