



OPINION

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Health Disparity Needs Our Attention Too many African Americans die from preventable diseases

The African American Health Coalition is a non-profit organization with a purpose of raising the awareness of health issues within the African American community of Portland through health education, advocacy, and research.

Our vision is to become the healthiest African American community in the nation. Taking charge of your health is essential for living healthier lives.

Diabetes, do you have it? Perhaps you have this disease and don't even know it. Diabetes along with cardiovascular disease, and HIV are the leading causes of death among African Americans today.

Did you know that diabetes is proven to be linked with

cardiovascular disease? Since the symptoms associated with diabetes often go undetected or untreated, other health problems are elevated. Such health problems include cardiovas-

lack of knowledge and education about these diseases.

At a recent awards ceremony to recognize diabetic Oregonians that have lived for

community that had recently lost three family members to diabetes while the four remaining family members had already lost two toes each before the age of 40 because of the disease.

As the president of the Links, Inc. writes, every member of the African American Community knows of an uncle who only had, "a touch of sugar," but went blind at 45 or the aunt who was, "pleasingly plump," but died of a heart attack before she was 55.

Diabetes is a silent killer. These are the individuals this project will target and in doing so, the African American Diabetes Care Services Linkage Project will address the health disparity that plagues the state and the nation.

One of our goals is to partner with African American churches and beauty/barber shops to raise awareness in the community.

We believe that our health has a part in the ministry. We must focus on risk reductions and promote spirituality and wholeness. We must unite as one against these plagues that are overcoming the African American community.

The AAHC is planning an African American pastor's breakfast to raise awareness about diabetes, but we can't do it alone. We need your support and involvement.

For more information or assistance, call Lois Criss of the, American Health Coalition at 503-413-1850.

Diabetes along with cardiovascular disease, and HIV are the leading causes of death among African Americans today.

cular issues, stroke and nerve damage.

Statistics show that African Americans have the highest rate of death due to preventable diseases than any other race of people in the world. Why? Because of the

over 50 years with the disease, our president and chief executive officer, was appalled to note that not one person of color in the entire state was receiving the award.

At the time, however, she could think of a family in the



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Bush's Contempt for Social Security

By Terry McAuliffe

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Today's projections from the Congressional Budget Office reaffirms the grim fact that the Bush Administration wants to raid the Social Security Trust Fund every year from 2003 to 2012, just when the program faces the first wave of baby boomer retirements.

The President's fiscal recklessness and misguided priorities are clear—he'd rather give permanent tax breaks to the wealthiest Americans than protect the solvency of one of the most popular and successful government programs in American history.

This is just the latest example of the Bush Administration's contempt for Social Security, which has given generations of Americans a dignified retirement. The President wants to turn Social Security into Social Insecurity, by pursuing a privatization plan that would cut benefits and expose our retirement savings to the whims of a volatile stock market. Anyone who thinks private retirement accounts are a good idea should talk to Enron employees.

To make matters worse, it appears House Republicans have a secret plan to vote on the President's privatization plan after the November elections. This bit of trickery is simply a ploy to avoid accountability. If they believe this is the right thing to do, they ought to have the courage of their convictions. They ought to go on the record now with an up-or-down vote.

Outlandish Raises for City Managers

The executive board of Local 189 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees is opposed to the Portland City Council's consideration of giving their top managers up to 26 percent pay raises.

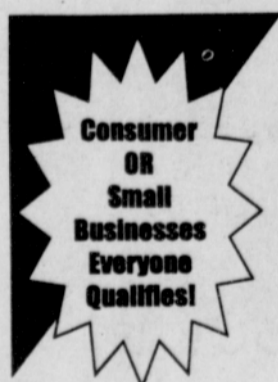
The proposed raises are outlandish and shocking given the present economic climate.

Four months ago city leaders chastised, flogged and belittled union leaders for asking for a modest raise during contract negotiations with the city.

City leaders even went as far as to imply union members were unpatriotic for requesting raises given the events of Sept. 11. We ended up with a 2.9 percent cost of living increase.

We challenge the city's process for justifying the raises for managers up to 26 percent. Market surveys should be guided by a consistent formula applied to all employee groups.

The city disputes and rejects our requests for raises according to market demand, but seeming without hesitation are willing to rubber stamp raises for themselves.



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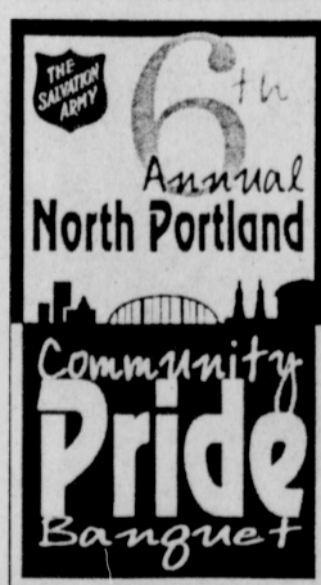
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