

Money Talks

BY DR. LENORA FULANI

Last week I became the first 1992 Presidential candidate to file a threshold submission in accordance with Federal Election Commission requirements for receiving federal primary matching funds. As of today, my campaign has raised more than \$500,000 in matchable dollars.

I am committed to raising as much money as I possibly can, because the American people -- whose taxes pay for matching funds -- have the right to hear candidates addressing the real issues that are of life and death concern to the vast majority of us.

Issues such as a national health service which would guarantee every American, regardless of age or income, accessibility to quality health care. A humane housing policy to deal with the devastating epidemic of homelessness that afflicts hundreds of thousands of our people. The defense of the hard-won civil and human rights of people of color, which the Supreme Court seems determined to take away. Women's right to choose, which is also in jeopardy. A human AIDS policy which would provide for the treatment and care of people with AIDS while allocating the necessary resources to find a cure for this murderous disease. The drugs and despair and police brutality that are killing our young people, and the failure to give them jobs -- or hope for the future. The genocidal policies of the federal government towards Native Americans. The peace divided, and how to guarantee that it will not be squandered or diverted into new forms of military spending. The environment, and protecting those who breathe the air and drink the water rather than the corporate poisoners and polluters who are committed to making a profit by

any means. The takeover of America's breadbasket by agribusiness at the expense of the family farmer and the urban consumer.

In 1992 I plan to use the matching funds I receive to take those issues -- and the most fundamental issues of all, the erosion of democracy in our country -- directly to the American people, which I was prevented from doing in 1988. Democracy is the issue because unless we have much more of it than we currently do, our values and our views will continue to be denied a hearing.

Although I was on the ballot in every state four years ago, I was excluded from the nationally televised Presidential debates because the major parties had a "gentlemen's agreement" to discuss only those issues -- such as flag burning -- that would not embarrass either Mr. Bush or Mr. Dukakis. They were not willing to make room for an independent Black Woman, and so the bi-partisan Commission on Presidential Debates (which was formed for the explicit purpose of wresting control of the debates from the non-partisan League of Women Voters) said that I was not a "credible" candidate -- meaning that I didn't belong up there with the good ol' boys.

The truth is that the major parties' bi-partisan political monopoly can't stand competition. This time around it is clearer than ever: the Democratic Party is not even making a pretense of mounting any serious opposition to the architect of a "new world order" whose most recent foreign policy achievement is US collaboration in the murder of Haitian democracy. But of course the Democrats did not oppose him over the war in the Gulf, they did not oppose him over Panama, and they did not

oppose him over Grenada. Just as they did not oppose the Republicans over Gramm-Rudman. The one-time "party of the people" is no "loyal opposition," but a servile partner in crime of the Republican Party.

The American People have been deprived of our democratic right to express our views, our sentiments and our aspirations through the electoral process because that process has been taken over by the anti-democratic tweedle-dee Republicans and tweedle-dum Democrats. I am running for President as part of a long-term effort to build an independent third party in America that has the organizational capacity to go up against the two major parties in the electoral arena and give him a run for their corporate money.

In 1992 I am challenging the communications barriers to independents, which make the American electorate a captive audience of the one-party-disguised-as-two. By January 1 of next year we will have raised one million dollars in matchable contributions; our plan is to spend one-quarter of that money to put my name on the ballot in every state and the rest to reach out to the tens of million of people in our country who are dying for some democracy.

I can't think of a better way to spend some of our hard-earned tax dollars than by using them to bring this campaign for democracy to the American people. Our lives, and the lives of our children, depend on it.

Dr. Lenora Fulani is the chairperson of the New Alliance Party and a practicing social therapist in Harlem. She can be contacted at the New Alliance Party, 2032 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10035 and at (212) 996-4700.

Talk On Academic Freedom Set Oct. 31

A nationally recognized authority on academic freedom will visit the University of Oregon Oct. 30-31 to discuss academic freedom and "political correctness" in a free public lecture and in meetings with faculty and students.

Catharine Stimpson, vice provost and graduate dean at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J., will present a colloquium entitled "What's Correct About Being Politically Correct? A Vision of Cultural Democracy" at 3 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 31, in Room 150 of Columbia Hall, 1215 E 13th Ave. on the UO Campus.

Stimpson's visit is sponsored by the university's ad hoc Committee on Academic Freedom, a panel established last year by UO President Myles Brand to encourage discussion about issues related to academic freedom.

A much-sought-after speaker on academic freedom as well as cultural and gender issues, Stimpson served as 1990 president of the Modern Lan-

guage Association. From 1982-83, she chaired the MLA Task Force on Academic Freedom and, from 1983-85, headed the MLA Committee on Academic Freedom.

Stimpson directed the Rutgers Institute for Research on Women from 1981-85. While there, she was principal investigator for a variety of projects funded by private and public sources.

From 1974-80, Stimpson was the founding editor of Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society, a quarterly published by the University of Chicago Press. She also is an editorial board member for Critical Inquiry and for Women's Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal.

Before joining the Rutgers faculty, Stimpson taught English at Barnard College from 1963 through spring 1980. She also was the founding director and chair of the Executive Committee of the Barnard College Women's Center.

A native of Bellingham, Wash., Stimpson graduated with highest honors from Bryn Mawr College. She earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Cambridge University, and holds a doctoral degree from Columbia University.

The recipient of three honorary degrees, Stimpson has received a number of honors, including a Ford Foundation grant and Fulbright, National Humanities Institute and Rockefeller Humanities fellowships. She also has written many books and numerous articles in popular, professional and scholarly periodicals.

Presently, Stimpson is at work on two books: "Suffer the Little Children," a novel, and "Gertrude Stein and the Replacing of the Avant-Garde," a critical study.

For more information about Stimpson's visit, contact Nancie Fadelley, assistant to the UO provost, at 346-3081.

perspectives

by Professor McKinley Burt

Following Up On The Baseline Essays

I wish to thank those Portland School teachers who called in support of viewpoints expressed in last week's article, "Won't they ever give up." This piece was an exposure of the rather flaky position of those insecure pundits around the country who have taken it upon themselves to trash Portland's Baseline Essays -- a masterful work compiled as an aid to teachers incorporating the contributions of minorities into the curriculum. And recognized nationwide.

Fortunately, these people are not making much headway except in a few closed circles of academia and media where the concept of the racial/intellectual inferiority of minorities has always been firmly entrenched; viz a viz the IQ gibberish of Shockley and Jensen and the deliberate omission from history texts of the key and seminal contributions of other races in the formation of the world's culture and technology. The asinine pronouncements of these racists might be attributed to ignorance except for the fact that an examination of the libraries of the universities they attended reveals a wealth of information contrary to any mean view of the abilities of Africans, Asians, Hispanics or other NonEuropean peoples (But not found in the texts from which history is taught).

Then, what we are seeing is a deliberate and highly organized system for maintaining a stance of cultural superiority and economic hegemony by those fearful that others may (and do) claim a proper and documented place in the scheme of things--fearful that the children of these others may be trained and motivated to participate at the level of their abilities. And it is most unfortunate that the hidden agenda of these Baseline detractors is cleverly concealed amid their protestations that such truths can seriously damage America's educational process (see "Closing The American Mind," Bloom, and see the latest cries of alarm by Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., "The Disuniting of America: Reflections On a Multicultural Society." Not to neglect

Diane Ravitch at Columbia University).

Today I am designing a lesson plan for an out-of-state school district, an exercise in mathematics based upon the precise geometry of the ancient pyramids in Africa; a place where Plato said mathematics and astronomy originated. Interestingly, Leonardo Fibonacci, son of an Italian consul to North Africa left his graffiti carved in the Great Pyramid of Gizeh; then returned to Italy and, without FORMAL TRAINING IN MATHEMATICS, suddenly became the world-renowned originator of the mathematical series that bears his name -- invaluable in physics, chemistry, optics, etc.

Further evidence of the deceit of the Baseline Essay detractors is that on the very same pyramid, constructed 4000 years ago, we also find the graffiti of Gerhardus Meator who published the famous coniformal map projection that bears his name -- he too, after visiting and studying the great African astronomical and godesic structure in the desert. Not to be deterred by racist disclaimers that the pyramids were "simply Tombs to bury fat old Kings" Isaac Newton waited for a survey of them by two top scientists of his time (Greaves and Burattani) before publishing his treatise on gravitation, see "Secrets of The Great Pyramid" by Peter Tompkins, Harper & Row.

As you have probably read here the past few years, Newton was one of those European Scientists who made no bones about the reality of African preeminence in astronomy and mathematics in ancient times. He gave them full credit for development of the concept of the Sphere and many conics. See "Isaac Newton: Historian" by Manuel and see "Never At Rest," Westfall. Are we really to believe that the detractors of the Baseline Essays are really such poor scholars that they remain ignorant to this day of easily accessible knowledge that was available to us who worked on the essays? If you believe that then call up that

"900 number" shown on television and ask for the \$24,000 loan promised.

For those of you who have promised faithfully to work closer with your children in developing their mathematical skills, as well as your own for your job, let me pass the following on to you. Get the following two very excellent algebra texts--I use them for reference and when I'm tutoring. These are concise, quire lucid and have large readable print. Some students can advantageously use the first book as early as k-6, and the second will take him through the sophomore year at many colleges. Provide your child with a headstart that will keep him ahead of the game for the rest of his academic career. Order these two combination Textbook/workbooks now while they are on sale (8-1/2 X 11, 600 pages each).

- a. Beginning algebra, No. 01689793, Charles McKeagve \$5.98
- b. Intermediate Algebra, No. 01689785, Charles McKeagve \$5.98

shipping is \$4.95
Order from Barnes & Noble Bookstore, 126 Fifth Ave. New York, NY 10011

For fun reading order through your local bookstore, "Mathematics In The Time Of The Pharaohs," Richard Gillings, Dover Publications, 1972.

Interestingly, that "African Pyramids" math lesson I said I'm working on is the very same curriculum project I was working on a day ten years ago when Ron Herndon, Education activist, brought Asa Hilliard, principal consultant for the Baseline Essays, by my home study center. Since then my developments of material on early African technology has gained a parity with research on the "Black Inventors of America" listed in my book by that name. There are more of us now, black and white, who have documented enough contributions by non-Europeans to shame any of the of the Baseline Essays detractors. And we are reaching other school districts, more universities, and even foreign countries.

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Reinvestments in the Community

Activist to Convene Emergency Conference on Black Independent Politics

Deeply concerned about the direction of Black politics in the wake of the emergence of "race neutral" politics and the rise of the Black conservative apologists, a group of Black political activists is preparing to convene an emergency conference on Black independent politics. Headed by nationally syndicated talk show host Bob Law of New York, the initial list of organizers includes Ron Walters, political activist and Chair. of the Political Science Dept. at Howard University in Washington, D.C., Janice Graham of the Our Common Ground organization from West Palm Beach Florida, Bob Starks, Chairman of the Black Political Task Force in Chicago, William Nelson, President of the African Heritage Studies Association from Columbus, Ohio, Jitu Weusi, Chairman of African Americans United for Political Power of New York, Dennis Serrette, long time labor activist from Oxon Hill Maryland, Daru Smith, Co-Facilitator of the National African American Network Against Intervention in the Gulf from Washington D.C. and Jemadari Kamara, Dean of the Center for Community and Public Service Univ. of Mass. in Boston. The sponsoring committee is being expanded to include key political activists and organizers from every region of the country.

The conference will be held November 22-24, 1991 in Washington, D.C. at the Howard Inn. Among the goals and objectives of the conference are the following:

*to assess the current state of Black politics against the backdrop of the

crises in the African American community.

*to review the Black agenda and develop a progressive Black independent agenda for the '92 elections.

*to discuss the various third party initiatives under discussion in various quarters including the prospects for a Black led independent presidential campaign in '92.

*to discuss the need for the consolidation of an ongoing Black independent political voice within the African American community.

In a conversation with Bob Law he indicated that this emergence conference is "crucial because of the depths of the crisis in the Black community and the failure of the Democratic and Republican parties and traditional Black leadership to respond in an effective manner. No one seems to be taking the plight of the Black masses seriously." He also said, "The two major parties must know without a doubt that our votes are not for sale in '92. It's time for a new Black Leadership to emerge which will not sell out to the Democrats or tell us that adopting conservative Republicanism is the path to freedom." Ron Walters, a vociferous critic of race neutral politics, said that "it is clear that Black people must develop a powerful Black agenda for the '92 election and devise a Black independent strategy that "this just may be the season to consider a Black led independent presidential campaign to ignite a mass based, grassroots movement for fundamental change in this country. The leaders may be reluctant, but I think

that the Black masses are ready to break loose from the National Democratic Party."

I certainly want to add my voice to those calling for this important conference on Black independent politics. My sense is that large numbers of African Americans are fed up with the sterility of the two establishment parties and disaffected with a good many traditional Black leaders and elected officials. As I have said in previous articles, too many of our traditional Black leaders and politicians have forgotten the vision and values of the movement in the 60's and 70's. They rode into elected and appointed offices and into the corporate board rooms on the backs of the Black masses. But now far too many of these leaders are representative of a small relatively well off elite in the Black community; a Black elite that has abandoned the Black masses in favor of a junior partnership or subservient role within the very system which oppresses the masses of Black people.

As Malcolm X might put it, it's time for a message from the grassroots. This much needed conference on Black independent politics must let the world know that there is a new Black leadership coming on and a new Black movement rising from the grassroots and from among those who identify with the grassroots. This conference should set the stage for a massive human rights crusade in 1992. Indeed, 1992 just might be the year of the "ballot or the bullet."

For further information: call 407-845-2670.

The Portland Observer

(USPS 959-680)

OREGON'S OLDEST AFRICAN AMERICAN PUBLICATION
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The PORTLAND OBSERVER is published weekly by Exie Publishing Company, Inc. 4747 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. Portland, Oregon 97211 503-288-0033 • Fax 288-0015



Deadline for all submitted materials:

Articles: Monday, 5:00 pm--Ads: Tuesday, noon

POSTMASTER: Send Address Changes to: Portland Observer, P.O. Box 3137, Portland, OR 97208. Second class postage paid at Portland Oregon.

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Subscriptions: \$25.00 per year.

The Portland Observer--Oregon's Oldest African-American Publication--is a member of the National Newspaper Association--Founded in 1885, and The National Advertising Representative Amalgamated Publishers, Inc., New York, NY.

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