

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

By Professor McKinley Burt



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Good Faith Effort: One More Once

There has been a reassuring response to this "Good Faith" series; evidently we hit some nerves. Thank you! Interestingly, reader interest has centered as much upon my office-at-home approach to enterprise as acknowledgement that I am right on the point that large or small, national or local, most of our organizations could do a much better job of communications and recordkeeping.

Let me close out this series with several more observations. For the present, my at-home activity is carried on from a spare room and an over-sized closet. Keep in mind that the thrust of my activities is toward the best delivery system in that nation for a special genre of educational products: the legends on the new stationery of "McKinley Burt Associates" read "African American Curriculum; Lesson Plans, Workshops, Video, Tele-conferences, History--Contributions in Mathematics, Science & Technology (Pyramid to Space Age)."

We shall see (and I hope others in the community will) that there is nothing so extraordinary in being able to do these things (initially) from such a small base--after all, we are in an electronic age. It is true that in order to support this process, I have to maintain an elaborate information storage and

retrieval capacity--a steadily growing library of over a thousand texts, manuals and binders of research, but it is not really that big of a deal.

Until I get a computer of my own again after the first of the year, I use that of a neighbor (she's in the "Mail Order Business From Your Kitchen" mode" to access the mainframe computer of a former student at his plant in Beaverton. Having much more capacity than he needs at present, his staff designed a program that performs the tasks I will later be able to do for myself: acting as a "file server", accessing libraries around the country including the Library of Congress and major universities, and storing the information for a convenient time of transmittal.

I grind my teeth when I reflect that 21 years ago I had almost this same capacity--albeit slower--at my Belmont office but could not interest the Portland School District (or large social programs) in contracting with me to either deliver educational products or to allow me to install the system for their in-house operation. Too far ahead of my time? Perhaps then, but certainly not now when to compete means being right at the age of technology. But, this is also good, because "little people" are embarking on successful operations every day, right from their kitchens, basements and garages. The media cites them continuously.

I'll take one more swipe at several of our big-time national black organizations whom I (and others) cited in the first article of this series for failing to effectively interface with their constituency--given the readily available technology, and the state-of-the-art media, seminars and curriculum which their executives and staff could quite easily access. Keep in mind that after over

thirty years of accounting and administrative experience in "establishment" industries and agencies, I am not engaged in idle carping and complaint. I can look at a detailed "Annual Report" and determine from budgets fund applications and line items just what monies could have been better utilized to achieve a more effective interface.

Let us look at another information storage, retrieval and delivery system. If one is dealing with as many papers and documents as I am, and contemplating a tenfold increase in such activity--how in the world, you may ask, do I think I can afford the space and files to handle what may involve scores of file cabinets and the personnel to handle the system? No such bother, the system and equipment for handling such tasks has a price beginning at \$18,500, almost the exact amount I paid for my Itek camera and Chief Printing Press back in 1969 for printing curriculum and lesson plans.

So, if I act just like some of the other ethnic minorities I know personally, and don't buy a Cadillac or Mercedes for the next couple of years, I can afford that quite well. Thank you. Last year I flew down to San Francisco for two days and took a look at a "Kodak Automated Disk Library" in operation at a major insurance company: "stores 4,000 two-drawer file cabinets of information IN THE SPACE OF ONE". The unit would fit very well in the corner of my spare room. Several peripherals and I could not only press a key on my computer to bring up a document for viewing in seconds--but a second stroke would print it for internal use, faxing or mailing.

In the final analysis I command thee! Get down to that free Public Library!

Why education is not the solution to racism

BY: SEANAMURPHY

(Seana is a black senior majoring in sociology at DePauw University, Greencastle, Indiana.)

Race relations is a topic on every college campus these days. I find this ironically interesting.

It is interesting because by the year 2000 whites will no longer be the majority in the United States. This is a very threatening idea for whites. The white community now feels a need to understand black and Hispanic people. It is in this context that I struggle with questions about racism.

The first question is whether we can understand and eventually eradicate racism from our society. Can we accomplish either of the two when this desire is borne out of the fear of no longer being the majority? We cannot, because the

psychology of this need stems from a desire to protect the status quo. I base this feeling on the question "Would there be this desire to know if the majority did not feel this threat?"

Another problem that I struggle with about racism is the idea that education is a solution to racism. Education has not yet proven to be the solution to racism. There are several reasons: the most basic is that the problem of racism is too large to be addressed by one institution.

Another reason for the failure of education to end racism is that most histories of other people are contorted to fit the established stereotypes of white America. This is clearly demonstrated in the way that textbooks describe America; slaves trade. Slaves are portrayed as subservient people who quietly accepted their fates, but anyone who has read Vincent Harding's There Is A River will

know this is not true. Also, the value of a person's education is measured by how much one knows about white America.

The failure of education as a solution to racism lies in the places people are looking for answers. College students are looking to the black community for the solution to this problem. The black community cannot solve a problem that it did not create.

The black community can only provide insight into the magnitude of the problem and open avenues of communication about racism. The black community cannot, however, solve the problem. Individual white students must assume responsibility for finding the solution in their own communities. White students must take Stokely Carmichael's advice and search for the answers within their community, while maintaining open communication with the black community.

All of these actions, however, will not eradicate racism. For unlike the physical problems that result from racism, racism in itself is a psychology. One that cannot be changed by systems. One that can only be changed by the individual. The eradication of racism in this country will not take place until everyone takes responsibility for ending it.

Domino's Pizza delivers lunch to the homeless

Mayor Bud Clark is among the volunteers scheduled to help serve pizza to an expected 1,000 homeless men, women, and children at Union Gospel mission this week. On Tuesday, November 13, from 11:30am to 1:30pm, Domino's Pizza will be providing a hot, nutritious meal in conjunction with Union Gospel Ministries for the second year.

Volunteers from Union Gospel Ministries and Domino's Pizza staff along with local celebrity volunteers will be serving the 2,400 slices of pizza and an estimated 100 gallons of Coca-Cola donated by Domino's Pizza Team Portland. The pizzas will be made at the 2280 NW Glisan Domino's Pizza store location.

"Feeding Portland's homeless each year is Domino's Pizza's Kick-Off to the season's efforts to help those in need", Michael Kauth, local Domino's Pizza Franchisee explained, "Each year, in addition to the lunch, all Domino's Pizza stores in the Portland area collect canned food for the Portland Police Bureau's Sunshine division food drive.

Union Gospel Mission is located at 15 Northwest Third Avenue in downtown Portland.



\$30,000 SCHOLARSHIP - Les Zuke, Director of Communication Philip Morris U.S.A., second from right, presents a check for \$30,000 to the West Coast Black Publishers Association Scholarship Fund. Receiving the check is Claves Campbell, WCBPA President, on left, and Joe Coley, WCBPA Treasurer. Looking on is George J. Powell, Consultant for Philip Morris.

Vantage Point
By Ron Daniels

The Bush veto climaxes a long assault on Civil Rights

Two weeks ago George Walker Bush, who pledged to make the United States a "kinder and gentler" nation, vetoed the Civil Rights Act of 1990. The President showed his true colors as he caved in to the pressure of white business interests and played to the latent and overt racist sentiments of far right constituencies in American society. The Bush veto climaxed a comprehensive assault on civil rights, affirmative action and Black progress which began with Richard Nixon and was drastically intensified by Ronald Reagan.

Richard Nixon openly sought to stall civil rights progress by minimizing civil rights enforcement. It was Ronald Reagan, however, who embarked on the most radical campaign to overturn the civil rights advances of the 60's. Under Reagan the Justice Department actually attacked civil rights and affirmative action. The Justice Department, with considerable success, began to shift the burden of proof of discrimination and segregation to the victims of racism. The existence of patterns of segregation and exclusion, the Justice Department argued, was not a sufficient basis for demanding or granting remedies. Instead, the victim must prove that somewhere, at sometime, someone consciously adopted policies with clear INTENT to discriminate based on race, color or sex.

The anti-civil rights posture adopted by the Justice Department, coupled with

a concerted drive to pack the federal judiciary with conservative judges, set the stage for a series of civil rights reversals. In recent years a more conservative Supreme Court has delivered damaging blows to affirmative action particularly in the area of employment. The Civil Rights Act of 1990 was designed to repair and overcome the damage of these recent Supreme Court decisions.

The civil rights veto comes within a climate of increased racial hostility and antagonism which Nixon, Reagan and Bush helped to foster. All of them played to the politics of racism by feeding and catering to the fears and latent racism in much of white America. Subtly and not so subtly the "illusion" Black progress has come to be defined as taking away white rights. Hence terms like "reverse discrimination" and "Black racism" have come into vogue. Pandering to the conservative right has provided moral/official sanction for a neo-racist trend emanating from the highest levels of government.

David Duke and his constituents may be dangerous, but they are no more dangerous or destructive than a President who came to office on the back of Willie Horton and a President who politely turns back the clock on black progress by vetoing a major civil rights bill.

For more than a decade it has been clear that civil rights, affirmative action and African American progress has been under serious siege in the U.S. Even Jimmy Carter, the last Democratic Presi-

dent, cautioned the Black leaders and constituents who overwhelmingly supported him that they should cool their demands. In effect Jimmy Carter told Black people to accept whatever incremental progress on the Black agenda he was willing to tolerate or he would abandon the Black agenda completely.

The Bush veto, to reiterate, is not surprising. It is part and parcel of a strategy to contain Black aspirations and force acceptance of the status-quo; a status-quo which leaves African Americans without equity and parity in the economic structures and systems of American society. A status-quo in which the vast majority of Blacks are forced to accept, defacto, the symbolic progress for a few within the African American community while the Black poor suffer enormous devastation and depravity.

What surprise me is the lack of outrage in the African American community. George Bush is doing his job. The President is perpetuating the old habit of retaining political power by scapegoating Black people and minorities. The real question is are we as African Americans on our job? Now that George Bush has slapped us in the face (again), how will we respond? Will it be with wolf tickets, resolutions and rhetoric, or are we really ready to fight back? What are we prepared to do to override the George Bush/U.S.A. veto of Black America?

The Civil Rights Veto:

America's Intolerable Acts Can No Longer Be Tolerated

Dick Gregory stood alone outside of the White House with a sign that called on President Bush to remember all the African American troops that are facing Saddam Hussein in the desert sands of Saudi Arabia. Dick Gregory's point was/is that there is an unacceptable injustice being played out when the President of the United States can veto the Civil Rights Act of 1990 while Black troops in disproportionate numbers are overseas defending "our American way of life"; a way of life where African Americans are still the last hired and the first to be fired; a way of life where racism on the job market still places a ceiling on the aspirations of young African Americans seeking to pursue the "American Dream"; a way of life where racial discrimination and the historical preferential treatment afforded whites permanently locks huge numbers of Black people into a status of economic peonage - unemployed, underemployed, confined to a dead end, subsistence jobs. Once again African American soldiers has yet to eradicate the enemies to Black progress within this nation.

The Civil Rights Act of 1990 was about economic justice in the workplace. It was about the issue of economic equity and parity for the long deprived sons and daughters of African in American. The Civil Rights Act of 1990 was designed to ensure that those who have been and continue to be vic-

timized by racism in the pursuit of employment would have the means to redress their grievances. The cosmetics of freedom are irrelevant if African Americans remain second class citizens in the vital life sustaining arena of employment and economic development. The Bush veto of the Civil Rights Act of 1990 is an INTOLERABLE ACT which African Americans cannot and must not accept. African American leaders from across the U.S. should call for and lead massive demonstrations to mobilize support to override the Bush veto in the next session of Congress. There must be no retreat and no compromise on the substance, content and intent of the Civil Rights Act of 1990. African Americans have suffered from the "illusion of progress" too long. The meager and inadequate gains of the '60s are being reversed and beaten back with the open endorsement and assistance of the White House.

There is no real difference between Reagan and Bush. Some of our Black leaders have confused access to President with power. All veto, John E. Jacobs and Benjamin J. Hooks, two of our most prominent Civil Rights leaders, were left standing in the driveway of the White House appealing for yet another meeting.

Mr. Hooks and Mr. Jacobs, its time out for access without power, photo opportunities for "Mr. kinder and gentler" and meetings without meaning.

It's time for massive CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE if necessary to let Bush, the U.S. and the world knows that the host of intolerable acts which have been heaped upon Black people in this country over the last decade will no longer be tolerated. Black leaders went to jail in the freedom in South Africa. Black leaders must now, in the spirit of Martin Luther King, fill up the jails of this nation until America has agreed to face itself and own up to the persistence of racism, economic exploitation and economic injustice in this society.

Joseph Lowery, will you step forward to lead us? Eleanor Holmes Norton, are you down with this proposition? Mary Frances Berry will you leave the conference/commission table to take to the street with us? Coretta Scott King, will you lead us in a living lesson in non-violent social change by spearheading some serious street action of January 15 and April 4? Jesse L. Jackson, can we count on you to lead a crusade to regain our dignity and self-respect as we fight back?

Either our leaders will lead us or the people will have to lead the leaders. It's time for the Black nation to rise up and assert itself. "Power concedes nothing without a demand, it never has and it never will." As Malcolm X put it, America must face the fact that it will be "freedom for everybody or freedom for nobody."

PORTLAND OBSERVER
(USPS 959-680)
OREGON'S OLDEST AFRICAN AMERICAN PUBLICATION
Established in 1970

Alfred L. Henderson
Publisher

Joyce Washington
Operations Manager

Gary Ann Garnett
Business Manager

Leon Harris
Editorial Manager

The PORTLAND OBSERVER is published weekly by Exie Publishing Company, Inc. 4747 N.E. M.L.K., Jr. Blvd. Portland, Oregon 97211 P.O. Box 3137 Portland, Oregon 97208 (503) 288-0033 (Office) FAX#: (503) 288-0015

Deadlines for all submitted materials:
Articles: Monday, 5 p.m. -- Ads: Tuesday, 5 p.m.

POSTMASTER: Send Address Changes to: Portland Observer, P.O. Box 3137, Portland, OR 97208. Second-class postage paid at Portland, Oregon.

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