

Affirmative Action Foes Come Out Of Closet

By Prof McKinley Burt

Last week I made the point here that there was not found in this country that level of across-the-board "implementation of life-support for Affirmative Action as one would expect in its time of travail. Most of us would discount the rash of sympathetic headlines generated by the meeting in Portland of the American Association for Affirmative Action. The 'real world' is much too intrusive.

This was the conference of Affirmative Action Officer representing colleges, government agencies and private businesses from across the country. An apparently sympathetic local press assigned reporters whose headlines and key phrases (selected by

editors) were of the classic "liberal" bent and their reports could hardly be expected to support a valid assessment of the present "affirmative atmosphere". An article of April 9 featured a sidebar of interviews with professionals in attendance.

The questions of the media sought to elicit a pattern of replies that would present the reader with a working definition of Affirmative Action from the viewpoint of the practicing professional. And that is what we have, an eclectic collection of viewpoints; a diverse thicket of statements concerning intent, objectives, rights, qualifications, quotas, equal opportunity, demographics, etc. -- begging for semantic analysis.

Leaving for a moment the semantics and epistemology of "when is a quota not a quota? And when are preferences fair? - we note that from the President of the United States on down to a number of frightened Democratic members of Congress there is much back-pedaling on previously firm and unwavering commitment to Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity laws. Even among college presidents and admission officers, we have a retreat to linguistics and operative definitions -- "what the law really means is thus and so" -- "No quotas, but unlimited 'good faith efforts' are permissible".

Dr. Alan Keyes, the black talk show host, has suddenly become a candidate for President,

and is riding the anti-Affirmative Action horse at as furious a pace as George Bush rode the Willie Horton issue. Another black Affirmative Action foe to recently come out of his conservative closet is Horace Cooper, the Uncle Tom legislative counsel to Republican Senator Richard Armitage. The program manager of CNN was operating at his ironic best when on March 14 he setup a debate between Cooper and Dr. Alfred Blumrosen of Rutgers University.

The good Doctor is none other than the man who set up the Equal Opportunity Commission -- rather cruel wasn't it? Horace Cooper, whose cognitive reflexes are slow at best, played the fool, rolled his eyes, and generally and

thoroughly embarrassed anyone of color who was watching. The principle of Affirmative Action neither gained or lost from his condemnation.

Last week there was a most interesting television interview with Dr. Ruth Simmons, the black woman recently chosen president of noted Smith women's college. Among other things she pointed out that from her own experiences as a college administrator that hate Equal Opportunity Laws that forced institution of higher learning to open up their job opportunities to public advertisement in the nations media, actually Resulted In The Hiring Of Thousands Of White Males!

This was because previously not only were blacks and females

fenced out, but the "old boy's network" passed these jobs out only to their own ethnic and cultural group.

Now, if this is true for universities over the past two decades of 'Equal Opportunity Laws, what about the same situation with all the government agencies and defense contractors across the country. No, me thinks the Affirmative Action opposition doth protest too much as Shakespeare would say. Don't worry folks, I'm going to get even deeper into this.

Next week: Maybe we better latch back on where I left off with my Affirmative Action Class of the 1970's. We needed jobs and I secured them by the hundred.

Boise-Elliott Launches Savings Program

Students at Boise-Elliott Elementary were able to make the first deposit to their new school savings account April 19, as the school teams with Washington Mutual to offer the innovative program that helps teach children how to wisely manage their money and plan for the future.

"The earlier children learn about managing money, the better prepared they will be for the future," said Lena Baszniak, manager of Washington Mutual's Interstate Financial Center, which established the new School savings partnership

with Boise-Elliott. "Washington Mutual's School Savings program lets children learn by using their own savings accounts."

Boise-Elliott students will be able to open school savings accounts at their school with as little as 25 cents. Each week, the students can make a deposit to their account, which have average balances of \$94. Bank employees and parent volunteers serve as tellers, using Macintosh computers to track deposits and print receipts and helping children practice their math skills as they total their balances.

Nearly 15,000 Northwest children participate in school savings at more than 150 schools throughout Oregon and Washington. There are no service fees for the accounts, which earn the same interest rate as Washington Mutual's regular Passbook Savings accounts and are FDIC insured.

Established in 1923, the program is an example of Washington Mutual's commitment to education. Washington Mutual, Inc.'s subsidiaries operate more than 250 financial and loan centers in Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

Kenton Fire House Site of Foot Patrol Training

Participating in a neighborhood foot patrol is one of the best ways a resident can make his or her block a safe and secure place to live. Organized foot patrols, a City sponsored program in which volunteers are trained to walk the vicinity around their homes, allow residents to make their neighborhoods safe while getting a bit of exercise and getting to know their neighbors. Citizens are invited to an introductory training on Thursday, April 27th, at the Kenton Fire House, located at 8105 N. Brandon.

Anyone who wishes to attend this training should contact Vada Grimsrud, the North Portland Neighborhood Crime Prevention Coordinator, at 823-4098. For information on joining the Kenton Foot Patrol can call the Kenton Action Plan at 289-6693.




April 22	Brunch Cruise	11 am-1 pm	\$22.00
	Dinner Cruise	6-7:30 pm	\$25.00
April 27	Secretary's Day	11 am-1 pm	\$22.00
April 28	Kids Cruises:	9-10 am &	\$5.00
	Bridges Tour	10:15-1 am	
	Lunch Cruise	1-3 pm	\$22.00
April 29	Cheap Thrills	On the hour	\$5.00
	Harbor Tours	from 12-5 pm	
April 30	Brunch Cruise	11 am-1 pm	\$22.00


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HEALTH

25th ANNIVERSARY

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Planting A Seed Of Hope This Spring

Metro Crisis Line is recruiting volunteers to staff its 24-hour telephone crisis intervention and information referral hot line. The agency needs volunteers for day, evening, and weekend shifts.

Spring training classes begin Monday, April 24, 1995. Metro provides extensive training for its volunteers. Volunteers accepted into the program are asked to make a one-year commitment to work one four-hour shift each week. No experience is necessary; however, applicants must be 18 years or older.

Call the Metro Crisis Line volunteer coordinator, Sara Watkins, at 226-3099 for more information.

Tips For Care Of Muscle, Bone And Joint Injuries

Injuries to the muscles, bones and joints are rarely life-threatening. However, if not recognized and cared for, they can cause serious problems and be disabling.

Signal of injury:

1. Significant deformity, bruising and/or swelling
2. inability to use the affected part normally
3. Bone fragments sticking out of a wound
4. Victim feels bones grating; vic-

Red Cross Offers Classes For Spring Safety

Spring is the season of flowers, trees, strains, and sprains. Almost as soon as armchair athletes come out of hibernation to become intermural heroes, emergency clinics see an increase in sprained ankles, twisted knees, and strained backs. That's why this spring is a great time to learn how to prevent and respond to all types of injuries and accidents. Oregon Trail Chapter, American Red Cross has just released the Spring 1995 health and Safety Course Schedule, which highlights different classes available for all ages. Copies are available at the chapter, or by calling 280-1440.

Classes include Standard First Aid, which teaches adult CPR and first aid, including abdominal thrusts for choking and appropriate care for cuts, broken bones, and bites and stings. Community First Aid and Safety teaches those skills, plus infant and child CPR. Other Red Cross classes are offered throughout the area, including swimming classes for all ages.

Also available are youth courses in babysitting, first aid, and "When I'm in Charge," the Red Cross class that teaches children to be safe when home alone.

Course fees vary, and classes are offered throughout the five-county area (Multnomah, Clackamas, Washington, Yamhill, and Columbia). For more information about classes for you, your family, or your employees, call 280-1440.

5. The injured area is cold and numb
 6. The cause of the injury suggests that the injury may be severe
- Caring for sprains and strains:**
1. Check and care for other injuries.
 2. Call EMS (9-1-1) if necessary.
 3. Elevate injured area if possible
 4. Immobilize injured area.
 5. Apply ice periodically for about 72 hours or until swelling goes away.

6. Next apply heat.
7. If unsure whether to use cold or heat on an injured area, always apply cold until a physician is consulted.
8. Keep victim comfortable.
9. If appropriate, apply an elastic bandage for support and to control swelling.
10. Care for shock.

The American Red Cross suggests everyone learn first aid and CPR.

Health Reform Speakers Now Available

Free presentations on the Oregon Health Plan are now available from trained volunteer speaker in communities throughout the state.

This innovative speaker' bureau consists entirely of people who have chosen to share their time and talents to help Oregon residents learn more about the Oregon Health Plan of 1989.

Approximately 25 volunteers participated in a speaker training session held earlier this month. Additional training has been planned to assure that there are enough speakers to meet the demand.

Training and support of the speaker' bureau have been sponsored as a public service by the American Association of Retired persons, The Governor's Commission on Senior

Services, and the Oregon Health Action Campaign.

Volunteers will be kept informed about ongoing developments in health care reform during the legislative session.

Organizations that would like to schedule a speaker are urged to contact the Oregon Health Care Reform Speakers' Bureau at 1-800-228-2304.

Freedom Of Choice Affirmed

Good news for nursing home residents who pay their own nursing home bills--the state has recently affirmed their right to choose their own pharmacy. A guideline issued by Senior and Disabled Services Division (SDSD) on February 24, 1995, is in response to a case brought to SDSD's attention by the Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman on behalf of a facility resident. A representative of the resident, concerned by high charges for medications, approached the facility to see if it was possible to identify an alternative supplier at a lower cost. The facility refused to allow any other supplier to furnish the resident's medications, unless the medications could be delivered every third day in unit dose. They refused to accept medications in 30-day cards, a delivery system which is standard in many nursing facilities and widely considered to be safe.

Many Oregon nursing homes have a primary pharmacy with which they do business and they prefer that the residents purchase their pharma-

ceuticals from that pharmacy. Further, some facilities have developed rigid standards for drug delivery, effectively limiting consumer choice by making it difficult to identify alternative pharmacies that meets those nursing facilities' standards.

In 1983, consumer concerns regarding the high cost of medications prompted the Oregon Legislature to pass Senate Bill 316 that provided for freedom of choice, allowing consumers to shop for a lower price. According to SDSD, the clear intent of the statute and rule is to allow residents to choose an alternative supplier of pharmaceuticals.

SDSD's interpretive guideline makes it clear that residents shall have the option of selecting an alternative pharmacy, as long as the alternative provides for timely delivery of drugs, adequate protection against tampering, delivery in a unit of use compatible with the facility's system of dispensing drugs and 24-hour emergency services, either directly or through contract. The guideline clearly states that the 30-day card

system, or bubble pack, is a safe and cost-effective drug delivery system and one compatible with unit dose systems. SDSD's guideline states:

If a facility defines their drug delivery system so narrowly that it creates a de facto denial of choice, the facility will be considered to not be in compliance. The intent of the statute is to allow residents a meaningful opportunity to select an alternative supplier of pharmaceuticals.

State Long Term Care Ombudsman Meredith Cote applauded SDSD's interpretive guideline. "They showed real leadership in affirming a resident's right to meaningful choice. Our experience suggests that pharmaceuticals frequently can be purchased more cheaply in the community than through the facility's preferred vendor."

The Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman is a state agency dedicated to improving the quality of care and the quality of life of Oregon's long term care residents. For more information call 1-800-522-2602.