

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Queens of Blues, Jazz

Nordstrom offers exclusive CD

In celebration of Black History Month, Nordstrom has partnered with jazz singer Lizz Wright to create an exclusive CD that is being sold to benefit the Thurgood Marshall College Fund.

The CD, entitled *The Royal Blues - Celebrating the Queens of Blues and Jazz*, and featuring a compilation of songs recorded by iconic black



female blues and jazz vocalists, will also include Wright's rendition of the epic Sam Cooke song "A Change is Gonna Come."

"This song is a great anthem for human rights and I love that it's really about change," said Wright. "I just imagine the faith and the courage that makes this song have such con-

viction when I think about when it was released and what was going on in America at those times. He sounds like a prophet to me."

The *Royal Blues* CD also features tracks from most influential female voices in the history of the blues, including Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald, Etta James, Sarah Vaughn and Shirley Horn.

"I have such deep admiration for the other singers on this compilation. People like Aretha Franklin who I grew up listening to. She's the sound of home," said Wright. "I'm very excited to be a part of this album."

The release marks the second CD compiled by Nordstrom in recognition of Black History Month. Last year, Nordstrom donated all after-cost proceeds from its *Immortal Soul* gospel CD to three non-profit groups that provide music education programs to youth in underserved communities.

The *Royal Blues* will be available for purchase for \$18.95 in all Nordstrom stores and online at nordstrom.com.

All after-cost proceeds from the CD sales will go to the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, a nonprofit organization dedicated to developing and preparing a new generation of leaders by providing leadership development, scholarships, resources, op-



Up-and-coming jazz phenomenon Lizz Wright lends her voice to an exclusive CD celebrating iconic black female blues and jazz vocalists, available at Nordstrom stores in celebration of Black History Month.

portunities and advocacy to public historically black colleges and universities, students and alumni.

Racial Profiling Group Meets

Black History Month will launch a series of community meetings with Portland City Council members designed to address racial profiling by law enforcement.

The first session with City Commissioner Amanda Fritz will take place Saturday, Feb. 21 from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 5431 N.E. 20th Ave.

The activist group Oregon Action is sponsoring the event. For more information, call Ron Williams, Oregon Action organizer, at 503-282-6588.

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Economic Stimulus

continued from Front

analysis of the bill is correct in asserting that some projects may not get off the ground for nearly two years, and has some misguided tax cuts.

But she points out that some economists have argued that the country could still be hurt by the time projects get rolling, and there are still plenty of other good aspects to the federal stimulus.

"Whenever you have an infrastructure proposal, it creates jobs at every stage," she said, adding that it will create jobs in the long-term. The package is loaded with tax cuts aimed at spurring green energy technology. Such technology already has a strong foothold in the local economy, and will only accelerate with the bill, she said.

Marcus Mundy, the president and chief executive officer of the Urban League of Portland, has been keeping a close eye on the federal stimulus, and is encouraged by the green energy component of the package, since the Urban League has training for just such employment.

"It's right in line with what we're doing at the League," said Mundy.

He added that the state stimulus is also promising, but points out that many state programs may be shortchanged without federal dollars, which the federal stimulus provides. Mundy is also concerned that funding for community organizations in communities are color might have funding slashed as the final package is crafted.

"We're locked at the hip," he said of the relationship between the state and federal governments.

State Economist Tom Potiowsky is also optimistic about the green energy components of the federal package that could help make Oregon the green energy center of the world. He is also encouraged by the direct aid to the state, which will help it balance the budget and keep it from slashing programs.

"There's a lot in there that's going to help us out," said Potiowsky, who explained that every industry in the state's economy has been ravaged, save health and education. He added that the housing market is mangled, the timber industry (a large source of income for the

state) took a hit, and manufacturing and high-tech industries have been squeezed.

So what will be in the future for Oregon?

"Typically we follow the general macroeconomic trends," said Josh Lehiner, an economic analyst with the state's office of economic analysis. He explained that Oregon tends to follow the rest of the country economically.

Potiowsky predicted that the recession will "technically" be over this summer or fall, meaning that the economy will no longer be retracting. However, he said that people will still be hurting, and the economy won't fully recover until mid 2010.



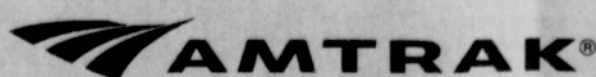
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Black History Month is about discovery. And with routes from the Carolinas to New York, Florida to DC, and all points in between, Amtrak makes it possible to discover history in any part of the country. Relax in roomy Coach seats, grab a bite to eat from the dining car, or take in the views from the lounge car. Amtrak is the perfect way to connect with family as you reflect on the past and build possibilities for the future.

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