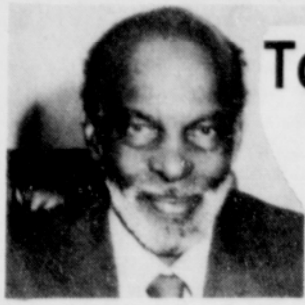


EDITORIAL / OPINION

Perspectives



To Your Good Health III -- More From African-Americans

by Professor McKinley Burt

There have been so many Black giants in the field of medicine that it is almost impossible to assign any rank among them--or any priorities to the many achievements that have alleviated the pain and suffering of mankind. As we approached February, Black History Month, I began this medical series as a prelude to some full scale articles during that period. I spoke last week of the need to motivate and to present role models to this generation of African-American youth for the purpose of directing a number into the health sciences.

In 1987 I was able to institute a Minority Health Sciences Job Program for African-American high school seniors at the Providence Medical Center. The first two students worked in computer sciences, one carrying out a sophisticated program for evaluating blood components and the other implementing financial controls in the delivery of medical specialties. Both youths successfully completed their assignments, paving the way for others to follow and receiving applicable school credits while earning above minimum wage.

However, I was to note that despite extensive media publicity (Northeast Community included), no African-American student, parent or high school counselor made any inquiry--except one member of their peer group. But scores of white students and parents did so (including Asians). It may be revealing that 15 years ago there was a somewhat better response from Blacks (only somewhat) when I secured the large scale government grant for training Portland State University minority students in medical specialties. It is suggested here that at the very time African-Americans are in the greatest need of educational support in the sciences and technology, there is in this community an abysmal lack of comprehension or direction.

I have no trepidation at all in referring to most of the establishment efforts to correct this situation as a potpourri of uncoordinated, misdirected B--S--. The well over a quarter million dollars of funding I have secured and put to work in the medical field alone has been achieved without staff or other aid. And the last segments have been accomplished while on Social Security, without an automobile, riding Tri-Met, and using the pay phone on the corner. What can I say? A few years ago I went to the School District with an experienced-based plan for a real time, workable Technical Center with the necessary and structured ties to industry and other types of infrastructure employers.

To date these frightened people have a merry-go-round for you if what you propose is actually functional. Nothing at all like The Dalles, Oregon where, 25 years ago after one speech to a service club and one talk with the school district, I was provided with the resources to contact and involve industry, government agencies, professionals, teachers, ranchers and oth-

ers and put together a technology and computer program that won a National Science Award (I'll be back this year by invitation--Another top program here will bring in enough resources that others will take note. Right now, I'm looking on my shelf at that famous old book by Carter G. Woodson, *The Miseducation of the Negro*. Before I'm allowed to perform for the Portland establishment I'm sure I will have completed The Dalles' Project and several of those requested by members of the National Association of Black Educators who recently met here.

Dr. Louis Tompkins Wright (1891-1952): "The MOST PRODUCTIVE, most important and most distinguished Negro physician yet to appear on the American scene," says the famous anthropologist Dr. W. Montague Cobb. He was speaking of Dr. Louis T. Wright, a true pioneer in medicine--the first black physician to be appointed to the staff of a New York municipal hospital, the first black surgeon in the police department of New York City, the first to experiment with Aureomycin, an antibiotic, on humans, the first black surgeon to be admitted to the American College of Surgeons since its inception, and the first black physician in America to head a public interracial hospital. In recent years, his daughter became the first black woman to be named dean of a medical school (New York Medical College).

Louis Haber, Black Pioneers of Science

Experiencing the same prejudices as Dr. Charles R. Drew of blood plasma fame, Dr. Tompkins graduated from Harvard Medical School cum laude, fourth in his class, only to be denied internship at white hospitals. Finding a position at Black Freedman's Hospital in Washington, D.C., he did a pioneering work demonstrating that the Schick Test for diphtheria was valid for African-Americans as well as other races. In 1917 as an Army Surgeon, he introduced the intradermal method of vaccination against small pox that was adopted by the U.S. Army Medical Corps. After the war he was appointed to the staff of Harlem Hospital--at the time he was the first Black physician to be appointed to the staff of any New York City Hospital (4 white doctors quit in protest).

Many of today's athletes (and victims of industrial and traffic accidents) do not know how much they are indebted to him. Tompkins developed a neck brace for fractures that is still in use today and he developed the special blade plate for fractures above the knee. He is the authority who wrote the chapter on Head Injuries for Scudder's classic "Head Injuries." Dr. Wright published scores of papers on his work with both aureomycin and terramycin, two drugs that have saved the lives of so many humans on this planet. 6,000 years of medical contribution.

C · O · M · M · E · N · T · A · R · Y

Is It The Process Or The Man?

by Leon Harris, Portland Observer Editor

The Citizens for Union Avenue claims they have enough signatures to force re-naming Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. back to Union Avenue. The group states they are angry with the process the city used to change the name from Union Ave. to Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. last April.

The group charges that the city failed to follow its own street re-naming policy in approving the change.

That policy called for approval by a majority of the neighborhood associations, as well as, district associations on Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. But, the city council acting upon a city attorney's opinion that the process did not necessarily require approval by a majority of the associations voted on the name change which went into effect last April. Immediately after the ceremony, anti-Martin Luther King, Jr. forces set into motion a petition drive to re-change the name back to Union Avenue.

The group also met with some success with some African-Americans who claim they signed the petition because they do not want a street which is a haven for prostitution, pimps, and drugs. As most of Portlanders may recall, a similar proposal to re-name Front Avenue in downtown Portland was met with opposition from businesses on that street also, who cited the costly factor of changing stationery, notifying customers and other economic reasons.

Understandably so, no one mentions Martin Luther King, Jr. as the reason for non-support.

All opposition claims they believe in what King did and truly support his cause. What they fail to realize is that thirty six cities around the country have embraced the Martin Luther King, Jr. street naming process and so far, none have recalled his name.

According to Channel Two News, a call-in poll conducted on King's birthday, 72% of approximately 34,000 polled favored Union Ave. If this holds true, Oregon will once again make history in a negative vote.

Racism, murder and harassment of minorities has thrust this state to the forefront of racial hostility.

It is most unfortunate that Dr. King commands more respect abroad. Then, in the country that he lived and died trying to bring about equality for all.

If the forces are successful in their efforts to re-name Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. back to Union Avenue, this city is going to see more media coverage on a national level than it will welcome. This coverage will unquestionably focus on uncovering additional racial problems here in Oregon. And as Phil Stafford said in his column in the Oregonian recently, "Folks, we've got a real problem here!"

Letters to the Editor

Black Business Expo '90 February 24, 1990

Dear African-American Business Owner:

For the first time several African-American affiliated business groups, including the Black Professional Network (BPN), Oregon Business League (OBL) and Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs (OAME) are joining resources with the Black History Committee of Portland Community College (PCC) to sponsor "Black Business Expo '90."

We all want to enlist your support, enthusiasm, volunteer spirit, and cooperation to ensure a successful "Black Business Expo '90."

We are asking members of BPN, OBL, OAME, and members of PCC's Black History Committee to help in solicitation for vendors to participate in EXPO '90 and to promote this Black History Celebration event by distributing flyers and posters.

Please join our effort to include every eligible Black business and to publicize this event as a celebration of Black History. If you know of other African-American

business owners who would be interested, please contact them and share this information.

"Black Business Expo '90" will be held at Cascade Campus, Portland Community College on Saturday, Feb. 24, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. We expect tremendous attendance from the community.

The first Vendors' Meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Tuesday, January 16, 1990 at Cascade Campus of PCC which is located at 705 N. Killingsworth. This session is open to all interested, eligible businesses. We will meet in the lecture hall, Room 122, Terrell Hall. Our goal is to make this EXPO '90 a great success for each vendor. Therefore, everyone's participation is vital.

With cooperation from members of the African-American community, we can guarantee a truly great celebration of Black History. Please contact "Black Business Expo '90" coordinators and ask what you can do to help.

The Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act: What Have We Learned?

An Opinion by Martha A. McSteen, President
National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare

"What did you learn today?" my mother would ask when I came home from school. To this day, I'm still asking myself the same question.

During the time I spent working on the Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act, I asked myself several times what we should learn

from the rapid passage and repeal of what was called by some the greatest expansion of Medicare benefits since the program's inception.

The first, and perhaps the most important lesson, is that the political system works. You can fight City Hall--and win! That's a wonderful lesson for all Americans. Congress does listen to constituents, especially when they speak with one loud voice. And Congress is willing to acknowledge its mistakes and take steps to correct them.

A second lesson to be learned about the system: it is better to go a little slower and do a better job. Surely if Congress had not moved so swiftly, the members would have realized the weakness of the financing mechanism, especially of a large income surtax aimed at a small segment of the population. That special surtax would have resulted in a higher marginal tax rate for a significant group of seniors than for anyone else in our population. By 1993, Medicare-eligible taxpayers who otherwise would have had a 28 percent marginal tax rate would have faced a 35.84 percent tax rate.

So, when I reflect on my mother's question about what I've learned and I apply it to the Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act, I can honestly answer, "I learned a lot. We all did." Seniors and members of Congress learned the right questions to ask the next time around. Armed with these lessons, seniors now expect Congress to do nothing less than is decent, right and double--that is, finally to put America's long-term care crisis to bed, at last.

Guest Editorial

All White Folks Are Not Bad . . .

by Ulysses Tucker, Jr.

Growing up in Washington, D.C., the only time I saw white people was when the police came to the neighborhood or when my partners and I went down by the monuments to break into cars, snatch pocket-books, or mug Boy Scouts.

Everyone in my neighborhood hated white folks. They were the reason for the poverty I lived in, the unemployment, the rats, roaches, and everything else wrong in my community. He was the "blue-eyed devil" the Muslim brothers preached about on the streets and the race that killed off Malcolm and Martin. The white man, according to my southern raised family, was the sign of the burning cross and the hanging tree. I had never sat in a classroom with a white or had a white teacher until I was a freshman in college. With these preconceived notions about white people, it should be no great revelation that I had an attitude. Better still, I was beyond attitude, I had an altitude!

Nebraska was a bitter experience. I was called "nigger" in the daytime and cheered for at night at basketball games. I can vividly recall being run off the road during track practice by cars traveling in the opposite direction. I can also remember no more than three Black players being on the court at the same time even though all of us scored in double-figures and received All-Region or All-Conference honors. Needless to say, it reinforced my "D.C." attitude.

Mad at my east coast past and my midwest experience with whites, I ran west with my baggage and perceptions about white people. It came as a total shock to me that I encountered friendly white people in Portland while attending undergraduate/graduate school. I withdrew socially, wondering why they did not called nigger, and questioned to myself their motives for friendship. I was scared and very confused.

Eventually, I had one of the greatest revelations of my life. I learned that some white people are good and that others are bad. By the same token, there are some good black people and bad black people. It's all about giving Black or white people the chance as oppose to stereotyping an individual or race of people. There is nothing worse than not giving a person a chance to be who they are. If they turn out to be a racist, criminal, jerk, or whatever, then so be it. You know where they stand. Stay away.

So Proudly We Hail" To Air On CBS

by Bill Wassmuth,
Executive Director

Northwest Coalition Against
Malicious Harassment

On January 23rd, 1990 at 9 p.m. (EST), CBS will broadcast a docudrama about Skinheads entitled "So Proudly We Hail." This film is by Lionel Chetwynd who is a member of the American Jewish Committee in Los Angeles. An AJC review says that it is a powerful film and an opportunity for productive local discussion and action regarding supremacist groups, bigotry in general and skinheads specifically. In Mr. Chetwynd's words "This film probes the psyche of modern Americans, some of whom are experiencing financial problems, others of whom are frustrated at failed careers. As the story unfolds, we gain insight into the process by which our neighbors and even our loved ones can be seduced by the darkest of forces. From the helpless who are exploited, to the modern day Faust who would sell his soul to the devil for a woman's fame, the film demonstrates in simple terms the variety of character types who get involved in hate movements."

I have done some checking around the region and the following stations plan to show the film:

KREM - Spokane, 9 p.m., Bob Melisso, News Director, Meg Antonius, Program Director; KBCI - Boise, 8 p.m., Dawn Joslin, Program Director; KSL - Salt Lake City, 8 p.m., Mr. Mansolin, Program Director; KOIN - Portland, 9 p.m., Steve Currie, Program Director.

You may want to utilize this opportunity in your local area to call attention to the problem of bigotry. You know what works best in your area; here are several suggestions, some of which come from a memorandum sent by the National American

As oppose to classifying a white bad because of his or her skin color, I gave the ma chance. It is so easy and comfortable to maintain existing attitudes as people. Be it good or bad, our environment shapes our values, perceptions about the world and other culture. At some point, people need to re-evaluate where they are in terms of race relations and get rid of the baggage that has affected potential communications over the years. Since this revelation, I am so much happier, emotionally healed, and open to all people.

Wait, don't get me wrong! Sure, there is racism in Oregon and all over the U.S.A. for that matter. In a social, economic, and political system that was built on racist principles, chances are that it will always be here. However, that does not mean we have to fall victims to such cancer. It is never too late for change.

I am reminded of a question directed to me by a student last week at Whitaker Middle School in Keizer, Oregon. I spent last Friday speaking with 700+ kids in classes and in keynote address about Martin Luther King, Jr., keeping his dream alive, careers in communications, and growing up in D.C. "Mr. Tucker," she said softly. "With all the stuff Dr. King and other black people had to go through, have you ever wished that you were white?"

I smiled and said no. Ironically, one white student (only three black students in the entire school) wished that he was black so that he could be "Magic" Johnson, Michael Jordan, or David Robinson.

I went on to tell her how much I loved being black and my experiences in spite of the adversity. The problem is not so much being black. The problem is how I am perceived as a black man by the great majority of society and how the system deals with black people. I'm black by nature, proud by choice.

This is why we must continue to reach out to youths in culturally isolated environments, like Keizer, Oregon, who need to be exposed to positive black role models and causes. We need to encourage our young people of all races to question injustices, be proud of who they are, and expose them to activities or people from all walks-of life. We have too.

The people of tomorrow are the children of today. If the world is to be a better place, we must give them something to work with.

Jewish Committee office to its regional directors.

1.) Call a press conference on January 23rd along with others in the community concerned about bigotry in general or skinheads in particular. Note that the media might not be interested in promoting a program on a specific TV station; some newsworthy item other than the TV show might be necessary to make this option work.

2.) Arrange a news interview for the January 23rd evening news as a promotion for the film and a positive promotion for your and others who are working against bigotry and violence.

3.) Suggest that your local CBS affiliate schedule a "Town Hall" type program about bigotry with local groups, religious leaders, educators, law enforcement personnel, etc. (If the station might invite skinheads or other supremacists to such a program, the impact could be negative. However, if the program will let people know what the bigotry problems in your area are, and who the people are who work to counteract racism and racist violence, the impact could be very positive).

4.) Use the film as an occasion for discussion with school officials and students at the high school level.

5.) Pull together a group of faculty students and administration personnel from the local college to discuss the campus response to problems of bigotry, or plans that are in place to address the problem should it arise.

Barbara Hurst from the American Jewish Committee in Seattle and Bill Wassmuth, executive director, are working on some activities in the Puget Sound area. We will involve as many (Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment) NWCAMH members as possible.

MEN

If you have a male sexual contact, you may be at Risk for AIDS. Call the Oregon AIDS Hotline at (503) 223-AIDS.

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You'll get information you can use to avoid getting AIDS.

CALL NOW 223-AIDS

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