

EDITORIAL / OPINION



Crime Against Humanity

by Dr. Jamil Cherovee

Every sincere person in this country should read, **BAD BLOOD: THE TUSKEGEE SYPHILIS EXPERIMENT**. By James Jones. Stopping World War III. By Michael Myerson and Mark Solomon. A poor caucasian woman offered me the books, with tears in her eyes, if I would just buy her a meal in San Francisco. Having read the books, I thought this would be a good opportunity to help another human being. I told the girl to order dinner for herself. She had a problem, understanding how her government could have allowed such a crime to be perpetrated against U.S. citizens.

Documents released under the Freedom of Information Act have revealed that for 30 years the U.S. government had been experimenting with the fungus "Aspergillus Fumigatus Mutant C-2," said the simulate coccidioides or Valley Fever. According to the documents, "Negroes are more susceptible" to this affliction than caucasians. If you are shocked by these experiments in ethnic warfare, you would no doubt be horrified by the tale unfolded in James Jones' "Bad Blood"... From 1932 until 1972, when a massive public outcry arise, the United States Public Health Service (USPHS) conducted a "study" of the effects of syphilis on more than 400 Black men in Macon County, Alabama. In actuality, the so-called study was a dastardly conspiracy involving USPHS physicians, the all-Black Tuskegee Institute and its hospital, county and state health departments, draft boards and, ultimately, the U.S. government. Treatment was deliberately withheld from these victims of syphilis in an alleged effort to ascertain the natural course of the disease, without regard for the cost to the Black men or their spouses. Auschwitz is the closest parallel to what the author has termed "the on human beings in medical history.

Why? What prompted this awful crime against humanity? A landmark study of untreated syphilis had been completed years earlier in Oslo, Norway. Yet, a battery of U.S. "scientists" were intent on proving that syphilis was "different in Blacks."

The author has "no fire in his belly," and his bland prose does not convey the outrage that this tragic episode so richly deserves. Indeed, Jones goes so far as to reprimand a fellow historian for being "more concerned with proving charges of racism than attempting to understand what happened."

Ultimately, the Associated Press broke the story in 1972, and a lawsuit was filed that led, reportedly, to a cash payment by the U.S. government of ten million dollars. Providing a cruel epitaph, a Black Alabama lawyer who processed the survivors' claims observed, "The sad thing is that it could happen all over again."

Michael Myerson, Executive Director of the U.S. Peace Council, and Professor Mark Solomon, a co-chair of the same organization, have provided an important document in a small package on how Cold War II can lead to World War III. In their opening chapter, entitled "Apocalyptic Nonsense" - The First Strike Doctrine," we get the following gory statistics: ... a single one-megaton bomb dropped on New York City would cause 5,906,000 casualties - a 20-megaton bomb would kill 9,487,000 outright and seriously injure 4,898,000 for a total of 14,385,000 casualties. I'm inclined to believe, the manner in which all of these millions would die would dwarf the war crimes committed in World War II, including our government's bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Consequently, Washington current regression to Cold War behavior, its substitution of military power for diplomacy and its general heightening of international treasons to the degree that nuclear war seems increasingly inevitable, suggest that one of the most criminal conspiracies in the annals of human history may be afoot. In the words of Italy's Defence Minister Lelio Lagorio, "The White House is behaving like a madman about to light a cigarette in a dynamite dump." So Stopping World War III is both a timely and necessary statement which sets forth the premises of U.S. foreign policy while, at the same time, reviewing the history of the Cold War, including who started it and why. Myerson and Solomon reject the "equal" theory, believing rather that the number one threat to world peace is the U.S. government. In this regard, they echo Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s view that our government is the major purveyor of violence in the world today. Documentation for this position is abundantly provided in Stopping World War III.

In order to stop World War III, k said the author, Americans must counter the "Washington Treat," the chief obstacle to world peace.

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GUEST EDITORIAL: John Jacob Calls On President-Elect Bush To Convene A Meeting With National Black Leadership

Black and white Americans in the key indicators of family and individual well-being -- indicators such as educational achievement, employment, income, life expectancy and infant mortality," he concluded.

Honored at the dinner, which is the League's major fundraising event were Roberto C. Goizueta, Chairman and chief Executive Officer of The Coca-Cola Company, and John H. Johnson, Publisher, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Johnson Publishing Company, Inc.

The Equal Opportunity Day Dinner is held each year on or near the actual date of the Gettysburg Address delivered by President Abraham Lincoln. The dinner provides an opportunity for the League to honor citizens who not only are "dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal" but also have devoted their lives toward making equal opportunity a reality.

Opera star Isola Jones was the featured guest artist at the Dinner. Ms. Jones, a native of Chicago, has distinguished herself in many roles, including the lead in "Carmen" opposite Placido Domingo and Jose Carreras.

Hamish Maxwell, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Philip Morris Companies, Inc. was chairman of the dinner.

John J. Jacob, President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Urban League, speaking at the 32nd Annual Equal Opportunity Day Dinner Tuesday, November 15 at New York City's Hilton Hotel called on President-elect George Bush to convene a meeting with the national Black leadership.

"President-elect Bush has a historic opportunity to reshape policies that have widened the gap between the races, and by doing so, reshape America's politics," said Jacob.

"First, I call on the president-elect to convene an informal, off-the-record meeting with national Black leadership."

"He needs to exchange ideas with Black leaders ... get suggestions from them on personnel and policies ... give the Black community what it hasn't had in eight years -- access to our national leadership," Jacob told his audience. Jacob continued by adding, "we need the opportunity to help Mr. Bush be what he says he wants to be -- president of all Americans."

"I also call on the president-elect to adopt the Urban League's priority goal -- black-white parity by the year 2000.

"I propose that Mr. Bush declare that his administration will implement policies that advance parity between

CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNAL



Keysville, GA: Good News Continues

by Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

Earlier in the year we reported the victory of the African-American community in gaining political control of the town of Keysville, Georgia. Mrs. Emma Gresham who was elected Mayor of Keysville has been struggling to insure that this political victory will now lead to the socioeconomic development of the African-American community. Prior to Gresham's election the majority African-American population of Keysville had been subjected to a kind of American apartheid where all aspects of social and institutional life of the town was exclusively controlled by the minority white community.

It's good to hear that progress is still being made in Keysville toward the development and improvement of all the citizens in Keysville, without restriction to race social status. Too often in some places where an African-American or another racial and ethnic person has acquired the political reigns of a municipality, the socioeconomic state of the African-American community has not always changed for the better.

Keysville, Georgia, with its success, becomes a model movement for empowerment where the energy of the people who want justice and a better way of life did not stop after election day. It is a real tribute to the leadership of Mayor Gresham and to all of the people of Keysville, who continue to work for economic justice; that recently the town opened its

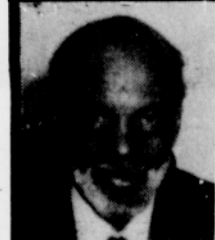
first Day Care Center and hosted its first Health Fair. In addition, a new Fire Station has been opened.

In less than one year's time the town of Keysville has literally been transformed from a city of racial hatred and exploitation to a community of racial progress and empowerment. Of course, none of this would have been possible without the sacrifices necessitated in the political struggle against the local forces of racism.

To challenge and fight against racism successfully requires determination, forbearance and the courage to take risks. In the case of Keysville, Georgia this successful struggle has also required the leadership of a very capable African-American woman who dared not only to say no to racism in her community, but who also stood up in a manner that gave inspiration to hundreds of others.

When the rest of the nation celebrates Martin Luther King's birthday in the next several weeks, Keysville, Georgia will be renaming its major "Martin Luther King Road." Dr. King would certainly be proud of the accomplishments of this community. At a time when there appears to be a lull in the "Freedom Movement" in the United States, it is indeed refreshing to hear that Mayor Gresham and the African-American community of Keysville, Georgia are still victoriously on the road to freedom.

Perspectives



Professor McKinley Burt

Don't Let Them Put You Down

Part II

Like many of our ancestors, the culture-bearing Moors leave us no excuse for allowing any Johnny-come-lately to civilization to put Black people down. Here, I follow on last week's introduction to the African-inspired Renaissance in Europe. The Moorish conquests began in the 7th and 8th centuries A.D.; Their culture was in full flower by the 12th century--in Italy, Spain and southern France, far beyond the "Middle East".

Years ago I discovered a remarkable book, *The History of Playing Cards*. A new vista for research opened before my eyes as I perceived the figures, costumes and images with which the thousand-year-old cards were decorated to be African in origin; this was affirmed in the text. I ordered a number of related books by European authors. It all stood revealed: *Tarot Cards*; the *Gypsy* with his fortune telling and metal working; the *Jongleurs* (Jugglers and tumblers), those peripatetic, talented actors who gave plays on the street corners of Italian cities (founders of the Commedia dell'arte which evolved into the *Opera* as we know it today)--All of these were among the immigrations and imports from Africa that brought light to the *Dark Ages* of Europe.

Many of the Moors who came to Europe overland by way of Syria, Palestine and Mesopotamia--the latter being today's Iran and Iraq lying athwart the 'Ethiopian Sea' (now *The Persian Gulf*)--were as Black and woolly-headed as the Muslim oil ministers you see on television today. These are the people who preserved the great works in science, mathematics and medicine developed in Alexandria in Africa, much of it falsely attributed to the Greeks who traveled there to learn. It was a great opportunity to learn true history, having among my students at Portland State University hundreds from Iran, Iraq, Pales-

tine, Syria, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

The May-June, 1982 issue of the *Aramco World Magazine* (Arabian-American Oil Company) is devoted to a full description of these wonders brought to Europe by the Moors. Equally as wondrous is the art they created. The Muslim religion forbids the reproduction of the human figure so they concentrated on developing the beautiful and sophisticated spatial patterns found in their architecture and textiles throughout their dominions. If you look through *National Geographic Magazine* you will find many examples yet in Italy, Spain and southern France--And in North Africa and west coast nations like Nigeria, and of course in the Middle East. Interested in using related patterns and embroidery? See *Textiles & Needlework*, Dover Publishing Co., 1978.

One of the most important advances in chemistry came as a result of this structured development of an art form. Late last century, a Russian "scientist discovered that what the Moors had really done was to develop a completely new discipline and format for displaying and defining the position of objects or points in space. In their art they had discovered and diagrammed all 237 possible space arrangements or lattice patterns, and had identified the 17 major spatial groups.

Put another way, the Moors devised a system which permitted modern scientists to specify accurately all of the possible arrangements of atoms and molecules. Chemists became artists as they were enabled to identify elements and compounds by the Moorish techniques of manipulating images in space by rotation, translation and reflection. *X-ray Crystallography* was born! (See *College Chemistry* by Linus Pauling).

Creed Of The Black Press

The Black Press believes that America can best lead the world away from social and national antagonisms when it accords to every person, regardless of race, color, or creed, full human and legal rights. Hating no person, fearing no person, the Black Press strives to help every person in the firm belief that all are hurt as long as anyone is held back.



Along the Color Line

Dr. Manning Marable

The Demise Of Liberalism

(Part 2)

Dukakis's defeat last month was characterized as a failure of the political philosophy of liberalism. One of the reasons for the increasingly conservative perspective of both major parties is the subtle element of racism. Ever since the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, broad sections of the white public have become convinced that the national leadership of the Democratic Party has gone too far in guaranteeing Blacks' opportunities and rights, at the expense of the social mobility and material welfare of the white majority.

Perhaps a generation ago, there existed a reservoir of racial guilt toward the status of the Afro-American, the product of several centuries of slavery, Jim Crow and socioeconomic discrimination. Many whites genuinely felt uncomfortable when confronted with the brutal realities of the ghetto, and earnestly favored policies which would reduce overt racial prejudice. Legislation was passed to extend basic constitutional rights to those who had been unjustly denied them. But by the 1970s, as the power of the Black electorate increased, and as white males slipped to a minority within the overall national labor force, a sharp metamorphosis in public psychology occurred. Suddenly, there was the uneasy perception that "too much" had been given the Negro. Without resorting to the racist vulgarities of a George Wallace, conservative politicians like Ronald Reagan cleverly tapped the new mood of racial antipathy.

The recent rejection of liberalism at the polls is therefore a reaction against people of color, an attempt to check the advances of affirmative action and the broader freedom struggle. The concepts of compensatory justice and political compassion for the oppressed no longer have mass support among the white middle class.

The consequences of the collapse of liberalism as a dominant political philosophy within government will be most painfully apparent within the economy. President-elect Bush was never an advocate of Reaganomics prior to 1980; indeed, he denigrated the supply-side, lower tax dogmas as "voodoo economics". Yet throughout the 1988 campaign, Bush proclaimed: "Read my lips, no new taxes." It was good political rhetoric, but very poor economic policy, considering the multi-billion dollar deficits which the federal government hemorrhages annually. Despite the appointment of non-ideologues to important economic policy positions, notably Richard G. Darman as director of the Office of Management and Budget, the markets doubt that Bush will be able to extricate himself from his irrational campaign promises.

The Federal Reserve Board will move toward tighter monetary policies to defend the value of the dollar abroad. This will contribute to higher interest and inflation rates. Cutbacks in production could trigger a chain reaction, culminating into a severe recession within twelve to fifteen months. The scenario above points to the necessity to reduce federal expenditures, such as cutting the bloated Pentagon budget. But the logic of political conservatism will mean balancing the budget on the backs of those who can least afford austerity. That means even deeper cuts in social welfare, public housing, education and social programs which address the needs of minorities, working people and the poor. Despite Bush's declaration that he wants to become known as the "Education President", his economic agenda threatens to erode any possibility of advances in public education. The prospects for job training programs targeting the hardcore unemployed will become even bleaker in the 1990s.

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