

CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNAL

By Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

The Truth Revealed in South Africa

There is a saying that "Truth crushed to the earth will rise again." This is certainly the case now inside the apartheid regime in South Africa. After years of public denials by the government of South Africa that it secretly was funding Chief Buthelezi and his Inkatha organization to politically and violently oppose the African National Congress, the truth is now coming out, and it is "rising" to bring clarity to why the violence in South Africa is continuing.

It is as if South Africa used its own version of the United States counterintelligence program, COINTELPRO, to foster and sponsor the enmity and destructive hatred of Inkatha toward the African National Congress. We mourn and are outraged at the thousands of innocent women, men, and children who have been killed as a direct result of the apartheid regime's sponsorship of terrorism.

State sponsored terrorism has now been exposed once again in South Africa. How can President Bush, who speaks so eloquently against terrorism, not move his "lips" to denounce the de Klerk administration in South Africa

for its sponsorship of terrorism against the people of South Africa?

Of course, President de Klerk was quick to defend the ultimate goal of this "political destabilization" in Africa because the United States had given similar financial support to groups like Inkatha in Nicaragua and in Angola. If there is to be a "New World Order," it should be a world free of this kind of arrogant and racist attempt to deny peoples of the world community the fundamental human right to self-determination.

It is ironic that President Bush and President de Klerk are now calling for a renewed sense of "confidence" in the apartheid regime's intentions to be fair. De Klerk confessed, "The government accepts that there has to be political confidence in respect to the sensitive issue of secret funding.... It is a fact that this confidence has been shaken and it is necessary to restore it."

Political trust and confidence are not matters that can be reduced to rhetorical appeal. Yes, confession is good for the soul, yet the problem that remains in South Africa goes far beyond

President de Klerk saying, "We did wrong, but now you can trust us." Today, Nelson Mandela and millions of Africans cannot even vote in government elections because of their race; but, this is the government that wants the majority of the people it has disenfranchised to "trust" it.

The anti-apartheid movement in the United States and throughout the world needs to call for justice for all of the victims of this diabolical scheme to stop democracy in South Africa. As long as the present apartheid government is in power in South Africa, there will be no political stability. International economic sanctions should be maintained.

Buthelezi and his cohorts should be brought to trial along with their sponsors for the countless massacres of innocent people.

The transformation of South Africa is a monument to the degree to which the forces of evil are entrenched in the international body politic. Racism is an international problem, and as long as it is institutionalized in one nation, no one will be free anywhere.

Free Health Screenings For Seniors (Age 55+) Offered at Neighborhood Sites

September 6, 1991 - Neighborhood House, 7688 S.W. Capitol Hwy., 9 a.m. to noon. Please call 244-5204 for an appointment.

September 13, 1991 - OASIS, City Center Meier & Frank, 10th Floor, 621 S.W. Fifth Ave., 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please call 241-3059 for an appointment.

September 20, 1991 - Hollywood Senior Center, 1820 N.E. 40th Ave., 9 a.m. to noon. Please call 288-8303 for an appointment.

September 27, 1991 - Gresham Senior Center, 50 N.E. Elliott, Gresham, OR, 9 a.m. to noon. Please call 665-7191 for an appointment.

Among the services at the screenings are blood chemistry tests which include cholesterol, glucose, and anemia measurements, blood pressure, colorectal cancer take-home test kit, lung function and hearing testing. Vision and glaucoma assessments, nutritional counseling and foot care evaluation are also usually offered. Appointments are necessary and may be made by calling the screening site. There is no charge for the screenings which are funded by Legacy Health System hospitals and health care organizations.



Perspectives

By Professor McKinley Burt

More On the "Drew-Johnson Medical Education Project"

I would like to expand the scope and add some facts to the information provided in last week's front page interview, "Drew-Johnson Medical Education Project Launched."

Again, let me cite the spectrum of career/education slots available in the medical field, including some that were omitted last week. Readers and students alike have long been aware of my observation (and intervention) where minority and low income youth of all races generally are unaware of the existence of many positions available in the technical fields. At Portland State University, for instance, I spent years developing hundreds of work/study slots and internships with corporations and such agencies as the U. S. Forest Service - mostly in the technical fields.

The following relevant list was developed during my two years of service as a volunteer at Providence Medical Center (where I had established work/study positions for minority youth). "Physician, dentist, nurse, medical illustrator, x-ray technicians, optometrist, oculist, epidemiologist, psychologist, actuary, medical secretary, etc.," as well as special areas such as "sports medicine, industrial safety, consumer project design and labeling, forensics/coroner, oncology, H.M.O.S, nutrition, geriatrics, pharmacy, trauma centers, long-term care, poison centers, environmental hazards (lead paint, toxic wastes/dumps, atmospheric carcinogens) and many others."

Obviously, the project requires a very intensive use of a computerized data base -- not just for the information and technical material I've collected

over the years, but for contemporary interactive referencing of students and mentors with training institutions, "the literature," job market, and the public. Institutional, and public outreach programs require such a support mechanism. Additionally, students must have convenient library referencing.

A new and most important component of the present project is the design of an introductory text/curriculum for the students -- a survey or evaluation of the minority health services delivery system. With the help of professionals in the field, this material is being developed in a two-tier mode, high school and university. This is a very important consideration for what I've discovered over the years is that young people have to be kept focused -- you cannot rely entirely upon your own enthusiasm and presume that structure and motivation will automatically occur.

A case in point is my book "Black Inventors of America," which was first published in 1969. During those early years when I was the only one in the country traveling from city to city "preaching" and lecturing that "science and technological education and enterprise is the future for minority youth," this book kept the issue FOCUSED. It was used in many colleges and high school courses and was a basis for many successful workshops and grant applications around the country. Hopefully, our present efforts in the health science field will produce the same level of interaction.

Such a "curriculum support" for the students must necessarily include a strong motivational and self-image

component. Here I am incorporating the historical and seminal contributions to medicine by Africans and African Americans. These easily documented achievements began over 4000 years ago with "Imhotep," chief physician and architect to an early Egyptian Pharaoh. We have it from D. T. Akinson in his "Magic, Myth and Medicine." "From the first dynasty onward Egypt had a system of medicine more rational than the world was again to see for over three thousand years. African physicians, famous as teachers, visited and taught in Arabia, Persia, and Greece. Hippocrates, grandfather of the great physician by that name, was the pupil of an Egyptian."

I was able to obtain similar (and fascinating) material from the Al-Ahram Center For Scientific Translations, Cairo, Egypt, "The Physicians of Pharonic Egypt" (distributed by the National Library of Medicine, U. S. Public Health Service, 1983). Here we have detailed accounts of the sophisticated hierarchy of general practitioners and specialists that existed in such early times; "Chief of Physicians, Inspector of Physicians," medical scribes, pharmacists, internists, oculists, proctologists, coroners, embalmers, surgeons and even veterinarians.

There will be, of course, more recent and contemporary material such as you have seen in these columns; like the story of Ben Carson, the gifted African American neurosurgeon who traveled from a housing project to the very top of his profession. It is our hope that this project will enable many more of our youth to make the trip.

"WIN" Celebrates Second Annual Dinner/Fashion Show



Mrs. Frances D. Hooks, National Coordinator, Women in the NAACP (WIN), accepts congratulations from an admiring quartet at WIN's Second Annual Dinner/Fashion Show, held recently during the NAACP's 82nd Annual Convention in Houston, Texas. Standing with Mrs. Hooks are, from left, George L. Knox III, Vice President, Public Affairs, Philip Morris Companies, Inc.; Mrs. Hooks' husband, Benjamin L. Hooks, Executive Director, NAACP; Rev. Jesse Jackson, President of the National Rainbow Coalition and "Shadow" Senator for Washington, D.C.; and Dr. William F. Gibson, Chairman, NAACP National Board of Directors. Sponsored by Philip Morris Companies, Inc., the WIN Dinner/Fashion Show was held at Houston's Hyatt Regency Hotel. Philip Morris Companies, Inc., and its operating companies, the Miller Brewing Company and Kraft General Foods, expressed their continuing support for NAACP programs and scholarships. The companies' involvement also included the hosting of Corporate Exhibits at the convention's trade and industry show.

Portland Observer encourages our readers to write letters to the editor in response to any articles we publish.

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Jessie Varner

Jessie Varner moved to Portland in 1943. She worked as a welder at shipyards. In 1947, Jessie married James P. Varner. She spent 13 years in the medical field. In 1965 Jessie became very active in the NE community. She became Director of C-CAP (Church Community Action Program). Because of her commitment to the fight against racism, Jessie Varner participated in the march in Washington, DC for civil rights.

From 1968-1983 she worked for PPS as a community agent. Jessie made a difference in young people's lives by encouraging them to remain in school. She touched the lives of so many people with her positive philosophy of life.

She is survived by her husband, 4 brothers throughout US, 2 children, and 2 grandchildren. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m., Hughes Memorial Church, Friday, August 16th.

Will A DropOut Lose Out?

by Professor McKinley Burt

We had better get ready to answer this question, and in a hurry. It is not just from our state legislature (Vera Katz) and newly-energized regional task forces that we have cries for sweeping educational reform; but from the white House, Congress and industry-both liberal and conservative establishments. There seems to be one pervasive concept integral to all their projections and it could prove devastating for the future of minorities in this country.

For the first time in this century (since America became primarily urban), very important and influential elements of our society are renouncing the hallowed, egalitarian principle underlying American education and economics. And this is the belief that all have been endowed with intrinsic abilities to achieve as well as with "certain inalienable rights." But now, the aforementioned establishment has built into its European and Japanese-inspired projections the most rigid and structured TRACKING system ever contemplated.

Our specific concern is that all of these "Year 2000" programs mandate that there will be convenient DROP-OUT STATIONS at the 10th and 12th grades. In light of the existing situation in respect to the education of African American children it is not difficult to project who will be put off the learning train at what station. The 'defacto' dropout has been with us all the time so why should we suppose that the establishment will suddenly move from rhetoric to structured 'upscale basics'.

Today's 'front page' article addresses other issues raised by this "Year 2000" bandwagon. But, here, I would have you note that in the last month or so I have consistently cited modes of 'parental involvement' that have been proven to equip them to enhance their children's performance in school. The last two weeks in particular I have returned to my 'motivational' theme, emphasizing the early African contributions to the world's culture and technology; "Issac Newton: Black History Student & The ancient African Public Library."

This technique and the "Role Model" approach are going to be ever so critical as a driving force to establish the 'IDENTITY' mindset that will allow black youth to engage in the learning process. It is strange that we have so many blacks (among others) who cannot understand this, and bewail the fact that their programs are being overwhelmed by escalating losses-dropouts, gang activities. They don't seem to comprehend that if the schools are not doing it-and if there is not a coherent family structure present to build self-esteem-then their programs must incorporate this thrust as an essential feature. You can't just 'say' this is family.

Note that when I was moved from the building which became the site of the UMOJA Gang rehabilitation Program, eight or nine black and white teenagers were assigned to pack up and carry the many scores of crates containing my library. Carrying on the usual conversation and exchange I always inspire with kids, it did not take long to identify their interests (or lack of them). While their motivational profile was typical for 'dropouts', I was able to get three interested in the role models in my book, Black Inventors of America. They had not the vague idea that men and women of color had invented so many of the technical wonders around them or that many of them were "DROPOUTS".

One, who abandoned school because he just couldn't understand math", as amazed at the revelation that "Africans developed the binary math used by today's computer" I showed him in twenty minutes and he is back in school. Another of that trio will be a freshman at the University of Oregon this fall. I told this incredulous young man that I had entered law school after passing the entrance exam as a "high school dropout".

This was followed up by showing him the black history models of early African American educational system in the books on my shelves. He soon realized that he had no excuses.

Next week I will cite several exemplary models of African American Scientists who never saw the inside of a university but who became world-renown in their field. Perhaps you can use them to motivate some black youth who has not learned who he is or to dream. Or who has been "tracked" by the "Year 2000" enthusiasts.

"Reinvestments in the Community" is a weekly column appearing in API publications through out the USA