

EDITORIAL

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The Portland Observer

USPS 959-680
Established 1970

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PO Box 3137
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DEADLINES
FOR ALL SUBMITTED MATERIALS:

ARTICLES:
Friday by 5 P.M.

ADS:
Monday by noon

Gates Move For The Millennium

Bill Gates, the founder of Microsoft and the wealthiest man on planet Earth, is a visionary. He proved that by starting a company which changed human history and now he's proving that he understands the changes the new millennium will bring about and the responsibilities that the privileged have to ensure a future in which all have equal opportunity to participate. Bill Gates showed that he is a visionary in which all have an equal opportunity to participate. Bill Gates showed that he is a visionary for the 21st century as well as for the current one when he announced that Gates Millennium Scholarship program, which will make avail-

able \$1 billion to African American, Latino and Latina and native American students over the next 20 years.

The Gates Millennium Scholarship program is one of the largest philanthropic gifts ever made and will be administered by the United Negro College Fund (UNCF). It will guarantee full financing for outstanding students of color who come from poor families. Undergraduate students will be able to study any subject, but graduate students must be committed to studying science, math, engineering, computer technology, education and library science. By itself it will nearly double the number of scholarships

available and was called "earth-shattering, landscape-changing" by William Gray, the head of the UNCF.

Mr. Gates himself noted that people of color are vastly under-represented in science, higher education and in his own computer industry. These scholarships, of which 1,000 are expected to be available every year, are designed to rectify those numbers.

Over the past two years the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation had made large contributions to education, health and library sciences. It has assisted in wiring the county's public libraries for the Internet and has made some \$200 million in contributions to research and distribution of vaccines for AIDS, Malaria and other diseases. But prior to that Mr. Gates found himself being criticized for his

lack of philanthropy despite his incredible wealth.

It is clear that Bill Gates understands that unless all Americans are equipped to enter the 21st century and its information age, that our nation cannot really flourish. He understands that we must either put money in education now or in imprisonment later. He understands that we can expand the slices of the economic pie through education and true equal opportunity. And he's putting his money on 20,000 young people of color living in our nations poorest communities who can make a difference if given a chance.

Beginning in the fall of 2000, those high school seniors who have 3.3 grade averages or above and are nominated by a teacher or principal will be eligible for the Gates scholarships. They will also have to write an essay

on their life goals and will be required to commit themselves to some form of community service.

Bill Gates is a visionary and a multi-billionaire who understands that young people of color are a key to the future of our nation. Maybe you and I don't have that kind of money, but we, too, can have that kind of vision. We can commit ourselves to ensuring that young people of color are prepared and ready to apply for those Gates scholarships. We can be mentors and role models. We can provide summer jobs. We can tutor and we can give what dollars we have.

Who knows what future Mae Jemison or Charles Drew or Garret Morgan is out there waiting for a chance. Thanks, Mr. Gates, for believing in the future. Thanks for challenging us to do the same.

Reporters Use Tabloid Tactic To Mislead Voters

By TIM HALL

As a candidate for an elective position, there's an expectation for a measure of fairness from the press. In my recent run for commissioner for the Hazel Dell Sewer District (HDSD) in Vancouver, I received none from the Columbian.

Two Columbian reporters took on the role of candidate hit squad as they attempted to ridicule me and mislead voters by sensationalizing my private disputes over property taxes and past problems with my sewer. They withheld from readers (voters) important information, made quotes from words I never said, and selectively used facts to distort the full truth.

As a public relations professional, I've been quoted in the Wall Street Journal, Los Angeles Times, and Denver Post to mention a few newspapers. For the first time in my 20 years talking with the press, two reporters actually altered my words and the facts to create front-page news.

I chose to run for the position of sewer commissioner because I have experience working with organizations to improve their image and efficiency. As I heard people complain about the sewer district, I took into account my own experience of poor service, and decided I could make changes. My work with Portland's highly effective wastewater management group gave me an inside track to information to accomplish this goal.

Columbian reporter Erik Robinson told me that my desire to serve ratepayers was not an interesting story. It would be better if I "was angry at the sewer district" and out to get someone fired. He wanted to write this story even though I said it was false.

In the two articles written by Robinson, there was much misinformation. For example, I told him my PTA Board shared with me their sewer complaints. Robinson wanted to write: "PTA urges Hall to run." Not true and I told him to change it. He retaliated by printing Hall 'backs away from PTA involvement' and now says the conversation never

took place.

In criticizing me for my dispute with the sewer district, Robinson suspiciously withheld the fact that the sewer district refused to answer my numerous complaints about the backflow of sewage into my home for more than four years. He kept secret from voters why it took them so long to respond.

When I complained the source of the misinformation was a HDSD employee, in a phone conversation, reporter Gregg Herrington got angry that I reported the involvement to the State Public Disclosure Commission. He retaliated with a sensationalized story on my property tax dispute with Clark County, a dispute I made public weeks earlier. The newspaper used a large headline as if I had committed a terrible crime.

Herrington chose to withhold key information. When I personally presented him with important facts from my attorney and the State Board of Equalization prior to the release of his story, he openly ignored them.

"I'm asked my attorney's name, I gave it, but added, "I could not remember how to spell it." In his article, he wrote: Hall "couldn't remember his attorney's name."

By now you can see the pattern of media abuse.

As the only minority to run for office in Clark County this election season and the first African-American in more than 10 years, I was told to expect the Columbian to focus their "special attention" on me and to scrutinize my every deed.

I disregarded this advice after an editorial noted my being the most "energetic" candidate in the race. However, when I met with several members of the Columbian's editorial board, I was forced to recognize the disrespect as one editor opened and read his mail while I talked. I knew then that it would be foolish to expect any fairness and objectivity from them.

After the election, reporter Robinson tried several times to reach me. I issued a written statement. It was the only way I believe I could avoid being misquoted again. But even then I had serious doubts.

The Newspaper Scandal

Have you ever been cheated? Have you ever been given less the amount of money for your services rendered? Have you ever felt like someone was taking advantage of you because their position or responsibilities included overseeing your position and responsibilities?

Well, I have. For months I delivered newspapers for a local newspaper carrier which sells and distributes the Oregonian. I wake up and deliver newspapers every day at 3:00am. I am a senior citizen and enjoy helping anyone and everyone, regardless if I am being compensated. However, this is one job where the employer and I are

very aware of my employment and my duty to be paid for all services rendered.

Here it is one year later, and I have yet to be paid in full for all of my delivery services. One may ask, "Well, why did you wait for a whole year to get paid?" My response, "I was told I'd be paid, month after month, and I actually believed the person who told me this, in which was the same person who was suppose to pay me for my services rendered. What should I do, I think to myself.

I tell my closest friends about the situation and they become disgusted at the thought of anyone misusing or cheating anyone, espe-

cially when they are representing an organization, The Oregonian.

My daughter gets heated every time I mention I have yet to be paid the remainder of what's rightfully owned to me. In addition, to my surprise, Mr. Piper receives all tips in which customers gives to newspaper carriers for their services, however, we the deliverers never see these tips, only thank-you cards created by Mr. Piper himself.

In conclusion, I ended up taking Mr. Ron Piper to Small Claims Court. Now, I wait for justice.

Signed
Mrs. Disgusted and Shocked!

Just think: Your son is bright, healthy and headed for college one day. You love the direction your career has taken. You're doing a lot of the things you planned and even a few you didn't. Living life to the fullest is easy when you have family behind you. American Family Mutual Insurance. Call and talk to one of our helpful, friendly agents. You'll find out why we're consistently rated A+ (Superior) by A.M. Best, the insurance rating authority. Then, go on. Dream. Plan. What you do next is up to you and we'll be here to help you.

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