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## Economics In Focus: Women In Business

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The number of women-owned businesses continues its long-term growth, according to new government figures.

The Internal Revenue Service recently published 1986 figures for women-owned sole proprietorships. Between 1980 and 1986 the number of women-owned sole proprietorships grew from 2.5 to 4.1 million, an increase of 64 percent. During the same period, business receipts doubled from \$36 to \$72 billion.

James Abdnor, Administrator of the Small Business Administration

(SBA), in commenting on the new figures, said, "Women-owned businesses are currently the fastest growing segment of the economy and I believe that what we are seeing today is just the beginning. As these businesses mature, their share of the market and of total sales is also expected to increase."

Between 1985 and 1986 the number and receipts of women-owned sole proprietorships increased by ten percent. The number of women-owned firms increased from 3.7 to 4.1 million and receipts increased from \$65 to \$72 billion.

Another plus is that women's share of all sole proprietorships and receipts also increased from 1985 levels, from 28 percent to 30 percent and 12 to 13 percent respectively.

Carol M. Crockett, director of SBA's Office of Women's Business Ownership, said, "These figures are very encouraging and illustrate the contribution women are making to the health of our nation's economy. Women are truly participants in the economic mainstream and are succeeding in our nation's dynamic entrepreneurial economy."

## PTA Mourns Death Of Past President

CHICAGO, ILL.—Clara Brownlee Gay, president of the National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers from 1967-70, died of a ruptured ulcer on December 24, 1988 in Athens, Georgia. She had just celebrated her 80th birthday.

During her term of office the National Congress of Parents and Teachers (NCPT) and the National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers (NCCPT) became one entity, the National PTA. Gay also wrote a brochure about the history of the "Colored Congress," which was formed in 1926, with the assistance of NCPT, to serve parents whose children had to by law attend segregated schools.

"Her term was a very significant one for the PTA and we are saddened to have lost such a valuable leader," said current National PTA president Manya Ungar, noting that Gay attended the National PTA convention as recently as 1987. She was also contributing to a living history of the 92-year-old PTA.

Gay's motto was "to stay busy and remain useful" which she did. Her hobbies included teaching music, and visiting the sick at their homes and in nursing homes and hospitals. And, up until her death she was a member of her grandson's PTA at the Clarke Middle School in Athens, GA.

Prior to being elected president of the National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers, Gay served as vice-president, secretary and music chairman. She was also president of

the Georgia Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers from 1950-54.

In addition to her PTA involvement, Gay was a member of the White House Conference on Education in 1955 and 1970, an appointed member of the Southeastern Education Laboratory serving Alabama, Georgia and Florida, and a member of the Georgia Joint State Legislative Committee. She was a life member of the National PTA, National Education Association and The Georgia Education Association.

Gay was recognized as Teacher of the Year for Clarke County in 1959 and 1965, was listed in *Who's Who Among American Women* and *Who's Who in Education*, and received a distinguished service award from the National Education Association in 1970. NEA named her One of Georgia's Outstanding Bicentennial Women in 1971.

She received her A.B. degree from Knoxville College in Tennessee and a Master's degree from Atlanta University in Georgia. She was principal at Clarke Central High School in Athens, was a supervisor and principal in South Carolina and was a high school teacher of English, speech and music.

Gay is survived by her sister Mildred Brownlee Gay and a son Clifford Alexander Gay of Savannah, GA., and her daughters Flora Ann Gordon Gay of Athens and Zadel Robinson of Augusta, GA. She was a grandmother of two.

## Teleconference On Black History

Portland Community College will kick off its annual celebration of Black History Month Wednesday, February 1, with a free video teleconference at three campuses.

"Beyond the Dream: A Celebration of Black History," will be from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Sylvania Campus, 12000 S.W. 49th Ave.; Rock Creek Campus, 17705 N.W. Springville Rd.; and Cascade Campus, 705 N. Killingsworth St.

The national conference will look at Black contributions to education, politics, economics, the military, the arts, sports, entertainment and social issues. It also will feature young Black men and women who represent the next generation of Black leaders in the United States.

The video teleconference will be delivered to audiences at colleges, universities, military installations, secondary schools, national organizations and federal and state agencies throughout the nation. As an "interactive" event, it will enable audience participants to call in questions a national panel will answer on the air.

Among national participants will be Mary Hatwood Futrell, president of the National Education Association; Donald M. Stewart, president of the college Board; Dorothy Brunson, chief executive officer of Brunson Broadcasting; Dean Sybil Mobley of the School of Business and Commerce at Florida A&M University; Dorothy Gilliam, Washington Post columnist; General Bernard Randolph, America's only Black active-duty, four-star general; Mae Jamison and Col. Charles Bolden, USMC, NASA astronauts; Take 6, a contemporary jazz/Gospel musical group; and Terry Cummings of the National Basketball Association's Milwaukee Bucks.

The conference is sponsored by the publishers of "Black Issues in Higher Education" and PCC, and will originate from Washington, D.C.

It was designed to interest business leaders, government employees, educators, health-care personnel and students. All participants are invited to bring sack lunches.

Further information is available from Keith Allen or Susan McCabe at PCC, 244-6111, ext. 4260 or 4655.

## New Year Resolutions

A man sat in his chair looking at the cards on which he had written three New Year's RESOLUTIONS.

"How ridiculous", he whispered, eyeing first one card, then the other. Why think he would do any better, improving his life this year, than he had in the past. He placed the cards on the table.

That night, the man had a dream. He dreamed he was at the head of a group, no, a mob. They ascended a steep hill by foot. They talked of what they must do, and grew angrier as they climbed. It seems, they were seeking out an old man who lived high on the mountain. For years the villagers believed his counsel wise without fault. If the old man spoke differently, the villagers refused to follow the leadership of the men who ascended the mountain. Today, all would be settled, the angry group agreed.

Finally they reached the cave. "Come out old man." The man called louder, "Old man, come forward." The others joined in the cry that the old present himself. It appeared a long white, but, finally, a figure stood at the opening. The man, seizing the leadership, stepped forward. He yelled, with conviction, "Some say you are always right. I say, you are a fake, and not as wise as I." The old man responded not a word.

The Man stepped closer. He held his arms extended, one hand cupped over the other. He challenged the sage, "I have in my hand, a bird. Is this bird alive or is it dead?" The old sage said nothing. "You heard me old man; is the bird I hold in my hands, alive or dead." The Man knew, if he answered that it was alive, he would crush the tiny bird. When he opened his powerful hands, the bird would be lifeless. If, on the other hand, the response was that the bird is dead, he would part his hands and the bird could fly into the air.

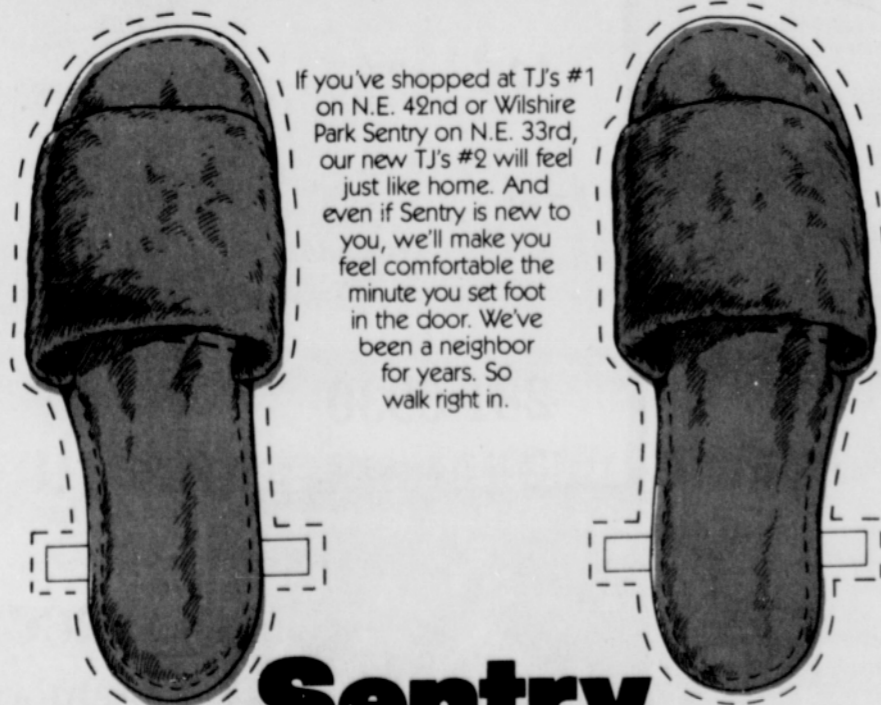
The Old Man, finally, broke his silence. He spoke softly, still all could hear. What the old man said was, "The decision is in your hands."

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