

Living Wage Supporters Pack Hearing

Before a hushed crowd of 150, packing a northeast union hall decked with dozens of labor and community banners, contract janitor "Roberto" (not his real name) testified Thursday evening about the "sueldo de hambre"—wages of hunger—paid him and other janitors. City and county commissioners Jim Francesconi, Erik Sten, Gretchen Kafoury, Beverly Stein, and Gary Hansen responded by pledging strong support for living wages, health benefits and unionization rights for contract workers.

Francesconi said that he had been ready to introduce a Living Wage Ordinance on Friday, guaranteeing \$7.50 per hour this year and \$8.00 the next, plus health benefits and labor rights. Sten announced he would co-sponsor. Francesconi then explained that he needed to wait two weeks to work out some details raised at the hearing.

Francesconi questioned the impact on small and minority businesses of imposing health benefit costs and wondered about the legality of the

"responsible labor relations" language in the proposed ordinance. Francesconi did, however, encourage unionization, saying that "the best way to raise wages is to unionize, we all know that."

Sten indicated his pleasure in being able to sponsor a direct "bottom up" economic development ordinance, rather than a business subsidy which relies on "trickle down." Kafoury echoed that sentiment, expressing her concern that the city find a way to "pay a living wage" for service workers in the non-profit charities who "deliver some of the city and county's most crucial services."

County Chair Stein, while pledging support for living wages for all workers, claimed that the county's current living Wage and Benefit Project only needed to be expanded, not replaced. She promised to further in-

clude temporary workers, such as disabled workers under contract with Goodwill and St. Vincent de Paul, security guards and food service workers.

BLC Endorses Carter's Bid For State Superintendent Seat

The Black Leadership Conference (BLC) has endorsed Representative Margaret Carter for State Superin-

tendent of Public Instruction. Carter, a Portland Community College administrator, has represented District 18 since 1984.

"During her time in the legislature, Representative Carter has been a voice for all Oregonians.

Her success in Salem and experience in Oregon's educational system make her the ideal candidate for this position" said George Richardson, Co-chair of the BLC.

The BLC has also endorsed three other local candidates. In the race for District 1 Multnomah County Commissioner, the organization will support Joseph Tam.

Tam, a civil rights investigator for the state Bureau of Labor and Industry, is also a member of the Portland School

Board.

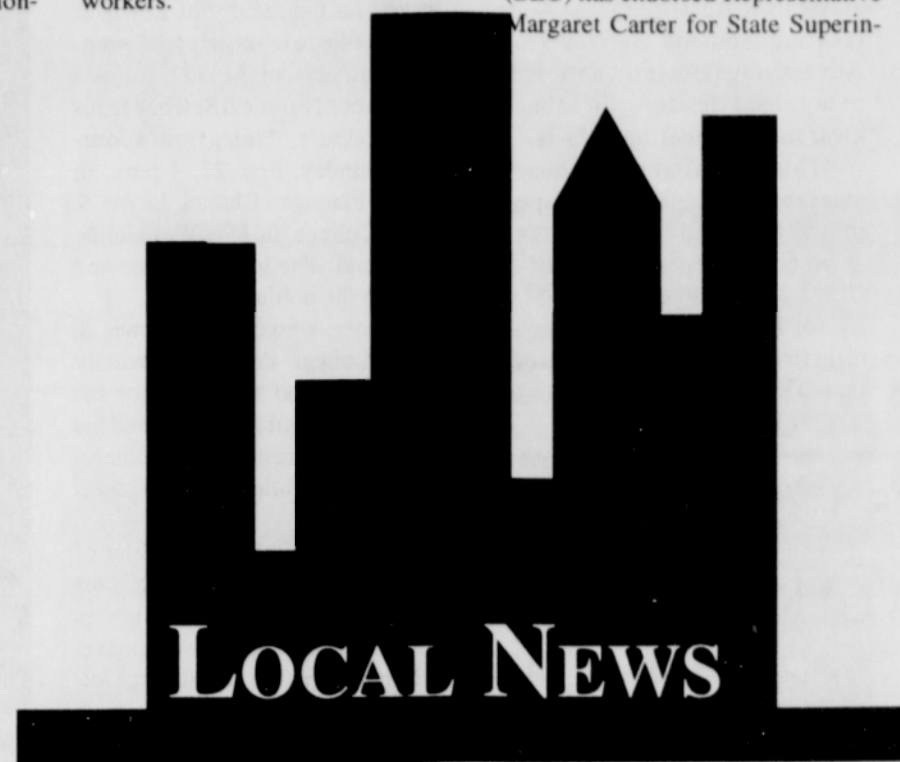
The District 1 position was formerly filled by Dan Saltzman, who will run for Portland City Council.

In the race for County Commissioner District 3, the BLC endorsed Barbara Willer, a County Program Developer and affordable housing activist.

Tanya Collier vacated the District 3 seat to enter the race for Portland City Council.

In the race for House District 18, the BLC endorsed Martin Gonzalez, Director of the American Friends Service Committee. Representative Carter is prohibited from seeking reelection to her House District 18 seat because of term limits.

After the upcoming March 10 vote-by-mail election, the BLC will continue its endorsement process and begin interviewing candidates for Congressional, Statewide, City of Portland and other county races, among others.



Tri-Met's new low-floor buses coming to North & Northeast Portland

Tri-met will introduce new low-floor buses in September and January to five bus routes serving North and Northeast Portland.

The buses, representing Tri-Met's fleet of the future, make boarding easier for everyone and riding more comfortable. Every bus Tri-Met purchases in the future will have low floors, surveillance cameras and air conditioning.

Next fall, low-floor buses will begin serving bus routes 8-NE 15th Ave. and 72-Killingsworth/82nd Avenue. In January, the buses will begin serving routes 4-Fessenden, 19-Glisan and 75-39th Ave.-Lombard.

The expansion is part of the launch of 118 new buses beginning this fall, introducing low-floor bus service to many portions of the metropolitan

area. The routes were selected in consultation with the Committee on Accessible Transportation, which helps guide service for people with disabilities and seniors.

"We're getting a lot of positive comments from our customers about our new low-floor buses," said Tom Walsh, general manager. "By offering the kind of buses that people prefer, we expect to attract new customers and help reduce traffic congestion."

Low-floor buses are especially beneficial to customers who use mobility devices. Short ramps extend to provide easy access. The ramps operate faster and more reliably than traditional lifts on buses. In the event of an equipment failure, the ramps can be extended manually.

Tri-met launched its first 22 new

low-floor buses in December on Route 15-Mt. Tabor/NW 23rd Avenue. Tri-Met will coordinate with neighbors and businesses along new low-floor bus routes where bus stop improvements are necessary. Those with questions or comments may call Young Park at 239-6722.

Advocates Sought to Serve Long Term Care Residents

Volunteers interested in investigation, advocacy and the elderly are needed to serve as ombudsmen for residents of nursing homes, residential care facilities, assisted living facilities and adult foster care homes. The Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman will train

the volunteers on the aging process, communication skills, problem-solving skills, investigation and other ombudsman skills. The orientation will begin on Saturday, February 28 in Tigard. While the training is offered several times each year, this session is one of

only two that will be offered on weekends to accommodate individuals who are employed on weekdays.

For information about the program or to learn to how get involved contact Kathy Walter at 1-800-522-2602.

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2454 SE Burnside
(In Gresham Village Shopping
Center, behind Starbucks)
503 667-0296
M-Sat. 9AM-6PM

LONGVIEW
1105 15th Ave., Suite E
(Just north of St. John's Hospital,
15th and Florida)
360 414-8200
M-F 9AM - 6PM
Sat. 10AM - 4PM

MEDFORD
1314 Center Drive, Suite D
(In Harry and David
Country Village)
541 770-7000
M-F 9AM - 6PM
Sat. 10AM - 4PM

PORTLAND
9728 SE Washington St.
(In Plaza 205)
503 306-6299
M-Sat. 9AM - 6PM

PORTLAND
9220 SW Barbur Blvd.
(3 blocks north of Tri-Met
Transit Center)
503 306-6249
M-Sat. 9AM - 6PM

PORTLAND
1600 SW Fourth Ave.
(4th & Market, near
Civic Auditorium)
503 306-6298
M-F 9AM - 6PM
Sat. Closed

SALEM
200 Hawthorne SE, Suite A-160
(¼ mile north of Costco)
503 371-8888
M-F 8AM - 6PM
Sat. 10AM - 4PM

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2711 NW Town Center Dr., Suite 3
(Off Hwy. 26 on 185th)
503 531-2557
M-Sat. 9AM - 6PM

AT&T Satellite Stores

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Kelso - 360 430-4288

VALLEY RIVER MALL
Eugene - 541 683-9676

WAL MART
Cottage Grove - 541 767-0313
Dallas - 503 881-1037
Eugene - 541 767-0313
Portland - 503 816-8609
Salem North - 503 881-1047
Salem South - 503 881-1048
Woodburn - 503 881-1046

CALL FOR HOURS

Booksigning And Reading



Come and meet **Bonnie St. John Deane** Author of:
Succeeding Sane
Friday, February 20,
1998 at Reflections
Time: 6:00 p.m.-7:00p.m.
Contact: Mr. OB Hill
at 503-288-6942

About the Author

Bonnie St. John Deane is an inspirational writer and speaker, sharing her experiences and techniques for achieving peak performance with corporations, associations, and universities throughout the county. Ms. Deane is a national spokesperson for Disabled Sports/USA and a member of the national Speakers Association. During the first year of the Clinton Administration, Bonnie was appointed by the President as a Director for human Capital Issues on the National Economic Council in the White House. She is the author of *Getting Ahead At Work Without Leaving Your Family Behind*, and a contributing author to *The Winning Spirit: Achieving Olympic Level Performance in Business and Personal Advancements*. Bonnie lives in San Diego with her husband and her daughter.

Booksigning and Lecture



Come and meet **Haki R. Madhubuti**
Author of:
Groundwork: New and Selected Poems 1966-1996
Saturday, February 21, 1998
at Reflections
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Tickets are \$10.00
Advanced titles can be
purchased in advanced.
Contact: Mr. OB Hill
503-288-6942

Guest Author Kaki R. Madhubuti

As poet, publisher, editor and educator, Haki R. Madhubuti serves as a pivotal figure in the development of a strong Black literary tradition, emerging from the era of the Sixties and continuing to the present day. Over the years, he has published 22 books and is one of the world's best-selling authors of poetry and non-fiction, with books in print in excess of 3 million.

His *Black Men: Obsolete, Single, Dangerous:* (1990) has sold over 800,000 copies.