



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

By Professor McKinley Burt

There's No Place Like Home

Thanks to the readers who suggested that we add to the information placed on the computer disks used in support of the family reunion network such items as "gift suggestions" (sizes/colors: "favorite dishes, hobbies, political preferences, etc.") Thanks, but being more perceptive than the males who designed the system, the ladies already have incorporated a number of these ideas.

Now that we have raised the comfort level of family interactions, let us return to a discussion of more of the "at home" activities made feasible by such easily available electronics as personal computers, conference phone lines, 800-numbers and FAX machines. Certainly, in the last few weeks this column has provided a wealth of information in this regard. If you missed them please stop by our offices at 4747 N.E. Martin Luther King Blvd. and request photocopies (add VCRs to that list of electronics, and Word Processors).

Aside from the business and organizational applications I have cited, let me state for the unaware that everyday there are new "educational" applications being developed. What you have not already seen on television or read about in your newspaper or magazine, you can get up-to-date on by perusing related material at the large magazine stands--B. Dalton's, etc. Look for "Computer World" for instance, or if you are really "off into it", try "Byte Magazine".

In addition to specific educational

programs and seminars that you can receive (or interact with) on your equipment, there are a number of "electronic information services" which enable one to request or to research vast data bases of information relative to whatever your area of interest (CompuServ, Prodigy, etc.). Also, you may access the "Multnomah County Library Catalog" from your home computer (DYNA). Call 223-7201 and ask for that department. Keep in mind that these techniques are equally applicable to the support of both business and educational activities--or to whatever processes an innovative and inquiring mind can come up with. Don't neglect the opportunities provided by teleconference.

In respect to those "Business at Home" citations I've given, let me refer you to some very excellent literature and videos. If you are serious, certainly you should get the "Black Enterprise Video Guide to Starting Your Own Business" (VHS, 90 min., \$39.95). Discussed by experts are the principle elements of business planning and operation--includes five successful black role models. For credit card purchases call 1-800-423-1600, or mail a check to Black Enterprise Videos, Box 2123, Knoxville, Iowa 50198-2123.

Two other publications that I like are as follows and can be obtained from your favorite bookstore or they will order for you (inspect their shelves): "The Complete Work at Home Companion for the Beginner or Home-Office Veteran", Herman Holtz (Prima Publishing and Communications) \$15.95, (916) 624-5718. Also, "Direct Marketing", Edward L. Nash, McGraw Hill, 1986.

Now, let's check some general bases. Above all, adopt the attitude that what you are really about is interper-

sonal communications and the hallmark of success is courtesy-courtesy-courtesy; no matter that the caller or responder is invisible! Answer in a friendly voice and PUT A SMILE IN YOUR VOICE. Always identify yourself immediately. Don't keep people on hold any longer than necessary--get back to them, make other arrangements if necessary. Follow all the other protocols of successful communications.

Don't skimp on the essential reference volumes which should be on your desk. Not only those specific to your areas of interest or commerce but the general ones from good dictionaries to "Roget's Thesaurus". If applicable you should have Postal Guides, a "U.S. Government Manual" (at Federal Bookstore downtown), "The Chicago Manual of Style". In all cases you should have "The AT&T Catalog: Business Communications Systems & Equipment"; call 1-800-222-0300 to have one mailed to you free of charge. Another very useful AT&T publication is their "AT&T Toll-Free 800 Directory" which will allow you to communicate at no charge with the principal companies and services around the country (Business Edition, 1991, \$14.95).

Good news! Right after the first of the year we hope to have Mr. Cleo Franklin aboard to write a monthly column on these very subjects. He is very knowledgeable in this field and has operated his own computer service for years, servicing home/personal computers, educational institutions and industry. A local African American entrepreneur his service profile reads: Maintenance-Local Area-Networking-Repair/Installation-Interfacing. Another Portland Observer contribution to the economic advancement of the community.

Low Income Energy Assistance Program Started December 3, 1990

Oregon low-income households who need financial help to pay their winter heating bills will be able to apply for energy assistance during the next 2-4 months at local helping agencies. Households must have demonstrated energy costs to be eligible for this one-time only payment.

Appointments are being made in every county in Oregon by a network of 27 local Community Action and Senior Agencies. Those agencies have over 80 offices so that no one will be far from an intake office. Priority will be given to households with elderly and handicapped persons. Outreach is available to home-bound persons as well as special services to migrants.

This is the twelfth year the the Low-Income Home energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) has been financed by the Federal Government. No state funds are involved. Oregon will receive \$17.6 million. Of those funds, \$11.5 million is available for energy assistance payments, serving 65,000 households with an average payment of \$182. There will be \$2.2 million reserved for weatherization services which will help more than 900 households achieve permanent energy savings because of conservation measures installed in their homes. Another \$1.7 million will be divided between the Social Services Block Grant and the Community Services Block Grant with the balance of \$1.6 million being used for local agency program support and administration.

A household must have a total gross income at or below 125% of the Federal Poverty Level to receive an energy assistance payment. This guideline is established by the Federal Government and is based on income and household size. For example, a household of one would be eligible with an annual income of \$7,850 or less. This would only be \$654 per month.

**LOW-INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**  
1991 POVERTY GUIDELINES & PAYMENT MATRIX  
POVERTY INCOME GUIDELINES FOR OREGON  
EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 16, 1990

SIZE OF FAMILY UNIT	ANNUAL INCOME	MONTHLY INCOME
	125%	125%
1	\$ 7,850	\$ 654
2	10,525	877
3	13,200	1,100
4	15,875	1,323
5	18,550	1,546
6	21,225	1,769
7	23,900	1,992
8	26,575	2,215

For each additional number, add \$2,675 annually, or \$223 monthly.

1991 LIEAP Referral List  
Multnomah United Way Energy Hotline 9:00a.m.-3:00p.m.  
227-5437. (In operation from December 3, 1990 to January 30, 1991).

<b>E. County</b> Human Solutions, Inc. 2900 SE 122nd (N. Entrance) Portland, OR 97236	Frank Spellman	761-9234
<b>Downtown Portland</b> Burnside Projects 435 NW Glisan Portland, OR 97209	Terry Porter	222-9362
<b>North Portland</b> St. John's YWCA 8010 N. Charleston Portland, OR 97203	Gene Turner	286-2165
<b>N. East Portland</b> Albina Ministerial Alliance (PP&L Community Room) 3535 NE 15th Ave. Portland, OR 97211	Louise Burton	284-2776
<b>N.W. Portland</b> Friendly House 1819 NW Everett Portland, OR 97209	Mary Marson	228-4337
<b>S.E. Portland</b> Portland Impact 924 SE 45th Portland, OR 97215	Kay Mueller	239-4328
<b>S.W. Portland</b> Neighborhood House 7780 SW Capitol Hwy Portland, OR 97219	Peggy Renz	246-1663
<b>Polk</b> Dallas Information & Referral 326 Main Street Dallas, OR 97338	Jess Parker	623-8429

...And Justice For All

by Angelique Sanders

Government Secrecy

continued from last week

I have more examples from this book: "Since 1981 the already overloaded classification system has grown by almost two million new documents annually...The president [Reagan, at the time this book was published] has also taken unprecedented action authorizing "reclassification" of publicly released documents. Government officials have demanded the return of materials from individuals, libraries, and other institutions around the country...The Reagan administration's obsession with secrecy has also led to mandatory secrecy contracts for millions of government employees, many of whom have no access to classified information. Hundreds of thousands of others, including Cabinet officials, are subject to lifetime censorship agreements requiring government review of any writings or speeches even after they have stopped working for the government." The most terrifying in was manipulated by a "disinformation" campaign aimed at derailing Libya's

stance I found in this book was the following: "For three years, OMB [the White House's Office of Management and Budget] delayed plans of the Department of Health and Human Services to place warning labels on aspirin about the fatal link between aspirin and Reye Syndrome, a life threatening condition following influenza and chicken-pox in children. Government and private medical experts concluded that 30 percent of 1200 cases of Reye Syndrome reported annually were fatal. OMB officials responded instead to aspirin manufacturers, with whom they had met privately, who feared commercial loss if warning labels became required." The aspirin manufacturers probably lined the OMB's pockets as much as unwrapped gum on a hot day. One more example, and I'm done: "In Grenada, the press was kept off the battlefield, and the public was forced to rely on official Defense Department accounts. The public President Gadhafi." Later, President

Reagan bombed Gadhafi's house, killing his child: this is a completely stunning act of merciless terrorism, one which I hope Americans have not forgotten. Anyone else would have gone to jail for life, but the public trusted that Reagan had motives that justified his actions.

Trust, don't forget, can be abused. The president is no immortal, and doubtless gets on his share of "power trips". The only defense we have is knowledge. Let me recite part of the War Powers Act, which is the key act in this whole controversy, and tips us off to where Bush may have overstepped the law: "To fulfill the intent of the framers of the Constitution of the United States and ensure that the collective judgement of BOTH CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT will apply to the introduction of U.S. armed forces into hostilities, wherein situations where imminent involvement in hostilities is clearly indicated by the circumstances, and the continued use of such forces in hostilities or in such situations.

My item this week is slightly out of the norm: it is a firm recommendation to stop by a new gallery, when you're downtown. Featuring the work of diver Wyland, "Nautical Tails" focuses on whales and other underwater themes. Recognized as America's leading environmental artist, Wyland is discussing with the city the possibility of painting a building in Portland with an environmental theme. The gallery is at 622 S.W. Twelfth Avenue, and is well worth seeing: Wyland's art exploits the differences between the undersea and above-ground worlds.

Parents Go On Shopping Spree

The parents of 20 needy children will buy \$2,000 worth of new clothes for their youngsters at the Hollywood Fred Meyer, 4161 N.E. Sandy Blvd. on Tuesday, December 11 at 9 a.m.

Parents will select \$100 worth of clothing per child. The clothes will be paid for with DRESS A CHILD donations.

"Each parent will personally 'dress' their child from socks to warm coats," says Mrs. Lt. Colonel Shirley Morelock, director of women's services for The Salvation Army. "For some children, these may be the first new items of clothing they've ever had."

A company or individual may sponsor one or more children at \$100 each by calling The Salvation Army at 234-0825.

Emergency Fuel Assistance

A one-stop emergency fuel assistance office will open in Pacific Power's community room on December 3. It is one of seven fuel assistance offices scheduled to open on this day, and is the only office that will have representatives from all groups involved in fuel assistance services at one location. The office will remain open throughout the winter heating season.

"The comprehensive staffing is an effort on the part of Pacific Power to tailor service to meet customers' needs, and a desire on the part of all involved to assist these people in crisis in finding a quick resolution to their problems," said

Carl Talton, Pacific's Columbia Area manager.

The Albina Ministerial Alliance, a non-profit group working under contract from the Multnomah County Community Action Agency, will handle requests for federal and state Low-Income Emergency Assistance Program funds and services, and for GAP, another local fuel assistance program.

A Pacific Power customer service representative will be available to process payments and provide information on company programs, including weatherization and equal payment plans.

Beginning January 2, The Salvation

Army will also have a representative at the site. The Salvation Army is a non-profit group that administers Project HELP in the Portland area. Project HELP is an emergency fuel assistance program sponsored by Pacific Power and Portland General Electric customers, employees and shareholders.

The office is located at 3535 N.E. 15th Ave., and will be open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Each of the seven LIEAP distribution centers serve a given area. Persons interested in knowing the center serving their area should call the United Way fuel assistance hot line.

CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNAL  
BUSH AND BENNETT: THE WAR ON DRUGS?

BY: BENJAMIN F. CHAVIS, JR.

We recall that 15 months ago in September 1989, President George Bush declared "War on Drugs in America." Bush made this declaration at his first prime-time television speech to the people of the United States. He made banner headlines on the front page of nearly every newspaper in the nation.

The "war strategy" for the nation's campaign against drugs was the appointment by Bush of William Bennett as the nation's Drug Czar, the chief federal official to lead and coordinate the U.S. war on drugs. At the time, there were many in the African American and Hispanic American communities who questioned both Bush's and Bennett's level of commitment and sincerity to respond effectively to the nation's drug crisis.

Paul M. Barrett of the Wall Street Journal wrote a featured article entitled, "Moving On: Though the Drug War Isn't Over, Spotlight Turns to Other Issues," reflecting back to 1989, Barrett explained, "The crisis mood in the country was such that some White House advisors thought the President, to mobilize public support, ought to go on national television and declare war."

No the War on Drugs isn't over.

From our vantage point, the War on Drugs never started. Was the President seeking to increase his public acceptance by declaring that the campaign against drugs would be a top priority of his administration? Was Bush serious about this issue or was he merely doing what appeared, at the time to be the politically expedient and profitable thing to do? Why was William Bennett ordained by the Republicans to put a front on this charade?

Remember that Bennett was the former Secretary of Education that sought to dismantle the nation's system of public education. He actually proposed a reduction of the budget of the U.S. Department of Education while he was the Secretary. Last year many of us questioned Bennett's qualifications and commitment in the area of drug prevention. From the beginning of Bennett's short tenure as Drug Czar he constantly claimed progress and success when the statistics and the rising drug epidemic across the nation indicated that the so-called war on drugs never got off the ground, notwithstanding optimistic reports from the leader of the war to curb drug abuse in America.

The homicide rare due to drugs is expected to hit a new high this year.

When Bennett quit the job of Drug Czar, he stated that the War on Drugs was successful and that there had been a "great American change of mind" concerning the use of drugs. The change of mind, however, appears to be the Administration's since the focus now is not on drugs, but war on Iraq.

It is interesting that Bennett has now been named the Chairman of the Republican Party. John H. Sununu, the White House Chief of Staff, is reported to have stated that the reason Bennett was chosen was because he is "a good attack dog on the Democrats."

Well, Bennett certainly did not attack the drug problem. The people of the United States deserve better. Drugs have become a political issue while millions of Americans have become devastated. We must demand a change.

The drug epidemic is an ongoing crisis. We demand that Bush and Bennett stop the myth-making and focus the nation's resources and attention on stopping drugs in our communities.

The African American community in particular cannot afford anymore false promises. The drug crisis in our communities is an insidious act of aggression sanctioned by the "do-nothing" policies of the Bush Administration.

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