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"The Eyes and Ears of the Community"

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The New Immigration, Part III Is There 'Still' Room At The Inn?

by Professor McKinley Burt

Please accept our apology. I'm sure you noticed last week that several key paragraphs in this Immigration Series were inadvertently omitted. We will pick up here with the paragraph immediately preceding the omissions, then continue on with the 'three paragraphs' that were omitted. The remaining material continues the series. Thank you.

What we need here most immediately is an easily visualized model, one that will clearly reveal the main economic problems facing African-Americans--like those so succinctly examined by John E. Jacob, National Director of the Urban League in last week's article. In taking issue with the statement that the success of immigrants demonstrated that Blacks needed no government help, he detailed the special and obvious disabilities of our "home grown poor . . . that make such comparisons odious."

We have just such a model available in the concept of a giant American Hotel of Employment, where there are unequal levels or floors of job opportunities. As with any pyramid, there is much less room(s) at the top (where the big boys and girls operate). And obtaining a survival room at the lowest level has become an increasingly traumatic experience--even here there is a growing need for an ethnic reservation. However, management in its usual vein of egalitarian nonsense has proclaimed all floors to be available on a first-come basis to all guests who are members of the body politic ("if qualified"), and that any guest with



The Statue of Liberty

the where withal of education or skills may later move at will to any higher floor of opportunity--if he can locate a vacancy. Does all this sound familiar?

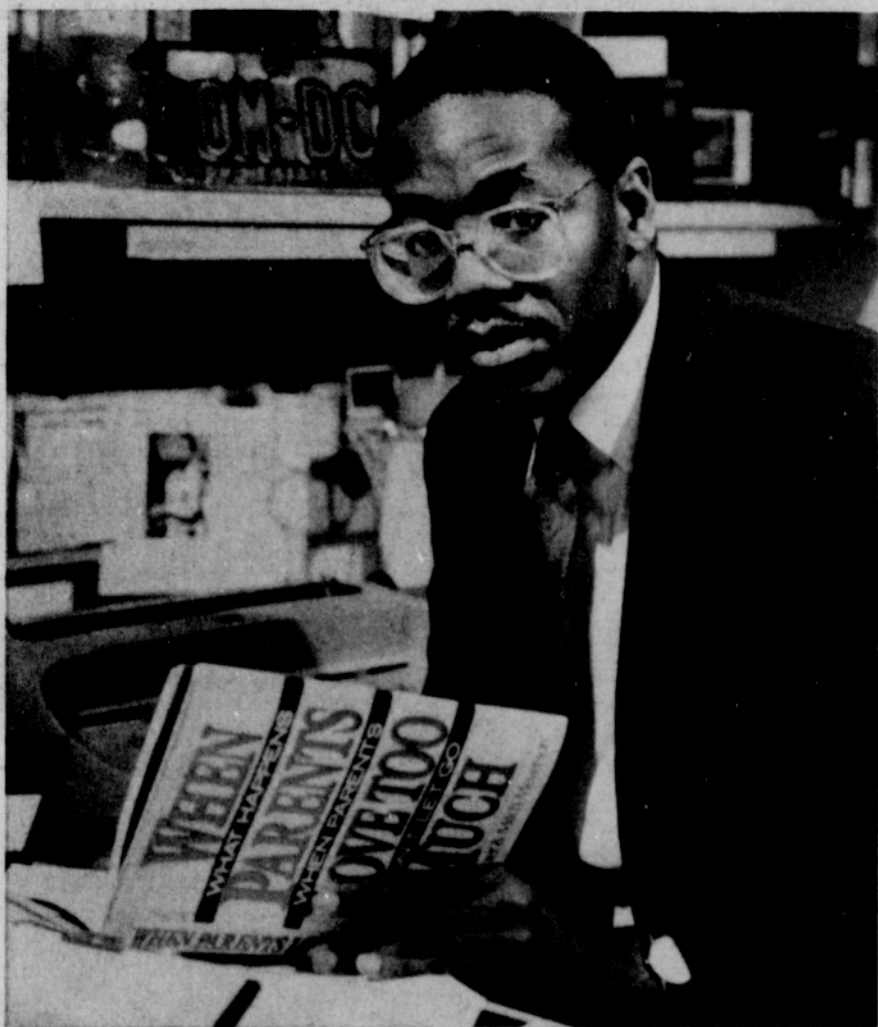
Now, just where do African-Americans stand in relation to this hotel of equal opportunity? Keep in mind that the nation's (world's) population is growing at a very rapid rate. Pressures at home and abroad have caused the inn's management a great deal of consternation and confusion. Early this month the U.S. Census Bureau reported that from 1980 to 1988 the number of Blacks grew by 12.7 percent to reach a

total of 30.3 million. At the same time the Hispanic population grew by 34 percent, with half the increase stemming from immigration and the other half from high birth rates.

Concurrently, the nation's Asian population grew by 70 percent, with about two-thirds of the increase due to immigration. Given this increased pressure, primarily upon the very lowest rooms of the pyramid, and add to it the Bush administration's approval last month of a plan to raise visa quotas for immigrants--and given the pressure of whites disemployed by aging industries that cannot compete against imports--how is it that there is not in place (or even contemplated) any serious program of sufficient economic scope and depth to arrest the further destruction of African-American Youth? We may be speaking of genocide!

We've used the buzz word 'quotas', haven't we? The current hysterical and hypocritical arguments against quotas seem so patently weak one could imagine that even a neophyte lawyer might marshal sufficient evidence of current usage, precedent, and acceptance [of quotas] to more than overcome those of the majority population who shrilly argue that they are unfair, immoral and unjust (including the Supreme Court and other jurisdictions that have dramatically narrowed antidiscrimination statutes). And here, perhaps, has surfaced an insight into a possible countervailing position--that if minority quotas are unfair then let us most immediately strike down 'all of the current white male quotas that are intrinsic to the American way of life', and woven into every fabric of the country's culture and ethos. Whatever happened to the concept of 'equity' in Anglo-Saxon jurisprudence? (Continued on Page 4)

Streetwise: A Look At Ulysses Tucker, Jr.



Ulysses Tucker, Jr. is not a complex individual. He is streetwise, graduate school educated, highly motivated, committed to young people, and he hates people who make excuses for their shortcomings.

During this interview at his KATU-TV office, where he produces "Sunday Northwest," a weekly television program hosted by Rick Meyers, Tucker's telephone rang loud and consistently. Most of the calls were from school/college administrators or community based organizations requesting his presence at Career Day workshops or as a motivational speaker. "Somebody has to help our young people," he said.

Contrary to some people's opinion, Tucker is very accessible, sensitive to the feelings of others, and in tune to the Black community. He cares about North/Northeast Portland, it's problems, and future direction. Tucker not only cares about the Black community, he cares about the city of Portland. Black and White, the man cares about people.

As of late, Tucker has provoked a great deal of dialogue with his freelance writing for the Portland Observer newspaper. In addition to his weekly NBA sports column,

The Locker Room, Tucker has been writing about male-female relations and other controversial topics such as inter-racial dating and dating games people play. He maintains that most of his writing is based on personal experiences or those of his friends. Tucker believes that it is wrong to hold a person "hostage" for their personal experiences or convictions.

"Albert Einstein once said that great spirits have always encountered violent opposition from mediocre minds," he said. "It is an very accurate quote. There is no way that I am going to please all of the people all of the time. It is impossible, but there is nothing wrong with trying. Some writers never make the effort. I am real. I write from the heart. Readers usually hate me until they meet me and learn that I am a decent human being, unlike the writer they think they know. Readers are so reactionary. The ultimate compliment to a writer is having people debate or discuss, mostly debate, my work. I have a love-hate relationship with non-sports writing. I love the art of written expression, but I hate how some people interpret what I say."

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Urban League to Host Western Region Assembly

The Western Regional Assembly of the National Urban League (NUL) will convene March 29-31, 1990 at the Execulodge/Airport in Its Guild, the assembly meets yearly at one of the NUL's eleven affiliates in the west. Delegates are expected from Oregon, Washington, California, Arizona and Colorado.

Local participants include: the Honorable Margaret Carter, State Representative, the Honorable Jim Hill, State Senator, Gladys McCoy, County Executive, Dr. Ernest Hartzog, Assistant Superintendent, Portland Public Schools, Donald S. McClave, President and CEO, Portland Public Schools, Donald S. McClave, President and CEO, Portland Chamber of Commerce, David A. Paradine, President, United Way of the Columbia-Willamette, Victor Merced, Executive Director, Oregon Council for Hispanic Advancement, Dr. Boone Sumantri, Vice President of Urban Services, Mercy Corps International, and John A. Sims, Director, Business and Industries, Portland Community College.

Many of the NUL staff headquartered in New York will be on hand. The NUL President and CEO, John E. Jacob, will speak at the Assembly's closing luncheon on Saturday, March 31. For more information contact Pauline Reed or Lana Danner at the Urban League of Portland, 280-2600.

Comments from Commissioner Mike Lindberg Regarding Martin Luther King Blvd. Supreme Court Decision



Commissioner Mike Lindberg

I am relieved that this matter can finally be put to rest. Without diminishing my fundamental belief in the importance of

the ballot box, I think the Supreme Court did the City of Portland a valuable service in drawing a line between legislative and administrative charges.

There was disturbing potential for setting a precedent which would put any and everything considered by council on the ballot for a vote by the entire city. It could have led to a trivialization of the referendum process and significant expense to the city.

Frankly, I think the decision may have helped Portland avoid a bitter and nationally embarrassing dispute. Damaging stories have already appeared on national news and in national magazines. We just came through a difficult decade, and I do want to see that progress soured.

As far as I can see, the greatest good would be served by moving on to more important issues like the revitalization of our neighborhoods, community policing, meeting the recreational needs of our youth and the preservation of the environment which we have to come to treasure. Let us be inspired to be healers and builders.

United African-Americans: Doing The Right Thing

by Tony Washington

"We want to prevent youth from joining gangs and pull others already involved out by educating them about the senselessness of gang banging. We propose to do this by striving to help spread unity among African-Americans."

These words were echoed by Byron Stiles, President and spokesperson for United African-Americans, a newly formed group of college students from Portland State, Mt. Hood and Portland Community Colleges. The group got together in September, 1989, after tiring of the senseless gang violence among African-American youth in N/NE Portland.

They hold fundraisers and perform odd jobs to generate revenue to offset expenditures. They contact businesses and try to negotiate employment opportunities for troubled youth. And so far the response from employers has been pretty good, Stiles claims.

"The methods we hope to incorporate into this project involves community interaction. We will be speaking at Jr. and Senior High schools throughout the area educating students about our (African-

American) history, our achievements, and the hazards and rewards of different lifestyles. We will be going out into the community to make direct contact with gang members, encouraging them to continue their education and helping them to develop alternatives to "gang hanging." We must show them positive role models if they are to have hope for tomorrow," he continues.

Stiles proudly points out the fact that United African-Americans have met with some success through job placements of former gang members and boasts of two members of the group who were recruited from the gangs and are now working to bring in others. But he emphasize the importance of employment once they have been diverted from gang activities.

The group now claims a membership of forty (male and female) and hope to network with other program and organization for referral to service agencies.

When asked how long the effort would continue, Stiles replied, "Forever."

The community salutes this much needed addition to anti-gang activity and wishes all the best for continued support.

Portland Park Bureau Launches Operation: EAGLE

Operation: EAGLE (Early Adventures in Golf for a Lifetime of Enjoyment), a new youth apprenticeship program through the Portland Park Bureau, kicked-off today at an introductory luncheon held at the Multnomah Athletic Club.

16 high school students in Portland Public Schools have been selected to participate in this program. Operation: EAGLE provides part-time employment, eight hours a week at minimum wage, at the City's four golf courses. Through the program, students receive career training in athletics, agronomy, business, education, horticulture, recreation and golf operations and school credits for their work. In addition, students will receive golf instruction through the golf pros at each of the courses.

Criteria for selection of these students included the need for financial assistance, a grade point average of 2.0 or better, a desire for employment, good school attendance and recommendations from a counselor and athletic director. Portland Public Schools made the final selection of students.

Four students each will be assigned to Eastmoreland, Rose City, Heron Lakes and

Progress Downs Golf Courses. They will be assigned tasks by both the Pro Shop Manager and the Grounds Superintendent and given instruction in business operations and golf course maintenance. Light duties may include assisting customers, starters and marshalls, working the cash register, assisting in irrigation installation and repair, landscape upkeep and using minimal power equipment such as power rakes and week wackers.

Completion of two one-year programs, along with good academics, will help to qualify the student for a scholarship through the Evans Foundation. The foundation offers full college tuition and housing renewable for four years at the major universities in Oregon and Washington.

"We are taking advantage of the talents and fresh ideas these young people bring to the operation of the Golf Division," said Charles Jordan, Director of the Bureau of Parks and Recreation. "I'm hoping they'll come away with valuable job skills and a greater recognition of their abilities and their future."

Oregon Drug/Alcohol-Exposed Infant Toll Skyrockets; Task Force Findings Released

Governor Neil Goldschmidt today sounded the alarm about alcohol and drug abuse among pregnant women and mothers

with young children by releasing a task force study of the problem. He also announced that he has signed an Executive Order forming a second task force, to be headed by former Supreme Court Justice Betty Roberts, and announced the membership of that group.

According to the task force findings released today, 532 Oregon infants were reported born prenatally exposed to alcohol and drugs during 1989, with the actual number being much higher. The infants required over \$4 million worth of services in their first year, at an average

cost for services of \$8,000 per baby. In 1984 there were 65 reports of infants born drug or alcohol affected in Oregon.

"In Oregon's pioneer days, when there was an emergency, a bell was rung out, and people from miles around would come running to help. Today, we are sounding an alarm across our state, and we need Oregonians to help prevent a cruel and tragic fate for too many of Oregon's children," said Governor Neil Goldschmidt.

The task force report recommends that treatment and support services for pregnant women and women with young children be expanded, and be given the highest priority for receiving services and support, in Oregon.



OAME, Banks Announce Loan Fund

Through the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs (OAME), five Oregon banks jointly announced their combined investment of nearly \$3 million in a capital loan fund designed to enhance the success of minority businesses in Oregon at a Friday, March 23, press conference. Participating banks include Security Pacific Bank, U.S. Bank, Key Bank, Bank of California, and West One Bank.

The OAME Minority Capital Loan Fund program, aided by a grant from the Northwest Area Foundation, is the first of its kind in state for minority entrepreneurs directed through the auspices of a non-profit organization.

"In examining the success factors of minority businesses, the most prominent need that surfaces is that of start-up and short-term working capital. Now, with this initial investment from five leading Oregon banks and with the assistance from the Northwest Area Foundation, OAME is well on its way to fulfilling a major need of minority entrepreneurs," said Sam Brooks, OAME's founder and Executive Director.

Barbara Henry, Senior Project Officer from Northwest Area Foundation will announce a \$125,000 grant for the administration of the Minority Capital Loan Fund and \$125,000 in seed capital as incentive for others to participate in the Minority

Capital Loan Fund.

Initial Loan commitments from the Oregon Banking Community include Security Pacific Bank \$1,000,000; U.S. Bank \$1,000,000, Key Bank \$500,000, Bank of California \$250,000, and West One Bank \$75,000.

Loan Commitments from financial institutions will be balanced against participation and contributions from foundations and major businesses on a three to one ratio. Businesses to be assisted by this Loan Fund must have a business plan that shows its ability to accomplish its business goals and need for capital.

OAME's Minority Entrepreneurship Program (MEP) Counselors will provide the technical assistance and support for successful loan applicants. This Loan Fund is the result of one and one half years of intensive work by the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs, OAME, its Advisory Board, Northwest Area Foundation, and the Oregon Banking Community.

OAME is a non-profit organization with a primary aim to promote entrepreneurship and economic development for ethnic minorities throughout Oregon. The organization operates across ethnic lines and sets out to bring ethnic minorities and non-minority businesses into productive networks.

COMING SOON!!!

On April 11th, 1990, the Portland Observer newspaper will publish a special section featuring hair care products and hair styles. Watch for this fascinating issue.