

A benefit for
Pioneer Courthouse Square
7:30 PM Friday, August 17th
The Fabulous Thunderbirds

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"The Eyes and Ears of The Community"

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We Know These Are Prepared For Careers In Science/Engineering



From left, Muhammed Najieb, Benson High School, Great Kids and You Make A Difference Awards, Sophomore Class President; Janelle Warren, Benson High School, Honor student, KATU Great Kids Award; Jason Thomas, Roosevelt High School, Civil Air Patrol Cadet, Search & Rescue Team. But what about the others? Again, "How many of the district's African American graduates will qualify for the science and engineering programs at Oregon Universities?"

"And The Band Played On":

American Cultural Symphony, We All Contributed!

BY PROFESSOR MCKINLEY BURT

I was delighted with the response to last week's article, "Is It to Be Cultural Literacy or European Literacy?" I don't know about Prof E.D. Hirsch, author of the best seller, "Cultural Literacy." Several readers say they have forwarded copies of the article to his publishers.

The overall response -- from within and without the state -- was especially gratifying in view of this newspaper's pursuit of an "Education Advocacy." Let the first order of business today be to particularize a reference for that group of Portland teachers who requested an expansion of the roles of the African "Dumas family" in the world's literature and music. We share agreement that "there is no reason at all why Black contributions of this universal stature cannot be used as classroom material for 'all' students, both minority and white (unless, of course, there is some pervasive racist mindset in the administration of this school district).

It was in my 7/13/89 "Perspectives" column on General Napoleon Bonaparte, that I included a description of the contributions of the famed "Dumas family." Quite necessary and germane, since the "little corporal" would never have amounted to much of anything had it not been for his Black Haitian-bom Corp Commanders, 12 generals who were key to his military successes all over Europe (a fact usually omitted in American history books). But, particularly, Napoleon's fame and military successes were due to the superb bravery and competence of the Black General, "ALEXANDER DUMAS" -- who reached that rank at age 35; while Napoleon was only a major (Almanac National An II, 1797). Napoleon's jealousy and rancor was revealed in his actions and his letters, even in the final exile. In

the article, I went on to say that "The narration cannot be complete without inclusion of the magnificent literary works of the son and grandson of General Alexander Dumas."

"To the son, Alexander Dumas I, we are indebted for many famous novels and plays; 300 novels and 25 volumes of drama in all. That are still popular after almost two hundred years, with motion pictures and movies-for-television shown today. The world still enjoys his The Three Musketeers, The Count of Monte Cristo, The Man in the Iron Mask, The Corsican Brothers, and The Black Tulip. This is the Black man who was voted the greatest gourmet the world has ever seen, owned a yacht and theatre, and told a pregnant mistress, 'I doubt if this miracle is mine, but if it comes with a head of kinky hair I'll be convinced.'"

Of no less importance are the works of the grandson Alexander Dumas II (1824-1894). His classic novel, "The Lady of Camellias" made him famous throughout France. His rewrite into a play made him famous throughout the world. Two world famous operas are adaptations of this work: "La Traviata" by Verdi, and "Camille" by Forest. In 1874 this younger Dumas was made a member of the famous French Academy of Arts and Sciences and was later elected its president. He next received the second most prestigious honor of France, The Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor"

Now how about that? The "operas" indeed! It was on December 15, 1988 that I wrote:

"Years ago I discovered a remarkable book, The History of Playing Cards. A new vista for research opened before my eyes as I perceived the figures, costumes and images with which the thousand-year-old cards were decorated to be African in origin;

this was affirmed in the text. I ordered a number of related books by European authors. It all stood revealed: Tarot Cards; the Gypsy with his fortune telling and metal working; the Jongleurs (Jugglers and tumblers); those peripatetic, talented actors who gave plays on the street corners of Italian cities (founders of the Commedia dell'arte which evolved into the Opera as we know it today) -- All of these were among the immigrations and imports from Africa that brought light to the Dark Ages of Europe"

But then, again, we may ask, "How did the genre develop in North Africa? "We have this from the Encyclopedia Britannica, 1958 edition, Vol. 1, p. 131:

"It was not until gods of Egypt were accepted by the Greeks that there appears to be any ceremony which can truly be called dramatic. The Greek drama arose through the worship of the gods of vegetation, and later developed into the forms of the plays of the great dramatists. It is difficult, however, to think of the drama of the Greeks without thinking of its close connection with the dance."

Certainly, some of us already know that, having read Anta Diop's "The African Origin of Civilization." A lot more became aware of the truth when the "Oregonian" published an extensive review of "Black Athena" (Martin Bernal, Rutgers U. Press, 1990). Forgive the 'bits and pieces' for now; thanks to that "Business/Education Partnership" I will have 30 years of research and notes available 'on-line' from a collated computerized data bank by the end of the year -- the largest and most complete organized retrieval of African and American contributions to technology and culture available in the United States.

BUSINESS PROFILE

ViA nce Easter

Have Party - Will Cater

BY ULLYSSES TUCKER, JR.

If you are driving anywhere near the Thriftway super market on 15th and NE Braze, chances are you will smell some bar-b-que aroma in the air. On a good day, that's if the wind is cooperating and you do not have a cold, you can smell it as far as Lloyd Center or clear up to Fremont.

ViA nce Easter is the owner of "Mr. V's Bar-b-que" on wheels. When Easter is not working events like the Goodwill Games, Wind Surfing Contests, State Fairs, football games, or catering parties, family reunions, or weddings, he can be found on his corner. People have been known to drive out of their way or call him at home just to see if he's going to be around. Easter calls himself the "Crowned Prince of Bar-b-que," self-appointed and good at his craft. He serves ribs, chicken, pop, and curly fries.

A native of Fresno, California, Easter came to Vancouver, Washington in 1980, after working almost decade for the Department of Education as an Educational Counselor. He got tired of traveling all over the U.S.A. and living out of a suitcase. To make matters worse, Easter was also traveling the country with his first cousin, George Benson, as his personal bar-b-que photographer. In addition to his seasonal bar-b-que business, Easter works at Wacker Siltronics Corporation as an Operator/Slicing Technician. He still works as a freelance photographer.

A graduate of California State University at Fresno in Education/Business, Easter is the father of three children (ViA nce, Jr., 10; Vanessa, 9; and Victoria, three months). He and his wife Pat have been married 13 years. They live in Northeast Portland. The Easters are active in their church and community. In between the customers, Easter took some time out to explain why he decided on the bar-b-que business, which is very competitive in the city of Portland.

"Bar-b-queing has been around for generations, especially in the black family. I felt like I wanted to contribute to the next generation as far as keeping the tradition alive. My father was good at bar-b-queing and it passed down through the family."

Portland Observer-Why mobile bar-

Tri-Met

Effective September 2, Tri-Met fares go up a nickel, brand new buses hit the streets and nearly 200 weekly hours of bus service are being added to improve service. New schedules will be available on buses next week.

Cash fares will be 90 cents for one- or two-zone travel, \$1.20 for all-zone travel. Monthly passes will be \$29 for a two-zone, \$39 for an all-zone, \$22 for a youth pass and \$8.25 for an Honored Citizen pass. A book of ten discount tickets will increase 50 cents.

The increase, which will yield an additional \$950,000 a year, was approved in June to help catch up with inflation since the last general fare increase. "Tri-Met fares are going up a nickel, but the price of diesel jumped six cents a gallon last week," said James Cowen, Tri-Met General Manager. He noted that a nickel increase in the price of diesel costs \$250,000 a year in Tri-Met's annual operating expenses.



BBQ RIBS TO GO - ViA nce Easter of Mr. V's Bar-b-que on wheels fills the air with the aroma of bar-b-que ribs and chicken, a family tradition Easter has continued.

b-queing?

Easter-"There are quite a few avenues that mobile catering can get involved in, especially bar-b-queing. There are festivals, company picnics, etc...mobile units are able to reach areas where regular establishments can not.

Portland Observer-How successful are you?

Easter-"I'm very successful. I travel extensively on the west coast to many events and do well."

Portland Observer-How difficult was it in the beginning establishing yourself?

Easter-"It was difficult. People had to get used to my mane and concept. I started in Vancouver eight years ago and people were not used to seeing a mobile unit on established surroundings cooking. I was questioned about what I was doing and why I was doing it. Even people today ride by two or three times before they stop and see me. I'm surprised that there hasn't (smiling) been more accidents. Seriously though, I just wanted to bring something different to the Pacific Northwest."

Portland Observer-How do you feel

about your credibility as a vendor?

Easter-"I feel good about it. In fact, I've had several people ask me about opening up a permanent establishment to see, eat at, and enjoy good ribs. One of the great advantages of owning a mobile unit is not having a great deal of overhead. You don't have to worry about labor cost. My family helps out a lot, especially my son. It gives us a chance to spend some quality time together also. Still, I would like to own a restaurant and eventually franchise one day."

Easter believes that there is plenty of room for others who desire to establish the same type of business. As he suggested, "I can't be everywhere" and there is enough business for everyone, except on his corner. 15th and Braze belongs to "Mr. V's Bar-b-que". Look for the white truck, people in line, and two large smokers. So, the next time you're cruising down the avenue, just drop by and pick up some bar-b-que to go. You can also pick up some food items from Thriftway to complete your meal. One stop shopping at its best. For more catering information, call 288-1718.

Zebra Sticker Law Get Results

More than 2,700 vehicles received a special "zebra" sticker in June as a result of a law that took effect in January 1990.

This law requires police officers to confiscate vehicle registration cards and place a black-and-white "zebra" sticker over the registration tag on license plates when citing or arresting drivers for certain traffic offenses. These offenses include driving after your license has been suspended for a felony or for driving uninsured, and driving without a license or with an expired license.

Of the 2,706 citations in June, 333 were for driving while suspended for a felony conviction; 1,496 were for driving while suspended for driving uninsured; and 23 were for driving with an expired license. Of these citations, 1,176 were to drivers who were not the owner of the vehicle they were operating.

During the six months this law has been in effect, 16,365 stickers have been issued: 2,043 for driving while suspended due to a felony conviction;

8,906 for driving while suspended for being uninsured; and 356 for driving with an expired license. Of these citations, 10,065 were to drivers who were not the owner of the vehicle they were operating.

