

# Representative Bowman Announces Availability of Scholarship

State Representative Jo Ann Bowman announced the availability of a scholarship for individuals entering graduate study for the first time in the Fall of 1999. Four scholarships of \$2,500 each will be awarded to women who are pursuing academic studies in areas such as public policy, political science, public administration, or related field.

Sprint Corporation, in coordination with the Women's Network

of the National Conference of State Legislatures, of which Representative Bowman is a member, will provide the funds for the scholarships.

The scholarships will be based on a variety of factors, including scholastic achievements, written statements by the applicant, community and school involvement and letters of recommendation. Applications are due by June 23<sup>rd</sup>

1999. To receive an application in the mail, contact Sprint Corp. at 1-800-796-3464.

"The Sprint and NCSL Women's Network graduate scholarship presents an outstanding financial leg up for someone beginning the long haul of graduate study. The \$2,500 scholarships will help make a career in public service a reality for four deserving students," said Representative Bowman.

By BERNICE POWELL JACKSON

Finally, an official government body has gotten it. It is not an honor to native Americans to name a football team "the Redskins." It is not an honor to native Americans to use a grinning, buck-toothed, bug-eyed bright red-faced Chief Wahoo as a mascot for the Cleveland Indians. It is not an honor to native Americans for Atlanta Braves fans to do the tomahawk chop. It is not an honor—it is stereotyping, it is trivializing their religious rituals, it is modern-day racism excused by misguided fan loyalty and the greed of professional baseball and football which earn money from these racist images. And finally, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office got it.

In a recent ruling, a three-judge panel ruled that the Washington Redskins football team has no right to trademark their name because it is disparaging to native Americans. That ruling, which will be appealed, cancels seven Redskin trademarks under a 1946 law which bars registered trademarks that are disparaging, scandalous or contemptuous. If the ruling were to hold it would mean that the Redskins football team would no longer have exclusive rights to use the name, including on the sports paraphernalia which every year earns millions of dollars for team owners.

In what must win the prize for the most disingenuous remark of the decade, a Redskins spokesperson had

said previously of the suit which precipitated the ruling, "the Redskins believe its name honors native Americans and has for the past 67 years." How could anyone believe that the name Redskins honors someone? Would it have been considered an honor to name it the Blackskins since most of the team has been African American in the past decade or so? I don't think so.

Or perhaps the prize should go to another Redskins spokesperson, an attorney who argued that the term is not a slur and compared it to the use of the word "colored" in the name of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. It was a whole generation ago that we stopped using "colored" for just that reason and since that time most of us call ourselves "black" or "African American." And the NAACP, which is a black organization, chose for itself to use an archaic name since it was so well-known. One would hope that an attorney in Washington, D.C., where African Americans make up the majority of the population, might know those little important facts.

This same Redskins attorney is quoted in the Washington Post as saying that, "No one, when they hear the word 'Washington Redskins' thinks it is in any way disparaging." Obviously he has never talked with many native Americans. Native Americans like Charlene Teeters, who began the "People, not mas-

cotts" campaign against racist stereotypes and team names when she was a student at the University of Illinois. Native Americans like Vernon Bellecourt, Russell Mens, Juanita Helphrey and Juan Reyna who have led protests in Cleveland since 1992 and last year led to three of them being arrested. Native Americans like Suzan Shown Harjo, a D.C. resident, who filed the suit against the Redskins.

In fact, more and more Americans are realizing that what was acceptable in the 1930's and 40's, when the Redskins name and the Indians name and logo were chosen is not acceptable now. In the past decade or so more than 600 high school and college teams have changed their Indian-themed names and logos and thousands of others are under pressure to do so. Indeed, similar suits to the Redskins trademark one are being planned for Atlanta and Cleveland.

As we enter a new millennium wouldn't it be wonderful and inspired leadership on the part of professional sports teams to put an end to the use of Indian and logos. It would be one important way for the sports industry to show that they do get it—they get the vision of a multiracial and multicultural society which does not profit by the demeaning or stereotyping of a whole group of people. It would make them pro-active instead of reactionary. It would be a way to really honor native Americans.

# Affirmative Action Works!

There are thousands of examples where people of color, white women, and working class women and men of all races who were previously excluded from jobs or educational opportunities, or were denied opportunities once they were admitted, like our armed forces during World War II, have gained access through affirmative action.

Vast numbers of people of color white women and men have gained access they would not otherwise have had. These gains have led to very real changes.

Affirmative action policies address and redress systematic economic, educational and political discrimination against any group of people that are underrepresented or have a history of being discriminated against. Beneficiaries of these programs have included white men and women, people with disabilities, and poor and working class people.

Attacks against affirmative action are part of a systematic attempt to roll back progress in ending discrimination and to curtail a broad social commitment to justice and equality. Attacking affirmative action is self-destructive.

Some say affirmative action is purely an issue of race. It's not just about race; it's about all America. It's about women. It's about girls having access to mentoring programs. It's about job training for

You get better ways to improve the use of the light.

"Mend it...Don't end it."

These battles are the same. It's about trying to maintain power over structures; it's about maintaining

preferences for those who have always enjoyed preferences for those who have always enjoyed preferences. This state and this nation have shown a preference for majority over minority. It has shown a preference for male over female. It has shown a preference for English over bilingual, or even individuals with an accent. It's always had a preference for physically able over physically disabled.

Martin Luther King Jr. said the ultimate measures of a people is not where we stand in a moment of comfort and convenience, but where we stand in a time of challenge and controversy.

The challenge of Oregon, and the rest of this nation, is how do we embrace and include and allow individuals to live to their full potential recognizing the brilliance of our diversity. That's what these battles



Rep. Avel Gordly

and struggles are over. Affirmative action works!

# Providence Child Center Seeking Donations

The Montessori School at Providence Child Center will hold its huge annual "Great Down Under" Rummage Sale Friday and Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. The annual fund raiser happens in the parking garage under the Providence Child Center Building at 830 NE 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Portland. Currently, thousand of items are sought in an effort to fill the one-acre garage with desirable goods.

Items of all kinds imaginable are needed—from children's toys, bikes, clothes, furniture and baby accessories to electronic equipment in working order, kitchen items, linens, jewelry, collectibles, lamps and furnishings, sporting equipment, garden accessories, tools and hardware. Everything

# Mill Plain Extension Final Phase Gets Underway


Construction on the urban segment of the five-lane Mill Plain Extension began Monday, April 19. The Mill Plain Extension runs from Columbia Street west over the Burlington Northern-Santa Fe railroad yard to Fourth Plain Boulevard. Construction will require 15<sup>th</sup> Street to be closed from Daniel to Lincoln and Esther. Grant, Harney, and Markle streets will be closed at 15<sup>th</sup> Street. Daniels will be closed at 15<sup>th</sup> Street in about 30 days.

Residents are asked to look for changes in the traffic pattern in the construction area and follow the detour signs. Construction of this segment will take about nine months. Work will continue on the bridge segment of the project until summer of 2000.

Mill Plain extension is a \$34 million capital improvement to the city's transportation system. For more information, call Karen Cioica at 735-8875.

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