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"The Eyes and Ears of The Community"

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Will Science Bring Back The Sun -- Or Is This The Dawn Of A New Age?

by Prof. McKinley Burt

There was a time not too long ago when many African Americans believed that an economic and social era as bright as the noon day sun had risen in the sky as high as its solar counterpart. Was there not to be immediate surcease from the turmoil and strife of the frightening fifties and sixties? Had not the "Great Society" Programs been launched--and had not civil rights legislation of unprecedented scope been enacted? Was it not the dawn of a "New Age" for the true believers? They had their program rhetoric and icons, and for them, things looked as promising as when the Freedmens Bureau was set up a hundred years earlier.

We are painfully aware of what has ensued and except for the few of a middle class that has "made it", the mass of minorities are now struggling with problems of health, education, housing and employment which were never contemplated (or at least not voiced). We need not elaborate here for these issues have been cited many times in these columns. What needs to be elaborated upon--and critically examined--is the position and belief of those who state that this great new era of science and technology "at hand" portends a bright new future for African Americans.

Now, there is hardly to be found

anyone who has worked harder to encourage Black youth to prepare early



Dr. George Washington Carver

on for entry into these realms of science and technology--nor many who have designed, or implemented or taught more special programs directed toward that purpose. And, certainly, for over twenty years I have been writing books and articles in that vein--and these efforts have been accompanied by those in this community who have shown an exemplary dedication and commitment to the same cause.

What we need at this point is an im-

mediate assessment of the reality subtending these hopes and beliefs. To this end *The Observer* newspaper will begin a series next week on "Blacks and Science: The Twenty-First Century". The picture here of the famed Black scientist, Dr. George Washington Carver, sets the tone for that element of a past glory of technical achievement which will be examined as well as the possible future. The entire infrastructure of the nation's scientific community will be looked at--and specifically, how (if at all) the hopes and aspirations of African Americans can be successfully integrated.

*We are beautiful people
With African imaginations
Full of masks and dances
and swelling chants
With African eyes, and noses,
and arms
Though we sprawl in gray
chains in a place
Full of winters, when what
we want is sun.*

Amira Baraka

President Bush Salutes Self Enhancement Inc. During Portland Trip



photo by Steve Slocum

President Bush, flanked on left by Tony Hopson and Ray Leary, right, addresses Self-Enhancement students and guests and National Guard Armory during Portland visit. Hopson and Leary are co-directors of the Self-Enhancement program.

Self Enhancement, Inc. a program which began in summer 1981, as a model for student athletes was praised on Monday, May 21 by President George Bush as an "outstanding program dedicated to the total development of young people."

President Bush praised the organization for its involvement with over 700 Portland area youth, and for initiating projects which help to divert them from drugs and crime. Self Enhancement, Inc. is co-directed by Ray Leary and Tony Hopson.

Columbia Villa Earns Regional Award Of Merit

The Housing Authority of Portland (HAP) is proud to announce that the Community Service Project at Columbia Villa received an Award of Merit from the regional chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) in Spokane May 16. HAP also earned an Award of Merit for the success of its Minority Business Enterprise Program during the NAHRO regional conference.

The Columbia Villa Service Project was recognized for its innovative use of public and private partnerships to address the problems of illegal drug and gang activity in HAP's largest public housing development. The successful implementation of a service network for Columbia Villa

residents was shown to have had a direct effect on improving the living conditions at the development. HAP was also recognized for having developed strong partnerships with government, businesses, and social service agencies. These partnerships proved that the community as a whole was committed to solving the illegal drug and gang problem in public housing.

HAP's second award was for the success of its Minority Business Enterprise Program. HAP took to heart its policy to encourage the growth of minority and women business enterprises. The HUD requirements call for 20% of all dollars expended in projects to be spent with minority businesses. HAP's modernization, housing management and development projects have consis-

tently expended about 68% of their dollars with minority businesses. HAP's commitment to this program is strengthened by the fact that 33% of its employees and one third of its management are minorities.

HAP successfully competed for the NAHRO Awards of Merit with housing and community development agencies from Oregon, Washington and Idaho. The regional NAHRO association will now submit HAP's two successful programs for national competition. HAP will be competing with agencies from across the United States for national Awards of Merit, which will be awarded at the national NAHRO conference in October.

NECDEC Receives Grant From Meyer Trust

A three-year \$450,000 grant to support revitalization of housing in North-Northeast Portland was announced today by the Meyer Memorial Trust.

The funds will go to the Northeast Community Development Corporation to increase staffing for the Nehemiah Housing Opportunity Grant Program, chartered to convert abandoned North-Northeast properties into saleable real estate.

"The commitment of the Meyer Memorial Trust is critical to the success of this ambitious project, and we are grateful for their support," said Ron Herndon, Chairperson of NECDC.

The NECDC, founded in 1984 by members of the minority community, is

committed to improving the quality of life of inner North-Northeast Portland. They will act as the developer for the Nehemiah Housing Opportunity Grant Program.

In September, 1989, the NECDC received the second largest award in the country from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and the only grant funded at 100 percent of the original request.

The three-year, \$3.75 million grant will finance the construction of 100 new homes and the rehabilitation of an additional 150 residences in the North-Northeast area. The Boise, Humboldt, King and Vernon neighborhoods are earmarked for assistance.

Under the Nehemiah Housing Opportunity Program, 250 eligible middle- and lower-income families can receive a zero interest second mortgage up to \$15,000 for the purchase of designated property in the area. "Assistance in providing low income housing is an interest of the Meyer Memorial Trust."

The Nehemiah Housing Opportunity Grant Program is also receiving significant additional funding and technical assistance from the City of Portland, Multnomah County, the State of Oregon and private sector services. The Nehemiah program is expected to flood between \$12 to \$15 million into the revitalization of North-Northeast Portland within the next three years.

Community Thanks to BP Oil



by Tony Washington

B.P. Oil of Sacramento, California and station manager Ray Sutton of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd./Broadway location have showed continued support of community fund-raising efforts in Northeast Portland.

B.P. Oil recently launched a demon-

stration on a trial basis, allowing youth groups and church organization to utilize station facilities and equipment at no cost. Several hundred dollars have been raised for Mallory Church of Christ, and an undetermined amount for the youth organizations.

College In Deep South Found To Be Model Of Racial Progress

New York, May 24--"I believe that the upward mobility of Black Americans depends on education," declared Dr. Carroll Hardy, the associate dean of student affairs for minorities and the disabled at the College of William and Mary, who is widely credited with the college's racial progress.

At a time when many colleges and universities are experiencing racial tension, William and Mary, which is located in Williamsburg, Virginia, and was lily-white until 1963, is cited in an article in this Sunday's *Parade* magazine as a trendsetter in race relations and minority progress.

"We are trying to achieve an integrated society, so we've got to have people coming together at critical moments in their lives," asserted William and Mary President Paul Verkuil, explaining the school's philosophy of incorporating the study of black history and culture in the total curriculum. "I am skeptical about things that tend to isolate a campus by race," he added.

Dr. Hardy, who is Black, agreed. "Why do you need an all-black dorm?" she asked. "That doesn't make sense here. If you need that support, I suggest

going to a predominantly Black school. Children from Black communities with little outside exposure could feel uncomfortable at William and Mary.

"But the times they are a-changin'," and a Black child may want to forego comfort for the chance of connecting to the old-boy network. And William and Mary's network has been operating since 1963."

Her argument has convinced many. Despite competition with Harvard and Yale, Princeton and Brown, the number of Black freshmen at William and Mary has increased from 44 when Hardy arrived ten years ago, to 114 this past fall. The total Black student population has more than doubled, from 2.6 percent to 6.8 percent.

Known for helping white students as well as Black, Dr. Hardy is proud of the success of George DeShazo Jr., a white dyslexic student, who became William and Mary's first Rhodes scholar. "I went from a 3.0 student to a 4.0" DeShazo recalled. "I wouldn't have gotten through without her."

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VANPORT REVISITED NEXT WEEK:



Special Section in the May 30 Issue of
The Portland Observer
**Remembering the Vanport
Flood**