

BLACK HISTORY

The Portland Observer

The Uplumbed Depths Of Black History

BY PROFESSOR MCKINLEY BURT

When I hear people deplore "a lack of African American role models", I am always rather shocked. Certainly, I know where they are 'coming from'; they refer to a temporary shortage of live--flesh and blood--walking-around role models of heroic proportions, the raw material of epics and sagas, pioneers in arts and letters, science and philosophy, the humanities and just plain humanism. But, they are not "untouchables".

And they also forget, I think (under the duress of these chaotic and stressful times), about the richness of our past, both ancient and as recent as yesterday. We, too, have ebony Iliads and Odysseys--in fact, not only did the black races grace the pages of these 'Greek' narratives, but did in fact predate these adventurous accounts with activities of their own see the writings of accepted European authorities such as C.T. Seltman (Athens: Its History And Coinage Before The Persian Invasion) and those of black professor Dr. Edward L. Jones at the University of Washington (Black Zeus, 1972 pb. and Profiles In African Heritage, 1972). African peoples were the role models for later

cultures. Here, we find that we do not have to rely entirely upon more recent and popular books like Black Athena, I & II by Martin Bernal to collect and reiterate the pronouncements of ancient Greek historians like Diodorus Siculus and Herodotus or Aeschylus in his accounts of the black ancestors of Hercules and Perseus. It is no wonder that the frightened detractors of the school districts' Base Line Essays that underwrite the Multicultural effort shake in their boots, twist the truth or tell celibesrtatge lies lest the public (white or black) find out the reality of the black contribution to civilization (And we taxpayers pay the rascals). Some of the very same alleged educators have been trapped within their own cultural ignorance by not realizing that Greek plays and several Italian Operas (as well as Shakespeare) frequently referred to the African eponymous heroes who strode the world's stage thousands of years ago. The Greeks knew very well the facts of the matter, that the Egyptians, and Ethiopians colonized the known ancient world thousands of years B.C.; Babylon (Chaldea), Syria, Arabia and Argos, "the oldest city in Greece." See Diodorus, Book I, 28.

However, where more recent and immediate documentation and presentation of role models from recent black history is desired there is no richer source to be mined than that to be found in the account of African American contributions to medical science (and even here we find today's activities presaged by a thousands of years old technology in Egypt and Thiopia; see "The Physicians of Pharaonic Egypt" by Paul Chalioungui, 1983, AL-AHRAM Center For Scientific Translations, Cairo Egypt (or The National Library of Medicine, U.S. Public Health Service, Bethesda, Md.).

An excellent point of entry for exploring and presenting the accomplishment so of these great Americans in their chosen fields is the very reasonably-priced book, "Black Pioneers of Science And Invention" by Louis Haber, 1992 pb. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. My copy, I believe, was about \$10, Looking Glass Bookstore, 318 S.W. Taylor, 227-4760.

Continued next week.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH ON OPB-TV



A QUESTION OF COLOR
African-American self-image and the European ideal.

Tuesday at 10pm



AGAINST THE ODDS: ARTISTS OF THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE
A fantastic mosaic of art and history.

Wednesday at 10pm

— Plus —

RAY CHARLES: THE GENIUS OF SOUL

Monday, February 21 at 10pm

JELLY ROLL MORTON: MORTON ON BROADWAY

Saturday, February 26 at 10pm



Celebrating Black History

The Future Is In Our Classrooms Today



Portland Public Schools / February 1994

February Is Black History Month

Young Professionals Present Free Talk On "Effective Time Management"

A free seminar on "Effective Time Management" will be presented by the Urban League Young Professionals on Wednesday, February 16, 1994 from 6-7:30pm. Cliff Taylor of the Intel Corporation will present the talk at the Oregon State Office Building, 800 NE Oregon St., Room 120C in Portland.

Cliff is a corporate account manager with Intel's Personal Computing Enhancement Division in Beaverton. He holds an MBA degree from Cornell University. Cliff's experiences with Intel and as a trainer with Philip Morris, Inc. have given him a unique platform from which to explore time management.

"Effective time management begins with looking at the big picture of a vision for a lifetime and narrows down to weekly goal planning," says Cliff. He says his talk will show how to identify roles, set priorities, and ultimately enhance business relationships and results.

The Urban League Young Professionals are a volunteer auxiliary of the Urban League of Portland, a non-profit community service organization.

Self-Enhancement Inc. Wins Grant

Self-Enhancement, Inc. (SEI) was awarded \$500 by Oregon's Equity Foundation. SEI helps African-American adolescents to enhance their self-esteem.

In 1993 Equity Foundation donated \$57,758 to 45 community organizations throughout Oregon.

The grants were awarded to groups that "celebrate the equality and dignity of all people," according to Equity spokesperson, Jim Vegher.



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