

Obama: Lay Off My Wife

Calls strategy 'low class'

(AP) -- Democrat Barack Obama has a message for Tennessee's Republican Party: "Lay off my wife."

Obama, his party's presidential front-runner, and his wife, Michelle, were asked in an interview aired Monday on ABC's "Good Morning America" about an online video last week by the state's GOP taking her to task for a comment some considered unpatriotic.

"The GOP, should I be the nominee, can say whatever they want to say about me, my track record," Obama said. "If they think that they're going to try to make Michelle an issue in this campaign, they should be careful because that I find unacceptable, the notion that you start attacking my wife or my family."

He called the strategy "low

class." The video, posted on YouTube, centered on remarks Michelle Obama made while campaigning in Wisconsin last February, when she said: "For the first time in my adult life, I am really proud of my country."

The four-minute video replayed the remark six times, interspersing it with commentary by Tennesseans on why they are proud of America. In a news release that included a link to the video, Tennessee's GOP said "the Tennessee Republican Party has always been proud of America." It urged radio stations to play "patriotic music" during Michelle Obama's visit to Nashville last Thursday.

Michelle Obama later clarified the remark, saying she meant she was proud of how Americans were engaging in



Portland Waterfront Rally - Sen. Barack Obama generated the largest political crowd in Oregon history Sunday when 75,000 people packed the downtown waterfront on a sun-drenched afternoon to hear the Democratic presidential candidate speak. It was also the biggest crowd by any candidate in the presidential primaries this year.

the political process and that she had always been proud of her country.

"Whoever is in charge of the Tennessee GOP needs to think long and hard about the kind of

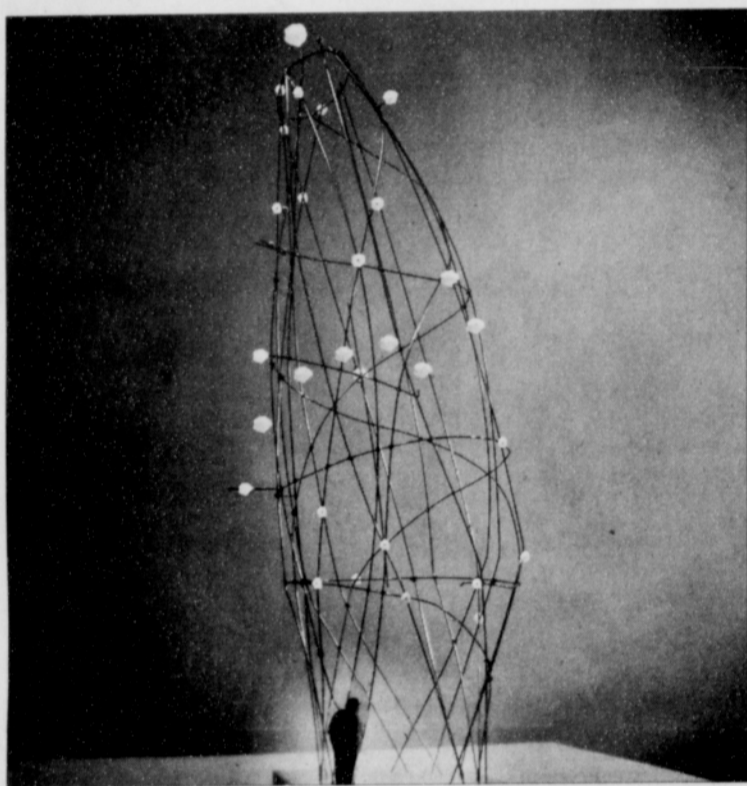
campaign they want to run, and I think that's true for everybody, Democrat or Republican."

Obama said in the ABC interview, adding: "These folks should lay off my wife."

Obama said his wife "loves this country. For them to try to distort or to play snippets of her remarks in ways that are unflattering to her is, I think, just low class. I think that most of the American people would think that as well."

Tennessee's Republican Party was roundly criticized in March, including by likely presidential nominee John McCain, for a news release that used Barack Obama's middle name — Hussein — and showed a photo of him wearing what it said was "Muslim attire."

The release ultimately was removed from the party's Web site at the urging of the state's two Republican senators and Republican National Committee Chairman Mike Duncan, who said he "rejects these kinds of campaign tactics."



PDC Considers Heritage Markers

The Portland Development Commission is inviting the community to review and comment on a concept master plan for a special gateway and markers into northeast Portland neighborhoods.

An open house will take place Wednesday, May 28, between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. at Irvington Village, 420 N.E. Mason St.

The main gateway would be located at the traffic triangle

where Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Grand Avenue merge. The plan also includes a series of heritage markers along MLK between the gateway and Rosa Parks Way.

The concept for the markers project was developed in collaboration with members of the northeast community. A stakeholder advisory committee has been meeting since October to provide guidance to PDC staff and the design team.

In addition, public events were held in January and March to obtain input and comment from community members.

The plan also suggests that a gateway should enhance the pedestrian environment, incor-

porate multicultural public art and announce the entrance to an historic area of Portland.

The heritage markers may honor individuals, cultural or historical events or topics of significance to Portland's inner northeast neighborhoods. PDC is in the process of securing funding for the construction phase.

For more information, contact Irene Bowers, project manager at 503-823-2419 or BowersI@pdc.us.

A North Star beacon is one of the conceptions for a series of heritage markers for Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard

A panel of historical images is one of the conceptions for a Portland Development Commission "Gateway" marker into northeast Portland neighborhoods.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO BUILD YOUR SMALL CONSTRUCTION BUSINESS?



The City of Portland is Re-opening the application period for the Construction Sheltered Market Program. Certified Minority, Women and Emerging Small Businesses (M/W/ESB) in business for two years or more may apply for the program. Program participants will have opportunities to bid on City of Portland construction projects, and can receive free technical assistance to improve their business management skills.

The following areas of work will be open for applications from Monday April 7 to Friday May 30

Street Improvements
Concrete flat work
Reinforced concrete construction
Excavation

Sewerage treatment lines
Building construction
Structural Demolition
Plumbing

For more information, contact:
Gene Jackson, Program Coordinator
(503) 823-9166, Eugene.jackson@ci.portland.or.us



Festival Celebrates Diversity

continued from Front

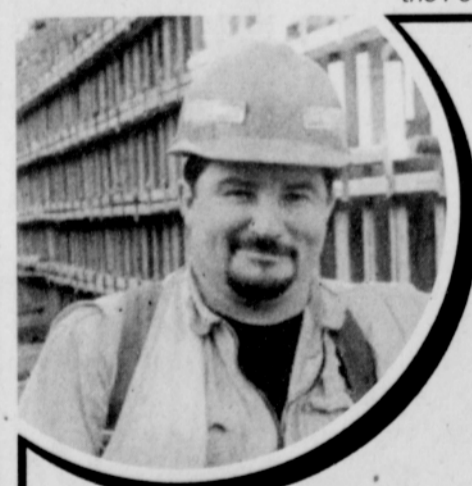
"We seek answers to the questions of why there is so much racial discrimination," says Zach Freeman is a junior at PSU and a Roots Festival coordinator. "Why is there is so much man-made pollution and an overwhelming lack of tolerance for difference in the world? This day is a chance to celebrate our flourishing differences in concert."

PSU is the most diverse student body in Oregon, representing approximately 25,000 students.

For more information, visit the Roots Festival's website at rootsfestival.groups.pdx.edu/index.php.



The Portland hip-hop group Lifesavas will perform at Thursday's Roots Festival on the Portland State University Park Blocks.



I WORK ON OREGON'S HIGHWAYS

Please drive cautiously in all work zones. Because at the end of the day, just like you, I want to come home to my family.

This summer the Oregon Department of Transportation is working on our highways, repairing and replacing bridges on Interstate 5.

Please, be patient, be safe and be prepared:
Visit TripCheck.com or dial 5-1-1 before you go.



**SLOW DOWN!
BETTER ROADS AHEAD**