The Medium Of Black Survivial

by Dr. Jamil Cherovee

Most Black writers—and Black leaders—whether knowingly or not—have written about Black condition for an essentially caucasoid readership. The name of the game was "convince caucasoid Amerika of the essential humanity, educability, employability, worthiness or what have you, of Black people." If Blacks read the books or received the message, it occurred mainly because they were curious or were good listeners. The caucasoid man's reaction was usually the key. Black educators, leaders, teachers and ministers should read 'The Black Curriculum: Developing A Program In Afro-Amerikan Studies' by Sidney F. Walton, Jr. I'm inclined to believe, 'The Black Curriculum' does not meet the readitional westernized standards for a "book"; neither is it a mere non-book. In reality it is a Black experience on paper. It is the work of a revolutionary Black intellectual on how-to-survive as an authentic Black educator within a caucasoid-dominated institution. Brother Walton's efforts spell out how he chose to fight caucasoid RACISM as a means to his own survival. Survival at a lesser cost was not worthwhile to Walton.

Walton asked a different question: "What the hell was I doing for my people? Nothing really in the schools, other than offering my presence, accepting the absence of Blackness, and perpetrating RACISM by not offering Alternatives to the RACIST system."

It was while in search for these alternatives that 'The Black Curriculum' became a reality. Walton's forthright honesty, ability to examine his own behavior, the authenticity and reasoning that nudergirds his anger, the consummate skill with which he clarifies the issues—and forces his readers into self-confrontation—and his ability to transform the extraneous caucasiod into the germane Black makes a student journey through this text a memorable encounter. I'm inclined to believe, a major contribution of this endeavor is the clarification of terms such as Black racism, mother-f$ ÷ @er, the credentialing system, and in fact to develop a survival language for Black people. In a discussion of semantics, Walton notes: "The tuning in on words rather than messages is a perpetration of the great Amerikan hang-up of tuning in on the color of man rather than on the dignity and worth of the man."

His message to Black men is that "humanism" must be reborn within them. Their sense of dignity and worth must become idelible, indestructable characteristics, collectively self-reaffirming. Tune in on Black humanism—the medium of Black survival. The new language, then, is not words but meaning.

Readers will become immediately aware of why Black students have campaigned for independently—controlled Black studies programs. the Nation Of Islam, under the leadership of the Most Honorable Elijah Muhammad, The Exaulted Christ refused to integrate the Nation Of Islam into RACIST educational programs which predestine them to fail or to be conditioned against the best interests of their own people. Black students cannot "succeed" within a RACIST program. Such a course now leaves them but one destiny: to emulate caucasoid Uncle Toms. As Brother Walton put it: "RACISM is psychologically unhealthy for Black youngsters whether it is labelled 'quality,' 'integrated,' or 'segregated.' We want our youngsters to lean, and it seems we have the answer—All Black educational environments which do not dehumanize Black children."

'The Black Curriculum is a collection of semi-official documents—memoranda, letters, reports, reprints of articles an studied—whose combined impact, when elaborated upon by Brother Walton, leaves no doubt that most Black men employed within caucasoid institutions are playing the game of self-survival. This is not a put-down; it is a mere statement of fact. Walton is compelled by a desire to foster the collective survival of Black people. It is this commitment that enriches his effort. I'm inclined to believe, conceptually, the book redefines education for Black people into a day-to-day struggle; and into a broad spectrum of social and political concerns with the classroom and the transfer of knowledge to students being a very small part of the whole. The Black educator becomes an advocate for the Black agenda; the caucasoid educator is also educated as to how to join the struggle to redefine himself.

The book has gain historic status within the Third World. It confronts the Emily Post, WASP, Victorian, "law and order" and scholarship standards of so-called christian caucasoid Amerika; not intentionally however. Readers must understand that it was not addressed to the Black reader from that vantage point. It is a Black "I.Q." test, ethnically-oriented, humanistically political, educationally relevant—for Black people—and for caucasoid humanists. I'm inclined to believe, in the last analysis, readers who experience the book will be richer because they are able to do so. Those who remain as mere readers are still trying to make it with so-called christian caucasoid folk. Those who reject it completely are already doing the bidding of caucasoid people. The fact of the matter is that no one-readers or non-readers—will escape the impact that the book is bound to have on education for Black liberation.

Paul was right when he said, "We don't wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." You can't produce nothing good by force.

Third World Students realize the so-called christian caucasoid man's gigantic duplicity and conspiracy to keep the world's people of Afrikan heritage separated—both physically and ideologically—from each other.

Remember Sisters and Brothers, Dr. W.E.B. DuBois said in, "Dusk Of Dawn," "I had been brought up with the democratic idea that this general welfare was the object of democratic action in the state, of allowing the governed a voice in government. But through the crimson illumination of war, I realized and, afterward by travel around the world, saw even more clearly that so-called democracy today was allowing the mass of people to have only limited voice in government; that democratic control of what are at present the most important function of men: work and earning a living and distributing goods and services; that here we did not have democracy; we had aligarchy, and aligarchy based on monopoly and income ..."

Congratulations!!!

Billy T. Ballastressi

Airman Patrick L. Johnstone

Airman Billy T. Ballastressi, grandson of Margaret L. Thompson of 4935 N.E. 11th, Portland, OR, has graudated from Air Force basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

Air Force Reserve Airman Patrick L. Johnstone, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Johnstone of 3241 N.E. 21st, Portland, OR, has graduated from Air Force basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

Black Artists Guild Exhibit

The Black Artists Guild will exhibit in the IFCC Gallery, July 1 through July 30, 1988. The display will open with a reception on Friday, July 1st - 5:00-7:00 p.m.

The Black Artists Guild (formerly Members Gallery) is a group of Black artists working and exhibiting in Portland. These artists came together in 1983 for their first group show as the opening exhibition at the IFCC. The group returned to exhibit a second time at the IFCC in February, 1985. Members of the Guild have exhibed individually and collectively around the metropolitan area. They have also been active in programs for youth and art education.

Mortgage Loan Funds Are Available

$19.4 million of mortgage loan funds will soon be available to help about 400 below-median income Oregonians throughout the state purchase homes.

The Oregon Housing Agency will be offering 30-year mortgage loans at a fixed rate of 8.25% from the sale of tax-exempt mortgage revenue bonds. Loans will be available on a first-come, first-served basis through participating lenders, according to Kathryn Eustrom, manager of the Housing Agency's single-family programs. These funds will be available beginning June 22, 1988, through December 1988, or until funds are gone.

"We expect a good demand for this money, since our rate is about 2 points below the conventional 30-year loan rate right now," Ms. Eustrom said. "Our loans should help families buy homes who otherwise could not afford the higher mortgage payments."

The loans are available for owner-occupied homes only. The applicant's household income must be $28,500 or less per year, and the purchase price of the home must be $65,000 or less.

Federal law requires that applicants be first-time home buyers, or not have owned and occupied a principal residence within the past three years. (This requirement may be waived if the home being purchased is located in a "targeted area." "Targeted areas" include all of Baker, Clatsop, Coos, Crook, Grant, Harney, Jefferson, Josephine, Klamath, Lake, Malheur, Union, Wallowa and Wheeler counties; cities of Ashland, Milton-Freewater, Myrtle Creek, Port Orford, Silverton, Turner and Vernonia; and portions of Albany, Corvallis, Eugene, Medford, Salem and Portland.)

The home being purchased may be located anywhere in Oregon and may be either an existing home, new construction, manufactured housing permanently affixed to an acceptable foundation, a qualified condominium unit, or unit in a qualified Planned Unit Development (PUD).

All loans must be insured by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA). The Oregon Housing Agency accepts FHA's minimum down payment requirements of 3-5% and financing of the mortgage insurance premium and FHA-allowable closing costs. The loan origination fee and discount points together may not exceed 1.75% of the loan.

These funds may not be used to refinance an existing home loan, nor may these funds be used in conjunction with the Oregon Housing Agency's Mortgage Credit Certificate Program.

The following lenders are participating in the Single-Family Mortgage Program:

The Benj Franklin Federal Savings & Loan; The Commercial Bank; Community First Federal Savings; Continental Savings Bank; CrossLand Mortgage Corp.; Far West Federal Mortgage Corp., First Interstate Bank of Oregon; Inland Empire Bank; Key Pacific Mortgage; NorthWest Funding, Ltd.; The Oregon Bank; United Savings Bank; US Bancorp Mortgage Company (US Bank); Ward Cook, Inc.; and Willamette Savings and Loan Association.

For more information, people may call the Oregon Housing Agency at 373-1616, or any of the participating financial institutions.

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