

The Miseducation Of The Negro: Part III

by Professor McKinley Burt

That was a rather spirited response to last week's referral to "sensible institutions" in the education system. Contrary to popular opinion and politically motivated rhetoric, good schools in various forms and degrees of concealment have always been with us. My thanks to those who heartily agreed and understood that often 'excellence' is deliberately hidden.

In the 30 years since I left industry to teach, I have been on a learning curve that has developed exponentially to accommodate some of the nonsense thrown at us by both the education fraternity and a mostly captive media. While still keeping one foot in the 'real world' (of making things and delivering services), I sought to determine why it was that in industry we were hiring high school and sometimes college graduates who could not read, write or count as well as I could in the fifth grade. Teaching was the answer, but not completely a new career we will see.

In the first two articles of this series the case was well made that for fifty centuries people of African descent have strived for and attained an unparalleled educational excellence—and we find that for the most part and for an equally long period of time successive establishments of Europe-

ans have indeed kept this fact "deliberately hidden." This obtains whether we speak of contemporary opposition to documented revelations in the "Baseline Essays" of the Portland District or we refer to higher education at the national level where it might well mean the end of an academic career to teach or discuss certain documented facts.

The Greeks studied at African universities and libraries already in existence for several thousand years—then went home to found their famed scientific schools like Miletus.

Europe began to emerge from the "Dark Ages" when it began to send students to African Universities such as the world-renowned school at Timbuctoo. Newton gave full credit to the Africans for developing the mathematics of the sphere and of certain arcane curves. He also used their astronomical constants and coordinates of the Great Pyramid to nail down his "Theory Of Universal Gravitation." Herald the 'Age of Enlightenment'.

It was Shakespeare's "Moors" (Muslims) from North Africa—who sparked Europe vaunted Renaissance and it was Napoleon who stood his troops before the Great Pyramid and told them, "forty centuries of greatness look down upon you". His expedition promptly carted back to Eu-

rope all the wonders they found; projective geometry, the "Fibonacci Series" of mathematics, the famed "Golden Section", advanced astronomy, and the "Empire" fashion of furniture and dress. The newly established "Louvre Museum" became world-famous with African artifacts in the 19th century. The world's cul-

“
...40% of the nations' teachers send their own children to private schools...”

ture and technology took off again with a giant infusion of African genius.

How is it, then, you may ask, that the nation's establishment and media will listen to education's leading tribe of racists which includes such New York Times' darlings as Diane Ravitch in the U.S. Department of Education, Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. (The Disuniting of America) and E.D. Hirsch Jr. (Cultural Literacy). And that, as I detailed here last month, the federal government is funding

massive programs to study an alleged link between a supposed **GENETIC DISABILITY FOR LEARNING AND A PREDISPOSITION FOR CRIMINAL ACTIVITY AMONG PERSONS OF AFRICAN DESCENT.**

The connection between that "deliberately concealed" black history and the genocidal elements of the establishments education gurus is perfectly obvious. What may not be so clear, at first, is the deadly silence of the teachers' unions like the highly politicized National Education Association. This strange situation becomes much clearer when a little examination reveals that this group is primarily a turf and wage-protecting money machine and very little the avowed staunchly-liberal 'professional' association in the minds of so many of the public. For those of you who have not had the experience of some of us with this 'machine' (from within and without) see the June 7, 1993 issue of Forbes Magazine.

As with the most organizations famed for their "liberal" posture, this conglomerate of political action committees keeps its publications filled with pictures of African-Americans—their vote and support more sorely needed than ever amid a rising crescendo of outraged complaints against the education establishment. The is-

ssue of **SCHOOL CHOICE AND VOUCHERS** are a frightening challenge to this 'union'. They would like all the help they can get, especially from those in the urban centers, people whom they patently ignored or opposed when these residents were fighting for better African American schools and discharge of teachers who could care less. And not just in Ocean Hill/Brownsville in New York or the still-ongoing debacle in Chicago (Principal tenure for life)—but across the nation.

When I first wrote of the "choice and voucher" debate three years ago (include home-schools) there was not much steam behind the debate. Now the proponents have to be taken rather seriously—40% of the nations' teachers send their own children to private schools, and the president of the United States. Across the country and in Portland there are cracks in the structure, families are opting for private schools or for teaching at home. Governor Romer of Colorado, long a key advocate for public schools, has now opened the door of discretion a bit wider. He has spoken out for 'choice', though initially "within the system if possible".

A number of black parents have joined the whites in moving to Vancouver, Washington. they are steamed because teachers joined

the administration in opposing Senate Bill 885 which would have allowed equal representation of both parents and teachers and school site councils. When the union arrogantly lobbied against this bill they ensured a heavy loss of votes in support of a "Sales Tax" to support education. As the head of Oregon's department of Revenue said, "School financing in Oregon, unlike most states (if any) is voter driven: initiatives and referrals to voters by the legislature". This is not a good time to make this constituency angry. Already, Oregon's biggest and most powerful business and industry association opposes the sales tax. Somebody has noted that in 1986 there were more votes for legalizing pot than for the sales tax; things to come?

African Americans, beleaguered and buffeted, will, perhaps, endure another traumatic situation. But we, all should have a learning curve—especially, in respect to friends. We need the effort and commitment of every parent in the community (and everyone else, black, white, whoever), and we need to reverse that parent-participation block on the sites. It is our tax money and we are fools if we do not let our employees know it. Leave no doubt! How long are we going to be "miseducated"?

Help For Parents

In the coming weeks Harvey L. Rice, M.S.T. will be writing a column for the Portland Observer aimed at helping grandparents, parents, and children succeed in family life skills. Rice has been working as an educator for Portland State University, Portland Community College, Clackamas Community College and Oregon State University for the last 20 plus years.

At PCC and CCC Rice taught real estate courses. While working as a real estate broker and teaching Rice helped develop the Community Housing Resource Board and helped create a minority real estate scholarship pro-

gram. Currently at PCC Cascade Campus Rice teaches parenting and grandparenting classes.

Rice has also taught at PSU where he received his B.S. in Business Administration, M.S.T. in General Social Science and was assistant director for the PSU Educational Center. He is working on a doctorate of Education from OSU.

Parenting education is the surest way to prevent child abuse, family breakdown and community decay, believes Rice who came to Portland from Kansas City, Kansas 40 years ago. In his work, he helps families achieve the parenting skills they need

in order to succeed. In his column the educator will also work toward this end. He will address topics such as discipline that doesn't hurt, being a better grandparent, dads are important too grandparents raising grand children, fosters parenting and adoption parenting.

Rice is the winner of the OSU Extension Service's VIP award for "Parenting Educator" of 1992.

If you have a particular family problem or issue you would like "Professor" Rice to address, please write to The Portland Observer.

P.O. Box 3137, Portland, OR 97208

Candidates Needed For Grant 21st Century Schools Council

anyone interested in serving on Grant's 21st Century Schools Council (also known as Site Council) or in nominating someone else who is known to be willing to serve on the Council needs to know these things:

• Nature of the Council

Established by law (HB 3565), the councils are intended to "improve the instructional program" and to "improve the professional growth and career opportunities of the school's staff."

The Grant Council will have fifteen members, ten of which (eight teachers, one classified employee, and the Principal) are already selected. These members, authorized to determine what additional members here will be, have done so.

The law specifies that unless and until funds are provided to compensate for meetings at other sites, meetings will be held during the school day; it encourages employers to release employees for attendance at council meetings.

• Completion of the Council

The remaining five members will

include one student and four "parents or community members." The current ten members have authorized the Local School Advisory Committee (LSAC) to devise and implement a method for selection of the four parents or community members. This notice is a part of that process. Two members will be elected for a one-year term, two for a two-year term.

• Timing of Meetings

The current ten members plan to hold Council meeting on Tuesdays between 3:15 and 4:30 PM; this time was chosen in the hope of maximizing the number of parent/community candidates who can anticipate being able to attend.

• Nomination Process

The September 16 LSAC meeting (postponed from September 9 because of the power failure) agreed that all candidates must have identified by the October 14 LSAC meeting (7PM in the Grant library). Identification is by self-nomination or by another who is certain of the nominee's willingness to serve. Notify Bob Williams (232-3451), Bob Reynolds (232-

2621), Linda May (288-3009), Carol Humpage (284-8260), or Judy Nielsen (234-5903), members of the Election Committee pro tem.

• Promotion of candidacy and Election

At the October 14 meeting of LSAC, candidates or their nominators will be given time to say what they wish (within reasonable limits) about their candidacy. We hope to be able to hold that election following these presentations, but the members present at the September 9 meeting wanted so strongly to give as many potential candidates as possible a chance to identify themselves and to be chosen that we agreed to decide at that meeting whether to vote immediately, to arrange for a mail ballot, or to postpone the election until the November meeting. There are good reasons for wanting to get the Council up and running as soon as possible, so there is advantage to an October 14 vote. If you have any interest in the outcome of this election at all, please come to the LSAC meeting on October 14.

Subaru Of America Foundation Distributes Funds To 83 Programs

Subaru of America Foundation (SOAF) announced that it has donated \$60,650 to local and national social, health, cultural and educational programs during the second trimester of 1993. SOAF is pleased to announce that the Portland chapter of Mother's Against Drunk Driving (MADD) is among the 83 organizations chosen for funding this trimester. Subaru of America's Western Region, which is located in Portland, has a strong commitment to the community and this is the second consecutive year it has sponsored the Portland chapter of MADD.

"Supporting the communities in which Subaru employees live and work, as well as those people victimized by the flooding of the Mississippi, is a high priority to Subaru of America," said George Muller, President of Subaru of America, Inc. (SOA). "These funds support a lot of worthwhile program that really make a difference in our communities."

A major part of the funding went to 25 organizations mostly servicing

communities in the New Jersey and Philadelphia areas, for a total of \$53,208 including \$1,565 in funds to match SOA employees contributions to the American Red Cross-Disaster Relief Fund and Church World Service. The remaining \$7,442 went to 58 organizations under the Matching Gift program, which matches dollar-for-dollar individual employee's contributions to non-profit organizations up to \$1,000 per employee per year.

SOAF targets five types of national and local programs for receipt of funds: social/human services, education, arts and culture, health and hospitals, and civic.

SOAF's second trimester funds went to program ranging from literacy programs for children and adults to environmental education and awareness presentations for elementary children, as well as breast health education and free mammograms for economically disadvantaged women, and support of a Mother's Against Drunk Driving (MADD) program to deter drunk driving during this year's

holiday season. The national programs supported include prevention of child abuse, prevention of juvenile crime and a student exchange program to Japan to provide an educational opportunity for a Subaru employee's child.

SOAF is a non-profit organization affiliated with Subaru of America, Inc., the exclusive United States marketer of Subaru vehicles parts and accessories manufactured by Fuji Heavy Industries, Ltd., of Japan. Headquartered in Cherry Hill, N.J., SOA markets its Legacy, Justy, SVX, Loyale and Impreza, and markets replacement parts and accessories through a network of company-owned and independent distributors who serve nearly 710 dealers nationwide.

SOAF was formed in 1983 in response to the growing social, cultural and educational needs of the communities in which Subaru employees live and work. SOAF HAS A Six-member employee contribution committee that reviews grant requests and oversees distribution of funds.

Coca-Cola Classic 1993 Share The Dream Winners



Mac Davis, senior marketing manager, Coca-Cola USA (left) and James Latimore, (far right) director, African American Consumer Markets, Coca-Cola USA congratulate the 1993 "Share The Dream" winners during a reception held in their honor at the Ritz Carlton in Atlanta. The winners will share \$150,000 in scholarship funds to attend a black college or university. The winners are: (back row 1-r) Akil Kamau Mosi Woolfolk, Atlanta, GA; Rahshaan Hawkins, Chicago, Ill.; Jay Tucker, Compton, CA; Mark Harmon, Washington, D.C.; front row Kimya T. Ginyard, New Carrollton, Maryland; Karima Wade, Boston, MA; Tamika Finch, Shaker Heights, OH; Thaisa Esters, Gardena, CA; Nicole Scott, Detroit, MI; Clashante Williams, San Jose, CA, and Roric Hawkins, Tusculumbia, AL.

JEANNIES DRY CLEANING & LAUNDRY SERVICE

Old Fashioned Dry Cleaning

FREE PICK-UP & DELIVERY
"Your Business Counts"

25% Off
All Dry Cleaning

DRAPES • WEDDING DRESSES • FINE CLOTHING

(503) 287-0008

5403 NE 42nd

With coupon • Not valid with other offers • Please present coupon with order • Expires 9-30-93

"Communities Caring For Kids" Theme For Children's Week In October

A day at the ballet, carnivals, family fairs, coloring contest and trips to Oregon's favorite tourist spots. These are just some of 50 plus events that will be offered to children of all ages during the second annual Oregon's Children's Week.

Governor Barbara Roberts will proclaim October 3-9, 1993 as Children's Week... in recognition of the wonderful gifts children give us now and the potential they bring to our future."

The theme this year is "Communities Caring For Kids." A fitting theme, as more people begin understanding the responsibility the community plays in supporting children. Managers of the Department of Hu-

man Resources are working with educators, community organizations and other social service groups to put on celebrations for children and youth in dozens of communities.

Commitment to children during Children's Week will come in many ways:

• KPDX-TV, teams up with Bart Simpson to sponsor Children's Week. Watch for public service announcements on FOX 49 and special appearances by Bart "Cool Dude" Simpson at some Children's Week events.

• Economic Development Department in conjunction with Oregon Lottery and K/P Graphics in Salem will distribute a coloring map showing children's attractions. Many of

the attractions will offer special discounts the week of October 3-9.

• Trailblazer alumni will hold a basketball camp for Children's Services Division kids.

• James Canfield, artistic director of the Oregon Ballet Theatre sponsors a special performance for foster children.

Please call the local Children's Services Division manager or Volunteer Program supervisor to find out more about the fun and exciting events for children and youth being held in your area.

Coordinated by Oregon Department Of Human Resources Sponsored in part by Employment Department.