

OPINION

Opinion articles do not necessarily represent the views of the Portland Observer. We welcome reader essays, photos and story ideas. Submit to news@portlandobserver.com.

Poor-Performing CEOs Still Wear Silk Shorts

BY JIM HIGHTOWER

Experts tell us that America's painful recession is "probably over." That's swell, but how's your personal economy going?



wether of the economy's ups and downs.

When men are short on cash, claims Mintel, they don't buy new shorts as frequently.

The firm expects men's drawers to drop 2.3 percent this year.

However, you can bet that one small group of men skew the underwear indicator way

upwards. These are five CEOs who've been named the "Highest Paid Worst Performers of 2008."

Despite doing a poor job, these executives can still afford to don a new pair of silk shorts every day!

The Corporate Library, a watchdog group, analyzed the pay of 2,000 top executives to cull out these "winners:"

Abercrombie & Fitch, BJ Services, Comcast Corporation, International Paper, and Nabor Industries.

Check out Abercrombie's Michael Jeffries, for example. Despite a stock price that lagged behind other clothing retailers during the past five years, Jeffries has a contract that guarantees his pay will always be higher than the com-

penensation earned by 75 percent of his rivals.

Last year, therefore, he pocketed \$72 million in pay, including a \$6 million "stay bonus" to keep him from leaving the company. Come on - why would he ever leave a sweet deal like that?

Sweetest of all though, is the deal that Eugene Isenberg gets from Nabors Industries, an oil-drilling company. He is paid not

on performance, but on a percentage of the corporation's cash flow.

Thus, even though Nabors' stock price plummeted 51 percent last year, Isenberg hit a gusher with \$79 million in pay.

To learn more about executive compensation excess, contact faireconomy.org.

Jim Hightower is a national columnist.

Essential Tool of Empowerment

Don't ignore the 2010 Census

BY MARC MORIAL

The 23rd national Census, which will be conducted this spring, is about more than counting the number of people living in the United States.



tee, a consortium of 20 national organizations charged with representing the interests of minority and special populations, including people with disabilities and migrant farmworkers.

The Advisory Committee advises Commerce Secretary Gary Locke and Census Bureau Director Robert M. Groves to ensure that everyone will be treated fairly and everyone will be counted.

Another benefit of the census is jobs. Funding to create more than 2,200 jobs across the country was included in President Barack Obama's stimulus package.

To learn more about census jobs in your area, please click on the 2010 Census Regional Offices link at www.census.gov. Select your state on the map provided and then select the "regional employment" option.

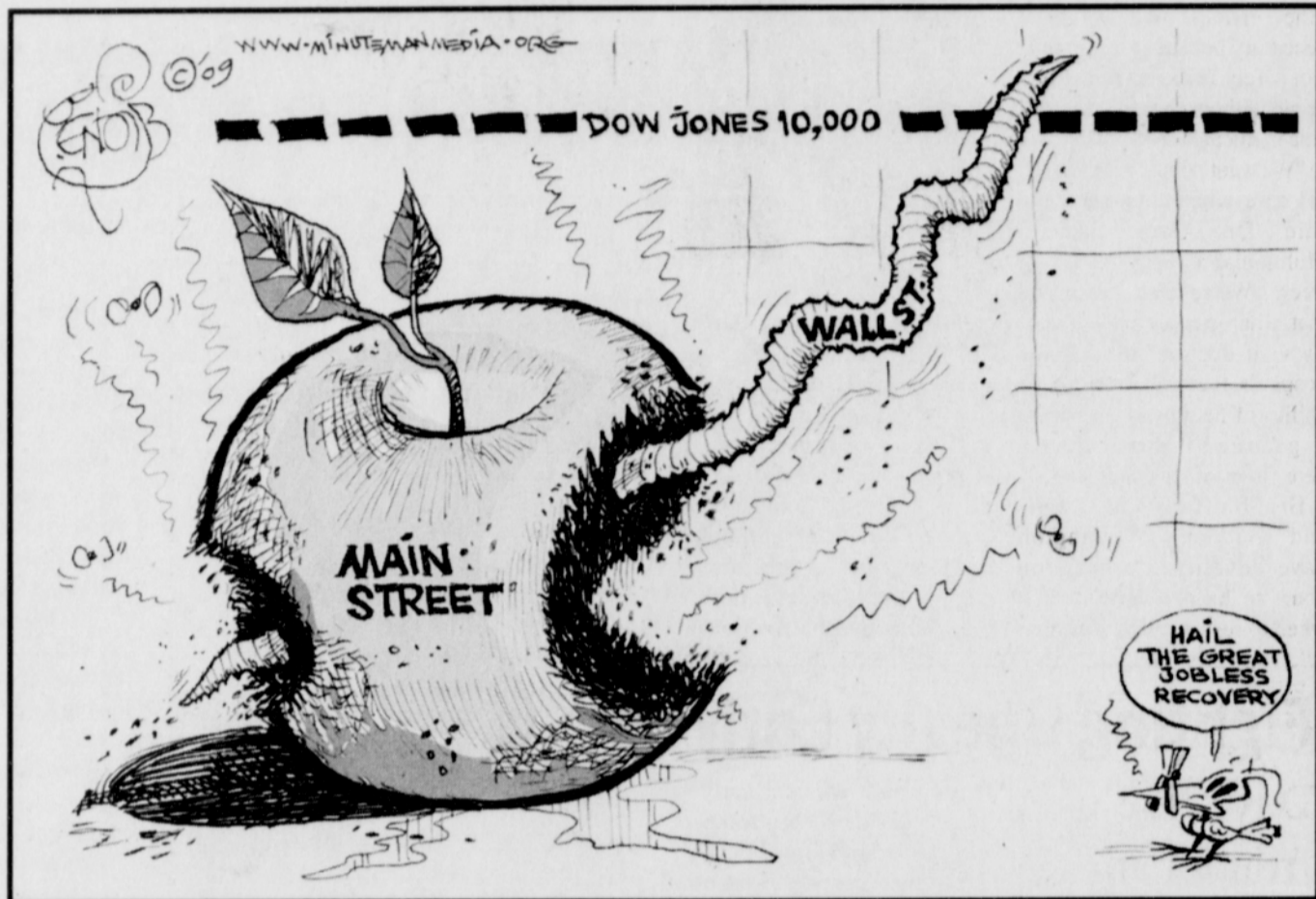
If you'd like to prepare for the upcoming recruitment effort, you can also find, download, and print the Census Practice Test.

Finally, with the 2012 presidential election looming, next year's census won't only determine the number of seats each state receives in the U.S. House of Representatives, it will also affect the number of votes states receive in the Electoral College.

With a close election anticipated, participation in the census will help to ensure that your vote counts.

Next April, taking 10 minutes to answer 10 questions could mean tens of millions of dollars and greater empowerment for you and your community. That's an opportunity you don't want to miss.

Marc Morial is the president and chief executive officer of the National Urban League.



Enabling for Failed Policies

In response to Baruti Arthuree's fervent defense of Sen. Ron Wyden and his unusually personal attack on me (Wyden Does Fight for Minority Business, Oct. 7 opinion piece), I want my response to be more of a constructive dialog rather than a public squabble over my angry black man syndrome: a teachable moment, as they say.

At first, I could not understand why Baruti was so angry about my challenge to Senator Wyden. But then he explained to me that by writing the article I had insulted his family and company by taking advantage of his personal invitation to an event which was designed to highlight Wyden's support of his business efforts.

Now it all made sense. The meeting with Wyden was staged, not to determine the desperate needs of black businesses, but instead as a media event, photo op, to showcase Wyden meeting

Letter to the Editor

with black businesses and to pay him back for his personal support of Baruti's family business. Business owners who attended under any other pretense should know that we were all just props in a scripted play to pay Wyden back. Nevertheless, my subsequent article meant no disrespect to his family or business, and I apologize if they interpreted my actions that way.

However, Baruti should be aware that there is no shortage of white controlled black leaders in Portland who are willing to prostitute the misery of black people for their own selfish interest. He also might not understand that some blacks in Portland are paid well to distort the plight of blacks by intentionally lumping them in with minorities and white women. For corporate and political interest, some black agents are easily persuaded to disguise and manipulate the data to show false or misleading participation of blacks on projects. And in some circumstances, when it comes to blacks, they withhold the information altogether.

In the case of politicians, they are very good at creating cover for their failed policies by su-

perficially supporting social programs, while neglecting or ignoring economic policies that would make blacks less dependent on those same programs. A key point in this discussion is the fact that my article focused only on black people, while in contrast, Baruti talks about minorities and white women. They are not the same. In this context, his contention about ODOT awarding 59 percent of stimulus projects to women and minority businesses, if not so serious, would be laughable.

In regards to other assertions Baruti makes, TriMet's success in hiring black people is in fact the result of a very good general manager and in part because a number of angry black men in the National Association for Minority Contractors which sued the agency several years ago. I would challenge anyone to show any documented record of Wyden's effective influence.

And with regards to jeopardizing any recovery efforts by holding up federal funding, one should note that blacks have suffered economically in a prosperous general economy for years with no outcry from the


broader community. Furthermore, there is no real evidence that blacks are participating significantly in the current stimulus efforts.

In that same vein, one of the reasons I focused on the construction industry is because it is an area I know something about and where discrimination and racism is most blatant. It is also a clear barometer of the tragic conditions facing most black people in the larger economic picture.

The irony is that many clamoring about the angry black man, owe their diversity jobs, offices, positions and consultant contracts to the very existence of these angry black men. Make no mistake, there will be no unity until black people stop getting the short end of the stick, and the politicians, power brokers and their surrogates stop enabling our demise. This is the real source of divisiveness.

To those who say we must not criticize our public officials, challenge the power structure, or disrupt the status quo, and instead should settle for a few hand outs and social welfare program crumbs, I say that is ridiculous. Most black people believe in their hearts -- No justice, No peace.

James L. Posey
Northeast Portland



THE SPINAL COLUMN™

An ongoing series of questions and answers about America's natural healing profession.

Part 8. CONSTIPATION:

The backing up of body's sewage system.

Q: Nothing has ever really helped my constipation. What can Chiropractic possibly do?

A: As a natural form of healing, there is much a Chiropractic and the improved lifestyle we recommend can do to remove the immediate distress and long term health hazards of constipation. But before we begin, you should understand that constipation takes two approaches. The first is the tight, sometimes painful feeling in the lower back area. The second and more insidious type is what we call "hidden constipation." This is when we seemingly move our

bowels regularly, but never completely eliminate everything in our colon (large intestine). This causes the colon to back up and spread toxic poisons throughout the body. This can lead to everything from sinusitis to allergies to arthritis. Chiropractic can help to alleviate this problem by gently turning nerves back on in the colon and small intestine. It is not uncommon for a patient to have

two, three or even four bowel movements after the first adjustments on his or her spine. A man with FBSS (failed back surgical syndrome) went home and had 12 bowel movements that night. And he claimed he wasn't even constipated! Whatever questions you might have about health and healing, you'll find that Chiropractic is often the answer. Call us for an appointment today.

Flowers' Chiropractic Office
2124 NE Hancock,
Portland Oregon 97212
Phone: (503) 287-5504

The Portland Observer Established 1970
USPS 959-680
4747 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Portland, OR 97211

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, PUBLISHER: Charles H. Washington
EDITOR: Michael Leighton
DISTRIBUTION MANAGER: Mark Washington
CREATIVE DIRECTOR: Paul Neufeldt

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Portland Observer, PO Box 3137, Portland, OR 97208
CALL 503-288-0033 FAX 503-288-0015
news@portlandobserver.com ads@portlandobserver.com
subscription@portlandobserver.com

The Portland Observer welcomes freelance submissions. Manuscripts and photographs should be clearly labeled and will be returned if accompanied by a self addressed envelope. All created design display ads become the sole property of the newspaper and cannot be used in other publications or personal usage without the written consent of the general manager, unless the client has purchased the composition of such ad. © 2008 THE PORTLAND OBSERVER. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR IN PART WITHOUT PERMISSION IS PROHIBITED. The Portland Observer—Oregon's Oldest Multicultural Publication—is a member of the National Newspaper Association—Founded in 1885, and The National Advertising Representative Amalgamated Publishers, Inc. New York, NY, and The West Coast Black Publishers Association

Subscribe!

503-288-0033

The Portland Observer

Fill Out & Send To: **Att: Subscriptions, PO Box 3137, Portland OR 97208**

subscriptions are just \$60 per year (please include check with this subscription form)

NAME: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

or email subscriptions@portlandobserver.com