

OBSERVATIONS

FROM THE SIDELINES
by Kathryn Hall Bogle



The traditional Black colleges provide students the opportunity to study in a caring environment.

TITLED "Black Colleges: A Taproot of Black Leadership," the only conference of its kind in the United States was convened October 15th at the Red Lion Inn at Jantzen Beach. Sponsors were members of the Black Colleges Committee, Inc., a local Portland group headed by Pearl Spears Gray, an assistant to the president of Oregon State University.

The conference, the fourth in annual one-day presentations by the Committee, was designed to disseminate information about opportunities for college-bound students to attend Black colleges. This year's conference successfully attracted over 450 students, some 50 of them arriving from the Seattle-Tacoma area. Students were not disappointed. They received counselling and materials to take home from outstanding Black educators representing 34 of the contributing Black colleges.

Dr. Herman Branson, president of Pennsylvania's Lincoln University, gave the opening morning address. He was introduced by Dr. Ethel Simon-McWilliams, Associate Director of Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory.

During the day students were given a chance to sit in on five half-hour sessions with visiting college representatives and to participate in two workshops of several offered. Local persons acted as convenors for both morning and afternoon sessions held in ten of the hotel conference rooms.

The long list of stellar speakers included: Dr. Michael Benjamin, Director of the N/NE Mental Health Center, who spoke for Texas Southern University of Houston; Myrna Anderson for Talladega College; Dr. Melvin Webb, Dean of Faculty for Clark College in Atlanta; Dr. Eleanor Chippey Grier for Meharry Medical College in Nashville; Dr. Sybil Mobley, Dean of the School of Business and Industry at Florida A&M University at Tallahassee; Bill Rouselle, Director of Public Relations for the *Black Collegian* maga-

zine; and Vicki Crawford, Assistant Director of Admissions for Spelman College in Atlanta.

Workshops ran concurrently in the afternoon and were conducted mainly by Oregon college faculty members. Participants in the workshops included: Kenneth Adair of Portland Community College; Marshall Jennings of Oregon State University; Dr. Margaret Moore of Oregon State University; Dr. Dean Osterman of OSU and Betty Griffin of OSU.

Personnel of Eastern Airlines, Myrna Anderson, Marsha Taylor and Charles Wright were among those contributing to the afternoon workshops. Eastern Airlines also made special flight arrangements for conference speakers.

Workshop topics included: Understanding Financial Aid; Marketing Yourself in a High Technology Era; Robots, Computers, and Learning for the Future; Becoming a Successful College Student; Looking your Best; and Why Aren't We Hired?

Clevonne Jackson, of BCC, presided during the closing session of the conference. Dr. Vincent Reed, vice-president for Communications at the *Washington Post*, made the closing address after his presentation by William Hilliard, executive editor of *The Oregonian*.

Other members of the BCC include June Key, Kenneth Bartell, Gerry Caldwell, Cal Williams, Dorothy Alexander, Michael Benjamin, Tia Dorsey, and Matthee Williams.

CONTROLLED excitement in the air and the flush of success marked the beat and the climate surrounding the departing personnel of the Black College Conference as they readied to leave the Red Lion Inn at Jantzen Beach last weekend.

We stopped a few to ask questions.

"For over a century, one name has been synonymous with the education of minority health professionals—that name is Meharry," said Dr. Eleanor Chippey Grier, 52, who has been Director of Alumni Affairs and Special Assistant to President David Satcher, M.D., Ph.D. at Meharry for many years. "Meharry was founded in 1876, and today Meharry Medical College has an enrollment of 1,000 students in our four schools of Medicine, Dentistry, Graduate Studies and Research, and Allied Health, Dr. Grier said.

The 62-acre campus of Meharry with its attractive modern buildings is in the heart of Nashville, Dr. Grier explained. "We have a population of 85 percent Black students;

we have a few white students with others from Asian, Native American, Spanish American, Iranian or African background. I am hopeful that Northwest students will apply to enter Meharry. There is a need for more Black physicians. They can empathize with the Black patient coming from somewhat the same background. Did you know," she asked, "that in the medical schools of the nation nearly half of all Black physicians holding faculty positions come from Meharry?"

Dr. Grier said she hoped to say hello to three Portland alumni: Richard Neal, pharmacist; Dr. Booker T. Lewis, dentist; and Dr. Webster C. Brown, surgeon, before she departs for Nashville. "It's been a wonderful conference," she said, and added "Even the weather was nice."

Dr. Herman Branson, president of Lincoln University in Lincoln, Pa., made the principal morning address of the conference. He noted the absence of many Black students in advanced computer science studies, in engineering and in mathematics. "In an effort to increase interest and the number of Black students enrolling in these courses," Dr. Branson said, "we at Lincoln University have a special program funded by the National Aeronautics Space Agency which allows us to offer scholarship aid to qualified students interested in a future in one of these fields. We'll be glad to furnish details," Dr. Branson said as he prepared to go to Oregon State University to join Dr. Vincent Reed of the *Washington Post* and Pearl Spears Gray, chairperson of the Black College Conference. An additional day had been scheduled for their visit to the OSU campus before the return to their respective headquarters, June Key, Committee member, told us.

Dr. Melvin R. Webb, 43, Dean of Clark College in Atlanta, representing one of the oldest Black colleges in the nation, said "Clark celebrated its 115th Anniversary this year. We're situated downtown. We are part of the beautiful Atlanta Center of seven colleges—along with Spelman College for Black women. At Clark we are co-ed with a census of about 2,000 students. We are a liberal arts school preparing students for degrees in Business Administration, Allied Health and Mass Communications.

As he packed display articles, Dr. Webb confessed to being truly excited about a new program, a summer-time special program at Clark College that is absolutely free. We questioned him closely. "Did you say 'free'?" "Absolutely free," Dr. Webb answered.

"There is no tuition," Dr. Webb repeated. "There is no board and room charge."

"What is the catch?" we quizzed. "Well," said Dr. Webb, "we are looking for honor students who are going from 10th grade to 11th grade or honor students going from 11th to 12th grade. We do not pay their transportation costs; they must apply and get to Clark on their own. Otherwise, it is free for science, math and engineering students from all over the country," Webb said as he stuffed last minute items into his bulging briefcase.

Two pretty young women, Myrna Anderson, a specialist in Employee Involvement for Eastern Airlines, and Marcia Taylor, a Supervisor of Flight Attendants for Eastern, were towing their luggage to the hotel exit. Each of them, along with Charles Wright, Eastern's Manager of Special Market Development, had been a leader in the workshop portion of the conference.

June Key appeared again, this time with 17-year-old Dawn Newton of Portland's Grant High School. Dawn Newton was all smiles as she greeted Dr. Webb and prepared to introduce him to her parents and to Portland. Dawn had only recently returned from Clark College as a student in their free summer college program for honor students.

"It was wonderful there," Dawn said. "I wish I could go back again." The Black College Conference is over for another year.

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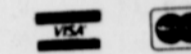
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Something To Think About

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PREPLANNING MAKES SENSE

It would not be amiss for persons during their lifetime to decide what they consider a dignified and meaningful funeral. This phrase has different meanings for different people, almost as wide a range as individual life-styles. A funeral home should make every effort, within reason and propriety, to accommodate these wishes.

Funeral costs should likewise be considered. It is helpful if the survivor understands how funeral charges in the community are computed. This could be investigated during the lifetime of a mar-

ried couple. In that way, the survivor will be saved the task of making a judgment with respect to these matters at the height of his or her bereavement.

Such costs, as well as the cost of burial or cremation—and usually the cost for arranging for perpetual care of the plot—are considered proper estate expenses and should be billed to the estate.

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Street Beat

by Lanita Duke and Richard Brown

Foreign Aid was in the minds of the *Street Beat* team as they asked, "Should the United States supply arms to countries who are having internal problems?"



Johnnie Morris
Dispatcher

No, I don't. There is too much war going on now because they were supplied.



Anna Williams
Housewife

No, I don't think they should. If they supply arms it would just make matters worse. It doesn't matter who supplies them—the U.S. or the U.S.S.R.—they will still have the same problems.



Ricky Joseph
National Guard

They should. If they don't get the arms from us they will get it from the Soviet Union. If we don't help them they might get run over by a communist government.



Debby Goll
Student

No, I disagree. There should not be any arms at all. It should be worked out without weapons.



Gaylord Hartibee
Retired

Yes, if it affects our country, like what's going on in Latin America.



Lillian Waddle
Educator

No, the money could be used in this country to improve housing, education and so forth.

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