

OPINION

Opinion articles do not necessarily reflect or represent the views of The Portland Observer



BY BEN DIB/MINUTEMAN MEDIA

The Portland Observer
 USPS 959-680
 Established 1970
 4747 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.,
 Portland, OR 97211

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. Cui

The Portland Observer welcomes freelance submissions. Manuscripts and photographs should be clearly labeled and will be returned if accompanied by a self-addressed envelope. All created design display ads become the sole property of the newspaper and cannot be used in other publications or personal usage without the written consent of the general manager, unless the client has purchased the composition of such ad. © 1996 THE PORTLAND OBSERVER. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR IN PART WITHOUT PERMISSION IS PROHIBITED.

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

Fix and Fund Education 'No Child Left Behind' Needs Help

BY JUDGE GREG MATHIS

The "No Child Left Behind Law" continues to be one of the most controversial pieces of legislation initiated by the Bush Administration. The law requires increased student testing and severe consequences for schools whose students fail to steadily improve. If student test scores don't improve over several years, the students are allowed to transfer to another school, and teachers and administrators at the failing school can be replaced.



success. Parents, educators and state officials throughout the country are complaining that the "No Child Left Behind Law" is too cumbersome and needs to be "fixed and funded."

Acknowledging shortcomings in the law, the Federal Education department recently announced changes relaxing some of the stringent requirements for teacher qualifications. Clearly the administration recognized that you couldn't expect better-trained teachers unless we better invest in teacher retraining, continuing education and more competitive salaries.

Hopefully, the recently announced changes are the beginning of an honest and sincere effort to invest the necessary money and resources to improve student achievement. Playing give and take with an education law that gives no additional money to fund its requirements is nothing more than smoke and mirrors. Perhaps the administration should use the same strategy in rebuilding our education system as it uses in rebuilding Iraq. There, our administration is not only fixing the laws in Iraq but they are also funding them.

Judge Greg Mathis is Chairman of the Rainbow PUSH-Excel Board and a National Board Member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Economic Outlook is Not Good

Ordinary Americans have reason to worry

BY BERNICE POWELL JACKSON

If you only read the newspapers, watch television or listen to Bush administration officials, you would think that the economy is rosy and all is right with the economic world. You would never know that millions of Americans are still out of work, with some 2 million of them out of work for two years or more. You would never know that millions of Americans have just given up on finding work and therefore are not counted in any of the unemployment figures. You would never know that millions of Americans who lost their jobs and have found new ones are now earning lower salaries with fewer benefits. But the economy is on an upturn, they say. Not to worry.

But millions of ordinary Americans do worry. They worry about how they will pay their mortgage or their rent or what will happen if someone in their family gets sick. For the past 42 months, factories and plants have closed in cities across the nation, with many of these jobs moving across the world. These manufacturing and textile jobs

will never return. Not even Levi jeans are made in America anymore. Added to that reality is the growing outsourcing of white collar internet and engineering jobs in far away places. Even American Express and America On Line are not all American anymore. Indeed, our nation has experienced the greatest sustained job loss since the Great Depression over the past three years.



Even American Express and America On Line are not all American anymore.

— Bernice Powell Jackson

funds for the re-training of American workers under his "Jobs for the 21st Century" initiative. Yet a few weeks later, when elated community college officials looked at the budget proposals, they realized that the federal dollars proposed would not even cover the state budget cuts they have just experienced.

While wealthier Americans have experienced gains in income due to income tax cuts targeted for the wealthy, middle and lower income Americans have seen no increase in the minimum wage for several years.

Even as the administration has announced dozens of budget cuts in education, housing and environmental protection, the reality is that the non-defense, non-homeland security costs that they plan to cut account for only one-sixth of the budget. We know, in addition, that the total costs for Medicare prescription drug plans and the Social Security pay-outs for baby boomer will hit in the next five years or so. There will be no way for our children and their children to pay back all of these dollars, even if we have boom times for the next 20 years.

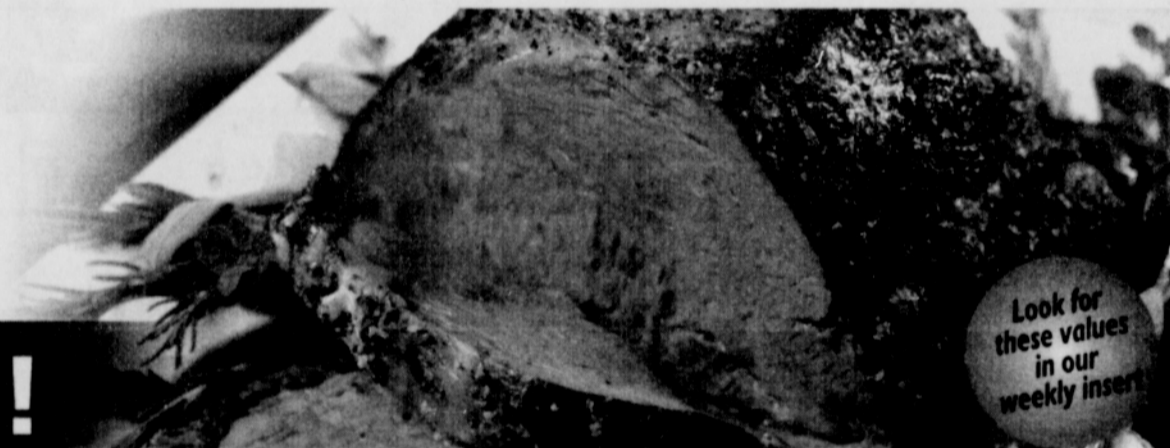
We must require that both Republican and Democratic candidates for President and Congress come clean about the budget. We deserve the truth and our children deserve a budget which is not balanced on their backs.

Bernice Powell Jackson is the executive minister of Justice and Witness Ministries for the United Church of Christ.



Giving our best.

50% OFF Meat Sale!



SAFeway FOOD & DRUG

Attention SENIORS

Safeway Senior Shuttle Service!
 Introducing a great new service for our neighborhood senior citizens. FREE grocery shopping "shuttle service" to your nearby Ainsworth & MLK Blvd Safeway Food & Drug... TWICE a Month!
 This Service is FREE to seniors age 60 and over.
 Please Seniors... Grandchildren and infants WILL NOT BE PERMITTED on the Shuttle at any time.

LOOK FOR OUR SPECIAL "RAZ TRANSPORTATION" TROLLEY SERVICE SCHEDULE FLYER AT YOUR MLK BLVD SAFEWAY FOR COMPLETE DETAILS!

Sponsored By: **SAFeway FOOD & DRUG**
 AFRICAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF OREGON

For More Information Call: 503-772-0812

VALU PACK
BUY BIG & SAVE!

Extra Lean Ground Beef
85% Lean. Valu Pack.
SAVE up to \$3.49 lb. on 2

BUY ONE GET ONE FREE
OF EQUAL OR LESSER VALUE LIKE ITEM ONLY
Safeway Club Price

Angel Food Cake
12-oz. \$2.99
Great with fresh berries!

Fresh Strawberries
16-oz. Container.
Great for dessert!
SAVE up to \$3.99 on 2

BUY ONE GET ONE FREE
Safeway Club Price

Visit Safeway's Web site at www.safeway.com

Available at Safeway: **WESTERN MONEY TRANSFER**

PRICES EFFECTIVE MARCH 2004

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Prices Effective Wednesday, 6 am March 24 thru Tuesday March 30, 2004.

Some items may be priced at our lowest price for a limited time only. Not valid on alcohol, tobacco, or other restricted items. Some items may be priced at our lowest price for a limited time only. Not valid on alcohol, tobacco, or other restricted items. Some items may be priced at our lowest price for a limited time only. Not valid on alcohol, tobacco, or other restricted items.

Hamburger Helper
5 to 9-oz. Selected varieties.
SAVE up to \$2.69 on 2

BUY ONE GET ONE FREE
Safeway Club Price

Van de Kamp's
12 Crunchy Fish Fillets
GOLDEN BATTERED MILDLY SPICED FISH

Van de Kamp's
10 Crispy Fish Portions
GOLDEN BATTERED MILDLY SPICED FISH

50% OFF
Safeway Club Price

Now the savings are in the Card!

ALL LIMITS ARE PER HOUSEHOLD PER DAY!