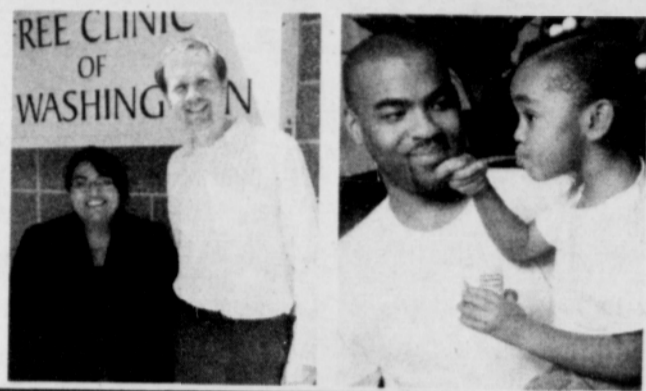


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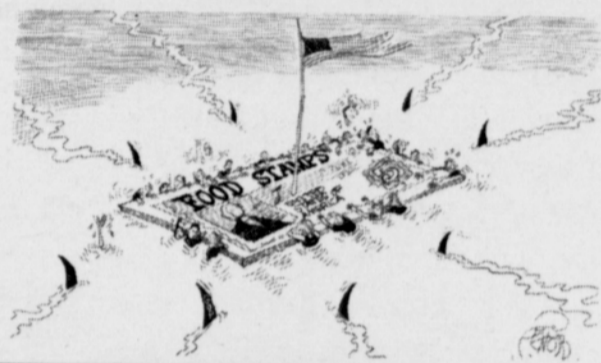
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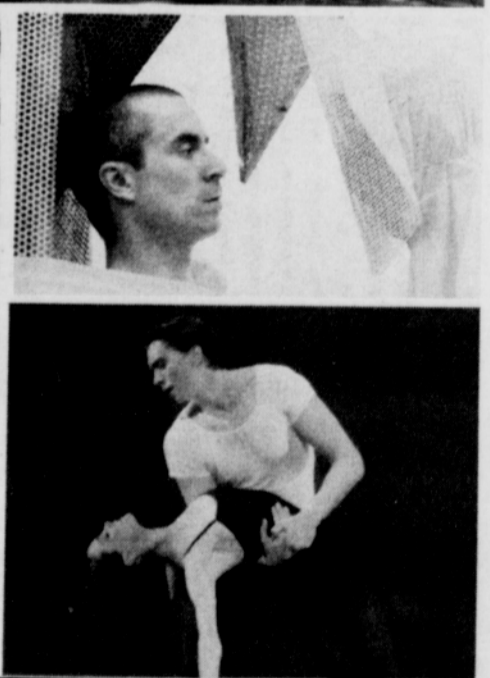
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What's on your list today?

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Suggestive Behavior Uproar

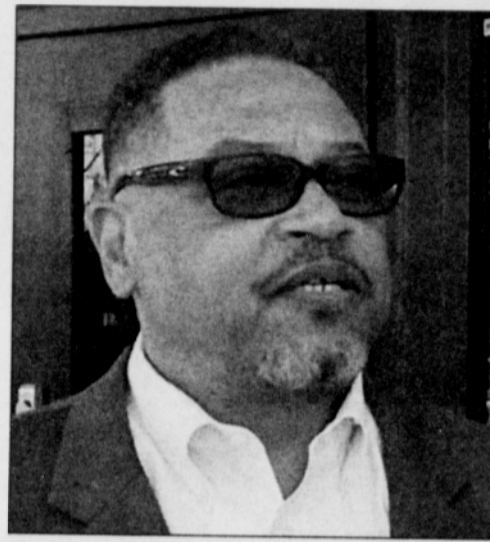
Mayor aide Baruti Artharee investigated for comments

BY DONOVAN M. SMITH
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Mayor Charlie Hales' office is receiving some very unwanted attention right now after one of his top aides was accused of making suggestive remarks and gestures toward Multnomah County Commissioner Loretta Smith.

The controversy was sparked at a Thursday night event organized by The Skanner publisher, Bernie Foster to introduce Dante James, director of Portland's Office of Equity and Human Rights to various minority communities.

The city's public safety adviser Baruti Artharee was at the gather-



Baruti Artharee (KATU photo)



Loretta Smith

ing representing Mayor Hales. While making remarks on the microphone it is being reported that Artharee commented on finding Smith, who was in the back of the room, physically attractive and making a suggestive motion with his hips.

Smith said the comments were not funny and made her feel uncomfortable.

Artharee, 60, is not commenting on the events that transpired,

but apologized to Smith the next day, officials said.

After three days of controversy, Hales also apologized to the commissioner. He also asked the city's Human Resources Department to begin an investigation into the incident.

"We are treating it as a complaint regarding actions in violation of the city's anti-harassment policy," said a statement from the mayor issued on Tuesday.

School Construction Projects Begin

Summer to see five Portland schools get upgrades

Portland Public Schools launched roof replacements and seismic and science lab upgrades at five schools as the first step of an eight-year school building improvement bond.

Superintendent Carole Smith and school board co-chair Greg Belisle announced the launch of the bond projects at a news conference Tuesday. They were joined by parent leaders, students and sustainability advocates.

Over the next nine weeks, work crews will replace roofs, make seismic safety upgrades at: Alameda K-5, Bridlemile K-5, Laurelhurst K-8, Lewis K-5 and Wilson High School.

In November 2012, Portland voters approved an 8-year \$482 million school improvement bond. The property tax levy will give the district the money to modernize its high schools - completely rebuilding Franklin, Grant and Roosevelt high



A citizen advisory group will meet this summer to consider what changes to make at Roosevelt High School when the building is completely rebuilt as part of a school district building improvement bond.

schools and creating master plans for the other six high schools. The bond will also fund seismic strengthening, science lab improvements and increased accessibility at 63 other schools.

In addition, the bond will cover the rebuilding of Faubion PK-8 School in partnership with neighboring Concordia University.

"This is an exciting moment for PPS and our entire community," Smith said. "This bond is a direct result of the vision and hard work of many people across Portland. It is truly a community-owned bond."

Summer school building improvement work at 5 schools kicks-off immediately after the students are dismissed for summer break June 14. Contractors aim to complete the summer work in time for students to return to class in the fall and have been working with the City of Portland to manage impacts on surrounding neighborhoods.

High school design work begins this coming fall. Citizen advisory groups will begin meeting this summer for the first school rebuilding projects at Roosevelt and Franklin high schools.