

Portland Observer Auto Review

News and reviews on new motor vehicles

2006 Toyota RAV4 SPRT SUV

BY KATHLENE CARR

We expect Toyota's reputations for reliability and quality! Toyota once again exceeds our expectations with the Rav4. This is a shining star for Toyota! The rear spoiler, flared fenders and 18" 5-spoke alloy wheels give this a very sporty look. The Rav4 has a tight turning radius, making it easy to sweep around on a quick U-turn. It does great climbing up into the mountains...eats up those hills! This is a very smooth and quiet ride with excellent handling and brakes. The V6 engine is an optional choice well worth the price! The pick-up power is amazing, without losing the added value of gas efficiency.

Toyota has proven again to understand the needs of a family with the RAV4. The spacious interior provides plenty of room with comfortable space for adults sitting in the front or rear and an optional third row seat available. The MP3 player input jack allows easy access without the need of an adapter. The underfloor storage bin is much larger than in previous models. The added convenience of user friendly levers in the rear cargo area, to flip-down the rear seat, are quite handy to use. The dual zone climate is important to any couple that cannot agree on that thermostat setting. The Rav4 is loaded with safety features!

This is the perfect fit, sporty to drive, good sound system,



Specifications: 2.4 Liter 4-CYL Engine; 4-Speed ECT Automatic Transmission; 23 City 28 Highway MPG; \$ 23,275.00 MSRP.

and adequate towing capacity for pulling a boat, lots of power, fun to drive and good gas mile-

age. Excellent compromise for anyone who wants the flexibility of a family wagon without

losing an enjoyable driving experience, desires decent gas mileage, and doesn't want the

bulking exterior of a monstrous SUV. For the price...this is definitely "best in class"!

RELIGION

Farrakhan Transfers Leadership to Board

Nation ponders future without dynamic figure

BY RACHEL ZOLL
AP RELIGION WRITER

Minister Louis Farrakhan, ailing and in seclusion at his Michigan home, has ceded leadership of the Nation of Islam to an executive board while he recovers, saying the movement must prove that it "is more than the charisma, eloquence and personality" of one person.

But those who have watched the Nation evolve over decades believe that the organization—known as much for the dark suits and bowties of its followers as for its doctrine of black supremacy—will

falter without a dynamic figure like the minister in charge.

"When Farrakhan dies, my prediction is the movement will split," said Lawrence Mamiya, a Vassar College professor and an expert on African-American religion. "I don't think this movement can be governed by a board. It runs off the charismatic energy of one person."

The 73-year-old Farrakhan wrote in a Sept. 11 letter to followers that he was anemic and 20 pounds lighter because of complications from an ulcer in the anal area. He had surgery in 2000 for prostate cancer.



Minister Louis Farrakhan giving a charismatic speech.

"In this period of testing, you can prove to the world that the Nation of Islam is more than the charisma, eloquence and personality of Louis Farrakhan," he wrote. "You can prove that the Nation of Islam...is more than the physical presence of any individual, and that it will live long after I and we have gone."

Conrad Worrill, of the Inner Cities Studies program at Northeastern Illinois University, traveled with Farrakhan to Cuba, where he was initially diagnosed this year. "It's serious, he needs to recover, but he's not on his deathbed," he said.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson, who spoke with Farrakhan by phone Sept. 24, said the minister had given up oversight "because he wants to devote his time exclusively to physical restitution."

Still, it's clear from Farrakhan's letter that he is concerned about who will succeed him.

He has firsthand experience with a messy transition at the top. He had to rebuild the Nation in the late 1970s, after W.D. Mohammed, the son of the late Nation leader Elijah Muhammad, broke away and moved his followers toward mainstream

Islam. While the Nation has obviously survived, no one can say how successful the revival has been.

A longtime target of federal surveillance, the movement is highly secretive and suspicious of outsiders. At Mosque Maryam in Chi-

cago, the Nation's headquarters, security guards stand watch behind brass-plated doors. Even researchers who follow the group closely do not know for sure how many members or mosques it has, how much money it takes in or whether it is shrinking or growing.

Yet Farrakhan's popularity among many blacks is clear. The hundreds of thousands of black men he drew to the 1995 Million Man March in Washington are only one example. He is popular with hip-hop artists, who praise the Nation in their music, and a trusted mediator in gang conflict. This support is baffling to many

outsiders, who remember Farrakhan only for his most provocative comments, including calling Judaism a "gutter religion" and saying Hitler was "wickedly great." "The Nation of Islam has always been a symbolically important organization as a cultural symbol of defiance against the American state," said Melissa Harris-Lacewell, professor of politics and African-American studies at Princeton University. "At the Million Man March, most of those people were not members of the Nation of Islam. They were supporters of Farrakhan and his brand of critique of American politics."

Farrakhan has haltingly tried to move the Nation toward traditional Islam, which considers the American movement heretical because of its view of Elijah Muhammad as a prophet—among other novel teachings. Orthodox Islam teaches that there has been no prophet

after Muhammad in the seventh century. He's also played down some of the group's more controversial beliefs. The Nation of Islam teaches that whites are descended from the devil and that blacks are the chosen people of Allah. Mamiya said leaders no longer preach that message, although it is still taught in some mosques.

For many blacks, the Nation is known mainly for its local businesses and for social service programs, including health projects such as HIV/AIDS awareness and prostate cancer screening, and an extensive prison ministry. Mem-

bers of the Nation, whose militia is called the Fruit of Islam, also provide security for housing projects, with some forming independent security firms. Michael Jackson used Nation bodyguards during his prosecution on child molestation charges. Most of the Nation's income comes from member donations and sales of the movement newspaper the Final Call, although its circulation is not known, Mamiya said.

Membership is concentrated in Midwestern and Northeastern cities including Detroit, where the group has its roots, and Chicago, where Farrakhan keeps a home in the Kenwood neighborhood. The house is a well-known landmark, with its yellow stone exterior, round-the-clock guards and Muslim crescents in the stained-glass windows.

But the Nation has also been trying to expand overseas, with mosques in the Caribbean, in the West African nation of Ghana, and in England and France, Mamiya said. Analysts agree, however, that the movement continues to see its greatest growth in American prisons. Many members are offenders, ex-offenders or relatives of convicts. Upon release, ex-inmates who want to stay in the Nation may have to undergo boot camp training, including military marching, push-ups and running laps, as a way to instill discipline, Mamiya said.

"In the criminal justice system, African-Americans are overrepresented and this tends to breed a lot of resentment," said Jimmy Jones, a religion professor at Manhattanville College who has worked as a Muslim jail chaplain for 25 years. "An ideology that is essentially a raced-based ideology is very popular in that context."

When Farrakhan dies, my prediction is the movement will split. —Lawrence Mamiya, a Vassar College professor

Leonard A Latin
Next Level Acquisitions \ Direct Sales

comcast.

Priority Service
Digital Cable
High Speed Internet, Phone
Call For Promotions
Leonard A Latin
503.740.1448

Project Hope

223 NE Russell St
Portland, Oregon
(503) 287-4914

Open M-F 9-5 pm • Saturdays 10-5 pm

FURNITURE SALE 50% -70%
All The Time

Help Support The Youth

Bargain Wireless

3511 NE MLK Jr Blvd
Portland, OR 97212
503-282-6061
On the corner of MLK & Freemont

- Free Incoming Calls
- NO CREDIT CHECKS Everyone Qualifies
- We Buy Used Phones & Electronics
- Pay Your Bills
- Prepaid Home Phone
- Long Distance Cards

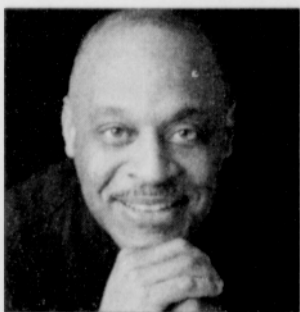
Sprint
NEXTEL
dish NETWORK
Qwest

- Prepaid Cell Phones with unlimited Nights & Weekends
- Exotic European Phones!
- Best Deals on New & Used Phones
- Comcast and Dish Network Available

Visit Us Today And Get A Free Cell Phone! • T-Mobile • The Hottest Deals In Town !!!!

Bargain Wireless

3511 NE MLK Jr Blvd
Portland, OR 97212
503-282-6061
On the corner of MLK & Freemont



Kevin Chavous

Crusader for Education Reform

Emmanuel Temple Church presents an evening with Kevin Chavous, who will discuss charter schools and the reform of American public education, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 11 at Emmanuel Temple Church, 1033 N. Sumner St.

Chavous is a noted attorney, author and national school reform leader. As a former member of the Council of the District of Columbia and Chair of the Council's Committee on Education, Libraries and Recreation, Chavous was at the forefront of promoting change within the District

public school system. His efforts led to over 500 million new dollars being made available to educate children in D.C.

Admission is free; for details and reservations call or email Cascade Policy Institute at 503-242-0900 or info@cascadepolicy.org.

Obituaries

In Loving Memory

Margaret 'Maggie' Crolley

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2006, in Life Change Christian Center in Portland for Margaret Ann "Maggie" "Nana" Crolley, who died Sept. 28 at age 71. Margaret Ann Daniels was born May 5, 1935, in De Kalb, Texas, and moved to Portland in 1944. She

graduated from Roosevelt High School and was a print shop supervisor for Portland Public Schools. In 1954, she married James Crolley. Survivors include her husband; daughter, Marla Strong; sisters, Audrey Sims, Linda Walton and Evelyn Harris; brother, Charles Daniels; and four grandchildren. Arrangements by Ross Hollywood Chapel.

Soldier Passes

Lee Andrew Williams

Lee Andrew Williams, a hero in his own right, died Saturday, Sept. 30, 2006.

Services will be held Friday, Oct. 6 at 10 a.m. at Philadelphia Community Missionary Baptist Church, 238 N.E. Mason.

Public viewing is scheduled Thursday, Oct. 5 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Williams was born March 4,



1958. "We will miss you, Lee" — your family.