



Portland Mayor, Vera Katz, signs documents officially proclaiming May to be World Trade Month. The mayor is joined by (standing from left), Carl Kato, Portland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, vice president; Catherine Devaul Trahin, association manager, world Trade Center Portland; Andrew Haruyama, director, City of Portland Office of International Relations.

May is World Trade Month

The importance of world trade to the citizens of Portland, and to Oregon in general was emphasized when Mayor Vera Katz issued a proclamation declaring May World Trade Month. The month of May has traditionally been named World Trade Month by Oregon's international trade community given Oregon's increasingly prominent stature in global business circles. It is a month filled with events by organizations involved with international trade and a celebration of the positive impact increased world trade has brought to Oregon. The mayor's proclamation notes that many leaders in Portland, representing interests both public and private, are stepping up efforts to promote and increase Oregon's standing within the international marketplace. The declaration encourages everyone to participate in World

Trade Month activities.

Of particular note are the following events:

May 17 Portland Maritime Day. Come find out what shippers really do! The Maritime Observance Committee will host a program at the US Coast Guard Base on Swan Island starting at 11:00 a.m. The women's shipping Club will be sponsoring a port tour immediately afterwards. For more information call 848-7031.

May 20 The Small Business International Trade Program presents "International Negotiations", a 3-hour seminar to be held at Two World Trade Center 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. for more information call 274-7482.

May 21 The Annual International Law and Business Seminar "Growing Your International Business Operations" is co-sponsored by The International Law Section of the Oregon State Bar and The Inter-

national Services Committee of the Oregon Society of Certified Public Accountants. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Hilton Hotel. For more info call 768-6628.

May 21 Governor's International Business Achievement Awards Luncheon honors companies, organizations, and individuals who have made a major contribution to the state in international trade. Presentation of the awards to be held at Willamette Valley Vineyards at 12 noon. For more information call Steve Newman at 503-221-2991.

May 22 The Portland Chamber of Commerce 1997 Annual membership Meeting will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. at The Portland Hilton.

Awards will be given to the top 10 growth businesses in Portland. Tickets are \$40 members, \$50 non-members. Call 228-9411.

Voice from the Hill: Classification Confusion

BY GEORGE WILSON

Just a few days ago the world was stunned when 21-year-old Tiger Woods won the Master's Golf Tournament with a record score. Immediately, after Woods' victory, there was great jubilation in many parts of the African-American community. The euphoria was caused by the fact that someone who looked like many African Americans had broken down a barrier in the world of sports. While many were basking in "the brother's" accomplishment, Woods repeated his position that he is not solely an African American even though his father clearly qualifies.

Woods, like many others is a product of a mixed marriage between an African American and in this case a person of Asian descent. In the early days of America, to be classified Black only required a small amount of African-American blood (1/16th). More importantly, if you had "the look," it didn't matter about your bloodline, you simply took your place with other people of color.

On the heels of Woods' victory and the discussion of how he and others of similar circumstances should be classified, the House of Representatives got into the act. The House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight held hearings on the Office of Management and classifying Americans.

The idea is that when the next census rolls around, there will be two changes in how survey takers can describe themselves. The new options will be: 1) 'Multiracial or biracial' and 2) 'Check more than one category.' Several civil rights organizations, including the NAACP, The Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under the Law, and The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies have written letters to OMB officials expressing their opposition to the addition of 'multiracial' classification on the year 2000 census.

During the hearing, representatives of the Census Bureau were joined by members of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) on separate panels. Among the witnesses for the CBC was Congresswoman Carrie Meek (D-FL). Meek began her presentation by telling the committee about her experiences growing up in a segregated Florida and how she had to attend graduate school in Michigan because no graduate school in her home state would admit African Americans.

Perhaps, if Meek had used the definition that some would prefer, she could have avoided a trip to Michigan by claiming her Indian heritage. "I understand how Tiger Woods and the rest of them feel. But no matter how they feel from a personal standpoint, we are thinking about the census and reporting ac-

curacy so that government and other agencies can make accurate decisions. Historical discrimination has been assigned to a single racial category, more than likely those who are Black. There is no court or any legislative legal record of discrimination against multiracials," Meek observed.

At the root of this debate over classification is the desire of some to push aside one part of their background in exchange for an identity that they think will provide greater access to produce the desired results. "Individuals like Mr. Woods who designate themselves as multiracial on the Census form will not reduce by any amount the discrimination they will face. Usually, the amount of discrimination a person feels is based on appearance and not on racial classification. The multiracial classification will just make it more difficult to identify where discrimination has taken place," he said.

OMB, the House of Representatives and others say they just want to include Americans who go unrecognized. In my years on the planet, it seems clear to me and others that this country has had little difficulty in defining someone's race. Adding another classification would only serve to further muddy the murky waters of race relations.

Segregationist Art Hanes dies

Former Mayor Art Hanes Sr., who in 1962 ordered that all city parks be closed to prevent opening them to blacks, has died. He was 80.

Hanes, who died Thursday, also was a lawyer who briefly represented James Earl Ray after the 1968 assassination of Martin Luther King Jr.

He also defended the Ku Klux Klan in two infamous killings.

Hanes was elected mayor of Birmingham in 1961, serving a single term on a three-man City Commission that included public safety commissioner Eugene "Bull" Conner,

who gained nationwide notoriety for using fire hoses and police dogs against blacks during racial protests.

In December 1962, Hanes ordered the park closings in response to an order from a federal judge who said the city's public segregation laws were unconstitutional.

"I personally resent the federal courts telling us we've got to integrate our parks," Hanes said. Letting blacks in would hasten integration of schools, he said. The parks were eventually reopened.

In 1963, Hanes was quoted as

saying "Any way you look at it, the white race is superior to the black race."

Hanes was Ray's first attorney following his arrest in King's slaying. In a February interview, Hanes said he assumed Ray heard of him from his successful defense of two Ku Klux Klansmen charged with killing civil rights volunteer Viola G. Liuzzo near Selma in 1965.

On the day Ray's trial was supposed to begin in November 1968, Ray fired Hanes and hired Texas lawyer Percy Foreman.

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