

PDC To Finance Construction Of Portland's First New SRO Housing In Half A Century; Funding For Two Other Low-Income Housing Project Also On Commission Agenda

The Portland Development Commission (PDC), pending final approval by Commissioners at their monthly meeting October 16th, will provide a \$4.1 million Investor Rehabilitation Loan (IRL) to Downtown Community Housing, Inc. (DCHI) for construction of the City's first new Single Room Occupancy (SRO) housing facility in 50 years.

Approval of this loan marks a new era for PDC's IRL program as it adds "new construction" loan financing to its original charter of rehabilitating low-income rental properties. The program has successfully financed the rehabilitation of over 4,000 housing units since 1978.

The land, located at Southwest 13th and Alder, will be leased to DCHI, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing affordable rental housing for low income individuals. DCHI will serve

as the general partner in a limited partnership formed with Northwest Natural Gas, Key Bank and Standard Insurance Company to share in financing and ownership of the property over a 40-year lease period with First Presbyterian Church, the owner of the land.

The seven-story complex will feature 101 SRO units and 30 junior studio apartments. Rents will range from \$255-\$275 per unit including utilities. Tenancy will be reserved for individuals with incomes that are 60% or less of the median income, or \$16,400 annually. The building will also house street-level shops and non-residential parking.

Walsh Construction Company will be the general contractor. The architect is Carter Case Architects. Project completion is scheduled for December of 1992.

Howard Law Dean To Head ABA Section On Education And Bar Admission

Henry Ramsey Jr., dean of the Howard University School of Law, has been named chair of the American Bar Association's section on Legal Education and Admission to the Bar. He assumed the position at the ABA annual meeting in Atlanta in August.

Ramsey is the First African-American to chair this section, which is responsible for all standards and rules of procedure for admission to ABA-approved law schools. The section also has authority over and responsibility for all accreditation matters concerning U.S. law schools.

The U.S. Department of Education has recognized the ABA section as the national accrediting agency for professional schools of law. Graduation from an ABA-approved law school is recognized in all 55 admitting jurisdictions and states, and it is required in 44.

Ramsey currently serves as president of the Council on Legal Education Opportunity (CLEO) and as chair of the Law School Admission Council's Bar Passage Study Work Group.

A former California Superior Court judge, Ramsey became the 21st dean of the Howard School of Law on Nov. 26, 1990.

perspectives

by Professor McKinley Burt

Won't They Ever Give Up?

Once again the self-appointed (but well paid) guardians of the history, ethos and psyche of Africans and African Americans have sallied forth to attack Portland's School district BASELINE ESSAYS. Like the CRUSADERS of a past age, they have donned a racist and self-contradictory armor for the rescue of their own special *holy grail* (There being several Africans among them).

On September 23, we had the prestigious "Newsweek Magazine" presenting a multi-page put down of the efforts to put forth mostly well-documented recitations of the contributions of blacks to the world's culture and technology; "Was Cleopatra Black!" It is easily perceived that while this African Queen was more likely to have been black than to have resembled Elizabeth Taylor, the choice of title and model for the article indicated a less-than-serious (or scholarly) approach to a critique of the Baseline Essays.

This flimsy piece was followed, on October 8, by the syndicated column of William Raspberry of the Washington Post. Frequently referred to as an establishment *Negro* by most blacks and liberals, this apologist dared to speculate that the great Bayard Rustin, organizer of the 1963 March on Washington, would not have "clambered aboard the Afrocentric bandwagon." I suppose that if one cannot find support for one's views among *living* blacks of pride and integrity, it might seem safe to denigrate the dead. I am ashamed for this man who qualifies as a soul mate of Judge Clarence Thomas.

There is a common theme running through the positions (admonitions) of the writers of both these articles. It is

best revealed in Raspberry's fatuous disclaimer, "We have learned, however, that a *healthy* expression of cultural identification can too easily escalate into extravagant claims of gourg superiority." What obviously has happened is that this type of person has run squarely up against the fundamental and documented truths of black contributions to civilization -- as narrated by the principal authors of the Baseline Essays (John Henri Clarke, Ivan Van Sertima, et al) -- and shocked and puzzled, they, not the essayists, HAVE MADE THE ASSESSMENT OF SUPERIORITY. As Shakespeare said "I fear thou doth protest too much."

In this context, we would note that the detractors are quite likely driven into the unmasking of their unease by a confrontation with one of the many forthright and documented citations of the essay authors; such as the African mathematics, astronomy, steel manufacturing (Yale University) and similar accomplishments as reported by the Greeks. You will further note that the detractors *never* cite this type of research and scholarship in the Baseline Essays -- only the occasional slippups that are known to occur in any such large scale production.

And then, on October 16, Richard G. Garret of the Oregonian penned a piece, "Baseline Essays Add to Mistakes of Past." Though the title of the article suggested another denigrating approach, I was about to begin a fair and open assessment of the piece until I was the *note on the author*; "has taught in the Portland Public Schools for 17 years and currently teaches mathematics at Sellwood Middle School" The combination of these two circum-

stances prepared me for the exact same manifestations of the other articles, a predetermined mindset and a deliberate omission of those basic documented facts of black achievement previously cited here. Interestingly, this *scholar* calls in support the very "Newsweek article" described earlier (September 23). Our resident mathematician at Sellwood Middle School doubts the Essays author's statement that Africa "was the birthplace of mathematics." For myself, I'll go along with Plato, Isaac Newton, Peter Thompkins and A.K. Adkinson (respectively, Timaeus; Isaac Newton: Historian; Secrets of Pyramid; Magic, Myth & Medicine).

I mentioned my negative feelings upon seeing that an adversary position was taken by a teacher in Portland Public Schools. Ten years ago I was among the first *local consultants* chosen and approved by the principal writers of the Baseline Essays (Math and Science). In addition to writing lesson plan models we conducted seminars and orientation for the teachers. For this reason the attitude of Mr. Garrett does not surprise me at all, for at these sessions (or out in the hall) we encountered a number of instructors who wanted no part of a history that suggested others might have been civilized very early on.

In the ensuing ten years I have constantly updated and refined my supporting research until today I have the largest data base in the field in the country. As we hear from the detractors and assess their fears we realize that truth alone will never be enough. If minorities are to gain their factual position in the history and culture of the world, there must be constant effort and ETERNAL VIGILANCE!

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Reinvestments in the Community

What Happened to Minority Business?

By Professor McKinley Burt

When a black business fails, the situation is not like a certain solemn occasion in the great hall of "Lloyds of London," no grave and austere official bangs his gavel to bring all activities to a halt as the traditional ringing of an ancient ship's bell precedes the announcement that a vessel has been lost at sea. Business gone-gone business. Another statistic.

Let us get on with our analysis. When I described the operation of the black lumber broker last week, I should have connected this success with the advice I gave to my minority business students at Portland State University: Expand your horizons-join the campus business clubs-engage in extra-curricular activities, associate with students of other ethnic groups when possible or comfortable, generally, they have superior information sources-exploit those contacts. This 'networking' is the American way, whatever your opinion of the matter.

In the particular case, this black lumber broker had established a friendship with a white teammate on the Stanford basket ball squad. They frequently exchanged visits at their respective homes. When they graduated with business degrees, the white father, a wealthy lumberman,

decided he would set them both up in business. After an on-the-job learning period in San Francisco the black young man was financed in purchasing an available Portland opportunity in specialized "Redwood" market.

An everyday occurrence in the nation's business world-except for the 'color scheme.'

Now, when we posed the question, "Is your Government User Friendly?" (title of October 17 Article), we could have told you this: a LOT DEPENDS ON YOU! Consider the scenario as you are directed (encouraged) to interface with any or all of a host of governmental institutions, all with the advertised goal of bringing minorities and women into the economic mainstream of America. Where to embark? Small Business Administration-Business Incubator-Minority Set Asides-Lease Guarantees-Specific programs of various Public Agencies or Large Corporations?

There are, of course, many advisors and consultants around, some independent, but most employed or contracted by the agencies named above. You must understand, however, that few if any of these persons have had 'real-time' successful business experience-meeting payrolls, marketing a product, or making a profit (if so, they would still be in business!). Most have simply met the

required employment criteria of a civil service exam written by a 'non-business person-or have demonstrated an ability to 'successfully relate' in some social community service area. A year or two of college business courses is quite acceptable, as is knowing someone already on board.

These points should prompt a consideration that 'you' may be in mind rather than the system, when the judgment is pronounced, "Designed To Fail." The more preliminary research and investigation performed, the better and more detailed information and advice you will receive when first entering the system. Usually your initial contact will quickly refer you to some one more knowledgeable when realizing that he is inadequate to the occasion. This is not always the case and often one loses a great deal of valuable time in such a situation. It is best to allow a good measure of 'lead time' in all phases of your project.

You may think it of little consequence that you have neither the required capital or experience prerequisite to success in the particular business enterprise. "After all they know I'm a minority, and if I had all that 'good stuff' I wouldn't need them anyway." You would be surprised at how many enter the system with this attitude; I encountered dozens of them in the business classes I taught.

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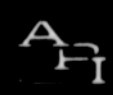
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