

'CAMPAIGN 92'

Honorable Margaret L. Carter



Margaret L. Carter, State Representative of District 18
BY JOHN DUDLEY LEFRIDGE, III

The Portland Observer had a wonderful opportunity to have a personal interview with our State Representative concerning her recent visit to South Africa. However, before we get into that, this writer would like to take time out to really introduce our readers to Ms. Margaret L. Carter, and give you a little background information, so that you will truly understand just who this marvelous African-American woman is.

When we search the sands of time for the everlasting footprints that are engraved upon the minds of the members of the first family of civilization and their descendants, we will find that the cornerstone of our existence can be traced from the footprints of the Queen of Sheba, and the burning passion she brought forth to King Solomon, right to the never-ending beauty of Cleopatra, Queen of the Nile, who put Rome in a tailspin. These same footprints lead to the struggles during slavery where another queen, Ms. Harriett Tubman, carried on the quest for freedom from physical bondage. And, like the three

queens before her, Ms. Mary McCloud Bethune stood tall in the fight for educational freedom for her people. Each of these women came to us at different times on the wings of change, until now. All the above mentioned characteristics are all rolled into one when we speak of our Honorable State Representative Margaret L. Carter.

Born in December 1935 in Shreveport, Louisiana, she was one of eight children, with four sisters and three brothers; two of her sisters live in Portland and two live in Shreveport; one brother lives in Tacoma, WA, and one lives in Portland. One brother passed away in the service some time ago.

Ms. Carter arrived in Portland, Oregon in 1967. While raising her family she taught school at the Albina Youth Opportunity School. This was a real tough school; these kids were the at-risk youth of that day. Yet, she stayed and taught there for about five years. Then in 1972 she started working at Portland Community College, Cascade Campus, up until about 1975, when she moved on to Sylvania.

During the early 80's she became a strong community activist, tackling such issues as safety in the community, better public education for the poor, and even went head on with the tough Parole Advisory Commission to help change some of the disparities within the rules of the State Board of parole that had an adverse affect on the high number of minorities it was dealing with.

By the mid 80's she became the first African-American woman ever to be elected to the Oregon Legislative Assembly. While in the House of Rep-

resentatives, she has successfully sponsored and walked through the legislature the state holiday commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. Another bill she championed was the divestiture of state investments in companies doing business in South Africa.

Yes, this is the State Representative of District 18 that The Portland Observer had the privilege of interviewing during the 1991 Kwanzaa. Our first contact to set up this interview occurred on the 4th day of the Kwanzaa, Ujamaa and the actual interview took place on Kuumba.

District 18 Representative Carter began her trip to South Africa by first stopping in Johannesburg. Here she had a first-hand look at the real life, everyday problems that the Black South African people are forced to endure. As Ms. Carter went on to explain, "These people are attempting for the first time to sit down at the table of brotherhood with their former oppressors and work toward a National Congress which will reflect a fair cross section of the population. However, the world already knows, as you and I, that the pressure of breaking down apartheid is one thing, changing the governmental structure and the set legislative activities that Johannesburg, South African has functioned under for so long is another story. White South Africans are still very unwilling to totally give up the reins of power."

"The next stop on our agenda was in Pretoria. This is where you can find a high population of Indians, Coloreds, Whites and Asians, with only a small number of blacks. During our trips in

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A Few Economic insights in the coming elections

The most obvious and viable concentration of African American political power in the state is in legislative districts 8 and 18 represented by state senator Bill McCoy and representative Margaret Carter respectively. Its a shame neither of these multiple term Black incumbents can be lifted up as star players in the contest to gain economic capacity for Blacks in the state.

Its hard to understand what the real deal is with McCoy. One can only speculate that this soft spoken nice guy has been brutally used to deceive folks into thinking Oregon has progressive notions about Black people. Because McCoy continues to get elected without any connect to significant achievements, one can only conclude that the deception continues (particularly among blacks) to work. The Oregonian news paper not withstanding, the Black community should be the first to candidly fill out the scope card on the performance of our state representatives as did the Black Leadership Conference when it decided not to endorse the state senator. Its not enough to just have black faces. We must also have powerful black actions to accompany the faces. Surely we must know that if Black representatives won't to the right thing we can hardly expect white representatives to act substantially on our behalf.

This is particularly true of state representative Margaret Carter. Let me just say something. As a long time supporter and admirer of Margaret it is regrettable that I must conclude that she just ain't cutting it. First of all, after going to the state legislature with the most popular consensus of Black votes maybe in the history of the state, there is no way she should now after a second term be receiving any opposition, creditable or otherwise. As I see it, here are a few of the major economic issue blunders of her terms in office.

•Over the objections of most of the African American Contractors, sponsoring the Emerging Small Business Legislation and Creating the Office of Minority Business. This office has no statutory authority to enforce anything on behalf of the minority businesses and in fact the office has done significant harm. The office is a real joke.

•Ignoring the counsel of Black EEO/AA professionals by not following through on developing the resources to complete a disparity study in aftermath of the Crosion decision which did away with minority contracting goals for local municipalities.

•Sponsoring weak Enterprize Zones legislation which to date has been very ineffective, yielding little capacity for working people in Northeast Community to obtain jobs. The legislation also

completely ignores the capacity and potential of small business already in the area.

•Sponsoring a very weak contractor mentor protegee legislation which is basically a joke.

•While she claims credit for the Northeast Work Force Center, the concept is under funded and lacks the capacity to place people in real jobs after they supposedly have been trained.

•Influence cliques (clicks) among close cohorts rather using her legislative influence for the greater good of the majority of her district constituents.

Margaret's performance can be basically characterized as more show than substance. Maybe that is why she received only a luke warm in endorsement for the Black Leadership Conference which she has been a long time member. And may be that's why other routine endorsement have evaded her campaign so far. If she does get reelected for a third term perhaps she has gotten the wake up call to listen and follow through with the charge from the majority of her constituents. The reported whispering about her being out of touch with her constituent is really more like a roar. Maybe she and Bill will both fully come to realize that there are a lot of desperate folks hopes riding on their representation and the stakes are too high for either of them to be "Flakin'."

Update On The Oregon Health Plan

BY SENATOR BOB PACKWOOD

I have been working hard in Washington the past few months to convince the Bush Administration to allow us to go ahead with the Oregon Health Plan. We need the Administration to grant a waiver of the federal Medicaid rules so that we can implement our innovative program.

The Oregon Health Plan is a comprehensive approach to our state's health care crisis. It won't fix everything, but it does address the major problems in a way that we in Oregon can afford. Our plan would offer basic health insurance coverage to 120,000 low-income and unemployed Oregonians by expanding the Medicaid program. It would provide coverage to working poor and medically uninsurable Oregonians who have no access to health care at all.

The prioritized list of services that Oregon came up with has been the subject of much of the national debate on our plan. I think we did a good job in designing that list, and in making the tough choices that must be made in order to make progress toward health care reform. Right now 450,000 Oregonians are without health care insurance -- that's 19% of our citizens, many of

them children. Our plan would offer basic coverage to most of those people either through the Medicaid program or through employer-based coverage that will be required as soon as the plan goes into effect.

The national debate on health care has focused new attention on Oregon's bold plan. The Office of Technology Assessment (OTA), which is a research arm of Congress, was asked to study the Oregon plan and give an objective assessment of it. OTA issued a report recently that both praises and criticizes the plan. On balance, the OTA report was positive and I am encouraged that it will help the Administration decide favorably on the waiver.

The OTA report is very positive about Oregon's attempt to extend coverage to the uninsured. It is equally positive about the legislature's willingness to put additional funding into the plan. The report is critical of the list of prioritized services because it wasn't done "scientifically" enough. However, OTA does point out that there is no scientifically accepted way of putting together such a list. OTA is primarily concerned that Oregon could run out of money and cut the list of services cov-

ered to a very low level that would be harmful to the people this program is designed to benefit.

There are mechanisms in place to prevent it. The Governor or the Secretary of Health and Human Services could withdraw the waiver if the benefit package drops to an inadequate level.

We ranked services on the prioritized list according to effectiveness and cost. The list might not work for New York or Texas but it will work for Oregon. The plan will reflect a clear sense of what Oregonians want in health care.

I keep telling the Administration that we in Oregon are ready to go forward with our plan, as soon as we get a green light from Washington. It may not be a perfect solution, but it is much more equitable and more effective than the current system.

It's time for the Administration to act. It's time to end the delays and to give Oregon the waiver. Our state has tackled one of the most difficult problems of the day, and come up with a reasonable solution that offers service and compassion to our citizens. Oregon's innovation deserves a chance and I plan to continue the fight for it.

Secretary Of State Phil Keisling



Secretary of State, Phil Keisling makes a " Surprise Visit" to Brooklyn School April 28th.

Principal Rosemary Daniels and the Brooklyn students gave Keisling a "Warm Welcome!."

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

AND PLAN TO ATTEND

THE OPEN HOUSE

at

MARGARET CARTER'S

CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS

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Saturday, May 2, 1992

2:00 to 6:00 p.m.

5315 N. Vancouver

(Corner of Vancouver and Killingsworth)

Authorized and paid by the committee to Re-ect Margaret Carter
State Rep. # 18. 5315 N. Vancouver, Portland Or 97217. 287-0385

