

Race And IQ In The War Against Blacks

BY NORM R. ALLEN JR.

With the popularity of the controversial book *The Bell Curve* by political scientist Charles Murray and the late psychologist Richard J. Herrnstein, increasing numbers of Whites are embracing the idea that Blacks, on average, are mentally inferior to Whites and Asians. Indeed, Rutgers University President Francis Lawrence has stated that Blacks constitute "a disadvantaged population that doesn't have that genetic hereditary background to have a higher average" on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). And ironically, Lawrence has in the past condemned *The Bell Curve* and reportedly refused to read it. Moreover, Lawrence, who was defended by Black analyst Carl T. Rowan, has an excellent record in his career at Tulane and Rutgers, in promoting affirmative action policies. He has also apologized for his controversial remarks.

One can only wonder how many leading educators and university presidents throughout the U.S. believe Blacks to be genetically inferior to other groups. One writer estimated that in the late 1980s/early 1990s, one out of four eighth grade biology

teachers believed that Blacks were genetically inferior to Whites.

If these dubious educators entrusted to teach Black students have such low expectations of them, most likely they are neither able nor willing to teach them properly. But the rigid biodeterminists would probably argue that no matter how hard one tries to teach the stupid Blacks, they will not learn anyway. And the few Blacks who are intelligent will learn regardless of encouragement or the lack thereof.

But fortunately, throughout history, many educators have ignored the racists.

There are numerous examples of educators who have been determined to teach all students to the best of their ability. Examples include Marva Collins who has taught poor Black children in Chicago, and Haime Escalante who has taught calculus to poor Latino Students in East L.A. At Hostos-Lincoln Academy of Science in the South Bronx, many students are excelling in their studies. As Lynell Hancock writes in the October 24, 1994 issue of *Newsweek*, "These 300 black and Latino students provide the basis for a strong retort to 'The Bell Curve.'"

Afrocentric scholar Asa G. Hilliard and other Black educators have reported that there are schools where Black students at elementary levels are doing advanced mathematics. Furthermore, most of America's Black doctors, scientists and engineers come, not from schools with White supremacist instructors and administrators, but from historically Black colleges with faculty who believe in them.

But most White supremacists, such as J. Phillippe Rushton, a neo-eugenicist and author of *Race, Evolution and Biology*, argue that Blacks have made no "significant contribution to civilization." This kind of "thinking," however, is rooted in arrogant Eurocentric assumptions. All one has to do is carefully study the history of Egypt, Knobby, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Mali, Songhay and other civilizations to debunk this White supremacist myth.

Joseph McCabe, writing in *Keys to Culture* (book 3, p. 50, 1927), related: "four thousand years ago, when civilization was already two thousand years old, white men were just a bunch of semisavages on the outskirts of the civilized world. If there had been anthropologists in

Egypt, Crete, and Babylon, they would have pronounced the white race obviously inferior, and might have discoursed learnedly on the superior germ plasm of...colored folk."

It is ironic that Murray (who is of Irish ancestry) and Herrnstein (a Jew) promote the same kind of racist drivel that was used against their forebears in this century. In the 1920s it was commonly believed that Poles, Irish and Italians were genetically inferior to other Europeans. And later, Hitler's scholars deemed the mythical "Aryan" race superior to all others, with the Jews placed at the bottom of the genetic hierarchy.

But zealous bigots who are eager to promote an unsound ideology are not concerned that their kind of propaganda can be used against themselves. Indeed, Daniel Vining Jr., a University of Pennsylvania eugenicist confined to a wheelchair due to a stroke he suffered, watched a Nazi eugenics film with Adam Miller of *Rolling Stone* magazine, and commented, "I probably would have been exterminated myself." Yet he persists in promoting his eugenics program, while denigrating the intelligence of others!

If other racist scholars were so

inclined, they could devise tests in the name of science to support all kinds of views. Some might search for a genetic basis to support the idea of the greedy, stingy, deceptive, manipulative, wandering and conspiratorial Jew. Some might seek a genetic basis for the alleged weakness of Native Americans. One could argue that Irish and Italians are genetically predisposed to engage in crime and violence. Some might search for a gene to explain the alleged greed, aggression and destructive nature of European "Ice People." Some might even suggest that, because White American teens have far more children out of wedlock than do their European counterparts, there is a genetic component to White American teen promiscuity! The sky is the limit for crazy, racist and irresponsible "scholarship."

The drive to further tarnish the image of Black people is largely fueled by the reactionary and racist enemies of so-called political correctness. With the rise of Afrocentrism, multiculturalism and other calls for inclusion and diversity, angry whites became defensive

and hostile, and demanded that hate speech and racist literature be allowed to flourish in academia. Meanwhile, they launched rabid verbal and written attacks against Blacks and others they accused of threatening the alleged beauty and unity of American culture. And these attacks have not surprisingly created a huge market for books such as *The Bell Curve*.

Throughout history, some Blacks have responded to the bizarre notions of White supremacists with bizarre notions of their own. But Blacks need not resort to senseless talk of "white devils," Black genetic superiority, the magic of melanin, etc. Fighting hatred and nonsense with more hatred and nonsense will not give Blacks moral authority or intellectual credibility. Blacks must continue to think critically, and to defend themselves in a courageous, intelligent and dignified manner. And this, unfortunately, will probably be a never-ending task.

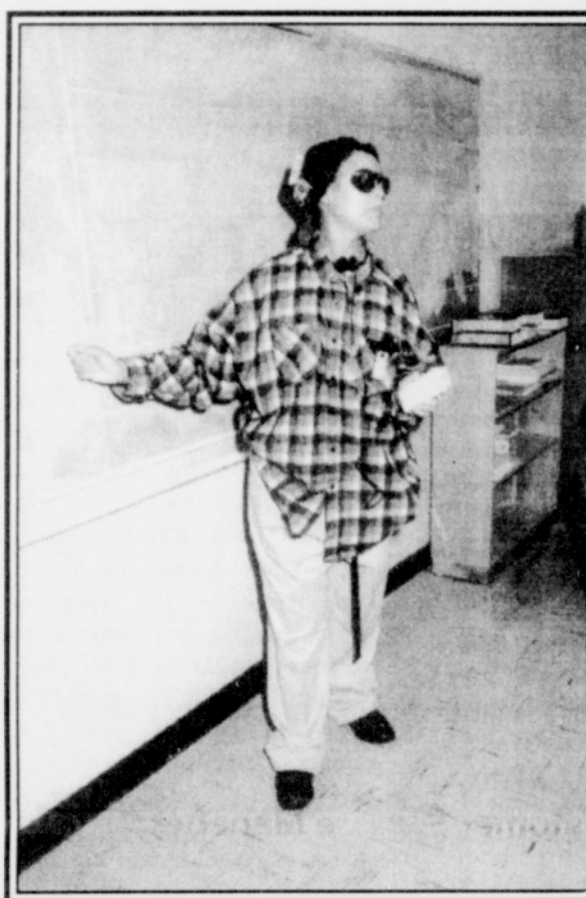
Norm R. Allen Jr. is the executive director of African Americans for Humanism, headquartered in Buffalo, New York.

Computer Security Device Offered To Public

The Portland Police Bureau in cooperation with Multnomah County Library, is offering a new security service to owners of personal computers known as "MICRO-ID". MICRO-ID is a software program that internally marks a personal computer's hard drive in multiple locations with specific information about the owner. In addition, the program takes an internal inventory of the computer and records this data. Such detailed information helped law enforcement

officers determine the lawful owner of a stolen computer and whether any parts have been removed.

Once a computer has been properly "encoded," thieves will not be able to determine that the machine has been marked. On the other hand, police officers using a security "decoding" program entitled "Cop-Only," will easily be able to ascertain whether the computer has been encoded and by whom.



DRESSING FOR FAILURE

Madison High School Careers Teacher Laura Jacobs dons some pretty ugly attire to make a point to her students about the importance of dressing in proper attire to boost image and job marketability. (Photo By Donn Thomas)

Street Drug Dealers Arrested

Gang Enforcement Team officers recently targeted street drug dealers during a mission, in Northeast Portland neighborhoods.

The officers, posing as would be drug buyers, were contacted by dealers. After agreeing to sell drugs, arrests were made. Four women and seven men were taken into custody. All were charged with Possession and or Distribution of Cocaine. One

subject was arrested on an outstanding Robbery Parole Violation.

The mission was part of an ongoing effort to impact illegal drug activity in residential neighborhoods. Officers targeted areas based on information from concerned citizens, and observations by Neighborhood Liaison Officers.

Similar missions will be conducted in the future.

Coming TO Powell's

Coming To Powell's Saturday Storytelling Weekly at 10:00 am:

Saturday Storytelling continues weekly at 10:00 am in the Gold Room. All ages are welcome. Following is a list of storytelling topics for April:

- April 8th - Powell's favorites.
- April 15th - Bunny Stories followed by a fun craft activity. Today's project is best suited for ages 4 and up.
- April 22nd - Earth day. Join us for some ecological stories.
- April 29th - Children's author/illustrator and Portland artist Nancy Coffelt. See details below.
- Book Presentations Saturday the 8th 10:30 am

Powell's welcomes Language Arts students from Newport Middle

School, presenting book talks. These students have each created a unique product in response to a book they have read. Today's presentations will include songs, videos, paintings and much more. This event will take place in the Purple Room.

Nancy Coffelt Saturday the 29th 10 am

Nancy Coffelt, Portland artist and children's author/illustrator, will present her new book, *The Dog Who Cried Woof*. Join us for a drawing presentation along with the story of Ernie, a big lovable dog who barks at everything. The people he lives with have learned to ignore Ernie's barking, but eventually, Ernie discovers that a well-timed bark will get him the attention he deserves. Other books by Nancy Coffelt include *Dogs in Space*, *Good Night*, *Sigmund* and *Tom's Fish*.

Readings at Powell's

Ivan Klima Sunday, April 2 7:30 pm:
Ivan Klima was in the United States when Russian tanks entered Prague in 1968, but against the advice of friends and colleagues, he returned home. He became a dissident, writing books (never officially published) that were invariably inspired by Czechoslovakia's repressive regime. But what happens to a rebel artist when there is

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The Red Cross has added a car safety kit to its line of safety products, which includes a variety of first aid kits, supplies and disaster kits.

The car kit was created in partnership with Consumer Care Corp., a local manufacturer.

They contain first aid materials, a non-flammable can of fix-a-flat, ice scraper and other basic safety items.

"The car kits are a perfect way for everyone to begin preparing for an emergency, large or small," said Sue Patterson, Red Cross disaster preparedness specialist.

The safety kits cost \$15.99 with proceeds to support local Red Cross programs. They are available at the Red Cross building, Health and Safety Department, 3131 N. Vancouver Ave.

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