



P E R S P E C T I V E S

By Professor McKinley Burt

**Shame On You  
William  
Raspberry! For  
Writing That Piece  
"Will Cultural  
Isolationism  
Replace Pluralism  
in America?"**

What you have done is raise to a new height that old and very dishonest art of erecting a "straw man" and, then vigorously attacking a creature of your own making--a creature which, like "Bigfoot", never existed. Your choice of those two extremist protagonists to occupy opposite poles of the African cultural axis you've created simply indicated that there are still middle class blacks who have emotional hangups in accepting the documented fact of an African heritage (that is not too shabby!).

At the far right position you have quoted Diane Ravitch, writing in the conservative American Scholar Magazine,

"Advocates of particularism propose an ethnocentric curriculum to raise the self-esteem and academic achievement of children from racial and ethnic minority backgrounds. Without any evidence, they claim that children from minority backgrounds will do well in school only if they are immersed in a positive, prideful version of their ancestral culture."

At the other pole, Molefi Kete Asante of Temple University is quoted, "It is difficult to create freely when you use someone else's motifs, styles, images and perspective."

Mr. Raspberry chimes in, "His proposal: African Americans should choose African names, embrace African dress and religion and, taught by black teach-

ers, learn to love their own culture."

Well, there we have the basic "Anatomy of a Straw Man." Ms. Ravitch of Columbia University, who places herself with the "Pluralists", has quite pointedly omitted any mention of the decades-long, trillion dollar effort of her own ethnic group to establish a permanent homeland in the Middle East (Israel) with the historic mission of preserving and promoting every distinguishing facet of centuries-old culture, tradition and religion--the preservation and promotion of ancestral roots from dress to nomenclature. SHAME ON YOU, TOO! We must assume that you do not believe that "what is good for the goose is good for the gander."

This contention is further reinforced when you go on to make the following statement regarding a new group that you and Mr. Raspberry have "invented" to balance out your axis of cultural polarity ("Particularists").

"Is there any evidence that the teaching of 'culturally relevant' science and mathematics will draw Mexican-American children (presumably inspired by being told that the Mayans made modern mathematics possible by inventing the concept of zero) to the study of these subjects? Are children who learn in this way prepared to study the science and mathematics that are taught in American colleges and universities and that are needed for advanced study in these fields? Will Mexican-American children lose interest or self-esteem if they discover that their ancestors were Aztecs or Spaniards, rather than Mayans?"

Now there is hardly anyone in this country who has toured the national lecture and television circuit more extensively than I have, demonstrating (and proving) the positive impact and motivation which the revelation of their technical and cultural contributions brings to the minority student (and teacher and parent). Additionally, the same knowledge has been proven to greatly enhance a positive perception of minorities by the dominant racial group.

The shabbiness of this attack reminds me of nothing so much as that virulent assault upon my good friend

Ivan Van Sertima when his book, "They Came Before Columbus," was first reviewed in the pages of the New York Times. Ms. Ravitch's frightened cohorts threw away all pretensions of "liberalism" to mount a savage denigration of the study--much of it in the same vein of the canards described here. Fortunately the credentials of Dr. Van Sertima proved impeccable, and the validity and authenticity of his research carried him through. Subsequently his production weathered the storm--the man and his book winning interational acclaim and acceptance.

Let me address a pertinent question to both of these conservatives,

"Have you something equally as derogatory to say about the similar 'celebrations of roots' pursued by the Irish, Scotch, Romanians, Hungarians, Russians, Greeks or any other of the white ethnic immigrants who across this nation celebrate their European heritages with colorful ceremonies and costumes, with icons and parades--and who advance at every opportunity the case that their 'Particularity' contribution was seminal to the development of American culture and technology?" YOU WOULD'N'T DARE, AND YOU KNOW IT!

Do you indeed think that we would not go to the public library and look in "Gale's Encyclopedia of Associations" or similar volumes and find listed hundreds of registered organizations of these ethnic groups--dedicated to the maintenance and promotion of their heritage, traditions, history, folklore, costumes, religion and technical contributions in mathematics and science?

And you must know that each day of the year there are scores of round trip flights, destination Europe--carrying these people on special tours and excursions to their lands of origin for the celebration and advancement of their fundamental roots. SHAME ON YOU MR. RASPBERRY that you would deny the African American a similar cultural structure.

**ATTENTION  
PUBLIC**

The public is invited to share in a show of appreciation for a wonderful community servant: Mr. James C. Booser. This man has given thirty years of love and service to Portland and its people, and now the time has come for the beautiful people of Portland to give some of that love back. Please come and join the Coalition of Black Men and the staff and teachers of Portland Community College in this heart-felt labor of love. Location: PCC Cascade cafeteria, 6pm on Friday, September 28th. Please bring lots of love and laughter, and let's have a great time.

**HOSPITALS  
OFFER FREE  
PROSTATE  
CANCER  
SCREENINGS**

Annual screening for men 40 and over is the best way to assure early detection of prostate cancer, the second leading cause of cancer death for men. The disease strikes 106,000 men annually, but can be cured if detected early enough. Still, prostate cancer claims more than 30,000 lives each year, partly because many men are unaware of the disease and the importance of an annual exam.

Two Portland hospitals will offer free prostate cancer screenings and a community forum during Prostate Cancer awareness Week Sept. 16-22. The simple test, co-sponsored by the national Prostate Cancer Education Council, will be offered at Providence Medical Center, 4805 NE Glisan Street, and at St. Vincent Hospital and Medical Center, 9205 Barnes Road, on Tuesday, Sept. 18; Thursday, Sept. 20; and Friday, Sept. 21. Though there is no charge for the test, appointments are required. To schedule an appointment, call Providence at 230-6853, or St. Vincent at 291-2081.

A free forum on prostate cancer also will be offered at both hospitals on Wednesday, Sept. 19, at 7:30 p.m. No registration is required for the forum.

Prostate cancer usually develops without any early warning signs. In its advanced stages, symptoms may include weak or interrupted urine flow, inability to urinate or difficulty in beginning to urinate; need to urinate frequently; blood or pus in urine or semen; or chronic pain in the lower back, pelvis or upper thighs. The average age of men with diagnosed prostate cancer is 70, but 20 percent of those afflicted are 65 and younger.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Response To The Portland Shuffle  
By: Ulysses Tucker, Jr.

Last week, an individual that I trust with my innermost feelings questioned me as to why I continue to write, self-reveal, and take some what non-traditional views on political, social, educational, and economic issues that affect the Portland black community. Money, she asked? No. Power, she asked? No. Ego? No. Visibility? No. Then why, she asked again? I paused briefly and answered--because people need to hear fresh ideas and alternative perspectives. It is so easy to go along with the crowd. I will concede that I am never right or wrong in the conclusions or stances that I present, but what I do conclude is well researched and objective. My intent is not to win friends, change minds, buck the system or offend people. All I want people to see is another position and accept the fact that we all do not think alike.

We as people, and black people, need to realize that the worst thing that a person can do is make a bad choice based on lack of information, when there is information available. It is a grave mis-

take. An unenlighted or ill-researched choice can bring forth great pain and unnecessary consequences. Please, learn to cross check all information before drawing any type of conclusion or accepting a position. It is my wish that people learn to look at both sides of an argument and I can do this without calling manes or attacking another persons character or their intent. My intentions are not to change another person's position or mind, but I would like to at least stimulate their mind and provide additional information. Furthermore, I will never be the type of person who goes "along with the program" or accepts the stance of the general public without question. I accept nothing as absolute truth or because a certain organization is suggesting that is what the public should do. I question leadership, authority, and information presented because no one is immune to self interest. Black people have been led the wrong way by "self-anointed leadership", media, and individual agendas too many times. Folks should stop following and learn to lead at some point. Jumping on every band wagon is not going to keep us in focus, because

the wagon that appeals to you might not appeal to me. If nothing else, people should at least respect the rights of others to select a direction or course that is comfortable for them. Variety is spice of life. We, black people, need all types. We had Malcolm, Martin, Garvey, Booker T., Fredrick Douglass, and now Colin Powell, Jesse, Wilder, and Dinkins. If you do not accept the opinions of people, at least respect the fact that they are there to give a perspective or create new thought. We need all types.

If I must apologize to people, let it be for the people who are afraid to stand up and confess what they believe in their heart, not for what I said. I apologize for those who do not have the guts or heat to say what is on their minds and in their hearts. I am not afraid to stand up for what I believe in or believe to be true and right. When that day comes, I hope that I am in my grave, dead, and six feet under ground. I will never compromise what I believe or stand for.

As one brother reinforced to me, "Keep it up, you're doing more good than bad and you create plenty of dialogue..."

woman to control her body.

Every woman has the right to choose whether or not she will conceive a child, but, after a child is conceived, the rights of the innocent, unborn child become paramount.

There is no civil right more precious than the right to life itself. And, a woman relinquishes her unfettered right to control her own body, when her actions cause the conception of a baby.

Because the right for life far outweighs the demands for belated birth control, we must do all in our power to protect the civil rights of the unborn child.

The upcoming election provides two measures to protect unborn children from abortion-for-convenience. Measure 8 will stop women from having abortions as a form of birth control. It allows abortions only in cases of rape, incest or for the woman's physical well-being. Measure 10 will require a girl to obtain her parents' permission before receiving an abortion if she is a minor. VOTE yes on Measures 8 and 10, and VOTE for the civil right to life.

Dennis M. Richardson, Central Point, OR.

Dear Editor:

My partner, Kelly Andersen, and I are Oregon attorneys who feel compelled by the rhetoric on both sides of the abortion issue to write this letter.

Those who favor unrestricted abortions have re-defined the issue away from the aborting of a fetus, in favor of terms such as a "woman's rights," and "pro choice." By so doing the pro abortionists have made the abortion issue a civil rights issue. If civil rights is the appropriate arena for considering the abortion question, then the unborn child's civil right to be born and to live must be considered along with the right of the

To the Editor,

I am just plain tired of drug use in our community and the crime that comes with it. I'm tired of hearing on the news about murders, suicides, robberies, and other crimes that are linked to drug use. I'm even more tired of learning that long time friends and acquaintances in our African-American community have children that have been seduced by drugs. It has got to stop somewhere.

I don't think there is a punishment strong enough for someone who pushes

drugs to our children and teenagers. We need laws that deter drug traffickers, not laws that invite pushers to make themselves at home in our neighborhoods. The need to solve our crime and drug problem made my decision to look at both candidates for governor. There is simply no comparison between the candidates on their ability to fight crime.

Dave Frohmayr wins hands down. He knows that we have to fight crime at its roots to prevent it, crack down tough on drug use and drug trafficking, and

pass tough laws and stand by them in order to deter crime. We need Dave Frohmayr's experience in fighting crime. I encourage all African-Americans in NorthEast and North Portland to join a fellow African-American in casting your vote on November 6 for Dave Frohmayr as our next governor.

Sincerely,  
James L. Moore  
NorthEast Portland.

A PARENT SPEAKS

by: Lulu R. Stroud-Johnson

Our children are our future. Decisions and choices we make today as parents will affect and continue to affect all that follow us. We must love ourselves and we must feel and show love for our offspring.

Love is shown and given in many ways: words, actions, deeds, etc. We must be strong for our children. By way of our attention and involvement, we need to encourage our children's positive progression. We must work with our children--not against them.

We, as parents, need to listen. We need to listen with not only our ears but also our eyes and hearts. Often our children speak without spoken words. We need to take the time to hear what they are saying as well as what our young are not saying.

The eighties have pushed the notion of quality time versus quantity time in parenting. Direct involvement and observation teach me that our children need us. They need for us to have time for them. They need us to be involved in their growth and development. They want to know that we care.

Recently on television, Mrs. Barbara Roberts outlined her crime plan for Oregon and at the same time stated that Dave Frohmayr has done nothing about crime in Oregon and has no plan for dealing with crime.

How naive, or perhaps simply out of sync with reality was this statement made. As a matter of fact, I had the privilege of working with Dave Frohmayr in 1985 when we traveled the State of Oregon helping him develop Oregon's Drug Strategy which is still in place today.

Little wonder why all 36 county sheriffs, district attorneys, and a large majority of police officers I have talked to support Dave Frohmayr. We have not forgotten Dave's battle with the Rajneesh in Antelope, his anti-racketeering law, the regional narcotic task forces he created as a result of the Drug Strategy meetings held statewide, the appellate, and supreme court cases he has fought and won for us and a myriad of other law enforcement issues he has worked with law

enforcement on for the last ten years. Crime may be a new issue with Barbara Roberts, but not with Dave Frohmayr. It has been a continual battle, one that he will not be able to forget when elected Governor, nor will he be able to forget the atrocities committed to children and adults at the hands of hard core criminals in our State.

The new issues Dave will deal with are school support funding, taxes, economic conditions, and social stability that includes the preservation of a way of life for our loggers, fishermen, ranchers, and farmers.

Law enforcement is part of that social stability also, not to be governed with an iron fist, but to be meted out in a fashion that brings about a willing compliance to the benefit of all.

As a career law enforcement officer with over 31 years in this business, I have seen and dealt with the liberal attitudes of many of our state legislators in our attempt to pass needed legislation dealing with such laws as sex registration, career

ence there is between you and your child. Don't expect your child to know what you now know (look at how many years it has taken you to learn what you now know). Try to recapture some of the feelings and emotions from your own childhood when you were about the age of your child. Remember, it has taken us parents a long, long time to get to where we are today in thought and knowledge. Don't expect your child to get to where you are overnight. Let's allow our children a little leeway in making mistakes.

The direction we give our children is crucial. Work to begin each day in peace. Tell your children that you appreciate and love them for simply being. If your child takes his or her lunch to school, write a little note of love on his or her napkin and tuck it under the sandwich.

There are so many little things that we can do for our young. It is not too late. Let us parents start to evaluate ourselves. If we need to change or alter our parenting ways, let's start now. Remember that we are the custodians of the future and we owe it to those who came before us and to those who follow us to make the way better for our young.

criminals, and violent crime issues. More often as not the benefits of these laws have been denied to society because certain liberal legislators in positions of power are more concerned about the rights of the accused than the victim.

Barbara Roberts is an admitted liberal who all of a sudden has a crime plan for the State while Dave Frohmayr has been a friend and supporter of law enforcement in our State for ten years with a proven track record on crime and more importantly the knowledge, ability and desire to be a great governor. I'm a registered democrat but that doesn't mean I am a liberal nor do I have to follow party lines. In this year's election I feel I only have one viable choice and that is Dave.

All of 36 sheriffs and district attorneys can't be wrong so you folks take it from there!

Veral E. Tarno  
Coos County Sheriff

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