

# EDITORIAL / OPINION

## EDITORIAL

## Perspectives

by Professor McKinley Burt

## OPINION

by Dr. Jamil Cherovee

### "Fight Drugs"

There are growing signs that the war on drugs may end in unconditional surrender. We're hearing support for legalizing drugs, and some big city mayors, frustrated at the drug-induced escalating crime rate, are joining the bandwagon.

They're concerned about the costs of fighting drugs, the toll the battle takes on drug-saturated communities, and the apparent inability of enforcement authorities to stem the flood of drugs into the country.

But surrender is no way to fight a war. And the costs of controlling drugs are smaller than the social costs of making drugs readily available.

Calls for legalization claim that taking the profit out of drugs would reduce violence. It's also said that legalizing drugs would yield huge tax revenues to the government, providing resources to expand anti-drug education efforts.

That sounds strange to me — making dangerous substances legal so they could be taxed in order to provide funds to convince people not to take them.

The essential point the advocates seem to be missing is that drug abuse is wrong. Period.

They destroy the abuser's reasoning powers, debilitate his health, and enforce a dependency that requires ever larger amounts of the drug to fulfill.

Legalizing drugs in effect tells people that it's all right to use such mind-destroying and personality-altering substances. It says it's OK to become hooked on a habit that takes away individual autonomy, reduces peo-

ple to dependence on dangerous substances, and prevents normal functioning in our society.

Advocates of legalization ought to tell us how many new addicts will be created by easier availability of drugs and the abandonment of legal penalties against their use.

Do they want addicts to register and get their dosage from government drug clinics? If so, what will they do about the illegal black market that's bound to spring up alongside the legal one? Britain's experiment with dispensing drugs to addicts just led to a black market and a wider heroin problem.

And how would they discourage young kids from experimenting with addictive drugs? It's hard enough with the law on our side; if it's legal, you can bet that kids will have easier access to drugs and fewer qualms about taking them.

Instead of giving up the fight against drugs in despair, we should step up international efforts to stop drug imports and implement all-out enforcement measures against dealers, along with a massive education and treatment program to cut demand.

We've talked a good war on drugs, but haven't waged one.

While the government tells people to just say NO, it cuts resources available to neighborhood drug treatment centers. Thousands of people who have become addicted to drugs can't get treated for their illness because of lack of funds.

by John Jacob, president,  
National Urban League

### Racism: At Home And Abroad PART I

Not only is racism alive and well in these United States, but the African-American is further devastated by the continuous export of this infamous system of genocide. From last week's 'National Geographic Special' on public television, we quote a white American speaking from central Africa, "The day will come when we can return to the GORILLAS the land we took from THEM". Here we have the African equivalent of the American situation Ralph Ellison described so well in his novel, 'The Invisible Man'.

While in this country racism deprives the American Black of valuable land and commercial sites through the mechanisms of financial red lining, gentrification and other forms of URBAN REMOVAL (include Northeast Portland), he now faces an escalating effort abroad to deprive him of all of his antecedents — geographical, historical and cultural. South Africa's Apartheid is just the tip of the iceberg of an international conspiracy ("EVIL EMPIRE"). How many of you have read, 'How Europe Underdeveloped Africa'?

Those of us rendered naive by nature, or by brainwash, fail to perceive the full ramifications of this concept, AFRICA, THE ZOO. Before me is an ad from 'Smithsonian Magazine' which appeals to the white middle class, "East Africa Field Trips: Auspices of the Sierra Club". It is typical of a large scale marketing push which appeals to the 'cultural dominance' syndrome of this nation, the 'Great White Hunter Types - Join a Safari!' Ill-disguised by such petulant euphemisms as, "Save the last natural environment for the animals," or "Preserve this species from extinction," ... What this is really about is an all out effort to implement the total exploitation of the most mineral-rich land in the world. To accomplish that you need the underdeveloped countryside and economy which makes cheap, docile labor possible. Sounds like South Africa all over again, doesn't it?

The Sierra Club advertisement waxes expansively — you may even forget that the minerals beneath the Safari trail are those absolutely essential to SPACE AND NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY, "You'll live in the wilderness -right among the animals ... elephants, hippos, rhinos, the hoofed beasts, zebras, giraffes, impalas, wild beasts, buffalos ... lions, leopards, cheetahs ... TRIBESMEN AS NATURAL AND EXOTIC AS THE WILDLIFE". Again, the indigenous Black will be harnessed to the corporate ventures and vagaries of institutions based in New York, London, Antwerp, Tokyo, Israel and South Africa. He will be told by the World Bank and the Agency for International Development that since he has not yet demonstrated the ability to develop an integrated economy, "the most we can do is finance some 'cash crops' for you." However, lil brother, we will keep control of the 'Commodity Exchanges' in London, New York, and Chicago." Isn't this what happened to U.S. cotton farmers?

Prior to the National Geographic Special, we were exposed to a miserable televised account of the "difficulty in maintaining an ELEPHANT PARK in East Africa." The 'natives' in Kenya had to be forcibly restrained by armed rangers from shooting rampaging elephants which were destroying their farm crops and the equipment and buildings they had worked so hard to develop for their survival. Screaming women and hungry, weeping children were not to be comforted by their men folk. Let me remind you here of the full title of Charles Darwin's famous work on Evolution; "The origin of the species by means of natural selection, or the PRESERVATION OF THE FAVOURED 'RACES' OF MANKIND." Any wonder that the full title is seldom quoted in American texts? Recently, the press has reacquainted us with Stalin's carriage in the Ukraine of Russia. Genocide is genocide; it differs only in technique and locale.

'Africa The Zoo' McKinley Burt, 1988. All Rights Reserved. is the title of a book to be published this winter.

### Education

While in Alabama, I was invited to speak at Chappie James Hall. The students insisted that I cut the lecture short, that they may have more time to ask questions.

Tuskegee University, located in Tuskegee, Alabama, was founded by Booker T. Washington in 1881 as a "center for learning and service," according to the University catalog. Washington's philosophy called on Blacks to "cast down your buckets where you are," to learn the trade, crafts, and agriculture in order to come to economic empowerment as a first step toward the uplift of Blacks in America. I'm inclined to believe, 'History Makes Men'. The study of history is important for the students because when you know what was, you can see better what is, and you are more prepared to see what is yet to come; and to change the reality of the present to make a better future. When you don't know who you are, then you don't have any idea of what you can become. Because Black students are cut off from their history, they are like a ship without a rudder, because they don't have a guiding principle embedded in them. Education should be preparation for service to humanity.

Education is no better than the philosophy that guides it. And since the world is based on exaltation of caucasians, the philosophical underpinnings of every discipline is to support the basic premise that caucasoids are superior to Blacks ... This poison permeates every discipline. Therefore, education must be "re-examined." Since Black people have been mis-educated under a system of caucasoid supremacy, Blacks need to be retrained so we may be of service to our people and to ourselves and humanity.

During slavery, Blacks were deprived of the right to know, which made them able to be used as "a tool and a slave," and which has caused us to reject our own teachers. We accept tutelage from caucasoid scholars and thinkers from the past without judging it for its real value. Today's education should teach us to think, to analyze, to critique. Our students must perfect what

they are studying, rather than accepting it as it is. Black students should not be a slave to yesterday's knowledge.

I applaud Washington's call for technical and agricultural training. Farming is the engine of life itself. Delving into and comparing the principles of Booker T. Washington, W.E.B. DuBois, and Marcus Garvey, I attempted to show how today a synthesis of these great thinker's programs was needed.

Before ending my lecture, I scrutinized the role of woman in society, and the proper relationship and respect that should exist between man and woman. The Supreme Architect (God) of the Universe did not create you (woman) to be a plaything for men. Instead, woman is actually a co-creator with God, and through a woman will come men and women who will bring about heaven on earth. When a woman has thoughts of rejecting the child during pregnancy, those thoughts affect the development of that child. That's why you have produced children today that hate themselves and are prone to suicide, because you rejected it while it was in the womb, and you wished it dead ... so you have created children that will murder you today-cold and heartless. We must lift up the honor of our women, if we want to make a better world, that better world is coming from the womb of a woman. This is definitely needed around this nation, particularly the aspect of bringing up the Black male to a certain level of consciousness so he knows how to treat the Black woman.

An impromptu question and answer session was arranged on the next day at the Alumni House where students were able to pose questions to me in an informal setting. The level of questioning, was impressive. I told the students I felt confident in our future after hearing their probing questions.

Hand shakes and hugs was an emotional moment, a fitting conclusion to this historic visit to the lands once trod by the great institution builder, Booker T. Washington

### Oregon Report

A new Oregon Department of Education publication charts the changes in the education, employment and economic status of Oregon women. The report, "Oregon Women," provides information policymakers can use when making decisions that affect the lives of the nearly 1.4 million women in Oregon.

The report was directed by Hilda Thompson, state vocational education equity specialist. Here are some highlights from the report:

- The number of percentage of births to unwed teenage mothers doubled between 1970 and 1985.
- Females, who take fewer high-level math courses than males, are consistently outscored by males on the math portion of the Scholastic Aptitude Test.
- The percentage of women with some post-secondary education doubled in two generations.
- The state's marriage rates are consistently lower than the U.S. rate, while its divorce rates are consistently higher.
- The female labor force has grown nearly twice as fast as that for males since 1970. Women between the ages of 25 to 44

represent more than one-third of the workforce.

—In 1979 women employed full-time year-round earned only 57 cents, on the average, for each dollar earned by men.

### Fighting Over Fairness

Sometimes it seems that we Americans get into the biggest fights over issues that come down to simple fairness and justice — something other people recognize and accommodate, but we decide to resist.

A good example is the provision of the trade bill passed by Congress that provides for advance notification of plant closings.

That provision was the key obstacle on which the bill ran aground. The Administration based its veto pledge on a provision that looks fair to me and to most other Americans.

The plant closing part of the

trade bill just said that companies have to give notice to workers and to local governments 60 days before they close a plant.

And there are plenty of loopholes. They wouldn't have to give that notice if the plant closing is due to unforeseeable business reasons; if it is the result of strikes or lockouts; if it's due to the sale of a business or consolidations within the area if drastic and disrupting as a plant closing.

Regulations vary from country to country, but most require anywhere from one to 16 weeks advance notice, depending on the case. Germany and Japan, our toughest competitors, have such laws and it doesn't seem to have hurt them.

In fact, some of our biggest corporations operate under advance-notice provisions in their union contracts, while their overseas subsidiaries abide by local advance-notification laws.

Some opponents of advance-notification say they are for the concept but opposed to adding yet another piece of government

regulation and federally-mandated activity onto business.

But that's not much of a reason to oppose something that's universally followed outside of the U.S. and has been found by the Administration's Task Force on Economic Adjustment and Worker Dislocation to be good industrial practice.

People have the right to know what's in store for them, and an advance-notification law would ensure that they do know.

It's simple fairness and justice, so what's the fight about? It will become the law of the land sooner or later, just as it is now common practice in many unionized plants.

by John Jacob, president,  
National Urban League

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