

# NEWS AROUND THE NATION

## CRS' Northwest Regional Director Receives Department of Justice



Robert Lamb, Jr., the Community Relations Service's Northwest Regional Director in Seattle, Washington, today was awarded the Department of Justice's Distinguished Service Award by Attorney General Dick Thornburgh.

The Distinguished Service Award is one of the Department's highest service awards. Mr. Lamb was presented with the award today by the Attorney General at the Annual Awards Ceremony in the Great Hall at the Department of Justice, where other Department of Justice employees were also recognized for exemplary performance.

"I cannot think of a more deserving individual for this award than Bob Lamb. He is a hardworking and innovative Regional Director, who has dedicated most of his professional career to bettering the lot of minorities through conciliation and mediation of racial disputes," said CRS Director Grace Flores Hughes.

"It was under Bob Lamb's supervision that the first multi-state coalition of federal, state, and local officials, the Northwest Coalition Against Malignant Harassment, was formed to counter racial harassment. He also served as the Operations Officer at the Wounded Knee Confrontation in 1973 and the Prince Georges County, Maryland, school desegregation activities in 1972 and 1973. From his recommendation and under his chairmanship, CRS implemented its National Project on Police and the Use of Deadly Force. These are but a few of the examples in his more than 20 years with the Community Relations Service and the award is for sustained performance," Hughes said.

Before entering national service, Mr. Lamb served as a police Captain with the

Atlantic City, New Jersey, Police Department, which he joined after serving as a Sergeant with the U.S. Third Army in Europe during World War II. In 1962, he was chosen as the Atlantic City Police Officer of the year and in 1969 was cited by the State of New Jersey Police Benevolent Association for valor. In 1966, he became administrator of Atlantic City's Police community Relations Unit which the Wall Street Journal lauded as one of the best in the nation.

Mr. Lamb has received numerous awards and has a major award named for him. In March 1982, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Officials (NOBLE) established the Robert Lamb, Jr., Humanitarian Award to be presented to law enforcement officials for efforts restricting the use of deadly force. In 1969 and 1985, the Mayor of Atlantic City, New Jersey, proclaimed a day in his honor. In 1985, Mr. Lamb received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio. He is married to the former Mildred Thomas and has three daughters, one son, two granddaughters and one grandson.

Robert Lamb remarked upon learning of the impending award, "I am overwhelmed to receive an award of this magnitude and it is the result of hard work by a number of individuals in my regional office and at the Community Relations Service. I accept this award with humility and gratefulness, because I have always felt that I could never do enough to merit this award."

"I am very appreciative of the Director and the Attorney General for this award. It represents something that I never expected in my wildest dreams," Lamb also added.

## Black Student Graduation Rates Show Marked Increase at U.V.A.

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA—Graduation rates for Black students at the University of Virginia have averaged more than 75 percent over the last three years, nearly double those of many comparable institutions, according to University officials.

For the entering class of 1984, the most recent class for which five-year, nearly double those of many comparable institutions, according to University officials.

For the entering class of 1984, the most recent class for which five-year graduation rates are available, 78 percent of the Black students had graduated by last spring. Overall, 89 percent of the class had graduated after five years, according to data compiled by the University's Office of Institutional Planning and Studies.

"Graduation and retention rates for Black students are showing a marked increase compared to those of the early 1980s," said George A. Stovall, director of institutional studies.

In the spring of 1983, for example, only 58 percent of Black students who entered in 1978 had graduated, while the overall graduation rate was 81 percent.

Stovall attributes the gains, in part, to better preparation of Black students now entering the University. The median SAT score for Blacks in this year's entering class is 30 points higher than last year's, he said.

"We know there is a strong correlation between SAT scores and the graduation rate for Black students, so we could very well expect to see still higher graduation rates for Black students five years from now," Stovall said.

Rick Turner, the University's dean of Afro-American Affairs whose own doctoral research focused on Black retention rates, agrees with that analysis. He believes that retention is a complex process that begins with recruitment and admissions.

"We would do a disservice to match students with an institution that they can't succeed at," he said.

Turner also noted a variety of programs at the University that are contribut-

ing to increased retention of Black students. Key among them is his office's peer advising program, through which 49 second- and third-year Black students meet at least weekly with small groups of entering Black students.

He believes that strong peer relationships are "the biggest single factor" that led 97% of last year's entering Black students to return to the University this fall. He hopes to have enough funding next year to increase the number of peer advisors to 65.

"Contact with Black alumni returning to the University, multi-cultural orientation sessions for all new students, an outstanding job by resident advisors and counselors in the dorms, minority career programs, and an expanded academic support system all contribute to Black students' success at the University," Turner said.

The academic support program, which serves all students at the University, includes tutorials, academic advising, and coordination of workshops for study skills. It is under the direction of associate provost Ron W. Simmons.

The Chronicle of Higher Education recently cited a national study showing that only 26.6 percent of Blacks and Hispanics who entered four-year institutions in 1980 had graduated six years later. Institutional studies director Stovall noted that such a study would include many institutions with more part-time and commuter students than at the University.

A fairer comparison, he said, would be among the 39 institutions participating in the American Association of Universities data exchange program. A recent report from 22 of those universities, which include the University of California at Berkeley, UCLA, Carnegie-Mellon, North Carolina, Tulane, and the University of Wisconsin, shows a medium six-year graduation rate for Black students of 38 percent. Only three universities, among them the University of Virginia, reported rates above 70 percent.

## Conrad K. Harper, Nominated as Next President of The Association of the Bar of the City of New York Will Become Association's First Black President If Elected By Membership



Cyrus R. Vance (left) and Conrad K. Harper, partners in the law firm of Simpson Thacher & Bartlett, outside the Manhattan headquarters of The Association of the Bar of the City of New York. Harper was nominated as the next president of the Association. Vance, the former U.S. Secretary of State, served as the Association's president from 1974 to 1976. If elected by the Association's membership, Harper will become the first Black president in the Association's 120-year history.

Conrad K. Harper, a partner in the law firm of Simpson Thacher & Bartlett, has been nominated as the next president of The Association of the Bar of the City of New York, the nation's oldest local bar association.

If elected by the Association's more than 18,000 members, Harper, 49, will become the first Black president in the organization's 120-year history. The president is the chief executive officer of the Association and supervises the management of the Association's activities.

Harper was a member of the Association's Executive Committee from 1976-1980, and was its chair in 1979-80. He also served as a vice president of the Association in 1980-81, and has served on a number of Association committees.

Since joining Simpson Thacher & Bartlett in 1971 and becoming a partner in 1974, Harper has concentrated on litigation involving civil rights, securities, environmental and insurance law. Previously, he

was a staff lawyer with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund for which he handled racial discrimination and other varied cases.

Results of the mailed ballot for the election for the office of president, other Association offices and the Association's executive, audit and nominating committees will be announced May 22, at the Association's annual meeting. Those included on the slate for office were nominated by the Association's seven-member nominating committee, chaired by Robert M. Kaufman, partner at Proskauer Rose Goetz & Mendelsohn.

The Association is an independent, nongovernmental organization whose membership of attorneys and judges reside principally in New York City but also throughout the United States and in more than 40 countries. Founded in 1870, the Association has engaged in many battles for civic reform and improvements in the administration of justice and the professional welfare of the bar.

## Problem Solving

When a social system is no longer capable of solving basic social problems, the people who live under that system want to know the reason why. They come out into the streets, they rise up, they speak out; they step forward, they make demands. This is true from Bucharest to the South Bronx, Sofia to Soweto.

Over the last few months the people of Eastern Europe have made it clear that the ruling elites of the various Communist parties had no solutions to the chronic problems of material scarcity and the lack of democracy. So they came out into the streets to demand new leadership, which hopefully will be able to provide such solutions.

Like our brothers and sisters in Europe, the American people are becoming increasingly aware that the permanently incumbent professional politicians of the major parties who run this country on behalf of white corporate America have no solutions to the serious problems that beset our country: poverty, homelessness, rampant police brutality, domestic violence against women and children, the epidemics of drug addiction and AIDS, official corruption, a ravaged environment and a blatantly undemocratic electoral system in which more than half of us do not choose to participate.

It is obvious that the Republican Party and the Democratic Party—both which have billions of dollars at their disposal—have no solutions; if they did, these problems would be in the process of being solved. But in fact the problems are only getting worse—they have reached crisis proportions. And this is true no matter who holds office, "liberals" or "conservatives," "machine regulars" or "reformers." It is true whether they are men or women, Black or white. As long as they are Republicans and Democrats, they have no answers for the broad masses of the American people who must confront those problems in their everyday lives.

In New York City some folks have been telling me that I should stop "dogging" David Dinkins, the new mayor. "Dr. Fulani, they say, you need to give Dinkins a chance. 'Of course I'm going to 'give David a chance! He's the mayor of New York—the Black and Puerto Rican working class communities put him in a place where he can address the problems that confront the people of the city. But we can't afford to rely on this mayor—any more than we could rely on the legion of Democrats who preceded him in office. We have seen reformers and reform movements come and go; they failed—miserable—because when push came to shove, when throw down time came around, they were too beholden to the banking and real estate interests which control New York to front for the people who elected them: the ones who pay rent and ride the subways and buses and send their children to the public schools and take their elderly parents to the public hospitals. The reformers, whatever their intentions weren't independent.

As the chairperson of the New Alliance Party I am working day and night to build an independent alternative to the major parties—a Black-led, multi-racial party that stands for PEOPLE INSTEAD OF PROFITS. When our people come out into the streets to demand solutions to the chronic problems of material scarcity and lack of democracy that the corrupt leadership of the major parties cannot and will not solve, NAP—after 11 years, America's fourth largest electoral party—will be there with the independent option. Then we will have our chance!

## Medical Foundation Awards \$90,000 In Grants

More than \$90,000 in grants, scholarships and loans were awarded recently by the Northwest Osteopathic Medical Foundation, according to its Executive Director David Rianda.

Included in that group were grants earmarked for 31 senior citizen organizations throughout the state, for a total of \$16,500, and for support of two children's programs on Oregon Public Broadcasting.

More than one-half million dollars in grants have been made by the Foundation since 1986, he said.

The senior citizen organizations will receive unsolicited end-of-the-year grants from the Foundation this week. Gifts will range from \$250. to \$1,000. These programs provide a variety of services to the elderly and include nursing homes, senior citizen service centers, and special focus programs.

Two award-winning television programs which air throughout the state on Oregon Public Broadcasting will receive sole sponsorship in 1990 by the Foundation: "DeGrassi Junior High" and "Reading Rainbow."

Rianda said seven Northwest osteopathic medical students were also selected for financial aid in loans and scholarships, totaling \$16,500. This brings to a total 45 students in a four-year period receiving assistance to attend one of 15 osteopathic medical schools across the country. Students are from Oregon, Washington, Montana, Idaho, and Alaska.

According to Rianda, "The balance of the grants were given to civic organizations and for medical education for a total of \$57,049." They included disaster relief for California earthquake victims to the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army. Other grants were awarded to: Kendall Community Center, \$1,500; North Lincoln Hospital, \$2,000; Retired Senior Volunteer Program, \$1,000; Tree of Learning High School, \$1,200; Waverly Children's Home, \$1,599; Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of Oregon, \$15,000; Eastmoreland Hospital (2) \$9,500; and \$12,000; and a research project, \$3,500.

The Northwest Osteopathic Medical Foundation was established in 1984. A public charity, it represents the concerns of the osteopathic (D.O.) medical community and provides support to programs for families and children as well as to non-profit organizations in the areas of health care, prevention, research, equipment, and public education. Rianda said the Foundation is administered by an 11-person Board of Directors, including six Doctors of Osteopathy.

## National Education Association Urges Speedy Implementation of Minority Education Action Plan

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The National Education Association today called on public and private leaders across the United States to "change the map" that guided the education reform movement in the '80s and redesign it to include those students most at risk, yet still most ignored.

Responding to a \$1.2 million study funded by the Carnegie Corporation on improving U.S. education for minorities, NEA Vice-President Robert (Bob) Chase said, "The national education reform movement has paid insufficient attention to those students—particularly minority students—whose performance is most critical to the success of education reform."

Chase cited the increasing numbers of racial- and language-minority children in the nation's school population as one reason why all U.S. residents must care about educational equality. By the year 2000, one of every three U.S. elementary and secondary school students will be from an ethnic or racial minority.

"To regain our global competitiveness in this post-industrial age, we cannot repeat our historical failures to meet the needs of these children," he said.

The study, "Education That Works: An Action Plan for the Education of Minorities," found that school reforms started in the '80s "left behind the nation's 13 million minority students, who remain for

the most part segregated in second-class schools."

It recommended a series of "10 principles for change," including revitalizing a faith in education among minority communities and families and providing an even start in school through early health care and learning development programs.

Chase praised its conclusion that the costs of not mobilizing to provide equal educational opportunities will far exceed the long-term expense if we don't build minority participation into national reform efforts.

He cited NEA's landmark 1986 task force hearings on educational concerns of Blacks, Hispanics, Asians/Pacific Islanders, and American Indians/Alaskan Natives. In its "...And Justice for All" series, the Association published four reports that inspired a number of ongoing NEA activities. These range from minority teacher recruitment and parental involvement projects to sponsorship of broad-based conferences on bilingual education and educating the Black child.

Chase noted that the values and strengths that children of different races and cultures bring to our schools too often are undervalued or rejected. The Carnegie report's recommendations build on these strengths, rather than view differences as problems, he said.

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## VANTAGE POINT

Articles and Essays by Ron Daniels

### Social Uplift For The Black Masses Requires Conversion From Guns To Butter

"A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching 'spiritual death.'" These were the prophetic words of Martin Luther King as he spoke at the Riverside Church in New York one year before he was assassinated. The Viet Nam War was sapping vital resources away from programs and projects to help poor and working people in America. King talked of "spiritual death" because placing a priority on manufacturing bombs to make war over producing bread to feed the hungry is symptomatic of a de-ranked value system and a sick political-economic system. King realized that millions of people would continue to suffer cultural, educational, occupational and physical death as long as this nation could build exotic weapons for defense, while failing to defend poor people against hunger, poverty and disease. America did not heed King's warning. America continues to maintain a war economy.

In the '80s Ronald Reagan presided over a multi-trillion dollar escalation in the defense budget including billions of dollars for his "Star Wars" fantasy. The massive military build up was achieved at the expense of poor and working people as virtually every major social program to aid the disadvantaged was drastically reduced. There was a 63% cut in job training programs in the Black community for example and aid to education was reduced by 20%. During the Reagan years .55 cent of each tax dollar went to the military while only .2 cents went to education.

In reality the massive build-up was far out of proportion to any real or perceived threat from Reagan's imaginary evil Rus-

sian empire. Much of the bloated military budget amounted to a huge welfare check for wealthy defense contractors and corporations. The rich grew richer while the poor were driven deeper into poverty.

Needless to say the African-American community suffered disproportionately under Reaganism and Reaganomics. The gap between Black and white incomes widened significantly and there was a dramatic expansion in the so-called Black underclass. The drug crisis, crime, violence, increased incarceration and the deterioration within America's inner city ghettos is directly attributable to America's senseless militarism and corporate greed. African-Americans are bearing the brunt of America's "spiritual death." Black people are dying.

As we enter the decade of the '90s the National African-American community must muster the energy and resolve to mount a major assault on America's defense budget, the defense establishment and America's militaristic mentality and values. We cannot win th "war on drugs" without winning the war against poverty. African-Americans will not have a secure future unless the battle against illiteracy, and inadequate education is won. The elevation and uplift of th black masses will require a major change in America's priorities and a massive infusion of resources for jobs, housing, education and healthcare. It will be impossible to make the necessary investment of resources for human development without taking direct aim at the military budget. To use a time worn cliché its time for African-Americans to push for a conversion of "guns to butter." The very life of our community may depend on that prospect.