

## Black History Makers of Tomorrow



Pictured with the national "McDonald's Black History Makers of Tomorrow" honorees, at the McDonald's Leadership Conference, are celebrity spokesperson Sinbad and McDonald's Senior Corporate Attorney Ed Honesty. Students from left to right: Andrew McCaskill, Anthony Young-Garner, Javona Braxton, Rozalynn Banks, Sinbad, Ed Honesty, Nekia Hackworth, William Hill, Rudyard Lance Moore Hilliard, Chanelle Matthews, Kelli Patterson.

## Helping Children Cope With Disaster

### Children And Their Response To Disaster

Disasters strike quickly and without warning. These events can be traumatic for adults, but they are frightening for children if they don't know what to do.

During a disaster, children may have to leave their homes and daily routines. They may become anxious, confused or frightened. As an adult, you'll need to cope with the disaster and also give your children crucial guidance about how to respond.

Children depend on daily routines: they wake up, eat breakfast, go to school, play with friends. When emergencies or disasters interrupt this routine, children become anxious.

In a disaster, they'll look to you and other adults for help. How you react to an emergency gives them clues about how to act. If you react with alarm, a child may become more scared. They see our fear as proof that the danger is real.

Children's fears also may stem from their imagination, and you should take these feelings seriously. A child who feels afraid is afraid. Your words and actions can provide reassurance.

Feelings of fear are healthy and

natural for adults and children. But as an adult, you need to keep control of the situation. When you're sure that danger has passed, concentrate on your child's emotional needs by asking the child to explain what's troubling him or her. Your response during this "problem time" may have a lasting impact.

Be aware that after a disaster, children are most afraid that the event will happen again; someone will be injured or killed; they will be separated from the family and, they will be left alone.

#### AFTER THE DISASTER: "TIME FOR RECOVERY"

Immediately after the disaster, try to reduce your child's read and anxiety. Keep the family together. If you need to look for housing and assistance, you may want to leave your children with relative or friends. Instead, keep the family together as much as possible. Children get anxious, and they'll worry that parents won't return.

Calmly and firmly explain the situation. As best you can, tell children what you know about the disaster. Explain what will happen next.

Crouch down and talk to children at their eye level.

Encourage children to talk. Let children talk about the disaster as much as they want. Encourage them to describe what they're feeling, listen to what they say. If possible, include the entire family in the discussion.

Include children in recovery activities. Give children chores that are their responsibility. This will help children feel they are part of the recovery. Having a task will help them understand that everything will be all right.

You can help children cope by understand what causes their anxieties and fears. Reassure them with firmness and love. Your children will realize that life will eventually return to normal. If a child does not respond to the above suggestions, seek help from a mental health specialist.

For more information and contacts regarding this subject, please call the Bureau of Portland Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services, Pat Swan, Community Relations Assistant, 823-3754.

## Two Roads: The Black Woman's Powerful Influence

**H**ISTORY IS VERY INCOMPLETE, AND THE FABRIC OF OUR LIVE WOULD BE NOTHING WITHOUT THE BLACK WOMAN...

She is child bearer, mother, housekeeper, breadwinner, and counselor. Every since her strong graceful, proud, Nubian body was espied along the Gambian Coast of West Africa, this Black Princess has become a very vital part of our American Odyssey.

From the slave blocks to the corporation meeting rooms, her very presence has sustained our entire way of life.

Not without muted complaints, and a spiritual fire that burned deep within, did she bear the humiliation of the Slave-Master's advances. Yet our race possessed the inborn ability to persevere and survive!

This Black Beauty was housemaid, field hand, Master's toy, and still her Black man's lover... deep, deep, within her was always a determination, to be true to her man. All day long she bowed down, swept floors, cooked meals, washed clothes, picked cotton, and plowed fields. At evening time she marshalled her indomitable strength, and provided meals and consolation for her children and her man. There were presented to her, many occasions, when she had to plea to her Master for the very life of one of her own.

She begged at times to try and allay some severe punishment of a child. Then when that child was finally sold away from her bosom, she bore the emotional wounds to her grave.

Yes, she was there first, and foremost, in the fight for our freedom. Harriet Tubman and Mary McCleod Bethune, among many others, car-

ried the banners that lead to many advancements in our race.

Remember when Mrs. Rosa Parks, tired, and frustrated after a hard day's work, just said "No!" It opened up and triggered in a new era of involvement for young and old women in the Civil Rights Movement.

During the period when Black men were unable to obtain work, the Black woman was right there to take up the slack. Then when the opportunity came so, the Black man could get a proper education, the Black woman was right there, working, two jobs some-

times, to support her man... beside all of this, she received a proper education of her own, and entered the lucrative market of high finance, after her man got his education, and said "bye baby I need my space."

She overcame her emotional turmoil, rose to place of prominence in a man-dominated world, and is still flourishing there.

This same Black woman does not forget to look back, remember her roots, and now hold hands with and encourage her passive Black sisters.

She holds meetings and conferences, telling other struggling Black women to take control of their own lives and try to move on.

Our Black teenage girls are given daily examples of successful Black women living in their time, and right here among them. These same girls are personally encouraged, to red, and show how to be their very best by an ethical, moral, and rewarding system.

When at last, the Black woman was incorporated into the K-6 system and level of our education, a dramatic turn of events took place. First Black kids received a continuous connec-

tion with the Black Mother's nurturing. Then a true sense of pride came over them that it was alright to be different. Their academics took a quantum leap, and embryonic professionals were born in the Black classrooms.

There is a special motivation to grow and be somebody when young Black children are exposed to Black women functioning in all aspects of successful living.

No working Black woman, young or old, should feel helpless or hopeless. The tiniest contribution that you can give, supports the up building of our society and culture.

Your contribution is making sure the very cloth of our future is strong. You give faint hope to those women who are sidetracked in life by husband and boyfriend abuse.

You, Black lady, is the beacon light that guides those whose way is slowed down by the rough seas of ignorance.

Yours, may be the "only voice" that can penetrate the chaotic, drug-befogged brain of the seemingly out-casts of life.

Surely, your hands can be a vital lifeline to our wanabees to gangland. Grip those hands, hold tightly to them, love them, please, let no more slip away...

As you drive the streets to and from work, as you ride our public transportation, know your place here among us.

Your are watched, emulated, talked after, talked about, and many desire to be just life you someday... some boy, some girl, admires you, and will listen to you.

The power and influence of the Black woman is "real power." Walk proudly with it. Talk seriously and directly with it.

Let it shine from every molecule of your proud Nubian being. You are on the world stage of life. Use that stage well...



By Art Keller

## Black Business Fronts: Not Just A Blow To The Knees

JAMES L. POSEY

**T**HIS IS THE SECOND IN A SERIES OF ARTICLES TO INFORM THE COMMUNITY ABOUT THE NATURE OF FRONTS.

In the first article on Black fronts, I tried to define a front. Bottomline, I said these are businesses with Black faces which, in varying degrees, are selling out in order to obtain short-term financial gain. But this says little about how fronts insidiously sabotage the vitality, aspirations and capacity of real Black businesses to compete in the market place. Like a well placed blow to the knees, many legitimate Black business have been crippled. However, Black businesses aren't just able to get up, win Olympic medals and go skating off to Disneyland. African-American business interests are being seriously hurt, and hurt in a number of ways.

Let me begin to count the ways. Fronting activity in general, and Black fronting in particular, is one of the ways Blacks are prevented from gaining authentic work experience, skills and abilities. Fronting denies legitimate Black business people access and opportunity to real-world, business environments which are essential preparation to compete in open markets. Genuine Black businesses are effectively handicapped, ever dependent on others; when it comes to bidding work, the average, not-so-well-meaning white prime contractor will say, "They ain't qualified."

What this situation does is put Black businesses in a perpetual down spin. They can't get regular work. And any fool knows that consistent, meaningful work is what really determines the level and quality of experience, and ultimately, the quality of the product or service. It's no secret

that in order to hire a competent, efficient workforce and to acquire and maintain dependable equipment, a serious black business must have consistent, profitable work.

Accordingly, Black fronts siphon off much of this work. Some authorities agree that fronting is one of the most potent forms of racial discrimination. It's potent because of its deceptive nature - giving the appearance of progress for some Blacks, while most are denied real growth opportunities.

The legitimate Black business is struggling to keep its work crews employed, stay out in front of the IRS and insurance companies, pay the mandated high wage rate for less than proficient workers, and patch up less than acceptable equipment. And, on and on and on, just dealing with the everyday headaches of running a small business. Consequently, Black businesses are drowning in a competitive market, unable to keep their heads above the economic water.

And yet, perhaps the greatest impact is how fronting sells future generations short. Maybe only a few can make this connection, but while young whites are surrounded by prosperous role models in every field, Black youth have all but lost their role models in the construction trade and other labor-intensive fields where we were once commonplace. This was when Black men were real producers and bread winners for their families. In spite of its blue-collar image, it was a vocation black youth had to respect, and many looked up to.

But today, Black fronts, the new role models, have almost become the rule rather than the exception. The front is quite common, grinning up in the white man's face, like a Cheshire cat or even a "tom" cat, begging for

contracts and ending up passing the benefits on to whites who already have steady work. And the way the white and Black gatekeepers patronize this sort of behavior, it is calculated to reward the wrongdoers and punish those who are trying to do it right. In fact, any Black business that has been around for a while can clearly chart the history of fronting in Oregon. And over the years, many have watched how numerous Blacks have been beguiled time and time again, like lambs to slaughter, into fronting activities.

Well, one does not have to wonder too long about what perpetuates this phenomenon. It can be summed up in two words: desperation and deprivation. These twin evils foreshadow this entire issue. Blacks generally realize that millions of dollars have flowed like water through this community and continue to cascade on whites, like showers from Multnomah Falls. But Blacks have been consistently dying of economic thirst in this midst of plenty. Unfortunately, some Blacks are willing to do anything to drink from this economic well-spring, including selling out their own brothers and sisters. It is, without a doubt, a carry over from the legacy of slavery in this country.

But whatever the cause, somehow serious-minded Blacks must take action to arrest these Black fronts who have been striking us on the knees for some time. But for now, their action, along with the cumulative hostile environment for Black business, is striking economic death blows to the head and heart of African-American business enterprise.

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

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