

Education On The Auction Block

BY DERWIN BOYD

The U.S. Supreme Court in a recent decision let stand a ruling by the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals that the University of Maryland's Benjamin Banneker Scholarship Program was unconstitutional because of "reverse discrimination".

The program awards 30 scholarships each year to high-achieving blacks who have a B average and score over a thousand on the SAT.

These young scholars are heroes in a time when African-Americans are being caught in a continuous cross fire of character assassination, as the media and the conservative right continues its relentless assault on the dignity and character of an entire people.

These courageous young people are among the best our community has to offer because of their strength of character, determination, and perseverance that has allowed them to navigate through a social mine field while keeping their eyes on the prize.

It's also a very endearing testament to their loving and supportive families, in a society that wishes to portray black families as welfare recipients and our young people as teenage mothers, criminals, and drug

dealers.

These courageous young people refuse to be denied and in the process charted a course for the stars.

Their reward for many years of hard work—a four year all expense paid scholarship to one of the best colleges in the country. And they earned every bit of it. For many of them, I'm sure it was the only way they could afford college. Like athletics were for me and many other young black kids, these scholarships were their only way out.

But with the ruling by the Supreme Court, all the paths that lead to college and that coveted degree are being closed for African-Americans.

Experts say that rising tuition and declining tuition grants for low income students are freezing minority students out of higher education.

The access of poor to higher education fell dramatically across the board in the 1980's said Gary Orfield, Professor of Education at Harvard University (The Oregonian, May 17, 1995).

This stark reality shows up in the nations college graduation rate as well. 23% of all college graduates are white, while only 13% are black.

And those numbers will contin-

ue the fall for African-Americans as the current Republican controlled congress continues the policy first instituted by Ronald Reagan. And that is to cut educational funding for low income and minority families while increasing funding for middle-class (white) families.

The General Accounting Office reports that only 5% of all educational scholarships are targeted for minorities, which means that whites get 95% of all educational scholarships.

But the recipients of the Benjamin Banneker Scholarships are true scholars in every sense of the word. These bright young people can compete against anyone in the world.

They represent what Affirmative Action is supposed to be about, people who want to help themselves.

A white journalist once wrote, white people like the Cosby Show so much because that's the case, why is this highly successful program for high achieving blacks on the auction block?

Because as one white man once told me with a chuckle, "being black, that's a tough one."

You're damned if you do, and damned if you don't."

Too Tired Or Busy To Cook?

New Personal Chef Service Gives In-Home Dining A Fresh Appeal

What wouldn't most people give to have an extra 10 hours per week? That's just about the time that goes into the average family's meal planning and preparation. Thinking about what to have, driving to the store, waiting at the checkout-often with impatient and hungry children or in the midst of a too-crowded grocery rush—it all adds up. Then of course there's the actual food prep, cooking, serving and finally, clean-up.

Dinner's on me, a new personal chef service operating in the greater Portland area is making it happen. An initial consultation leads to the creation of a personalized menu, grocery shopping and finally, meal preparation right in the client's home. Two week's worth of meals are prepared, one of which can be served fresh on completion of service.

Chef-owner Regan Johnson first meets with her clients to create a complete profile of their dietary needs and preferences. From this a menu is created, complete with five main dishes, which are supplemented for a total of 10 entrees. A none-entree option offers clients one of their entrees to be served as a fresh, complete meal including a side dish, salad, fresh bread, etc. The possibilities for entrees is endless, ranging from a variety of pasta dishes and unique soups to sweet and savory stew combinations. A complete vegetarian menu is also available.

On the date of service, Johnson

arrives at the client's home, fully outfitted with groceries and cooking equipment. There, she spends the day preparing the selected entrees, which are then labeled and stored in the refrigerator or freezer along with a complete list of instructions and suggested side dishes. The client need only provide Johnson with a clear working area and the space to store the delicious food she prepares.

A graduate of the California Culinary Academy in San Francisco, Johnson has studied with many European chefs. She says she likes to translate that experience and philosophy to her own lighter, healthier version of food preparation, using less fat and more roasted vegetables. Her portions are generous, giving many clients the bonus of tasty leftovers.

When asked to describe a typical client, Johnson said she serves a broad range of individuals. Her clients include busy parents, new moms, professionals seeking respite from the restaurant circuit and single folks wanting a break from cooking for one. Individuals with food allergies or strict dietary restrictions also utilize her service. She said that gift certificates are popular, especially for new moms, post-op patients and newlyweds. Those wanting an alternative to take-out during especially busy periods are also frequent customers.

As the working mother of a

young daughter, John appreciates the need for quality time in the evening. While precious, the evening hours for many remain pressure-filled and busy. Accordingly, one of Johnson's primary objectives is to help her clients ease the all too common end-of-the-day madness. According to her clients, Johnson's services do make a difference and most save money as well.

Local artist and client Kathryn Kramer-Waters said, "I first used Dinner's on Me during an extraordinarily busy time when it seemed like all my projects had the same deadline. With my husband and I both working long hours it was tough to get a healthy meal into our two kids, let alone have the time to prepare it or even to dine out. Our children, like most, really need our full attention after having been away from us all day. Not only is the finishing touch to Regan's dinners a breeze, but clean-up is as well; often only one pot. It's nice to have a complex meal with wonderful ingredients in our own dining room. Her service makes this possible and with little effort on our part."

Dinner's on Me offers busy people an alternative to their sometimes harried style of dining and provides an opportunity to reclaim your lost evenings.

If you would like more information about Dinner's on me, contact Regan Johnson at 282-2625.

Local Residents Trained For jobs

Continued from front

program are well qualified. They may have needed to brush-up on a few skills, but mostly they just need an opportunity," Portis said.

The utility consortium launched the program after a year of planning.

Students attended classes part-time, focusing on such areas as communication, interviewing skills, test taking (applications for many trades positions must take an exam as part of the interview process), work habits and self esteem.

"These are the skills we find best help a candidate convince a prospective employer that they can handle the job and should be hired," added Neena Kirsch, PGE human resource specialist. "The fact that these students have completed this training also tells a prospective employer something about their work ethic and their initiative."

The initial focus was to prepare candidates for trades positions within the utility companies, such as meter readers, utility workers and garage attendants.

"There were two primary reasons why I wanted our company to be a partner in this program," said George Richardson, manager of federal and local government and community relations for Northwest Natural Gas.

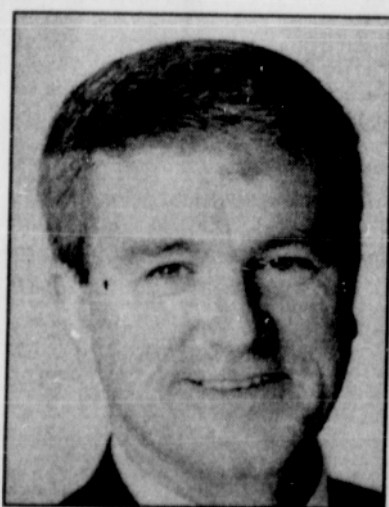
"First, it gives us an opportunity to help address the disproportionately high unemployment rate for residents of inner north/northeast Portland. Second, the program is consistent with our corporate goal of increasing diversity in the workplace," Richardson said.

Company officials said the success of the training will be evaluated in coming months in order to decide whether to repeat it in other parts of the utilities' service areas.

Goodwill Industries network as an outstanding model of diversified and financially independent vocational rehabilitation providers.

Miller's career at Goodwill spans 19 years. He became president of the Columbia-Willamette chapter in 1986 and has guided it to its current position as a leader of human services and as a fiscally-healthy organization, Goodwill officials said.

Last year, the Portland Goodwill provided vocational services to nearly 1,500 people with disabilities and other special needs and placed nearly 350 individuals in competitive employment.



Michael M. Miller

Michael M. Miller of Portland, president of Goodwill Industries of the Columbia-Willamette, has received national recognition for his accomplishments in the charitable organization.

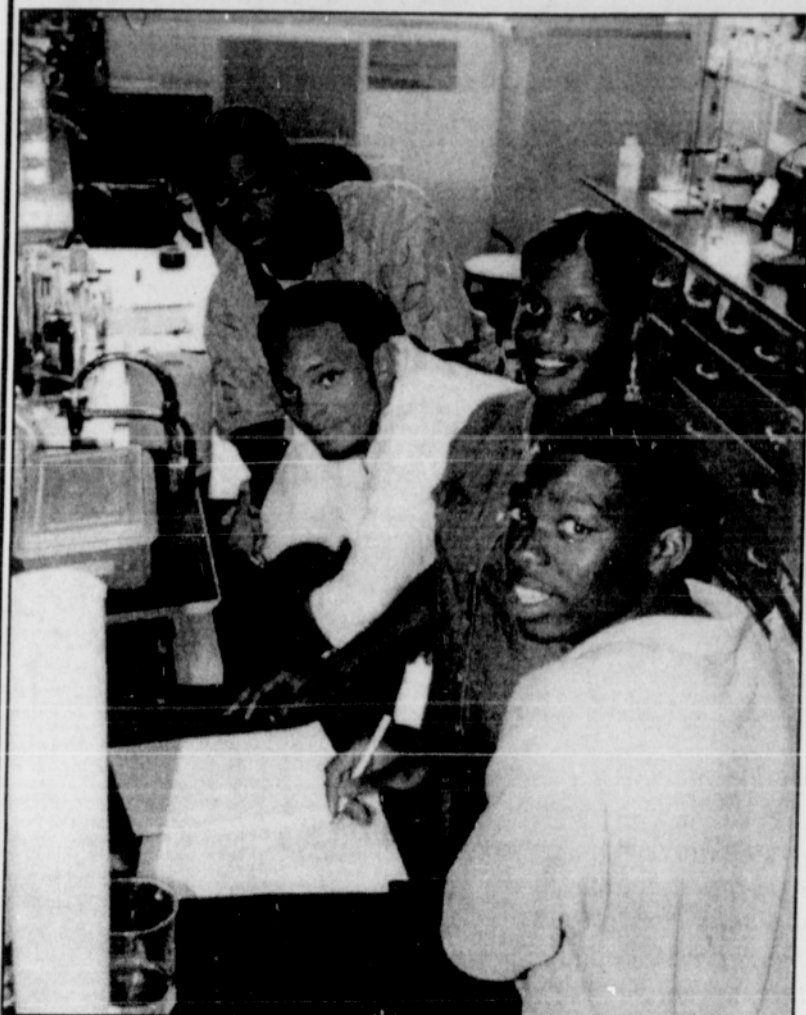
Miller has received Goodwill Industry's national 1995 Kenneth K. King Outstanding Management Award.

He is credited with leading his organization through a period of remarkable growth and expansion in both financial and human-service terms.

The Portland area organization is widely respected throughout the

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Having Fun Learning



Enjoying their math and science explorations at the AKA PIMS Camp held recently at Michigan State University, East Lansing (top to bottom) are John Birch, Homer, La; Christopher Moore, Little Rock, Ak; Tanesha Bledsoe, St. James, La; and Paul Tete Nii-Aryee, Arlington, Tx.

It's summer, and teens are thinking of fun and sun. But when given a chance to delay their fancies for a two-week math-science encounter, 40 high school students accepted Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA)'s offer.

Named winners in AKA's first PIMS (Partners in Math and Science) Camp competition, the students spent June 18-30, at Michigan State University, East Lansing, improving their math and science skills.

Features included accelerated instruction, field trips, personal evaluations, including a college-level placement test; and orientation to careers in math, science, and engineering.

Grades and essay responses were the primary criteria for the national competition designed to encourage minority students to excel in math and science. Michigan had the largest number of winners, with six; South Carolina had five; Georgia and Illinois each had four; Florida, Missouri, and Oklahoma each had three; California, Louisiana, New York, and Texas each had two, and Arkansas, Maryland, North Carolina, Ohio, and New Jersey each had one.

Operation Clean Sweep Benefits Youth, Community, Tri-Met

Tri-Met's Operation Clean Sweep, which provides summer jobs for 18 youth between the ages of 14-18 is underway.

Youth are recruited from local area high schools and youth referral agencies for the eight week program. They will pick up litter and remove graffiti at bus stops, transit centers and park & ride lots and assist with other community projects. This year, the youth are working with Housing Our Families for the restoration of five low-income/elderly homes in the North Portland area. This project will culminate with a Paint-A-Thon scheduled for Aug. 12.

On Fridays, youth get the opportunity to develop their communication, leadership and team building skills and increase their awareness of career and scholastic opportunities through college campus visits, a career day and guest speakers.

According to Program Manager Bobbi McGee, Operation Clean Sweep in its fourth year and has built partnerships with REACH Community Development, Inc.; Housing Our Families, Boise Neighborhood Association, Portland Public Schools and the Business Youth Exchange. The program receives support from AT&T Wireless Communication, McDonald's and The Private Industry Council.

Tri-Met is committed to providing the youth of our community with employment opportunities to learn and apply quality work ethics and leadership skills in a culturally diverse team environment.

Operation Clean Sweep is the most visible of Tri-Met's youth employment programs. Last year, Tri-Met hired more than 90 youths.

For The Young At Heart

Attention all adventuresome single seniors! The Oregon State Fair invites you to be a participant in the Dating Game for the Young at Heart. The event will take place at the Fair Tuesday, August 29, from 2 to 3 p.m. on the Fountain Plaza Stage.

Based on the popular television show of years past called The Dating Game, this fun event will feature two separate panels of contestants. Each panel will consist of one lucky bachelor presenting fascinating questions to three different bachelorettes, who will be concealed from his view.

The two winning couples will receive wine and hors d'oeuvres, compliments of Willamette Valley Vineyards, State Fair chair lift tickets, flowers designed and contributed by Stayton Flowers and Gifts, Limousine Service provided by James Limousine, and dinner at the Inn at Orchard Heights.

Interested, fun loving daters may get more information by calling the Oregon State Fair Office at (503) 378-3247, extension 230 before July 21, 1995.

Representative Shibley Opens Interim Office

Rep. Gail Shibley (D-Portland) has opened her interim legislative office and hired new staff. Representative Shibley has hired Traci Spillman as her legislative assistant. Ms. Spillman and has her legislative assistant. Ms. Spillman and has worked in democratic politics over the last several years, and worked for Rep. Shibley during the 1991 Legislative Session.

Rep. Shibley can be reached by mail at P.O. Box 6805, Portland, OR

97228. Her new interim phone number is 503-245-9601. Rep. Shibley can also be reached at her internet address: GShibley@aol.com.

Rep. Shibley has been a state legislator for House District 12 since 1991, working as an advocate for education, civil rights, safe communities and sensible growth. The district represents the heart of Portland, including parts of southwest, downtown, northwest and southeast Portland.

ELECTRIC LIGHTWAVE PRESENTS

THE HUMAN RACE

t o g e t h e r



we can make a difference

COORDINATED BY THE VOLUNTEER CENTER

SUNDAY AUGUST 6, 1995
5K RUN-9:00 am • 5K and 2K WALK-8:45 am
WATERFRONT PARK, PORTLAND, OREGON

On August 6, 1995, the third annual HUMAN RACE will take place at Waterfront Park! The HUMAN RACE is a community fund-raising event for non-profit community service organizations throughout Oregon. Presented by Electric Lightwave, Inc. and sponsored by Willamette Week, The HUMAN RACE is coordinated by The Volunteer Center and is our area's only fund-raiser with a mission to benefit any tax-exempt community service organization that wishes to raise funds. It's a fun way to get involved and make a difference in your community. It's a terrific way to support the services and needs of organizations who strive to support us!

This event is different than most other runs and walks because there's no one beneficiary... you participate for the non-profit organization of your choice and you'll collect the pledge donations for that same non-profit.

WHETHER YOU WALK OR RUN, YOU'RE SURE TO HAVE A GOOD TIME, AND YOU'LL BE SUPPORTING YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY.

We'll have breakfast foods, music, entertainment and a raffle. Top pledge collectors will win fabulous prizes including getaway packages from Mt. Bachelor Village, Skamania Lodge, The Resort at the Mountain, a Romance Package from The Hotel Vintage Plaza, and a \$150 gift certificate from G.I. Joe's.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND A PLEDGE SHEET
CALL THE VOLUNTEER CENTER AT 222-1355

