

## BLACK FOUR-STAR GENERAL BELIEVES BLACK PEOPLE WERE 'MAD' TO HAVE SERVED IN WORLD WAR II

"If you're wrong, you're a headline," declared General Colin Powell, former national security adviser to President Ronald Reagan, who is now a four-star general in charge of defending the United States against land invasion.

In an interview to be published in PARADE magazine, Powell, the son of black immigrant laborers from Jamaica, described his 30-minute daily briefing of the President as "a heck of a homework quiz."

"I would get reports overnight," Powell recalled. "If anything was going on in the world, I would get a call about it. I would come into the office about 6:30 in the morning. Between 6:30 and 7, I would receive intelligence updates."

"Then, at 9:30, I would go in and plop down on that sofa directly across from the President. I would give him warning of what was coming our way, or sometimes just philosophize."

Powell, who served Regan for 14 months, said, "To be a West Wing official, you are forever on point. You always have to be ready to say something that could have international implications. You'd better have a helluva lot of information. You cannot be wrong."

Emphasizing that blacks have served in the U.S. military for more than 300 years, Powell said they were "mad" to have served in World War II and return to see what they faced in the South. Powell, himself, the recipient of a Purple Heart, was refused service in a restaurant in Columbus, Georgia, in 1963.

"I wasn't even trying to do a sit-in," remarked Powell. "All that I wanted was a hamburger." He said he waited until the Civil rights Act of 1964 was passed. "Then I went back to the restaurant and got my hamburger."

Praising black Americans for never losing their love of country, Powell said, "As much as I have been disappointed in my lifetime that we didn't move as fast as we might have, or that we still have forms of institutional racism, we have an abiding faith in this country."

"For over 300 years of this country's history, going back to the early colonies, blacks have willingly served in the military in times of foreign and domestic danger. During most of that history, they would only be allowed to serve when there was dying to be done. It was only after the Civil War that black units were allowed to remain on active duty in the absence of a war. And only in the last 30 years, in my generation, did we achieve full integration and full opportunity."

## BERNICE JOHNSON REAGON AWARDED MACARTHUR FELLOWSHIP

Dr. Bernice Johnson Reagon, cultural historian and curator at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, has been named a



recipient of a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship.

The \$275,000 award, announced recently by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, is given periodically to individuals in support of their work in the arts, sciences, education and community affairs.

Reagon, founder and former director of the museum's Program in African American Culture, also founded and directs the women's cappella singing group Sweet Honey in the Rock. As an oral historian, she has conducted research and written on topics related to African-American culture. As a specialist in African-American protest traditions, she has published a Smithsonian Collection of Recordings, titled "Voices of the Civil Rights Movement, Black American Freedom Songs, 1960-1966."

"Dr. Reagon is a splendid choice for this award," Robert McC. Adams, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, said. "Her career illustrates the harmonious intertwining that is possible, but rarely achieved, between scholarly pursuits, social concerns and a direct, highly successful engagement with a broad public. The balance and distinction she has achieved in all these respects may well be unique. We share her pleasure and pride in the richly deserved freedom of action that the award will make possible for her."

"Bernice is wondrous, a great spirit and the award is an enormous manifestation of her skills and determination," said Roger G. Kennedy, director of the Museum of American History. "It is also a recognition of her courage over some 10 years."

In acknowledging the award, Reagon said "The Smithsonian has been a catalyst and a nurturing ground for me as a scholar. At the Smithsonian I've had the chance to do innovative programming in the area of black American culture. I'm not sure there is another institution that would have afforded me the opportunities I've had to experiment with research, to report and share that research with larger audiences and to communicate with my colleagues in the field."

Reagon, who received her doctorate from Howard University and her undergraduate degree from Spelman College, has been with the Smithsonian Institution since May 1974. As a curator in the museum's Division of Community Life, her research interests focus on African-American worship traditions, with an emphasis on contemporary congregations that use 19th-century hymns.

Through the museum's Department of Public Programs, Reagon produced a continuing series of performances and colloquia aimed at increasing public awareness of African-American culture and history.

## POLICE CHIEFS BACK DEATH PENALTY, SHUN GUN CONTROL

Large majorities of the nation's Chiefs of Police support the death penalty, and want to cut off federal anti-crime funds to states without a death penalty. At the same time, Chiefs doubt the value of federal gun bans or waiting periods, according to a new poll by the National Association of Chiefs of Police.

The poll was based on a confidential questionnaire sent to 16,259 Chiefs of Police and Sheriffs nationwide.

93% of the Police Chiefs and Sheriffs felt the death penalty deters crime. 91% supported proposed legislation by Rep. Jim Traficant (D-Ohio) to eliminate federal anti-crime aid to states that do not execute criminals who kill a police officer in the line of duty.

Rep. Traficant, a former Sheriff, argues "We worry too much about criminal rights in this country. About 50% of people who shoot cops are out on the street again in six years." Traficant added that his bill would apply to any first degree murder, not just murder of police officers.

On the other hand, University of Illinois Criminology Professor David Bordua maintains that academic research has failed to show evidence that the death penalty is a deterrent for murder in general. "No significant research has been done on whether a death penalty might deter murders of police officers", Borda said.

Although some Police Chiefs have led the battle for strict gun control, the majority of Chiefs expressed doubts about more federal laws. Banning "military type" long guns would not stop criminals from obtaining them, said 87%. A somewhat smaller majority, 69%, felt that citizens should have the right to purchase any type of firearm for sport or self-defense.

Although 96% of Chiefs felt their department was undermanned, they placed the primary blame for high crime rates on the court system. 87% stated that the inability of the criminal justice system to convict and imprison people caught by the police was the major cause of crime in America. 97% thought the courts were too soft on criminals.

Mark A.R. Kleiman thought that the Chiefs were "right to believe that the people their guys catch don't get punished enough," but wrong to blame the courts. Kleiman stated that lack of prison space and other correctional capacity was the main problem.

Media coverage of shootings by police officers was also criticized. 90% thought media coverage of such shootings encouraged riots or disturbances, and 96% wanted the media to voluntarily limit coverage until police investigators could secure the scene and take statements from witnesses.

## TEXAS SOUTHERN OPENS CANCER CENTER FOR MINORITIES

Dr. William H. Harris, president of Texas Southern University, has announced the official opening of the TSU Cancer Awareness and Prevention Center whose primary objective is to use the best and most appropriate strategies for cancer control and prevention to reduce morbidity and mortality in the minority population.

The cancer awareness project was one of three new Centers of Outreach whose establishment at TSU—the nation's third largest historically Black university—was announced by Harris during a recent press conference. He said, TSU's location in the heart of the inner city and its designation as a "special purpose institution for urban programming" make it imperative that the 42-year-old institution address the problems of the inner city in a

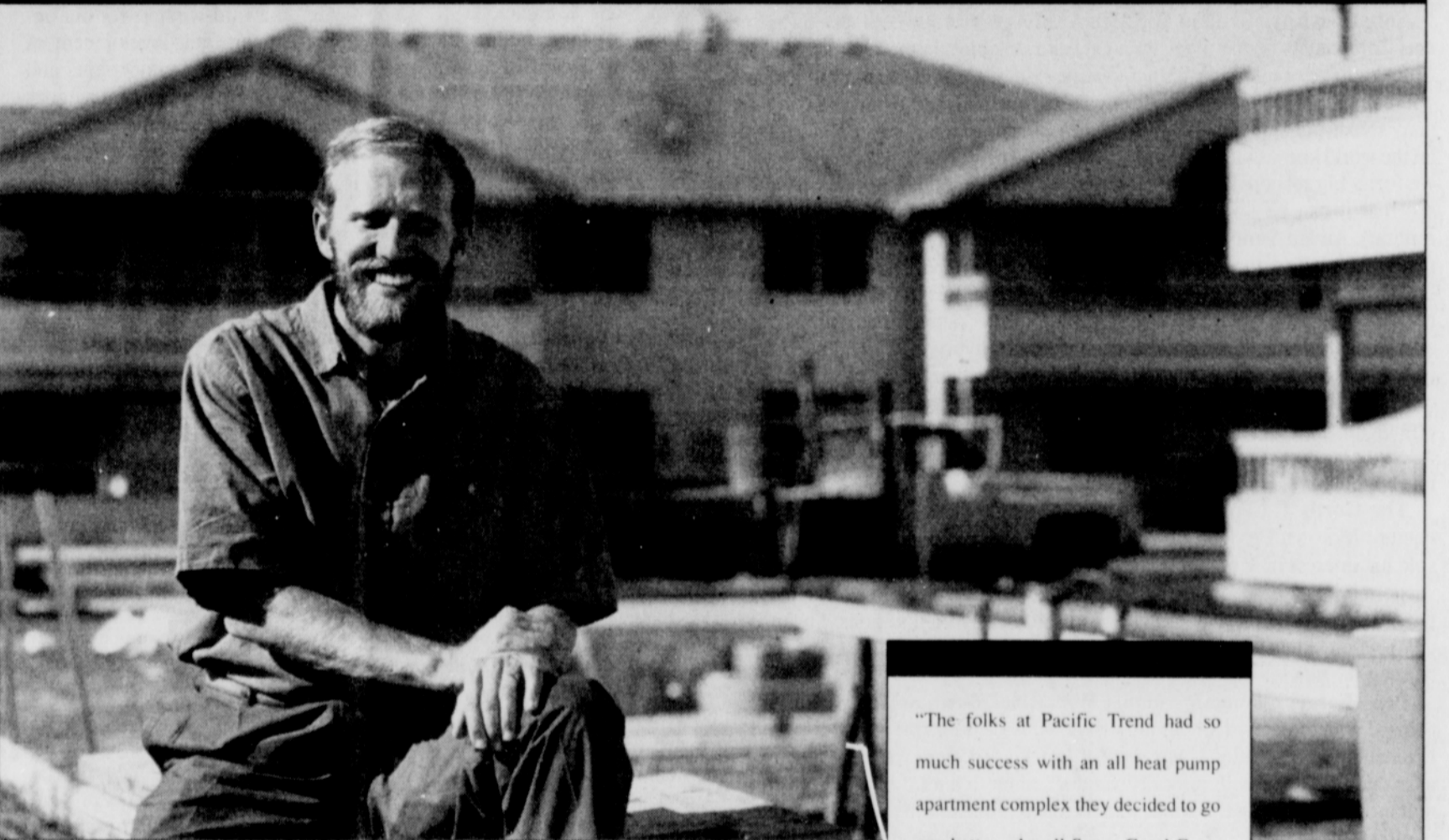
## SUPPORT IN PUSH



Rev. Willie T. Barrow, center, National executive Director & CEO, Operation PUSH, accepts a check from Michale Green, left, Manager, Black Consumer Marketing, Pepsi-Cola Company for the International Women's Luncheon at PUSH's 18th Annual Convention in Chicago recently. Looking on is Donald Davis, Marketing Account Executive, Pepsi-Cola General bottlers, Chicago. Pepsi's co-sponsorship of this luncheon was part of the soft drink company's overall support of the activities at the PUSH Convention that included exhibiting and dispensing free refreshments to the delegates.

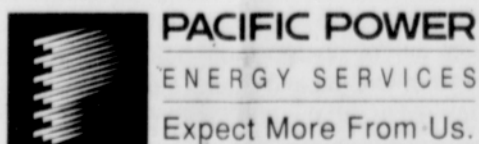
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