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French

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trims the role of unions, notably in small- and medium-size companies — which the prime minister said make up nine out of 10 companies in France and are "at the heart" of the reforms "for the first time."

Under the reforms, companies with fewer than 50 employees can negotiate work rules with an elected colleague — not unionized — and companies with fewer than 20 employees can negotiate directly with their workers.

Another new measure caps the financial penalty for companies sued by dismissed employees, easing concerns of bosses who fear that firing has become too costly. The measure creates a scale of remuneration based on the employee's seniority.

Yet another change simplifies the departures of a group of employees if the company needs to adapt its staff, with direct negotiations with those leaving.

French subsidiaries of multinationals need no longer justify firings based on the international economic climate. If the company is performing poorly, it can now use France alone as its reference to justify the layoffs.

Labor Minister Muriel Penicaud said the reforms aim to not just change France's work rules but "to change the behavior of social dialogue in our country."

But the way the reforms are being enacted is also divisive — via a special procedure that avoids a lengthy debate in parliament. The draft reforms are to be presented at a Cabinet meeting Sept. 20, after endorsement by the Council of State, the nation's highest administrative body. They are to be ratified by the end of the year.

"All the fears we had are confirmed," said the head of the communist-backed CGT union, Philippe Martinez. "(It's) the end of the labor contract."

The head of the more moderate CFDT, Laurent Berger, said his union "is disappointed" but would not join in the September protest.

The union that represents small- and medium-size businesses praised the measure that allows for negotiations with employees' repre-

sentatives — not unions — calling it a "major advance" for social dialogue.

However, the main employer's union in France, MEDEF, called the changes "the beginning of an interesting reform" that will need vigilance as the measures are put into practice.

France's conservative party, The Republicans, said some measures will help simplify life for companies, but questioned whether the package had the sweep to "re-launch investments and jobs in France."

Foreign investors and France's European neighbors were watching Macron's plan closely. France is the No. 2 economy in the 19-nation eurozone, but its chronic 10 percent unemployment has long weighed on the region's growth. Partners have repeatedly called on France to reform its job market to boost Europe economically.

Macron said the labor law overhaul was essential.

"We must see things as they are: We are the only major economy of the European Union which hasn't vanquished mass unemployment in more than three decades," Macron told the newsmagazine *Le Point*.

Sylvie Corbet in Paris contributed.

Interview

cont'd from pg 7

and actually for my action figures, but I loved it more.

KW: Was there a meaningful spiritual component to your childhood?
MA: Sure!

KW: Who loved you unconditionally during your formative years?
MA: My family.

KW: What is your favorite dish to cook?
MA: Eggs... I'm lazy..

KW: The Morris Chestnut question: Was there any particular moment in your childhood that inspired you to become the person you are today?
MA: Again, I'm not sure if there was one particular moment, but I'm almost positive my parents have never lied while I've been alive. So they certainly set the bar for morals. I've lied though. Sorry, Moppa.

KW: Sherry Gillam would like to know what is the most important life lesson you've learned so far?
MA: Hmm... I can't say it's THE most important as it's hard to rate these things, but certainly being honest is a good way to sleep well at night.

STUDENT SUCCESS PROGRAMS SUPERVISOR

Portland Public Schools is hiring a Student Success Programs Supervisor for its GEAR UP federal grants program. This position will administer and implement the grants' near-peer mentor program. Responsibilities include: develop, refine and provide administrative oversight for the near-peer program; develop and implement processes and protocols for hiring, training and deploying near-peer College Advocate Mentors in GEAR UP high schools; Supervise and coach school-based Student Success Advocates with deployment of mentors; Develop new and foster existing partnerships with college work study programs to build a pool of mentors. To apply, go to <http://www.pps.net/Page/2158> and select Job#16538. Closes 9/10/17

9-6-17

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE OUTREACH COORDINATOR

SALARY: \$5673.00 TO \$7566.00 Monthly
CLOSING DATE: 10/02/17 04:30 PM

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9-6-17

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & INFORMATION REPRESENTATIVE

SALARY: \$5673.00 TO \$7566 Monthly
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The Community Outreach and Information Representative, for the Portland Bureau of Environmental Services Public Involvement Section, performs skilled, professional duties in the design, development, and implementation of public involvement and community engagement plans in support of the Bureau's capital projects. For more information and to apply, please visit www.portlandoregon.gov/jobs

9-6-17

Learned that verrrrrry early. [Chuckles]

KW: What was your very first job?
MA: Cutting grass. I worked at the National Shrine in DC for a spell in 10th grade.

KW: When you look in the mirror, what do you see?
MA: Depends on the day!

KW: What's the craziest thing you've ever done?
MA: Sorry, I didn't hear that question. Next!

KW: If you could have one wish instantly granted, what would that be for?
MA: Instant worldwide

utopia.
KW: What is your guiltiest pleasure?
MA: Excess napping and snacking. Shame.

KW: Is there any question no one ever asks you, that you wish someone would?
MA: [LOL] No. That's funny to imagine, though. I'm thinking of a person in an interview wondering, "I wish they'd ask me about this!" while quietly fuming internally.

KW: Harriet Pakula-Teweles asks: With so many classic films being redone, is there a remake you'd like to star in?
MA: No! There are so many stories that have

yet to be told. New content! Infinite content!

KW: Finally, what's in your wallet?
MA: The usual.

KW: Thanks again for the time, Mamoudou, and best of luck with Patti Cake\$.

MA: Thank you so much, Kam.

To see a trailer for Patti Cake\$, visit: TheSkanner.com.



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9-6-17