

in college—an increase of 400% over the last twenty years. One interesting factor is emerging: roughly two-thirds of those who really "make it" are attending or have graduated from White schools.

Graduates of Black colleges reported that they became more infused with a positive self-image and a fraternal, i.e. social, networking sense than did those graduates of white colleges. However, most of the former graduates also reported a lack of preparedness for the politics and dynamics of the white corporate world. This placed most in a disadvantaged position from which some never really recovered. A few reported being fortunate enough to find a mentor, but most struggled along on their own.

To counter this, many Black organizations have adapted by no longer being strictly social groups. During the era when segregation was the norm, organizations often were strictly social and fostered class distinctions; today that attitude is no longer acceptable. Fraternal groups and organizations such as the One Hundred Black Men/Women, Links, etc., are accepting civic as well as social responsibilities. They have committees that sponsor workshops that are not only internal, but open to the public at large. Frequently, coalitions are formed to sponsor conferences that attract hundreds and sometimes thousands of participants. They address such problems as teen-age pregnancy, substance abuse, Black male-female relationships, family solidarity, the criminal justice system, parenting, and how to make it in the corporate world.

Career workshops are well attended by college bound youth or those

graduates who are unsure that their choice was the right one. Most well-educated buppies are encouraging those who come behind them to consider technology as a field. One young facilitator at a workshop asserted that it was ridiculous to acquire a degree in humanities (fine arts, languages or social science) when, most likely, such an area will be pursued as an avocation.

Entrepreneurship is another popular topic at the conference, and it is often the most well-attended of all of the workshops. There are at least two reasons for this. With weakened government agencies such as the Civil Rights Commission, plus diminishing interest or outright hostility towards "tokenism", more young Blacks are willing to accept the risks in owning their own businesses.

Some individual entrepreneurs have banded together to form a professional corporation that takes a multifaceted approach. While the more realistic motive for creating such an organization is to service the (Black) community under one roof, such umbrella organizations allow the individual member to receive the benefit of increased marketing opportunities and exposure at a lower cost. In addition, they may barter within the group for their "partners'" skills or expertise and get insurance coverage through group participation.

Indicators point to the fact, then, that Black, urban professionals are serious about their commitment to the old ethic of continuing the struggle for equality and elimination of oppression. They work with community

groups to make this a reality; even though, for many of them, racism is more subtle and therefore, for some, easier to ignore. While their real world may include commingling with nature at resorts, they're not above grabbing a bite at the corner hot dog cart, rocking at the Apollo, teaching a course at the local community college and donating that salary to the UNCF, Urban League or NAACP. One bright young interviewer said, "Yes, I'm a member of the buppies—to me it means 'By Uplifting Poor Black People I Exist Safely.'"

Affirmative Action Plan for Minorities

The Portland Fire Bureau has initiated an Affirmative Action Plan with the purpose of increasing the number of minorities in our Fire Department. The goal of this recruitment drive is attracting qualified people who can withstand the competition of the entrance process.

Between now and April 1, 1987, we will be actively recruiting minorities to enter our pre-employment program.

The pre-employment program will be held every Wednesday night and all day Saturday through August, 1987. Classes will be a combination of classroom and hands-on experience.

The Fire Bureau entrance exam is in September, 1987. If you are a minority, or in an under-utilized group, and have a desire to be a firefighter—please call today, we want you!!!! Call Chief Ron Bender, Portland Fire Bureau Training, 248 5596, 1135 S.E. Powell, Portland, OR 97202.

George McKenna To Speak at PCC

In 1979, George McKenna became principal of George Washington Preparatory High School located in South Central Los Angeles. The school was torn by violence, low achievement and lack of community confidence. Mr. McKenna developed and implemented the Preparatory School Model, a program stressing academic excellence at all levels. In four years, he changed an inner-city high school into a school which now has an attendance waiting list and where 80% of the graduates enroll in college. Because of his success, Mr. McKenna's programs are being widely modeled throughout the nation.

Mr. McKenna has received national recognition for his work, receiving over 250 citations and awards from civic, legislative and professional organizations. He was invited by President Reagan to the White House to participate in a panel on school discipline. Mr. Reagan acknowledged Mr. McKenna's leadership at the 68th annual nation-



GEORGE MCKENNA III

al convention of secondary school principals where the president praised him as a "hero with faith in common sense values."

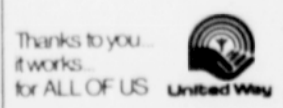
Mr. McKenna's accomplishments have been featured in a wide variety of media, including Time Magazine, People Magazine, the Los Angeles Times, the Christian Science Monitor, and the Wall Street Journal. He has been featured in the CBS Evening News, the Merv Griffin Show and a documentary film entitled "Chaos to Calm" produced by the California State Attorney General's office. Mr. McKenna was the subject of a CBS television movie entitled "The George McKenna Story" broadcast last Fall as a Sunday Night Movie.

Please come and hear this exciting educator. He will speak as part of PCC's celebration of Black History Month Thursday, February 26, 1987, at 7:00 p.m., in the Auditorium of Cascade Hall, PCC, Cascade Campus, 705 N. Killingsworth.

Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation Open House

The Portland Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation, Inc. will hold an open house on February 27th, 1987 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., 3833 N.E. Killingsworth St., Portland, OR 97211.

Learn more as you see a film on Sickle Cell Anemia. The events are all free. Free refreshments for all.



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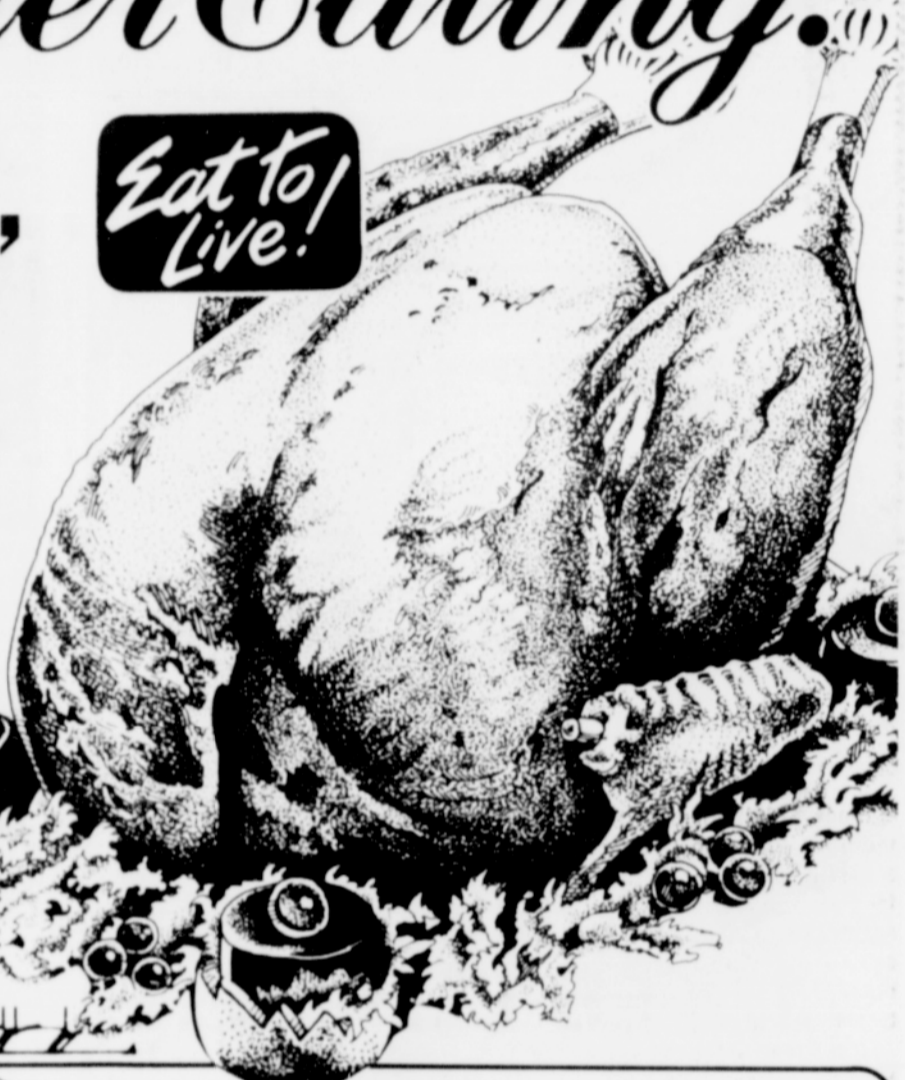
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