

Forging an Economy that Works

Generations of progress at risk

June 2, 2010

BY ARLENE HOLT BAKER "What good is having the right to sit at a lunch

cent for whites). Look at any indicator of economic well-being--jobs, income, poverty, health care--and it's clear that African Ameri-

cans are still falling behind.

ment is 16.5 percent (versus 9 per- unemployment in this crisis--may endure for generations. Think of the child who doesn't get enough to eat. She has trouble concentrating in a school which is in disrepair and has

ers, and firefighters. Our investments can save desperately needed middle class jobs and make distressed communities safer and more livable.

4. Hire community banks to lend class sizes too large because teach- leftover TARP money directly to Manufacturing's demise in ers have been cut. Her state has cut small and medium-sized businesses.

New Prices Effective May 1, 2010 Martin Cleaning Service

Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning **Residential & Commercial Services Minimum Service CHG.** \$45.00 A small distance/travel charge may be applied

CARPET CLEANING 2 Cleaning Areas or more \$30.00 Each Area

Pre-Spray Traffic Areas (Includes: 1 small Hallway)

1 Cleaning Area (only) \$40.00 Includes Pre-Spray Traffic Area (Hallway Extra)

Stairs (12-16 stairs - With Other Services): \$25.00

Area/Oriental Rugs: \$25.00 Minimum Area/Oriental Rugs (Wool): \$40.00 Minimum

Heavily Soiled Area: Additional \$10.00 each area (Requiring Extensive Pre-Spraying)

Page 15

counter if you can't afford a hamburger?" Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. asked in 1968. Today, many of us

have children and grandchildren who can't afford a restaurant meal.

It's not just people of color who are paying the price. All communities, including whites, African-Americans, Latinos, and others are losing jobs, homes, and businesses. It's a nightmarish destruction of wealth.

For communities that were already in economic freefall before businesses--the auto dealership, the this recession, it's a catastrophe. Unless we take action soon, generations of progress may get reversed.

the United States has robbed millions of African Americans of their jobs, along with their

membership in America's who fought for lunch-counter rights middle class. Local tax bases are shrinking, eroding education and destroying public jobs, public services, and public safety.

> African-American communities were targeted for subprime lending, and we've been disproportionately slammed by foreclosures and bankruptcies. Communities suffering these economic blows are less able to support minority-owned small barbershop, and more.

Perhaps most disturbing, the economic scarring of African Ameri-African-American unemploy- cans--and of all those suffering from

funding for higher education. One out of six adults around her is unemployed.

for communities carrying the heavi- nities.

est weight of the crisis. Five steps can save and create 4 million jobs and help secure the future.

1. Maintain the lifeline of extended unemployment insurance, health care, and food assistance. Maintaining the lifeline is a matter of survival.

2. Pump life back into de-industrialized communities. We can start by retooling shuttered factories and building new facilities for green jobs.

3. Rescue states and communities with budget shortfalls before

The banks we taxpayers so generously bailed out still aren't lending to medium and small businesses, Acting immediately is essential the engine for job growth in commu-

> 5. Connect jobless people in distressed communities directly with work that needs to be done. These jobs must pay competitive wages, so that we're not replacing good state and local government jobs with temporary or poorly paid positions.

These five steps are the start we need right now to rebuild an economy that works for Main Street and Martin Luther King Boulevard, not just Wall Street.

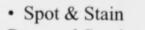
Arlene Holt Baker is the executhey lay off teachers, police offic- tive vice president of the AFL-CIO.

UPHOLSTERY CLEANING Sofa: \$69.00 Loveseat: \$49.00 Sectional: \$109 - \$139 Chair or Recliner: \$25 - \$49 Throw Pillows (With Other Services): \$5.00

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

 Area & Oriental Rug Cleaning

- · Auto/Boat/RV Cleaning
- · Deodorizing & Pet **Odor Treatment**



Removal Service

Scotchguard Protection

 Minor Water Damage Services



The Hortland 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 WEB EDITOR: Jake Thomas

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Portland Observer, PO Box 3137, Portland, OR 97208

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 CALL 503-288-0033 FAX 503-288-0015 news@portlandobserver.com ads@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

subscription@portlandobserver.com