

African American
Festival
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"The Eyes and Ears of The Community"

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By Professor McKinley Burt

The most recent article in this "Immigration Series" concluded with a revelation of the spurious and scandalous nature of those highly publicized "intelligence" tests given to U.S. Army recruits in 1980. "Expert consultants" (including the University of Chicago) concluded that a genetic disability was responsible for the low scores of Blacks and Hispanics as compared to whites: out of a possible 100 points, white 59, Hispanics 23, Blacks, 17. Refer to the April 4 edition of this newspaper.

What I did to expose the falsity and sloppiness of this genetic extrapolation was to go back to World War I tests of this population, and using the government's own statistics, came forward in time to the flawed conclusions of 1980. By using comparative educational and literacy criteria and performance of white immigrants, I was able to demonstrate that, early on, Blacks showed a marked superiority in so-called I.Q. and literacy statistics when the performance of Blacks in the northern states was compared with that of whites in the southern states. The 'environmental implications' were obvious.

And when the achievement of Blacks overall was compared with that of foreign-born whites of all the states, the (the Blacks) exceeded in literacy by 100 to 400 percent. The same government sources (cited) further stated that, in the countries-of-origin of these central and Eastern European immigrants, the rates of illiteracy averaged 50 percent or better. Adding further significance to the minority accomplishment was the fact that in the World War I era the army was using the infamous and often repudiated "Alpha and Beta Tests".

Now, even a well-rounded idiot (even Shockley or Jensen-of-I.Q. infamy) would be aware that "Black genes" could not have changed in the three short generations between 1914 and 1980 (Black immigration to these shores was practically nonexistent). So what factor(s) are responsible for the catastrophic degeneration in the cognitive and functional performance of Blacks by the 1980 date? It is perfectly obvious that major social and psychological traumas must have intervened. This we now know to be correct—but what was

the operational nature of the process?

To explain this, we need not look any further for a model than our citation of the pitiable educational and social condition of the white European immigrants at the time they first entered the American "melting pot". But melt they did—were allowed and encouraged to do so. But as we stated in the previous article, "the first generations of these immigrants suffered from many social prejudices and employment discrimination...these people, in turn, became as a group the most racist and violent of those who fought against Black union membership, job promotion and desegregation in housing and schools." Their attitudes closely fitted the findings of the 1920s and 1930s research upon persons with an inferiority complex, "becomes a hostile person and expresses his hostility toward socially approved scapegoats...submissive to those above him in the pecking order, and more exploitive toward those below him." Of course, not one of America's millions of Blacks needed psychologists to tell him this.

Clearly, then, the army's 1980 test results indicated that American racism has driven the quality of life for a large segment of the Black population back in time to a point such that they can no more compete today than could those earlier white sojourners to these shores compete with the forefathers of these Blacks. The "operational nature of the process"... "We know that among the causes of the "time reversal" was the continued employment bias and other economic discrimination inflicted upon a rapidly burgeoning (and unmelting) ghetto-bound population—accompanied by failing educational systems in the inner-cities. Yet, the nation as a whole seemed completely oblivious to these incendiary conditions until the Watts Riots of 1964. And this, despite a long series of scathing and searing protest literatures: "Native Son, The Invisible Man American Dilemma; Why Johnny Can't Read; The Miseducation of the Negro", and many others.

Accordingly, there should be little surprise that a so-called "underclass" has arisen among Blacks, seemingly permanent and with no way out. Nor should there be surprise that there has

been on the part of many Blacks a dissolution of the hope and ambition and motivation which inspired their high-testing forefathers to pursue the vaunted "American Dreams". Nor that there have been major disruptions of family life and relationships. And wouldn't you expect that gangs of the children of these disillusioned and poverty-stricken would turn their frustrations inward and war upon each other—to the death! While third-generation and older European immigrants, who have found "rooms at the inn" scream "What in the world is your problem?—pull yourself up by the bootstrap like I did!"

Perhaps Blacks should develop an "Existentialist" literature like the European colonialists and exploiters of the world who claim they cannot understand how man came to lose his spirituality and humanity. These are the people who (seeing no hope for mankind in the world they created) declared that "God is dead!"

We have it then that the concept and structure of immigration to these shores is not simply a benevolent process of welcoming hordes of "huddled masses, yearning to be free", but a ferociously pragmatic exercise in the development of a continent—a process where race, quotas, prejudices, education, assumed intelligence, differentiated opportunities, and "melting" potential always have been critical elements. Present day immigration policy and law is a mis-asma of politics and guilt, something we will examine in next week's article. In closing here let us take a brief look at the methodology that will be used in this assessment.

We will begin by quoting the "grass-roots" opinions of the Black "man-in-the-street" in respect to the impact of several categories of immigrants upon his economic welfare: Asian (including East Indian; Hispanic; a European upscale of skilled-worker influx under pressure of White House policy and elements of the Kennedy-Simpson Immigration Bill; and an anticipation on the part of some that an acceleration of the exodus of Jews from Russia will see a greater competition for professional level jobs in the major eastern urban centers like New York. Continued next week

African American Celebration Comes to Portland

The North/Northeast community proudly announces Portland's first annual African American Festival to be held July 18-22.

The African American Festival grew out of a vision for the N/NE community by a group of concerned citizens. The vision involved the creation of civic festival activities that encourage the participation of all citizenry, businesses, churches, private clubs, and community organizations. Therefore, the African American Festival's goal is to promote the cultural, educational, and economic development in the N/NE community. It will also promote unity, and secure participation and support of residents as well as businesses of the broader community in the Metropolitan area through self-determination. Most importantly, such activities will preserve the rich, diverse and unique culture of African Americans.

Prior to their official commencement in July, the African American Festival will gain experience as well as exposure by participation in the 1990 Portland Rose Festival in June. There are four events on the agenda which will keep them busy, and get them off to a running start, marching in the right direction. Speaking of marching, on June 2, 1990, approximately 125 African Americans representing N/NE Portland will "strut their stuff" in the annual Rose Festival Starlight Parade.

From June 1-10, 1990 the African American Festival in cooperation with the Black Studies Department at Portland State University will present an exhibit depicting the History of African Americans in Oregon. This exhibit, designed by the Oregon Historical Society under the direction of Dr. Darryl Milner of PSU, will be on display at the Oregon Lottery/KOIN Oregon Pavilion Stage, Portland's African American youth will shine as the African American Festival in cooperation with Self-Enrichment (a nationally recognized and accomplished program for youth) under the direction of Tony Hopson and Ray Leary will present a Youth Achievement Awards Program. The program will offer local entertainment in song and dance and awards will also be given to outstanding youth between the ages of 10 and 14.

The title of the Black National Anthem, Lift Every Voice and Sing, is a very appropriate way to describe the fourth African American Festival event for 1990 sanctioned by the Portland Rose Festival. On June 16th, the City of Portland is invited to join voices with talented artists from around the Pacific Northwest in a Gospel Jubilee. This glorious event will present the evolution of Gospel music in the beautiful setting of the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall.

Festival Associations all over the

world would probably agree that the first year is the most challenging, and the African American Festival Association is no exception. Working diligently since August 1989, the African American Festival has gone through a metamorphosis from a vision to reality in the form of fun-filled events and festivities schedules to commence July 18, 1990. The first event of the festival, the selection of the African American Royal Court, holds the most significance not only to the festival itself but more importantly to the community. A King and Queen/Prince and Princess will reign over the African American Festival and represent the entire community at various local and state events. On July 18th from 6:30 to 10:30, at the Airport Sheraton, the Royal Court will be crowned at the First Annual Royal Court Coronation and Press Reception. July 21st is "Parade Day." The community will witness a mass parade that will flow through the heart of the community beginning at 10:00 a.m. at Jefferson High School and ending at Fernhill Park (NE 42nd and Killingsworth).

The entire Portland community is invited to share and participate in this unique festival that will prove to inspire unity in the community. The African American Festival Association is looking forward to seeing each and every one there.

Ex-Skinhead Ties Metzgers to Killing

Former national president of W.A.R. Skins says Metzgers encouraged violence against blacks and Jews

San Bernardino County, Calif.—White supremacists Tom Metzger, his son John, and the White Aryan Resistance (W.A.R.), the organization they run, have been tied to the 1988 murder of an Ethiopian student who was beaten to death with a baseball bat in Portland, Oregon.

In a sworn affidavit, ex-Skinhead leader Michael Barrett says he and Dave Mazella, acting as agents for the Metzgers, went to Portland to organize a Skinhead group called the East Side White Pride (ESWP). While in Portland, Barrett claims he and Mazella kept in almost daily contact with the Metzgers. he also says that both Tom and John Metzger encouraged him and other Skinheads to use violence against blacks and Jews.

The night of the murder

On the night that Mulgeta Seraw, the Ethiopian student, was murdered, Barrett says he and Mazella met with ESWP members and "got them all fired up on W.A.R. and the Metzgers' hate filled beliefs." Barrett later learned that Skinheads attending the ESWP gathering had beaten a black man to death that night just a few blocks from the meeting place.

When Dave Mazella telephoned the Metzgers about the murder, ac-

ording to Barrett's statement, "Tom (Metzger) told us to keep our mouths shut and not to talk to police." Center lawsuit seeks damages for murdered man's family

The Law Center has filed a civil suit against the Metzgers, W.A.R., and two Skinheads who murdered Mulgeta Seraw. Filed on behalf of the Seraw family, the suit seeks substantial money damages against the defendants. If a jury holds the Metzgers liable for the murder, it could break W.A.R., the most active, influential and dangerous white supremacist organization operating in America today.

Barrett's affidavit is the most damaging evidence found so far that links the Metzgers with the Seraw murder. As the former president of W.A.R. Skins, a group set up by Tom and John Metzger, Barrett's job was to recruit Skinheads into the white supremacist movement.

While he was in Portland, Barrett says he told the ESWP Skinheads that "blacks and Jews were the enemy of the 'White Aryan Race'... and to be sure to beat the hell out of your enemy." Barrett says he took five baseball bats with him to Portland. He described the bats as "the weapons of choice of the Skinheads."



Tom Metzger

The Center has accused White Aryan Resistance (W.A.R.) leader Tom Metzger and his son John with sending agents to encourage Skinhead violence against blacks and Jews in Portland, Oregon.

According to a Los Angeles Times story, Metzger scoffed at the idea that he supplied Barrett with the baseball bats. "I guess he must be a real fan of baseball," Metzger is quoted as saying in the Times story.

Tom Metzger claims that neither he, his son John, nor White Aryan Resistance had anything to do with the murder of Mulgeta Seraw and bear no responsibility for it.

Seventeen New Faces Among the 100 Most Influential U.S. Blacks

Seventeen individuals of prominence and accomplishment have newly earned selection to the 1990 presentation of the "100 Most Influential Black American," in the May Ebony.

The panel of Ebony editors has chosen the nation's 100 most eminent and powerful Black men and women for 19 consecutive years, beginning in 1971. The criterion for selection hinges upon an individual's ability to greatly influ-

ence the lives, thinking and actions of large portions of the nation's Black population.

The 17 new persons receiving this year's honor are (in alphabetical order):

1. David N. Dinkins
Mayor, New York City
2. Thomas A. Duckenfield
President, National Bar Association
3. Harry T. Edwards
Judge, U.S. Ct. of Appeals, Dist. of Columbia
4. Minister Louis Farrakhan
Natl. Rep. of the Hon. Elijah Muhammad, Nation of Islam
5. Joseph Jerome Farris
Judge, U.S. Ct. of Appeals (Washington)
6. William H. Gibson Jr., D.D.S.
President, National Dental Association
7. Joseph W. Hatchett
Judge, U.S. Ct. of Appeals (Florida)
8. Nathaniel R. Jones
Judge, U.S. Ct. of Appeals (Ohio)
9. Rt. Rev. James H. Mayo
Pres., Council of Bishops, A.M.E. Church
10. James M. McGee
Pres., Natl. Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees
11. Theodore McMillian
Judge, U.S. Ct. of Appeals (Missouri)
12. Lawrence W. Pierce
Judge, U.S. Ct. of Appeals (New York)
13. Vivian Pinn-Wiggins, M.D.
President, National Medical Association
14. Cecil F. Poole
Judge, U.S. Ct. of Appeals (California)
15. Dr. Henry Ponder
General President, Alpha Phi Alpha
16. Michael White
Mayor, Cleveland, Ohio
17. Carter D. Womack
National President, Phi Beta Sigma

PCC Announces Award of Workforce 2000 Grants

Portland Community College has been chosen to receive \$1,410,000 in Workforce 2000 grants to fund special vocational programs and is participating in a third major grant from the same state funding force.

A \$600,000 award will be used to establish a community-based skills center at the college's Cascade Campus in North Portland. PCC will operate the center in cooperation with the Private Industry Council, State Employment Division and Northeast Workforce Center to provide targeted training programs for up to 300 individuals, initially.

Job, life and basic skills training will be designed to help participants succeed in the work force, said James A. Van Dyke, PCC vice president for educational services.

Job skills training will be in building

trades, business technology, electronic assembly, medical support and customer service and will be geared to the staffing needs of employers in North and Northeast Portland. Life skills training is to help each participant establish a personal work ethic. The students will also study reading, writing and mathematics as needed to improve their basic skills.

First students are expected to start training in mid to late June, said Donald W. McInnis, executive dean of Cascade Campus.

Cost of operating the skills center for 15 months will be nearly \$1,800,600. In addition to the Workforce 2000 funding, the center will receive support in money and in-kind contributions from PIC, the Northeast Workforce Center, State Employment Division and PCC, Van Dyke noted.

The Portland Area Vocational/Technical Education Consortium, of which PCC is a member, has received \$810,000 in Workforce 2000 funds for use in 2+2 vocational/technical articulation programs, student leadership development, business and industry internship and the purchase of state-of-the-art computers and equipment.

Funds will be available from April 1, 1990 through June 30, 1991.

PAVTEC-member high schools throughout the five-county PCC district provide two years of training in various vocational/technical programs that lead into two further years at PCC to prepare students for entry-level jobs in local businesses and industries. For this reason, the articulation program is often described as a 2+2 program.