



**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)

UPHOLSTERY CLEANING

Sofa: \$69.00

Love seat: \$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
- Spot & Stain Removal Service
- Scotchguard Protection
- Minor Water Damage Services

**SEE CURRENT FLYER
FOR ADDITIONAL
PRICES & SERVICES
Call for Appointment
(503) 281-3949**

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.

Exoneration for Rep. Maxine Waters

We applaud her leadership

BY MARC MORIAL

It is always big news whenever ethics charges are brought against a Member of Congress. Convictions, though rare, also make headlines. We understand that bad news sells. But we also think it is a big deal when a respected Member of Congress is completely exonerated of ethics charges -- especially when that member is someone as powerful and effective as California Congresswoman Maxine Waters.

In case you missed it, in September, after a three-year investigation, Representative Waters, a 21-year veteran of the House and a senior member of the House Financial Services Committee, was cleared of all charges related to her role in assisting minority-owned banks get bailout help through the government's Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP).

While her husband owned stock in one of those banks, the investigation found that the help that bank received was the result of a request she made on behalf of all minority banks. House Ethics Committee Special Counsel, Billy Martin concluded, "The evidence in the record does not support a knowing viola-



U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif. (left) and National Urban League President Marc Morial.

tion of ethics rules or any standard of conduct with respect to Rep. Maxine Waters."

Since her initial 1991 election to the House, Waters has been a staunch advocate for middle and working class families and has fought hard for minority inclusion in the financial services industry. In fact, she wrote the legislation creating the Offices of Minority and Women Inclusion as part of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

Dodd-Frank puts in place the most comprehensive financial regulatory reform measures since the Great Depression and is intended to prevent a repeat of the reckless Wall Street behavior that caused the fi-

ancial crisis of 2008.

In her role as a senior member of the Financial Services Committee, Rep. Waters played a key role in shaping that legislation and was successful in including provisions specifically designed to protect low-income and minority citizens.

Because of her, there is now an Office of Minority and Women at each of the federal regulatory agencies such as the Treasury Department, the Federal Reserve, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and others.

These offices will work to reverse years of underrepresentation and ensure the gender, racial and ethnic diversity of the workforce and senior management, as well as

increase contracting opportunities for minority- and women-owned businesses.

Representative Waters also fought to ensure that in winding down struggling financial institutions, regulators considered the impact on low-income, minority, and underserved communities where access to mainstream banking is a problem. And to help stem the tide of housing foreclosures, she secured \$1 billion -- with an additional \$1 billion commitment from the Treasury Department -- to help unemployed homeowners receive low-interest loans to pay their mortgages.

As a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, Waters has also traveled the country to shine a spotlight on the problem of urban unemployment and has worked with Congressional members of both parties to pass critical jobs legislation.

With the retirement of Barney Frank, Congresswoman Waters is in line to be the ranking Democrat on the House Financial Services Committee. We applaud her leadership and are pleased that her Ethics Committee exoneration removes any obstacle to her ascendancy.

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

Give Peace Science a Chance

Big stick ideology has run its course

BY PATRICK T. HILLER

"Speak softly and carry a big stick; you will go far" was a trademark description of Theodore Roosevelt's foreign policy. To no surprise, the recent election turned politicians into stick-carrying hunters -- only now it does not seem necessary to speak softly.

Mitt Romney's ideas for a "peaceful planet" required us to have a strong military, second to none. Similarly under President Obama's military spending has gone up every single year he's been in office, and that the United States spends more on its military than the next 10 countries combined.

The "big stick ideology" is outdated and it is time for our leaders to acknowledge the reality of constructive ways of conflict transformation.

International Relations expert

Joshua Goldstein, Harvard psychologist Steven Pinker, historian Kent Shifferd, and many other conflict experts and institutes remind us that the world is becoming more peaceful. There are reasons.

Shifferd emphasizes that we are not talking about some kind of utopian peace, but one that is real and that can be described by global trends of an evolving peace system. Some of those trends are the rise of human rights, women's rights, the emergence of supranational institutions (e.g. the United Nations), non-violence as a substitute for war (e.g., the Tunisian and Egyptian revolutions), and conflict resolution techniques informed by peace research and education.

Let's dwell on the last ones for a moment. Are we talking about real science? The answer is yes, peace science and conflict resolution are social scientific fields.

By examining both the theoretical and the practical aspects from multiple perspectives, peace scientists inform and are informed by what is happening on the ground.

There are over 450 undergraduate, master's and doctoral programs and research centers on peace studies and conflict resolution in 40 countries and 38 U.S. states, according to the Peace and Justice Studies Association. At the height of the Cold War there were only 36.

These institutions equip students with research skills and realistic tools to engage in constructive conflict resolution efforts and inform the public on viable alternatives to violence. True, there still are military studies programs and entire military academies. But let's face it -- they are "old school," antiquated, out of fashion.

The trend is clearly going the other way. Even Rotary International, arguably the world's largest service organization, which is certainly not known as a radical, oppositional, or even controversial organization, is heavily invested in funding Rotary Peace Centers and Rotary Peace Scholars whose work encompasses peace building within the framework of transnational organizations or public policy mak-

ing, humanitarian aid, human rights advocacy or peace education.

So does peace science offer ideas on how to deal with Iran, "the greatest threat of all," a "state sponsor of terrorism," led by "the world's worst actors" in a region "in tumult"? (The descriptions used by President Obama and Gov. Romney in the third presidential debate.) The answer is yes.

David Cortright, director of policy studies at Notre Dame's Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, points to missing evidence on Iran's nuclear capabilities and the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. He points to the almost certain escalation in a cycle of violence in the Middle East in case of military strikes as well as the need to combine sanctions with incentives for Iran to begin a constructive path of conflict transformation.

Louis Kriesberg, a founding scholar in the scientific field of conflict analysis and resolution, reminds us to look more closely at the Iran's internal division and power struc-

continued ▼ on page 19