

# CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNAL

By Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

## Stop Bush's Backlash Against Civil Rights

The debate over the Civil Rights Act of 1991 continues. The Bush administration continues to mislabel the bill as "a quota bill." As we have stated before the essence of the Civil Rights Act of 1991 is to prevent employment discrimination.

We are now seeing a glimpse of the 1992 Presidential Campaign which promises to be even more racist oriented than the 1988 campaign. Racially-charged, political advertisements have increased. The civil rights movement must not allow the Civil Rights Act of 1991 to become a victim of a larger political strategy of the right-wing of the Republican party.

The term "quota" has become synonymous to "racial preference" or "special preferential treatment for minorities." In fact, the established media, as it is informed by right-wing theoreticians, often characterizes the "civil rights movement" as a movement for preferential treatment based on race or on other factors. The "movement" must define its goals and

objectives clearly to avoid the traps that are now being laid in regard to the upcoming vote on the Civil Rights Act of 1991 in the Congress. The point here is that these same strategies of mislabeling and mis-defining the issues will continue into the 1992 Presidential race.

History is always an important antidote to the political mythology of a given era. The truth is that the civil rights movement of the 1950's and the 1960's was never about some type of "preferential racial treatment." The goals and objectives of the "movement" were justice and freedom and quality for all without discrimination due to race, religion, gender or any other factor.

It is a true inversion of history for the forces of American racism to attempt to accuse and describe the "movement" as being for discrimination and preferential treatment. If there is a difference between the 1960's and the 1990's, it is the role of the federal government. Today it is the White House and the Supreme Court that have insti-

tuted consistent efforts to deny equal opportunity, racial justice, and affirmative action.

We suggest that the greatest challenge that the civil rights movement has in the 1990's is "to pull the sheets off" of the blatant, racist immorality that is now being fostered by the highest authorities in the land. Rather than negotiate a compromise of principles with representatives of the White House concerning Bush's objections to the Civil Rights Act, civil rights leaders need to expose the whole affair for what it has become, i.e. a racist backlash against civil rights and racial progress.

In addition, we must learn and remember that previous civil rights legislation was enacted by Congress only when there was a massive, grassroots mobilization.

Every single community throughout the nation needs to demand that Congress votes in favor of the bill and to override any veto by President Bush. Now is the time once again to act.

## Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor:

I would like to take a moment to make a plea for the future of our city. I have been shocked and disgusted at the continued presence of hate-mongering, racist, gay-bashing skinheads who are trying to sow the seeds of our society's destruction. Incident after incident turns up in the local news media.

I want us to utilize every means at our disposal to let the skinheads, the neo-nazis, and the whole sick white power crowd know that we will not stand for the poisoning of our spirits.

I am asking that everyone reading this letter carry this message to whatever organizations you belong to. It is my hope that every church, synagogue, mosque, fraternal organization, sports club, business, neighborhood association and educational institution in this city takes the time to educate members about this growing menace. You can report incidents and get information on how you can help by contacting the Youth Gangs Project (823-4264), the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission (796-5136), Portland Bureau of Police (823-4106) or Southeast Uplift Anti-racism Project (232-0010).

We must educate ourselves and our children to recognize perpetrators of hate crimes. More importantly we must report their activities to the police and encourage both local and federal District Attorneys to vigorously prosecute these criminals as organized gangsters devoted to the destruction of our nation.

I cannot sufficiently underscore the danger presented by these race war

instigators. These lunatics really do want to turn the Pacific Northwest into a homeland for Klansmen, Nazis, and other white supremacist fanatics. Every member of the Chamber of Commerce, our tourism organizations, and every citizen of Portland should consider the financial impact of developing such a reputation.

We have a responsibility to put a stop to this right now. Do not underestimate the seductive power of an appeal to racism, homophobia, sexism, and anti-semitism. Hate movements thrive on the willingness of the general public to pretend that the movement is not really happening. Remember, Hitler used the seductive power of hate to win over a society which had produced some of the finest poets, scientists, and philosophers of the 20th century.

The seductive power of hate allowed a sick group to blow up four little girls in an Alabama church. The seductive power of hate enticed four of our community's teenagers to bludgeon a man to death here on the streets of Portland. Unchallenged it becomes a hideous addictive intoxicant.

I implore you to make the effort to speak out against the hate movement. Teach your children, family and friends to recognize preachers of hatred and to report incidents of verbal or physical abuse. The bright prosperous and diverse community we share is at stake.

Sincerely,  
Mike Lindberg  
Commissioner  
Office of Public Affairs

## To The Editor

Dear Editor:

I am an inmate at the Indiana State Farm. Certain events have compelled me to write this letter in an effort to reach out and elude the pain of loneliness that I've known so long. At present, I am confined to an area of the prison where there is an ever present shadow. At times, it becomes unbearable, and often I find myself lost in the mists of despair.

Recently I became a christian, an as a result of turning my misguided life over to the Lord, life behind bars has become more bearable.

Still, there's a desperate loneliness within that cries out for contact with individuals other than those confined here in prison. Due to the length of my incarceration, I have lost contact with family and friends. This has left a void that is unbearable. That is why I am writing this letter.

I hope that you may find the space in your publication to print my letter. Hopefully someone will respond. A letter from anyone would dissipate the loneliness and bring sunshine to my life. Thank you for any consideration you may give in my request. God Bless.

Sincerely,  
Fred Patterson #903843 16-N  
Indiana State Farm  
1500 West US 40  
Greencastle, Indiana 46135

## 200-Year-Old Bill Of Rights Comes To Portland

A 200-year-old original, scribed copy of the Bill of Rights will arrive in Portland, Oregon, on June 19, transported in a 20th century, high-tech caravan, as part of a 50-state tour of the priceless document presented by Philip Morris Companies Inc.

Virginia's original copy of the Bill of Rights is the centerpiece of a 15,000-square-foot multimedia exhibit which will be on display free of charge at the Portland Expo Center from June 19-23. Hours are: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. on June 19-22 and from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. on June 23.

Steeped in history but interspersed with contemporary issues, the sights and sounds of the exhibit surround visitors with a sense of the document's past and an appreciation of its ever-changing nature in modern day society.

"Without question, a tour of this magnitude is a major logistical undertaking," said Guy L. Smith IV, vice president of corporate affairs for Philip Morris Companies Inc. "Just to move this mammoth exhibit and provide complete security, a caravan of vehicles-tractor trailers, vans, buses, and a custom-built secure transport vehicle is required," said Smith. "To our knowledge, no exhibit or special even of this proportion has never visited all 50 states."

The recently restored Virginia copy of the Bill of Rights was selected for the 26,000-mile tour because of its historical significance, Smith explained.

Virginia and its leaders, including James Madison and George Mason, played a significant role in the introduction and ratification of the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution, known as the Bill of Rights.

The Bill of Rights Tour is presented by Philip Morris Companies Inc. the world's largest producer of consumer packaged goods.



# Perspectives

By Professor McKinley Burt

## The Payoff For That Technical Motivation

In Support of this parent-support series on a home environment that encourages interest in science and technology, let me add the following source. The 'Edmund Scientific Company' has over the years been an excellent source of first rate science models, Do-it yourself kits and instruments for all grades, through high school as well and even the university. Write for a catalog, 101 E. Gloucester Drive, Barrington, N.J. 08007. (609) 547-3488.

Now, several times in the past few months I have alluded to a highly technical workplace - quite sophisticated, but which, nevertheless, was manned in great degree by workers with less than a college education. There is no better example of this phenomenon than the Martin Marietta Aluminum Company in the Dalles, Oregon (formerly, Harvey Aluminum Company). I cite this model because it draws on personal experience and because the period (1960s) is a facsimile of many contemporary operations I have examined in the Portland area - if not in size, certainly in terms of applied technology.

Keep in mind that an Aluminum Plant is a self-contained city that operates full-tilt 24 hours a day, seven days a week for the process by which the metal is smelted demands that the 'mix' prepared in scores of huge 'pots' remain molten at all times. Processed metal (finished goods) is simply siphoned off as the occasion demands, while new raw ore, etc. is added below in a continuous process. Because of this nature of the process and because such huge, environmentally threatening facilities cannot be located near a metropolitan area, every element of a

supporting infrastructure must be duplicated in the isolated site: streets, sewers, utilities, fire and police departments, health and safety restaurants, security - and garage and other repair shops of all kinds, loading docks, scales, railroad.

Then, it follows that in the Instrument Division, of the Electrical Engineering Department where I worked, there must be the devices and facilities to measure and monitor every type of physical phenomena one could imagine: temperature, speed, flow rate, weight, displacement, PH, viscosity, humidity, elevation, pressure, time, dew point, azimuth, momentum, acceleration, kinetic and potential energy, flash-point, you name it. And all of this is done either on the spot or monitored from a remote location (telemetry).

But, consider this; when a plant of this nature is by necessity built in an isolated area like the Dalles - a farm/orchard community - then the highly skilled technical workforce one would usually draw from an adjacent urban area is not available. What you do is import a few skilled highly trained or university-educated university types who are given the lead time necessary to train the first 'green' echelons of a workforce drawn from farm boys, construction workers, sales clerks, cherry pickers and the like (or in my particular case, from the accounting dept.).

The point that I wish to make here is that this situation is duplicated to [greatly varying] degrees all over the Portland Metropolitan Area (and over the U.S.). The extent to which non-college people are employed and trained on the job depends on the relative so-

phistication of the technology of the particular industry. But, in ALL CASES there are going to be a number of jobs that do not require degrees in a specific technical discipline. However, those selected for employment will be those who meet a screening and aptitude profile enhanced by a solid core of math and science courses at the high school level. And increasingly, skills in reading and interpreting.

It is obvious, then why I emphasized last week the importance of the science orientation I got at home at an early age: The books, the magazines, the science kits, the science clubs and peer group reinforcement, the field trips etc. and all of this is in direct relevance to the frightening statistics I have been citing on dropout rates and tracking devices' impacting upon the African American child. At that Aluminum Plant I had no difficulty whatsoever mustering the electronic technology, learning on the job from manuals, correspondence courses and peer group. The concepts and terminology were not a 'foreign language' and soon I was TEACHING OTHERS, building and repairing, instruments and organizing a kids science club in my community.

Now, that is exactly, what has to be done in this community if our youth is to survive and prosper in the "NEW WORLD ORDER." Parents will have to be assisted where they are not able or motivated to provide the necessary support for their children - for whatever reason. It has been seen that the schools have not done a very good job - again, for whatever reason. More on this next week, the projects I have going.

## Youth Classes Offered together as "Family Affair"

Neat Kids, Safe Kids and When I'm In Charge, award winning American Red Cross youth classes, will be offered concurrently on the same day Saturday, June 1, at the American Red Cross, 3131 N. Vancouver Ave., Portland.

"Neat Kids, Safe Kids" is scheduled from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. This child safety program is presented as a puppet show for children ages 4 to 7. It is

designed to foster self-esteem and self reliance. Children learn how to play safely at home and outside, what to do in an emergency, and how to be "Buddy Safe". The cost is \$5 per child; adults are free.

"When I'm In Charge" will be held from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. It teaches 8-11 year olds ways to respond safely to a variety of "home alone" situations, from phone calls to peer pres-

sure. The class includes role-playing, activities that stimulate critical thinking and discussion, and a film. The cost is \$7.

Call the Red Cross at 284-0011, ext. 176 to register for "Neat Kids, Safe Kids" and When I'm In Charge." Scholarships and family discounts are available.

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## Reinvestments in the Community

### Community Wide Preschool Health And Developmental Screening Project

Screening Kids Informing Parents (SKIP) provides preschool-age children (and sometimes infants and toddlers) with screening in areas of general and dental health, hearing, vision, speech/language and motor skill development. It provides parents with information and connects them with services, programs and other resources appropriate to their children's particular needs and family income. Parents are also provided with fun-at-home activities to build their children's skill level and confidence.

The purpose of this project is to reach high-risk children through a cooperative multi-agency approach and parenting classes. Interpreters are provided to help non-English speaking families and to translate written materials.

Professional time is contributed from private practice and the following schools and agencies: Oregon Health Sciences University, Portland State University, Portland Dental Hygiene Association, Portland Center for Speech

address their needs before health and developmental problems become a deterrent to success in school and life. Its purposes is consistent with a new federal law (Public Law 99-457) requiring identification and service to preschool-age children with special needs.

Screening is done by professionals and supervised college students who are studying professions directly related to the health and development of young children. Community members volunteer their time for the non-professional aspects of the screening. A play area for brothers and sisters is supervised by high school students from and Hearing, Pacific University, Portland Community College, Mt. Hood Community College, University of Portland, Housing Authority of Portland, AMA Head Start, Multnomah County Department of Health and Human Services, Multnomah Education Service District, Portland Public Schools and Participating East Multnomah County schools.

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

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