

perspectives

# "Ethnic Hawaiians Seek Own Nation"

That headline was assigned to a recent Associated Press dispatch to the nation's media (June 3, 1994). Already, a number of Observer readers have called to question the truth of this statement; a flag-waving protestor for "native rights is show picketing a public park -- and he looks as close to being of African descent as, say, President Clinton.

What these startled readers remember is my nationally distributed article of February 14, 1990: "Hawaii: America's Best Kept Secret." The article began, "When the U.S. Marines surrounded the beautiful palace of the last African Queen of Hawaii, Queen Minnie Liliuokalani, on Jan. 17, 1893, the end was at hand for the 200-year rule of Black Dynasties over the fabulous Pacific Island.

The Associated Press report describes a "fractious sovereignty movement" by a small but growing group, intent on gaining some form of independence for 140,000 ethnic and "part-Hawaiians" who make up 12.7 percent of the population. Following a trend that began with the nation's white media after publication of the 1990 Observer article, the press now mentions, however briefly, "...the overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy by a group led by American businessmen and supported by U.S. Troops. The Portland Observer gave a 'realistic' account.

"I Liliuokalani, by the Grace of God and under the Constitution of the

Hawaiian Kingdom, Queen, do hereby solemnly protest against any and all acts done against myself and the Constitutional Government of the Hawaiian Kingdom by certain persons claiming to have established a Provisional Government of and for the Kingdom.



By Professor Mckinley Burt

Now to avoid any collision of armed forces, and perhaps loss of life, I do under this protest and impelled by said force yield my authority until such time as the Government of the United States shall upon the fact being presented to it undo the action of its representative and reinstate me in the authority which I claim as the Constitu-

tional Sovereign of the Hawaiian Islands..."

The United States, of course, chose not to "undo the action of the representative," and by 1900, the multi-trillion dollar empire of Hawaii, had become an American Territory, and a state by 1959. It is amazing how our government can send in the marines to occupy an island when our "national security interests" are involved -- I was thinking of Haiti. In this respect, the next paragraphs of our original article proceeded to give a more specific frame of reference. This was accompanied by photos which left no doubt we were talking about people who could be seen everyday on Williams Ave. or MLK Jr. Blvd. Not like the Associated Press photos.

"These events culminated a cen-

tury of effort on the part of Americans to outflank the Europeans in the great 'Manifest Destiny' predicated race to gobble up an annex the remaining lands on the earth still occupied by peoples of color. U.S. corporations and missionaries had gained a foothold in every aspect of Hawaiian infrastructure and culture, and had now mounted a final assault upon the last Black ruler, Queen Liliuokalani was imprisoned, but noble woman that she was, composed several beautiful songs. A verse from one spoke forgivingly, 'Behold man not with malevolence, but with forgiveness.' A Birmingham Jail, if you will!"

The aims of the Hawaiian "freedom fighters" are described by the media as ranging from autonomy -- a nation within a nation concept similar to what some native Americans

have -- to reparations, improved homestead rights, etc. Some are trying to provoke United Nations intervention. All in all, this should be a very interesting exercise; the United States has domination over a number of South Pacific territories whose original owners are African. We close with another statement of mine that has had nationwide distribution.

It was in the 1970s when a white student in my Black history class reported that his father, who operated one of Portland's largest Cruise Line Clubs, had told him about his lessons. "Your talking rubbish - who in the hell do you think I can persuade to spend \$5,000 on a South Seas cruise to see a bunch of niggers (sic)? They can do that right down on Union Avenue!" That is when I coined the term, "Travel Agency Anthropology."

## Helping Children Heal

Several hundred children in the Northwest, including many African-American children, are currently awaiting adoptive families. These children have experienced extreme neglect or abuse, and now need the loving guidance of new parents to help them heal and grow. Some of the children are school aged, some are babies and toddlers, and some come in sibling groups or pairs. One such "waiting child" is 11-year-old Cynthia, a sweet, shy girl who says she wants an African-American family to adopt her.



Cynthia

As a young child, Cynthia was severely abused, and later abandoned by her birth family. She has had reconstructive surgery on her hands to remedy the effects of burning, and may need future surgeries in her adolescent years. Fortunately, she has good use of her hands, and is learning how to deal with the teasing she some-

times encounters from other children. Counseling has helped Cynthia learn to talk about her feelings, to handle frustration better, and to increase her social skills. This fifth grader is described by teachers as

cooperative and well-behaved. Cynthia receives academic support through special education classes. When not in school, Cynthia spends her free time at the Boys and Girls Club, where she participates in many activities. She looks forward to becoming part of a family who will share her interests and understand the deep hurts she has experienced. A patient loving parent is needed to help Cynthia complete the tasks of growing up.

In addition to adoptive families, temporary foster families are also needed for children of all ages. Oregon agencies waive or reduce fees for families adopting non-infant children, and on-going financial assistance may be available. Foster families receive a monthly stipend. To learn more, call the Special Needs Adoption Coalition at 222-9661.

## Club Donates Tapes To Library

A check for the taping of books by Pulitzer Prize Winner, Black Author Toni Morrison, was presented by the Literary Research Club to the Albina Branch Library. Tapes will be made of "Tar Baby", "Jazz" and "Song of Solomon" the presentation represents the Club's ongoing community service project to place books by Black Authors in the community. The Albina Branch Library located at 15th Avenue and Fremont Streets represents a central location for community use. Ms. Carol Uhte, Senior Library Assistant of the Branch accepted the gift. "Flossie the Fox" by Black Author, Patricia McKissick, was the book presentation. The Club also presented several children's books by other multi-cultural authors.



L to R Arië Thomas, member; Carol Uhte, Senior Library Assistant, Albina Branch Library and Mattye Iles, President, Literary Research Club

The Literary Research Club, organized in 1927, is a member of the Oregon Association of Colored Women's Clubs. They sponsor an annual "Koffee Klatch" for this project which is their priority; however, they

do engage in many other community services. Monthly literary programs include book reviews, current events and historical site visits. The club is also developing its history.

Mrs. Mattye Iles is President. Mem-

bers are, Mrs. Irene Cranford Mrs. Alene Grice, Mrs. Esdella Jackson, Mrs. Harrie Belle Paris, Mrs. Bernadette Plummer, Mrs. Arie Thomas, Mrs. Cyvira Woods, Ms. Berna Deanne Plummer and Mrs. Betty Thompson.

## COME CELEBRATE

BLACKS IN GOVERNMENT TRI - COUNTY CHAPTER ANNUAL BANQUET

DATE: Thursday - June 16, 1994  
TIME: 7 - 9 pm  
PLACE: KING NEIGHBORHOOD FACILITY  
4815 N.E. 7TH

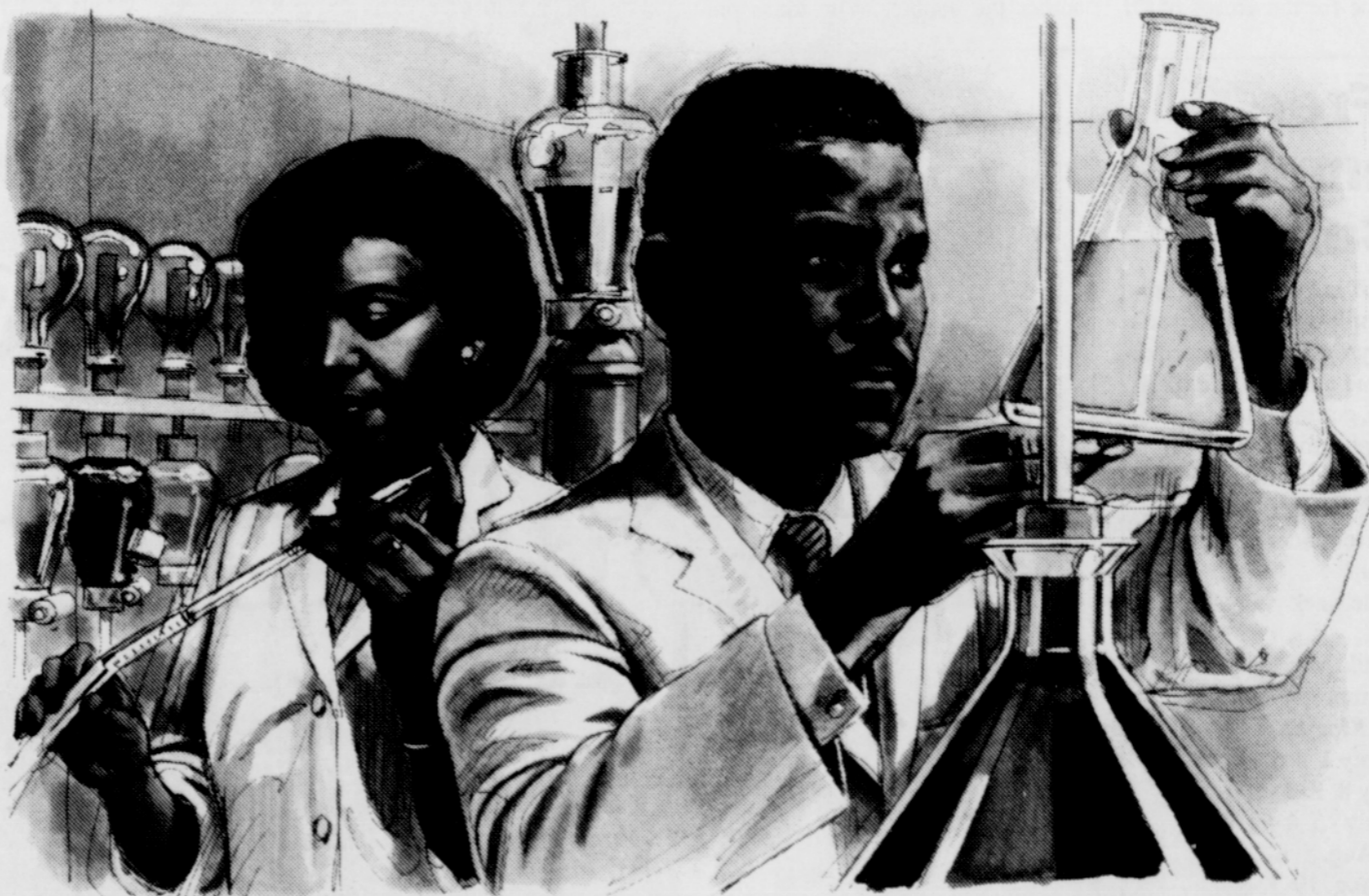
Soul Food Dinner \* Entertainment \* Motivational Speakers  
Award will be presented to Representative Avel Gordley

Y'all Come!

Speakers: Bishop Wells  
Imam Malik Shabazz  
Kathleen Sadat  
Dr. Rodney Paige

Cost: \$7.00 per person

## Supporting Our Scholars of Tomorrow... Today.



If we are to have scientists, engineers and other professionals for tomorrow, we must start today.

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But many students simply can't afford to attend college. Government cutbacks in education support, fewer student loans and rising costs have combined to limit access to a college education for many minority students who need financial assistance.

That's why Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corporation continues to support

educational opportunities with contributions to the United Negro College Fund and directly supports institutions of higher learning that serve minority students. Our commitment to UNCF is only part of Brown & Williamson's, and our employees' grants to education.

We know these future leaders, now studying in colleges and universities across the country, need our help. Given the opportunity, these young people will excel and secure a brighter future for themselves and for all of us.



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Time ----- 1:00 - 4:00  
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