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The PDC is unique compared with other city bodies in that many decisions are made by its five board members, who are appointed by the mayor to three-year terms. Creative Data was hired in 1996 to help select and install a financial management information system. The new system was supposed to handle the PDC's payroll, purchasing, budget and other computing needs. The contract started out at \$70,000, but with board approval grew to \$325,000. When the contract expired in January 1999, PDC officials continued to pay Creative Data an additional \$550,000 without board approval. A large chunk of the financial management system never worked

properly, and the PDC's board decided to pay another \$1.2 million for a different consultant to install new software. The work is scheduled to be completed by July. The PDC staff, including Scherer, wanted to pay Creative Data another \$375,000 for continuing to help install the new system. However, the board voted last week to extend the contract for two months while authorizing Trader to determine whether the company's services are still needed. Creative Data will be paid \$140,000 to continue work on a loan software program, a real estate program and other computer tasks. The board also approved spending

the \$550,000 retroactively. Trader wouldn't say why Scherer had been placed on administrative leave because she said she cannot discuss personnel matters. But Scherer has said that he was on leave because of the handling of the Creative Data contract. Scherer on Monday said he would not comment on why he was resigning. "I think I'm going to let the e-mail speak for itself," he said. When asked if Scherer would receive any compensation for leaving the agency, Trader said she could not comment. Michelle Fusak, the PDC's budget officer, will serve as acting finance director until a replacement is found.

Reflections

Authors Extravaganza
Saturday March 25th
1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Reflections 446
N.E. Killingsworth
288-6942
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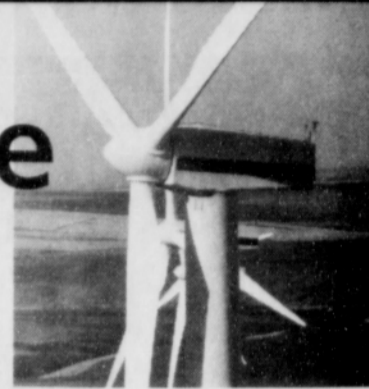


Steven Barnes and Tananarive Due

Featuring Four Authors
Steve Barnes
Tananarive Due
Pamela Foster
Jimmy Smith

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