

LAW & JUSTICE

MLK's Daughter to Lead SCLC

Civil rights group co-founded by her father

(AP)—The Rev. Bernice King was named Friday as the first woman to head the civil rights organization co-founded by her father, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Southern Christian Leadership Conference Interim President Byron Clay called King and said she accepted the position.

"She is excited," Clay told reporters. "I am excited. The nation will be excited."



Bernice King

The other candidate was attorney to work for a major Judge Wendell Griffen of Little Rock, Ark. He was the first black

Chairman Raleigh Trammell of Dayton, Ohio, called King a "dynamite person with a great personality and a great heart."

"The national organization has done itself well to elect the daughter of Dr. King to lead the organization during this time," Trammell said. "She seems to have renewed her commitment to the ideas and legacy of her father ... There was a time that she was not as interested in the movement, but she talked to us about going back and reading her father's books and studying her father's message."

Martin Luther King Jr. was the SCLC's first president, serving from 1957 until his assassi-

nation in 1968. His eldest son, Martin Luther King III, was president from 1998 to 2003.

Bernice King inherits an SCLC much changed from the days of her father's leadership. And she will have to work to rebuild the organization — which has stumbled in recent years — while she heals deep rifts within her own family.

Internal bickering has overshadowed signs of progress for SCLC that included paying off millions in debt and opening a \$3 million headquarters in Atlanta. A former state director in Florida accused several national leaders of financial mismanagement and the president of the Los Angeles chapter last

fall clashed with leadership over his support for gay marriage in California.

The Rev. Eric Lee, the Los Angeles chapter president, said in a statement Friday that he hopes King will follow her parents' example with respect to the rights of lesbians, gays and transgender people.

In 2004, she marched against gay marriage in Atlanta.

"We know that her mother, Coretta Scott King, was supportive of LGBT equality, and we believe that Dr. King would have been as well," Lee said. "My hope is that her election is a sign that SCLC is returning to its spirit of equality for all people."

Video Captures Robbery

The Portland Police Bureau, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, is asking for your help in identifying a robbery suspect caught on surveillance video.

On Thursday, Oct. 8, at about 3:23 a.m., the Shell Gas Station at 7433 N. Interstate Ave. was robbed by a lone male who entered the store, walked behind the counter and demanded money from the clerk.

The suspect, described as Hispanic man in his 20s and about 5 foot -8 inches tall and 180 pounds, fled driving a Chevrolet Suburban and was last seen heading east on Lombard. He was wearing a dark green stocking cap, blue jacket, torn blue jeans and tan



A surveillance camera shows a man who robbed the Shell Gas Station at North Interstate Avenue and Lombard Street.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information, reported to Crime Stoppers, that leads to an arrest in this case, or any unsolved felony, and you remain anonymous.

Contact Crime Stoppers at 503-823-HELP(4357), or online at crimestoppersoregon.com or text 823 plus your tip and send it to CRIMES (274697).

Local Leaders Make Call to Action

Addressing State of Black Oregon

A symposium on the "State of Black Oregon: A Call to Action" will be held 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 5, at the Oregon State University Memorial Union ballroom at 26th Street and Jefferson Way in Corvallis.

The Urban League of Portland's State of Black Oregon report was published in July. The study showed that social and economic disparities and systemic disadvantage still exist for African Americans and other

people of color in Oregon.

The report contains a stark inventory of statistics that shows a persistent gap in living standards between black and white Oregonians — a gap that is growing wider as a result of the current economic downturn.

The featured speakers at the OSU event include Marcus C. Mundy, president of the Urban League of Portland, Robert Thompson, assistant professor in OSU's Department of Ethnic Studies, Henry Luvert, president of the Eugene chapter of



Marcus C. Mundy

the NAACP, and Carla Gary, assistant professor in the Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity at the University of Oregon.

Mundy will also address the report during an appearance before the City Club of Portland during its regularly scheduled Friday forum, a public event at 11:45 a.m. at the Governor Hotel in Portland.

"During the last eight years, the poverty gap in America and in this state has continued to grow," said Mundy. "If there's a poverty gap for Americans

generally, the African-American poverty gap widens to chasm proportions. This flies in the face of the ideals our country stands for, and simply should not be acceptable here in Oregon or anywhere else."

In Corvallis, the speakers will address the issues and other challenges facing African Americans living in Oregon. Problems, as well as solutions, will be discussed in depth.

Mundy will join another group of African American leaders from Portland to address the report in a third presentation before the Multnomah County Commissioners, scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 12 at 9 a.m.

Device for Library Thefts

Stealing from the Multnomah County Library system used to be a simple matter of selecting a book and walking out with it.

Officials said the downtown Central Library

has had no security system since the building was renovated 13 years ago. None of the 16 branches has working security systems either. That's meant hundreds of thousands of dollars in lost materials each year; nearly \$300,000 in the past six months.

For the past month, library workers have been affixing tamper resistant electronic tags to books and CDs. Central Library Collections Administrator Deanna Cecotti is confident in the higher security system decreasing thefts.



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