

OPINION

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The Portland Observer

USPS 959-680

Established 1970

4747 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.,
Portland, OR 97211

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The Portland Observer—Oregon's Oldest Multicultural Publication—is a member of the National Newspaper Association—Founded in 1885, and The National Advertising Representative Amalgamated Publishers, Inc., New York, NY, and The West Coast Black Publishers Association • Serving Portland and Vancouver.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Portland Observer PO Box 3137, Portland, OR 97208
Periodical Postage paid in Portland, OR Subscriptions are \$60.00 per year

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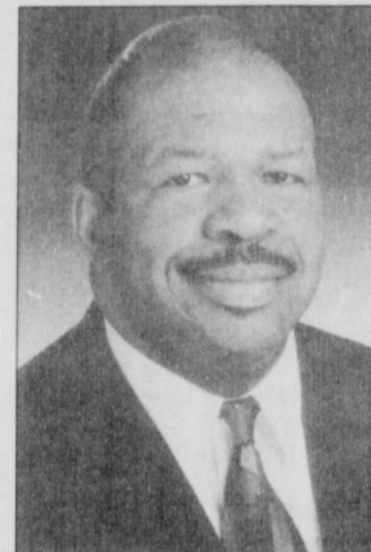
Bush budget robs recovery for workers

BY U.S. REP. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

In President Bush's weekly radio address on Saturday, he said that his fiscal year 2005 budget would give the American people a 'clear view of his priorities.'

Well, I am sad to say, that after reviewing the President's budget released Monday, the economic outlook for the American worker is bleak and unforgiving. Clearly, reducing the deficit and creating an economy capable of investing in the fiscal security of the American worker is not among this President's priorities.

In the course of three years, President Bush has taken our nation from a path of record budget surpluses to a path of monstrous budget deficits and escalating instability. When President Bush took



U.S. Rep. Elijah E. Cummings

office in January 2001, he inherited a projected 10-year budget surplus of \$5.6 trillion. Now, the Bush Administration projects a budget deficit of \$521 billion this year and a deficit of \$364 billion in 2005.

It is unbelievable, that in the face of sweeping deficits, the Bush Administration would propose a

budget that centers on more tax cuts for the top 5 percent of income earners, further draining our federal revenues by \$1 trillion dollars.

What is worse, while the President's budget starves our federal treasury with deficit financed tax cuts, it shortchanges investment in vital domestic programs including his own No Child Left Behind Act, healthcare for the uninsured and highway construction — initiatives that support thriving communities and create sustainable jobs.

Finally, when we thoroughly examine the President's budget, we realize that the true cost remains a vast unknown. The Bush budget conveniently omits the future price tag of military engagement in Iraq and Afghanistan.

This budget is not fiscally responsible. In fact, it robs America's workers of a real chance at recovery.

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

Don't Freeze HIV Prevention

BY TERRY McAULIFFE
DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN

A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report released last summer shows that the number of people diagnosed with HIV in 29 states increased by 5.1 percent overall between 1999 and 2002.

The increase included a striking 26 percent rise among Latinos and a 17 percent increase among gay and bisexual men; African-Americans also continue to be disproportionately affected, representing over half of new HIV diagnoses.

African American and Hispanic women are also disproportionately affected, representing 80 percent of cases reported in women.

President Bush's proposed budget for 2005 would freeze funding for most HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment programs.

His response to the domestic HIV/AIDS epidemic has not addressed the problems Americans are facing. He is again playing election-year politics, but he cannot hide behind his mask of compassionate conservative anymore. His refusal to fund science-based programs and community-oriented prevention efforts, while pouring millions into abstinence-only programs, shows just how far he is willing to go in order to appease his right-wing base.

The Weather was Truly Frightful

Concerning Mr. Dale Davis missing the flight to a game due to inclement weather conditions, I feel it is a shame anyone would even question him for not getting out of the West Hills during the worst storm in decades.

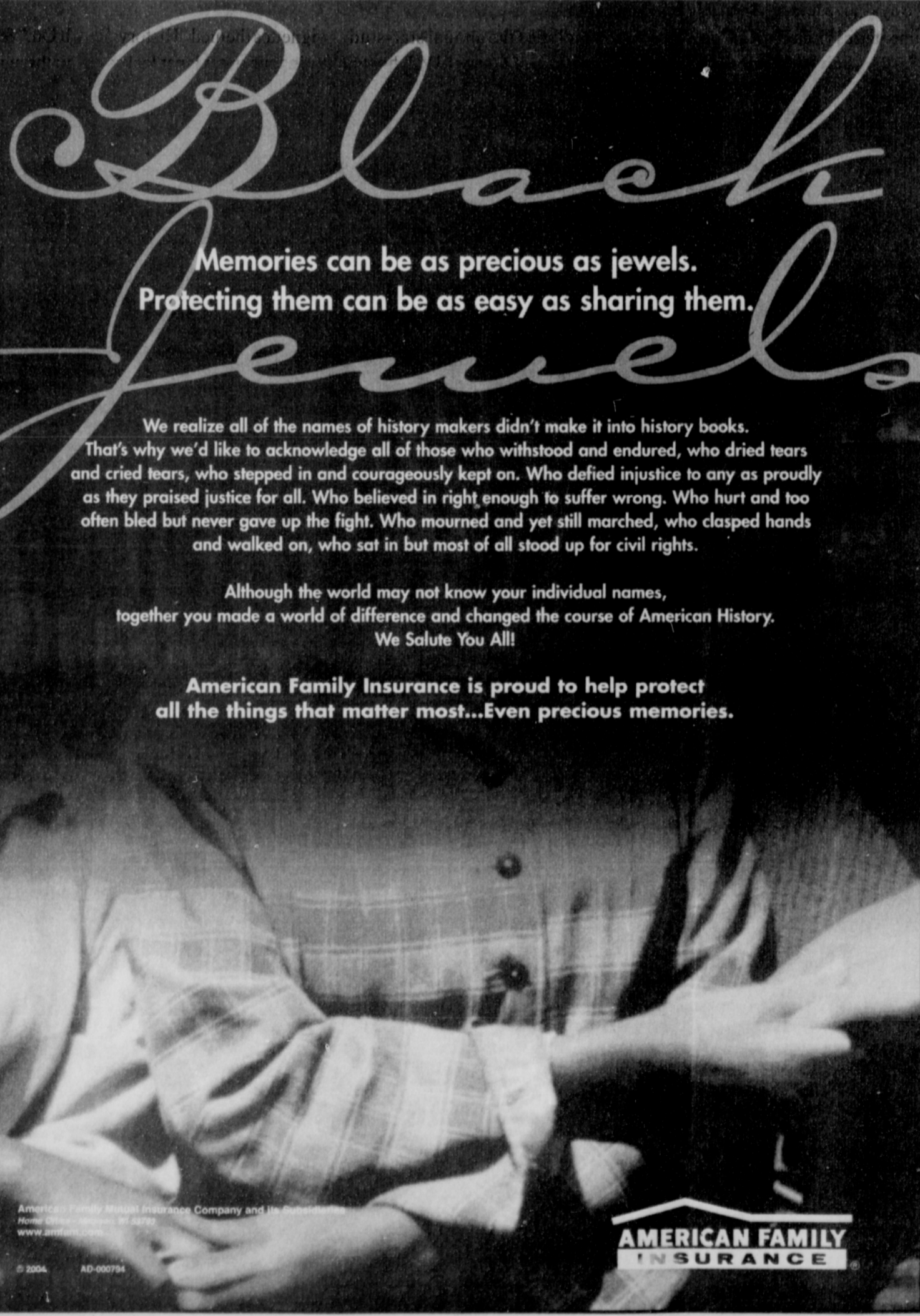
In light of every television, radio and news broadcast warning that only emergency vehicles should try to navigate the roads and that thousands of cars and trucks were abandoned throughout the city, it is amazing that the other players were able to make the trip without

some sort of serious injury.

After listening to "the rest of the story," I would have criticized Mr. Davis if he had tried to get to work that day. Even if another vehicle were deployed to assist him, it would have only endangered others.

My heart goes out to the Blazer organization for having to deal with all the issues that they have faced this season. But Dale Davis? Where does it say man can control the weather?

Lee Jenkins, Vancouver



Black Jewels

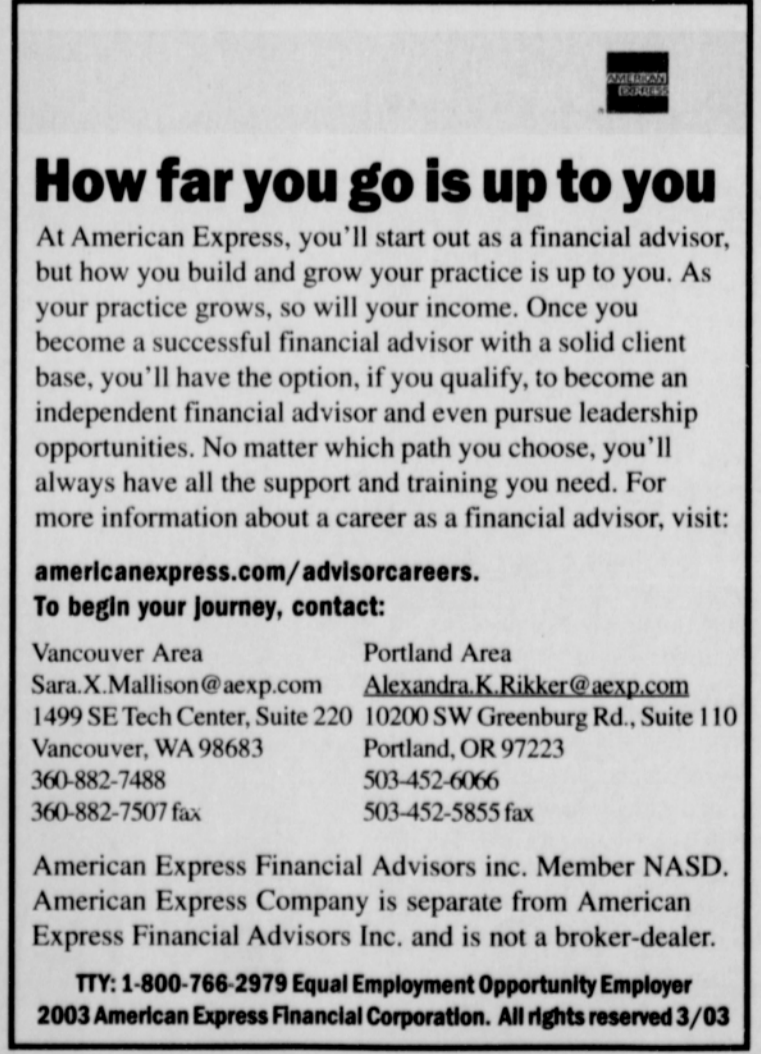
Memories can be as precious as jewels.
Protecting them can be as easy as sharing them.

We realize all of the names of history makers didn't make it into history books. That's why we'd like to acknowledge all of those who withstood and endured, who dried tears and cried tears, who stepped in and courageously kept on. Who defied injustice to any as proudly as they praised justice for all. Who believed in right enough to suffer wrong. Who hurt and too often bled but never gave up the fight. Who mourned and yet still marched, who clasped hands and walked on, who sat in but most of all stood up for civil rights.

Although the world may not know your individual names,
together you made a world of difference and changed the course of American History.
We Salute You All!

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