

OPINION

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Jackson Applauds Decision To Fine Lions' Millen

Jesse L. Jackson Sr., founder and president of the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, praised the National Football League's decision to fine Detroit Lions team president Matt Millen for violating league policy by failing to interview a minority candidate for the head coaching position.



Jesse L. Jackson Sr.

The NFL informed Millen by letter that he must pay a \$200,000 fine for failing to follow league guidelines after the firing of Marty Mornhinweg. Millen subsequently hired Steve Mariucci as Lions head coach without interviewing a minority candidate.

"I applaud the NFL for its action regarding Millen and his deliberate circumvention of the league's diversity guidelines," Jackson said. "Hopefully, this will send a clear message to hiring agents for pro teams that they will be held accountable. The NFL took the first step in the right direction by adopting the guidelines, but the rules must be respected and adhered to."

The Lions organization apparently won't be fined or suffer the loss of draft picks. The Lions, at the time Mariucci was hired, contended they had attempted to interview black candidates, but were rebuffed because of the well-known belief that Millen had already decided to hire Mariucci.

Katz Leadership Will be Missed

Portland State University President Daniel O. Bernstine released the following statement regarding Mayor Vera Katz's decision last week not to seek a fourth term in office:

Mayor Vera Katz has left an indelible mark on Portland State University. She has been an outstanding advocate for the university, as well as the city, and we have grown stronger because of her leadership.

Mayor Katz has worked hard to make PSU a great university for this great city of Portland.

When she leaves office, Mayor Katz's legacy on this campus will be reflected in the Urban Center, the Simon Benson House, the Streetcar, the formation of the University District and our soon to be constructed Northwest Center for Engineering, Science and Technology building.

She has made the strongest commitment of any Portland mayor to Portland State University and we will miss her when she leaves office.

Don't Weaken Head Start

House measure cuts vital services to low-income children

Oregon Congressmen Earl Blumenauer and David Wu issued statements in reaction to last week's vote in Congress to dramatically alter the popular Head Start program.

Both Democratic lawmakers voted against the Republican-sponsored legislation, arguing that it will significantly weaken this highly successful early childhood education program. The legislation would allow states to lower standards for Head Start programs and cut vital services for low-income children and their families.

"It makes no sense to gamble with Head Start when we know the program works," said Blumenauer. "Across the country, states are dealing with an economic crisis and cutting back on services. The financial outlook in Oregon is already bleak. This legislation would further jeopardize families who are already losing services."

"By approving this legislation I fear that the leadership in the House is taking a gamble with our children," Blumenauer said. Wu said Head Start has proven its ability to improve the lives of disadvantaged kids.

"I have personal experience with the program — my wife was a Head Start teacher for seven years at the Creston School and I have visited Head Start classrooms throughout the First Congressional District.

We said despite the success, only 54 percent of qualified 3 to 4 year-olds are able to participate and take advantage of Head Start. For the 9,000 Oregon kids in Head Start, there are about 9,000 others who qualify but can't participate.

"I opposed the House bill because it does not help increase the number of qualified kids who can participate in Head Start," Wu said. "Rather, it seeks to experiment with the program by allowing eight states to receive block grants to administer the program. Instead of experimenting with something that already works, we should be focusing on allowing all qualified children to reap the benefits of Head Start."

Story Ideas for the Portland Observer?

Do you know about a story that hasn't showed up in other newspapers? If so, the newly expanded Portland Observer editorial staff would like to know. Please fill out this form and attach a brief description of your news tip so we can contact you.

Outline of Story Idea: _____

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Letters to the Editor American Hero Pursued

Kobe Bryant, with all of his accomplishments, finds himself through the crosshairs of a Colorado prosecution. Whether he was courting adultery or practicing a one-night stand, his lapse of prudence results in inconvenience, ordeal and expense.

We do not know whether the alleged victim expected an ongoing involvement, the romance of her dreams, ascribed social contacts or an opportunity at fame. Is Miss Nineteen so naive that she expected to be kept? Nonetheless a respectable hotel may not only suspend but also terminate an employee who is fraternal with hotel guests. A business must avoid any appearance of impropriety or suspicion of allowing ladies of the night on its payroll. For where there is vice and narcotics, extortion, robbery and white slavery will

soon follow. Now information has surfaced that Miss Nineteen recently overdosed on pills in the wake of a breakup with a boyfriend and the death of another close friend. The episode was described as a calling out for help! Did she pursue a lifestyle that transcended her earnings? Did the prosecution know of her fragile mental antecedents when urging media to respect her privacy?

Kobe is certainly remiss in his indiscretion. But a man with money needs to adopt an ethical code of conduct and practice that removes one from compromising positions. A celebrity must never find himself alone with a stranger.

K. Taylor Curry
 Portland

Another Forum with Police Needed

I would think a "community forum" would be a place where the community could speak.

In a city our size, one would expect it to take some time for community members to voice their thoughts and feelings, especially when so many people feel that the death of Kendra James at the hands of police was a 'straw that broke the camel's back.'

Sgt. Brian Schmautz, a police spokesman, fretted that Rev. Roy Tate interrupted the detective's presentation "after less than one hour." Taken out of context, this forgets that for the two months, yes, 60 days, the community "waited" for an opportunity to express their feelings and frustrations in the case.

The forums' format, giving the first 3 hours and 15 minutes to police and then

1 hour and 45 minutes to the community meant that people who came on time were forced to wait a long time with their emotions in check. Is this Chief Kroeker's promise of "intense community debate?"

Let's have another community forum—for us, the people. We in the white community—especially those in the outlying suburban areas, need to hear what Portland's communities of color have experienced at the hands of the police.

We need to hear first-hand about the brutality, the injustice, the harassment and the intimidation. Then all of Portland can understand the injustice of not only this latest deadly event, but the historical record of racism in "the city of roses".

Linda Kanzyger
 Northeast Portland

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