

SPORTS

Magic Johnson Foundation Buys Minority Bank With \$1 Million Deposit



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Vincent M.I. Bryson, president and CEO of The Magic Johnson Foundation, Inc. (MJF), announced that the foundation has made an initial deposit of \$1 million in California's only African American owned commercial bank, the Founders National Bank of Los Angeles.

"Magic Johnson Foundation" is committed to being actively involved in all aspects of its community. We want to contribute to economic empowerment as well as the educational empowerment of our community," Bryson stated.

The mission of the foundation is to raise money as a public charity to fund HIV and AIDS organizations specializing in education, prevention and care geared towards young

people.

Founders National Bank of Los Angeles (FNBLA) began doing business as national bank on January 22, 1991. It acquired certain assets and assumed the deposits of what had been Founders Federal Savings and Loan Association from the Resolution Trust Corporation (RTC). There are six shareholders who own all of the issued and outstanding common capital stock of FNBLA which is a certified African American owned financial institution.

"Our mission is to make a difference in the communities we serve by providing, on a personalized basis, quality financial services that are needed by the consumer, small and medium businesses and professionals located in our market areas," said

Carlton Jenkins, managing director of the bank.

"Believe me, a deposit such as this by the Magic Johnson Foundation is very much welcomed. It will enable us to continue to take an active role in the rebuilding of our communities and expand Founders' products and services," Jenkins added.

The Magic Johnson Foundation was founded in December, 1991 as a national public charity by Earvin Johnson, R. and is recognized under section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Members of the Board of Directors include; Debbie Allen-Nixon, Arsenio Hall, Earvin Johnson, Jr., Michael Jordan, Lon Rosen, Joe Smith, Alonzo Wallete and Denzel Washington.

Blazers, Z100 And Local Musicians Jam For Boys And Girls Clubs Of Portland



From left to right (back row) Blazers Terry Porter, Reggie Smith, Tracy Murray and Joe Wolf; (front row) members of the Columbia Boys and Girls Club of Portland who participated in the recording of "Blazertown," Tomeco Qualls, Clyde Bell, Elijah Jackson, Detoya Burrell and Janyell Miller.

Last year, the Blazers produced "Bust-a-Bucket," which won the Portland Music Award for Song of the Year. The Trail Blazers are now hitting the airwaves and boom boxes with this year's cassette project featuring two new songs, "Blazertown" and "You Gotta Love It."

Blazers Terry Porter, Joe Wolf, Tracy Murray and Reggie Smith teamed with an assortment of local musicians to record the cassette which will benefit the Boys and Girls Clubs of Metropolitan Portland.

"Blazertown" showcases lead vocals from Hakim Muhammed and J. Mack of the Portland-based rap group, U-Krew. Local R & B musician Andy Stokes provided lead vocals for the flip side, "Ya Gotta Love it," while Margaret Linn, Valerie Day, Tracy Harris, along with members of the Blazer Dancers and Clyde Bell, Detoya Burrell, Janyell Miller, Elijah Jackson and Tomeco Qualls of the Columbia Boys and Girls Clubs sang backup on both songs "Blazertown" and "You

Gotta Love it" were written, produced and arranged by John Smith of Nu Shooz, Rick Waritz and Tony Martinez.

This year marks the fourth time the Blazers have teamed with the Z100 Morning Zoo and local recording artists to produce a music cassette. Proceeds from the sale of this year's cassette, and a special "Blazertown" T-shirt, produced by Starter Sportswear, will go towards expanding activity programs for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Portland.

Portland Trail Blazers' Buck Williams Teams Up With National Kidney Foundation

Portland Trail Blazers' All-Star power forward Buck Williams has teamed up with the National Kidney Foundation, Inc. (NKF) as a national celebrity spokesperson to step up the fight against kidney disease.

"Off the court, kidney disease has affected my family, and our family is just one of 20 million American Families who have to deal with kidney and urinary Diseases every day," Williams said. In 1992, Williams' mother died of chronic kidney failure.

"We are thrilled to have Buck Williams on board with the National Kidney Foundation," said Donald Wilson, NKF Chairman. "It's so important that people like Williams are willing to become involved and help us reach the public."

"Williams is a very enthusiastic individual, and we're looking forward to his working on our awareness campaigns, including a future public service announcement for television," Wilson said.

"I've seen how kidney failure affected my mother, and I want to help anyone who is either in a similar situation or who has a chance to take steps to prevent kidney failure," Williams said. "The National Kidney Foundation works throughout the country to teach people how to prevent kidney diseases, and they have wonderful programs and services for people on dialysis and those who have received kidney transplants."

While 80,000 Americans die each year of kidney diseases, many kidney diseases are preventable or treatable.



The leading causes of kidney failure are high blood pressure and diabetes.

"High blood pressure is a silent disease—one that may not cause any symptoms at all—and African-Americans need to be particularly aware of high blood pressures," Williams said. "They tend to develop high blood pressure more frequently, at an earlier age and more severely than whites, and to suffer more complications such as chronic kidney disease," he said.

"If there's one thing we want everyone to learn, it's to have your blood pressure checked regularly," said Williams. "Better screening and earlier treatment can improve everyone's

chances of avoiding kidney failure." Chronic kidney failure is treated by either dialysis treatment or kidney failure." Chronic kidney failure is treated by either dialysis treatments or transplantation.

Williams has been a member of the Trail Blazers since 1989. This year, he became one of only 18 players in NBA history to record 10,000 points and 10,000 rebounds during his career.

The NKF, whose work is funded entirely by the public, helps more Americans prevent, treat and cure kidney and urinary tract diseases than any other voluntary agency.

Summer Basketball League Sign-Up

In support of the Portland community, American Honda and Concordia College, in cooperation with the local Honda Automobile Dealers, are sponsoring a Summer Basketball League for the second year in a row.

The league starts June 20th and

ends with an awards banquet in August. Practices will be once a week. Games will be on Sundays at Concordia College.

The league is open to boys and girls from the 3rd to the 10th grades. We encourage all skill levels to join.

Our goal in this league is to have fun and to help the kids build self-esteem.

Sign-up for the league is going on now. Just go to the Peninsula Grade School Gym on any Monday evening between 6:30 and 8:30pm and ask for James Johnson.

Blacks In Media... And Bighouse— Short Changed

BY HAROLD BELL

On Tuesday March 2, 1993, the Washington Post published a story: "They Did A Demolition Job On Bighouse," by staff writer Jonett Howard, about the forced resignation of Winston-Salem State University legendary basketball coach Clarence "Gaines, who despite being the second winningest coach in college basketball history, never received the respect he deserved.

He only needed 49 more wins to beat out the late Adolph Rupp of Kentucky to become the all-time winningest NCAA coach.

One reason this 70-year-old African American known as Bighouse—6 foot-6, 275-pounds—never received the credit he so richly deserved, according to Dean Smith of the University of North Carolina, coach of college basketball's NO. 1 ranked team, is because of an insensitive racist sports media.

Ms. Howard's column not only explained how Bighouse got the shaft from his university family-Chancellor Cleon Thompson, Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Alex Johnson, and Athletic Director Albert Roseboro—but ironically reflected a glaring lack of respect for the Blacks mentioned in her story.

It was the kind of blatant insensitivity that is so often accorded Blacks in the White media. I had a serious problem with the with the disrespect shown myself and my colleagues Earl Monroe, a Winston-Salem and NBA basketball legend, and Ted Blunt, a Winston-Salem basketball All-American and now a city councilman in Wilmington, Delaware, that I called the sports editor, George Solomon.

Our conversation reminded me of what Dean Smith said about racist sports editors, and reinforced my awareness of our need to celebrate Black History Month for 12 months of the year. For White America, particularly the White media (assisted by a few hand picked house boys and girls) refuses to accurately report on African American accomplishments and contributions to this country. In the 1992 November issue of Essence Magazine, an article titled, "Why White Men Fear Black Men." Essence invited five white

men from media and academia to join in a roundtable discussion of White male attitudes toward Black men. One of the five panelist included Andrew Hacker, the author of the 1992 best-seller, "Two Nations Black And White; Separate, Hostile, Unequal." Mr. Hacker had this to say about Black men and success: "We decide how many of you will be allowed into which positions and how many is too many. And we pick the Bill Cosby's, we pick the Collin Powell's. We do that, and we are very careful about the numbers."

Yet when you ask White editors about slights and oversights toward Blacks in media, they point out that we are a little too sensitive. But nothing could be further from the truth.

I was not identified in the column as a sportscaster or talk show host, but as a Washington, D.C. consultant. Consultant of what? This kind of non-recognition put down of Blacks by the media brought back a painful memory of another interview with WRC-TV 4 anchorman Jim Vance.

The interview took place on a Northwest corner at 14th and V in what was then the heart of Washington's Drug Combat Zone.

Since his arrival from Philadelphia in the late '60's, Jim Vance and I had become—so I thought—good friends. We worked together on numerous community projects and were often tennis partners when our busy schedules allowed us the time. This particular interview focused on the accidental death of a little child at one of the community programs in the area, and Mr. Vance wanted some "inside" information on the how and why of this tragedy. He wondered what the community could do to avoid something similar.

That night on the six o'clock news when Jim Vance introduced me as a "community activist" all I could do was shake my head.

What a shallow introduction. If George Michael had done that I would have not taken it personally. But Jim Vance? A man who blamed his cocaine use on the pressures of being a black man in a White media. He certainly understood how we (Blacks collectively) have been short changed by

the media in terms of recognition, and frequently robbed of our identity. I called Jim that very same day and told him how I felt. He apologized for the oversight and promised he would make it up to me. That was three years ago and I haven't heard from him since. But truly, I understand his problem...and I forgive.

I have been a media personality (athletics, community and sports journalist) for close to 35 years in this town.

As a pioneer in D.C. radio and television sports shows I have set trends, not followed them. "Inside Sports" was my brain child, my original tag. Today you find TV and radio shows, newspaper and magazines, using that tag in whole or part. But before I started and "Inside Sports" radio show in 1974 there was "Inside" nothing.

I was the first to write sports commentaries for radio and TV shows. I conceived the first sports media round table at WOOK Radio in 1974. The participants were Gerald Burk of the Afro-American Newspaper, Chuck Taylor the Washington Bullets color analyst for TV 20, and the late Ron Sutton and Greg Mosso of WHUR Radio. In 1975 I became the first Black to host and produce my own TV sports special on NBC affiliate WRC-TV 4 thanks to and assist and support of Jim Vance.

In 1980 I became the first sports media personality to be cited by the Washingtonian Magazine as it's "Washingtonian of the Year."

Inside Sports has grown from a local talk show to a talk show with a national flavor.

Radio and TV critic Norman Chad of the Washington Post says, "Inside Sports is the best sports talk show I have ever heard."

William Taaffe, former radio and TV critic for the Washington Star and Sports Illustrated Magazine says, "Harold Bell's Inside Sports is easily the most reflective and provocative radio sports show in Washington. Its guests actually say something. The other shows are bland by comparison."

Harold Bell writes for The New-Observer in Washington, D.C.

Continued next week

PDX Sportsline On Paragon Cable

Hosted by John Phillips

Day	Time	Channel
Monday	8.30pm	30 & 38 (live)