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LIFE IN THE PORTLAND METROPOLITAN AREA

The Portland Observer

Gordly Successful In Submitting Budget Note Protecting Affirmative Action Gains



State Rep. Avel Gordly

Protecting affirmative action gains despite layoffs in state agencies is the goal for a budget note to be added to every major budget passed out of the House Appropriations Committee, according to State Rep. Avel Gordly.

Gordly pushed for the budget note as a member of the House Appropriations Committee. It was included in the Public Utility Commission budget that passed the House.

According to reports issued by Governor Roberts' Office of Affirmative Action, minorities have made slight gains in obtaining state jobs over the past three years, rising from 8.5% overall to 8.8 between 1991 and 1993.

The budget note passed in the House of Representatives for the first time as part of the budget for the Public Utilities Commission.

Gordly proposed the budget for the Public Utilities Commission.

Gordly proposed the budget note in an attempt to protect minority and women workers from being laid off during down-sizing of state agencies.

State law requires every agency to submit an affirmative action review with its budget request. Gordly said in past sessions legislators have not requested the information as part of the budget decision-making process.

Portland Man Claims 100,000 Powerball Prize

James Kidwiler, 50, Portland, visits Plaid Pantry #126 on SW Cedar Hills Blvd. in Beaverton several times each week while driving his Federal Express route. It's not unusual for him to buy a Lottery ticket during those stops, as he did on Wednesday morning, May 5. As it turned out, however, this wasn't just a routine stop.

All five regular numbers (white balls) on James' Powerball ticket matched the numbers in the Wednesday, May 5, drawing. He visited Lottery headquarters to claim his \$100,000 prize. After 28 percent was withheld for federal taxes, he left with a check for \$72,000.

James didn't know his \$5.00 Quick Pick ticket was a winner until he visited the store the day after the drawing and was told by store employees that they sold a big winning ticket. He went home after work and checked the numbers on this ticket. "Oh, I went nuts," James laughed. "I couldn't eat or sleep for two days."

James wasn't able to take time off from work, so he had to wait to claim

In public testimony, Division of State Lands Director Gary Gustafson said that this is the first time his agency has been asked to report on its affirmative action progress.

"The legislature has not done a very good job of holding state agencies accountable and monitoring progress, or the lack of progress in recent years," said Gordly.

Gordly said budget notes serve as an additional monitoring tool and are generally reviewed each session as agency budgets are considered.

"While we must take care to protect any and all gains in affirmative action over the past several years, I've drafted this budget note to target several agencies—including the PUC—that have a woeful record of hiring minorities and women," said Rep. Gordly.

The language of the budget note reads: "When positions are changed or abolished, the agency shall make every reasonable effort to protect affirmative action gains with regards to females and minorities."

Gordly said among the agencies she is particularly concerned about are Oregon's Land Conservation and Development agency (LCDC) and the Department of Environmental Quality.

LCDC, said Gordly, has 45 employees, only 7% are minorities and less than 40% are women.

"Particularly when agencies are mainly based in the Portland Metropolitan area where the minority work force is highest in the state, any level of minority hiring under 10% is just unacceptable," said Gordly.

"The gains we have made, and will continue to make, must not be lost in these times of economic uncertainty," said Gordly. "Yes, reductions in staffs will be made, but they must not be targeted at minority or women populations, particularly in those agencies that already have poor affirmative action hiring records."

When Tamisha Green left Portland, Oregon, for Tuskegee, AL, three years ago, she was traveling on a hunch. She really didn't know how or if—the transition would work.

"I came down here kind of blindfolded," the junior Tuskegee University student said of her first year here. A visit to Arkansas with her father was the furthest south she had been.

"I knew Tuskegee was small, but I expected it to be more of a city." Instead, "I found it to be more of a town." She also expected the adjustment—from Portland, Oregon, to Tuskegee, AL, with all the racial and cultural differences—to be hard, very hard.

"I thought people would party all the time; and if you were not able to keep up with the crowd, you would get lost."

The blindfold has long been removed now, and Tamisha likes what she had been seeing—and experiencing.

The friendly people she expected are indeed friendly, she says. There is no need to be paranoid about academic success as she was upon arrival, the campus is much larger than expected, and she feels much more confident and stronger about meeting the challenges she knows career and life have in store for her.

Tuskegee University was not Tamisha's first choice. Indeed, she applied for admission to only one eastern University. A family friend recommended Tuskegee, and she explored the University's background.

The school for her first choice required participation in a summer program before admission to the regular program. That meant additional airfare Tamisha said she couldn't afford.

She was reluctant to try Tuskegee University, but reasoned: "You'll never know until you go down there and try it."

"When you show interest in learning, they (Tuskegee professors) get excited about that and want to help you even more," Tamisha explains about her academic experience here.

"You don't get that kind of rapport at a lot of colleges," she says, in reference to the one-on-one relationship she has established with some professors at Tuskegee.

Having just completed her third



Tamisha Green

year at Tuskegee University, she observes: "I can't picture myself being anywhere else. I have found Tuskegee offering a lot of what I was looking

AL, and her hometown of Portland, Oregon, that is alike, Tamisha agrees. And it is the difference that she seems to like.

"To me it is relaxing here. If you want to take a walk, you can get away from the traffic or the music," not denying that there is some traffic and plenty music. She finds it "kind of interesting to sit outside to do my studying and just observe the wildlife."

Tamisha says she prefers to study alone "unless someone needs help or I need help. I don't get into the group study." Her approach to academic work here has been outstanding.

She has been an honor roll student every semester, a four-point student three of four semesters, and "I'm working on a four point this semester."

ter."

Serious about her studies, Tamisha says, "I have worked out a plan for myself. I really don't feel like I am under any pressure," although her preference is to complete assignments as soon as she receives them. She feels well-prepared by the college preparatory school she attended in Portland.

Tamisha is a year away from completing undergraduate studies at Tuskegee, but she continues to focus on plans to follow graduation.

"No matter what I do in life, I want to be happy," Tamisha says, a philosophy influenced by her mother who not uncommonly complained on Sunday nights about having to go to work on Monday. "I want to do a little teaching." And while she is unsure of the concentration—international or corporate—Tamisha says she also wants to practice law before she returns to Oregon to run for governor.

Would a female, black candidate have a realistic chance of winning a bid for governor in Oregon? Tamisha thinks so. She believes her candidacy for governor, even if she loses, will still be a "role model." "That (her candidacy) might still give someone else the motivation to run," she reasons.

Meanwhile, school is a priority for Tamisha. "I could survive if I had to," she says about moving into the workplace now. But because she has the choice, she will study as long as she can.

I like school. When you are in school, someone is always looking out for you." And school at Tuskegee for Tamisha is both outside as well as inside the classroom. She is an officer of the Pre-Law Society, an active member of the Political Science Association, a member of the Political Science Committee of the Tuskegee chapter of the NAACP, and a member of Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society and the Golden Key Honor Society.

And despite the distance from Portland, she stays in touch with home through telephone calls to her family that can last an hour or more. She also stays in touch with prospective college students because, she explains, "I want people from my home to experience what I have experienced."

"The blindfold has long been removed now, and Tamisha likes what she had been seeing—and experiencing."

Black Is Brilliant!

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Portland Chapter, is sponsoring its 15th Annual Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological, and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO).

The purpose of ACT-SO is to provide an atmosphere in which students of African descent that are in grades 9-12, are allowed to develop, nurture and showcase their talent. These students will compete in several different categories including: the sciences, visual arts, performing arts, and the humanities.

The goal of ACT-SO is to give the same notoriety to African-American scholastic and cultural achievers that

is experienced by African-American sports figures.

Participating branches of the N.A.A.C.P. hold local competitions and then send the winners on to compete in the finals.

This year the finals will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana, July 10-12. Last year's national competition attracted more than 1300 high school students from over 740 communities and was televised on national television.

This year's local competition will be held on June 5, 1993 at Whitaker Middle School. For more information, please call ACT-SO Coordinator, Janet Warren at 331-1378.

Les Femmes Debs And Cavs...

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on the journey. I am dedicated and have been educated to blossom like a flower. To stand on my own two feet and show the talents God has given to me. To thank the people who have pushed me all the way. So I can be natural in whatever I do and say. Along with all the toning I can be effective on the challenges life provides you. So this is what a Debutante is from me to you.

"Weathered—I'm the type of person who has always tried to surround

myself with positive people and with those who really care about society. Now I am taking it upon myself to obtain those essential qualities, so I can then be a positive influence also.

In developing and maintaining relationships with many different types of people, in many situations, it is always effective to keep a positive attitude. This attitude will keep me in the right frame of mind to achieve the many goals I have set for myself.