

preceptive

Final Roundup Of Summer Reading: Enjoy

You will be happy to know that the little treasure house of African American contributors to medicine and inventions is now available in paperback (el cheapo). "Black Pioneers of Science and Inventions" by Louis Haber (Harcourt, Brace & World, publishers). This book and most of the following may be purchased/ordered at the Looking Glass Bookstore, 318 SW Taylor, 227-4760. And of course there is Powells, Dalton's, etc.

Of course the best book of black inventors (smiles is Black Inventors of America, by McKinley Burt, (National Book Co.) so far only available at Looking Glass. And there is an excellent 3 vol. set on Black Cowboys at \$7.95 each—I recommend for K-6-K12; Reflections of a Black Cowboy by Robert Miller (Silver Burdett Press, A division of Simon and Schuster). There are some good citations in the



bibliographies—especially, The Black West by William Loren Katz (Anchor Books).

A must for your library is the best book about Matthew Hensen, the fascinating black explorer who accompanied Robert E. Peary to the North Pole; North Pole Legacy by S. Allen Counter (University of Massachusetts Press). Dr. Counter is a black neuroscience professor at Harvard University who retraced most of the route, reunited the descendants of both explorers, bringing the "Eskimo Sides" of the explorer's families to America. Wonderful book!

There is one book in my library that is a well-thumbed veteran of almost thirty years. Not the oldest by far, but certainly one of the more significant markers along a pathway to true knowledge of our planet, Silent Spring by Rachel Carson. Published originally in 1961 by Houghton Mifflin

Company this is the book that opened the eyes of the world to the dangers of pesticides; "elixirs of death" they were called by this pioneering biologist who sparked the modern 'environmental' movement. This classic is still readily available and topical.

Shortly after the fall of the old order in Russia, television brought us scenes of the crowds in Pushkin Square, Moscow where people were lined up for half a mile to patronize the new McDonalds fast food bazaar. A prominent icon scanned by the camera was a huge stature of the Russian hero after whom the square was named, Alexander Pushkin, the black African principal poet and revolutionary who for almost two centuries has been the most honored and read of Russian men of letters. It is a shame that American racists in both academia and publishing have hidden his ethnicity for the most part.

In the book; Great Black Russian by John Oliver Killens, a black author does an excellent job of presenting the humanity of the poet against a background of documented facts and events

("A novel of the life and times of the poet"). Wayne State University Press). Also see Pushkin: A Comparative Community by John Bayley (Cambridge U. Press, 1971). Also see "The Captains Daughter And Other Stories" by Alexander Pushkin (Everyman's Library, 1992).

Speaking again of hidden African heritages, you will enjoy material on the greatest naturalist that America has brought to flower, born in the West Indies to an emancipated African woman and a French sea captain. Get, John James Audubon, by John Burroughs (The Overlook Press, 1987). This is not necessarily the best book available on the greatest ever painter of birds but it provides us with a prime example of how ugly, racist commentary can enter texts otherwise accurate and documented.

Here, we find on page xxiii of the preface the following first entry in a 'chronology': "May 4, 1780, John James La Forst Audubon was born at Mandeville, Louisiana (Paucity of dates and conflicting statements make it impossible to insert dates to show

when the family 'MOVED' to Santa Domingo, and thence to France)". (Santa Domingo, of course, is the present "Dominican Republic" which shares a huge Caribbean Island with Haiti). And then on page 138 the author inserted the following unbelievable comment, "He had the lively mecurial temperament of the LATIN RACES from which he sprang."

The rascals never give up do they? All this racism and denial must have been quite a shock to the school children, students and Universities of the Caribbean who have always had great pride in their countryman. Most of hundreds of books and articles written about this great man do not mention the islands of his African heritage. The same with the famed "Audubon Society". Of course, we have the same situation with the noted 'Dumas' family of France, authors of novels, plays and operas (boasted) their African origin).

A very, very interesting book is The Africans by Ali A. Mazrui (Little, Brown And Company, 1986). If the

name of the author sounds familiar it is because he is the narrator of that wonderful television series by the same name. They keep popping up all over the place—on Educational Channels, Discovery, In-The-Classroom-T.V., where ever. What is so remarkable about this long-running series in America and Europe is that it never got off the ground, since it's African-born Muslim creator spares no one in portraying and telling the truth about both a historical and contemporary Black Africa.

Maybe that isn't so hard to understand since the series was originated in England by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), and picked up in America as an "Annenberg/CPB Project" (from whom I got my copy of the book and T.V. Viewers Guide). A Toll-Free number for obtaining material is usually flashed on screen. All attempts by conservatives and racists have failed in their efforts to get the series withdrawn. By the way, video cassettes are also available.

We will have more "bookfind" in October after school starts.

School Is Out Watch For The Children Supreme Court Rules On Hate Crimes

On June 10, 1993 the United States Supreme Court voted unanimously to uphold a Wisconsin law which strengthens penalties for criminals who choose their victims on the basis of race, religion and sexual orientation. The ruling overturned the Wisconsin Supreme Court's decision in Wisconsin v. Mitchell in which a longer sentence for a racially motivated assault was ruled unconstitutional.

Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist wrote, "...Sentencing judges have considered a wide variety of factors in addition to evidence bearing on guilt in determining what sentence to impose... The defendant's motive for committing the offense is one important factor."

The ruling clarifies the Rehnquist court's position on hate crimes legislation and give civil rights advocates a clearer tool for fighting racist, anti-Semitic and homophobic violence. Twenty-nine states presently have similar laws on the books.

The ruling, however, does not apply to activities such as burning crosses and spray-painting swastikas if the actions violate no existing laws. The Supreme Court's 1992 decision in R.A.V. vs. City of St. Paul remains intact. In this ruling, a cross burned on the lawn of an African-American family was ruled protected as free speech. Although Wisconsin-type laws may cover such acts by strengthening penalties under laws against trespass or vandalism, they would not cover such threats if no pre-existing law is violated. A case in point is a 1992 Seattle-area crossburning by neo-Nazi skinhead David Talley. Talley, the leader of Northern Aryan Skinheads, burned a cross on this own property next-door to an African-American family in order to terrorize the family into moving. Even though the racist threat is clear in such cases, the Supreme Court's ruling leaves an opening for neo-Nazis, Klan members and other violent racists to continue this kind of terror unprosecuted.

New Report Targets Organized Bigotry

The Coalition for Human Dignity announced the first issue of a new bi-weekly publication: The Dignity Report. Co-editor Steven Gardiner described the new publication as "a digest of news and analysis of white supremacist, neo-Nazi and Christian Right organizations and the social movement of which they are a part."

"The purpose of The Dignity Report," explained research Director Jonathan Mozzochi, "is to provide a common base of knowledge and language to the wide variety of civil and human rights activists now fighting far right attacks on democracy."

The bulk of The Dignity Report

Features news of far right and Christian Right activities in the Pacific Northwest, but national and international events are also covered, along with special "Focus On..." sections that provide more in-depth background information.

Sample issues are being mailed to activists, journalists, libraries and institutions in Oregon, Washington and Idaho. Those interested in subscribing or wishing further information should contact Jonathan Mozzochi or Steven Gardiner at the Coalition for Human Dignity Research Department by phone at (503) 281-55823, or by mail at P.O. Box 40344, Portland, Oregon 97240.

Blood Drive At Washington Square

What: American Red Cross Blood Drive

When: Friday, July 16, 1993-9am to 2:30pm

Where: Washington Square-JC Penny Court

Facts: Washington Square offers an opportunity to give another birthday, another day at the beach, another talk with a friend, another laugh, another hug, another chance. The public is encouraged to come to Washington Square and donate blood to help save lives.

President Clinton's Northwest Timber Proposal Is Triple Devastation For Oregon

* NO jobs!
Not tax revenues for local government and schools!

* No lumber to build homes!
Calling this proposal "balance" is like calling Mt. Hood a mole hill. The idealistic science used to create this forest plan is like the "science" used to create Jurassic Park. Unfortunately, the results for Oregonians may be similar.

The target timber harvest reduction, which approaches 75 percent, exceeds the dreams of the most optimistic environmentalists and the fears of the most pessimistic industry analysts.

The promise of economic help to Northwest communities is nice but it does nothing for the impending lumber shortage. It is also appropriate to note that promises in Washington D.C. are a long way from effective delivery of help by governmental agencies in the rural Northwest.

The President should withdraw the proposal, reorganize his working team to provide balanced input and try again.

United Way Volunteers Lead Community

Community service can mean different things to many people. To the United Way volunteers named below, it means making the tough decisions that impact the lives of thousands in the local four-county area.

Volunteers from the African American community who participated this year include Portland residents Sandra Ford, Margaret Isaacs, and Dorothy Stennis; plus Helen Pittman of Gresham.

They are part of a group of more than 110 people who dedicated their time to decide United Way of the Columbia-Willamette's funding of more than 180 local agency programs. Following and initial orientation ses-

sion, they spent an average of 10 hours per week over the course of 12 weeks reading up on these programs, visiting some of these organizations, and listening to presentations by agency staff members.

Some of the eight fund distribution committees met at various agencies to go on site visits before the presentations, which took up to an hour for each agency involved. Other committees made separate site visits.

Agency programs are reviewed on four criteria: need, effectiveness (in responding to needs in the community), efficiency (in utilizing resources), and inclusiveness (reaching underserved groups). Once all agency

programs have been presented, each committee meets to make its recommendations for distributing United Way funds.

"These volunteers make a tremendous contribution to their community, giving more than 2,000 hours of their time to help make this area a better place to live," said Linda Wright, vice president of public affairs at U.S. Bancorp and chair of the Community Organization and Fund Distribution Committee at United Way. "If they hadn't committed their time to this endeavor, your donations wouldn't be out there helping people. These volunteers deserve our thanks for their sense of responsibility to this community."

Letter To The Editor

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

Letter To The Editor
Oregon has much to be proud of...especially its young people.

As the coordinator for the Close Up Foundation's program in Oregon, I have recently had the opportunity to work with 460 high school students and teachers representing 50 Oregon schools who traveled to Washington D.C., to investigate the working of the federal government. While there, the groups had the opportunity to see that Washington is more than a city of marble facades and distant bureaucrats. The students shared their views with many of these people and with

students from other areas of the county.

The 23 year-old Close Up Foundation is the nation's largest civic education organization. With educational programs serving thousands of middle and high school students and teachers, the Foundation teaches the participants how democracy works—and how to make it work for them.

So many have helped make the Close Up experience possible. Leaders among them are the schools, teachers and parents who have demonstrated a recognition of the importance of civic education. Many spon-

sors, including a number of local individuals and businesses which support Close Up's work in civic education, helped provide fellowships for low-income students and teachers participation.

Also, the local congressional delegation has been equally supportive in helping to show all of the students that democracy is not a spectator sport and for it to survive, all of us must become active participants.

To all who helped make this experience possible, I say thanks.

Sincerely,
Chrissy Brunner
Oregon Outreach coordinator

Packwood On The North American Free Trade Agreement OK, Here's The Deal

BY SENATOR BOB PACKWOOD

Critics of the North American Free Trade Agreement complain about the "giant sucking sound" we would hear as U.S. jobs move to Mexico should we approve the Agreement (NAFTA). If these critics were to look at the facts, they would find that the only sucking sound would be caused by an enormous increase in U.S. exports to Mexico.

Already, more than 600,000 U.S. workers are employed making products, and selling them to Mexico. Under NAFTA, it is estimated that by 1995 one million Americans will owe their jobs to exports to Mexico.

NAFTA will strengthen the Mexican economy, which in turn will increase Mexico's demand for U.S. goods. This increased demand for U.S. products and services will create American jobs. Mexico is one of the United States' fastest growing export markets. Between 1986 and 1992, U.S. Exports to Mexico increased from \$12.4 billion to an estimated \$44 billion, which is twice as fast as U.S. exports to the rest of the world.

The same is true for Oregon. Oregon's economy is particularly dependent on international trade. Our state already has substantial trade with Canada and Mexico. Between 1987 and 1991, Oregon exports to Mexico rose 190 percent, from \$19 million to \$55 million, and Oregon exports to Canada have doubled—they are now valued at \$736 million. A total of 17,100 Oregon jobs are currently supported by exports to Mexico and Canada. NAFTA will mean greater

access to the Mexican market through the removal of a whole array of Mexican trade barriers, which will mean that Oregon employment will continue to grow. Ratification of NAFTA will mean jobs building trucks at Freightliner in Portland, jobs making juices and baby foods at Saboroso Company in Medford, and jobs manufacturing paper towels and tissues at the James River Corporation mill in Halsey.

Of course, creating a North American Free Trade Zone will not be easy, and it will take time to adjust. But NAFTA recognizes this and ensures a smooth adjustment to free trade by including long transition periods of up to 15 years for the elimination of tariffs on the most trade sensitive U.S. industries. In addition, NAFTA contains strong safe-guard mechanisms which protect U.S. farmers and workers against injury—or threat or injury—from imports from Mexico or Canada.

Environment groups and organized labor have raised legitimate questions about their issues of concern regarding Mexico, although it's interesting to note no such concerns were voiced when the Canadian Free Trade Agreement was negotiated. I support efforts by the Administration to negotiate side agreements to address these concerns. However, I am keeping a watchful eye on these negotiations to ensure that the benefits of NAFTA remain intact.

Opponents claim that because of Mexico's cheap labor, U.S. companies will close operations in the United

States, and move jobs to Mexico. My response to them—is why haven't these companies already moved? There is nothing currently preventing American companies from moving to Mexico to take advantage of the cheap labor. It seems to me that most U.S. companies that wanted to relocate to Mexico. Rather, experts agree that NAFTA will actually encourage more U.S. companies to stay put in the United States, and keep U.S. jobs here.

Putting the economic benefits of NAFTA aside, let's focus on the political and social reasons why NAFTA is a good idea. NAFTA will diminish pressure for Mexican citizens to illegally emigrate to the United States, by creating new jobs and higher pay wages for Mexicans in Mexico. In addition, NAFTA forges a new North American partnership and sends important and encouraging signals throughout all of Latin America. Finally, NAFTA will ensure that Mexico will continue on a path toward free enterprise, open markets and democratic reform. NAFTA will lock in the changes that the Mexicans have made in recent years, and push Mexico to go even further. These changes are in the interests of the United States.

Unlike NAFTA's critics, I refuse to believe that the U.S. can't compete head-on against Mexico—a country whose economy is a small fraction of ours. Mickey Kantor—the President's Trade Representative—stated it best when he said that when it comes to NAFTA, opponents are looking at the future through the rear-view mirror.

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