



EDITORIAL / OPINION



Perspectives



by Prof. McKinley Burt

Planning The Family Reunion

Part II

I was not at all surprised at the magnitude of the reader response to the "Family Reunion" theme. I knew of the extensive interest being expressed in other parts of the country, and saw no reason why African-Americans in Portland would not follow suit—in fact, could be expected to evince even greater interest, given the relative isolation of this area.

My citations of individual reunion experiences proved useful to a number of planners, so I will cite several more. In answer to one readers query, yes Alex Haley ("Roots") did organize a family reunion among his own kin. This was in July, 1982, and it was held in Henning, Tennessee, Haley's boyhood home. Gathering first at the family home, the entire enclave later moved to a parklike area along nearby U.S. Highway 51 ("Alex Haley Rest stop"). Tennessee Governor Lamar Alexander stopped in to visit, stating, "this family is one of the state's resources." The get-together was the first formal reunion of the Haley, Palmer and Murray families.

I hope that you have access to the July, 1987 issue of "Essence Magazine." There is an article by Lloyd Gite (p. 51), "Keeping Our Families strong," which relates to every element of a successful reunion process. You will especially appreciate the quote attributed to Dr. Vincent Harding; "Strong families have brought us this far... The family has been the central institution at the heart of our lives. Every other institution is built on that. It is critical in these times that black families be nourished, revived and reconstructed. Our lives depend upon it." Strong and poignant words that need endless repetition.

The article cites several families who have adhered to this creed most religiously (including that of Dr. Harding). Particularly I would comment on the Burns Family of Virginia, since their situation quite typically reflects problems relating to the preservation of Black ownership of valuable lands. When "Cleaveie Burns" (80) strolls on her property, it is upon land purchased

by her great-great-grandfather, William Daniel, a freed slave and skilled carpenter who paid \$1,000 for the 100 acres in Halifax, Virginia. Currently, seven members of the clan live there, but retaining possession has not always been easy.

The trials and tribulation of the Burn's family have a common thread with the experiences of others I have written about; as recently as Feb. 28 in this newspaper, the *Sea Island People* of South Carolina and Georgia ("No Man Is An Island Unto Himself"). Here we had it that "More disillusioned generations went off to the big cities," with a consequent loss of the necessary continuity, identity and "nourishment." In the case of the burn's family the common thread was the accumulation over generations of multiple interests and titles among heirs. Without structure, planning and communication among family elements the inevitable results are the forced sales to facilitate distribution of monies to quarrelling heirs—or tax foreclosures upon aged elders who can no longer cope.

This family, however, astutely formulated a structured program that identified all the heirs and purchased their interests. No give-away here of properties that may become a shopping center, mall or a Marriott Hotel.

There are several pamphlets available from the U.S. Government Printing Office that can provide further assistance in obtaining these records. The pamphlets are: "Where To Write For Birth and Death Records" (\$0.35); "Where To Write For Marriage Records" (\$0.35); and "Where to Write For Divorce Records" (\$0.25). Write to: Public Document Sales Branch, Government Printing Office, North Capitol and H Streets, Washington, D.C. 20402. The Public Document Sales Branches for publications by the government are found in many federal office buildings.

Some public libraries in major cities have copies of the federal population census. The census record will give you information such as age, place of birth and

marital status. The older census records will list the names of slaveowners, and sometimes the names of the slaves they "owned." It will also list the free Black members of the state, county or community. "Soundex" is a state-by-state index to some of the earlier census records, which is now on microfilm. Each state Soundex has been filed as a separate publication.

Examine Records of the Freedmen's Bureau

This was a federal agency that was established just before the close of the Civil War to help newly-emancipated slaves adjust to "freedom." They provided assistance in the areas of employment, housing, education, medical treatment and other matters. A related agency was The Freedmen's Savings and Trust Company, which was a system created to assist freedmen and others in establishing savings accounts from 1865 to 1874. Many of the branch banks, which were scattered throughout the South, kept records on depositors or organizations. Contact the National Archives in Washington, D.C. to obtain further information.

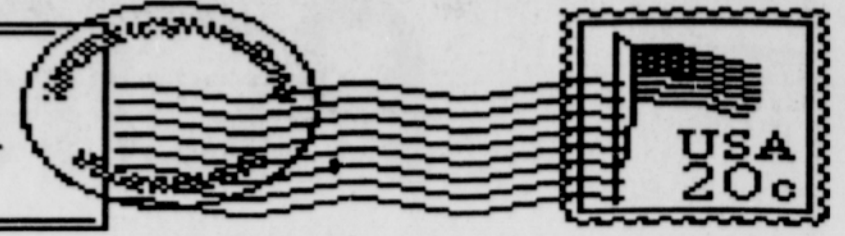
Federal Military Records

Many free Blacks, and in some cases slaves, performed military service in their state of residence, as well as in the major wars which took place during those time periods. These records contain valuable data on persons who served in the military, with regard to payrolls, pension benefits, VA homes, medical treatment in VA hospitals, burials in veteran cemeteries, etc. This information would also be kept in the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

Other sources that should be valuable include church records, in the city or county or residence; and plantation records, found mostly in the South where the plantation was located. They will most likely be kept in the State archives. Records that were maintained of Black religious, fraternal, social and political religious, fraternal, social and political organizations might also provide a wealth of information.

Continued Next Week . . .

Letters to the Editor



Memo to Cultural Policy Planning Task Force

Dear Editor:
Thank you for sending me a copy of your draft. I am very grateful for the opportunity to state my position to your distinguished group of "white paper" members. I am writing this letter because the time has arrived to say the following.

You can take your cultural policy plan draft and stuff it in your "prestigious files of important memorandum." I personally no longer have the time to devote to providing consultation to groups, organizations, and individuals regarding ethnic minority art/cultural inclusion, for the simple sake of the above covering their "asterisk." For the past two years in particular, I've had calls and callers from the federal, state, and city levels of government, the Oregon and Metropolitan Arts commissions, the art museum, the opera, the school of arts and crafts, the City Club, etc., etc., who "think" they are interested in changing the status quo of ethnic minority artists in this state, but in reality are only rejuvenating their own narrow levels of consciousness. It may be very hard to swallow what I am saying, but I'm going to say it one more time. Until you place people of color on the task forces, committees, panels, that make the final analysis, policy, and/or decision that is to

affect the minority ethnic/cultural artist or organization, NOTHING has changed. You are perpetuating the very system and mentality that keeps us separated and polarized. If your argument is that there are no "qualified" people to serve in these positions, that becomes a question of by who's standards and why in the devil do you continue to call on myself and my peers for our input?

It's time, my friends, to chuck the "standard traditional" way of institutionalized racism and just let go of the unnecessary power strings, so that all people can sit down at the decision making table and we can all grow together. But, you see, this "new" way has to involve inclusion at the beginning of the process or it will never be a true end result of equal opportunity in our communities.

Because you have no one on your task force of color, your policies are far too generic to ever have any influence, for example, on the Vietnamese, Hispanic, Indian or Black artists in the communities of our state. And the language used to promote art education will never reach a young Hmong student to encourage his art talent as a cultural endeavor. Such a waste for all of us. Until specific policy is written that targets the needs of at least the three largest

ethnic minority groups in our state, in the cultural policy plan for our state, why should the heads of the organizations represented on this panel be expected to implement specific policy within their organizations? For that fact, why should anyone else be expected to carry the ball? But within the system of institutionalized racism, that's the whole idea. And so the same old process continues with the much-needed change never occurring.

Dear friends of the arts, there is no more time left. The time is now for you to have the courage to break from the "norm" and do whatever it takes for the decisions to be made by a representation of all parties concerned.

Please understand that I am an advocate of the arts and the inclusion of all artists in the development of a diverse, culturally-enriched community. I shall continue in my efforts to work towards that end. If I were to offer a suggestion, it would be that you take one of the two positions held by members of the OAA and invite a person of color to join your panel. There are many capable people to consider.

Sue Busby,
Concerned Oregonian

Single Mother (and proud of it).

Dear Editor:
I am writing to express how appalled I was at Ulysses Tucker's article "Why I Don't Date Women with Children."

As a young, responsible, hard-working Black woman with two beautiful children, I found myself personally offended by this article. I think it lacked merit and reeked of journalistic irresponsibility. All Mr. Tucker accomplished by writing this article, and your newspaper by publishing it, was to add to the stigma already attached to single mothers. If Mr. Tucker's intent in writing his recent articles is to indeed improve relations between the Black women and men in this community, he fell far short of this

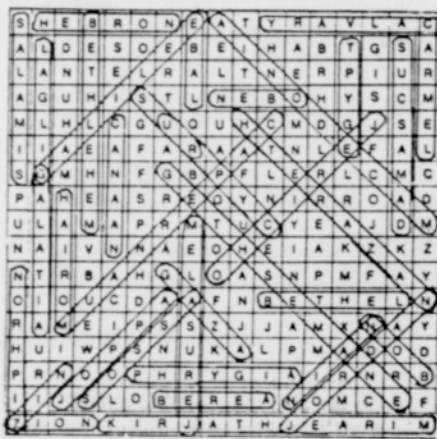
intent with this article. In fact, all he did was throw up another hurdle for the single mothers to jump over and the single men to walk around (or hide behind).

Black men in this community are going to have to come to the realization that there are nice, professional, hard-working single Black women in this community, but that a great number of them have children.

Quit downing the single mothers, and giving the men in this community more reasons to look down on us! One thing is for sure, we didn't conceive these children by ourselves!

Lisa Manning
Single Mother (and proud of it!)

(Answers for puzzle from Page 5)



University Announces Presidential Finalists

The Presidential Search Committee at the University of Portland has announced the two finalists for the position.

They are the Rev. Charles David Sherer, C.S.C., academic vice president at the University of Portland and the Rev. David T. Tyson, C.S.C., vice president for student affairs at the University of Notre Dame.

Sherer, 54, was president of King's College in Wilkes-Barre, Penn., from 1974-81. He has been academic vice president at the University of Portland since June 1987.

Sherer, who came to the university in 1963, has served as assistant professor of English and chaired that department, and was dean of the Graduate School, and acting dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. He was a member of the university's board of regents from 1983-84 and 1986-87. He holds an A.B. in philosophy from the University of Notre Dame, a licentiate in sacred theology (STD) from Gregorian University in Rome, a master of arts in English from Notre Dame, and a Ph.D. in English from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He also has a certificate in educational management from Harvard University.

Tyson, 41, has been vice president of student affairs at the University of Notre Dame since 1984. Prior to that, he served as executive assistant to then-president Rev. Theodore Hesburgh. He holds a bachelor's in sociology, and a master's in theology from the University of Notre Dame and an Ed.D. in higher education administration from Indiana University. He was an associate instructor at Indiana University. Since 1980, he has been a professor of management at Notre Dame.

The candidates will be on campus for interviews April 2-4.

The Presidential Search Committee is chaired by regent David Grove. Members include the Rev. Carl Ebey, C.S.C., provincial superior of the Indiana Province of Holy Cross; regents Joseph Ferguson, Mary McCravy and Philip Robinson; Herman Asarnow, Ph.D., associate professor of English; Robert Duff, Ph.D., professor of sociology; Michael Snow, Ph.D., professor of biology; James Kuffner, director of administrative services; and Bruce Patterson, student government president.

The university's former president, the Rev. Thomas C. Oddo, C.S.C., was killed in a car accident in October.

The University of Portland is an independently governed, residential, four-year Catholic university offering a curriculum of arts, sciences, humanities and professional programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Judge Ancer Haggerty Files for Election in May Primary

Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge Ancer Haggerty, 45, recently appointed to the Circuit Court by Governor Neil Goldschmidt, filed for election to his position in the May primary. He lives in NE Portland with his wife, Julie, a teacher at Alameda Elementary School and their three children.

Haggerty previously served on the Multnomah County District court. Prior to his service on the bench, he was a partner in the law firm Schwabe, Williamson and Wyatt for 11 years. In his early career he worked as an attorney with Metropolitan Public Defenders for four years.

Haggerty is a graduate of the Hastings

School of Law in San Francisco and the University of Oregon. While attending the U of O, Haggerty was selected twice for the All-Coast College Football lineup. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps in Vietnam and, for 20 years, was the most highly decorated Black Marine Corps officer in history. His decorations include the Silver Star for gallantry in combat.

Haggerty said, "The Court offers a real opportunity to serve, because I work to ensure that victims, jurors, witnesses, parties and all affected persons, including the community, are treated fairly. To protect the community, I sentence convicted, dangerous felons to the penitentiary."

SPORTS/EVENTS

The Locker Room



by Ulysses Tucker, Jr.

The Development of Reggie Theus

Seventeen years ago in Southern California, an assistant basketball coach at Inglewood High School took one look at an "uncoordinated" 14-year-old and quickly determined he wasn't ready to play varsity. The skinny sophomore had junior varsity written all over him.

Michael Spaulding, the JV coach at Inglewood, said the 5-foot-11 teen-ager had long legs, but that's where the youth's physical development ended.

Reggie Theus was not good enough for this team, not yet anyway.

Seventeen years later at the Orlando Arena, Spaulding, 42, watched Theus practice and recalled how that skinny kid eventually became a talented guard in the NBA.

Spaulding took Theus on the 1972-73 JV team. "As the practice season went on, Reggie began to improve very rapidly," he said. "After about two games on the JV team we began to see potential for the varsity."

Midway through his sophomore season at Inglewood, Spaulding persuaded Coach Leon Henry to take Theus on the varsity squad. "We decided to develop him," Spaulding told Nick Sweers of Magic Magazine. "Reggie got playing time. By the end of the year, he was playing a lot at point guard."

The Sentinels finished the season with an 8-12 record and Theus averaged seven points per game. Spaulding said Theus made tremendous progress but also "grew like a weed." Theus was 6-1 at the end of the year and would grow to 6-7 before he graduated.

What surprised Spaulding the most about Theus, however, was a conversation he had with the 15-year-old junior as he prepared for the 1973-74 season. "Reggie just came up to me one day and said he wanted to play professional basketball," Spaulding recalled. "It was amazing to me that a kid that young knew what he wanted. He asked for all the help we would give him."

Spaulding obliged, but not without conditions. As he explained it, few players have the "God-given talent" that's found

in Michael Jordan or Magic Johnson. Most of the good players are the result of hard work.

"He literally paid the price," Spaulding said of Theus' desire to improve. "He worked seven days a week for three years. He'd have us open the gym and he'd work out on Sundays."

Family life for Theus was not what one would call ideal. His mother had remarried, and Theus, a brother and two sisters lived with their father.

And matters got worse. Theus' father died at the beginning of his junior season at Inglewood.



Reggie Theus

Enter Spaulding and Henry, Theus' basketball parents. As Theus puts it, "they [Henry and Spaulding] taught me how to have an attitude, to be the type of player I am now. They taught me about having a game face."

In his junior year, Theus averaged 18 points a game as Inglewood improved to 17-5 on the season.

Spaulding said Theus developed both physically and emotionally that year.

"The responsibilities of life were playing on him," he said. "His mom would come to the games and keep in touch. He's very close to her."

In his senior year, Theus proceeded to do it all at Inglewood. Besides averaging 23 points, he led the team in assists, rebounds and, according to Spaulding, "floor burns."

After Theus concluded his basketball career at Inglewood High, he went on to bigger and better things in college. He played for Jerry Tarkanian at UNLV for three seasons, becoming a dominating player by his junior year. That season, 1977-78, Theus earned All-America recognition, averaging 18.9 p.p.g. after scoring in double figures all 28 games. He was also chosen as UNLV's team MVP.

Theus decided to enter the NBA Draft after his junior season, and was selected by Chicago with the ninth pick in the first round.

Now with his fifth NBA club in his eleventh pro season, Theus entered the current campaign having scored 16,067 points for an 18.5 career average. That placed him seventh on the all-time scoring list among active players.

The Magic have benefited from Theus' veteran experience this season. He is currently second on the team in scoring with a 20.4 ppg average.

Indeed, that skinny kid has come a long way.

SHORT SHAKES: Well, my hat goes off to the Portland Trailblazers for their manhandling of the Atlantic Division recently. One thing for sure, if they make it to the NBA finals against the Knicks, 76ers, or Celtics, the locals should not have a problem. Unfortunately, if they get by Los Angeles, Utah, Phoenix, San Antonio, or out of the West, chances are they will play the Pistons. Originally, just because it is hard to repeat, I picked the Knicks but they are starting to play inconsistently... Eleven of the Blazers next twenty-one games are at home. Happy birthday Buck Williams.