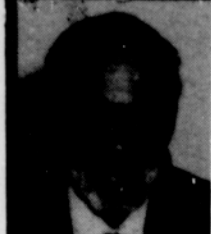


COMMUNITY FORUM

Perspectives

What To Read

Part 1 of 2



Professor McKinley Burt

I wish to thank my many readers for their support and comments this past year. You may rest assured that 1989 will bring a lot more information useful to students, teachers, parents and the public at large. This article is about sources for obtaining related books and documentation of the African-American experience.

First (smiles,) my book, *Black Inventors of America*, may be obtained at the *Talking Drum Bookstore*, 1634 N.E. Alberta (afternoons, Tues. through Sat.). Another prime source is the *Looking Glass Bookstore* at 318 S.W. Taylor (excellent service and will promptly order for you any book not in stock) some titles given below.

LOOKING GLASS: Thor Heyerdal, *Kon Tiki* (documents that African voyages in reed and papyrus boats or rafts enabled them to migrate all over the world in ancient times); Peter Tompkins, *Secrets of the Great Pyramid*, Harperpubs. (The best book on the Great Pyramid, its history and mathematics); Frank Snowden, *Blacks in Antiquity*, Belnap/Harvard Press (Black history prof. at Howard U. documents the Black presence in Greece and Rome); Bernal, *Black Athena*, Rutgers U. Press (Establishes African Roots of ancient classical civilization); Van Sertima, *They Came Before Columbus*, Random House (Early Black cultures in the Americas).

LOOKING GLASS: Lewis, *Coal, Iron and Slaves*, Greenwood Pubs. (Documents the use of skilled slaves in the Colonial Iron Industry); Barbara Sewell, *Egypt Under the Pharaohs*, Putnam-Sons; Zaslavsky, *Africa Counts*, Lawrence Hill & Co. (Excellent survey of number systems, math and games developed by Africans). The following are ordered out of their *'Dover'* catalog: No. 22632-8, Erman, *Life in Ancient Egypt*, \$8.95;

No. 235017, Budge, *Dwellers On the Nile*, \$6.95; No. 22548-8, White, *Ancient Egypt*, \$4.95; No. 23500-9, Carter, *Discovery of Tutankhamen*, \$6.95.

Be sure to write for a catalog from *Barnes and Noble Bookstore*, 126 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10011. This is a very economical source for valuable books. Some you may wish to order immediately are No. 01482538, *Ancient Centers of Egyptian Civilization*, \$4.98; No. 1336445, *The Leyden Papyrus* (Ancient African Medicine), \$4.50; No. 01430552, *Queen of Sheba*, \$5.98; No. 01336437, *Ancient Egypt: Its Culture*, \$4.95; No. 1557545, *Rameses II*, \$6.95; No. 1523877, *Africa: Her History*, \$1.00. Be sure to include \$3.95 for shipping and insurance.

Now, if you really want to treat yourself—or inspire a student in the family—order one or all of this three-volume set from the same company above: *Ancient Egyptian Literature*, \$9.95 each. Vol. I, No. 1238625, Vol. II, No. 1238633, Vol. III 1238641. What a surprise for those of you who thought that all that beautiful prose and poetry written by *European* authors throughout the centuries was original—in either style or content. Here you will find the ancient African basis for our classic poems, novels, plots for plays, and even for the parables and declarations of many *Biblical Prophets*—all written thousands of years earlier.

If you know a Black teenager seeking a career in science or engineering, get these excellent minority-oriented career guides for free: *What is like to be an Engineer*, and *Take it from Us—You can be an Engineer*. Write, 'Educational Communications, General Electric Co., Fairfield, CT 06431.

Next week; Some more goodies, and how to read them!

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.

THE OTHER SIDE



New Year Prayer

by Harold Williams

God we pray that love and peace will be with us this year. And that understanding will be the foundation on which we build the future toward greater generations.

God our strength and power give us the will to look one another in the face and speak with truth and forgiveness. For we know you can give the wisdom that we need to overcome all danger.

We pray that this generation will find itself in time in order to become the guiding light for the next generation.

We pray that our youth will use education as the drug to attain higher learning.

We pray that the elderly will be protected and will not have to choose between heat and eat.

Please God give fathers and mothers the strength to keep families together doing these trouble times. This we pray.

Happy New Year! Peace & Love

Hospital & City Plead "Mea Culpa"

by Stephen E. McPherson
Special Correspondent

It would appear that those persons who make the decisions that affect almost one half million people in the most livable City of Roses are finally taking notice of an affront that was perpetrated upon the largely Black inhabitants in the defunct Emanuel Hospital Center urban renewal project almost two decades. In an apparent act of reconciliation, Sam Galbraith of what is sometimes viewed as the gluttonous Portland Develop-

ment Commission joined James R. Whiting of the Emanuel Hospital and Health Center, together with an official from the Portland Housing Authority to determine what could be done to rectify an admitted injustice wrought more than two decades in the past.

For more than one hour the protagonists who have often been viewed among the Black community as the enemy candidly addressed the problems and the expectations each side had for the now defunct project. James R. Whiting, representing the hospital

admitted that the hospital never had either expertise or experience with the development of housing. He also admitted that in its initial concept of the plan, the Center anticipated that a new veterans hospital would be located on the urban renewal site.

The suggestion was made that if the hospital center did indeed lack expertise in the area of housing development and also had failed to perform over a period of 20 years, wouldn't it appear more logical to relinquish part of the land parcel and turn it over to a developer with demonstrated success in that area? He agreed that such an approach was had a definite attraction in the realm of what could be accomplished. The meeting which could be described as cautiously productive was held last night at the King Neighborhood Facility under the auspices of the Northeast Neighborhood Coalition. The meeting was chaired by Ron Herndon, Chairman of the board with Charles Ford, director of the facility and also a member of the board keeping the discussion in focus and extracting specific commitments from the each of the visiting agencies.

The subject of the discussion was the how Emanuel Hospital and Health Center had displaced a large number of elderly persons, mostly Black, more than 15 years ago with the promise that more modern housing facilities would be constructed to replace them. This promise was left virtually unrealized. The vacant lots and boarded homes in the area are a constant

reminder to the community of what some consider to be a fraud that was perpetrated against them.

The problem resurfaced last summer when Kahlma Shamsuddin, a 14-year old Black girl, was shot in the head by a known gang member. Many persons considered the callous treatment she received at the Emanuel Trauma Center underscored the typical attitude that facility displayed toward poor and especially Black people.

The PORTLAND OBSERVER ran several stories on the subject and also did a special television program on that subject which led to a discussion of the now defunct Emanuel Hospital Center urban renewal project.

In a later television program during the mayoral election, this writer questioned both candidates about

Continued To Page 6

Confronting Racism: Art About Apartheid

Blackfish Gallery is pleased to begin its Tenth Anniversary year with 'Confronting Racism', a compelling exhibit of works by Blackfish artists and by invited guest artists of regional and national stature. The show runs January 4 through 28, 1989, with an opening reception Thursday, January 5, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. In conjunction with the exhibit of visual art, Blackfish will present two special events of outstanding interest to a wide audience:

PANEL DISCUSSION ON RACISM AT HOME AND IN SOUTH AFRICA
Thursday, January 12, 7:30 p.m. at the Gallery

The panel moderator is Zaher Wahab, Professor of Education at Lewis and Clark College. Professor Wahab has also secured the participation of African-born political activist Basko Kante, plus Mackie Faye Hill, Director of Minority Affairs at

Portland State University, and Kamau Anderson, a spokesperson for Portlanders Organized for South African Freedom. A rousing evening is guaranteed; admission is free, but seating is limited)

AN EVENING OF LIVE PERFORMANCES
Thursday, January 19, 7:30 p.m. at the Gallery

Acclaimed actor Rick Jones will read from Athol Fugard's riveting play, *Sizwe Bansi is Dead*. And in addition, noted choreographer Carolyn Altman and her company have created a performance piece specifically for the exhibition space, and it will premier tonight. Tickets are available at Blackfish for \$3.00 in advance, \$3.50 at the door. Seating is limited.

Blackfish Gallery is wheelchair accessible and parking is plentiful. The address is 420 N.W. Ninth Avenue, Portland, Oregon, 97209.

Roland Harris: Sleeping Giant Of The Opera

by Stephen E. McPherson
Special Correspondent

The Portland Opera Players will revive their embellishment of *The Barber of Seville* when their English version, *Figaro! Figaro!*, opens Friday, January 6th AT 8:00 P.M. in the Eastside Performance Center at 531 S.E. 14th here in Portland. Other performances will follow during the intervening weeks on Saturday nights and with Sunday matinees. This delightful version of Rossini's very popular opera was written in collaboration with Michael Berkson and Philip Kelsey, both of the Portland Opera staff.

Of particular interest to the community is the fact that Roland Harris will be returning to the opera stage in the role of the infamous Dr. Bartolo. Mr. Harris is not only a native of the City of Roses, but also has sung with the "Players" and on the main opera stage for a decade. Those who know Mr. Harris will be happy not only to enjoy his musical prowess but also will be delightfully surprised to observe his acting skills as an opera buff. The characterization of Dr. Bartolo is completely alien to the gentle dignity Mr. Harris displays offstage. In that sense he probably is one of the sleeping giants who has not yet realized his full potential in the Portland Opera Company. For years he has languished anonymously in the opera chorus perhaps conjuring up the notion of seeing himself in a more challenging role commensurate with his talents. Perhaps Dr. Bartolo is one such vehicle which could lead to a more significant exposure.

Mr. Harris is an enigma to the performing arts in that he lacks the

flamboyance that frequently identifies such persons. Even though he stands well over six feet and even in a whisper projects a thunderlike bass-baritone voice whose timbre reverberates off the walls, he also projects the personality of a big teddy bear.

Roland Harris is not new to opera, either. He first started performing in opera work shops some 20 years ago while pursuing the Bachelor of Music at the University of Oregon. He later earned the Master of Music at Eugene, also. His repertoire includes roles in *La Bohème*, *Gianni Schicchi*, *Martha*, *The Barber of Seville*, *La Traviata* and *La Franciulla del West*. As if these credentials were not impressive enough, Mr. Harris has composed a number of pieces that were sung in concert and also orchestrated one of the popular hits that was performed at the Rose Festival Coronation in the late '70's.

The entire Harris family exudes musical talent. His grown son, Barry who now lives independently plays the trumpet. Seventeen year old Carla, a senior in high school, plays the flute in the marching band. His wife, DeLores, sings in the choir.

Even though *Figaro! Figaro!* will be sung in English, Mr. Harris has sung other roles in French, Italian and German. He prepares for each new role by sitting at his piano in the basement of the family home to play, sing, learn and tape record his role until it has been polished into a professional quality. The young people in the Portland School District are quite fortunate to have such a teacher as Roland Harris, perhaps with his encouragement, other great talents will be discovered within the abundant human resources of Portland.

Israeli Embassy Tribute To Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Embassy of Israel in Washington, in cooperation with the Jewish National Fund of America, will host their Fourth Annual Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 9, 1989 at 5:00 p.m. This year's program and reception will commemorate the 60th birthday of Dr. King.

The ceremony will include a presentation by the Jewish National Fund of the 1989 Civil Rights Award to two individuals whose distinguished service to the Black community deserves special recognition: Althea Simmons, Director of the Washington, D.C. office of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and William Taylor, civil rights attorney and counsel for the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights.

Congressman Floyd Flake (D-NY, 6th district), a member of the Banking Finance and Urban Affairs Committee and the House Select Committee on Hunger, and a recipient of many awards including the 1986 Ebony magazine Black American Achievement Award in Religion, will address the gathering with Israel's Ambassador Moshe Arad presiding over the ceremony.

A spiritual and gospel performance will be given by the Metroaires of the Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church of the Reverend William P. DeVeaux, under the Direction of Daniel Hodge.

Dr. King was, throughout his brief life, a strong friend of the State of

Israel. The Martin Luther King, Jr. Forest, the Jewish State's living memorial to Dr. King now numbers over 10,000 trees. It is our sincere hope that our ceremony, now in its fourth year, will not only commemorate Dr. King's life and his legacy to future generations but also serve as a celebration of the good will and unity of people and world over.

For more information including coverage arrangements, please contact Yossi Gal, Press Counselor, Embassy of Israel at (202) 364-5538/9.

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