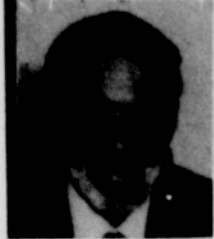


COMMUNITY FORUM

Perspectives



Urban League: Financial Or Human Deficit

by Professor McKinley Burt

One of the young Black students I tutor (high school age) engaged me in the following conversation. "My Social Studies class has been reading about the problems of the Urban League, and hearing about the problems at other community organizations." (from parents). "This week our teacher let us spend the entire period in a round robin discussion of these issues, I am really disturbed."

Well, I am disturbed too. Not that I haven't been aware of many of these problems — along with a number of readers. What we have here is a recurrent theme of economic debacles that have persisted for over twenty years. I am very concerned about the image/role models we set for this younger generation — we are already losing so many of our talented youth to other cities. As we shall see they are still buying the **standard alibis** still forthcoming from the Black establishment (Believe it or not we are still hearing, "Designed to Fail").

My student told me that during the heated discussion one of the whites really went off, "You People have no excuse, every time you look at T.V. or in the newspaper, you see some Black with all these degrees and alleged levels of expertise, and they are on the board of directors of this, that and the other organization. When the bottom falls out for such stupid reasons, I think about a **game of musical chairs** played by a bunch of clowns." "That's cold, isn't it?" My student said, "but my father (a non-professional) says the very same thing in so many words." Also, the young man realized that obviously the Urban League dilemma was a prime topic in as many white homes as Black, if not more. And in corporate offices and board rooms. The youngster was greatly embarrassed.

I knew he was seeking some ammunition for the next classroom debate. But there were

things he needed know first. I told him, "The problem has been around for sometime. In the early 1970's I designed a 'Non-Profit Corporation Course' for the Business Department at Portland State University. Years earlier, during my audit of the Albina Corporation (Portland's multi-million dollar poverty program), I discovered that a principal problem was an **untrained and naive board of directors**, that would approve any act of a charismatic management. Interestingly — and after the fact — the principal funding agency, the Office of Economic Opportunity, went on a nationwide mission to **train community people for the role of a director in these organizations.**

Equally as interesting was the fact that on recommendation of the Dean of the School of Business, Dr. Parker, scores of white students employed by nonprofit institutions enrolled in my class — for 'Urban Studies' credit. The whites outnumbered the Blacks by a ratio of 25 to 1. In fact, the all white faculty of the Business Department, alarmed by the loss of so much student 'head count', successfully demanded that the class be structured into their department, where it remained for many years.

Perhaps I should tell my student that **there really isn't any excuse.** After all there are several well known Nonprofit Foundation Centers in the country, which have proven expertise in the training of personnel and board members. One wonders just what is taught at the locally sponsored seminars and retreats; especially when you encounter people who have never heard of a **voucher system of accounting**, or who have no idea of their **legal responsibilities or liabilities.** Then too, you might wonder why the **National Offices** of these programs would not employ skilled **troubleshooting teams** for dispatch where needed? What would you tell my young student about the future here — Get out of town on the next stage?

Commissioner's Forum Luncheon



Dick Bogle

Featured speaker at Commissioner Dick Bogle's Forum Luncheon at Noon on Tuesday, Oct. 18 will be Ronnie Herndon, director of child development for the Albina Ministerial Alliance and co-chair of the Black United Front. Herndon has chosen as his topic, "Partners for Success: Education and Business."

This month's Forum Luncheon is being held at the Ramada Inn at the Coliseum, 10 N. Weidler, due to a conflict with the police chief's convention. The monthly luncheon is scheduled to return to the Coliseum Red Lion Inn in November.

The Commissioner's Forum Luncheon was started by Charles Jordan during his tenure at City Hall. When Bogle was elected to succeed Jordan in 1984, he carried on the tradition.

The luncheons serve as a sounding board for Black issues and concerns, as well as an information pipeline between City Hall and the Black community.

Person wishing to make reservations should call Commissioner Bogle's office, 248-4682, by Friday, Oct. 14. Cost of the luncheon is \$7.75.

A Response ...

Diary Of Black Men: How Do You Love A Black Woman?

DIARY OF BLACK MEN: HOW DO YOU LOVE A BLACK WOMEN?

In response to the article written by Garland Lee Thompson, the Broadway Bound Reporter, for the **Portland Observer** (a black newspaper) Oct. 6, 1988, Subject: Diary of Black Men: How Do You Love A Black Woman? ...

Black playwright, Thomas Meloncon's controversial play premiered in Portland, Ore., Sunday, Oct. 2, 1988, before an enthusiastic crowd in the Masonic Temple, YES, at \$18.50 a pop! Close to 1,000 people attended most of whom were Black, and definitely fashionably dressed. Mr. Thompson made mention of the ticket price twice. However, he obviously doesn't understand the difference between traveling productions and local storefront theatre where many of the actors donate their services, and can opt to take Tri-Met to their performances.

Maceba is a Black production company employing cast members who have several outstanding credits i.e. movies, etc. and charges a so-called high price for its renowned work — isn't it quite ironic though when Black people want to play pro-ball we get put down for such things as charging \$18.50 a justified ticket price. I guest though because we're Black we need to be reminded we can only participate in non-profit and charity ventures. In other words, stay in our own league, hold on to a poverty level consciousness, and don't reach for the "Cats!" BULL...

Ticket prices are much higher for shows like Cats or even Dreamgirls (with a student discount I paid \$32.50 to see Dreamgirls in Los Angeles) where audiences are mesmerized by moving sets; certainly not "zip sets" as Mr. Thompson referred to the "Diary" as having. However, the majority of us were more interested in the message than the sets.

Mr. Thompson made other distasteful remarks regarding the play; very one sided and negative. He referred to "The Diary of Black Men," as a "bare-bone bus and truck" operation and "the pits" is what he called the Masonic Temple located across from the Arlene Schnitzer auditorium. Of course, it is no way as glamorous as the Portland State Auditorium, where "Simply Heavenly" played directed by non other than the Broadway Bounder himself, Garland Lee Thompson.

Maceba Affairs has traveled the country with the "Diary" for five years. They have received objective reviews from critics in major cities such as Atlanta, Houston, Chicago, and Los Angeles. These critics did touchbase on some of the technical problems of the play, lighting, audio and even mentioned the ticket price which has apparently been the standard rate for the "Diary" over the years.



Sylvia McDaniel

Some of the critics even mentioned the lack of sets. Yet, these critics also had the courage to give credit to where credit was due. They recognized the spirit of the "Diary."

The professional acting displayed by the "Diary" cast helped us to acknowledge that there is a vivid conflict between Black men and women. Yet, according to Mr. Thompson, by looking at Constance Jones (the only female in the play who has no lines — I wonder why with a title like Diary of Black Men) he could learn to love a Black woman without the shouts (referring to the minister in the play) etc. etc. What does that mean? Sounds like something "Slick" would say.

Fortunately, in spite of the technical problems, the massive crowds still flock to greet the "Diary" which is heading back to Los Angeles next month for an encore performance. In Portland there was constant laughter, a letting out of emotion and a standing ovation. The week after, positive conversations, and discussions were heard throughout the community and I received hundreds and hundreds of telephone calls. Most all of you agreed that the bringing of a national Black play like the "Diary" was long overdue in Portland, and that we need more productions like Maceba Affairs presents to dazzle us with their spirit. This is why close to 1,000 people showed up for the performance and will continue to do so.

Mr. Thompson's report, however, does prove the validity of the "Diary." Its spirit will linger on even though not everyone will appreciate its meaning. Thomas Meloncon wrote "It's (the play) going to do a lot of different things to the audience. Some people will be shocked and some will be angry — others will be happy." The day before the show I took cast members to various "see me" stops. One member, Clarence Whitmore said to me regarding the "Diary," "The struggle goes on."

The "Diary" is slowly substantiating its viability as a successful, traveling Black production. Unlike many of your top white Broadway shows (a few Black), who have "big time" backing, Maceba Affairs and supporters strive as a group, performing with less capital, what they

Blacks In Government: Columbia River Chapter

The Columbia River Chapter of Blacks In Government (BIG), cordially invites you to participate in a fundraising benefit Oct. 29, at the Portland Air National Guard (PANG) Club, from 8 p.m. - 2 a.m. Your volunteer efforts will help provide students in need of financial assistance. Our theme is from the National Conference held in Washington, D.C., "Making A difference, A Right and A Responsibility."

Please help in volunteering your time, by checking one area of expertise. Please call 282-1956 for additional information, between 6 - 9 p.m.

I WILL PARTICIPATE BY VOLUNTEERING IN:

Dancing _____
Modeling _____
Singing _____
Other _____
Signature: _____

RSVP by October 16, 1988

Your volunteer efforts will provide exposure to a diverse and professional audience. Send your area of interest to BIG, P.O. Box 5104, Portland, Oregon 97208.

Complimentary tickets will be mailed for you and one guest, as a gesture of appreciation. Thank You for helping BIG "Make A Difference," by helping the Saturday School and the Albina Youth Opportunity, achieve success.

BIG is a non-profit organization encompassing the Portland Metropolitan Area and Willamette Valley. Its purpose is to provide a vehicle for employees and retirees of federal, state, and local governments, discuss unique problems affecting them as a minority; select strategies to resolve problems, and capture opportunities which include the following: A) Act as an advocate for equity and equality of opportunity; B) Raise issues related to the well being of others; C) Advocate changes within the government which will assure equal opportunities; D) Establish an effective communication network which reaches others for information which affects them; E) Promote professionalism and establish a skill bank to facilitate the recruitment of candidates; F) Develop mechanisms to eliminate practices of racism, monitor affirmative action programs, and make recommendations for improving its effectiveness; G) Support other community activities that enhance the promotion of socio-economic, civic, and cultural programs and fellowships which will serve to bring employees together collectively.

Neighborhood Resource Forum

Neighborhood Association Board members and other interested citizens are invited to join fellow volunteers for a Neighborhood Resource Forum on Thursday, Oct. 13, from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. in the Portland Building's Meeting Room C, 1120 S.W. 5th. Neighborhood leaders and representatives from the Office of Neighborhood Associations will present an overview of resources and programs available to assist neighborhood associations. A resource forum will follow, featuring information on citizen involvement opportunities, neighborhood office services, and community programs for neighborhoods.

According to Sarah Newhall, Director of ONA and a featured speaker, "there are many success stories in our neighborhoods. We hope this information will help more neighborhood volunteers make success stories of their own." This orientation is open to new, returning, and potential volunteers who are interested in helping their neighborhood associations work more effectively.

This event is sponsored by the Office of Neighborhood Associations. Free parking is available in the Portland Building. For information contact: Nancy Biasi, 248-4519.

Pacific Power's Project HELP Program To Continue This Year

More than 400 Portland families received fuel assistance last year through Pacific Power's Project HELP program which will continue this year, Kathy Kerins, Pacific's Rose City Manager reported Oct. 4.

The program was initiated in 1982 in response to the recession. "When Pacific started this program six years ago, the economy was down and some customers needed help getting by," Kerins said.

Project HELP is funded entirely by customer and shareholder donations and is available to all Pacific Power customers regardless of how they heat their homes. The Salvation Army administers Pacific's Portland program.

Each year Pacific shareholders give up to \$100,000 to Project HELP. The rest of the money comes from customer contributions, Kerins said.

To date, Pacific's shareholders and customers have given over \$1.2 million to the needy in five of the six states it serves.

Last year over \$34,000 was raised to help Pacific's Portland customers grants of almost \$30,000. Total donations from Pacific's Oregon-California region edged close to \$125,000.

This year's fund-raising drive will kick-off Nov. 10, with a Noon media event at Pioneer Courthouse Square. Customer assistance is scheduled to begin after the first of the year.

The Other Side

Feel The Power ... Register To Vote!



by Harold C. Williams

On Nov. 8, 1988, it will be an important time in all of our lives. We will be voting for President, Vice President, we will be voting for State Representatives, a Mayor, and voting for many other officials that will be affecting our lives. The Black community must exercise its influence by voting, thereby assuring that we have an opportunity to participate and set the rules that governs our lives.

The rules of politics decides some very basic principles: who lives, who dies. As we have seen in many cases regarding children and the lack of funds to take care of their medical conditions, and the lack of funds to take care of their medical conditions, there are governmental agencies that decide who would live and who would die. Some children paid some very high prices this past year because there was no one to speak on their behalf to ensure that they had sufficient funds to take care of their medical conditions. Human Resources decided that the funds were not available to take care of a child's medical

needs and that child died. Believe it or not, those decisions were based on politics. Politics also determines who eats and who doesn't. Whether children get the proper nutrition, whether the household gets food stamps or not, these decisions are all based on politics. How many pollutants are allowed in the air is based on politics. How much water is available for irrigation for farmers is based on politics. Whether one community gets new sidewalks or not is based on politics.

It is time that we recognize that politics is a way of life. It may not give life, but it most definitely can take it. It is important that we stand up and make sure that everyone in our community who is old enough to vote is registered and after they register make sure that they get out and vote. If we are not a part of the solution, then we will definitely be a part of the problem. We don't have any right to complain if we refuse to vote. Whether we vote for Margaret Carter, Bud Clark, Dukakis or whomever, we must register and vote. The time is now. We must decide. Vote November 8, 1988.

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THE ROYAL EQUINE CLUB
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Vice Pres. - Willie Morehouse	BOARD OF TRUSTEES:
Financial Sec. - Henry Williams	Fred Dove
Recording Sec. - Ruth Jackson	Johnnie M. Lewis
Treasurer - Berry Walker	Ray Harper
	Silas Davis

For information Contact: Mr. Lamoine Price, 8312 N. Hurst Ave., Portland, OR 97203, (503) 283-4005.