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"The Eyes and The Ears of the Community"

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PCC: Is The Name Of The Game The Same?

When Gil Sardinia left California in late 1989, to assume a position at Portland Community College's Sylvania Campus, he brought with him a Juris Doctorate from Hastings College of the Law, an M.A. in Social Work from San Francisco State and a B.A. in Sociology from the University of California at Berkeley.

Offering these credentials, the 40 year old who migrated to the U.S. from Cuba when he was 13 thought that he was entering a work environment that was anxious to utilize his multi-faceted talents.

In September, 1989, Sardinia applied for the position of Literacy Coordinator at the Sylvania Campus.

Although he was not offered the position of Literacy Coordinator, Sardinia claims Sylvania Executive Dean Paul Williams hired him on Oct. 3, to teach English as a non-native language (ENNL) and scheduled him to meet the following day with a screening committee.

In the meeting with the committee which included Administrators Peter Hirsch and Dale Edmonds, and Claudia Nawas, ENNL Program Supervisor, Sardinia said Edmonds asked why he wanted the job. "Are you having a mid-life crisis," he asked.

Sardinia further stated that the question was based on discrimination of race and age. "It was obviously clear to me that Dale Edmonds did not want me to be hired at PCC for any position," Sardinia said. "He (Edmonds) later admitted to me that he was unhappy because he had people waiting on half-time positions and Paul (Williams) put you in ahead of them." The committee found Sardinia unqualified for the position of ENNL instructor.

In late October, Sardinia claims Williams made another offer to him to become

an Administrative Assistant to the Executive Dean and to teach two evening Sociology classes. He accepted the offer and began his duties on November 1st, 1989.

On November 6, Sardinia alleges Williams informed him that PCC President Dan Moriarty had called him (Williams) over the weekend at home and instructed him to terminate Sardinia's employment due to budget considerations. But according to Sardinia, Williams told him he would try to find him something by January 1st, 1990.

Sardinia informed Williams that he had moved his family from California and fully expected PCC to honor its agreement to hire him.

On November 9, Sardinia claims Moriarty reversed his decision to terminate him and changed his job description to that of Academic Advisor with a 40% teaching responsibility in Sociology.

On November 20, Sardinia filed a complaint with the Affirmative Action Office at the campus and on November 24, sent a chronology of the events leading up to the complaints to the PCC Board of Directors.

On Dec. 4, Affirmative Action Director Jorge Espinosa responded to the complaint in a letter to Sardinia, which in addition to dealing with the complaint, Espinosa stated "I am concerned about the level of stress and emotional upset that you have displayed in our recent conversations."

Espinosa offered to provide college assistance in arranging professional consultation. The letter also requested Sardinia to sign an agreement which stated that neither (Espinosa) or other people involved in the investigation would be subject to belegiment or threatening behavior. Sardinia refused to sign the agreement.

According to Sardinia, acts of racism at Sylvania campus goes unpunished even though complaints are properly filed with PCC administration. In fact, he states, many people who file complaints of racism and racial harassment are transferred to other PCC campuses.

Sardinia believes that the intimidation and harassment that he has experienced is due possibly to his activism in advocating Affirmative Action at PCC.

Sardinia claims that the procedure for filing Affirmative Action Complaints is designed to discourage the complaint from seeking redress other than internally. He cites as a prime example a PCC requirement that say complaints that is filed with any investigative body other than the PCC does not warrant an investigation by the College Affirmative Action officer.

According to Sardinia, the lengthy investigation process by E.E.O.C. or Civil Rights agencies in the federal government most certainly encourages an individual to look to the College Affirmative Action officer to respond to complaints in a proper and timely fashion.

But Sardinia states that PCC has historically refused to develop a workable Affirmative Action plan and has instead fostered an atmosphere on the Sylvania campus that encourages racial harassment and intimidation.

Editor Note: On January 31st, one hour after leaving the Observer's office Gil Sardinia was suspended by PCC College President Dan Moriarty pending a hearing which will precede his termination. The Observer tried on numerous occasions to contact President Moriarty but was unsuccessful. **Next Week:** The threats against Halim Rashaan.

Male/Female: Dialogue

by Ulysses Tucker, Jr.

You know, the dialogue created by my first story on Jan. 10, 1990 will just not go away. Actually, I am pleased that it is still generating so many comments and provoking so much interaction.

Recently, I was invited to a "Super Bowl Party" by a Black, single, professional female and I had a good time. It was sort of a networking party. Couples, single Black men and women as well as other ethnic groups. I figured out that something was up when I walked in and the hostess handed me a xeroxed copy of the stories and then heard from the back room, "That's the one. There he is..." I grabbed a cocktail and braced myself for the pounding or expected pounding such as the Denver Broncos later received. It was not bad, thank God, as the perception I had walking through the door.

Sure, I was asked questions about what type of person I looked for in a mate, where were some of the brothers I said I knew who wanted to meet Black women, and my underlining motivation for writing the story by many of the single Black women there. The whole party was buzzing about the story. I enjoyed talking about the story more than the game, but more importantly, the perspectives shared by all.

Through it all, one thing remains crystal clear, there is a great deal of bitterness and hurt hidden away inside each of us. Sometimes, this can affect communications as documented last week. We all have emotional baggage from our childhood, past relationships, or family trauma that overtly affects how we deal with others. If personal growth is desired, one must purged this baggage from our conscious/unconsciousness and get on to happier and healthier days psychologically. In short, don't let what was prevent you from what could be or is...

I sensed a great deal of frustration, even some within me, among black males and females regarding their inability to find the perfect mate. Everyone wants that Jayne Kennedy 10 or that Billy Dee Williams - Eddie Murphy type. One sister noted something at the party that is worth repeating.

She asked, "... how can he want a perfect ten when he is not a 10 himself? Good question, huh? I think that her point is a



legitimate one, well taken by those who were listening. Do expectations set folks up for disappointment or better still, do we think that we can make someone into something they are not? Should the husband of ten years be disappointed when his wife still does not want kids when she told him while dating that she never wanted children? She was open, honest about her feelings and expectations, but he figured that he could change her mind. Now, he wants a divorce and blames her because she does not want children. A great revelation on his part...

I was even reminded about the hunter and the snake story by one young lady when it comes to expectations. It so happened that a hunter came across a snake in the road who was very ill. Being somewhat compassionate, the hunter picked up the snake and carried it back to his cabin to nurse it. They became the best of friends. They talked about old flames, loves in their lives, and about being hurt by others. As time went by, their friendship got stronger and the snake regained his strength. One day, while the hunter gazed out from the porch of his cabin at a beautiful sunset, the snake bit him and let loose a fair amount of poison. The hunter fell to his knees in disbelief, dying and looking at the snake in total confusion, he asked why? The snake looked the hunter right square in the eyes and said, you knew

that I was a snake when you brought me in here, didn't you? The hunter died with his expectation of reform and the snake eased on down the road. Expectations can kill a dream or a relationship.

If people could all shut their eyes and just listen to others, many would probably be surprised at who they were attracted to spiritually or intellectually. Every good person in the world is not a ten on the outside, but maybe there is a 10 inside of the heart.

There's nothing wrong with having expectations if two people are on the same page. The thrill of sharing a collective vision, dream, or understanding has eluded many people. Being on the same page and in the same book is so very important to relationships. People have to want what each wants. It definitely has to be mutual.

Lastly, do you ever think that there will come a time where people, especially Black men and women, will accept someone or each other for their character, inner-beauty, dreams, values, morals, social responsibility, or vision as oppose to their physical makeup or BMW/BENZ? Unfortunately not in my opinion. Eyes have a tendency to be attracted to pretty things or beautiful people.

If people could all shut their eyes and just listen to others, many would probably be surprised at who they were attracted to spiritually or intellectually. Every good person in the world is not a ten on the outside, but maybe there is a 10 inside of the heart. Instead, people like the way those jeans fit or how handsome he may be even though he is a "knucklehead" or she might be an "airhead." I guess all people have something to offer, whether someone is attracted to them or not. Close your eyes and listen.



Sharon Gary-Smith (left) introduces her daughter Mariotta (far right) and Stacey Pernel at Saturday's Pathways Youth Conference, "On Becoming A Woman." The tow young women shared what they learned during the day with other conference participants, who ranged in age from seven to 91.



"Women of Wisdom" (from left) Alicia McKenzie, Lauretta Slaughter, Pearl Lewis and Joanne Suell Green shared their experience and knowledge with Pathways members. More than 80 Pathways members, parents and friends attended the American Red Cross youth group's first conference.

Pathways now meets at a new time at the American Red Cross, 3131 N. Vancouver, starting Thursday, Feb. 8, from 3 - 5 p.m. Theme for February is "Black History Month - Yesterday, Tomorrow, Future." Call 284-1234 for more information.

History As A Weapon Of Racists

by Professor McKinley Burt

Don't just free Nelson Mandela of South Africa; Free the minds and psyches of millions of Black and white Americans.

The American media is in the midst of a fast food frenzy as it describes the golden arches of a gigantic new McDonald's, "right there in the middle of Moscow, Russia--under the stony gaze of a statue of Russia's most famous poet, Alexander Pushkin." That's it! You are not to find out from these press dispatches or from your literature classes, or from anthologies, that Pushkin was an African who not only raised Russian literature to a world class status, but who used his passionate soul to provide the inspiration for a hundred million serfs to revolt and free themselves from the tyranny of the Czar. The Russian's honor him in the great Pushkin Square, African visage and all, while our historians and professors quiver in their ivy towers lest some student make the fatal inquiry. And while East Europeans mount the barricades, singing the phrases of Martin Luther King, Jr. local rightwingers embarrass Portland before the world over a Union Avenue name change.

It was on November 7 of last year that the Oregonian favored us with one of their feather-light touches upon the Eurocentric revisions of history (B.7). An article by Professor Martin Bernal of Cornell University (author of "Black Athena") with the subheading, "Ancient Greek Culture was based on African, Asian influence, not Northern European." Well and good if we keep in mind that it was the Greeks alone who originated the barbaric practice of scalping, and that the practice was incorporated into several thousand years of European warfare. The British and French brought this savagery to the Americas where they taught their Indian mercenaries to use this method of documenting their kills (if they wished to be paid). Most of Bernal's article simply cites a few of the same African preeminences I have been detailing in my "Perspectives" column the past two years. There follows a few highlights from the piece under discussion.

For the past 200 years, ancient Greece has been viewed as the epitome of European culture. It is seen as setting artistic and intellectual standards for later Europeans to follow. At the same time, it is implied that as no other continent possessed a higher plan than those of other continents.

This theory was frequently used to justify European and North American supremacy over the non-white peoples of other continents--and their own. When colonialists argued, as they often did, that Africans or Native Americans needed 2,000 years of civilization before they could reach European "standards," they were thinking less of Jesus, who was not a European, than they were of Plato and Aristotle, who were assumed to be Europeans.

There is no doubt that Greece has been the largest single source of the elements that compose modern European civilization. The question whose answer affects people, however, is: How European was ancient Greece?

In contrast to this Aryan model, I propose reviving what I am calling the ancient model of Greek origins. It maintains that much of the higher culture of the classical and Hellenistic periods (between 550 and 50 B.C.) came from Phoenician trading cities along the coast of Lebanon and Syria and from Egypt, whose African people included many who would now be considered Black.

The means of transmission consisted of Greek statesmen, scientists and philosophers who had studied in Egypt, or traders from Egyptian and Phoenician cities or colonies established around 1500 B.C. in what is now Greece.

The ancient model thus differs from the Aryan model in holding that Greek civilization came not from Europe, but from Africa and western Asia.

Martin Bernal
It is to be noted in this article that Mr. Bernal has not completely divorced himself from certain "putative" prejudices, a historiographic term I defined last week ("Commonly accepted-assumed"). It is common practice on the part of establishment historians to omit the fact and the readily available documentation that these geographical areas and colonies were either founded by, occupied by or under the hegemony of African dynasties of the time. "the Middle East" is simply a term used to conceal the real ethnicity of ancient peoples (Phoenicia, Lebanon, Syria, Israel, Cyprus, Crete, Carthage and North Africa as such). Part and parcel of this obfuscation is the

fact that Black skills in navigation are usually deprecated or completely omitted (these greatest astronomers of the ancient world). This same play of an inability to traverse the oceans is used by anthropologists in support of their ludicrous inventions of races to avoid recognition of the obviously African ancestry of the inhabitants of the Islands of the Pacific (Perhaps the "Chariot of the Gods" brought them).

Be careful Mr. Gorbachev of the fast food circus in Moscow where our press reports "Mountains of food, jugglers, and men dressed as cartoon characters dancing through the crowd--Punk rockers and skin-heads--waiting to pass under the golden arches." Sounds like today's version of the ancient Italian Commedia del'arte street players--a North African importation. Bolshaya Bronaya Street in famed Pushkin Square is in danger of being trivialized not to mention the memory of the great Black bard whose poem, Ode To Liberty read, "Oh shake and shiver, tyrants of the world, But lend an ear ye fallen slaves, gain courage and rise." Those of us who prayed for a Peace Dividend now fear that President Gorbachev may be called on next not to sign an arms reduction treaty but to announce on satellite T.V. that his next stop will be at "Disneyland."

So what kind of ethical, resourceful and committed researchers do we have available to write our histories and textbooks? Don't ask! For a hundred years academic charlatans have told us only that the slaves picked cotton, hewed wood and served in the kitchen and bed up at the big house. But for little more than the price of return postage one can learn from the former British Colonial Office that in the American Colonies "there were over 265 Iron Plantations, ranging from Saugus, Massachusetts to th Chesapeake Bay area, most operated by thousands of Black men, women and children. Their names and ages are given as well as each individual's production in the various crafts. This should not be surprising since Yale and other university expeditions have documented an 8,000 year-old metalworking tradition in the Americas. Could Hitler's minister of propaganda, Herr Goebbels, have done a better job on the American people than their trusted mentors.