

National Urban League CEO Visits Portland

Talks up group's relevance

BY JAKE THOMAS
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

"We're a historic brand; almost a hundred years old," said Marc Morial, the president and chief executive officer of the National Urban League, "One of the challenges that historic brands have is to keep evolving."
Morial was in Portland Monday to help the Urban League stay relevant and to tout his organization's new report "The State of Black America 2009: A Message to the President," which argues that African Americans still face daunting challenges although a black man is president.

During a press conference at the Portland Urban League, the former New Orleans mayor discussed President Obama's

accomplishments in his first 100 days of office, citing his passage of the economic stimulus bill, a ban on torture, and the extension of health insurance to children.

The housing crisis and growing gap between the rich and the poor was also a topic taken up by Morial.

"African Americans' economic condition is so tied to their race that it's hard to separate the two," said Morial.

He asserted that the gap between the rich and the poor was unsustainable.

"A nation divided economically is a nation that's divided socially. Is a nation that's divided politically. It's a nation that has a difficult time competing in the world economy, and that is why closing the divide is impor-

tant for the nation," he said. A recurring topic was the importance of keeping the Urban League relevant. He said that this can be done by focusing on the pressing issues of the day, and bringing in new leadership.



Marc Morial

Morial pointed out that the

Urban League has increased its foreclosure counseling services 10 fold to help people cope with the housing crisis. He also touted his organization's work in job training, particularly green jobs and expects them to become a major part of the economy as environmental issues take on increasing importance.

"Jobs are created when society wants to solve a problem," he said.

Morial highlighted how part of the federal stimulus package went toward weatherization services, and the league was there to partner with several cities to provide them with readily trained workers.

"Going green should mean helping people benefit from going green," said Morial, explaining how participation in a new environmental workforce is crucial because

without it minorities could be left behind, creating a green economic divide or even green apartheid.

He hopes that the National Urban League will become a major green jobs trainer. It's already provided this service for 18,000 people in 2007, he said.

Morial also pointed to new, younger CEOs of local chapters, like Portland's Marcus Mundy, as a way of keeping relevant.

He hopes that young people will want to work to alleviate poverty and other social ills and will see the Urban League as a vehicle to do that.

"We're working hard to make sure we're relevant to a new generation," he said.

Urging people to take care of their health and their children's health was also an issue brought up.

When asked what Morial

was doing personally to improve his own health he stated that he had sworn off red meat for the last 20 years.

"Now that doesn't mean I never touch red meat," he added, to laughter.

The criminal justice system also came up during the conference. Morial, a lawyer by training, said that a big part of the reason why the U.S. is a leading incarcerator of people is because defendants often don't get a fair shake because they can't afford the best lawyers.

"The criminal justice system is in shambles," he said.

Morial was proud of his organization's work on national legislation to help ease inmates back into mainstream society. He was also heartened by Sen. Jim Webb's (D-Virginia) efforts to reform the prison system.

asked Deanna M. Write Ask Deanna! at the email askdeanna@yahoo.com or 264 S. LaCienega Blvd. Suite 1283 Beverly Hills, CA 90211. Website: www.askdeanna.com

Dear Deanna! I have an issue with my loud neighbor. She is so rude and disrespectful and has no regards for the rest of us in the apartment complex. We're forced to listen to her loud music, she has company coming in and out and her place is always one big party. Several of us have joined together asked her to tone it down but she laughs and says she can do as she pleases as long as she pays her rent. What other options do we have to deal with this headache? --Annoyed; On-Line Reader

Ask Deanna!



Real People, Real Advice. An advice column known for its fearless approach to reality based subjects!

after hours, you can call the police as a guarantee for a good nights sleep.

Dear Deanna!

My sister hates my boyfriend because she feels he doesn't treat me right. My boyfriend doesn't like her because he feels she is too nosy. They always argue, try to embarrass each other and do dirty things to each other. I'm at the breaking point after my sister stole a check from his checkbook and cashed it. On the other hand, my boyfriend told her boyfriend that she was cheating. Where do I draw the line with them before someone gets hurt? --Gina C.; Charleston, S.C.

Dear Gina:

Almost like school kids you would think they have a crush

on each other. You have to decide how much time you have to babysit while they play games. Take control of your relationship and put your sister in her place. Your boyfriend needs to know your expectations as you give him your verbal thoughts on dealing with your sister. If he doesn't behave erase him and remember that boyfriends without rings come and go, but sisters are always around.

Dear Deanna!

I broke up with my boyfriend for another guy and now I realize this was a mistake. I had a good man and I should've listened to my family and friends as they told me I should've stayed with him. I was seeking thrills and excitement. This caused me to

be abused, cheated on and we broke up anyway. I want to get my boyfriend back and I'm not sure what to do. I've apologized but nothing seems to work. --Heartbroken and Torn; San Diego, Calif.

Dear Heartbroken:

The story never changes when one thinks the grass is greener on the other side. However, in your case, you had a crew telling you what to do but you chose not to listen. It serves you right and your ex-boyfriend

shouldn't have anything else to do with you. Your apology is nice but look at it from his side as you expect him to return after being with another man. Get over it, learn from your mistakes and if he comes back, fine and if not, keep it moving.

Ask Deanna is written by Deanna M. Write Ask Deanna! at the email askdeanna@yahoo.com or 264 S. LaCienega Blvd. Suite 1283 Beverly Hills, CA 90211. Website: www.askdeanna.com

Mother Lizzie Joshua Day

Local role model celebrated

Porthaven Care Center, in cooperation with the Oregon Healthcare Association's Senior Wish Program, is celebrating "Mother Lizzie Joshua" for her lifelong service and dedication to the north and northeast Portland community.

Joshua is a great role model for past and present times. She moved to the Portland area in the 1930s and started building ships and religious communities.

Together with a group of dedicated community members, she founded several churches that



Lizzie Joshua is being honored as a role model for her many years as a foster parent and mentor.

are still thriving in the Portland area. Her home was always open to people who needed food, clothing and support to get their lives on the right path.

As a foster parent, she provided homes and raised many children.

"You have to respect children to be respected by children" was the advice she gave parents over the years.

Church representatives and some of the children that "Mother Joshua" raised will be joining her in the celebration of her extraordinary accomplishments on Saturday, May 2 at 2 p.m. at the Porthaven Care Center, located at 5330 N.E. Prescott St.

For more information, call Jodi Burroughs at 503-317-7685.

Tutu's Portland Speech Live on Radio

Oregon Public Broadcasting will air a special live broadcast of Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu when he presents a speech at the University of Portland on Monday, May 4.

Presented by the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, Tutu's speech entitled "Transformative Power of Reconciliation in Society" will begin at approximately 7:30 p.m.

For years, Archbishop Tutu has been at the forefront of the crusade to fight racial injustice in South Africa.



Archbishop Desmond Tutu

In 1986, he was elected as the Archbishop of Cape Town and in 1996, he was appointed by President Nelson Mandela to chair the Truth and Reconciliation Commission which investigated human rights violations that occurred during apartheid.

Tutu is a recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, the Albert Schweitzer Prize for Humanitarianism, the Gandhi Peace Prize, and has authored several books.

Tickets to the May 4 event are sold out. However, listen-

ers can tune in to hear the entire speech live on OPB Radio, FM 91.5

Expert Helps Parents Connect

Student achievement increases when families are invested in their children's schools. To help families make that connection, Portland Public Schools and Portland Community College are hosting a workshop with Karen Mapp, lecturer at Harvard Graduate School of Education and former deputy superintendent at Boston Public Schools



Karen Mapp

Wednesday, May 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at PCC's Moriarty Arts and Humanities building, 705 N. Killingsworth St. Lunch will be provided.

Mapp will offer strategies to help families work more closely with their schools and teachers.

To RSVP for the workshop, contact Candice Ysasaga at 503-916-2000, extension 71582 or email cysasaga@pps.k12.or.us.

The free session will be held

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Portland Community College Cascade JOB FAIR Tuesday, May 5, 2009 11 AM - 3 PM Cascade Campus Gymnasium. All job seekers welcome. Free admission and parking. Prepare before the fair by going to: www.pcc.edu/cascadejobfair. Cascade Campus Gym 705 N. Killingsworth St. Portland, OR 97217. Served by Tri-Met buses #4 and #72 at the N. Killingsworth Max Station. Special thanks to our supporting sponsors: Pacific Coast Fruit, Comcast, OregonLive.com.

Tomorrow's LEADERS are in our classrooms today. Create your own pathway to success with an undergraduate business degree from Marylhurst University. Learn more at our OPEN HOUSE Thursday, May 7 • 6:30 p.m. BP John Administration Bldg, Rm 200. For more information or to RSVP: 503-699-6268 www.marylhurst.edu/leaders 10 miles south of Portland on Highway 43. MARYLHURST UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE SINCE 1893. "Marylhurst University's Business & Leadership degree is excellent for working adults. Courses are conveniently scheduled with evening, weekend and online classes. As a busy professional, I appreciate a program that allows me to balance family, work and school." —Serena Stoudamire