

perspectives

Let's Celebrate Ourselves This Summer

Well, it's that time of year again—when I advise the multitude on sources of some excellent African American readings for these long summer days (or nights). The books listed here are gems found in my own library and I heartily recommend them for either pleasure or serious study.

I'm advised that "Donnies On Broadway", the black culture store here has added a book store, but has moved to N.E. Martin Luther King Blvd. (second floor of that long-empty former dairy building across from the Cable Access Center). I also cite here a national black-owned catalog house from which any of

the books listed may be obtained, as well as a catalog with a broad selection of books, movies and videos.

Write "African American Images, 1909 W. 95th St., Dept. Mc, Chicago, Ill. 60643. Phone (312) 445-0322. This catalog also has an extensive listing of children's titles and religious materials. Much, too, concerning black women and noted personalities. Also available are large sets of related books and videos suitable for schools and libraries. African origin of civilization: Myth or Reality, by Cheikh Anta Diop; 100 Amazing Facts About The Negro, by J.A. Rogers; before the Mayflower: A history of Black America

by Lerone Bennett Jr.; Afrocentricity, by Mofeti Keti Asante;

African Presence In Early America, by Ivan Van Sertima; Black Athena: The Afroasiatic Roots Of Classical Civilization, Vols I&II, by Martin Bernal; Black Women In Antiquity, ed. by Ivan Van Sertima; Blacks In Science, ed. by Ivan Van Sertima; Introduction To African Civilizations, by John G Jackson; How Europe Underdeveloped Africa, by Walter Rodney; Iceman Inheritance, by Michael Bradley, Introduction To African Civilizations, by John G. Jackson; Introduction To Black Studies, by Maulana Karenga.

The Destruction Of Black Civilization, by Chancellor Williams; The Miseducation Of The Negro, by Carter G. Woodson; Stolen Legacy, by George G.M. James; They Came Before Columbus, by Ivan Van

Sertima; World's Great Men Of Color, Vol. II by J.A. Rogers; Mules And Men, by Zora Neale Hurston; Native Son, by Richard Wright; Jubilee, by Margaret Walker; Roots by Alex Haley; The Spook Who Sat By The Door, By The Door, by Sam Greenlee; The Souls Of Black Folk, by W.E.B. Dubois;

What Color Was Jesus, by William Mosley; The Rodney King Rebellion, by Brenda Wall; Her Story: Black Female Rites of Passage, by Mary Lewis; For Black Women Only: A Complete Guide To A Successful Life-Style Change, Health, Wealth, Love And Happiness, by Ingrid D. Hicks; Teaching Scripture From An African American Perspective, By Joseph V. Crockett;

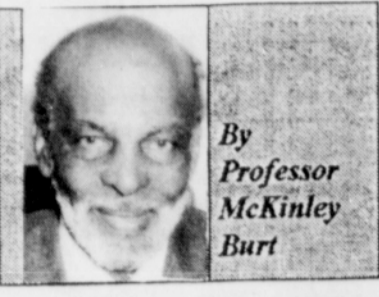
The following titles comprise a set of informative little books priced at \$1.99 each: African Kings And

Queens, Black Firsts, Blacks In The Arts, Black Civil Rights Leaders, Black Scientists And Inventors, Black Abolitionist, Black Educators, Black In The Federal Government, Black Pioneers, Black Women.

The following are some of the bibliographies available:

The Ben Carson Story: Gifted Hands; Elijah Muhammad, James Weldon Johnson; Malcolm X, Frederick Douglass; Jackie Robinson; Duke Ellington; Marcus Garvey; Nat Turner: Slave Revolt Leader; Paul Lawrence Dunbar: Poet; Martin Luther King Jr., Paul Robeson; Singer And Actor; Sojourner Truth; Antislavery Activist; Phyllis Wheatley: Poet; Thurgood Marshall: Supreme Court Justice; Muhammad Ali;

Next week. More great books from other sources.



By Professor McKinley Burt

Top Rank, Inc. Increases Boxers' Insurance

Bob Arum, president of Top Rank Inc., announced that this company will insure each fighter on a Top Rank-promoted boxing card to a limit of \$50,000, beginning July 1.

The Top Rank policy currently in effect insures each boxer to the extent of \$20,000, but Arum has obtained a new blanket policy with the higher limit.

"It's apparent that a maximum coverage policy of \$20,000 is no longer adequate," said Arum. "We felt that it was imperative to obtain a new policy, greatly increasing the coverage."

Most boxing commissions mandate insurance for injuries sustained by boxers, requiring amounts varying from \$5,000 to \$10,000 in most cases, and in some states as much as \$20,000.

By Dr. Lenora Fulani The Guinier Withdrawal: Another Clinton Betrayal

If there was one message that American voters sent out to their elected officials loud and clear last November, it was this: our current electoral system is no longer serving us well; it is in need of fundamental restructuring. Almost 21 million people in 14 states approved term limitations, drastically "restructuring" the political careers of 36% of the congress, twelve state legislators and six governors. Over 20 million Americans voted for an independent candidate for president, calling into question whether either of the two major parties will ever win by a majority again. While term limits and independent politics won wide support among white, middle-class and working-class "moderates," these two tactics for voter empowerment were strongly rejected by liberal and left Democrats, including the Democratic Party's most faithful constituencies, African Americans and women, in favor of strong support for Bill Clinton.

Last week, to the utter dismay of those two communities, President Clinton dumped the African American woman who was his nominee for chief of the Justice Department's civil rights division, Lani Guinier. Professor Guinier was abandoned by Clinton when Republicans and the conservatives who now control the Democratic party mounted a vicious attack against her, "convincing" the president that even allowing the distinguished civil

rights lawyer to defend her record to the Senate would be "divisive" to the nation.

Just what was it about Prof. Guinier's record that doomed her prospects of serving in the Clinton Justice Department? Simply this: in her academic writings she has engaged the question of what structural changes might possibly be developed to overcome lingering race discrimination and give more political power to minority voters!

For instance, Prof. Guinier has suggested that rather than draw district lines in such a way as to segregate Black voters in a single "minority district" (as is routinely done now, to comply with the Voting Rights Act), Black representation could be ensured by methods such as cumulative voting. Cumulative voting can be used in districts with more than one elected representative, where all the seats are "at-large" and voters are free to throw all their votes behind one candidate, or spread them among the different candidates for the at-large positions. Such a voting system leverages the minority vote without segregating minority citizens into political ghettos. It is neither a radical nor a hypothetical solution to inadequate minority representation. According to William T. Coleman, one of Prof. Guinier's defenders, President Bush's Justice Department approved such alternative voting systems in at least 35 different jurisdictions.

Lani Guinier's proposals for empowering minorities in the electoral arena have been purposely distorted by the anti-democratic powers-that-be and their friends in the media and in academia. The Wall Street Journal stooped to tabloid tactics with a headline smearing her as a "Quota Queen," while the New York Times made editorial space for Princeton professor Carol M. Swain's "anti-majoritarian" imply shamelessly and falsely that Prof. Guinier's proposals favor segregating Blacks into Black-majority districts.

Because she has raised reasonable questions about how institutionalized racism disenfranchises minorities, Lani Guinier has been labeled "anti-majoritarian" by those who like to flatter themselves by thinking they represent or speak for "the majority" of Americans.

But the fact is that we no longer have "majoritarian rule" here in America. President Clinton did not win by a majority, and he has no real program that will benefit the majority of Americans though he is desperately trying to give the appearance of pleasing everybody. But notice who always gets sold out in the compromises made by our ever-apologetic president: women, minorities, Haitians, gays, the middle class and the working poor. In the economic and social climate prevailing today, the white corporate minority that has always ruled America can no longer afford to finance the

myth of majority rule. They are the ones who are pulling Clinton's strings, and they are telling us in no uncertain terms to lower our expectations—not only our economic expectations, but our hopes for a more perfect democracy as well.

To their credit, Kweisi Mfume (D-MD) and other members of the Congressional Black Caucus fought hard to save the Guinier nomination. Presumably, they supported Prof. Guinier because she would have worked to open the democratic process to the African American community and other disenfranchised people. But as Congressman Mfume and Reverend Jesse Jackson discussed on CNN, one question raised by the Guinier fight is precisely what kind of leverage does the CBC and the Black community have to exert over Clinton? In my opinion, the more steps the CBC takes to broaden political participation and options, the more power we have. In fact, in the upcoming weeks they have the opportunity to effect a democratic "restructuring" themselves. Three bills introduced by Rep. Tim Penny (DFL-MN) would make voter registration easier, and remove the anti-democratic regulations that the two major (though no longer majoritarian!) parties have passed to hobble independent parties and candidates. The CBC must take the leadership in promoting the passage of this much-needed empowerment legislation.

"The Lynching Of Lani Guinier"

by Dr. Manning Marable

Lani Guinier is one of the most talented, intelligent and capable scholars on civil rights law in America. As a professor at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, she has sought to bridge the racial divisions among students. As a civil rights litigator, she stands firmly in the tradition of Charles Hamilton Houston and Thurgood Marshall, as a champion for equal rights. Without question, she would have been the ideal choice for Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. Yet Lani Guinier was the victim of a carefully orchestrated campaign of character assassination by the extreme Right, and in the moment of truth, was betrayed by the administration she had sought to serve.

What were the basic charges leveled against Guinier? In brief, conservatives initiated their attacks by terming Guinier the "Quota Queen". Clint Bolick, a protege of Reagan's Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights William Bradford Reynolds, claimed in the Wall Street Journal that Guinier favored racial quotas, and wanted to impose what he described as a "racial spoils system" which would "further polarize an already divided nation." Nothing was further from the truth. Guinier sharply opposed strict racial quotas.

Others condemned Guinier as an enemy of democracy and majority rule, because she had endorsed so-called "radical" reforms in the political process. What radical reforms? Guinier has endorsed proportional representation, or cumulative voting, in certain instances in which minorities are unable to receive equal access to representation within the current political process. Cumulative voting is, in fact, far more democratic than the current one-person, one-vote system which now exists throughout the U.S. For example, in a city with seven districts for city council, instead of each voter having one vote in a particular district, he or she would have seven ballots which could be cast in any combination for any individual candidate or group of candidates. Such a procedure would encourage multiracial coalition-building across neighborhood lines, and break down the racial gerrymandering by electoral

districts which often occurs.

Then conservatives charged that Guinier was "radical" because she has argued that majority runoff requirements in primaries may violate the 1965 Voting rights Act. The conservatives who criticize Guinier on this point fail to observe that the Bush Administration's Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, John Dunne, agreed with Guinier's interpretation, asserting that runoff elections in primaries are like "electoral steroids for white candidates."

William T. Coleman, Jr., a prominent black Republican and civil rights lawyer, has observed that "much of the criticism of Ms. Guinier is nothing more than a disagreement with current law" on civil rights. Many of the suggestions found in Guinier's writings which were dismissed and smeared as "radical", Coleman notes, were "adopted by the Department of Justice in the Reagan and Bush Administrations." Far from being outside of the mainstream, it was Lani Guinier's critics and attackers who were at the fringes of political and intellectual legitimacy.

At the moment of truth, however, President Clinton, Guinier's friend of two decades, betrayed that friendship and his own political principles by pulling her nomination from the Senate judiciary Committee. Clinton's behavior was nothing less than weak-kneed and spineless. At first, he proudly crowed about her nomination to black constituents. Then, as the rightwing assault and mountain of lies spread, the president became increasingly cautious, hiding once again behind his Attorney General Janet Reno. Finally, when the "neoliberal" publications such as the New Republic came out against Guinier, the pressure became just too much for the white Southerner to handle.

Even reactionary and racist commentators such as Patrick Buchanan understood that Clinton's failure to support Guinier's nomination was political stupidity. By abandoning Guinier and by not permitting her to defend herself before the Senate subcommittee, Clinton alienated his core political base, and

Businessman William G. Mays To Keynote National Black Chamber Of Commerce Conference

William G. Mays, Chairman and CEO, Mays Chemical Company Inc. will be the keynote speaker at the National Black Chamber of Commerce's (NBCC) Sixth Annual National conference to be held in Dallas, Texas, August 25 to 29, 1993, NBCC officials have announced.

The conference, which had originally been scheduled to take place in Indiana, will be held in Dallas at the Radisson Hotel, 2330 West Northwest Highway, in Dallas.

Mays, whose company was ranked number 13 in Black Enterprise's 1992

survey of the country's Top 100 Black-owned businesses, opened his chemical distributorship in 1980. Today, Mays Chemical Company Inc. has yearly sales of \$60-million.

"We are very excited to have William Mays as our keynote speaker this year," said Oscar Coffey, President and CEO, NBCC. "Mr. Mays represents the heights to which motivated Black business persons can ascend through talent, hard work and fortitude."

A native "Hoosier," Mays was born in Evansville, Indiana on De-

cember 4, 1945. He attended Indiana University where he earned both his B.S. in chemistry and MBA.

After graduating, Mays took a job as a test chemist at Linkbelt in Indianapolis, then moved on to Procter and Gamble in Ohio, working there for three years.

In 1973, he accepted a position with Cummins Engine Company in Columbus, Indiana as assistant to the president, rising to a middle management position in Corporate Planning.

After four years with Cummins, he became president of a small chemi-

cal distributorship in Indianapolis.



William Mays

Under his leadership, the company's sales increased from \$300,000 to \$5-million, seeking the control and flexibility of ownership. Mays established his own chemical distributorship in 1980.

Mays Chemical Company Inc. provides over 300 solvents, additives and preservatives to food and pharmaceutical manufacturers, including Kraft General Foods, Eli Lilly and Company and Pillsbury Co.

The National Black Chamber of Commerce was organized in 1983 to promote the growth and development of Black-owned businesses nationwide and also to support statewide Black chambers of commerce. It is headquartered in Oakland, California.

For more information regarding the conference, please contact Thomas Houston or Dvorah Evans at (214) 421-4200.

Board To Receive Updated Report On Racial Diversity

The Oregon State Board of Higher Education will meet Friday, June 25, at Portland State University, in room 327, Smith Memorial Center. A Committee of the Whole will meet at 8:30 a.m. The Board meeting will convene at 10:00 a.m. or at the conclusion of Committee of the Whole.

The Board will receive an update on the status of racial and ethnic diversity in the System. The report indicates the total number of minority group students increased substantially over the past decade. However, the relatively small number of underrepresented minority group faculty remains a concern and a challenge. The report also will include a response to SB 122, the Minority Teacher Education Act.

In accordance with Board policy to review new academic programs approximately five years after implementation, the Board will receive reviews on four programs at Oregon Institute of Technology and two programs at Oregon State University.

On the consent agenda, the Board will be asked to give final approval to a request by the University of Oregon to establish graduate programs in East Asian Languages and Literature.

In addition, the Board is expected to take action on a request from Southern Oregon State College to renovate the Student Health Center using bonds and operating reserves.

The Oregon State System of Higher Education (OSSHE) is composed of eight colleges and universities established to provide educational services to Oregonians.

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