

UNMC, UNO Announce New Program to Attract Multicultural Students into Health Professions

The University of Nebraska Medical Center and the University of Nebraska at Omaha announced plans today for a new program designed to attract multicultural students into the health professions.

The program is called the Multicultural Vantage Program (MVP) for Health Professions. The program's two main objectives, according to William Berndt, Ph.D., interim UNMC chancellor, will be to address the needs of underserved Nebraska communities and to generate greater diversity in the health professions.

"There is a low number of multicultural students going into the health professions," said Dr. Berndt. "There are no simple solutions, but we think this program will be an important first step in addressing this difficult problem."

Of UNMC's 2,296 students in 1991-92, only 89, or 3.6 percent, were minorities. "This is certainly nothing to brag about," said Dr. Berndt, "but it is also fairly typical of what is being seen throughout the country."

"The demand of qualified multicultural students is tremendous. These students can go to school just about anywhere they want. Unfortunately, this

often means the best Nebraska minority students are leaving our state. Hopefully, this program will keep more of these outstanding students in Nebraska."

MVP will be extended to UNO multicultural students interested in pursuing a career in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, nursing or in an allied health profession. Multicultural groups that could qualify for the program include African Americans, Native Americans and Hispanics of Mexican or Puerto Rican Mainland heritage.

Upon entering UNO, students selected for the program will obtain early acceptance into participating UNMC colleges or programs, contingent upon completion of studies at UNO.

Exact details for participating UNMC colleges or programs are still being developed. The exact number of students chosen for MVP will vary by college. However, it is expected that from one to five students may be selected yearly for each college or program.

Students will be encouraged to apply for scholarships, loans or grants they may qualify for at UNO, including existing programs for multicultural students. UNMC is reviewing fund-

ing options for the future.

Dr. Berndt said UNMC should be able to draw students from minority scholarships programs already in place through UNO. The first students selected for the program will be admitted to UNO in fall 1992.

"Our recruitment program for rural students -- the Rural Health Opportunities Program -- has been tremendously successful," said Dr. Berndt, "and we have high expectations for this program aimed at multicultural students. The two programs parallel each other in many ways."

"We're thrilled to be working with UNMC on this pioneering project," said Del Weber, Ed.D., UNO chancellor. "It will provide multicultural students with some exciting career options. It has the potential to really make a difference."

UNMC and UNO representatives will interview prospective students and make the final selections. Students interested in applying for the program need to do so by March 1, 1992.

For an application or more information on MVP people outside the Omaha area should call UNMC's toll-free number, (800) 626-8431, and ask for either Lopez or Ms. Rutt.

Vehicle Auction to Be Held In Vancouver

The General Services Administration extends an invitation to the public to attend a U.S. Government vehicle auction. The vehicles are located at the GSA Fleet Management Center, 9226 NE Highway 99 (Hazel Dell area), in Vancouver, Washington.

There are approximately 100 vehicles to be sold. Sale includes 1983 thru 1988 sedans, coupes, station wagons and vans; plus suburban (many are 4WD). We have a large variety of trucks and 4WD vehicles which include pickups, crewcabs, maintenance service body

trucks, Blazers, Broncos, a Wagoneer, and a state truck.

Interested bidders are encouraged to inspect the vehicles before bidding. Inspection will be Saturday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, December 7, 9, 10, and 11, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; also, prior to the sale on December 12, 1991, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m..

Bidders must register with GSA at the sale site and receive a Bidder Registration Number. The auction will begin promptly at 10:00 am, Thursday, December 12, 1991, at the Vancouver

GSA Fleet Management Center.

Payment is due by December 13, 1991. Payment regulations require that payment must be in the form of cashier's check, traveler's check, money order, Government check, or cash. Personal or Business checks may be accepted only when accompanied by a letter of credit from the purchaser's bank. For your convenience, GSA now accepts VISA and MASTERCARD.

Further information may be obtained by telephoning the Vancouver GSA Fleet Management Center at (206) 699-1019.

New Computer Service Helps Homeowners With Property Taxes

For the first time, homeowners can quickly and easily acquire the county tax assessor's computer records on their own homes and similar ones in the county. A Portland computer software company, Micro Mailing, has produced a Property Tax Evaluation Kit listing for each property the square footage, year build, year of last sale, assessed

value per square foot of improvements, assessed values for this year and last with percent change, and taxes this year and last with percent change.

The information can be used to decide on a property tax appeal, to make better investment decisions or just to do better financial planning, according to the Micro Mailing's own-

ers. The deadline for appealing property taxes is December 31.

The service is available in Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties. Property Tax Evaluation Kits are available for \$25 each from Micro Mailing, PO Box 19727, Portland, OR 97280. Phone is 246-7338.

Congress Proposes Capping Credit Card Interest Rates

As many as one out of every two bank credit cardholders could lose their card if legislation capping interest rates goes through.

Up to 60 million consumers could be affected by the proposal to limit to 14% the amount banks can charge on unpaid balances, according to the Oregon Bankers Association. The result would be a credit contraction that could push the country into a deeper recession. Tens of billions of dollars in credit currently available would be withdrawn.

"If this is Congress' idea of a Christmas gift to the American public,

they've badly misread the situation," Frank E. Brawner, Executive Vice President, Oregon Bankers Association said in response to the Senate action. "The public reaction won't be ho, ho, ho."

People who question the interest rates on cards overlook the fact that the product's extraordinary convenience and reliability depend on a highly sophisticated and costly telecommunications network. Cards also impose a high degree of risk on banks, which will be forced to tighten their credit standards to limit their losses. Fraud, delinquencies and

bankruptcies are all up significantly.

History has shown that price controls, including interest rate caps, just don't work, no matter how appealing they may seem on the surface," Brawner noted. "In states with interest rate caps, people seeking credit cards are often forced to go out of state in order to qualify. Those particularly affected are low- and moderate-income consumers and those with short or no credit histories.

They'll only be calling this pro-consumer legislation until it's enacted. After that, watch out."

perspectives

by Professor McKinley Burt

The David Dukes In The Education Establishment

Having reassured you last week that we were right the first time about the dismal prospect of success for either the president's education strategy, "American 2000" or the "Oregon Educational Act for the 21st Century"--the first a plan of incredible naivete, and the second "reflecting a near-absence of research, costing or input from the public (teachers)"--we can now be equally certain that our tribe of "Baseline Essay Detractors" will fail in their crusade to suppress the documented truths of black history and abilities.

I am reminded of the wise words of an accounting client of mine in the Los Angeles area. During a time of utmost confusion, brought on by an audit of a string of businesses he wished to buy, this Russian immigrant exclaimed, "forget those damned cooked books, my lad--get down to the bank and look for the GELT" (that's yiddish for "money"). Right on "Mr. Alexander"; I was able to do just that when the New York Times published two more of the racist diatribes being fervently advanced nationally by a group of frightened and insecure educational charlatans.

We have seen here in this column a comprehensive expose" of the likes of Diane Ravitch and Arthur Schlessinger Jr. but, now, two new voices join the strident outcry for a suppression of truth. In the Sunday New York Times for November 14, ALBERT SHANKER, President, American Federation of Teachers, can hardly contain himself in his piece, "Making A multicultural curriculum" as he, too zeroes in on the one weak link in a chain of competent scholars and documentation; a fact acknowledged by those of us who worked on the Baseline Essays. Mr. Shanker has found the culprit who said the Egyptians could "predict lucky and

unlucky days, had precognition and understood Quantum physics". He also said "the Egyptians left an artifact in a tomb which appeared to be a model of a glider, possibly used in human flight."

In the case of Mr. Shanker, it does not take much of a search to find the "GELT" that inspired his damn-by-faint-praise attack upon a mostly accurate and long overdue project to address the omissions of minority contributions to history. It was in 1970 during my nationwide presentations of major black inventors to urban schools, universities and community organizations. In New York I was engaged by black educational activists and parent organizations for appearances at elementary and high schools in the Ocean Hill/Bedford Stuyvesant area--the principal balliwick and fiefdom of Albert Shanker, even back then, president of the American Federation of Teachers.

At the time there was a WAR going on between permanently entrenched white teachers, principals and administrators on the one hand (whose residences and commitments lay in outside, upscale areas)--and thousand of marching, picketing African American parents and community leaders who for years had been watching the daily degeneration of teacher attitude, student learning and motivation and physical plant. As reported in the national media, there were daily fights, arrests, pupil strikes and injunctions filed. How could this be going on in New York City, a supposedly liberal bastion of progressive education and fairplay?

Simple! For 75 years these teachers with the aid of their cohorts and relatives on the school board, at city hall and in academia had CONTROLLED A MONEY-MAKING/GELT-PRODUCING MACHINE that for sheer efficiency and ruthlessness

almost surpassed that of the city's banking and real estate interests which created the ghetto itself. The earlier and equally infamous Tammany Hall political machine provided a model.

While the presses of the teachers' union and the media produced reams of self-serving propaganda citing a commitment to remedy the tragedy of the black schools (along with pictures of dozens of cute black youngsters)--the Teacher Machine not only locked-in the permanent tenures that afforded the upscale suburban life styles but financed the post graduate studies and career up grades that permitted the spin offs into key administrative positions, politics, judgements and commercial enterprise, MONEY, HONEY!

It is no wonder, then, that today we find many of the same racists rushing to the media (with openaccess), screaming their new-found concerns that youngsters might be misled by accurate and documented efforts to apprise them of who they were, who they are and who they can be. The politics of money and dominance are at work here, just as surely as with the minions of David Duke. The determined efforts of the Baseline Essay detractors to denigrate minority history has more to do with the MAINTENANCE OF QUOTAS and ethnic controls than with a sudden and belated concern with a long-neglected integrity of curriculum.

My correspondents in New York and other cities fax me copies of these diatribes--and ask have I noticed certain connections from common university bases and lecture networks where the rather obvious interaction of certain individuals over a long period of time suggests classic relationships on a par with the genealogies in the Book of Genesis? Of course I have. Many of us have and are questioning the mission.

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

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Reinvestments in the Community

The Gift Is In The Giving

Loaves and Fishes had a Pre Holiday banquet on Sunday November 24, 1991 at the North/Northeast location 5325 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. There were a host of neighborhood donations; Casons Meats, Clarence Walker Flowers, David Hanzlik & Assc, Days Inns at the Airport, Franklin Ready Ribs, Steens Kitchen, Western Meats and Roses' Equipment. It was a great time for Senior citizens to come together. The Urban League and 1st Interstate Bank were also great in helping with the project.

The mission of Loaves & Fishes is to enrich the lives of seniors and assist them in maintaining independence by making nutritious food, social contacts and other resources easily accessible. We accomplish this through an organization which is community based, emphasizes volunteer involvement and is financially sound.

Loaves & Fishes Center, Inc., a private non-profit organization, has provided hot nutritious meals and supportive services to elderly people in the Portland Metropolitan Area since 1970. We serve over 4,000 meals per day to seniors and disabled adults, over one-million meals every year!

In addition to the nutrition portion of the program, Loaves & Fishes has access to a wide array of supportive services. These include transportation, shopping assistance, health screening, and referral to other service organizations. In the case of the Meals-on-Wheels program, the volunteer who delivers the meal is often the senior's

only contact with the outside world.

Loaves & Fishes' average meal participant is 77 years of age, female, lives alone on an income of less than \$547/month and suffers a physical impairment which restricts daily living.

Loaves & Fishes will serve more than one million meals to 15,000 seniors this year in Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas counties. 675,400 meals will be delivered via Meals-on-Wheels to homebound elderly and 404,000 will be served at 27 neighborhood Centers, where seniors congregate for vital nutrition, support services and companionship. 8,100 volunteers will give 316,000 hours of services this year to Loaves & Fishes.

Loaves & Fishes relies heavily on its volunteers to serve the needs of our senior citizens. Volunteers perform at every level of the organization--as cooks, hostesses, food servers, activity coordinators, expert speakers, committee and board members, fundraisers and as Meals-on-Wheels drivers. We have many volunteer options for businesses, schools, churches, civic groups and neighborhood associations.

Our program also relies on the financial support of the community. Many businesses donate extra inventory, direct funds fundraising support to Loaves & Fishes. We are appreciative of all gifts. Even a poster in local window helps Loaves & Fishes in our efforts to provide service to Seniors

WE ARE PART OF YOUR COMMUNITY. LET'S STAY IN TOUCH.

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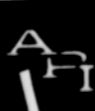
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