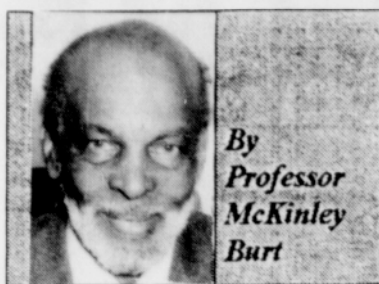


perspectives

More Good Summer Reading -Or Anytime

First, let me remind you that life is full of little disappointments (and big ones too). That new black bookstore I told you about last week has closed almost before it opened. At the "Two G Shopping Center" on Martin Luther King Blvd., across from the Cable Access Facility. The Community still has a great need for such an institution, and I hope this objective will be attained in the near future.



By Professor McKinley Burt

I will carry on by listing several African-American "Catalog Bookstores" that have excellent selections of both current and time-tested classics in our literature, movies and videos. Be sure to see last week's observer Newspaper (Perspectives, p.2) for the initial listing of books and sources.

Write or call: African American Images, 1909 W. 95th street, Dept.

MC, Chicago, Ill 60643; (312) 445-0322; Also, A & B Book Distributors, Inc., 149 Lawrence Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, (718) 596-3369. Now, for a most useful general catalog covering all subjects under the sun from ethnic to science, fiction to history, self-help to medicine, music to bibliographies, write, Edward R. Hamilton, Book-seller, Falls Village, Ct. 06031-5000 & Barnes And Noble, Book-sellers, 126 Fifth Ave., N.Y., N.Y. 10011.

There follows some more of the best in my personal library, out of a thousand or more (always ask for the latest edition and the paper back if available). Now, we all have our favorite local sources and mine is the Looking Glass Bookstore at 318 S.W. Taylor (227-4760). Very excellent personal service, and if item is not in stock, they will promptly locate a source

and order it for you. Of course, there is Powell's on West Burnside and there is Dalton's. I do not know if Barnes & Noble has opened the planned Portland Store yet.

"Secrets Of The Great Pyramid" by Peter Tompkins (Harper & Row). This is the best of the books on the great pyramids built by the Africans in Egypt, accurate, detailed and thoroughly documented--well illustrated and supported by mathematics and much factual history without racial bias. This is a must!

Whether you are interested in science or you have youngsters headed in that direction, the following two books will be very helpful and enlightening. You can all grow with them through the years as you begin to understand more and more with these two easy-reading books; easy reading, plain language. "Understanding Physics" by Isaac Asimov (Dorset Press) you may still be able to get this 700 page, 3-part book for only \$9.95 from The Scholars Bookshelf, 110 Melrich Road, Cranbury, N.J. 08512, shipping \$4.00. If not, order locally.

The other science book is "The World of Measurements" by H. Arthur Klein (Simon & Schuster--get latest edition). This wonderful book should be a companion to everyone--student, the curious, historian or just general interest. How, why and when did man begin measuring things, and how does he do it yet today: Distance, objects, temperature, light, atoms, radiation, speed, electricity, time, age of fossils, sound, pressure, gravity or whatever. It's hard to put this one down.

Order the following three little paperback gems from that local Looking Glass Bookstore. "The Mismeasure Of Man," by Steven Gould This book tells how all those racist attacks on the minority I.Q. and intellect developed and the manner in which so-called science aided and abetted this travesty--until this day. Both historic base and current thinking--refutations. The other two books are for those with strong science interests and who wonder about where modern physics is

going (like that "Super Collider" they're going to tax you for). Get "Dancing WuLi Masters" and/or "The Tao of Physics"

So many readers keep asking for this citation that I am going to repeat it for every body. "Staying Power: The History of Black People in Britain" by Peter Freyer (Humanities Press). The book is full of exciting revelations of African presence and contributions in England, from the "Scottish" bands to the pensioned American slave veterans who fought against the slaveholders like Washington and Jefferson in Revolutionary War. (order from that "Barnes & Noble Bookstore", \$12.95).

There has been a lot of discussion across America by both blacks and whites concerning "Black Athena" by Martin Bernal (Rutgers V. Press). Volume I, "The Fabrication of Ancient Greece 1785-1985", was published in 1987. Volume II, "The Archaeological and Documentary Evidence", was published in 1991. These critical writings about the Afroasiatic

roots of Classical Civilization' (so-called Greco-Roman) reveal how racist historians of the 18th and 19th century rewrote and distorted history in order to hide the African origin. Order through "Looking Glass Bookstore".

This erudite professor of Government Studies at Cornell University and formerly a Fellow of King's College, Cambridge England, has understandably incurred the wrath of every racist scholar, historian and educator in the U.S., and the world.

Finally, a world-class white scholar has come forward and thoroughly established and documented that the pioneering black historians were right about the seminal and original African contribution to the world culture, philosophy, science and religion.

The detractors of "Portland's Baseline Essays" and national detractors of "Multicultural Curriculum and Education" were sent reeling by these publications. More good reading next week.

The Tax Law That Can Confiscate Up To 70% Per Cent Of Your Assets When You Die

BY OMARI KENYATTA, J. D.

Did you know there is a federal tax law that gives the I.R.S. the right to confiscate up to 70% per cent of your assets when you die?

This federal tax legislation was formulated with the help of a wealthy Senator from Oklahoma, by the name of Robert S. Kerr. However, the Senator died in 1978, he left an estate of worth \$20,000,000 dollars. After his death, it was discovered that this Senator died interstate, in other words he died without a will. His heirs received a bill from the I.R.S. on his estate for \$9,000,000 dollars, this money had to be paid in full within 9 months from the date of the letter, from the I.R.S.

You are probably saying to your self good he got what he deserved. But, this writer wants you to know it's not his intention to castigate the Senator for not having a will but, to show you what can happen if you do not get

the proper information about your estate when you prepare your will or if you don't have a will. If this can happen to a Senator as wealthy as he was, it can happen to you, even if you have a much smaller estate. If your estate exceeds \$600,000 dollars, federal estate taxes will be levied upon it right after your death. The rate of the taxes will quickly rise from 37% per cent to 55% per cent.

There is a solution for the above Problem:

What one can do, is buy an inexpensive Insurance policy, the name of this policy is called (joint and last survivor) or second to die policy. It will cost you about 1% per cent of your net worth each year. This kind of policy can save your heirs from many problems after your death. One thing this policy would do is keep the heirs from having to come up with large sums of cash to pay the federal estate

taxes within 9 months. The Insurance policy would protect the surviving spouse, in other words the entire estate would be pass on to the surviving spouse without paying federal estate taxes. What would happen when the last surviving spouse dies is; the insurance company would be required to pay the federal estate taxes, for this estate.

I hope the readers of this article will take this educational information and talk to someone that understands estate taxes and planning before they have their will drafted. Even if you have a small estate you should still look into how you can protect your surviving spouse and your heirs, from such a large loss of your estate. You are probably not aware of the fact there are people who have lost their entire estate. Because of federal estate taxes and other fees, I think you know what other fees I'm referring to.

Portland Takes Initial Steps To Improve Minority Contracting

BY JAMES POSEY

After years of floundering, the city finally follows through on its commitment to level the contracting playing field. In a recent City Council informal hearing, council members unanimously approved a 12-point plan that should improve contracting opportunities for minorities throughout the city and the state.

Mayor Vera Katz outlined the work of staff, which was lead primarily by Assistant City Attorney Madelyn Wessell and Sam Adams, the mayor's executive assistant. Several policy and procedural changes were proposed that are intended to open access to minority contractors and ensure a greater degree of equality in the contracting process. Much of the proposal included recommendations made by NAMCO and other minority contractors to improve the system.

The most critical element of the city's proposal was the agreement to move ahead on funding a disparity study. This study has long been proposed by many to establish a firm legal foundation for the implementation of a goals program. The most significant aspect of the proposal is the willingness to move forward in making positive changes in the absence of a "Croson-type" disparity study. This

factor demonstrates real courage and commitment on the part of the City Council and, especially, the Mayor to do the right thing. We give the Mayor an A+ for leadership in the matter.

While the council will not take formal action on Katz's Fair Contracting and Employment Initiative until June 30, they should be applauded for their actions thus far. We encourage all NAMCO members and friends to call or write council members and commend them for their efforts.

In contrast to other media representations, this development may not be headline grabbing or sensational news. But the progress the city is making in its minority contracting policy is the kind of change that will make a difference. Cautious optimism is shared by most who view this action by the city as the first real attempt to practice true economic diversity and inclusion.

We can't give Mayor Katz enough credit for leadership in the matter, but it obvious that every council member was anxious to contribute to the solution. Council members may recognize how important their actions are in terms of silencing the many criticisms of minority contractor groups. But they also may not fully realize how their actions will serve to psychologically lift community spirits and pro-

mote economic healing.

In the face of so many problems confronting the African-American community, this action will hopefully set an example of how local governments can work with communities in good faith to bring about economic reforms. But make no mistake about it, this is just the first step. The city must understand that the problem of discrimination in contracting is insidious and will not be easily extinguished.

The other solemn question is now that there are serious attempts to open up the process, will minorities be ready, or get ready, to take advantage of the opportunities? While what the city is attempting to do is fair and right, it is not a give away. Minority contractors must be not only capable of performing, but must spend some time going the extra mile to ensure that their business house is in order. Take it from someone who knows, after years of trying to knock down barriers, this may be as big a hurdle to clear as racial discrimination itself. Because when it is all said and done, regardless of racism and discrimination, contracting is a tough competitive business that takes no prisoners.

James Posey is a local, small business owner with a background in social work and community activism.

Letter To The Editor

Send your letters to the Editor to:
Editor, PO Box 3137, Portland, OR 972108

Letter To The Editor:

I am writing in response to the article by Stephen Moore which appeared in the June 2 edition of The Portland Observer entitled "Metro Calls For Review Of Recommendation Excluding Blacks." A few points brought out in the article need to be clarified.

Mr. Moore states that POVA's Minority Intern Program was never implemented. Actually, the program was implemented and continues to successfully provide industry exposure to minority students. Since the program's inception in 1988, 11 minority students out of 54 total have completed internships at POVA. That is 20 percent. Mr. Moore goes on to mention two discrimination complaints filed against POVA by

former African American employees without stating that both complaints were dismissed due to lack of grounds for a claim.

The article also mentions several successful African American conventions that were put together with the hard work of local African American representatives. POVA booked each one of those conventions with the invaluable help of local representatives.

Finally, Mr. Moore accuses POVA of a "lack of sincere commitment and involvement as it relates to African American convention marketing, delegate servicing and especially hiring practices for marketing and top management positions." In 1990, POVA contracted with IMPACT Business Consultants, a minority firm,

to conduct a comprehensive national survey of minority organizations. IMPACT identified 678 minority organizations, 3.1 percent out of 22,000 total. Since 1987, a similar number, 3.5 percent of POVA's total bookings has been minority groups.

POVA also has an aggressive Minority Business Enterprises purchasing program. Last year, 9.4 percent of POVA's total MERC purchase went to minority businesses. POVA also has exceeded its affirmative action hiring objectives at all levels within the association. Currently, 42 percent of POVA's Convention Sales Department is minority status.

Sincerely
W. Gary Grimmer
Executive Director

Mayor Vera Katz Selects Charles Moose To Be Portland's Chief Of Police

Continued from front page

make this selection process include more community input than ever before.

"I am pleased to report that this nationwide recruitment and the comparisons it made possible showed clearly that both of our internal candidates--Charles Moose and David Williams--were of unsurpassable quality.

"Assistant Chief Williams is a superb public servant and an outstanding law enforcement officer who commands the respect of the community, the Police Bureau and law enforcement colleagues across the country. He managed production of the Bureau's five-year transition plan and has managed its transition to community policing as the number-two official in the Bureau. He developed the Bureau's neighborhood-based patrol deployment plan for redistrict-

ing and realigning patrol districts to neighborhoods. We are, indeed, blessed to have the services of these two fine officers and I look forward to continuing to work with both of them.

"The outside candidates were also in the first rank among law enforcement executives.

"Chief Brann has had an exemplary record of fighting crime, first in Santa Ana, Calif., and more recently in Hayward where he turned a tradition-bound police department into a national model of community policing.

"Chief Mangan of Spokane offers remarkable intellectual capacity and an exceptional ability to translate theory into practice.

"In the end, however, my decision was made not just on the basis of the intrinsic strengths each of the

candidates offered--and each offered a great many more than I have enumerated--but also, finally, on how I judged each would perform in This city, at This time, in the face of the particular challenges we face today. Clearly, the name of Charles Moose rose to the top.

"Unquestionably, Chief Moose has his work cut out for him. I have high expectations. I share the frustrations the community feels at the intractability of crime in the city. It must be brought under control through a community-based process that reduces crime and the fear of crime. Like all Portlanders, I want results. It will take all of us working together to get them.

It is now may pleasure to introduce to the people of this great city, our new Chief of Police, Charles Moose."

Black Issue....Big Concern Metro Tells Visitors Association To Wait

Continued from front page

to believe that tax funding is vital to their efforts, they have failed to bring to light a companion entity, the POVA Foundation which is a new non profit operation that is receiving funds from undisclosed sources. The Foundation is supposedly for educational purposes, but has the ability to receive millions of dollars without having to answer to anyone other than their board of directors.

POVA's most recent proposition to include job training programs in the hotel industry was viewed as being insulting. "Everyone knows that blacks, hispanics and poor whites are the ones that are cleaning the rooms,

making the beds, sweeping the floors and parking the cars, so I am not sure what type of job training programs that they re referring to", said another black business professional that has been following the recent revelations. "If these POVA hotels are really interested, then why aren't they talking about management, sales and marketing positions that are in the range of \$35,000 and up and not the ones of \$17,000 and down?"

It will now be up to the specially selected committee to develop a plan for the minority marketing project as well as a substantial

budget. "If POVA professes to see a real and sincere need for the inclusion of the Black vendor in the industry, one would be curious as to why they are resisting the redistribution of the METRO contract dollars."

While POVA continues to claim that they are doing an outstanding job in the area of Black and ethnic marketing, more recent information from individual as well as an article in a national magazine indicates a continual number of Black conventions and conferences that have not selected Portland, primarily due to this pending issue.

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