

Portland Community College Part Two

In the February 1, 1990 edition of the Portland Community College Sylvania Campus student publication, The Bridge, student editor Betty Barrager, describes Monica Little—the only African American P.C.C. board member—as “Cocoa-tinted with wild animals dangling from her ears.” At the January 18, 1990 board meeting of the college’s Board of Directors, board chairman Keith Skelton, responding to criticism of P.C.C.’s Affirmative Action states “it was not going to be the policy of Portland Community College to hire unqualified minorities.”

These statements, along with other racially-motivated incidents that have occurred at the Sylvania campus, have created an environment at P.C.C. that threatens to transform the college from an institute of higher learning to one that sanctions threats, intimidation, and harassment of minority students and faculty.

And, according to members of the African American Council and other minority students and staff, Portland Community College President Dan Moriarty is primarily responsible. The accusations are supported in part by Mr. Moriarty’s luke-warm statement of condemnation of the threats against academic advisor Halim Rahsaan and his family, and according to Halim, “The president’s failure to provide adequate security measures on the campus to ensure my safety after the threats were received . . . it was I who notified the police, it was I who notified the F.B.I., and it was I who asked for campus security.” This alleged lack of response from the president has led the African American Council to question Moriarty’s sincere commitment to “provide leadership at an institution where bigotry, overt expressions of hatred escalate in frequency and venom.”

The A.A.C. cites numerous instances of racism and harassment at the Sylvania campus, including the transferring of minorities who filed complaints with the Affirmative Action office; the white supervisor who locked an African American employee in a room and shouted at him that he couldn’t leave; the students and staff who yelled “nigger” at the security guard enforce-

ing parking regulations.

The group is also critical of Dr. Moriarty for extracting minutes from the board meeting in October of last year, regarding testimony it presented relative to the college’s Affirmative Action plan. The testimony was later re-inserted after the council protested.

But until the threats against Halim came to light, Dr. Jessica Bailey, former executive dean of the Sylvania campus was the subject of a vote-of-no-confidence instigated by the Executive Council of the P.C.C. faculty federation. The federation representatives sought to have their members give their opinion on the competency and management style of Dr. Bailey.

The vote did not take place after the African American Council once again protested to Dr. Moriarty, who subsequently conveyed his displeasure and branded the proposed vote as unfair, inappropriate and unwarranted. But the African American Council directed correspondence to the P.C.C. Board of Directors, requesting the college to “declare and demonstrate emphatically and unequivocally that it will not abide intolerance on any level from President Moriarty on down before it is too late.”

The Council is seeking time on the agenda at the next board meeting where it hopes to provide input on the Affirmative Action document before it is accepted by the P.C.C. Board. Meanwhile, Rahsaan continues his duties at P.C.C. as the investigation of the threats are continued by outside authorities.

Scheduled to appear at the campus on February 15 is Dr. Lenore Fulani, Chairperson of the New Alliance Party which is engaged in its own struggle in the fight against racism around the country. Her comments should be interesting.

Hill Named CEO of Burrell Public Relations Inc.



James C. Hill

CHICAGO—James H. Hill, former president and chief operating officer of Burrell Public Relations Inc., was recently named president and chief executive officer, according to Thomas J. Burrell, chairman of Burrell Communications Group.

In his new position, Hill will have total responsibility for overall direction, planning, and policy-making for the company, including its profit and loss management. Under his direction, Burrell Public Relations has grown to become the country’s largest minority-owned public relations agency.

Prior to joining Burrell Public Relations, Hill was director of public relations and communications for Sara Lee Corporation. He joined the Chicago-based company in 1982, as director of public relations, media relations, and employee and financial communications.

From 1980 until 1982, Hill was operations/public relations manager for S.C. Johnson

& Son (Johnson Wax), Racine, WI. Prior to that, he was a producer-writer for WGTE-TV, Toledo, OH and earlier served as the station’s director of public information. While at WGTE-TV, he wrote, produced and hosted a weekly public affairs program.

Hill began his public relations career in 1970 as an internal communications editor with Owens-Corning Fiberglas, Toledo. He was later named merchandising supervisor and was responsible for sales promotion, advertising and public relations for several of the company’s marketing divisions.

A 1969 graduate of Ohio University, Hill received a bachelor of science degree in journalism and also attended the university’s Graduate School of Communication.

Hill has received numerous national and international public relations and film awards, including the CINE Golden Eagle, the Publicity Club of Chicago’s Gold and Silver Trumpets, the International Association of Business Communicator’s Gold Quill Award of Excellence and its Award of Merit. In 1986, Hill was the recipient of two Silver Anvils presented by the Public Relations Society of America.

Burrell Public Relations Inc. is a division of Burrell Communications Group, which also includes Burrell Advertising Inc. and Burrell Consumer Promotions. The Chicago-based public relations firm, which specializes in the Black and Hispanic consumer markets, has conducted programs for such major companies as McDonald’s Corporation; The Procter & Gamble Company; Kraft General Foods Group; Sara Lee Corporation; Brown-Forman Beverage Company; United Telecommunications and U.S. Sprint; The National Black Child Development Institute; Citicorp/Citibank; Citicorp Savings of Illinois; Illinois Department of Public Aid; and the city of Chicago.

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Tucker Featured Speaker at ACAP

Ulysses Tucker, Jr., Producer of KATU’s Sunday Northwest public affairs program was the featured speaker at ACAP’s (Area and Central Administration Personnel) February 21, 1990 meeting at noon. ACAP consist of administrators from the Portland Public Schools. The speech centered around race relations and Tucker’s experiences as they relate to growing up black in urban America. He also addressed cultural isolation, stereotyping, and the rise of racist acts in Portland. The speech is entitled, “All White Folks Are Not Bad . . .” The speech will be aired on KBPS (Portland Public Schools Radio Network).



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ADVOCACY COORDINATOR

For Womenspace provides case management and advocacy, supervises volunteers. Provides crisis intervention and shelter coverage. Current drivers license required. 30 hrs/wk, \$10,500 plus benefits. Application must be postmarked March 2.

Information meeting. February 26, 7:00-9:00, Campbell Senior Center.

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