

STEIN SPONSORS SICK LEAVE BILL

SALEM -- Declaring it a "necessary step for modern families and working people," State Representative Beverly Stein, D-Portland, has sponsored a bill allowing employees to take sick leave to care for a dependent.

"It is fitting in our times for employers to accommodate employees by providing reasonable absences for family illnesses," Stein said testifying before the House Labor Committee on Wednesday. "People should be able to care for their dependents without the threat of losing a job when that care is required."

"One of the major changes facing Oregonians today is in the nature of the workforce, brought about by increasing numbers of single parent households, working mothers, and dual career families," she said.

Stein is the chief sponsor of House Bill 3283, which will require an employer to allow an employee to use his or her sick leave to care for an ill dependent. The intent is that the leave be used for unexpected, emergency situations, such as when one's child needs attending for a day or two.

Amendments to the bill would limit the amount of sick leave that can be taken to twenty days per year, whether sick leave benefits are provided for by the employer or not, Stein said. "For example, if a business allows twelve days of paid leave, an employee can use that time plus eight days of unpaid leave under this bill," she said.

Since passage of similar legislation in Washington state, twelve companies have violated the law, which applies only to companies providing paid sick leave. In addition, several Washington companies have changed their offered leave benefits or have dropped sick leave benefits altogether. Stein testified that this type of action by employers to avoid compliance demonstrates the need for HB 3283.

A dependent, as defined in the bill, is a child, spouse, parent, grandparent, or other individual who is a dependent of the employee.

"The needs of the family must now be balanced with the demands of the workplace in order to promote family stability and economic security," Stein stated.

PREPARING FOR THE DRUG FREE YEARS WORKSHOP

Project for community recovery located at 3824 N. Williams, is offering a workshop free of charge to the people in the community.

This workshop will be held every Wednesday night from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., beginning April 5th through May 3rd.

We are in need of volunteers for childcare of the parents attending this workshop. If you would like to volunteer for this worthy cause, please contact Johnetta at 281-2804.

GOAL: TO REDUCE YOUNG PEOPLE'S USE OF ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS BY EMPOWERING PARENTS TO KNOW HOW THEY CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.




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Perspectives

The Cultural Background For Black History, Part IV

The following citations are two of the scores I submitted to the **Portland School District** in my role as a consultant involved in the development of the "Mathematics And Science Scope And Sequence" manual for the African-American curriculum process (1983).

"Dr. William A. Brown: In the fashion of **Imhotep**, Chief Architect and Pyramid Builder for Egyptian King Zoser (2700 B.C.), this Black architect is responsible for the design and construction of all U.S. Air Force facilities around the world. A specialist in **mathematical criteria** in building standards, Dr. Brown heads the Air Force construction staff at the Pentagon."

"Brigadier General Dr. David M. Hall: A **logistics mathematician**, Dr. Hall manages billions of dollars of data processing equipment (19 billion dollar budget overall) for the U.S. Air Force. The overwhelming magnitude of his financial responsibilities can be seen in the context that this Black man manages more monies than is the entire national budget for over one hundred individual countries."

Now, as a teacher or counselor working with minority youth, could you do much better for a motivational device/role models to inspire your students - to early on develop and practice their analytic and cognitive skills? We school district consultants also submitted related lesson plans which I hope are being used. I know that mine are being used

in several cities in the East and south thanks to the Principals of Excellence organization.

Let us return to the age of **Imhotep**, the african architect mentioned earlier; 4000 years ago we had Black engineers supervising even greater projects - setting the standards for Africa, Greece, Rome and today's world. The name commonly given was "Chief or minister of Works." The exact same title is still used in France and other European countries. Among such great engineers was **Amenhetep** who had quarried and carved two 100 ton statues, **The Colossi of Memnon**, Along with the Great Pyramid they were one of "The Seven Wonders of the Ancient World" (see p. 245, Monte, **Eternal Egypt**).

The world has been in imitation ever since; **Napoleon**, the great general of France, brought back from Africa every concept and artifact he could lay his hands on (1803). The **Eiffel Tower** in Paris was a version of the towering African Obelisks. The **Statue of Liberty** shipped to America was in imitation of the grandiose "Colossi." The heads of our early presidents carved into the side of Mount Rushmore do not begin to compare with the cliffside sculptures of Black Kings and Pharaohs along the Nile. Who was it that said, "Imitation is the most sincere form of Hattery?"

And there was the Famed **Senmut**, the Chief of Works who executed the urban designs of **Queen Hatshepsut** (1503 B.C.). One of my students remarked that "she had to be the **baddest** of all the African sisters" - to have originated the **modern** concept of broad, landscaped boulevards, city parks and gardens, municipal zoos, and public squares (ibid, Monte). Let us note that a 1919 aerial view of Portland's **Ladd's**



by McKinley Burt

Addition "was patterned after Washington D.C.'s diagonal streets and traffic circles" - faithfully copied from the designs of Benjamin Banneker, the African-American Surveyor. (See p.8, Section A., This Week for 1/22/86)

There can be no doubt that the pioneering Africans laid the foundations for the world's urbanization and technology. I follow on here with a citation of the parameters that modern historiographers use to judge a culture. Obviously, Africa met or exceeded them.

"As a consequence, the **Urban Revolution** is followed in our scheme by the **Irrigation Revolution**, which provided the technological basis for the appearance of the first regional civilizations. Significant technological advances include construction of large canals for irrigation and navigation, new types of watercraft, systems of roads, and cities with large public buildings (pyramids, temples, and palaces), as well as ideographic writing, systems of weights and measures, and scientific developments, especially in the realms of mathematics and astronomy."

P.13, Ribeiro, **The Civilization Process**, 1968



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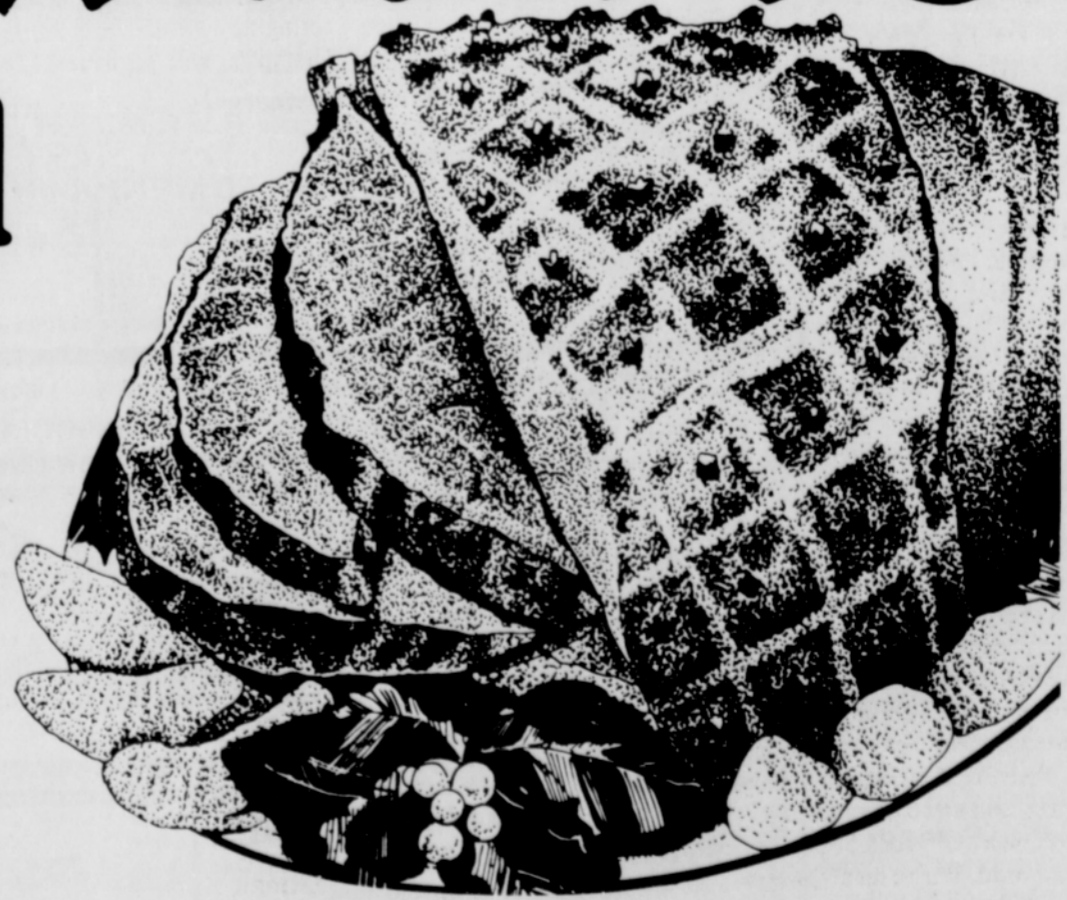


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