

State Treasurer Works With Minority Businesses

Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs will play major role in Treasury business

Oregon State Treasurer Randall Edwards told a packed house of minority business owners, advocates and government officials that his commitment to diversity goes beyond lip service.

Edwards pointed to his hiring of Linda Haglund, first woman deputy treasurer in treasury history and his inclusive executive staff, as evidence of his genuine commitment to diversity.

The Portland Democrat, who was elected to the post in November, has also awarded Jackson Securities, a solely owned minority firm, a contract to provide underwriting services for State Department of Veteran Affairs' bonds.

"I ran as Treasurer in part to help small businesses in Oregon. I am very committed to expanding business opportunity to women, minority and disadvantaged business and assisting communities across the state in creating capacity for small business to grow in

'I am very committed to expanding business opportunity to women, minority and disadvantaged business and assisting communities across the state in creating capacity for small business to grow in their neighborhoods' - Oregon State Treasurer Randall Edwards

their neighborhoods."

Edwards said the treasury department can serve Oregonians better by its collaboration and partnership with minority businesses.

"Few Oregonians are familiar with our partnership de-

velopment potential, so straightening our resolve as an agency to be a viable and visible inclusive partner in community and economic development is a critical priority of my administration," he said.

Edwards said he is pursuing policies that support substantial financial commitment to public education, affordable housing, and rural and urban development.

This plan includes a proposal to create general obligation bonds to help fund a wide range of critical capital needs in the state, which could provide additional opportunities for women and minority contractors.

Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs President Sam Brooks said he was very encouraged by the treasurer's commitment to women and minority-owned businesses.

"His leadership is needed to ensure that small businesses

thrive and remain a critical part of Oregon's economy, Brooks said. The treasurer serves as the state's financial

leader, managing investments valued over \$50 billion in various funds, which includes the Public Employees Retirement

System and the Common School Fund. The Treasurer is also responsible for issuing all state bonds.



Marcela Alcantar of Alcantar and Associates with Oregon State Treasurer Randall Edwards at a meeting of the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs.

PGE Coupons Promote Long-Life Bulbs

Portland General Electric says it is including certificates worth \$12 toward the purchase of high-efficiency compact fluorescent light bulbs with its next billing. The two, \$6 coupons can be redeemed at a wide variety of retailers.

PGE vice-president Dave Carboneau said if each PGE customer replaces just two, 60-watt lights with two, 15-watt compact fluorescents, it would save 83 million kilowatt hours a year - enough to supply the city of Salem for three weeks.

He says such usage would drop electric bills by \$4.6 million dollars a year. The compact bulbs can last six or seven years.

Expert Says New Carissa Wreckage Should Stay

(AP) — A consultant hired by the New Carissa's insurer has told Gov. John Kitzhaber that it would be safer to let nature deal with the wrecked freighter than to remove it from the beach.

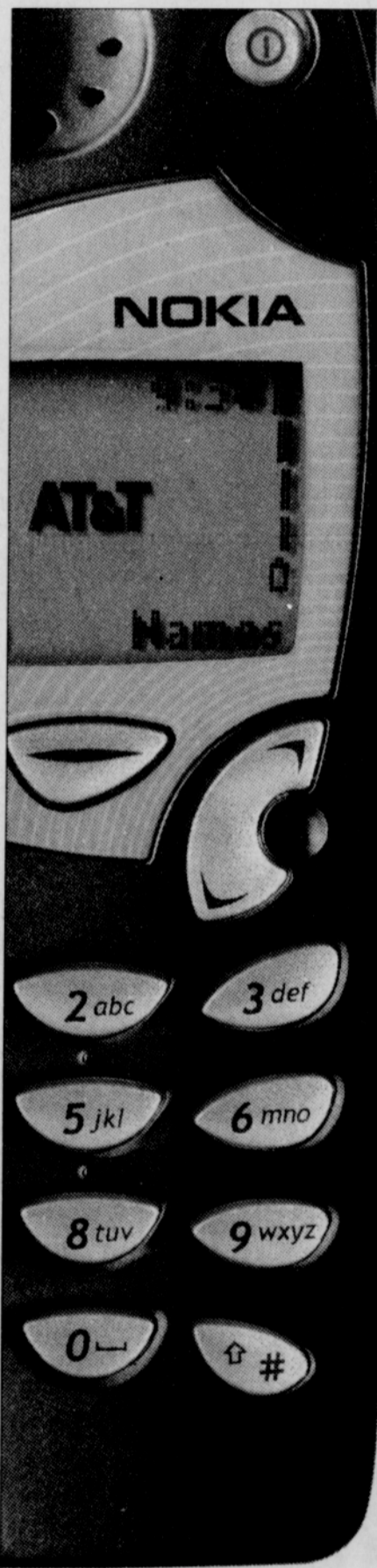
John Noble, a London-based casualty surveyor, said the ship's steeply pitched and swaying engine room was too great a hazard for salvors to work aboard. Coos Bay's rough surf and unknown shore geology also make seaward removal unlikely, he said.

"I wouldn't want to be associated with this operation should it go ahead," said Noble, chairman of BMT Murray Fenton. "I do believe, given a few good storms, nature will deal with this lump of steel." Noble and the ship's insurers met last week with Kitzhaber, Secretary of State Bill Bradbury and Treasurer Randall Edwards, the three members of the State Land Board.

Kitzhaber demanded last year that Britannia Steam Ship Insurance remove the wreck or pay the state \$25 million.

Noble said he would write the same report if hired by the state. Kitzhaber's spokesman said the governor's original demand still stands. "We're not ready to change our position at this time," said Bob Applegate. "I think there's a pretty strong feeling that the wreck constitutes a risk. There's a risk to remove it, and there's a risk to leave it. If it's left, the risk falls to the state."

Bill Milwee, salvage consultant for Britannia, said he would press ahead with an environmental impact statement for a shoreward removal. He said he has shifted his focus from gaining access to the wreck to examining worker safety and the surrounding geology. Milwee said he has hired a firm to perform a risk analysis and plans to map the wreckage and the shore's geology in August.



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