Black Solutions Mo Money, Mo Money, Mo Money

BY JAMES L. POSEY

At the risk of sounding like a serious Black capitalist, as far as I am concerned, there is nothing that would heal the woes of the Black community more than the infusion of "duckets." And while I believe that money is not the answer to all problems, you would have to be from another planet to believe that you can do very much without it. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that what African Americans need most is economic capacity. But it is hard to understand why some Black people seem to have an aversion to making money and frown on the whole idea of entrepreneurialship. Guess what? Black people's representative numbers in the business community reflect this attitude. If you want some interesting insights into this problem please read "Black Economics--Solutions for Economic and Community Empowerment by Jawanza Kunjufu. If Black people count just accept and act on the fact that their lack of educational opportunity, jobs, health care, housing and etc. is a direct consequence of their lack of economic capacity, great progress could be made

Are Black people on a one way street and trapped into this mind-set? You can bet your boots they are. Are Black people more likely to be consumers rather than producers? Of course they are. More than any other segment of society, Black people are being programmed via slick marketing strategies to buy, buy, buy. On the other hand there seems to be a conspiracy to deny Blacks opportunity to be producers and to make money. That explains why often no matter how bad your credit is

or how unstable your employment, you can get a loan to buy a Mercedes. On the other hand, no matter how good your credit is or how well established you are, it's almost impossible to get a small business development loan. Similarly, the establishment is willing to concede jobs to the Black community and God know that's good. But the focus is almost exclusively on jobs in contrast to business development. The Black community is almost totally dependent on jobs as its source of income. (Please read the National Urban League's 1992 edition of the State of Black America). In comparison, the white community has a range of sources of income that includes real estate, stocks bonds, business investments etc. besides substantial employment revenue. Black people have just got to wake up and stop chasing the phony economic rabbits.

What to do about this? Its obvious the concern about this Black economic imbalance is not in Black folk's consciousness. Black people are not even moving in the direction of changing this imbalance. We just don't get it. Part of the problem is that Black leadership "ain't got it." Most of our leaders nationally and locally have no business or economic development background or experience and ain't trying to get none. Don't take my word for it, please read the voter pamphlet on our local political leaders. Pay close attention to all of their resumes. Our political as well as our social leaders tend to describe, define and solve problems according to their education, experience and associations. While some of them try to talk economic development, they really don't have a clue. What's worst is that

they are not willing to concede their lack of knowledge and experience and are content to fake it. Well, while they are faking it, the Black community is not making it. As important as they are, the salvation of the Black community will not come through political or social processes. The Black community must move swiftly to get a balance in all three areas. Therefore the community should insist that our reluctant leaders push a real economic development agenda. For example, the Black community should constantly talk to a leader like Gladys McCoy. We should ask her about continuing efforts to bring true economic development to the Black community. This is particularly true in Gladys' case because this is her last term in office, she ain't beholding to nobody, and she has proven that she is not afraid to take an unpopular position. And believe me, any attempt to shift economic empowerment to the Black community is an unpopular position. For example, this plays out every time Black people try to raise the issue to city officials about the racism in city contract awards. It's a shame to watch Dick Bogle in his lame duck status kick and scream about racism now. For years, Black contractors have complained to Dick about those same racist good ole boys who are now giving him fits. These are the same city department high and mid-level managers who have for years hid the facts, distorted the issues and made it virtually impossible for Black folks to receive contracts through the city. Its sad but maybe one of these days we will realize that we can't afford to straddle the fence and play it safe when it comes

Sister Souljah joined our staff in 1986 and immediately began to successfully organize African American and Hispanic American children who were caught in the web of poverty, exploitation and oppression commonplace at that time on the streets of New York City. These children were referred to in the media as "welfare hotel children." As a national church-based agency, we were very pleased to have a

BY BENJAMIN F. CHAVIS, JR.

Sister Souljah is a strong African

woman who at a young age has engen-

dered the love and respect of millions of

persons throughout the world. She has

already done more than an adequate job

in explaining her message of demand-

ing justice and freedom. American

Apartheid is the problem.....not Sister

volving Governor Bill Clinton's mis-

guided attack on Sister Souljah's char-

acter, we had a direct personal knowl-

edge of the integrity, dignity and com-

mitment of Sister Souljah. For five

years, Sister Souljah, formerly known

as Ms. Lisa Williamson, was the Na-

tional Director of the Youth Program of

the Commission for Racial Justice of

the United Church of Christ based in

New York City. We had observed her

effectiveness as a student leader at

Rutgers University during the mid-

1980's, particularly on the issue of the

university divesting from corporations

doing business with the racist apartheid

regime of South Africa.

Long before the controversy in-

Souljah.

could not only understand and relate to "the least of these" but also who had the extraordinary gift of being able to inspire both "hope and struggle" among children whom this society had turned its back on.

CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNAL

By Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

For The Love Of Sister Souljah

Of all of the activists and community organizers that we have had the privilege to work with during the last 30 years, there was a unique quality in reference to Sister Souljah. She exhibited a consistent undying love for her people to such an extent she regularly put her own personal needs aside. Sister Souljah was Sister Serious Business 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Sister Souljah's extended family soon included literally hundreds of homeless children from New York and New Jersey. She not only cared for their socioeconomic needs, in addition, Souljah cared for their cultural and political education needs. Study sessions were a requirement to participating in recreational activities. Sister Souljah's success with the children grew to the point of needing expansion toward the dream of establishing a Summer Camp experience for the youngsters away from the streets of the city.

In 1988 Sister Souljah's dream became a reality. Over 100 children from New York's welfare hotels were taken to North Carolina for an African Youth Summer Camp held on the expansive campus of Franklinton Center at Bricks, in Enfield, North Carolina. Later, other youth camps and after school programs were organized by Sister Souljah to benefit more children in need.

Many of the leading rap groups in New York became interested and supportive of Sister Souljah's efforts to help inner-city children who were crying out for help. Sister Souljah herself then became very active in the evolving rap revolution that was gaining support from increasing numbers of young people throughout the nation and world.

Sister Souljah self-defined herself as a "raptivist." Her history as an effective student and community activist and leader certainly gave her an edge in the "rap arena" because her message set to rap are born out of actual struggle and experience.

Sister Souljah is not a racist. Her whole life has been a living testimony to challenging racism. Her candid expressions may make some people feel uncomfortable. Lest we forget, the expressions of Malcolm X made a lot of people feel uncomfortable, yet today millions of persons are revisiting his wisdom and candor.

Presidential candidate Clinton needs to apologize for taking Souljah's remarks out of context. But more importantly, all the candidates for President should listen carefully to this young woman who has given voice to the voiceless and courage to the oppressed in America. Sister Souljah's love has created a rare respect among the young and old of all ages in the African American community. The future of this society will be determined by how well we are able to hear and listen and love all those who dare to cry out for justice and

Democratic Presidential Candidate Bill Clinton To Speak At 1992 National Urban League Conference In San Diego

Democratic Presidential Candidate Bill Clinton will be the guest speaker Monday, July 27, 1992 at 9 a.m. at the 1992 National Urban League Conference in San Diego, CA.

The League's conference will be held from July 26-29 at the San Diego Convention Center and is expected to attract more than 18,000 people during the four-day meeting.

Arkansas Governor Clinton will speak at the Monday plenary session on "Election '92: New Paths for America."

Undeclared 1992 Presidential Candidate H. Ross Perot will be the speaker at the Sunday, July 26 plenary session at 2:30 p.m. That session will also be on "Election '92: New Paths for America."

This year's conference has as its theme: "Making a Difference in the '90's: Bringing the Future into Focus," and will be meeting in San Diego for the first time. Delegates to the conference will gather to address the issues and concerns of African Americans.

The conference begins officially

on Sunday, July 26 at 6 p.m. with John E. Jacob, President and Chief Executive Officer, National Urban League, delivering the keynote address.

In announcing the conference, Mr. Jacob said: "We welcome conferees in this critical year for African Americans and for all Americans. This will be a conference that challenges our thinking and inspires us to greater heights of service and relevance."

The four-day conference, which is considered the nation's premier forum on race relations, will present noted scholars, politicians, and corporate executives in six plenaries and 15 forums and a special sessions who will debate ideas and offer solutions for the survival of the African-American community.

The Conference General Chairperson is Roy S. Roberts, National Urban League Trustee and Manufacturing Manager, Flint Automotive Division for Cadillac Motor Car Division of General Motors Corp.

One highlight of the conference

will be a gala concert on Monday, July 27 at 7:30 p.m. featuring singers Peabo Bryson and Regina Belle along with Flutist Sherry Winston.

to a Black community at risk.

The conference will end Wednesday night, July 29 beginning at 7:30 p.m. with a dinner speech by actor Danny Glover who is currently starring in Lethal Weapon 3.

Also featured during the conference will be over 400 exhibit booths of companies which will include the fortune 100's and majors government and social service agencies as well as a Job Opportunity Showcase, the Art Expo featuring works of local San Diego artists and the African-American Vendors

Founded in 1910, the National Urban League is the premier social service and civil rights organizations in America. The League is a nonprofit organization headquartered in New York with a Washington Office in the nation's capital and 112 affiliates in 34 states and the District of Columbia.

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staff person like Sister Souljah who African American Views On The Environment III

BY PROF. MCKINLEY BURT

In following the shocking revelations in this series, the reader will become aware that the dangers to African-Americans from environment pollutants like lead and toxic wastes generated in AMERICA are just the tip of the iceberg; as Marshall McLuhan said, the world is indeed a "Global Village," and the continents are poisoning each other.

It is not just that American Chemical companies sell pesticides abroad where there is little or no restrictions on their application, and the fruits and vegetables are shipped back here; or that these same firms provide 80 percent of the chemicals used to process Columbian cocaine. But, rather, that there is a deeper and more pernicious ravaging of lands and peoples going on -- a devastating process of exploitation and destruction that began with the Industrial Revolution. Now the chickens have come home to roost in a worldwide crescendo. It's getting hard to blame the victims any more.

Last week I revealed the fact that another important meeting took place in Brazil right along with that highly touted "Summit." This crucial gathering was "The World Conference of Indigenous Peoples on Territory, Environment and Development." Now, this was reality, hundreds of delegates from 26 countries and 5 continents -- Third World peoples for the most part, desperate to save their crops, forests, rivers, children and health. It was a nonevent for most Americans media. I noticed one of their tepid, superficial articles titled, "Indigenous Peoples Meet To Save World From 'Whites'" (Or-

on their tribal lands -- to dispatch elec-

The Apache and Zuni Indians from our Southwest were there. You will recall that I described the destruction of their lands and rivers by strip mining for coal to fuel the polluting power plants

NAACP Crisis Magazine Honors NNPA Executive

tricity to far distant high rollers in Las Vegas, Phoenix, and the rolling greens of the a "Bob Hope Golf Classic." Like most of the delegates, they not only cited the need for the creation of a special"U.N. Conservation Fund" to be directed by themselves as "Earth Stewards" -- but a SPIRITUAL CRISIS brought on by the disintegration of their culture and ways of life.

Particularly ugly is the American media's treatment of increasing destruction of the Brazilian and other rain Forests as simply the consequence of "Slash-and-burn" tactics of "ignorant native peoples". I especially emphasize the pressures brought to bear on debt ridden Third World countries by international banks and monetary funds to produce cash and do it quickly. Therefore we have the deforestation occasioned by strip mining for iron ore and the massive destructive of forest to produce the charcoal necessary to smelt the iron. But these poor people are blamed for Global Warming and other environment disasters.

There is an interesting sidelight to all of this, directly connected with the beginning of that Industrial Revolution I mentioned earlier -- it got underway in Europe at the beginning of the last century and had gained full momentum by the time of our Civil War. Glorified (and deified) early on by the self-described "Superior races," we should be reminded that England, like most of Europe, was once covered by huge expanses of verdant forests (remember Robin Hood and his adventures in the wilds of "Sherwood Forest"?) Then England had coal deposits but early on did not have steam pumps to keep mines clear of water. So the magnificent forests were cut down to produce charcoal for the forges which made finished goods from the iron ingots brought from the American colony. History repeats itself in Today's environment destruction.

I'm sure you remember the documentation I cited including that from the former "British Colonial Office" (now the "The Office For Foreign Affairs And Territories"). From Saugus, Massachusetts down tot he Chesapeake Bay Area there were over a hundred IRON PLANTATIONS "operated exclusively by complements of African slaves, men, women, and children." With skills brought from the West Coast of Africa, they proved so efficient that they were used to completely replace the German bond servants. The British were very meticulous in their record keeping and we find daily production lists with the names of each slave and their output (see Lewis, "Coal, Iron and Slaves," Greenwood, 1970).

Just as today in much of the Third World, the raw ingots were shipped to England where they were forged into all types of machinery and finished goods -- which were immediately shipped back to the American colonies to be sold at exorbitant prices with the profits returned to England. The same process happened with the manufacture of fabrics and clothing that was woven from the cotton produced by the slaves -except that early on an enterprising Englishman stole the British technology and brought it to America where New England became paramount in the

As I have suggested, nothing has changed but the name of the game. South Central Africa, like Brazil, is being destroyed by huge vistas of forests devastated by open pit or strip mining for iron ore -- driven and financed, again, by the insatiable appetites of mineral deficient island nations like Japan. But a day of retribution may be facing all of the industrialized nations, even as they attempt to bribe and subvert the officials of Third World countries to accept their toxic wastes in return. More revelations next week).

The Portland Observer

(USPS 959-680) OREGON'S OLDEST AFRICAN AMERICAN PUBLICATION Established in 1970

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The PORTLAND OBSERVER is published weekly by Exie Publishing Company, Inc. 4747 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Bivd. 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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Baltimore, Maryland -- The Crisis Magazine, the official organ of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, recently honored Colonel Steve Davis, Executive Director of the National Newspaper Publishers Association for his long and dedicated service to the newspaper organization. The presentation was made at the recent 1992 NNPA Convention held in Baltimore, Maryland. Accepting a special crystal Waterford clock are family members Pamela Davis (daughter) and Christine Davis (wife) from Gentry W. Trotter of St. Louis, Missouri, who is the new President of the Board of Directors, Crisis Magazine, Inc.

Summer Can Be Hazardous To Children

Although it does not come with a warning from the surgeon general, summertime can be hazardous to your children's health. One of the most com-

mon dangers is drowning. Dr. Joan Shook, a pediatrician at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, suggests that parents place barriers around the family pool and inspect other pools in the neighborhood. A portable phone for conducting business and answering calls can help keep parents poolside.

To minimize other common sum-

mer hazards, Shook suggests:

*Cautioning children to watch for snakes around creek banks, ditches and lakes during time of high water.

*Learning cardiopulmonary resus-

*Teaching children about the importance of sun screens with a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 15.

*Not assuming that rafts, water wings and inflatable pool toys will keep youngsters afloat.

*Protecting children from prolonged heat exposure.