

"Just Shut Up, You Black Folks!"

For the past 10 years, Portland's Black community has been passed over for opportunities in Oregon's rapidly growing convention marketing and service areas.

During the construction of the Oregon Convention Center, African Americans were forced to picket because of the discriminatory contracting practices.

The Portland Oregon Visitors Association (POVA) has come under constant criticism because of their lack of performance in hiring African Americans to promote conventions on a nationwide basis. Blacks have been responsible for helping promote a number of successful conventions that were held here in Portland, generating millions of dollars into the economy with little or no assistance from POVA, Oregon Tourism Alliance or any of the other groups that are receiving tax funding.

Many hotels take African American business for granted. Walk into or call any Red Lion, Marriott, Heathman or Sheraton and see how many Blacks that they have working at their front desk or any key management or sales & marketing position.

The ER Commission has recommended that \$1.2 million dollars per year over the next 3 years be awarded to POVA, with absolutely no provision to include Blacks in the areas of convention marketing nor any other top management positions. The final decision will now rest with Metro.

If you are tired of seeing Black people in this community being hired in the position of janitors, waiters, parking lot attendants, trainees and maintenance people, then you are not alone. Think about your future, the future of your children and grandchildren. This city needs to come to the realization immediately, that diversification is needed now...not 3 years from now. We do not need any more studies, research groups or special commissions to tell us that there is a real deficiency in this area.

Black business owners, individuals and professionals have contributed their time, money and influence to encourage other African Americans to bring their meetings, conventions and conferences to our great city. Restaurants benefit, hotels benefit, attractions benefit...nearly everyone else benefits except African

Americans...many times, not even a "Thank You."

Metro will be reviewing the recommendation as to whether or not to approve the multi-million dollar funding to POVA or possibly to also consider funding the one African American organization which has been instrumental in generating business throughout the state.

But this is not just about including a separate contract to a qualified African American for convention marketing and fulfillment servicing...it's bigger than that! Metro and others need to know and understand that our city is full of capable and qualified African Americans for all types of partnership and employment opportunities...Nobody Soeaks For us, Except Us!

"It's Time For Unity In The Black Community"

Portland's African American Community wants you to attend the Metro meeting that is scheduled for:

Thursday: - June 10, 1993 - Metro Building
(Old Sears Building 600 NE Grand Ave)
4:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Longview Teacher Suspended

Larry Wagle, a history teacher at the Mark Morris High School in Longview Washington was suspended for two weeks for telling his ninth grade students he would give them extra credit if they would purchase condoms and bring him the receipt. (The purchase had to be from the opposite sex.)

His principal, Gary Kipp demanded Wagle to cancel the assignment, when Wagle refused, the district decided to suspend him without pay. Superintendent Nick Seaver testified that the "issue was the appropriateness of the assignment. I could not see how the assignment was related to the Roman Empire at all."

A grandmother said Wagle should be fired. Students were whispering "Go, Wagle!" during the hearing. Wagle was his own defense citing that other teachers gave credits for extra assignments that had nothing to do with their curriculum.

PORTLAND OBSERVER
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NAACP Calls For Senate Confirmation Of Lani Guinier As Assistant Attorney General For Civil Rights

The NAACP reiterated its strong support for the confirmation of Professor Lani Guinier as the Assistant Attorney General for civil rights in the Department of Justice, and called on the United States Senate to act quickly on this important nomination.

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., the NAACP's new Executive Director, called Professor Guinier, "The best qualified and most well-prepared nominee to have ever been offered the job", and urged that she be confirmed by the Senate after the completion of her confirmation hearing in early June.

Lani Guinier is the first African American woman—and in fact, only the second African American—ever to be selected as the nation's top civil rights attorney. She is a tenured professor at the University of Pennsylvania School of Law, who graduates with honors from Radcliff College in 1971 and from Yale Law School in 1974.

Ms. Guinier then spent two years as a law clerk for Judge Damon Keith, noted African American jurist and scholar.

Professor Guinier received important "on-the-job" training for the position when she served for four years

as the special Assistant to Drew Days, then Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights in the Carter Administration.

During her tenure at the Justice Department, Ms. Guinier co-authored a brief for the government which supported the release from prison of Dr. Chavis who, as a member of the "Wilmington 10", had been wrongly jailed as the result of perjured testimony. The government's argument prevailed and, of course, Dr. Chavis is now head of the NAACP.

"Lani Guinier is committed to nothing more than the full enforcement of the Constitution for all persons in the United States," stated Wade Henderson, Director of the NAACP's Washington Bureau. He noted further that some of Guinier's critics "have opposed civil rights enforcement for the past twelve years, and now they oppose Professor Guinier as repayment for the defeat of Supreme Court nominee Robert Bork."

The NAACP is mounting a broad and vigorous campaign in search of bipartisan support for her confirmation. It has joined with other national organizations, including the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, to mobilize the grassroots effort.

Tri-Met Approves Contracts Helping People With Disabilities, Elderly

The Tri-Met Board of Directors approved five contracts yesterday designed to better serve people with disabilities and the elderly.

The contracts will expand the Tri-Met Lift, which provides more than 500,000 door-to-door rides to customers in the metropolitan area who are disabled or elderly and unable to use buses or MAX. People use Lift everyday to get to the doctor, work, school and other locations.

The Board: Approved purchase of 18 Ford Champion lift-equipped mini-buses from Schetky Northwest Sales, Inc. of Portland. The new mini-buses begin service next fall, expanding the existing Lift fleet of 111 mini-buses. Vehicles cost about \$55,000 each, funded by the Federal Transit Administration and Tri-Met capital funds.

Selected Buck Medical Services to provide centralized scheduling, dispatching and mini-bus maintenance

for the Lift. The FY94 contract is for \$1.6 million.

Approved FY94 contracts with independent agencies who operate mini-buses and manage daily operations: Dave Transportation, Clackamas County, \$1.2 million; Larson Transportation Services, East Multnomah County, \$610,000, and West Multnomah County, \$1.5 million; and ATC/Vancom, Washington County, \$941,000.

In a related matter, the Board reviewed an ordinance that could benefit customers who are disabled and need attendants to ride regular buses and MAX. Under the proposal, an attendant could ride free with a paying customer who is disabled and has a specially marked Honored Citizen identification card.

The new ordinance reflects changes suggested by the Tri-Met Committee on Accessible Transportation. The Board will consider approving the ordinance June 30.

FARRAKHAN

The Special Spokesman

By

Brother James X

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Brother James X Bess is the one who brought the light to the northwest corner.

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