

THE AFRICAN AMERICAN SUMMIT



SUBMITTED BY WAVERLY DAVIS

Attending the African American Summit '89 in New Orleans was like watching a bridge being rebuilt, and I was just one of the privileged links in the construction of that bridge, which transcended the superficial philosophies and focused on the substance of the struggle within the African American Community. Thousands upon thousands of dreams, aspirations, goals and strategies to accomplish those goals, came together during those three days seeking the "Common Ground" that Jesse Jackson frequently addresses. There was a massive appeal for unity and economic growth and development within the African American community at this conference. An impressive agenda had been organized, but topics on unity and economic growth and development were key subjects for me. Although the media utilized a deceptive tool by reporting in the local newspaper who did not attend the summit, I was impressed and encouraged by the presence of such distinguished national leaders and activists such as: Mrs. Coretta Scott King, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Ron Brown (DNC) Hon. Richard Hatcher, Hon. Ron Dellums, Rev. Henry Hardy, Hon. Delores Tucker, Hon. Maxine Waters, Ms. Angela Davis, and many other articulate, brilliant, professional leaders both political, medical, legal, and business.

It is these national leaders and activists, along with others, that must devise an economic and political agenda for the 1990's. Someone might say, "we're doing better economically and are more unified now than ever", but I conquer with a statement made by Mrs. Coretta Scott King which is as follows: "We have more of what we fought for, more African American elected officials, More educational opportunities and more access to public accommodations, yet we have less unity than we had during the civil rights movement". She stated that unity is the key to our

realizing our long held dreams. The conclusion to be drawn; is that what ever we as an African American people have accomplished thus far, such as better housing, education, more African American political leaders, and better paying jobs, was accomplished through unity, and whatever we hope to accomplish now, and in the future must be done through unity. We must become a true family which shares responsibilities, has common goals, and strategies for reaching those goals. The conditions which support the social and economic failure of members of our African American family are urgent, because those who suffer at the hands of poverty are a part of the whole. What is our responsibility? To maintain the life line which keeps all family members viable. How can we accomplish this? Through Unity and Economic Empowerment. Lack of unity leads to self destruction and influences every facet of our lives within the African American Community. Lack of unity allows the poison of jealousy, contempt, insensitivity and distrust to erode the very moral fiber of our community and helps to create a vehicle through which destructive influences such as alcohol, drug addiction and gang violence enter our community and metastasize like a cancer. Unity however, gives us economic and political viability. It can restore the social lustre back to our community such as, family consciousness, spiritual conviction and commitment, and returning to the moral values that are the foundation of our rich heritage. Unity re-establishes our economic and political priorities, i.e., keeping the dollars within the black community (buying from black businesses), and elect political officials who are sensitive to our needs and not allow those persons including officials in the broader community, to define those needs for us. Unity also helps to alleviate the "me, myself and I" syndrome that has permeated our community especially amongst the middle and upper class black professionals and political leaders. I felt that Jesse called us

to task when he said, " we must choose interdependency, and the capacity to act, to unite for the greater good of the African American community. We must seek Common Ground".

The African American leadership that attended this summit have felt throughout history, economic development has been a necessity for social progress for any group of people in America. We however, have been kept and have participated in keeping ourselves economically deprived. The leadership in attendance called for the support of African American businesses and for economic development projects such as the U.S. Investment Corporation, Buy Freedom campaigns, the Power program, and other programs which are based on the principle of mutual economic support as the primary foundation for generating community capital and as the most basic step of securing large amounts of capital from others outside of the African American community. The leadership also called for each State Chairman who came to the summit to make an analysis of all public money known to exist in their communities, and that we should carefully monitor the growth and distribution of those funds. We should immediately investigate with the State Chairman the use of pension funds stored in labor unions and state government as a source of investment capital for community development projects. The leadership talked about change in black entrepreneurship. Joshua Smith, an entrepreneur, stated that he was disappointed in the degree in which economic development is treated within our community. "Less than 5% emphasis is placed on economic development, which is where we need to be now." That is going to require a new kind of leadership with a new direction that encourages African Americans to make a choice for change. "Emphasis should be placed on black owned businesses rather than on just securing a job. Black leaders should acquaint themselves with the rules of the market-place that restricts black entrepreneurship. We cannot afford to build an economic future entirely upon the principals of 25 years ago. For while we are marching on Washington, other ethnic groups are marching to the bank. The fuel to change is not just talking about the jobs we should have, but about the jobs we should create. Entrepreneurship has fueled this economy from the beginning and it's entrepreneurship that will fuel it in the future.

Economic Empowerment has got to be the number agenda item, not just an item sliced up between all the other programs. We have got to turn wealth into assets and assets into businesses, so that we set the economic policy for the future.

ALLEN TEMPLE

Allen Temple Church, located at 4236 NE 8th Avenue (corner of 8th and Skidmore), will present the movie, "A Thief in the Night" on Friday, May 26, 1989 at 7:15 pm. "A Thief in the Night" is about Bible prophecy. It shows what could happen when Jesus Christ returns for His church. It is the first in a series of films which dramatically depicts Bible prophecy about the end times. Admission to the film is free. Refreshments will be served at no cost.

PCC INTERPRETER PROGRAM INVITES PUBLIC TO OPEN HOUSE

The Interpreter training program of Portland Community College invites the public to an open house May 23 and 24 at the PCC Cascade Campus, 705 N. Killingsworth St. The program trains interpreters for hearing-impaired people. The open house will feature demonstrations of American Sign Language and include visits to the program's regular classes. A schedule of events may be obtained by calling PCC, 244-6111, ext. 5288 or ext. 5209.

PORTLAND OBSERVER
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HAP AND SHERIFF'S OFFICE TEAM UP PERSPECTIVES

"YOUR DADDY'S RICH, AND YOUR MAMA'S GOOD LOOKING" Part I

Building a safe environment at Columbia Villa ... that's what the new Safety Action Team is hard at work doing with Housing Authority of Portland (HAP) residents. The team, developed through a joint effort of HAP, Chief Deputy Bob Skipper of the Sheriff's Office, and Multnomah County Chair Gladys McCoy, is committed to stopping gang and drug activity in public housing. Its main targets are the Columbia Villa and Tamarack developments in North Portland, which house more than 1,000 people.

Chief Deputy Skipper has assigned one lieutenant, three deputies, and two Community Service Officers to the Safety Action Team.

Each shift of the Safety Action Team will knock on at least 10 doors to talk to people, find out what is happening in the area, and help direct residents toward services that could help strengthen their families and improve their living conditions. A training program planned for HAP's Resident Aides will also help detect and prevent crime. The Safety Action Team will act as a support to the Portland police officers, who are still the first responders to 911 calls.

"North Portland is a sector of the City that's been hard hit by the crime wave of crack and gang activity," Chief Deputy Bob Skipper says. "I want to respond to its need for help. The Safety Action Team is just one step in our support of this community."

The team will be stationed at 8920 North Woolsey Avenue in Columbia Villa by late May. Shifts will be set according to the times of day that have the most activity, such as late afternoon into the evening. The Safety Action Team will also be available to respond as needed to trouble spots in other HAP developments around Multnomah County.

"The safety of our residents is our top concern," HAP Executive Director Donald E. Clark says. "The success of the team has already started. We've seen a number of crimes prevented, order is being restored and the confidence of residents is steadily rising."

the country developing his innovative and beautiful style of rendering bird life on canvas. He dismissed the stylized techniques of his contemporaries and when forced to use the stuffed bird of a taxidermist for a model, promptly removed the pins and posed the bird in a realistic manner.

Today, Audubon is known throughout the world for his magnificent paintings and informational journals. The most famous work is his *Birds of America*, a collection of 435 water colors finished in 1838. His pioneering contributions to the field of ornithology are the model for the tens of thousands of members of the prestigious National Audubon Society. Few this side of the Atlantic know his African origins.

Norbert Rillieux: This great chemical engineer, inventor and Egyptologist was the discoverer of the **Vacuum Pan Centrifugal Process** which revolutionized the making of sugar (Patent No. 4879, Dec. 10.1846). The son of a French planter and engineer and a Black mother, he was born in New Orleans at a time when several hundred thousand free Blacks lived in the South. Sent by his wealthy father to France to study, Rillieux taught applied mechanics in Paris and published many scientific papers by the time he was twenty-four.

The US Department of Agriculture cited his invention as "the greatest in the history of chemical engineering". Rillieux's specialty was **thermodynamics**; the transformations of heat into mechanical work and the opposite transformation back to heat. Three world-famed physicists (Lord Kelvin, Camot and R.J. Mayer) are credited with theories which quite probably were developed by the Black man, Rillieux. By age 25 this genius had become head of the famed Academy where earlier he had been a student, then instructor (The Ecole centrale in Paris).

Returning to America, Rillieux became the most sought after engineer in Louisiana. But because of his color sugar plantation owners who sought his advice could not entertain him in their homes. It became the custom to **build staff and furnish a special house just for Rillieux** (several still exist today). He died in Paris in 1894 and the sugar industry honored him with a bronze plaque in the Louisiana State Museum; No scientific literature in America mentions him.

It was only after coming to America in 1803 that Audubon's real genius took flower. With a New England farm owned by his father as a base, the young man spent years traveling the length and breadth of

JOBS & CLASSIFIED

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Sealed bids for the remodeling of 16 public housing units will be accepted by the Umatilla County Housing Authority, P.O. Box 107, 155 S.W. 10th Street, Hermiston, Oregon 97838 until 3:00 P.M. PDT on Thursday, June 15, 1989 at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Proposed forms of contract documents including plans and specifications are available at the office of the Housing Authority and at the following Plan Centers:

- Blue Mountain Plan Center, Walla Walla, WA
- Builders Exchange, Portland, OR
- Central Oregon Builders Exchange, Bend, OR
- Construction Data Plan Center, Portland, OR
- Dodge/Scan, Seattle, WA
- Intermountain Contractors, Boise, ID
- Pendleton Builder Trades Council, Pendleton, OR
- Tri-City Construction Council, Kennewick, WA

Copies of the documents are available at the Housing Authority's office for a fee of \$20.00 each, refundable upon submission of bid.

A pre-bid conference and tour of the project site is scheduled for 1:30 P.M. Thursday, June 1, 1989. Conference attendance by representatives for prospective Prime Bidders is **recommended**.

A certified check or bank draft, payable to the Housing Authority, U.S. Government bonds, or a satisfactory bid bond executed by the bidder and acceptable sureties in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the bid shall be submitted with each bid.

The successful bidder will be required to furnish and pay for a performance and payment bond in the amount of 100% of contract price and provide evidence of Worker's Compensation and Contractor insurance.

Attention is called to the provision for equal employment opportunity, and the requirement that not less than the HUD determined minimum salaries and wages as set forth in the specifications must be paid on this project.

The Housing Authority reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding.

No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of 90 days after the date of bid opening without the prior consent of the Housing Authority.

The Housing Authority Of The County Of Umatilla, Oregon
Merwin W. Parker, Executive Director

The Housing Authority of Umatilla County is an equal opportunity employer and request bids form small disadvantage, women and minority owned business enterprises.

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