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## "No Man Is An Island Unto Himself": Neither Is An Island

by Professor McKinley Burt

That famous quote effectively connects the diverse, yet common, traumatic experiences of people of color that have been described in this three-part series. For comparative appraisal, this final chapter will emphasize similar distresses sustained by those of African descent on the islands and coastal provinces of the Atlantic Ocean: Specifically America. Ironically, ancient and medieval maps describe this great body of water as the "Ethiopic Ocean"—just as they refer to today's Persian Gulf as the "Ethiopian Sea." Why is that, do you suppose?

Never in my years of writing for this newspaper has a series of my articles gained so much attention—not only from local readers but from out of state (Beginning February 14, 1990 with "Hawaii: America's Best Kept Secret . . ."). I am grateful for that wide and favorable response from Blacks, whites, Hawaiians and South Sea Islanders, whomever you may be. Because of space limitations much had to be omitted here but I have included a substantial bibliography (My heart felt thanks for your response and approbation).

Margaret Mead: Before we leave the beautiful blue Pacific for the stormy



Sea Island lad.

Atlantic, you should be aware of a very important fact. There can be no meaningful discussion of the Pacific Islands without reference to those exotic tales of a tropical sexual Shangri la put upon a gullible world by a naive, neophyte anthropologist, one Margaret Mead. Though she has been thoroughly repudiated (by all but some Americans), her one-stop, one-interview travesty inflicted upon the people of Samoa in 1925 led to a book ("Coming of Age in Samoa") that became the launch pad for America's Sexual Revolution.

Subsequently, experienced researchers who immersed themselves into local societies and families soon discovered a virtuous people with an "entrenched moral code" (Derek Freeman, Chief of Anthropology, The Australian National University at Canberra). A recent television special exposed the entire sordid, made-up story before an Australian audience, but the damage seems irreversible. American Anthropologists refuse to posthumously recant the slanderous myth propagated by Miss Mead, their heroin—for the racist underpinnings of the entire exotic libel against island peoples of color would collapse. But, Travel Agency Anthropology is alive and well.

Sea Islands: These fabulously rich and beautiful islands off the coasts of South Carolina and Georgia have seen within a century several successful assaults upon Black ownership and occupancy. At the end of the Civil War, President Lincoln directed that land from the sea 30 miles

inland be set aside for the benefit of freed slaves—as well as most of the adjacent islands. General Sherman issued Special Field Order No. 15, and many former slaves purchased land and began life anew. But, these had been the fabulously wealthy plantations of supple, silky sea island cotton sold in European markets for more than twice the price of ordinary cotton. Blacks would not be allowed to persevere.

As with the Pacific Islands scenario, the assault began almost immediately—this



Gullah Preschooler

time with the assassination of Lincoln, where upon President Andrew Jackson allowed the former slaveholders to return and regain most of the land by force and violence, and corporate financing. Some Blacks retained small tracts, and many, fearful, refused to officially record their deeds for fear of reprisal from whites. For a hundred years county and state administrations made sure there would be little change; it was only in the 1950s that the public school systems began to address the secondary education needs of the Black children. By this time, of course, most of the incredibly valuable heritage had been lost—the indigenous population, insufficiently trained to mount a defense, began to lose even more property through trickery and taxation. More disillusioned generations went off to the big cities. More land was bought earlier by southern senators and by South African corporations (Wall Street Journal, 1972).

An excellent demonstration model is that of the fabulous Hilton Head Island (Sea Pines Resort), today's playground of the rich and famous. Originally one third-owned by Black farmers and fishermen, that 9,000 acres was valued at only \$100 an acre.

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## African-American Health Coalition Announces Successful Law Suit

The African-American Health Coalition would like community residents to know that recently the State of Oregon's Adult and Family Services Division was successfully sued by the Multnomah County Legal Aid Service. The lawsuit affects persons applying for a welfare medical card under the State's Medically Needy program.

Medically Needy provides a welfare medical card to persons whose income exceeds welfare limits, but whose medical expenditures are great enough to allow them to "spend down" to the income level which would qualify them for the welfare medical card. Meeting the "spend down" requires the clients to meet with a welfare case worker to determine if the client's income exceeds the welfare limit. If the client is over income for welfare, then the

worker determines how much medical expenses the client needs to be billed for before the client can obtain his/her medical care.

The lawsuit challenged the method that AFS used to calculate the "spend down" amount. This successful challenge should result in more people qualifying for the Medically Needy program. These changes should take effect on February 16th but if you have applied for the Medically Needy program prior to this date, you may qualify to have your "spend down" recalculated under the new guidelines. To do this or for more information regarding these changes, contact Darcy Norville or Lorey Freeman at the Multnomah County Legal Aid Services at 224-4086.

## City Commissioner Dick Bogle Respond To White Supremacist Richard Barrett

The appearance of white supremacist Richard Barrett in Portland recently should remove any doubt that racism is involved in the campaign to rename Martin Luther King Blvd.

At his news conference, Barrett said his only reason for flying here from Mississippi was to meet with Walter and Rosalie Huss, and congratulate them on their successful petition drive.

Barrett is a racist who recruits and trains skinheads in military tactics and the use of weapons.

He heads an organization, The Nationalist Movement, which has brought skinheads into its so-called "self-defense strike force."

He is described as a "mainline white supremacist" in the tradition of the Ku Klux Klan by the director of the Southern Poverty Law Center's Klanwatch section.

This man with this background coming to Portland at this time for this purpose should open the eyes of many well-intentioned Portlanders who have bought into the "big lie" that this is an issue of City Council process, or the cost of reprinting stationery, or the historical significance of Union Ave.

Racism is the motivating force behind Richard Barrett. Racism brought him to Portland for his visit with Walter and Rosalie Huss.

There's an old saying that begins, "Birds of a feather . . ."

From the office of  
Commissioner Dick Bogle

## Former Combat Hero Sworn In As Judge



District Court Judge Ancer Haggerty

District Court Judge Ancer Haggerty, 45, selected twice for college football's All-Coast lineup, and for 20 years the most highly decorated Black officer in US Marine Corps history, will be sworn in as a Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge on Thursday, March 1, 1990. The ceremony will be held at 8:15 am in Haggerty's chambers with Circuit Judge Donald Londer administering the oath of office.

Ancer Haggerty hasn't worn a Marine uniform for years and these days he doesn't knock down opponents at football. After a long day as a District Court Judge he can be found cradling his 2-year old, Phyllicia, rocking her to sleep to gentle Beethoven. What remains the same is the determination to do his very best. The conviction that compelled a badly wounded First Lt. Haggerty in Vietnam to lead his unit to the rescue of a group of trapped Marines lives today as loving stepfather who urges his stepson to "try harder, be more concerned. Don't just do it, do the best you can."

According to Multnomah County District Attorney Mike Schunk, that is precisely what Haggerty brings to the bench. Schunk, who has known and worked with Haggerty for more than 20 years, describes him as, "One of the best our profession has to offer."

Until recently, Haggerty was the only Black partner in a law firm in Oregon. Although his life is a history of firsts, Haggerty is concerned that everyone in our

society have the opportunity and the will to succeed. This concern extends beyond the walls of his courtroom. Growing up on N. Buffalo Street and graduating from Jefferson High School left Haggerty with a knowledge of what comes from making the right decisions.

He is committed to education as a means of both personal and professional success. His wife Julie, 40, currently at Alameda Grade School, has taught elementary school for 18 years. She says that without Haggerty assuming large share of the chores with their three children and household, it would not have been possible for her to have completed a Masters degree in education. Whenever she thinks about leaving teaching, a profession she loves, Haggerty urges her to stay where she can make a real difference.

Haggerty says leaving behind his work as a corporate attorney at Schwabe, Williamson, and Wyatt to serve as a judge was worth the financial sacrifice. Beyond the appeal of a judge's regular schedule which allows more time for family life, the opportunity for service made the decision easy. Ever since his days as a public defender, Haggerty has viewed the courtroom as a place with important consequences for society. Haggerty says, "I take the responsibility solemnly and have made a commitment to insure that victims, witnesses, jurors, parties, attorneys and everyone affected is treated justly."

## Dr. Darryl Tukufu and Ron Herndon Featured on Sunday Northwest

Dr. Darryl Tukufu, the new Executive Director of the Portland Urban League, will be featured on KATU-TV's Sunday Northwest at 8:30 A.M.

Donnie Griffin, Chairman of the Urban League Board of Directors, will also appear on the half-hour television program.

Also, Ronnie Herndon, Co-Chairperson of the Black United Fund will be featured in the third segment. Dr. Tukufu and Mr. Griffin will be interviewed during the first two segments.

The show is hosted by Rick Meyers and produced by Ulysses Tucker, Jr.



Dr. Darryl Tukufu



Ron Herndon

## NE Portland Youth Center Offers Introspective Views Into 21st Century

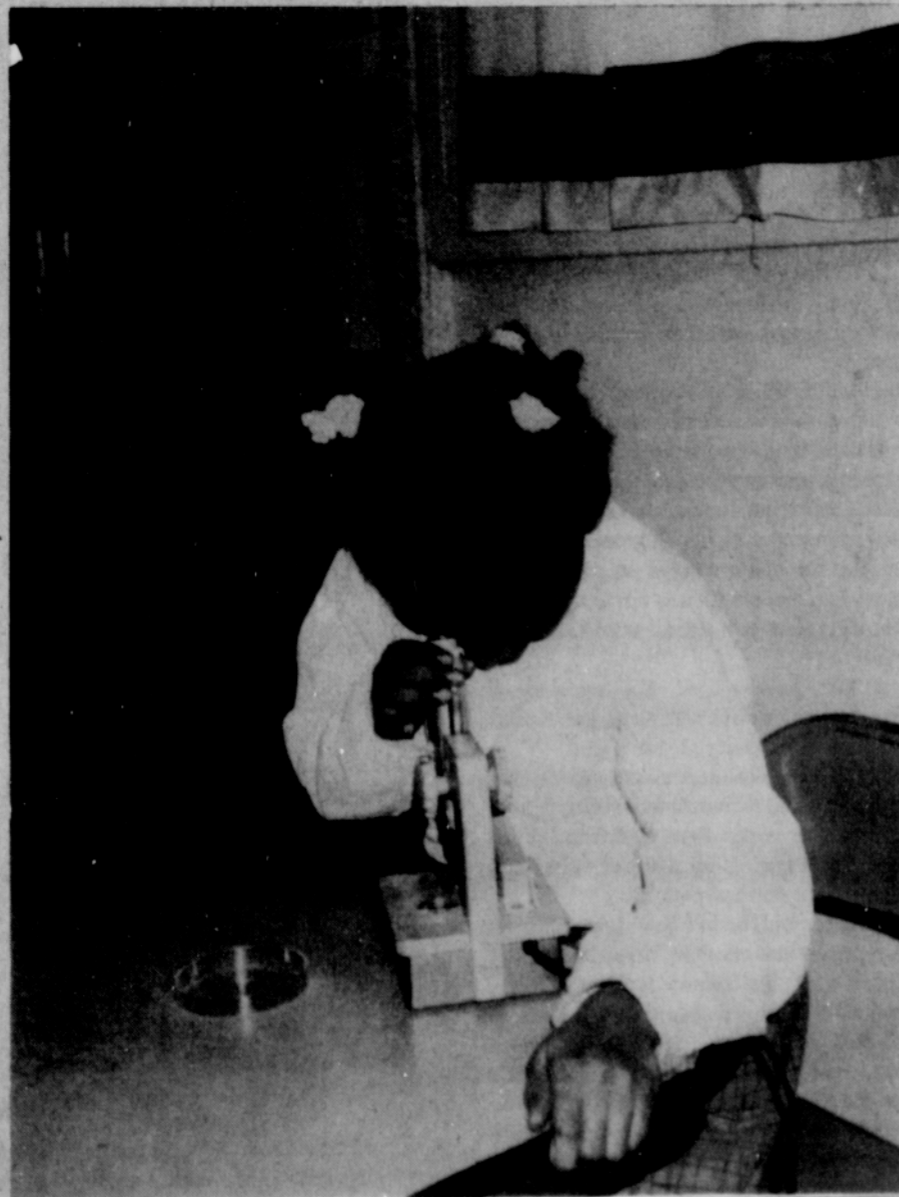
Who will be America's scientists and mathematicians in the 21st century? An Oregon Museum Science and Industry after-school program for urban youth in northeast Portland is helping today's students discover that they are this country's hope for the future.

OMSI's Alberta Science for Kids (A.S.K.) center in St. Andrews Community School, 4919 NE 9th St., is designed to introduce inner city students from grades one through 12 to the major areas of science in a fun, non-threatening environment. The center's goal is to provide an interactive, multi-disciplinary approach to learning by integrating writing, the arts, computers, careers, and cultural awareness into each science area. The center's life-oriented science, math and computer programs are designed to be both fun and educational.

One area of study A.S.K. center participants are currently researching is their "Golden Legacy of Scientists and Mathematicians"—a look at the past and present achievements of African heritage peoples from ancient Africa to Portland, OR. Other activities now underway include the dissection and microscopic study of frogs, creating newsletters with computers, participating in career-oriented math and science classes, making weekly trips to OMSI and embarking on an overnight science excursion to OMSI's Hancock Field Station in central Oregon.

Those wishing to register for the A.S.K. center's ongoing schedule of science programs may do so anytime the center is open, Monday through Thursday, 3:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. The annual enrollment fee is \$15 per child. Each additional child per family is \$5. Families will not be required to pay more than \$25 in total fees.

Additional information can be obtained by calling the A.S.K. center at (503) 284-0837.



Alberta Science for Kids student Awenlue Kante peers through a microscope in a biology session at the center. Students this Spring are dissecting and studying frogs as part of their A.S.K. OMSI center science program.