### Celebrating Women's History & Careers

# **OPINION**

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## **Imagine Rosa Parks Way**

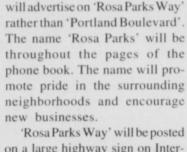
## Getting on board

Editor's note: The following is from Rev. Willie Banks, the first community leader to petition the city to name a street (Sandy Boulevard) in honor of Rosa Parks. Banks is now lending his support to a proposal by City Commissioner Dan Saltzman to re-name the late civil rights leader:

A street named 'Rosa Parks Way' is a very simple way of keeping her northeast Portland. Even the

name in our community. It is a wonderful idea and a wonderful way to honor her civil rights achievements.

The more 'Rosa Parks' is said, the more those who already know her will be reminded of her great

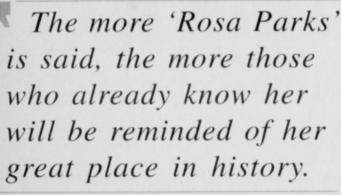


munity center. Business owners

Portland Boulevard in honor of on a large highway sign on Interstate 5, leading people to the beautiful neighborhoods of north and

Internet will be affected. As people map out driving directions on MapQuest, Google Local, Google Earth, Yahoo Maps, Microsoft Virtual Earth mapping web sites will have 'Rosa Parks Way' in their database.

Rosa Parks will not be forgotten in Portland and



place in history and those who do not know her will be provoked to ask "Who was Rosa Parks?" and learn about her life.

When people ask where is 'The Peninsula Park Rose Garden,' they will be told "700 N. Rosa Parks Way" rather than "700 N. Portland Blvd." Buses displaying 'Rosa Parks Way' will drive students to granted. Portland Community College. Kids will dance at the Faubion SUN Community School at 3039 N.E. Rosa Parks Way and working men and women will take the Max to the calling his office at 503-823-4892. 'North Rosa Parks Way' transit Also, show your support by atstation.

and take the transit system up and down 'Rosa Parks Way' to the Peninsula Park pool and com-

neither will civil rights or the fight for freedom. In northeast Portland where the two streets intersect, Rosa Parks will meet up with Martin Luther King Jr. once again. This will be a fitting tribute to these two great people and to all who have fought along their sides for the equality we sometimes take for

Please show Commissioner Dan Saltzman you support this name change by emailing him at dsaltzman.ci.portland.or.us or by tending the public hearing on the The community will walk, drive, proposal April 19 at 6 p.m. at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, 5340 N. Interstate Ave.

-Rev. Willie Banks





## **Unwelcome Outlook for College Graduates**

## Financial aid, jobs worsen

BY JUDGE GREG MATHIS

Rising college tuition and cuts in federal Pell grants and state aid programs have caused more students to rely on loans to pay for their education. As such, the average student's debt increased by more than 50 percent over the last 10 years.

With an increase in student loan interest rates looming - rates are scheduled to go up July 1 - current and future student loan borrowers will see large percentages of their future income go towards repaying their education debt.

With the increasing cost of no longer the case. As more and \$27,000 in loans. more American jobs are taken

global economy.

budget cuts for the pending rise in student loan interest rates. The increase will result in pay-

ments that are 20 percent higher than those made on loans locked in under lower rates. A drop in direct aid-money that doesn't have to be paid back - also contributes to the rise in student debt. Congress hasn't

increased the Pell Grant, the most common direct aid for low-income students, since 2003. As a result, low-income students are carrying a dent debt. Not surprisingly, people of color are carrying more than their fair share of student debt.

pect that a college degree would come students, many of them Africussing the outsourcing trend, rests on its ability to ensure a colguarantee a secure future. That is can-Americans, have more than President Bush recently remarked

jeopardizing its chances for contineever, as it currently stands, We can blame Congressional ued success in the global marketplace. Countries like China and India, that educate a large numbers of students, are posing a serious threat to the way the U.S. does business. Already, nearly half a million Americans have been laid off because their jobs were outsourced to for- putting off college. If policymakers

America is asking its citizens to invest time and money in an education that doesn't guarantee sustainable employment.

With the cost of education so high and no relief in sight, it's no wonder that more young people are

By making it difficult to pay for higher education, America is jeopardizing its chances for continued success in the global marketplace.

disproportionate amount of stu- eign countries, where the labor force want to ensure America's place in is educated and much cheaper.

outsourced U.S. jobs to grow to higher education while increasing According to the Project for Stu- 3.3 million by 2015; causing about aid to students. This country's dent Debt, one-fourth of low-in- 250,000 layoffs a year. While dis-"...let's make sure people are edu-

A country's economic growth is cated so they can find - fill the overseas, we will see more of our significantly impacted by the num- jobs of the 21st century." There is vice president of Rainbow PUSH young people invest in a college ber of adults that have a college no doubt that an education in- and a national board member of education that cannot guarantee degree. By making it difficult to pay creases an individual's ability to the Southern Christian Leadership them a job in a rapidly changing for higher education, America is compete in the workforce. How-

the marketplace, they must enact Experts expect the number of legislation that controls the cost of future as an economic powerhouse lege education is within financial reach of its citizens.

Judge Greg Mathis is national

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### Respecting the Vote in New Orleans chisement in the history of this ist for free and fair elections.

## Clear confusion for fair elections

BY U.S. REP. JOHN CONYERS

In December, our country provided Iraqi immigrants in America the opportunity to vote in Iraq's elections. We provided satellite polling locations across the United States where they could vote

Baghdad.

ing Hurricane Katrina?

The sad fact is that the state of

scheduled to be held on April 22, have been Act applies to the state of Louisiana.

According to Section 5 of the Voting

just the same as if they were in Rights Act, any proposed changes Rights Act was inviolable. to voting dates or precinct locaown citizens that have suffered has not happened. In fact, 300 of devastating losses and were dis- the city's 442 precincts are unavailpersed across the country follow- able for voting because of the damage from Hurricane Katrina.

And yet, the state has pushed

Voter confusion and disenfran-

What is happening in New Or- chisement will be the clear conseleans is that special elections, quence of the April 22 New Orleans municipal elections.

When we passed legislation planned with no notice addressing the possibility that a that the Voting Rights terrorist attack on the U.S. Congress would require special elections to reconstitute Congress, even in those remarkable circumstances it was held that the Voting

There is absolutely no circum-Is it asking too much that we tions must be pre-cleared by the stance for which the Voting Rights extend this same courtesy to our Department of Justice. So far, this Act is too cumbersome to uphold, and we must act now to ensure that the state of Louisiana respects the voting rights of every citizen of the city of New Orleans.

Congressman John Convers is Louisiana is about to conduct an for early elections, when in fact, from Michigan. He is a member of election with the largest disenfran-suitable conditions will not yet ex- the Congressional Black Caucus.

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