

This Way For Black Empowerment

BY DR. LENORA FULANI

Beware Of The Democratic Party Wolves In "Left" Clothing!

The pseudo-radicals and phony leftists are at it again-scaring voters away from anyone who threatens to take votes from the Democratic Party. The latest threat is Ross Perot., the Texas billionaire who is running ahead of both George Bush and Bill Clinton in the polls despite the fact that he has still not formally announced his independent presidential candidacy. Perot's extraordinary popularity is not at all surprising given the American people's profound disgust with the corruption., hypocrisy and failure of the Republicans and Democrats (a national poll recently conducted by the New York Times and CBS found that 85% of Americans think the political process needs radical restructuring).

Last week the Village Voice-a New York City newsweekly that grew up with the insurgent reform movement of the Democratic Party and (with the reformers installed in power) has since become the voice of the liberal political establishment-went after Ross Perot. The Voice's modus operandi is to demonize those who oppose the Democratic Party and Mr. Perot got the full treatment. "There is something to worry about here." the author concludes ominously. "Without saying that Ross Perot is Adolph Hitler...it is perfectly reasonable to point out that the types of people who are expressing support for Perot in America in 1992 reflect in many ways the types of people who supported Hitler in Germany in 1932..."

It is not only unreasonable, it is an outrageous slander, to insinuate that the 33% of the American people who say they support Perot are born-again Nazis. The statement has no relationship to the truth, or to history. The point of all this slander, of course, is to send a

message to progressive-minded people: don't go near this man with a ten-foot pole. I am all too familiar with such tactics, since the New Alliance party which I chair has been the target of the Voice's demonizing for years.

In Voice demonology, the Black-led, multi-racial New Alliance Party is among the worst demons. We are a "cult." Dr. Fred Newman, the leader of the political tendency of which NAP is a part and the manager of both my 1988 and my current independent presidential runs, is a "brainwasher." Depending on the writer's mood (or the orders he has received from editorial higher-ups). I am either the mindless victim of this evil "guru," or D. Newman's accomplice.

Black leaders who won't deal on the Democratic Party's racist terms are also demons in the Voice's book. Throughout the '80s the Reverend Al Sharpton-the civil rights leader who had been on the front lines of every struggle for justice in the Black community-was portrayed by the Voice as a charlatan, a thief, an FBI informer, a Mafia employee and a dupe of the New Alliance Party.

The Reverend Jesse Jackson also came in for his share of Voice demonizing. It was back in 1984, before Reverend Jackson proved that he was a loyal Democrat. In those days, according to the Voice, he was a raging anti-Semite, in league with the voice's own devil incarnate-Minister Louis Farrakham.

It is 1992, a Texas billionaire is riding the wave of voter protest sweeping the country, and the Voice has zeroed in for the kill. Why? Because Ross Perot just might keep Bill Clinton from getting into the White House.

Ross Perot is not a working class hero, Nor is he a demon. He is a very wealthy white man who for many years

has associated with other wealthy white men and done what all wealthy men do. Virtually every president of the United States from George Washington to George Bush has been such a rich white man (or has been financed and controlled by rich white men). So what else is new? What matters, in my opinion, is not whether Mr. Perot ever threw his weight, and his money., around in order to make even more money, but what he and all of us- are going to do about the righteous anger burning in the hearts of our people.

Neither a hero nor a demon, Ross Perot is a wealthy businessman who is in touch with-and no doubt fears-the frustration and anger that the American people feel towards the two-party political monopoly and who, thanks to his billions of dollars, has the ability to do something about it. The African American community must beware of the Democratic wolves in liberal clothing, white and Black, who tell us that our only hope is the Democratic Party. We have the democratic right to examine all of our options, and make a decision that is in the best interests of our families, our community, and our future.

Liberals cannot conceive of a world in which the Democratic party is not the only option. But that world is already a thing of the past. I am excited about the emergence of Mr. Perot as a part of the independent political movement I have been working to build for more than ten years. I welcome that development because my job, as independent African American leader, is to make sure that the democracy revolution taking place in our country is given shape and direction by the Black working class agenda for social and economic justice.

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Strong Tears Hangs Long: The Tear Drops Of The Black Woman

By Irene Kelly

In the Lord,
I am a strong woman--total and complete
Every foe I am able to defeat
I am responsible for myself and those whom I choose.

I come not to take away from any woman.
I have come to praise the black woman
To give honor where honor is due.

No woman has lived
Nor is she alive
Who has suffered, the suffering of the Black Woman

Yet--this woman has survived!
Still standing strong, looking good and totally revived
Equipped today with greater talents

A refreshed method of thinking with here excited new mind
And an enlarged readiness to continue in her role,
The Black Woman -- at this present time.

No woman has lived or died
Neither is she alive
Who has went through the billions and trillions
And quintrillions of hurts and still counting
The mountains of disappointments day after day
And still quintrillions of hurts and still counting
The mountains of disappointments day after day
And still mounting --
The bloody pains

And-- yet, we bleed
The hardships...tons upon tons
O, yes! Indeed!
Strong tears hang long.
The tear drops of the Black Woman.

As an infant,
The girl child cries
And human drops stains her face.
Bodied in her small
She kick, squirms, screams and yells her case

As though her cry entails only time discomforts,
Tiny personal and sometime...

Tiny, tiny no-reasons at-all
She has just begun to know the real meaning of weeping;
The real lamenting that lies ahead --

Oh! Help us Lord!
But -- even assembled in that brief little frame
Her tears are strong

An most capable of hanging long

The tear drops of the Black Woman.

The Black Woman has matured
And in the corner of her eye

Crowded clouds of precious, salted rain drops are formed
Made-up of emotions and experiences;

When influenced by events both present and past
They give off the appearance of rapidly, falling liquid joy;
But, more times than most,
They are streams of wet sadness
Trying hard not to be.

The woman's credence has already been established
from yesterday until right now.
Today -- and everyday...
She's saying,

"I am a strong woman because
I am a Black Woman

Total and complete
Chosen by God
And most capable of hanging long."
The tear drops of the Black Woman.

As we united today in mind, soul and body

Honoring Black women everywhere
Dead and alive
From generation to generation --
On yesterday, the slave woman
Today, The Mandella Woman (our traditional black woman)

For I heard the Mandella woman in the voice of my co-worker
As she cries of mistreatment
She is saying the same thin, the same way
I heard the Winnie Mandella woman say...
And today I cried!

The infant girl child, just crying
And We, ourselves, "Black Women of 1992!"

Be encouraged Black Women everywhere!
The WORD says --

A good, just (man) woman may fall seven times
Get up, be strong and carry on

For your hard task,
You are chosen, qualified women of God

And most capable of hanging long.
So -- it's OK to cry.
The tear drops of the Black Woman.

National Program Underway To Honor Black Women Community Leaders

The national council of Negro Women (NCNW) has begun the second phase of its national program to honor dynamic Black women community leaders.

Aunt Jemima brands of The Quaker Oats Company is the corporate sponsor. The year-long program titled "Tribute To Black Women community Leaders" was kicked-off in October, 1991 at a Washington, D.C. breakfast and is currently being executed in six cities that have local NCNW Sections: Atlanta, GA; Charleston, SC; Chicago, IL; Cleveland, OH; Houston, TX; and New Orleans, LA. From the six local winners, one national winner will be honored as "Black Woman Community Leader of the Year" during an awards breakfast in Chicago on June 18. She will receive a \$3,000 cash prize.

"All too often the hard work of local women who are making significant improvements in their communi-

ties goes unacknowledged," said Dr. Dorothy I. Height, president and CEO of the national organization. "Joining with The Quaker Oats Company to present this program gives NCNW the opportunity to recognize these dedicated women and introduce them to a wider audience."

In the first phase, the local affiliates sponsored a contest that allowed residents in the six participating cities to nominate women who are making a difference in their communities. The winners were selected by a panel of judges on the basis of community service and leadership, family ideals and dedication, church activism, career development and an essay describing the nominee's service and accomplishment. "The enthusiasm and support from the local NCNW offices participating in the program have been tremendous,"

said Eric Stevenson, assistant brand manager for Aunt Jemima brands. "The distinguished history of NCNW and our admiration of Dr. Height's work in the African-American community are just a few of the many reasons Quaker Oats is pleased to partner with this organization to launch the program."

The second phase of the program is a NCNW-sponsored leadership fundraising breakfast in each city. Each local winner, along with four semi-finalists, will be recognized at the breakfast where the winner will receive a \$1,000 cash prize and a plaque. An additional component to the program is the "Future Community Leader" award presented to one Black female college student who has exhibited unique leadership qualities and has served her community selflessly. Selected by the local NCNW office, she also will be pre-

sented during the breakfast fundraiser and awarded a \$500 educational grant. For more information about the program, contact the local NCNW office in the participating cities.

Founded by legendary educator and human rights activist

Mary McLeod Bethune, the National Council of Negro Women is a 58-year old social service organization, under the direction of Dr. Dorothy I. Height since 1958, the organization is recognized as the principal advocacy group for African-American women and their families with an outreach to more than four million women.

Under its Aunt Jemima brands, The Quaker Oats Company is the leading manufacturer of pancake and waffle mixes, syrups and frozen breakfast entrees for the consumer and food service industry.

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Reception To Honor Portland Educators

Portland educators will be "appreciated" at a reception sponsored by the Portland Association of Teachers and the Oregon Alliance of Black School Educators Thursday, May 28 from 4-6 p.m. at Whitaker Middle School Cafeteria, 5700 N.E. 39th.

The event features Live music by recording artists Janice Scroggins and Thara Memory. KGW Television personality Sharon Mitchell is the mistress of ceremony.

Purpose of the reception is to celebrate individuals' contributions to education in the following categories:

Community Volunteer Community Schools, Outstanding contributions in Education, Outstanding Teachers, Promising Educators, and Higher Education.

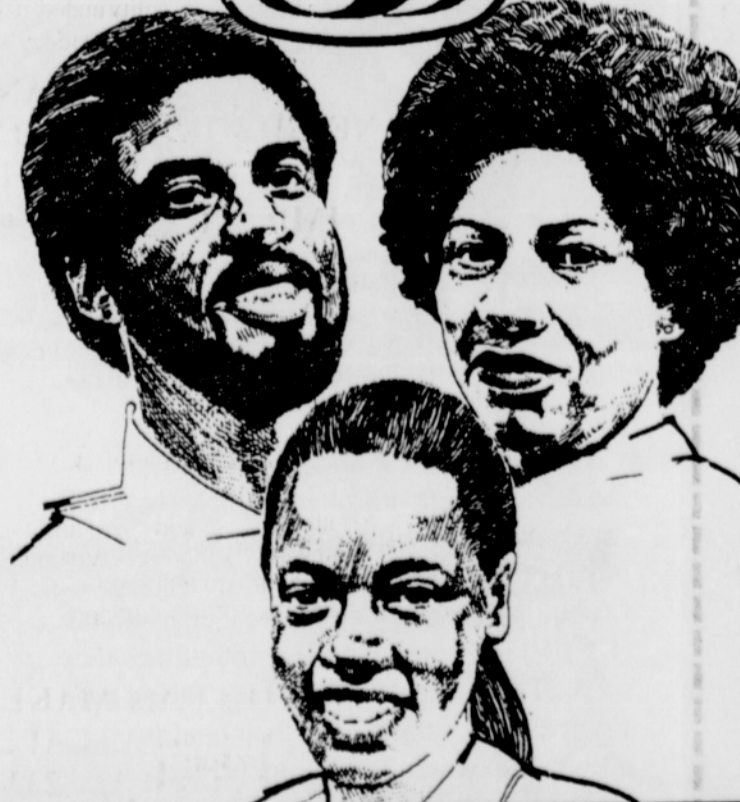
Contracted; Pre-Adoption Birthparent Counselor.

Ability to form relationships quickly, case management, ability to work independently and as a member of a team. Ability to work with clients around loss issues. Some travel may be necessary. MSW preferred plus experience in counseling around adoption and options.

Please contact The Boys & Girls Aid Society of Oregon at 222-9661 exts. 163 or 115 for more information. Deadline for applications is June 12, 1992 and may be picked up at 18 S.W. Boundary Court, Portland, 97201. Equal Opportunity Employer.

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