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"The Eyes and Ears of The Community"

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New President Of Black Publishers!



Robert W. Bogle, left, President, The Philadelphia Tribune, accepts congratulations following his recent election as President of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA). Chatting with him during the 51st Annual convention of the NNPA at the Omni Hotel, Atlanta, Ga., are Betty Shine, center, media Supervisor, Pepsi-Cola Company and Charles Tisdale, Publisher, The Jackson (Miss.) Advocate. Tisdale had worked in the 1950s as a sales representative for Pepsi-Cola Metropolitan Bottling Co., in Memphis, Tenn. His co-worker had been Dr. C. Eric Lincoln, then a graduate student and now a Professor of Religion and Culture at Duke University. A long time supporter of the NNPA, Pepsi-Cola sponsored a luncheon that featured Rev. Bernice King, youngest daughter of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, as the main speaker.

Local Students Receive Degrees From Clark Atlanta University

Melinda Rose Jordan and Tricia McClendon, both of Portland, OR, received their degrees from Clark Atlanta University as part of the university's 1991 commencement ceremonies held recently at the Atlanta Civic Center.

Melinda received a B.A. in Psychology. She was a member of Psi Chi, the National Psychology Honor Society, and plans to pursue a career as a Public Health Associate for the Center for Disease Control in Florida.

Tricia received a B.A. in English. She plans to continue her studies in Law School.

Judge Roosevelt Robinson Named Distinguished Alumnus Of The Year



Judge Roosevelt Robinson

University of Portland has named Multnomah County District Court Judge Roosevelt Robinson Distinguished Alumnus of the Year, honoring his significant contributions to the community, to his profession, and to the university.

The Rev. David Tyson, CSC, president of the university, formally presented Robinson with the award June 15 at the university's annual Reunion Dinner.

Robinson graduated from the university cum laude in 1970 and went on to Northwestern School of Law in Portland, graduating in 1976. He entered private practice that year in Portland, specializing in workers' compensation claims and in domestic relations.

He was named Multnomah County Deputy District Attorney in 1978 and was named to the Multnomah County bench by Gov. Neil Goldschmidt in 1990.

Prior to joining the bench he was a member of the Oregon Parole Board and was both a founding member and president of the Oregon Association of Black Lawyers.

He has also chaired the St. Andrew Legal Clinic Board and served on the Equal Justice Committee of the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission in Portland.

Currently he chairs both the North/Northeast Community Mental Health Center and the Yaun Child Care Center in Portland.

Volunteer Drivers Needed

Do you have a valid drivers license? Two hours per month to spare? Northeast Portland seniors need you to help provide transportation on week-days, evenings and weekends. Call Project Linkage, a division of Metropolitan Family Service, at 249-8215 to volunteer.

Read My Lips: Clarence Thomas Is The Most Qualified

BY PROFESSOR MCKINLEY BURT

The President's opinion of his choice to fill the Supreme Court vacancy is hardly shared by the faculty of the Harvard Law School or the American Bar Association; neither by African American Professor, Derrick Bell, nor by Professor Christopher Edley Jr., "No one can look at Clarence Thomas' record and find the claim he was the best-qualified person remotely credible... requires heroic effort to keep a straight face."

It is true, of course, that as columnist Ellen Goodman puts it, "This is the life experience, the pluralism of background (in a justice) that liberals want to be reflected. And it is hard for civil rights groups to turn away from a black man who has 'made it in America.'" But that is just what may happen as we begin a week highlighted by an official F.B.I. appearance at the National Convention of the NAACP--to reassure EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY FOR BLACKS IN THE AGENCY (without quotas?).

And there is further irony in that the Thomas choice coincided with the dedication of the Memphis motel where Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated--as a NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUM. Hundreds of civil rights advocates and celebrities gathered there, including Rosa Parks, Coretta Scott King, Morgan Freeman and Pete Seeger, to celebrate the first center to hold a comprehensive exhibit documenting the civil rights movement in this country. A wag has asked, "would it be appropriate at the confirmation hearing to ask the candidate for the high bench had he ever BROKEN THE LAW TO SECURE JUSTICE UNDER THE LAW? At a lunch counter, at the rear of a bus, in a Birmingham jail?" (Add to those present at that dedication James Farmer, Julian Bond, Daisy Bates, James Forman, Benjamin Hooks, et al.)

If media reports are correct at this early date, the tide of opinion is running against "the most qualified candidate." Interestingly, the strong opposition by several predominately "white" groups with considerable clout is said to have won the gratitude of several prominent blacks who feel they now may be spared the "embarrassment" of coming out against one of their own. The National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL) has made its position clear as they organize a coalition to block Thomas' Senate confirmation. "His statements reveal his rejection of the constitutional basis for the right to privacy, including the right to choose an abortion." They have been joined by the National Organization for Women (NOW).

The elderly in this nation clearly are concerned about the "failures" of Thomas when he was head of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission between 1982 and 1990. Dan Schuller, legislative director for the National Council of senior citizens, flays him "because of his bias for employers against a class of workers." Under Thomas the EEOC allowed the statute of limitations to lapse on an estimated 13,000 age discrimination cases. The agency also allowed companies to reduce pension benefits for workers who remain past retirement age and adopted rules to help employers avoid lawsuits by older workers. Thomas fought with his own staff over these issues.

But, let us look at the man himself, his statements, positions --albeit superficially at this point. This proponent of "bootstrap conservatism" was born of dirt poor southern sharecroppers, deserted by his father, raised by grandparents. (Weren't so many of us?) His education was secured at three Catholic parochial institutions in sequence before entering Yale Law School. His first job as a practicing attorney was as a protegee of the then Attorney General/now senior senator

of Missouri, John Danforth, a republican. Following the senator to Washington as a legislative assistant, Thomas has often said he was "deeply grateful to Danforth because HE PAID NO ATTENTION TO MY RACE!" So much for "One's own bootstraps" in a racist land where Thomas' series of benefactors "did the right thing" at a right time when they now could safely ride the crest of a new liberal American sentiment created by the successful legal efforts of civil rights attorneys like Thurgood Marshall and by the ultimate sacrifice of freedom fighters like Reverend King.

Many Americans, white and black are increasingly nervous as they recall the divisive effects of Booker T. Washington's position when he originated that "bootstrap" philosophy a hundred years ago. Blacks are even more nervous as they gain the full import of Clarence Thomas' article to the Los Angeles Times (Nov. 15, 1985).

"No one really speaks for black America...The argument that the views of the black leadership are consonant with those of black Americans misses the point, since MOST BLACKS ARE NOT REPRESENTED BY BLACK POLITICIANS. Nor are most blacks members of organizations that claim to represent them."

The man is greatly admired by conservative republicans, Patrick J. Buchanan, several black former schoolmates and his grandmother who says that "God has wrought this miracle." Other opinions range downward to that of my neighbor who describes him as a "fugitive from the Twilight Zone." We anticipate quite a confirmation battle in the senate over the president's QUOTA CANDIDATE. The senators are not likely to quietly "advise and consent" to his selection of Clarence Thomas for the Supreme Court vacancy. My own preference is that I have always chosen "I have a dream" over the crass "Read my lips."

Governor Announces \$5 Million in Criminal Justice Grants

Governor Barbara Roberts announced grants totalling over \$5 million to programs targeted to fight the spread of drugs and violent crime.

The federal funds are allocated through the Criminal Justice Services Division and provide funding for local programs in all regions of the state. The grants also provide funding for state-wide crime and drug prevention programs.

Included in the grants announced are new programs including DNA typing of sex offenders

(\$175,000), programs to help pregnant women addicted to drugs (\$175,000), a Crime Prevention Resource Center (\$150,000), increased money to fight gangs (\$750,000), and drug diversion and treatment (\$300,000).

The remaining grants are for programs already in existence across the state.

"Our goal is prevention--crime prevention, drug prevention, gang prevention," Governor Roberts said. "These programs reflect my commitment to taking people away from the vicious cycles that lead them to drugs and gangs and crime and offer them a positive alternative."

Criminal Justice Services Division Director Catherine Webber said the grants reflect the state's commitment

to fighting crime in six areas; community policing, prevention programs, drug education, drug treatment, gangs, and juvenile justice.

"We are working hard to improve the partnerships between local law enforcement and state and federal government. By combining efforts, pooling resources, offering improved training programs and improving communications, these programs can make a major impact on violent crime and drugs across Oregon.

An advisory board consisting of law enforcement officials, judges, legislators and citizens from around the state assists Webber and Governor Roberts in reviewing grant applications.

"This money will help us keep kids off drugs, out of gangs and off the streets," said Advisory Committee member and State Rep Tom Novick, D-Portland.

Under guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Justice Drug Control and System Improvement Grant Program, at least 49% of the funds must go to local programs. Webber said in Oregon almost 56% of the grants pass through to local law enforcement agencies.

The state receives the remaining 44% for state-wide programs, training programs and administration.

Special health information
inside. Look for continued health
coverage next week