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"The Eyes and Ears of The Community"

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## Priority; Gulf Crisis versus Education Crisis?

BY PROFESSOR MCKINLEY BURT

Will they be different in impact? Should African Americans give priority to one of these issues over the other? Of what significance in terms of a very threatening entry into the 21st century?

Possibly, never before in our history have we faced such momentous challenges to economic and cultural survival. Then, quite clearly, the question of how energies and resources should be allocated becomes paramount. It is not nearly so clear as to how a national leadership, often fragmented in the past, can agree, now, on the best choices that would provide effective direction and solutions. Given that this is the way to go, such a process, if successful, may prove to have been the integration of approaches initiated by



organizations based either regionally or in major metropolitan areas.

Now, there is one thing for sure that all are agreed upon. The returning black veteran should return to BETTER THAN HE LEFT (This, of course obtains for 'all' who survive this conflict; Blacks, other minorities, women, whites, whoever). In this context, we should examine the forces which have propelled so many of the above into the military in the first place-and this ties

directly into the argument for the veteran's return to a scenario "better than he left". We quote Benjamin Hooks, president of the NAACP.

"This nation ought to be ashamed that the best and brightest of our youth don't volunteer because they love it so well, but because this nation can't provide them jobs." Amen! (This writer volunteered in World War II for the very same reason-a year 'before' Pearl Harbor).

And I am in a somewhat tacit agreement with a recent quote from the New York Times News Service; "Military analysts and many blacks agree that the armed forces, while not a racial utopia, offer a more egalitarian and welcoming environment for blacks than perhaps any place in the civilian world." What a shameful confession. Equally interesting is a quote attributed to Professor Charles Moskos, a military sociologist at Northwestern University;

"There is probably A BETTER RACIAL CLIMATE IN THE MILITARY THAN ON A COLLEGE CAMPUS."

That comment gives me an excellent opportunity to bring in the "education crisis". Given that we have related the two concepts which have been referred to as 'crises', can we examine them both from the perspective of 'institutional racism'? Obviously, we can and perhaps the first order of business should be that these veterans returning

with newly acquired skills from their 'military education' do not face the same racist barriers to employment as did that other "Viet Nam Generation".

Among other things, this suggests that African American organizations should 'already' be about developing programs to facilitate the integration of the military profiles into the civilian modes of job descriptions, workplace terminology and educational curricula. Such a 'transition process'

and our commitment to its implementation may constitute the real 'crisis' in this matter of "Gulf vs Education" priorities. There is only one priority and that is a continued and determined effort to attain economic parity-supported by an equal determination that the same energies and resources will be expended in achieving an equitable education for their (all) children in our schools and universities. We cannot have a repeat in the 21st century.



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## Oregon Public Broadcasting Celebrates Black History Month With Special Programming

During the month of February, Oregon Public Broadcasting Radio will honor Black History Month with a series of musical and public interest programs on topics ranging from traditional African-American songs and jazz compositions to the history of the civil rights movement.

"Songs Tell the Story: 1965-190", is a feature on the diversity of the

African-American experience over the past 25 years, using contemporary blues, jazz, gospel, soul, rhythm and blues, disco, rock, rap, and world-beat from Latin America, Africa, and the Caribbean.

"Bass Lines: The Reflections of Milt Hinton" will air at 8 p.m. every night in February. Milt Hinton is a walking storybook of jazz, from the

early days of big bands to today's sounds. Presented in 28 three-minute segments, Bass Lines is a collection of fascinating stories from Hinton, chronicling his life and times, with introductions by saxophonist Branford Marsalis.

"Malcolm X: A Retrospective", runs on February 20 at 12:15 p.m. Distributed by American Public Radio, this program was produced by Chris

Koch after the assassination of Malcolm X in 1965. The program mixes narration, speeches and interviews to examine the life of the man who personified black self-determination from 1960 to the time of his death.

"The Orangeburg Massacre", which is scheduled for February 27, is a look at the black civil rights movement through various perspectives.

## American Friends Statement On The Warfare In The Persian Gulf

The outbreak of war in the Gulf represents a massive failure of governments, political leaders and international institutions. Aggression, ultimatums, deadlines, demands for oil, and inflexibility became more significant than human lives and the welfare of the human family. The overwhelming, US-led militarization of international efforts to secure Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait took on a predictable logic of its own and has propelled the world community inexorably into actions that bear no relationship to original goals.

The American Friends Service Committee believes deeply that war could have been averted, and we believe now that it must be stopped now,

before more blood is shed. It must be ended before the imperatives of warfare become fully entrenched.

Since August 2 our voice has been one among many in this country and around the world that have called for Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and for international economic and diplomatic efforts to secure that end. Ours has been one of the growing number of voices calling for restraint as President Bush has led this country on a relentless course toward the war that now flames in the Middle East and threatens to engulf ever more peoples and nations.

In this dire circumstance, we find hope in the voices of people in this country and around the world that

demand that the killing stop. The American Friends Service Committee is committed to educate, to organize and to advocate policies toward this end.

Our hope also is with those young people who, on grounds of conscience, will not participate in this war. This Quaker organization is committed to informing them of their rights and to supporting their resistance.

As we seek an early end to the fighting, we also stand ready to provide humanitarian assistance to the war's civilian victims, wherever we can.

As we focus on the immediate effects of war, we are dismayed once again at the devastating impact of warfare

on other issues that remain as unmet challenges to our own society and government. Political imagination is diverted from addressing the disgraceful fact of homelessness in our communities; from the growing economic disparities between rich and poor, Black and white, men and women; from the effects of an ever-worsening economy on the most vulnerable in our society. Believing that the peaceful world we yearn for must be based on foundations of justice we are committed to sustain and strengthen our efforts on these and other pressing issues of social, racial and economic justice for our own society.

Our prayers are with all who are

affected by this conflict: the people of Iraq, of Kuwait, of Israel, of Saudi Arabia, of Syria, of Jordan, the Palestinians and others in the region who will suffer most directly. Our prayers are with the men and women in the armies-of our own nation and of the other nations involved and with their parents and loved ones. For all of their sakes, we urge that the call for sanity in our political leadership and for an end to the killing be heeded.

We call on all people of good will and from all religious traditions to choose life in this time of violence, and to demand of political leaders the courage to reverse their policies of death.

## Women's League To Hold Health Care Forum

Mid-life and older women are invited to the Portland Chapter of the Older Women's League (OWL) at the Willamette Athletic Club, 4949 SW Landing Drive (1/2 block west of Macadam). The topic is "Health Care for all Oregonians". Ms. Ellen Pinney, the Executive Director for Oregon's Health Action Campaign, is the featured speaker. The meeting is free, and open to the public; it takes place on Saturday, February 9, from 10 a.m. to noon. No-host coffee will be available. There is ample parking, as well as a Tri-Met and handicap access entrance on Macadam. Call OWL for directions or information (245-4271).

## Nike Announces New Minority Affairs Advisory Board



NIKE, Inc., announced the formation of a new Minority Affairs Review Board composed of community leaders from the Portland, Oregon metropolitan area. The five individuals named to the Board are:

-Darryl Tukufu-President and CEO, Urban League of Portland  
-Sam Brooks-Executive Director, Oregon Association of Minority Entre-

preneurs

-Grace Gallegos-President IMPACT

-Nady Tan-Executive Director, International Refugee

Center of Oregon

-Robert Phillips-Affirmative Action Officer for

Multnomah County

The purpose of the Board will be to periodically review NIKE's progress toward the corporate goals which NIKE established for itself regarding workforce diversity and support of external minority programs. The Board will meet regularly with NIKES's Human Resources and Public Affairs departments.

Richard Donahue, NIKE's President and Chief Operating Officer, indicated that the Board would "serve as

our link to the community to keep us abreast of new developments and local issues."

"Ours is an international business and it clearly benefits us to strive for diversity within," Donahue said, "but we also want to strengthen our bonds with community leaders, not only to get their views on what's going on locally but to share with them the exciting programs we are involved in around the country. We do a tremendous amount of community support work in our hometown, but few people are aware of the extent of the programs, both local and national, in which we're involved."

Among those programs are:  
-a \$5 Million national "Stay in School" ad campaign featuring sports superstars Michael Jordan, David Robin-

son and Bo Jackson;

-a \$1 Million "Just Do It Grants" program aimed at dropout prevention; and

-National sponsorships of the United Negro College Fund, the Boys & Girls Clubs of America and the Comic Relief effort to aid the nation's homeless.

NIKE also has an internal Minority Advisory Board of minorities and women who review the Company's recruitment and training programs. The Company currently employs approximately 4,300 people, the majority of whom are located at the Company's World Campus in Beaverton. Minority employees comprise 16% of NIKE's workforce, making the Company one of the largest minority employers in the State of Oregon.

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