

# I Thought I Had The Keys To The Universe IV *Crime Stoppers*

BY PROF. MCKINLEY BURT

Well, you couldn't blame me, could you? All that "ground-breaking" for a black accounting 40 years ago could well seem pretty heady stuff. But today's young professional (or a career counselor) needs to consider the time and place, as well as the personalities and attitudes involved in any set of circumstances - on any stage.

"The play is the thing" it has been said, which means that one acting in an advisory capacity must pay strict attention to the action (student) at hand. In the particular case it has been made obvious the past several weeks that I brought an outgoing personality to the accounting game, a "contact sport." And it is to be kept in mind that when it is said that "experience is to be desired," it need not necessarily be in the specific career under examination. Beneficial experiences can be those that find the subject deeply immersed in a matrix of people, systems, issues and processes - clubs, politics, fraternal organizations, etc.

In the particular case, Los Angeles at the particular time and place

(1954-1964) represented for African Americans a very unique, albeit opportunistic, niche in that ever-lengthening time line of the race. The predominately black central city was a new and exhilarating phenomenon for this segment of American society - an eclectic, serendipitous Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA) that was in itself larger than most U.S. cities.

How a "brother or sister" was to operate within its confines was not conduct that could be guided by a formula as simple as the one I gave last week for balancing books or energy equations. How such a promising niche in the affairs of mankind failed to achieve economic permanency will be the subject of discussion, controversy and learned sociological treatises for decades to come.

My main goal was to gain a business experience not had in Portland, Ore., at the time; on-the-job accounting and auditing. I would not count my setting up the "Union Avenue Finance Co." from scratch for two car dealers because I contracted that operation and hired the personnel. Periodically I would

switch from my own office to a job opportunity that looked "educational," always keeping my public accounting clients to pursue evenings. And, then between "gigs," meeting some of the most fascinating and talented African Americans to be found in the world.

I'm not sure that I ever slept during those 10 years, but I did take the opportunity to giving some time to I.B.M. school, City College, adult evening school, getting married and fathering a daughter; Blacks were "looking over an economic Jordan!" and in a hurry to get there. Soon I had worked as an inventory accountant at the Downey Plant of "North American Aviation," the same at Standard Tool and Die Co., and at "Globe Ware Enamelled Pots and Pans." Here, I would come down on Saturdays to fuss around the plant, changing dies in the punch presses, or even taking the "flatbed" down to the docks at San Diego to pick up a load of "cold-rolled-steel" out of which the kitchen-ware was stamped.

This type of "extra-curricular" activity I performed at a number of interesting operations, having gained

entry to the plant via the accounting route (It doesn't have to be a stifling mousey profession - it can serve many purposes if you use your imagination). Later, I learned the "family game," - most "small business" (under a 100 employees) was operated by a "patriarch" who expanded by setting up children and relatives in similar enterprises and pooling their credit, both black and white. I only have room to list a few I worked for.

The "Spikes Brothers and Mecca Mortgage Co.," three elderly black siblings (75, 80 and 90 at the time) who financed most of the mortgages for the "nouveau rich" African Americans moving into areas like "Baldwin Hills," with the swimming pools and guest houses. I wrote about the oldest brother in my "Black Inventors of America." He invented a railroad semaphore, trolley for the San Francisco cable cars, fail-safe brake for trucks, etc. Blind at 90 he was still inventing with aid of a "drafting table for the blind," he invented.

(Continued next week.)

## Crime Stoppers Homicide

Portland Police Bureau Homicide Detectives, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, are asking for your help in solving a murder.

A case previously profiled on Crime Stoppers, detailed an incident which occurred on Tuesday May 10, 1994, at approximately 2:00 in the morning. Lashone Lawson, a 26-year-old black male, who lived in a second story apartment in the 9400 block of N. Tyler Ave., was shot and killed by four subjects during an apparent residential robbery.

According to investigators, the suspects, who are described as four black males, broke into Lawson's apartment yelling that they were "police" and demanding to know, "Where's the money." When Lawson reportedly told the suspects that there wasn't any money, they shot him and assaulted his wife.

Investigators believe that two of the four suspects are in custody on unrelated charges, although they have not been charged in this case. With two possible suspects in custody, investigators



Lashone Lawson, Homicide victim

are hopeful that anyone with information on this case will come forward.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information, reported to Crime Stoppers, that leads to an arrest in this case, or any unsolved felony crime, and you can remain anonymous. Call Crime Stoppers at (503) 823-HELP.

## History Center Opens Doors On Vets Day Veterans Admitted Free

For the first time in its history, the Oregon History Center will remain open from 10:00am to 5:00pm on Veterans Day, Friday, November 11, 1994. As a special salute, Veterans of all wars will be admitted free of charge. Guest visitors will be able to tour the Oregon Historical Society's major exhibit, Home Front: Oregon in World War II, before it closes on December 31, 1994.

Created to commemorate the 50th anniversary of D-Day, Home Front gives visitors an opportunity to experience the war years

through the eyes and ears of Oregonians who lived 50 years ago on the home front. The exhibit uses film, radio and print to tell a story ranging from farm workers and servicemen and women to anxious families in their daily lives.

Admission is free to veterans. Regular admissions are adults \$4.50, students \$1.50, families \$10.00. Children 5 and under are free. The OHS Library will be closed on Veterans Day. The Oregon History Center is located at 1200 SW Park Avenue, Portland.

## New Research And Training Program Developed

Portland State University and the Oregon Department of Human Resources' Children's Services Division (CSD) have entered into a research and training partnership aimed at improving the delivery of welfare services to abused and neglected children and their families throughout Oregon.

"This is an effort toward re-professionalizing the services delivered to families and children," said James Ward, dean of PSU's Graduate School of Social Work. "This partnership represents an effective way of pooling resources. It draws from the fields of child welfare, education, training and research, plus incorporate federal support."

Funding for the program will total \$3 million in its first year and is split between new federal money and existing monies and staffing from CSD and PSU, said Ben de Haan, the partnership's interim executive director. The partnership recently received

\$1.3 million in federal foster care money from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to launch the program.

The partnership's organizers say the program will go far beyond improving services to children and families. It will also improve opportunities for current state child welfare workers who wish to gain additional professional training, direct new social work graduates into public service, and enhance existing curriculum at PSU's Graduate School of Social Work by adding real-life cases and workers in the field said de Haan.

"This represents a partnership that takes advantage of each group's strengths," said Kevin Concannon, director of the Oregon Department of Human Resources. "It should provide better professional services for children and families, and will provide the university with ongoing grounding on what's going on in the real world."

## Task Force On Portland Neighborhood Involvement Announced

The Portland City Council affirmed members of the Task Force on Portland Neighborhood Involvement appointed by Commissioner Charlie Hales. A resolution calling for an assessment of the Portland neighborhood network/ citizen participation system passed the City Council last Wednesday.

"We are really pleased with the depth and breadth of experience and expertise the members bring to this citizen task force. We worked in cooperation with the neighborhood district coalition boards to determine mutually agreed upon participants. This task force will take on the formidable effort of finding ways to make a good system of neighborhood and citizen involvement work better," said Commissioner Charlie Hales.

Each neighborhood district coalition board was asked to submit the names of three people with board experience. These names were then considered by the Commissioner for appointment. The Task Force will select its Chair and participate in the selection of a consultant to facilitate the process.

"The next important step is involving citizens throughout the city to stay informed and involved in this process. We plan to provide a lot of opportunities in this process. We plan to provide a lot of opportunities to engage everyone interested in the assessment to express their ideas and opinions," said Diané Linn, Director of the Office of Neighborhood Associations.

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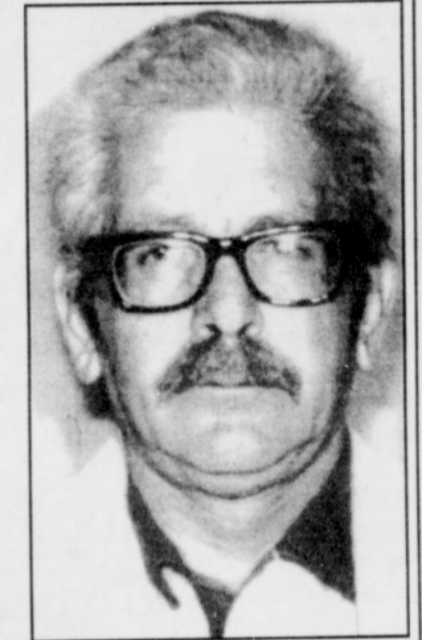
## Crime Stoppers

The Beaverton Police Department, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, is asking for your help in identifying and apprehending a wanted subject.

A warrant is on file in Washington County, charging a subject using the names James Peter Pardue, and John Russel Pardue, with Failure to Appear. This individual is also a suspect in several burglaries, in which businesses had checks stolen, and later cashed, using identification to either John or James Pardue.

Investigators say the subject has been known to simulate a heart attack to avoid arrest, and is believed to be using Tri-Met buses for transportation.

Authorities are attempting to determine the subject's true identity. He is described as a white male, 50 to 55-years-old, 5'10", 200 pounds, with graying hair, and a mustache that may have been shaved off. Investigators say the subject usually wears business attire, and should be considered dangerous.



James Peter Pardue

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## Activities Leagues Hosts Gala

The Third Annual Holiday Gala at the Pittock Mansion will be held Thursday, Dec. 8 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Portland Police Association members have attended the event, which celebrates a successful year of activities and recognizing donors and volunteers.

Sponsors are being sought and advance tickets sales are available in the PAL office, 823-0502.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION - Please Call:

- Charles Green - 254-8605
- Marge Moore - 283-9433
- Ethel Holmes - 287-5720

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