

White Men Still May Apply

BY EARL OFARI HUTCHINSON, Ph.D.

President Clinton is the latest to sing the angry white male blues. His promise to eliminate federal affirmative action measures that are unfair is a blatant and cynical political sop to Gingrich conservatives. Even worse, former Congressional Black Caucus chair Kwesi Mfume and California House Assembly Speaker Willie Brown also buckled in face of the angry white male barrage. They agreed that Clinton's action is "appropriate." It isn't.

Affirmative action has fast moved up to the number one spot on the nation's political hit list. Many white males fervently believe that if a minority person is not comatose, the government will force a private firm to hire that person before a white male.

This is a myth. President Lyndon Johnson signed Executive Order 11246 in 1965. This is still the only federally-mandated program that le-

gally refers to "affirmative action." The goal is to promote racial equity in employment. Contractors and subcontractors who have 50 or more employees and do more than \$50,000 in business with the federal government are required to insure that their employees reflect the "diversity" in the workforce. **The procedures are straightforward:**

- Submit a utilization study of their employees.
- If the number of women and minorities are underrepresented, develop a plan and submit it to the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs.
- The employer must make a "good faith" effort to hire qualified available women and minority applicants.

Contrary to popular opinion, contractors are not forced to submit the plan to the federal government. There is no army of federal monitors who ride roughshod over contractors to make sure they comply with their own plan. No contractors are forced

to replace qualified (or even unqualified-white males) with unqualified women or minority candidates. Contractors have not been forced to have a fixed quota of minority or women in their company.

If contractors don't comply with their own plan, what's the punishment? An estimated 250,000 contractors did business with the federal government in 1991. The small force of compliance officers made 5,379 compliance reviews of companies. At that rate (and the rate has declined steadily since the early 1980's) it would take more than 46 years to review all the contractors. Three-fourths of those reviewed quickly complied or modified their own plan.

In prior years a few didn't cooperate. During the administration of President Jimmy Carter 12 companies were debarred from doing government business. The number of companies debarred has not come close since then. Four were debarred from doing business during the Reagan years, and three during the

Bush years. They weren't out in the cold for long. Since 1972, thirty-two companies have been debarred for an average time of eight months.

White contractors continue to gripe incessantly about government "set aside" programs. This is much ado about little. Congress mandated that 18 government agencies are obligated to award only five percent of their contract funds to "socially and economically disadvantaged" individuals. This does not mean blacks alone. It includes Hispanics, Native Americans, Asian Pacific Americans and even whites.

The biggest source of white-male rage, however, has been court-imposed "quotas." They are rare and have been imposed almost exclusively on a handful of police and fire departments nationally. The Paradise decision in 1987 was the only supreme Court decision that explicitly upheld court imposed "quotas."

It was widely attacked by conservatives and sparingly read. It required that quotas be tailored to spe-

cific jobs in specific agencies. They must be flexible and temporary. There was not one word in the decision that said that whites could not be hired. The court made it clear that hiring had to be "fair" to white applicants and that they could and should be hired if there were no qualified women or minorities.

White women, not blacks or Latinos, have been the main beneficiaries of these "quotas." Angry white males rail that the "quotas" and compliance reviews amount to "reverse discrimination." But there is no conclusive evidence that the gains that women and minorities have made in the workplace can be attributed to "affirmative action." Their numbers would have increased anyway. This is due to better education, training, and employment skills, the massive expansion of professional managerial and technical jobs, and the increase in job opportunities in the public sector.

While many corporations issue press releases, brochures, assorted hand-outs and annual stockholder reports that boast of their commitment to diversity, a Korn Kerry international survey in 1991 found that less than one percent of the top corporate executives were black. Yet sixty-nine percent of whites in a 1990 National Opinion Research center poll still believed that a corporation would hire or promote a "less qualified black" before a white.

During the 1990-1991 recession many corporations hired no blacks and downsized thousands out the door. The share of jobs blacks held at major corporations dropped for the first time in nine years. Overall, blacks still make up only 5.2 percent of the total corporate managerial positions.

Neither Clinton nor the conservative assailants of affirmative action ask, "Is the racism that continues to pervade the American workplace fair?" The answer is one they don't want to hear.

Postal Reclassification An Attack On Small Business

The American Small Business Association charged the Postal Service reclassification plan is a "bunch of smoke and mirrors" that would result in a shift of million of dollars in mailing costs from the largest advertising and magazine mailer to small businesses.

The reclassification plan was filed today with the Postal Rate Commission. It would change the way mail is categorized and change the current rate structure.

Vernon Castle, executive director of the association, which is a member of the Coalition to Make Our First Class Mail First Class, denounced the plan after Postmaster General Marvin Runyon unveiled it on a nationwide satellite hook-up.

"This plan invites advertis-

ing mailers to stuff your box with even more unwanted mail, while squeezing out local businesses who may find it too costly to communicate with customers," said Castle whose organization represents 150,000 small businesses nationwide.

"First class mail is a monopoly and the Postal Service forces its trapped customers to pay more than their fair share of overhead costs," Castle said. "While first class mail is only about half the post office volume, it covers almost 70% of the overhead."

"By toughening bulk mail standards and adding bar code requirements, the reclassification plan will force many small businesses into the highest mailing rates."

Castle called on the indepen-

dent Postal Rate Commission (PRC) to take a hard look at the plan and make sure it is equitable for all mail users, especially those forced to use first class.

The PRC has ten months to review the reclassification plan and make a recommendation to the Postal Service.

The Coalition to make Our First Class Mail First Class has more than 150 organizations that represent more than 5 million businesses and individuals. Its members include the Association of Retired Americans, Federation of Minority Business Associations, National Association of Realtors, American Farm Bureau Federation, United States African American Chamber of Commerce, National Council of Senior Citizens and the National Dairy Council.

Tubman To Boost Science Studies

Harriet Tubman Middle School, 2231 N. Flint, will boost its science education with the help of a \$44,988 grant designed to reform science education in the Northwest.

The award comes from the U.S. Department of Energy's Pacific Northwest Laboratory in Richland, Wash. and is one of five awards given to Washington and Oregon middle schools.

The laboratory conducts research in fields of basic science to solve problems in the areas of the environment, energy, health and national security.

The grant includes money for teaching training, curriculum development, scientific equipment, materials and supplies, field research and a science and technology newsletter.

The program is designed to see that all students, including those groups that are traditionally underrepresented in the sciences, receive high-quality mathematics, science and technology education throughout their middle school years, said Jeff Estes, laboratory project manager.

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Crime Stoppers

Woman Sought For Burglary

Portland Police Bureau detectives, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, are asking for your help in locating Connie Lynn Patten. A felony arrest warrant is on file charging Patten with first-degree burglary.

Patten, who goes by the street name "Yo Yo," is described as a white female, 29, with a date of birth of April 28, 1965. She stands 5 foot, 5 inches tall, weighs 130 pounds with green eyes and blond hair. Patten has a two inch scar on her right arm and several tattoos, including the words "Yo Yo" and two swastikas on her left wrist and the word "gangster" on her right wrist.

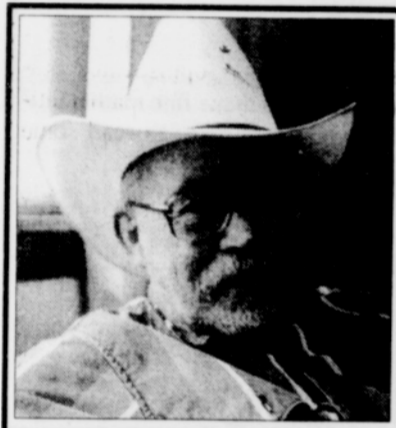
She is believed to frequent the north Portland area and is reported to have been seen in Columbia County and Lewis County, Wash.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for



Connie Lynn Patten

information, reported to Crime Stoppers, which leads to an arrest in this case or any unsolved felony crime and you can remain anonymous. Call Crime Stoppers at (503) 823-HELP.



Ted Haines of Gresham has been named the poster artist for the 1995 Trains West Art Association Show and Auction, Oct. 20-21 in Vancouver. The annual event draws artists, collectors, dealers and art admirers. Haines is well known for his pencil drawings and watercolors of traditional western themes.

Block Reserved For Classical Chinese Garden

The Portland City Council has approved a lease a city block owned by Northwest Natural Gas Co. for the future site of a Classical Chinese Garden.

The block is bounded by Northwest Flanders and Glisan at Second and Third streets in the Old Town/Chinatown neighborhood. The lease will give the city and the Classical Chinese Garden Society use of the property for 99 years, at a cost of \$1 per year for the purpose of establishing the garden.

"I am extremely excited about the prospect of a Chinese garden in Old Town/Chinatown because it will be another significant step in efforts to revitalize the area," said Mayor Vera Katz. "It is also an important step in the 'internationalization' of our city, linking us more closely with the local Chinese community and our sister cities of Suzhou and Kaohsiung."

The city has been negotiating with Northwest Natural Gas Co. for the past year to obtain the option agreement for the land, currently used as a parking lot. Under terms of the agreement, by the time the lease is exercised, the Garden Society, with the support of the city, will need to have raised sufficient funds to begin

the project.

Organizers plan to develop a budget with the help of garden designers from Suzhou by the end of April. After approval of the budget, fund-raising will begin. The city will exercise the lease option by the time of construction, which is expected to begin by early 1997. Completion of the garden is expected no later than spring of 1998.

The garden itself will be authentic to the tradition of classical Chinese gardens, with the integration of museum-quality art and space for community activities, promoters said.

It will be built in the style of private urban gardens of Suzhou.

The garden can become a cultural landmark and attraction for citizens and visitors alike.

"Portland now has an opportunity to become the only city in the United States to possess an authentic Suzhou-style classical garden. Such a garden would become an eloquent symbol not only of our friendship with contemporary China but of our deep respect for one of humanity's most venerable cultural traditions," said Donald Jenkins of the Portland Art Museum and Chair of the Classical Chinese Garden Society.

Agency Litho Closes Doors Without Paying Workers

A local company, Agency Litho, 607 SW Idaho, shut down earlier this month without paying workers their final paycheck. Payroll records show that the firm owes 37 employees nearly \$88,000. At least \$59,000 of the amount due will be paid to workers out of the Wage Security Fund, which helps displaced workers by paying them an amount equal to their wages lost when a plant or a business closes. To receive payment,

workers must first file a wage claim with the bureau's Wage and Hour Division. Former Litho employees can call 731-4074 in Portland for more information.

Bureau officials say that the wages Litho owes range from \$119 to \$4,825. The Wage Security Fund, which is the nation's most comprehensive program to help such displaced workers, can pay up to \$2,000 per claim. Claimants who complete

the necessary wage claim paperwork can expect to receive checks within three weeks.

The Wage Security Fund has been in the news recently because an Internal Revenue Service assessment that could exceed \$3 million in taxes and penalties on payments made to workers since 1986, threatens the future of the Fund.

Top Chefs Team Up

The eighth annual Chefs' Night Out -- Portland's participation in the national hunger relief fundraiser, Share Our Strength's Taste of the Nation sponsored by American Express -- will be from 6 to 9 p.m., Monday, April 24, at the Portland Center for the Performing Arts, 111 SW Broadway. Tickets are \$50 per person and can be purchased at all Fastix outlets and the PCPA box office. All of the proceeds will go to hunger relief agencies in Oregon.

Portland's premiere culinary event, Chefs' Night Out continues to grow each year. In 1995, a projected 750 guests will sample delicious offerings prepared by chefs from 32 of the area's top restaurants and hotels, along with representatives from 15 Oregon wineries, four local microbreweries, three master coffee makers and a producer of Oregon mineral water. All will unite to achieve a common goal: helping to raise funds for and awareness of local, regional and international hunger-relief efforts.



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