

John Kerry Wins Applause in Portland Visit

Campaigns on jobs, gas prices and health care

(AP)—Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry said Tuesday that inaction by the Bush administration in the face of soaring gasoline prices and rising health care costs is costing Americans their jobs and savings.

"It's time we had a president who will lead in a way that benefits you," Kerry said in remarks prepared for a visit to a training center. "We know that a strong economy and a strong middle class are the key to building a stronger America. That is why when we win back the White House, we will offer real relief to working families, so they have the opportunity to save and get ahead."

The Kerry campaign contended in a statement that Bush "stubbornly refuses to offer help" even as higher gasoline prices, which have risen to more than \$2 per gallon, will cost the average Oregon family an extra \$1,006 a year and squeeze family budgets already hurt by a weak job market and higher costs for college.

Unemployment in Oregon was 6.7 percent in April, down from 7.2 percent in March, and gasoline sells for \$2.25 per gallon. Families in the state are paying nearly 50 percent more for health care than they did three years ago, the Kerry cam-



Democratic presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., speaks during a campaign rally Monday at Pioneer Courthouse Square in downtown Portland. (AP photos)

paign said.

Kerry received a rousing boost Monday night during a public rally at downtown's Pioneer Courthouse Square from former rival Howard Dean, who built a substantial following in Oregon during his failed bid for the nomination. Dean's full-throated backing for Kerry was a clear signal to any of his backers who might be tempted by the maverick campaign of Ralph Nader.

The former Vermont governor ran on a staunchly anti-war platform, but he praised Kerry's record as a decorated military hero.

"He served his country with patriotism and valor and stood up for what's right," said Dean. "I want somebody who understands right from wrong."

Dean said he was confident that as commander in chief Kerry would send troops into harm's way only after "telling the truth to the American people about why they're going."

Kerry is seeking to solidify ties with Dean's supporters.

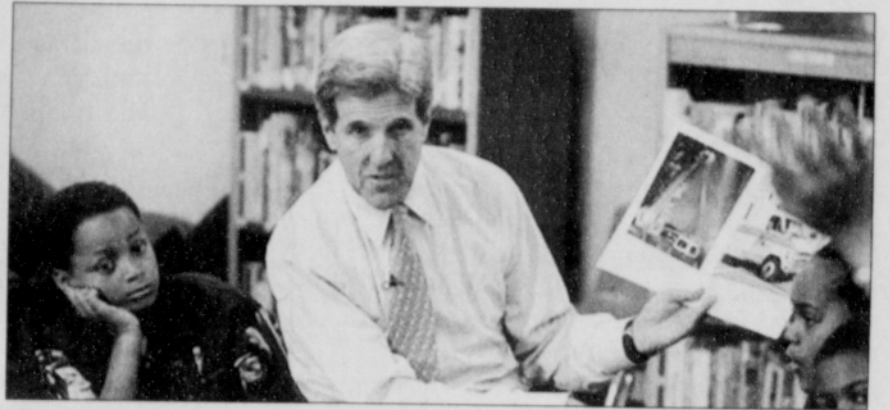
"Thank you for helping to awaken the Democratic Party, to awaken our country,"

said Kerry. "Thank you for putting your country ahead of everything else and joining together in this great effort."

Dean can play an important role for Kerry in swing states like Oregon. Its seven electoral votes are considered up

for grabs in this year's election. In 2000, Democrat Al Gore carried the state by just 6,765 votes.

"The only way to send George Bush back to Crawford, Texas, is to vote for John Kerry," Dean said.



Kenny Hill, a student at Self Enhancement, Inc., looks on as Democratic presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., reads to school children Monday at the SEI center at 3920 N. Kerby St.

Kerry Meets with Local Kids

John Kerry brought his presidential campaign to the inner city of Portland Monday and spent some time with students at Self Enhancement Inc., a north Portland youth services agency. He read to some of the younger children in the library and talked with older students in a computer lab.

Kerry took a seat into a tiny chair and asked about a dozen kids gathered around him what they wanted to be when they grew up.

Ockley Green Middle School student Tristan Irving, 13, said she was going to be the first African American president.

Impressed, Kerry said he hadn't picked a vice president yet and asked her how old she was.

Graduates Honored

The 8th annual Bridge Builders Black Baccalaureate, honoring African-American graduates from Oregon and southeast Washington, will be held on Sunday, May 23 at the University of Portland-Chiles Center, 5000 N. Willamette Blvd. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with the program begin-

ning at 7 p.m.

The sacred service in honor of African American achievement gives area residents the opportunity to demonstrate to our youth that we as a community value education and achievement. The event is free and open to the public.

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Dear Deanna!

I'm in prison responding to advice you gave a lonely inmate. With a few years left of his sentence you told him to focus on getting a degree instead of worrying about a woman on the outside. I feel you're wrong. You also didn't tell him what kind of degree he needs. He needs a woman because it's lonely in prison and companionship will help his time pass faster and keep him mentally stable. --Anonymous Inmate; Soledad, Calif.

Dear Inmate:

He had the chance to build a relationship and grow a family when he was free but lost that chance when he committed a crime. Regardless of the major, an educated ex-con will find employment faster than one with no books on the brain. A woman will love you like Luther Vandross behind the ink pen but when it gets serious, she'll start singing no romance without finance and you gotta have a J-O-B to be with me.

Ask



Deanna!

Real People, Real Advice

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Dear Deanna:

You're too young to know terminology from the 50s, but I noticed the noun "spade" in the column for the week of April 14th. The term spade was a negative term for African Americans back in those days and was often as bad as being called the N-word. This word historically was a put down towards black people and it was unusual to see it in your column. --David Macy; Toledo, Ohio

Dear David:

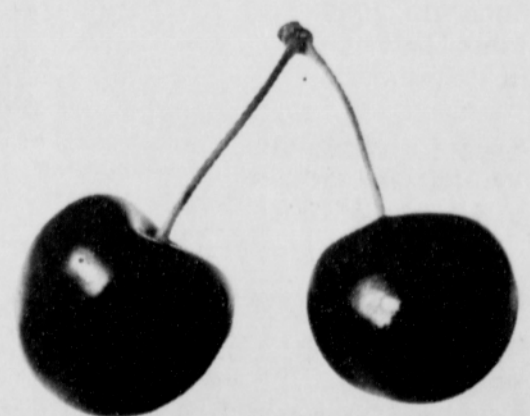
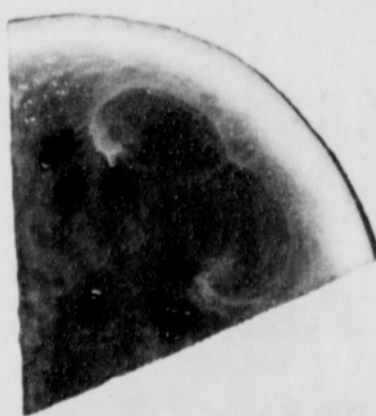
Thank you for the correction, the insightful history and exposing a new fact about black culture. It's good to see someone from the good old days reading advice of the new millennium. You never know what you'll see in the Ask Deanna! column and your wisdom and input is welcomed and appreciated.

Ask Deanna is written by Deanna M. Write Ask Deanna! Email: askdeanna1@yahoo.com or write: Deanna M, 264 S. La Cienega, Suite 1283, Beverly Hills, CA 90211. Website: www.askdeanna.com

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