

OPINION

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The Portland Observer

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STAFF

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, PUBLISHER
Charles H. Washington

EDITOR
Michael Leighton

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER
Mark Washington

CREATIVE DIRECTOR
Paul Neufeldt

OFFICE MANAGER
Kathy Linder

REPORTER
Jaymee R. Cuti

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503-288-0033 • FAX 503-288-0015 • EMAIL: news@portlandobserver.com subscription@portlandobserver.com ads@portlandobserver.com

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City Leadership Takes Vision

James Posey for Mayor promotes a better Portland

James Posey, a candidate for mayor of Portland, issued the following statement to both the voters of the city and other candidates:

I challenge the voters to demand excellence from the mayor's office, demand that the mayor be a true leader, demand that the mayor restore Portland to its position as one of the top three large cities in the United States in overall quality of life. At the same time, I challenge the other candidates to prove to the voters that they are leaders and to explain their specific goals and plans. Give the voters more than the, 'more jobs, more affordable housing, less crime' line of every other politician.

I have developed a comprehensive and progressive plan as mayor. By the May 2004 Primary, you will know exactly what you are voting for when you vote for me. You will know that I am not your typical politician.

Healthcare initiatives will be a hallmark of my administration. We will work develop strategies to make Portland a leading city for breast cancer treatment and AIDS research - and one of the top five cities overall healthcare quality and pharmaceutical research. We will endeavor to become the number one city in the

U.S. for improvement in elementary and secondary school education. We will work with our great public collegiate institutions, such as PCC and PSU to support significant improvements in post-secondary education and life-long learning of our citizens.

Portlanders will be served by the most highly respected police force in the U.S. We will recruit, train and hold accountable officers who are commit-



ments that leave or are forced out due to scandal and disregard to the public.

The hard working members of our community deserve affordable options for housing. In this regard, I would seek the development of a multimillion-dollar, self-sustaining fund to help first-time homebuyers. I will also seek to expand affordable rental options for low and restricted-income citizens with rent controlled housing

I would have never proposed putting a lid on I-405 without first conducting a survey to see if the voters were interested in the project and considering the cost.

—James Posey

ted to serving and protecting our citizens with the respect and dignity they deserve. Under the auspices of my administration, the quality of our police will be evidenced by a significant decrease in complaints against officers and the number of cities offering positions to members of the Portland Police Bureau, rather than the number of offic-

and 'livable neighborhood' initiatives.

I will provide detailed plans for each of these areas, one by one, so that voters can dissect them, debate them and challenge them so that each voter can truly see that my plans will work.

The mayor of Portland should look at city government as a business that provides the services required of its

residents. While Vera Katz is just as dedicated to Portland as I am, our approach is entirely different. She wanted to put a lid on the I-405 freeway through Portland. She did not approach this in a business-like manner by first looking at the need and interest in Portland to do so. Many were vocal in condemning the idea due to its cost versus the lack of benefits. Next, she wanted to bring Major League baseball to Portland, which required going the State Legislature because the financing component had not been developed.

I would have never proposed putting a lid on I-405 without first conducting a survey to see if the voters were interested in the project and considering the cost. The same with baseball. I would have done my homework, including securing sensible financing options, before putting the idea out for public debate.

The mayor of Portland should be a leader like Neil Goldschmidt. Downtown Portland was dying just as most major U.S. cities in which people abandon the city center at 5 p.m. To save downtown, Neil brought us light rail. He made the transit mall happen. He made Pioneer Courthouse Square a reality. When Nordstrom announced it was closing its downtown store, Neil met with them and Nordstrom not only stayed, but they built the newer, larger store on Broadway across from Pioneer Courthouse Square. This is the type of visions and leadership I want to bring to city hall in 2004.

Job Figures Leave Too Many Behind

African Americans feel brunt of unemployment

BY ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

The U.S. Department of Labor announced Friday that our unemployment rate is now 6 percent, virtually unchanged from last month. While this is welcome news, it is alarming that the African-American unemployment rate actually rose to 11.5 percent. This is an increase of over 2 percent in one year and a jump from last month's rate of 11.2 percent.

Unfortunately, millions of Americans continue to be left behind.

All too often, when the economy sours, African Americans tend to feel the brunt of it more so than any other ethnic group. We are unemployed for a longer period of time and are less likely to receive unemployment insurance benefits.

Close to 30 percent of African Americans who are unemployed have been unemployed for 27 weeks or more. This is essentially 6 months that people have to survive without a paycheck.

Even more unsettling is that the economic recovery beginning in November 2001 has had little effect of creating jobs for African Americans. For months now, the Congressional Black Caucus has been saying that the best indicator of whether our economy is back on the right track is to measure the number of people who have jobs.

The employment numbers have therefore shown that we have a long way to go. I ask you, how, when our economy grows at a rate of 7.2 percent, can 4 out of 10 African Americans not have a job?

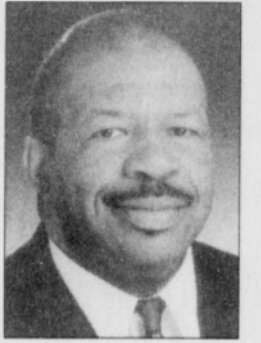
Now, a small string of increases have taken place, but to make up for the over 3 million jobs lost, we will need to create close to 250,000 jobs a month over the next 12 months. This number actually grows to 272,000 a month if one considers the fact that the working age population grows by about 272,000 a month.

Now is not the time to celebrate. In order for this recovery to benefit every single American it is essential that we invest in human capital. We have to invest in the American people. We have to invest in job-training programs that give individuals the tools and resources they need in order to place them in positions that may be available.

We must create an environment for people to build small businesses and hire workers.

For the vast majority of African Americans, the President's economic policies are not working and leading us in the wrong direction. I urge the President and my Republican colleagues in Congress to work with us in a bipartisan manner and show the same dedication to creating jobs as they have to passing tax cuts for the wealthy.

Rep. Elijah E. Cummings, D-Md., is chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.



Healthy, Active Lives:

weight and diabetes



You're invited to a public forum

What can we do to fight the twin epidemics of obesity and diabetes? A researcher and a physician/diabetes expert will share what we know at this free forum.

November 5, 7 p.m.

Kaiser Permanente Tualatin Medical Office
19185 SW 90th Ave., Tualatin

November 11, 7 p.m.

Kaiser Permanente Interstate Medical Office South*
3500 N Interstate Ave., Portland

Call 503-528-3909 or 1-877-274-0824 to ensure a seat.

For more information about weight management, visit the "For Our Members" section of kaiserpermanente.org.

*A healthy physical activity will be offered for children 6 and older.



Letter to the Editor: Right to Choose

I don't think President Bush should have the right to take our rights away. I'm a woman and believe that it should be our right to choose and no one should tell us that is not our right. We have been fighting this battle for over 30 years, and what makes him think that he can come and just take that right away. I think that this law should be banned from law.

Shelley D. Young, Vancouver

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