BLACK HISTORY

The Mortland Observer



Oregon Racism At Statehood

The Constitution of the State of Oregon: Pertinent Sections

Article 1 Section 31. - White foreigners who are, or may hereafter become residents of this State shall enjoy the same rights in respect to the possession, enjoyment, and decent of property as native born citizens. And the Legislative Assembly shall have power to restrain, and regulate the immigration to this State of persons not qualified to become Citizens of the United States.

Article 1 Section 34. - There shall be neither slavery, nor involuntary servitude in the State, otherwise than as a punishment for crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted.

Article 1 Section 35. - No free negro, or mulatto, not residing in this State at the time of the adoption of this Constitution, shall come, reside, or be within this State, or hold any real estate, or make any contracts, or maintain any suit therein; and the Legislative Assembly shall provide by penal laws, for the removal, by public officers, of such negroes, and mulattos, and for their effectual exclusion from the State, and for the punishment of persons who shall bring them into the state, or employ, or harbor them. (repealed November 1926)

Article II Section 6. - No Negro, Chinaman, or Mulatto shall have the right of suffrage. (repealed June 28, 1927)

Article XV Section 8. - No Chairman, not a resident of the State at the adoption of this Constitution, shall ever hold any real estate, or mining claim, or work any mining claim therein. The Legislative Assembly shall provide by law in the most effectual manner for carrying out the above provisions.

The Reinvention Of Black History: It Won't Happen Here

BY PROF. MCKINLEY BURT

Not in the pages of this Portland Observer newspaper will you find these half-truths, oxymoronic misstatements of fact or flagrant examples of "political correctness" that often are passed off today as authentic black history. As my tenth-grade history teacher, Mr. P.E. Davenport used to say, "Lord knows, we did enough awesome and wonderful things without having to add any embroidery."

This huge, ebony-hued man was a brilliant and consummate scholar, every bit as big as a davenport, and for some cruel reason his parents had reached into Greek history for his given name. "Patroculous" Eugene Davenport was a man determined that his beloved charges would take far more knowledge and self-esteem into life than the watchful establishment ever intended. That is the reason I am often able to cite and document to you those startling and satisfying accounts of "our" accomplishments which never appear in the conventional school texts or the media.

The pursuit of verifiable information resting "safely" in the universities, museums and archives of Europe, Africa, Asia and Arabia (and carefully guarded white coffers in America) is born of techniques and encouragement of teachers like Dr. Davenport. They were superbly educated in an age when gaining a doctorate was truly an awesome accomplishment. These savants taught in segregated American schools at Jim Crow salaries and under the ugliest of racist conditions when, in fact, many of them could have gone to Canada, Europe or Asia and enjoyed the dignity and recognition they deserved. How could we brats have known the value and importance of the gifts that were being bestowed

Terribly important is the fact that as a result, I (and some of my peers) am able to instruct succeeding generations in a mode that makes palpable and meaningful the intense interaction throughout the ages of Africans and African Americans with

other of the world's civilizations and cultures. When I write or reflect on black Romans in Britain or later dusky characters on the European stage, embellishing and advancing the arts and sciences from literature, poetry, music and painting to military strategy and swordsmanship - there is "P.E. Davenport, looking over my shoulder and nodding his head (along with J.A. Rogers, of course).

Determined to inoculate us indelible impressions (which he did), Dr. Davenport would often confront this class suitably costumed and equipped with a few homemade artifacts and icons of the age on which he was expounding. No one ever forgot of the gory details of the Norman Conquest and the Battle of Hastings, 1066, when Africans on both sides fell on the field of battle. Two of my local peers also remembers "Eugene" at his finest: Waving a wooden sword and bearing the lid of a huge copper clothes boiler as a "shield," he leaped upon his desk (all 350 pounds of him) and began a magnificent po-

"They (the saxons) swooped down upon the town, burned the fields, slew the men and raped the women..." at which point on one unforgettable day, the desk collapsed under his ponderous, animated weight. Hardly missing a beat, he finished this revelation and began a poem we were to commit to memory, "Saxon from yon mountain high, I mark thee send with delighted eye, deep waving fields and pastures green with gentle slopes and groves between. Far to the south and east where lay in succession grey..."

For more on high-achieving

blacks in Britain see a well-documented book and excellent bibliography from which I often quote; "Staying Power: This History of Black People in Britain," Peter Fryer, Humanities Press, 1984 (or try Barnes & Noble, Mail Order Division.) Worth just notes and bibliography.



Black Business Expo Set At PCC Cascade

The Cascade Campus of Portland Community College will host the annual Black Business Expo on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 25 and 26, as part of the 1995 Black History Month celebration.

A variety of local business companies, artists and craftspersons will participate in the community event,

to be held in the gymnasium at the campus, located at 705 N. Killingsworth St.

A wide selection of clothing. crafts, art and jewelry will be displayed and may be purchased. Various hot and cold foods will be avail-

The Black Business Expo will

be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 25, and from noon to 6 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 26. The expo is free and open to the public.

It is still possible to rent a stall at the expo, but only a few openings remain. Interested business persons can call Sonia Key-Fender at 295We want TO GIVE CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE.



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