

EDITORIAL

Fed up with the status quo, the National Rainbow Coalition has launched an initiative to address the shortage of minority representation in athletics administrative positions at NCAA institutions.

The campaign could include boycotts, pickets and possible lawsuits against colleges that don't hire adequate numbers of black coaches and do a poor job of graduating black athletes.

"It is time for a change," said Reverend Jesse L. Jackson. "Affirmative action must be put into play at NCAA institutions. Blacks must be able to develop and prosper beyond the playing field." He noted that half of the athletes in football and basketball at NCAA Division I institutions are black, but only 6.2 percent of athletics administrators, including coaches, are black (excluding historically black institutions).

The Rainbow Commission for Fairness in Athletics (RCFA) has begun the process of rating NCAA Division I institutions according to a variety of factors, including number of black athletes, graduation rates, number of blacks in coaching and athletics administration positions, number of blacks in the student body, number of black faculty and administrators, and black population in a

NATIONAL RAINBOW COALITION

RCFA Targets NCAA

campus community.

"This 'fairness index' will give our black children and our community a basis on which to judge how individual institutions are treating us," Jackson said. "We need to stay clear of those institutions that are bastions of racism."

The RCFA has also drafted a proposed affirmative action plan for NCAA institutions that addresses the inclusion of minorities and women at all levels of college athletics including, but not limited to, coaches, athletics administrators, sports information and radio/TV announcers. The plan also calls for the inclusion of women and minorities in the purchase of goods and services and in merchandising.

Charles S. Farrell, national director of the RCFA, said meetings

are planned with NCAA institutions to get them to voluntarily adopt affirmative action plans. But realizing that NCAA institutions have been slow in the area of equal opportunity employment, Farrell said he and Reverend Jackson plan to meet with top NCAA officials to press for a mandatory affirmative action policy. "If the NCAA and its membership can dictate academic standards for college sports," he said, "it can dictate affirmative action."

The RCFA will target select institutions that have the worst records on affirmative action and begin direct action against them if they don't strive to improve. That action could be in the form of lawsuits, censure or picketing. The RCFA also plans to meet with blue-chip recruits nationwide to assist them in making choices

on which colleges are in their best interest.

"We simply have to take action to force the hands of some of those schools who are comfortable with exploiting us," Reverend Jackson said. "It is not fair. On the court there is equal opportunity. Off the court there is racism and sexism. These schools receive federal dollars, yet the laws against discrimination are not being enforced. Affirmative Action is not being administered fairly at these schools and these records of discrimination are in the most public aspect of the school's activities. What must they be like in their more private areas?"

The RCFA college initiative is a continuation of efforts originated at the professional level. The RCFA is currently assisting the Detroit Tigers and the Dallas Cowboys with developing affirmative action plans that will encourage all professional teams to adopt.

RCFA Note: NBC, the subject of criticism by the Rainbow Coalition because of the lack of blacks in management positions and programming, is to be commended for continuing to televise the Bayou Classic, the only nationally televised college football game featuring teams from historically black colleges.

perspectives

All Roads Did Lead To Rome

So says a dedicated reader of long standing. "The wife and I were really wondering, until you brought together all those revelations of the past few weeks in that last vital paragraph of last week's article 'Portland Blacks Defend Their I.Q.'s.' The attacks of the conservative establishment have been so diverse and devious that it has been difficult to recognize a pattern other than just racial prejudice. Thanks."

That is the reaction I hoped to bring off when I said "...let us be aware of what is driving the



By Professor Mckinley Burt

most recent round of attacks on African American intelligence." I paraphrased the conservative's latest and most vicious battle cry, designed to underwrite a bold and naked grab for power in the election; "Blacks on welfare and too dumb to get off." But understand the heading, "white welfare" (at the top), I showed how this ugly caper would be paid for through cruel cutbacks in many urban programs. At a time of increasing layoffs and an explosion of the number of poor and their children of all races. What French queen was that who said, "Let 'em eat cake?"

Other readers have asked about the big list of agricultural corporations I submitted as examples of "white welfare," and promptly submitted their own lists of other industry free-loaders. The reason was that so many of us today are so disassociated from the farm that standard theft and chicanery escapes our notice. Of course, some journalists with the establishment press will occasionally acquaint us with the really, really big scams like the Iran-Contra deals pulled off through the Department of Agriculture - tens of billions. But the conservatives whip up the public rage with promises that their new "contract" with the American people will get the "welfare dummies" off their backs ("wasted millions, yet").

Take another look at those companies I cited as having ripped off the taxpayers for billions. They're not going to notice because the "I.Q. curtain"

has been drawn over their eyes - Hitler gave his naive countrymen the Jews (who, incidentally, were described by the first I.Q. enthusiasts as mentally inferior, Gould, the "Mismeasure of Man," p.228). I could have added that those grain companies are coming to siphon off tens of billions a year from both the middle class and the poor, but not for corn flakes. The U.S. government has mandated that for an increasing number of key cities gasoline must be modified by a mixture of one fourth

ethanol, an expensive additive derived from grain.

Now I have dealt before in this column with

tobacco subsidies and milk subsidies, those multi-billion dollar, permanently entrenched rip-offs being frequently attacked by Senator Proxmire, to no avail. I did not have room for them last week as with several others the conservatives hope the American public will be blinded to by the "I.Q. curtain" and attendant furor. I am thinking of the huge rice and sugar plantation operators who are permitted to generate huge profits by ignoring the federal laws affecting wages, hours, working and health conditions and immigration; especially relating to black laborers from the West Indies. These companies are prime supporters of both political parties.

It was announced today, Friday, Dec. 2, that in addition to the cutbacks in food stamps, school lunches and WIC, the "special food for families" budget will be cut from \$125 to \$25 million. That will not pay for ONE HOUR OF ETHANOL. It was in 1981 the Republicans declared that KETCHUP counted as a vegetable in guidelines for the school lunch program, the idea was to cut down on the variety of foods the children would get. This was the same year the budget submitted by Senator Gramm of Texas (sponsor of the \$15 billion supercollider hole-in-the-ground) threatened to fire all blind vendors in the lobbies of federal buildings and asked that college loans be severely curtailed. All the roads we've seen seem to be those that lead to power - and wealth for the chosen. I.Q.'s are just one of them.

State Of The Race '94: A Report To The Black Nation

BY RON DANIELS

The National State of the Race Conference (SORC) convened in Baltimore, November 17-20 was an extraordinary success which could well mark a turning point in the Black Liberation Movement in the U.S.

It was a success, however, that was not without its difficulties. The SORC was organized on guts and faith. The organizers literally began with no money and no staff, just an idea that they felt was so essential that it had to come to fruition. Many of the organizers put up \$100 as "Major Patrons" to pull together some initial seed money. An appeal was also made to friends and concerned people from around the country to invest in the idea by becoming Major Patrons. The National Black United Fund provided timely and crucial support by making a grant to the SORC and by making staff available for specific tasks critical to the planning/organizing process. The Black United Funds of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania stepped forward to provide grants and other forms of in-kind assistance. And at crucial points committed individuals made loans to ensure that the organizing would not stall. It would appear that the ancestors also added to the determination that the SORC was an idea whose time had come.

The organizers of the SORC began mobilizing/organizing with the view that the crises facing the masses

of Black people is nothing short of a State of emergency. In spite of these crises the organizers moved forth with the conviction that Black people are fighting back at the grassroots level all across this country, mounting serious campaigns of resistance and creating innovative projects and programs for the survival and development of the race. The problem is that these range of struggles, projects and programs are not in conversation with each other and not connected. Hence, from the outset, a principal goal of the SORC was to provide an opportunity for grassroots organizations and leaders to connect up and share with each other with the objective of strengthening the Black Liberation Movement. This goal was articulated as a part of the call for the SORC.

The response to the call was absolutely amazing. More than 1,000 people registered for the SORC and overall more than 2,500 people participated in some part of the conference (the Town Hall meeting, the Celebration of Pan-African World Culture, the Spiritual Celebration). The turn-out of youth and students was incredible with representatives of more than forty colleges and universities in attendance as well as a number of high schools. About half the participants at the SORC were youth and students under the age of 25.

From the very beginning it was

clear that the participants had come to take care of business. There were a number of logistical problems and foul ups that ordinarily would have wrecked a conference. The participants at the SORC simply forgave or played past the difficulties and went to work with a passion and enthusiasm that was utterly inspiring. The participants were very committed to acting on the conference theme - Taking Responsibility for the Reconstruction of the Black Community. The Organizers Institute and the Women's Caucus were packed and very productive. The National Town Hall Meeting, which was broadcast live on Morgan State University's radio station and was also a symposium on Kwanzaa and an early morning breakfast meeting on Reparations (the room was packed at 7:30 A.M.) the plenary sessions on international and Domestic Issues were analytical and informative and set the stage for the 17 issue area Work Sessions.

The Work Sessions were the heart of the SORC. In every session people from various organizations, struggles and projects means to connect up an assist each other. Each session developed a series of recommendations and reported out the top three priorities to the entire conference. Each session also selected two persons, one female and one male to serve on the advisory committee of the African American Institute for Research and Empowerment (AAIFRE) which was charged with

the responsibility for implementing the follow-up to the SORC.

In terms of outcome, the participants affirmed by acclamation the Baltimore Declaration which put forth the following board resolutions: To foster unity between women and men in the Black community, to fight for women's equality and encourage and respect the leadership of African women; to support the initiatives of African youth to provide vision and energy to the Black Liberation Movement; intensify our efforts to support Black institutions; support the growing African centered education movement; support the National African American Leadership Summit as an inclusive vehicle for achieving operational unity; build/support the African American Institute for Research and Empowerment to implement the follow-up to the SORC. The SORC also went on record demanding reparations, the release of all political prisoners and prisoners of war and urged the creation of a visionary new political party led by African people.

The Baltimore Declaration closed on the following note: "We leave Baltimore informed by the wealth of information that we have shared with each other, committed to forging lasting bonds of unity and community and inspired to take the destiny of Africa and African people into our own hands. We rededicate ourselves to: Taking Responsibility for the Reconstruction of the Black Community. The SORC was a resounding success!"

More Little Victories Over Violence

BY BERNICE POWELL JACKSON

"**M**ercy, mercy me, things ain't what they used to be," was the first line of a song by the poet and singer Marvin Gaye. When it comes to our communities and the escalating levels of violence surrounding us, those words couldn't be more true.

Yet, amidst the drive-by shootings, the illegal handguns, the continuing presence of assault weapons, and always, the killings, there is hope. There are stories of people who don't get paralyzed by a crisis, they just get organized.

In Oakland, Calif. two of the nations' deadliest housing projects are now beginning to blossom. Under the auspices of the East Bay Community Recover Project, the residents of these communities are finding once again their sense of self-esteem and pride. They have drastically

cut the drug culture which once was responsible for drug trafficking, violence and even murders in their midst. Based on beliefs that everyone is born with innate resilience and a healthy inner being and that poor people have considerable survival skills, this approach trains residents to heal themselves and then heal their own communities. In addition, as more Asian Americans have moved into these communities, the project has also worked on bringing together the African American and Asian American residents.

Sometimes all it takes is one person to be that sign of hope.

In Boise, Idaho it is Raheem O.E. Shahbazz. Boise does not have a large African American community, yet problems of violence exist.

Keep sending me signs of hope against the violence in your community. Write to me at 700 Prospect Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115.



Letter To The Editor

Send your letters to the Editor to:
Editor, P.O. Box 3137, Portland, OR 97208

Opponents now have the unbridled freedom to destroy any measure by publishing lies. If the people let this pass, all future initiatives are in jeopardy.

The "NO" voters believed at least one of these lies about the Equal Tax (ET); 2% to cash/deposit checks, every one must file, ET is more of a tax-on-tax than our current system, industries will vertically-integrate to avoid taxes, kills Oregon business with tax on exports and out-of-state sales, destroys Oregon's credit rating, eliminates local control, districts have no special projects funding, revenue shortfall, it is 4% (2% state, 1% city, 1% county), and you must keep all receipts.

We should recall Secretary of State Phil Keisling for "malfeasance of office" for his deliberate neglect

of his duties. Ask your county clerk for a free copy of "Oregon Election Laws" See Chapter 250. 125. Read subsection (2). As ET impacts every city, county, district, his department is obligated to write a financial impact statement for EACH.

To add insult to injury, to much of the information his people did supply was erroneous. The Voters' Pamphlet says that ET would raise only 6.86 billion. We have new evidence that it will raise 10 billion or 125% of the replaced taxes. The bureaucracy ET discharges saves another billion per year. The second paragraph mentions a 1% local ET deserves a special election with the State of Oregon, and other liars, footing the bill. Failing that, it is time to RE-FOUND Oregon. See "Oregon Constitution, Article One Section One".

Mr. Edwin Christie

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