

Better Economy Hasn't Closed Racial Gap

Disparities between blacks, whites persist

(AP) — Even though the economy has picked up, stubborn gaps between blacks and whites remain — a reality highlighted by Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath, the National Urban League reports in a new study.

"Two years ago, we saw that things were tough, but there was a recession," Urban League President Marc H. Morial said. "Now that things are better, we're still suffering. The jobless recovery is a real thing for black Americans."

The Urban League's annual State of Black America report, released Tuesday, pulls together government data and academic analysis to measure black progress and problems. The nearly 300-page report includes charts, essays and suggested policy changes.

For three years, blacks' overall well-being compared to whites has stagnated, the report says. Though some African-Americans are prospering, in economics, health, education, social justice and civic engagement, blacks generally fare about three-quarters as well as whites, the report noted, citing figures from Global Insight Inc., an economic analysis company.

Government data show that black Americans have more than double the rates of infant mortality, unemployment and poverty as whites, the report also notes.

Home Ownership

Owning a home is the way most Americans accumulate wealth, writes Lance Freeman, a Columbia University urban planning professor, in one essay. In 2004, 49.1 per-



Marc H. Morial

cent of black Americans owned homes, the highest rate ever. Still, that was 25 percentage points lower than for whites, and blacks' homes were worth less, Freeman writes. Census data in 2000 showed blacks had barely one-tenth the net worth of

whites.

Another essay analyzes causes and effects of the nation's ballooning prison rolls. George Curry, an editor at the National Newspapers Publishers Association, writes that harsher laws for drug offenders helped to almost double prison and jail populations in the 1990s.

Curry cites a Justice Policy study that found that, by 2000, there were more African-American men in

prison and jail (791,600) than were in higher education (603,000).

"When we send (students) to college instead of prison," Curry writes, "we strengthen them, their families and our country in the process."

Katrina's impact

Morial, former mayor of New Orleans, writes that the nation's attention was turned to the plight of poor Americans during Hurri-

cane Katrina.

He called the storm and flood that hit the Gulf Coast last August "this generation's Bloody Sunday," referring to the March 1965 civil rights march in Alabama that focused the nation's attention on racial segregation in the South.

"Unfortunately," he writes, "the initial flurry of concern and attention to poverty and injustice has given way to the status quo."

28 Employees Cited for Selling Alcohol to Minors

As part of the Portland Police Bureau's Enhanced Patrol Missions for Spring Break, Portland Police Officers from the five precincts, the Drugs and Vice Division and School Police Division in partnership with Portland Police Cadets and the Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC) conducted a mission to identify employees of businesses who sell alcohol to minors.

The mission was conducted on March 28, 2006, between the hours of 2 p.m. and 10 p.m., and included 100 randomly selected businesses located throughout the city. Of the 96 businesses that were open, employees in 28 of those businesses sold alcohol to minors. Some of the employees did not ask to see identifica-

tion, while others did not check the identification closely enough. The employees were cited for Furnishing Alcohol to a Minor, which is a Class A misdemeanor.

These missions are conducted throughout the year and annually every Spring Break. Eight-percent more citations were issued in this year's Spring Break mission than in last year's mission. "Nationally, underage drinking resulted in 2,283 fatalities in one year alone," says Chief Derrick Foxworth. "And, as we can see from the results of our mission, minors' access to alcohol continues to be a problem in our community. These missions are important and we thank the Cadets and our partners, the OLCC, for their participation in this worthwhile endeavor."

Scarlett Named Permanent Development Director

BY LEE PERLMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Amid palm trees and sand, commissioner Randy Leonard's office celebrated the official hiring of Paul Scarlett as director of the Bureau of Development Services.



Paul Scarlett

Scarlett has worked in Portland city government since 1989. He had served as interim director of the bureau for the past six months.

BDS, as it is known, oversees and regulates new development through permitting, inspections and review of land use change requests. It is also responsible for responding to complaints of improper land use activities and code violations.

"I'm so happy to have Paul head BDS," Leonard recently told the crowd of more than 100 in the basement of City Hall. "He cares, and helps people get permits quickly and easily."

Scarlett said his vision for the

bureau was "to be the best of its kind in the nation, bar none." This would mean providing good customer service and employing teamwork, he said.

Scarlett was born in Jamaica and grew up in Toronto. He attended Brigham Young University on a track scholarship. After graduation he responded to an E-Mail offering internships for college graduates interested in working on the Albina Community Plan. During the course of his work he became a planner and a full-time city employee.

CityHall was decorated with a Jamaican theme. Guests were serenaded to reggae music by Katt and Root Revolution and fed by Montego Bay.

"Other bureaus offer new directors coffee and cake," Leonard quipped. "We have a theme party."

Everybunny Loves the Healthy Kids' Fair!

Nearly 3,000 people are expected to attend one of the Portland area's biggest Easter weekend events — the Healthy Kids' Fair at Legacy Emanuel Children's Hospital. The fair, now in its 23rd year, will be held on Saturday, April 15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the atrium of Legacy Emanuel Hospital, 501 N. Graham.

The Healthy Kids' Fair is a fun, free way to introduce children to the hospital and its caregivers by providing hands-on methods for families to learn health and safety tips.

Among the planned activities are the Easter Egg Hunts for kids up to eight years old, photos with the easter bunny, healthy kid checks, a Car Seat Safety Clinic, the Teddy Bear Clinic (where favorite stuffed

animals can be mended), the Mercury Thermometer Exchange and a discounted bike helmet sale.

Kids also will be able to have a thumb cast; see a real police car, ambulance and fire engine; view some of the equipment doctors and nurses use to keep us healthy; and get health and safety information from a variety of community organizations. Parents can chat with a physician at the "Ask the Expert" table and get all of their tough questions answered.

The Healthy Kids' Fair is just one of the many ways that Legacy Emanuel Children's Hospital shows our commitment to the health of our patients and the community. For more information, call Public Relations at 503-415-5725.

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Colossal Alaskan Red King Crab Legs and Claws
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4.88 ea
CLUB PRICE
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Or Rhubarb at \$1.99 lb. SAVE up to \$3.11 ea.

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Del Monte Gold Pineapples
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3.99
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Arrowhead Water
24+4-pack, 16.9-oz bottles. SAVE up to \$2.00

FREE
BUY ONE, GET ONE FREE
Tostitos Tortilla Chips
9 to 13.5-oz. Selected varieties. SAVE up to \$3.49 on 2

10.99
CLUB PRICE
18-Pack Budweiser or Coors
12-oz. cans. Selected varieties. Plus deposit in Oregon. SAVE up to \$3.78

15.20
CLUB PRICE
Panther Creek, Beringer Knights Valley or Willamette Valley
750-ml. bottle. Selected varieties. SAVE up to \$13.11

2.10
CLUB PRICE
Fresh Cut Tulips
10-stem bunches. Club Price: \$5.00 ea.

4.99
CLUB PRICE
Pie Extravaganza
9-inch fruit, cream or meringue. Selected varieties. SAVE up to \$1.50

2.1
CLUB PRICE
Oven Joy Bread
22.5-oz. White or Wheat. Club Price: \$0.6 ea. SAVE up to 98¢ on 2

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