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Opinion

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Eugene Lawyer Launches Campaign to Impeach Justices

PORTLAND (AP) - A former member of Congress has launched a campaign to impeach the five conservative Supreme Court justices who voted to stop the presidential ballot recount in Florida last year - but admits it's a long shot.

Charles Porter, an 82-year-old attorney in Eugene, said the Supreme Court ruling was so clearly influenced by politics that under the Constitution, there may be grounds to impeach the justices for bias.

The 5-4 decision in December resulted in George W. Bush being named president-elect and his opponent Al Gore conceding the election.

"They did wrong, they voted politically to stop the election," Porter said.

"A lot of people out there think this would be a terrible precedent for the United States if the court could... vote for political reasons," he said.

At issue is a clause in the Constitution calling on judges to show "good behavior," Porter said. While this is not defined in the founding document, the American Bar Association says judges should avoid bias or even the "appearance of impropriety."

"We say they tarnished the integrity of the U.S. Supreme Court," Porter said.

ter said.

Porter wrote a resolution seeking the removal of justices William Rehnquist, Antonin Scalia, Clarence Thomas, Sandra Day O'Connor and Anthony Kennedy.

"A lot of people think the Supreme Court is all powerful. Well, they are if they're handing down decisions. But not if they're violating the Constitution," he said.

Porter found some support over the weekend within the state Democratic Party.

The chairman of the party's Executive Committee, Jim Edmunson, agreed Saturday to sponsor the proposal for a vote at the party's central committee meeting on July 22. If it passes, the state party could recommend other states pass similar resolutions.

"The idea is to draw attention to the problem," Edmunson said. "We're treating this as something with legal merit. Whether it's politically feasible is another question."

Congress, which must initiate the articles of impeachment, is now controlled by a majority of Republicans.

More than 600 law professors

around the country have signed a petition decrying the Supreme Court decision, and some have asked the Senate to refrain from ratifying any appointments to the court while President Bush is in office.

About 14 law professors in Oregon have signed on, according to Steve Bender, a law professor at University of Oregon.

Porter served two terms in Congress beginning in 1957. He later used his practice in Eugene to litigate over a 30-year period for the removal of a cross from public land in the city.

Somebody Ought To Say Something

By L. K. Bass

An Absence of Color: Politics in Portland

When Joann Bowman resigned as House Representative for District 19 to run for Multnomah County chair, many in the black community were hopeful that she would pull it off. You see, when it comes to city or county politics in Portland, representation from the African-American community

earned Portland the dreadful distinction of being the largest U.S. metropolitan area with an all-white city council and for many living in the City of Roses, this is a distinction that stinks!

We cannot allow ourselves to become pessimistic, complacent or simply hold our nose in response to the immense challenges that this presents us. As African-Americans, our triumphs have always rested with our own determination to be both conscientiousness and judicious in our pursuit for political power, and now is not the time to be losing ground.

In 1998, Joann Bowman and Avel Gordly contacted more than two-dozen African-Americans to run for the seat that was being vacated by House Representative Margaret Carter when term limits forced her out of office. No one opted to do so and Deborah Kafoury won that seat. For many of us, this has been a tough issue to live with. Perhaps, because we as a community have not really dealt with this matter. What comes to mind is the adage: "You've got to learn how to live with it and deal with it. If you can deal with it, you can

live with it." According to the 2000 census here's what we're dealing with: African-Americans comprise 5.7% of the population, Asians - 5.7%, Hispanic/Latinos - 7.5%, American Indian/Alaskan Natives - 1.0% and European Americans - 79.2%.

Clearly, we need to be strategic in our moves and there are factors we must consider. We must weigh individual pursuits against 'nation building.' As we climb, we must also lift. It's time to think about our future and our potential options. It's time to galvanize, mobilize and rededicate ourselves with Herculean efforts. When the next commissioner and mayoral race comes around, will we have someone ready? Someone who can negotiate rather than battle; a coalition builder if you will. In other words, someone who can also garner the white vote, not just minority votes.

We must continue to work hard to protect and build upon gains made, and take advantage of new opportunities as they arise. Meeting the challenges is mandatory - not optional. Obviously, the time to begin this is today!

Politics is not a spectator sport, but rather a contact sport. And like any sport, you can only win it if you're in it.
— Kweisi Mfume



Lydia K. Bass

nity could be counted on one hand and you'd still have fingers left over. In city politics, it was Charles Jordan in 1974 and Dick Bogle in 1984.

The only African-American to hold a county seat was Gladys McCoy in 1979 - this sums up the statistical data of our presence in Portland's political history.

For a city that is 150 years old, with its present form of government in place for 88 years, this history has currently

The Journey Continues for Young African

Editor's Note: The following letter is an update to an article that appeared in the Portland Observer's April 11 issue entitled "Internet Connection, On-line Journey Brings Young African to Portland," written by Lorraine Michelle-Faust.

Chriss Kisanga is the young African from Tanzania whose dream to visit and study in America was made possible by Donovan Pacholl, a local college student who made the internet connection with him, Pastor Rozell Gilmore of northeast Portland and other local supporters.

Dear Editor:

Chriss Kisanga was successful in completing his courses this past term. We had a visit the other day. He is a little homesick, but realizes that it's only for a while. He feels good about his progress and is looking forward to his summer classes. He is taking three classes, which began June 25th. One is at PCC's Cascade campus at 11 a.m. each day, the other two at PCC's Sylvan campus, from 6 to 8 p.m.

An individual is loaning him a more powerful computer that is internet-compatible. He needs a phone hookup so he can do homework at his apartment. I told him that I would see if that could be done. He wants to spend some of his extra time working with children at Bethel Lutheran Church and meeting with groups. If you have suggestions about groups for him to meet with, please inform them and me.

His tuition and support needs for the next three months is approximately \$3,655. You can help by purchasing a credit hour, \$145, and getting some friends/relatives to do the same. I still believe that

God is leading us on a faith journey with Chriss, a journey that consists of one step at a time.

Blessings on your journey,
Pastor Rozell Gilmore
Redeemer Lutheran Church



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- Use microwaves or outdoor grills instead of ovens.
- Use the air dry function on dishwashers or turn off during dry cycle.
- Cut back even more on lighting.
- Replace incandescent lightbulbs with compact fluorescents that use one quarter the energy.
- If you will be away from home for more than a few days, unplug TVs, VCRs and computers as they draw power even when not in use.