

# Out Front and On Point

## Women of color share stories from elected office

Each woman was one of the first people of color ever elected to their position. Often, they were the only one. And always, they were outnumbered.

But in a frank, funny and revealing roundtable, three local women of color shared what it was like to run, serve and survive in public office.

More than 50 people gathered last Thursday to hear moderator Traci Rossi, executive director of the Center for Women's Leadership, interview former state Sen. Margaret Carter, state Rep. Janelle Bynum of Clackamas and Multnomah County Commissioner Loretta Smith.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MOTOYA NAKAMURA/MULTNOMAH COUNTY

State Rep. Janelle Bynum of Clackamas, (from left) moderator Traci Rossi from the Center for Women's Leadership, Multnomah County Commissioner Loretta Smith and former state Sen. Margaret Carter of Portland attend a roundtable to share what it was like to run, serve and survive in public.

the Trump Administration. Rep. Tawna Sanchez (D-Portland) spoke up, and Sen. Lew Frederick (D-Portland) and Judge Adrienne Nelson also attended.

Topics ranged from how the elected officials got their start, managed their campaigns, balanced family life, dealt with negative experiences and handled comments on their appearance. Commissioner Smith spoke of the need to bring more, and younger, people of color into the workforce and into leadership.

"I stand on the shoulders of Gladys McCoy who served as a commissioner and county chair almost 30 years ago," Smith said. "It is my responsibility to make sure we get people of color in county government sooner than another 30 years."

Rossi ended by saying, "I want to thank Commissioner Smith because I have been living in Portland and I have not been in a room like this for a long time," she said.

And several people said they left the meeting feeling hopeful.

"Oregon for all the problems, it really is a shining star," Bynum said. "You have women at the highest level of leadership you don't see anywhere else."

Thanks to Multnomah County for contributing this story.



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## The Week in Review

### Big Man Recruit Picks Ducks

Bol Bol, son of former NBA player Manute Bol announced on Monday he will play for the Oregon Ducks. The 7 foot 2 center, considered by recruiters as the top big man from the high school class of 2018, chose the Ducks after visiting both Oregon and Kentucky this fall.

### ACLU Sues Police for "Kettling"

The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon filed a class action lawsuit last week against Portland Police for using a tactic called "kettling," a technique which involves surrounding a crowd and closing in on them, but one which was alleged to have improperly detained innocent observers during a June 4 protest.

### Jesse Jackson has Parkinson's

Rev. Jesse Jackson, the civil rights activist, announced Friday he has Parkinson's disease, an incurable neurological disorder that can cause tremors, stiffness, and difficulty balancing and coordinating movements. Jackson said he and his family noticed the changes three years ago and the process of recognizing its effects has been painful.

### Fired for Sexual Misconduct

Veteran journalist Charlie Rose has been fired by CBS News due to accusations from eight different women that he was sexually inappropriate with them. The Washington Post reported five women said he groped them, two have said he walked na-

ked in front of them, and one accused Rose of firing her after he physically and verbally harassed her.

### Della Reese Passes Away

TV host, R&B singer, and "Touched by an Angel" star Della Reese died Sunday at the age of 86, her family told ABC News. Her family said she "passed away peacefully" in her home.

### Apologizes for Sexual Harassment

Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn. has apologized and called for an ethics investigation following accusations that he sexually harassed a radio host while performing together for troops overseas in 2006. The comedian turned politician purportedly forcibly kissed her and took photos to mock grope her in her sleep, both of which Franklin apparently said at the time was meant to be in jest or part of a comedy act.

### Charles Manson Dies in Prison

Charles Manson, the notorious serial killer and cult leader, died in prison Sunday at the age of 83 of natural causes. Manson was imprisoned for being responsible for the killings of seven people over a two-day period in southern California in 1969.

### Quits after Racist Comments

Rev. Jamie Johnson, a Homeland Security official in the Trump administration, has quit following statements uncovered by CNN in which he blamed African-Americans for the prevalence of slums. As a former Iowa radio host, he appeared on many conservative talk shows, and made several controversial comments about blacks and slums on the show.