

Family Living

The Portland Observer

Education System Ready For Triage II

BY PROF. MCKINLEY BURT

It was no surprise that many readers agreed that the Portland School district was a basket case. What was startling was the number of teachers willing to concede that their professional organization could be held accountable for some of the problems (see my "Perspectives" column on page 2). What a switch from past attitudes.

Conversation with several district teachers who also are long-term friends elicited comments I would not have heard a few years ago; "I'm not happy with acknowledging the fact, but that super-critical article on the National Education Association (NEA) that appeared in 'Forbes Magazine' a while back was closer to the mark than most of us were willing to admit; I'm not even surprised that the Oregonian newspaper has gotten around to challenging our 800-pound pedagogic gorilla" (4/1/96, pages 1 & 6).

The same newspaper used Sunday's edition to give voice to high school student's who paraphrased my critical assertion, "...the disastrous future (or lack of one) faced by students who go into the workforce without what used to be regarded as basic skills for survival." A further media revelation was how many students are very much aware of and highly resent in competent teachers.

I certainly struck a responsive chord with older parents and with grandparents when I cited as earlier versions of basic-skills-requirements, the 1937 edition of "Elementary Physics and Chemistry for Airconditioning And Refrigeration" (expected to be understood and used at the 11th grade, or by high school dropouts). As I said, no problems were anticipated with the basic formulas and equations for pres-

sure, volume, temperature, energy, spatial dimensions or surface areas. My, how we have fallen.

At a neighborhood meeting several readers related the "Triage" article to several learning models I've presented in the past. The 'Harvey Aluminum Co.' experience is one where the workforce, drawn for a primarily rural population with few university or trade school graduates and no nearby community college, was nevertheless able to operate a sophisticated industrial enterprise in a successful manner. The time was the 1960's and I enjoyed a hands-on participation for six years in the Dalles, Oregon; pup 10,000.

Local managers and human resource people lick their lips and sigh, "I wish" when I detail the operation and the key to it all. That workforce had the benefit of several good elementary schools and a junior/senior high school par excellence (an institution where I was brought in to put on several award-winning demonstrations in mathematics and communications). And many other resource people from the plant were similarly engaged.

And I have recounted here at other times how such a workforce, adequately equipped with good basic skills in computation, language and communications has no problem at all in following complex verbal directions or those conveyed by the sophisticated texts and graphics furnished by the manufacturers of the equipment and machinery used in the production of goods and services -- or in their maintenance.

I remember how surprised were the engineers from Bonneville Power and the representatives of major American Companies from General Motors, Caterpillar, Westinghouse

and almost every firm listed in "Thomas Register Of Manufacturers" when they came to this aluminum plant in the middle of nowhere and found a huge process operation and a self-contained city operated for the most part (90%) by farmers and cherry growers and truck drivers and their sons and daughters, high school graduates and dropouts.

Waterworks, utilities, mechanical and electrical shops, electrical transmission and switchyard facilities, air pollution controls, weather forecasting, fire department, Carpentry and sheet metal shops, automated process controls, accounting and data processing/transmission facilities. And the workers happily took home their skills to automate their irrigation and other farm operations. Those west-side managers just drool when I give my talks. "How can we get back to the future, they ask?"



← Claudia Moorad the new Metro Crisis Volunteer Coordinator (right) takes time out to attend her niece's birthday.

Obituary

Armster White, Sr., December 8, 1918 - March 30, 1996

Mr. White came to Portland from Monroe, Louisiana in 1944. He worked as a foreman for the Burlington Northern Railroad. He retired in 1979 after working for Burlington Northern since 1946.

He served for a short time in the U.S. Army during WW2. He and his late wife, Portie White were married on March 16, 1940. Portie passed away October 6, 1995.

Armster was a member of Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rite and was a Honorable past Grand Master.

Survivors:

Daughter Portia J. Moye Portland, Oregon; son Armster White Portland, Oregon; son Mitchell White Portland, Oregon; daughter

Jacqueline White Joe Portland, Oregon; son Walter Lee White Barstow, California; daughter Darlene Bowles Portland, Oregon; on Darnell White Portland, Oregon; Sister Louina White Bronx, New York; sister Arnee Johnson Monroe, Louisiana; brother Mack White, Monroe, Louisiana. Also survived by 20 Grandchildren -- 9 Great Grandchildren and a host of Nieces, Nephews and other family members. Preceded in death by his wife Portie on Oct. 6, 1995, his son Samuel White on Oct. 7, 1988 and another son, Anthony Wade White on Dec. 16, 1995. Burial followed at Willamette National Cemetery, Portland, Oregon.

Officer Focuses On Cultural Awareness

By Marcus Myers

The U.S. Navy is a reflection of society and its Sailors represent almost every ethnic group. Hispanic Sailors have long been successful throughout the fleet and continue to be models of success in today's changing Navy.

Navy Lt. Joana G. Purvis, the 31-year-old daughter of Joe and Priscilla Garcia of Kennewick, is a prime example of Hispanic leaders in today's Navy.

Purvis feels her heritage is important to her and that it is a motivational factor in her naval career.

"My heritage is important to me because it is a part of me. My family taught me never to forget your roots," said Purvis, a 1982 graduate of Richland High School.

Purvis is an airframes officer at

Naval Air Station Lemoore, Lemoore, Calif., where she oversees the maintenance personnel repairing the F/A 18 Hornets.

Purvis recently attended a conference for the Association of Naval Services Officers (ANSO). ANSO is a professional organization of naval officers from the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard that focuses on the professional development of Hispanics in the sea services. Purvis believes that programs like ANSO are an important part of today's Navy.

"ANSO is the type of organization that can help you find the hidden doors. Unity is knowledge and knowledge is power," said Purvis.

A Navy success story, Purvis has a secret behind her accomplishments.

"My secrets have been performance and dedication," said Purvis,

a 12-year Navy veteran.

As a role model in the Navy, her advice to younger Hispanics is to continue to stay positive and strive for success.

"My advice would be to never give up and if you can't go in one door go in another. Be proud of yourself and never take no for an answer. There is always a way," said Purvis.

Purvis is proof that Hispanics continue to make a positive impact in the Navy and strive for positions of greater leadership and responsibility.

America's strength is drawn from its cultural diversity; the Navy is no different. Hispanics like Purvis continue to provide new and innovative ideas that keep the Navy and Marine Corps moving in the right direction.

Boys and Girls Club Name Scholarship Winner

Flor Botello, a Hillsboro High School Sophomore, is Portland area's Boys and Girls Club Youth Of The Year.

The winner of the \$2000 scholarship is a Smart Moves Peer trainer, Keystone Regional Conference President and Girl Scout assistant. At school she is active in basketball, Mesa, Peer Mediator and Hispanos Unidos Club.

She is part of the Adopt a Grandparents program and works on canned food drives.



Flor Botello

DOUGLASS CLARITIES IN OREGON HISTORY

BY J. M. GATES, MBA

(A three-decade summary of Frederick Douglass Themes)

(c) 1996 JMG

An Independent Scholar Project

Circle Forum, P.O. Box 176, Portland, OR 97207

WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY

Color or Black & White
Affordable Packages
No Time Limits
We Specialize in Bride & Groom Portraits
Studio or Location

It's my kind of face!

Specializing in People of Color
503-284-9570

Birth Announcement

Octavia Oshanique Brown

Sex: Female
Date of Birth: 3/21/96
Father's Name: David Malone Brown Jr.
Mother's Name: Sharon Denson Brown
Weight: 7 lbs 15 oz Length: 21 inch.
Brother: David Marquis Brown
Paternal Grandparents: Lucy and David Brown of New Orleans
Maternal Grandparents: Rochester and Barbara Denson of New Orleans

Birth Announcement

Alonzo Campbell, Jr.

Parents: Alonzo and Danita Campbell of Portland, OR
Gender: M Date of Birth: 2/13/96
Length: 21 inches Weight: 7 Lbs 15 oz.
Brothers & Sisters: Imani B. Calhoun-Riley (5)
Mother's Parents: Beatrice McMillan, Portland, OR
Father's Parents: Jeremiah & Lola Campbell, Columbus, Ohio
Great-Grandparents: Mary Davis, Malvern, Ark.

Advertise For Diversity
In The Portland Observer
Call: 503-288-0033

Oregon 1st Jurisdiction, 26th Annual Women's Convention

April 15-18, 1996

Walker Temple Church Of God In Christ
5023 N. Michigan
Portland, OR 97217

Prayer 7 PM nightly, Night Service 7:30 PM

We are inviting everyone to attend this great Convention in honor of Supervisor Lula M. Cook.

For further information, please contact Missionary P. Adams at 284-3482.