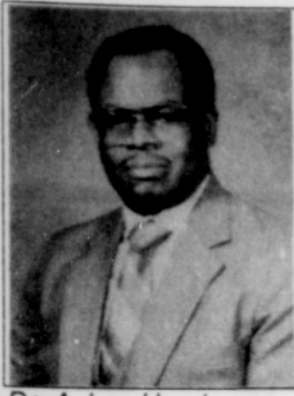


# The Mourning Of Men In Blue Fails To Stir Public Sympathy For Gates

L.A.'s Police Chief Awakens to a New And Colder Morning

Part two of a three part series by A. Lee Henderson



Dr. A. Lee Henderson

Perhaps the local papers nationwide preferred to ignore the story as a local incident nothing impacting other cities or states. If this is true, we had better awaken ourselves. We are in a state of numbness and the uneasy desire to look the other way...the type of Gestapo environment that helped Nazi Germany commit genocide in the name of its architect...Hitler whose maniacal vision was for the "public good."

The police, too, are serving our "public good."

Are we going to accept their extreme use of power without any recourse to justice? Are we going to continue our passivity while we relegate our expressed anger to a few exchanges of social vitriol?

It's time to continue in Prayer and Power...to fuel ourselves for Positive Power and initiate Programs to Purge our Nation of a Program (Program: an organized crackdown to exterminate or brutalize that sector of the people singled out for punitive measures by the government in power) mentality no better than that of the ancient Czars of Russia. The contemporary fascists of dictator nations initiate programs against minorities that resemble the actions tolerated within the police departments of our own United States of America. Cities in this country reflect too often, within their police departments, the diffuse samples of local brutality that can, if converted by hate groups or an agency of national control...explode into the racism that gets "out of control." The seeds of it exist. The seeds of the hatred are there and must be expunged in a calculated, point-by-point program.

My concern is for Prevention of future incidents of police violence. Aggression that is inflicted upon human beings, calls for a sensitivity training program of intensive proportions being instituted, ongoing, within police departments or enforcement agencies that deal with suspected of known criminal/social offenders.

**Scapegoat Racism is Real.**

Scapegoat Racism demands mobi-

lized action of our citizens in communities across the nation to:

- 1) Call or write your local police department. (Be sure not to use Emergency telephone numbers that could interfere with operations.)
- 2) Call or write your local and state representatives of your concern. Be factual. Be specific.
- 3) Call or write the Mayor and/or city council administrators and representatives.
- 4) Constitute yourself a committee-of-one to seek cooperation from others in your community.
- 5) Keep your national Congressional representatives aware of what you are doing and solicit their support.
- 6) Write to President Bush and keep him informed of your operations as "a point of light" in the nation's wealthy human resources.

We have an obligation to quote Police Chief Daryl F. Gates in his own words on department policy within his police force:

"Usually when you have some incident, you have someone stand up and say 'Yeah, but' and offer some kind of defense. But this department does not countenance that kind of conduct. There is a unanimous view in this department that that conduct was wrong."

I urge the Police Chief to take credit for these temperate words in his future temperate actions: I invite him to inform us of reconstructive measures he has initiated and will take in the long-range future.

Further, Gates has said in spreading of race relations:

"I think what's really bothering me is this attempt to bring this into a racial focus. This is a diverse city. I agree with the mayor (Bradley) that the strength of the city is its diversity. To try to make this into a racial incident I think, if it is, if there is some connotation there we'll deal with that...But to pit one group against another...I think it would be very harmful."

There is no group that can exacerbate the police brutality beyond what the policemen involved meted out to their victim...wounds that required surgery, medical reported heart damage, and extensive head injuries suffered by Rodney King, a man ironically described by a local storekeeper he had formerly burgled as "provoked" into aggression by the shopkeeper himself! For that offense is the only publicized recent record of King's former record. No

justification for the beating, certainly, occurred on the night in question. The car King was driving, a Hyundai, reputedly clocked at excessive speeds of 110 miles an hour, has been reported as incapable of going at such speed...its capability of high speeds was maximized at 80 mph by the manufacturer!

The beating, caught on video, shows a defenseless King subjected to police violence he equated as having the ferocity of "a pack of dogs."

Could this, we ask Police Chief Gates have its motivation in anything other than racism? Or is the police department on a prejudicial tear against tall people? Or is it the policy to beat first and ask questions later when the suspicions of anything like "drugs" is suspected?

Black people are less susceptible to "herd" support than Chief Gates with his police department Police League supporters. They were so well organized. They closed ranks in a demonstration of loyalty to each other...rather than honest, open self-examination.

Were Black people tighter to unify, to rally, to organize we would have done so long ago.

Black people, I remind Chief Gates do not even support unilaterally the policies of his most severe critic, Black Mayor Tom Bradley. Indeed, Jesse Jackson's criticism of Bradley echoes other leaders. The distrust of corruptive finances attributed to Bradley's recent banking indiscretions, which have been masked, are an affront to claim many good conservatives...among them many conscientious Blacks!

We are various in the Black community as the stratas of social, political, and financial levels, operating and voting beyond color and reflecting our individual, American-blessed civic heritage to choose...certainly without the limitations of assuming color-groupie animosity.

BUT...we do hold for unanimity on civil and human rights...in concert with the community of all peoples concerned in preserving freedoms. Our Bill Of Rights needs to be reconstructed in visible day-to-day practice.

Ira Glasser, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union has warned us to be wary of police controls exacted in the name of drug search. Often used as a cover-up for allowing drug Enforcement an invasion of privacy, Glasser released some startling statistics. *Continued next week*



## PERSPECTIVES

by Professor McKinley Burt

### The Ancient African 'Public Library'

Thank You! All the parents, teachers (and students) who responded to last week's article, "Isaac Newton: Black History Student".

And thank you Carolyn Leonard (School District Administration) and Darrell Milner (Portland State Professor) for your able defense of the school districts "Baseline Essays" on the KATU TownHall Program, April 7.

As I predicted here on April 3, there was provided an opportunity for the entire region to view a number of racist detractors of black history at their denigrating best. Interestingly, the one with the least cognitive equipment was from the Community College-that academic anomaly where only recently the president chastised five "CREDENTIALLED BURGLARS" for breaking into the files of a fellow professor, a minority female who taught Minority Studies. Beautiful!

Let me supply some additional facts and documentation in support of last weeks revelations. Let me further tweak the ears of the half-educated who claim that there is no need for a 'Black' History (Me thinketh thou doth protest too much). Some material here is from Luciano Canfora, "The Vanished Library: A Wonder of the Ancient World" (University of California Press, 1990); Marshall Clagett, "Greek Science in Antiquity" (Collier-McMillan, 1963); and Sir James Jeans, "The Growth of Physical Science" (Cambridge U. Press, 1961).

### Toll Free Information On Remodeling Now Available To Oregon Consumers

Information about remodeling, remodeling contractors, and related topics is now just a toll free phone call away. The Oregon Remodelers association has made available the hot line service to Oregon residents. The number is 1-800-863-9119.

Jim Breitbarth, Executive Director of the Association, said the primary purpose of the toll free line is as a referral service to obtain names of

qualified remodeling contractors. Anyone calling for contractor referrals will be given the names of three contractors. The caller will receive a follow up contact by mail to assure correct service.

Consumers can also use the toll free number to get information about remodeling and how to select a contractor.

The Oregon Remodelers association is a state wide organization of professional remodeling contractors and related trades. Current membership is over 500 with local chapters in Portland, Salem, Albany/Corvallis, Eugene, Hood River and Bend.

historian, Gibbon ("Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire") comments on "the treasures of Egyptian Libraries-Aristotle, Pliny the Elder and Galen perused these writings of their predecessors (Canfora, pp.112, 113)". And it is Newton who is quoted in the books I cited last week, "Africans developed the concept of the SPHERE in that part of Africa now known as Libya".

By their own testimony we know of the many other Greeks (and Romans) who attended school or were born in Africa (the busts we have today of the alleged ethnic Greek mathematicians and astronomers are conceded not to be valid representations-and we know that many ethnic (Negro) Africans took Greek names before and after the invasion of Alexander. So when we think of Pythagoras, Euclid and of Aristotle who transferred scores of Greek students from Athens to the African Temple Schools of Egypt and the Sudan-we should also think of Shakespeare's cogent observaion, "What's in a name?"

We understand now why the Greeks were able to return to their homeland and set up those great scientific schools such as Miletus. What we need to further understand is the terrible envy, jealousy and insecurity that prompted Alexander and others to burn many of these libraries. Understand that and you will comprehend the fury of the "Baseline Essay" detractors, the 'liberal' academics you saw in action the other Sunday. It is not always true that "THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE!" Not in the case of racists. But, keep in mind that under the pressures of this American culture we are not going to motivate our black youngsters until we teach them too, who we were, who we are, and who we will be!

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## Reinvestments in the Community

### Mt. Hood Jazz Festival Announces Complete 1990 Lineup

Saxophonist Johnny Griffin, conga drummer Mongo Santamaria, pianist Ray Bryant, bassist Leroy Vinnegar and the duo of Tuck and Patti have been signed to round out the 1990 Mt. Hood Festival of Jazz, according to an announcement by Paul Kreider, Festival of Jazz Foundation President. The Festival is Aug. 3-5 outdoors at Mt. Hood Community College.

The five jazz artists join the ninth annual Jazz Festival lineup that already includes Mel Torme, Tony Bennett, the Terry Gibbs Dream Band, Larry Carlton, Stanley Jordan, Al Hirt, Michael Franks and the Harper Brothers. Singer Anita Baker headlines the popular Friday Night Event this year.

Santamaria has long been at the top of the heap when it comes to conga drummers. He left Cuba for the U.S. in 1948 and soon was working with Latin bandleaders Tito Puente and Cal Tjader before forming his own band.

Bryant was born in the ripe jazz atmosphere of Philadelphia, where he began playing piano at 6, subsequently learning jazz from listening to Art Tatum, Teddy Wilson, Count Basie and others.

Chicago native Griffin has resided in Europe for the past 25 years but makes an annual visit to the United States to tour. A standout improvisational talent and known for his speed and technical prowess, Griffin brings a solid bebop style to the Festival.

He learned bebop via Bud Powell and Red Garland while gathering steam on his own distinctive style of piano jazz.

Bassist Vinnegar, who leads a quartet, has long been in the company of elite jazz musicians. His first claim to fame came in the '50s; when he joined Andre Previn and Shelley Manne to record the best-selling "My Fair Lady" jazz album and went on to become one of the leading bassists in jazz.

Tuck and Patti play in the contemporary framework of jazz.

Additional information may be obtained from the Mt. Hood Festival of Jazz office by phoning 503-666-3810.

### Profile of Dancer/Choreographer Ruby Burns of the Oregon Dance Consort

Depositing her infant daughter on a secure spot of the studio floor and stripping off several layers of African-inspired fashions, dancer Ruby Burns picks up a large American flag and starts to swirl it around. A flag? Yes, indeed. With a well-established reputation as one of the region's top interpreters and teachers of African dance, Ruby is branching out to explore the vocabulary of American modern dance--and American modern dance in the 90s is a many-faceted artform.

It's not such a huge leap for Ruby as it sounds; trace any modern dance style back to its roots and you'll find that the early pioneers drew heavily on folk and ethnic themes for inspiration in their work. Ruby herself has been greatly inspired by the work of modern dance pioneer Katherine Dunham who based her style directly on various forms of African dance.

Today, African dance is a highly visible, enthusiastically received part of Portland's cultural scene, but when

Ruby arrived here in 1978 as a refugee from New York City, this was hardly the case. As a faculty member at Dancers' Workshop, as a choreographer and performer, Ruby has played a vital role in focusing attention on the diversity and power of African forms of music and dance. Now, in her recent and upcoming work with the modern dance company Oregon Dance Consort, she's building more bridges and utilizing her powerful stage personality to interpret dramatic works from another tradition.

"Reinvestments in the Community" is a weekly column appearing in API publications throughout the USA.

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