## PERSPECTIVES McKinley Burt

Quite a few of last week's readers wanted to hear more about Abraham Hannibal the great grandfather of noted Russian author Alexander Pushkin. Several commented how odd it was that at the very same time that the horrible institution of slavery was in full swing in Americawith its barbaric supression of mind and dignity-the African brothers and sisters in Europe were quite visibly enriching the culture of the world.

Now, that is perceptive, for it is so important to the education and mindset of African-American youth (and white) that they learn the **full** magnitude of the Black contribution, not just the involvement in the **origin** of civilization. These vignettes of mine can be used to expand their consciousness to include more of a world that is growing smaller everyday under the pressures of communications and technology. The frightened, envious and greedy racists cannot be allowed to continue their imprisonment of the Black mind, psyche and ambitions.

Abraham Petrovich Hannibal (1697-1781): At age 8 taken as a hostage from an important family in Ethiopiua and sold as a slave in Constantinople, the boy was purchased as a gift for Czar Peter I of Russia. This chief of Europe's largest nation adopted him as a godson and Queen Christina of Poland became his godmother. At his christening in the Greek Orthodox Church in 1707 his given name, Ibrahim was changed to Abraham

Abraham's father, a chieftan, traced his son to Russia and on a visit there informed the court that the family

surname was Hannibal as they were descendants of the famed African general of the same name (It was the original Hannibal who took his army and hundreds of elephants over the mighty Alps to catch the Romans by surprise). African footsteps clamor loudly through the pages of European history, in the arts and in technology, and in war and peace.

The Czar was greatly impressed with Hannibal's aptitude for mathematics and engineering, and in 1717 sent him to Paris to study. As a protege of the great emperor of Russia he was received in the highest circles, becoming one of the most populace young men in Paris. On his return to Russia, he became an officer in the engineering corp and was appointed as a tutor in mathematics to the Crown Prince.

Later, after the death of his patron, Czar Peter II, Hannibal was caught up in the intrigues of the court and was exiled for 12 years. Finally restored to grace by Empress Elizabeth, he became Russia's preeminent engineer as well as a diplomat of note. He drew the plans for a canal linking St. Petersburg with Moscow (the Logodar). Later he was commissioned to represent Russia in the boundary-line dispute with Sweden.

Hannibal's first wife presented him with a white baby which he rejected but cared for. His second wife whom he married in 1736 bore him eleven children. One of his sons, Ivan became a hero as admiral of a fleet and was noted as the builder of the fortress at Kherson, other sons became generals and naval commanders. Loud indeed were these footsteps in the world's history. And louder still were the footsteps of the great grandson, Alexander Pushkin who made the Russian language alive and vibrant.

### PROGRAM FOR DIS-PLACED HOMEMAKERS

New Directions is a program for Displaced Homemakers and Single Parents. Services include personal growth, career assessment, job placement, pre-training, and educational support. The goal is to assist people in overcoming obstacles to economic independence.

Beaverton Branch Office of Adult and Family Services Division reports great results from this program. One hundred-five welfare clients were placed in jobs during the month of March because of their involvement with New Directions.

Individuals are required to attend a free pre-career class four mornings per week, for five weeks. Following the pre-career class, the program provides a one week career workshop, support groups, job placement and other educational opportunities. Most services are free.

New Directions services are available to individuals who are: Displaced Homemakers, who are separated, divorced, widowed or have a disabled spouse and Single Parents with children 18 or younger. Individuals are required to live in Washington County and must be socially or economically disadvantaged. The Rock Creek Campus of Portland Community College is the site where services are provided.

Funding and Steering Committee representation provided by a joint venture of Portland Community College, Oregon Department of Education-Carl Perkins Fund, Washington County Community Development Block Grant Program, Washington County Housing Authority, Adult and Family Services and Private Industry Council.

## ALLEN TEMPLE C.M.E. CHURCH VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School will be held at Allen Temple C.M.E. Church located at 4265 NE 8th Avenue (8th & Skidmore) on June 11-22 Sundays through Thursdays from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

## LOOKING FOR THE BEST HOMEBUYING VALUE?

LUCKY YOU.

IT'S HUD SIGN UP TIME!



When you see our sign up in your real estate agent's window, you'll know that this is a place that can make buying your next home both easy and fast.

Your agent will tell you that HUD homes are priced to be terrific values. And with FHA Mortgage Insurance, a buyer's down payment can be just 3%.

So watch the Friday and Sunday Oregonian for our weekly HUD home listings, and then look for our "Buy a HUD home here" sign.

For people who want a good deal on a good home, it's a beautiful sign of the times.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

**Equal Housing Opportunity** 

## FREE CHILDREN'S HEALTH CHECK-UPS, SUMMER CAMP PHYSICALS AT SPECIAL CLINIC

Children 12 years and under may receive free physical exams at a special Well Child Clinic on Saturday, June 10 from noon to 4:00pm at Portland Naturopathic Clinic. This preventive health screening may also be used to satisfy a summer camp physical exam requirement. Parent should call 255-7355 for an appointment. Since the number of appointments is limited, parents are urged to call early.

VACATION BIBLE

SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School will be held at Allen Temple C.M.E. Church located at 4265 NE 8th Avenue (8th &

Portland Naturopathic Clinic is as part of National College of Naturopathic Skidmore) on June 11-22 Sundays Medicine, an international center for education and research in naturopathic through Thursdays from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

# THE CHEF'S SPECIAL AT THIS SPECIAL PRICE

\$169

Until June 10th or while quantities last

This year get dad a gift the whole family will enjoy all summer long. The Kenmore Gas Grill. He'll love its' easy-does-it barbeque style and so will you because nothing outcooks this Kenmore on a cookout.

There's no match for a Kenmore gas grill with pushbutton start and 439 sq. in. of cooking space.

Get a free cookbook, grill cover and tool set when you buy now.

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