

EDITORIAL

The Portland Observer

St. Louis Still Battling Perceptions

Hotels and Attractions Remain Unaffected by Midwest Floods

Mark Twain, so the story goes, once remarked after reading about his demise in a newspaper that "reports of his death had been greatly exaggerated." Today the Mississippi River's most famous pilot might sympathize with St. Louis' predicament as misperceptions and rumors continue to develop from coverage of the recent floods. In effect, rumors of our flood have been greatly exaggerated.

To set the record straight for travelers, the St. Louis Convention & Visitors Commission (SLCVC) is answering questions about the flood on its toll-free visitor information number, 1-800-888-3861.

So what is the real picture in St. Louis' visitor industry this summer? The community's main interstate highways and bridges remain safe and open. None of the hotels has been affected by high water and the only visitor attractions not open are the riverboats along Sullivan Blvd.

The Gateway Arch, visited by two and a half million people each year, has reported a dramatic increase in attendance over the last few weeks due to curiosity about the Mississippi River. The grounds of the 630-foot-tall national



St. Louis' visitor attractions and hotels - before and during the flood of '93 - have stayed dry and open for business

monument are one of the few places in the Midwest where visitors can get a good look at the height of the river without interfering with relief efforts in outlying areas. Some other local visitor attractions have seen a recent dip in attendance which they attribute to visitors who have a false impression about the effects of the flood of '93 on St. Louis. On the average, St. Louis hotels are reporting a mixed reaction from customers - some minor and unnecessary cancellations, some telephone calls expressing concern, and some increases in business.

"We have great sympathy for people affected by the flood," said SLCVC President Bob Bedell. "But visitors shouldn't compound this problem by staying away from popular vacation and meeting destinations such as St. Louis for no reason." Tourism is as \$2.5 billion a year business in St. Louis, employing more than 45,000 local people who depend on a healthy visitor industry for their jobs.

Travelers with questions are encouraged to call 1-800-888-3861 where St. Louis Convention & Visitors Commission visitor information operators are prepared to answer their concerns.

Nation Of Islam

I bear witness that there is only one god, and I bear witness that the oppressed people of the earth are valuable in God's sight.

I thank Allah (God) everyday for blessing us to understand more and more the importance of reaching out to other people, regardless of their color, in an attempt to break down barriers of hostility and misunderstanding. The following article was written July 19, 1993 in the New Federalist Newspaper: "We wish to congratulate Minister Louis Farrakhan on choosing to celebrate his 60th birthday by performing Felix Mendelssohn's beautiful violin concerto. This is also an opportune time to correct some mischaracterizations of Minister Farrakhan and the Nation of Islam that we (colleagues and associates of Lyndon LaRouche) previously published.

Several years ago, New Solidarity, the predecessor to New Federalist, based on information that we be-

lieved to be reliable, reported that Minister Farrakhan and the Nation of Islam were advocating the use of terrorism and domestic violence against the U.S. government. Since then, we have found Minister Farrakhan and his associates to be honorable and truthful, and accept their assertion that their organization then and now absolutely rejects terrorist activity against our government. It is unfortunate that this dialogue had not occurred earlier, which would have allowed us to come to this understanding sooner.

Our joint appreciation of the uplifting beauty of great classical music provides a common ground for us to move forward. Hopefully there will be many areas of mutual interest and work where our parallel and joint efforts will be of some benefit to mankind in this time of deepening world crisis. As Salaam Alaikum Colleagues and Associates of Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr." The above article made

me very happy and confident that more people will listen to Minister Farrakhan before making a judgement. For this is the most intelligent posture that we should hold." If in the court of law, a man is considered innocent until he is proven guilty, beyond a reasonable doubt, then I would hope that you would save judgement of brother Farrakhan until you have heard what I have to say." Minister Louis Farrakhan Self-Improvement speech, Phoenix, Arizona. Mixed feelings and controversy surrounded Brother Farrakhan as they surrounded his teacher, the Honorable

Elijah Muhammad. We all misunderstand or misperceive at one time or another. Whatever errors we have made, whatever misperceptions we have expressed have been the consequence of action without thought. Thank you for reading this.

Sincerely, your brother Elijah Ghetto Rise

perspectives

The Rivers Flow Deep With Genius

I appreciate the response of readers to last week's double article on the 'Midwest Floods of 1993' that related the successful solutions of ancient African engineers to current failures to "control nature". Especially significant was the comment of a teacher who correlated the depth of the African commune with nature to the feelings expressed in the black spiritual, "Deep River".

While it is certainly future that today's so-called-masters of the earth are failing every day in such a mission which leaves the environment devastated, is it not equally true that African Americans

as well have ignored the treasure trove of invention from a well-documented past? I barely touched the tip of the iceberg in my book, "Black Inventors of American".

As several teachers say, they can see the basis for dozens of practical lesson plans evolving from just these two articles.

Even a superficial examination reveals that, historically, these ancient peoples dealt very competently with the major components of a nation's infrastructure and technology: Agriculture, shipping, construction projects of great magnitude, the management of workforces numbering in the tens of thousands, supporting record-keeping and accounting--not to mention astronomy, mathematics, instrumentation and other technology.

Given, that it is going to be good

to get back into the schools again with key programs for motivating both black and white youngsters--and assisting them to relate the sometimes dry recitation of textbooks to real-time examples--one can still be saddened that much was not done earlier. I have reference to the many youths on the street today who have no idea of who they really are, and no idea whatsoever of their real and innate capabilities. I know that I had the

historical and the contemporary role models, and cannot imagine having developed and matured without them.

As might be indicated, there

were many relevant profiles in those "flood articles" that there was not room to develop. It is very interesting and significant that many of the great "black inventors" of this century and last were inspired and motivated by similar accounts of the accomplishments of our ancestors. I would cite in particular, "Norbert Rillieux" (1806-1894), the inventor of the 'Sugar Refiner', a multiple-stage evaporative process not only key to the economic production of 'white' sugar, but in paper making and dozens of other chemical processes; Patent No. 4879, Dec. 10, 1846.

In my personnel workshops for the U.S. Forest Service Civil Rights Office, the profile of this great black inventor, Egyptologist and engineer was always an effective and welcome presentation. I can especially remember the satisfaction of the then head of

the Mt. Hood National Forest, Dale Robertson,

Who is now Chief of the entire U.S. Forest Service in Washington, D.C. The U.S. Forest Service is a division of the Dept. of Agriculture and this agency had described Mr. Rillieux's innovation as "the greatest invention in the history of chemical engineering". This component of my presentation always had a rather sobering effect on many of the racists in the audience who were wont to deprecate the cognitive abilities of minorities. There were pronounced changes in personnel office attitudes in many of the 19 Forest Districts I covered in Oregon, Washington and Idaho (Just sent him a new program).

In regard to 'floods', Rillieux developed an elaborate engineering plan to drain and protect the city of New Orleans. This was last century before the Civil War. The plan was rejected, but we find that a hundred years later the project was implemented in almost exactly the same detail. We cannot say that the rejection was due to racism, but consider the following.

So essential was the Rillieux invention to Southern industry and agriculture in that slavocracy, that the planters who found it necessary to have the great black engineer on their plantations for weeks at a time for consultation--actually built special quarters for him halfway between the 'Big House' and the slave quarters. These became known throughout the sugar cane country as "Rillieux Houses"--always available for his comings and goings.



By Professor Mckinley Burt

MHCC Fall Term Open Registration

Open registration for fall term classes at Mt. Hood Community College will be held Monday-Thursday, Aug. 18-Sept. 2, 8am to 7:30pm. The college is closed on Fridays until after Labor Day, Sept. 6. From Sept. 7-24, open registration hours will be Monday-Thursday, 8am to 7:30pm; and Friday 8am to 4:30pm. Fall-term classes begin Sept. 27. Photo identification is required of all students when they register.

Telephone registration will be available Sept. 13-24 for students taking eight credit hours or less who will be paying by VISA or MasterCard. Telephone registration hours will be Monday-Thursday, 11am to 6:30pm; and Friday 9:30am to 4:30pm. Students registering by telephone should have their credit card number, social security number, course and section numbers ready when they call. To register by telephone call 667-7238.

Full-time students and those who plan to take an English composition, mathematics or reading course must take a College Placement Test (CPT). The test is free and helps direct students to classes suited to their ability. For information about placement test times, call 667-7644.

For additional registration information call 667-7392.

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Self Enhancement Tips

Portland School District

Outreach. For the first time in its history, the Portland School District has contracted out its elementary school academic enrichment program. SEI has been selected by the school district to conduct this summer's program, which helps prepare second through fifth graders for standardized achievement tests. SEI counselors are working throughout the summer with students to enhance their test-taking and academic skills.

Kids and summer. SEI's summer program is in full swing. Three hundred fifty SEI students, ranging from second through 12th grade, participated in organized academic and athletic activities that focus on improving self-esteem. Tours

of the program and interviews with the children can be arranged.

SEI graduates first full class. The first group of kids went through SEI's entire academic program, from eighth grade till graduation from Jefferson High School this spring. All of the students are college-bound this fall. For individual interviews, please call Tony Hopson or Ray Leary at SEI, 249-1721.

SEI students get a taste of the business world. Self Enhancement has paired up six of its high school-age students with four companies around the Portland area for summer work experience. The paid internships provide the young people with a valuable look at the working world, and help keep them off the streets. Participating businesses ar

Directors Furniture, Copeland Lumber, Jubitz Tire & Truck Center and McCall Oil.

Former high school athletes take a step back in time...to 1972. Basketball teammates from the 1972 Jefferson, Grant, Benson and Washington High Schools teams meet again on the Washington High School basketball court August 21. Not only will they be reliving their youth, but the net ticket sale proceeds will go to support SEI. (Local basketball trivia: the Benson High School team was state companion 1971, 1973, 1974 and 1975; Jefferson took the prize in 1972. SEI's founders, Tony Hopson and Ray Leary, led Jefferson's team to the championship.)