

The Mother Of All Marches, Part II:

# What Took You So Long?

By Prof. McKinley Burt

My goodness, gracious, didn't last week's assemblage of black men shake up the world.

I repeat, "the world," with reverberating headlines in Europe, Asia, Africa and wherever else there is media; free, controlled or hesitant.

I made the rounds of local news stands that carry the foreign press and I had friends on the Internet to monitor electronic space. An absolutely incredible global response (with a few notable and predictable exceptions.)

I trust that none of the readers were naive enough to expect that the local "daily Bugle" newspapers in Oregon would sufficiently trust their reader's intelligence to make proper and analytical judgments of an event of such

a social and economic magnitude as would draw just as much overseas attention as the upcoming United Nations anniversary.

But, true to form, big brother watched carefully over his flock, assuring "his" public that, "no, they" are not in revolt, just restless from agitation by this 'uppity' Minister Farrakhan."

We note, however, that Congressman Newt Gingrich is not as dense as he and his fellow conservatives sometimes pretend. Brazenly, he stated, "The march ought to be a wake-up call for all of America. And in a wonderful irony, all of us owe Louis Farrakhan a thank you for having told all of us, if the pain level (of blacks) is great enough for him to be a leader, then we all have a lot bigger challenge to lead."

That is an interesting and revealing statement from the most cold and calculating leader of Republicans dedicated to repaying the lobbyists, drug companies, multinational corporations and other campaign contributors with monies wrenched from the health and sustenance of tens of millions of ethnics, elders and children (not to mention a few millions of plain-old-white-folks who have no political clout).

You had better believe that there is great concern in both high and low places: "What in the world is it that these black folks are going to go home and "reconnect" about! They were too quiet, too peaceable, too orderly, too loving. By God, it's frightening."

And speaking of black leadership, or white-appointed black

leadership (through phoney boards, etc.) of which I have been highly critical the past year, many readers of my last week's article were in close agreement with the evaluation of John Lewis of the Congressional Black Caucus: "Lewis has been roundly criticized by many blacks for not having recognized the traumatic failure of the 'melting pot' concept." Unfortunately, many of our 'appointed' leaders have continued to hold out the hope to black masses that they can broker cross-cultural or heavy "rainbow" support for black goals and aspirations - in lieu of the internal structuring and economic development practiced by other ethnic groups.

So it is not surprising at all that, while we are asking some black leaders, "what took you so

long" to wake up, we have Congressman Lewis posturing for the big stage and fleeing from Minister Farrakhan as though he carried the plague.

A New York Times news service photo shows him flanked by white congressmen Bill McCollum and Charles Schumer as they "...announce a request to President Clinton for a commission to study race relations in America. They say such a panel should have 'impeccable' credentials."

You know what that means, don't you.

All politicians and other shrewd manipulators of the affairs of mankind know that the best and quickest way to kill an idea or a movement in a democracy is to call for a study.

And it is not just the case that

the media needs a quick "ratings and revenue" generator to replace the O.J. Simpson saga.

Just imagine the number of both white and black folks who would be unemployed if African Americans indeed return to "reconnect" and to experience a spiritual renewal in their communities; layoffs for policemen, jailers, prison guards, criminologists, sociologists; judges, lawyers, gun dealers, drug dealers and other millions whose livelihood depends upon the ugly economic infrastructure built upon the backs of African Americans.

Next week, reviewing "Jews and Blacks" by Cornel West who will be in Portland this Thursday at Lewis and Clark College

Is there a real chasm? Media driven? or both?

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**World Stage Plays To Washington**  
Continued from front  
his supporters wherever he went but his visit sparked protests by thousands of Cuban exiles, including his daughter.  
He told a mostly black, cheering crowd in Harlem: "I'm still being left out of the dinners and banquets as if nothing had changed, as if we were still in the Cold War."  
He also gave a one-hour television interview, telling CNN it would be very difficult for a dialogue to open between him and Clinton as the 1996 U.S. presidential elections drew closer.  
"I think it is very difficult for something like that to happen in the near future, for the time being," he said with a smile.  
"I wish (Clinton) the best. But generally I only get to speak to (U.S.) presidents when they are no longer presidents," he added wryly.  
Castro brushed off questions about protests staged by Cuban exiles around the United Nations, even though thousands came out to jeer and call him an "assassin."  
Among the protesters was his daughter Alina Fernandez Revuelta who fled Cuba last year and who says her father is a brutal dictator.  
"Castro must go. We are all trying to get the embargo toughened," she said.  
The United States has kept an economic embargo against Cuba since 1962 and Republican leaders in Congress want to tighten those sanctions to weaken his government.

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The Integrated Packaging Corp. signs a \$75 million contract with Pepsi-Cola to provide corrugated boxes for five years. The contract makes IPC, a New Jersey company, one of the largest African American owned businesses in the nation. Pepsi's Scott Buchanan (from left) and Jim Kozlowski are joined by Joe Wilson and Henry Rodger of IPC.

**Police News**  
**Case #95-34: Wanted Subject**  
  
James Robert Ringrose  
and selling of company owned wind generator components.  
James Robert Ringrose is described as a 53-year-old white male, with a birthdate of April 19, 1942. Ringrose is 6'0 tall, weights approximately 150 pounds, with blue eyes and graying brown hair.  
Aliases used by Ringrose include: John Paul Patterson, W. L. Griffin, Phillip George Riley, John L. Lewis, Oliver Spilling, John J. Baxter, and Peter Max Lee.  
Crime stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information, reported to Crime Stoppers, which leads to an arrest in this case or any unsolved felony crime, and you can remain anonymous. Call crime Stoppers at (503) 823-HELP.

**Restitution Center Accepts Women Offenders**  
Co-ed Residence makes Restitution Option Available for Women  
The MCRC, in operation since 1987, began accepting females residents on October 6, 1995. The transition to a coed residence is now complete and in full operation.  
MCRC is a program based correctional facility for sentenced offenders. Its structure and programs allow offenders the opportunity to compensate the community for their actions through direct restitution or through various work projects in and for the community. Residents are also required to maintain or look for employment, pay room and board to MCRC, attend classes or programs, participate in a savings plans and plan to meet family responsibilities.  
One of the goals of the Restitution Center is to help residents develop job skills that will facilitate reentry into the community and the job market. The Sheriff's Office Inmate Programs Division estimates that over 40% of the clients in the MCSO correctional facilities lack a high school diploma or a GED. Residents have the opportunity to study for a GED while at the Center.  
Traditionally, there have fewer options for female offenders because they make up a significantly smaller portion of the overall jail population. In August of 1995, Sheriff Noelle approached the Citizens Advisory Board that oversees MCRC with the suggestion to accept female offenders.  
The addition of female inmates equalizes the chances for constructive program activity that provide the opportunity for rehabilitation.

**"Scapling" James Taylor Is The Ticket To Arrest**  
A Portland man was cited after he sold James Taylor tickets at an inflated price to a Portland Police officer. Under City ordinance, it is illegal to "scalp" or sell tickets for more than their face value to events at municipally owned facilities.  
James Taylor is performing with the Oregon Symphony at the Arlene Schnitzer Performing Arts Center on October 31st. All tickets have been sold for the event.  
Hoping to see the show, officer Leo Painton, of the Drug and Vice Division, called a phone number in a newspaper classified ad offering James Taylor tickets. Officer Painton made arrangements to meet the man, who was selling tickets for \$55 to \$90. The prices seemed quite high, and Officer Painton called the box office to inquire.  
He was told that prices for the show were \$33 to \$38, and that the Performing Arts Center had been receiving complaints regarding the ad in the newspaper. Officials said the man had bought 160 tickets. City Ordinance 14.36.070 prohibits selling or offering tickets to events at municipally-owned facilities at higher than the retail price.  
After conferring with the City Attorney's office, Officer Painton contacted the ticket seller, cited him for the offense, and seized 84 tickets in the man's possession.  
Arrested was Todd S. Boedigheimer, DOB 07-02-66. He was cited and released. The ordinance only pertains to city owned facilities. Tickets can be resold, but not for prices above those printed on the tickets.  
People buying large numbers of tickets intending to sell them should determine whether the facility is municipally-owned.