

EDITORIAL

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Charles Washington
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Gary Ann Taylor
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Danny Bell
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Gary Washington
Public Relations

Timothy Collins
Photography

Mark Washington
Distribution Manager

Sabrina Sakata
News/Copy Editor

Sean Cruz
Consultant & Editor

Portland Observer

Paul Neufeldt
Iesha Williams
Production & Design

Rovonne Black
Business Assistant

Contributing Writers:

Professor McKinley Burt, Lee Perlman, Pamela Jordan

4747 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.,
Portland, Oregon 97211
503-288-0033 • Fax 503-288-0015
Email: Pdxobserv@aol.com

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THANK YOU FOR READING THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Recycling pioneer speaks out

To the editor:

In 1968, I built the first known redemption drop-box for pop and beer containers. And it worked!

Then, in 1971, we were so proud when the Legislature approved our idea for a Bottle Bill! We expected it would encourage recycling. And did it ever!

Now Measure 37 comes along. Measure 37 will put a major crack in the great Oregon Bottle Bill. Why? Because Measure 37 takes away from the recycling progress we've made these last 25 years by

turning our grocery stores into recycling centers, let me repeat: Measure 37 dumps even more stuff on our grocery stores and away from the recycling process.

Recycling at our curbs and in bins and drop-boxes has progressed and increased because of the Oregon Bottle Bill; it'd be a crying shame if it now stopped because of it.

Join me, one of the folks who first worked to make our Bottle Bill law, in voting No on 37.

Sincerely, Keith Delaney

Yes on bottle bill

To the editor,

I'm writing to encourage every Oregonian to vote yes on measure 37 to expand the bottle bill.

We all know the bottle bill works, yet every year 100 million single serving containers litter our state and fill up the landfills. Isn't that the very reason we have a bottle bill in the first place?!

Opponents of measure 37 seem to want the people to think that they would cover more containers had they written the measure, but the fact

is that these are the same people who tried to repeal our existing bottle bill in the legislature last year.

A confused voter generally votes 'no', so how ironic it is that the oppositions flagship argument is that the measure is confusing. The simple fact is that this easy reading ballot measure will increase recycling and keep Oregon beautiful. Just ask Governor Kitzhaber, Gordon Smith, the League of Women voters, or even Mrs. Tom McCall.

Paul Becker, Portland, OR

Sabbatical in D.C.

To the Editor

I am in favor of sending Mr. Smith to Washington.

Washington State, maybe just to get him out of our hair. But certainly not to Washington, DC as our elected senator.

We don't need a senator who mouths the platitudes of "christian family values" but espouses the Darwinian philosophy that "only the

strong survive", and who will do his best to ensure that the "strong" are all wealthy republicans like himself.

I support family values--the values of tolerance, freedom of choice, equal opportunity and fair, wise representation, and I don't see Gordon Smith advocating any of these.

Send Mr. Smith to Washington, D.C.? Never, never, never!

Eric R. Eckman

BY PETER KORNBLUH, HISTORIAN
Jaxfax took on the issue of CIA involvement in smuggling crack into the U.S. in order to fund the Contras. Historian Peter Kornbluh continues his analysis of this very hot issue.

In 1989 a special Senate investigation chaired by Senator John Kerry (D-MA) reported that drug smugglers had given money to certain Contra groups; that drug pilots and drug planes were used to ferry arms to the Contras; that CIA-Protected landing strips used in the covert war were also used by drug smugglers; and that the State Department's Nicaraguan Humanitarian Aid Office, which was run behind the scenes by Oliver North, Elliot Abrams and CIA task force director Alan Fiers, gave more than \$800 thousand to five transport organizations known to federal officials to be involved in drug smuggling operations.

"In the name of supporting the contras," the Kerry Committee concluded, U.S. officials "abandoned the responsibility our government has for protecting our citizens from all threats to their security and well be-

NATIONAL RAINBOW COALITION CIA, Contras & Crack

ing."

Abandoning the responsibility to protect our communities from a true national security threat--drugs--is at the heart of the spreading public outrage over the San Jose Mercury News stories.

It is important to note that these stories do not say that the CIA specifically targeted the African American inner cities of southern California for crack cocaine distribution. But they do say that members of the main Contra group, the FDN, an organization created by--and controlled by--the CIA, did come up with the original strategy to transform cocaine from a rich man's drug into a mass market product to be distributed on the blighted streets of Los Angeles and San Francisco and elsewhere,

and that profits were used in the CIA's covert war in Central America.

Even if cloak and dagger agents weren't selling crack bags on inner city streets, it is a scandal that U.S. officials created an environment where criminals of this sort could operate with impunity, and tolerated any connection between the narcotics trade and the covert war. It is scandalous enough that Norwin Meneses and Danilo Blandon, two Contra cocaine traffickers, escaped prosecution all that time--and that the DEA eventually put Blandon on its payroll as a high-priced informant. And it is a major scandal if they received protection due to their covert activities, as implied in the San Jose Mercury News stories. If so, U.S. officials

must be held accountable for obstruction of justice.

Representative Maxine Waters (D-CA) and other members of the Black Caucus demanded, and obtained, internal reviews in the CIA and the justice Department. In order to have a full and independent investigation, however, President Clinton should order his Intelligence Oversight Board to conduct its own review, and issue a report that includes full disclosure of:

- declassified CIA documents on the early years of the Contra war;
- all DEA communications with the CIA and the Reagan White House on Contras and drug smuggling;
- all DEA records that might reveal any pressure from U.S. officials to "keep hands off" drug pushers;
- all DEA files on Norwin Meneses and Danilo Blandon, including files on the decision to make Blandon a high-paid informant.

Finally, the town meetings, citizen debates, and radio programs taking place across the country must join the larger debate over the role of the CIA and covert operations in the 21st century.

p e r s p e c t i v e s

More Revelations: Education In The Village

As I was saying last week, "time and position" are extremely important concepts in the understanding of physics. In fact, this applies to most of science as so many students discover -- and, hopefully, most of the parents who are being brought into the learning process. This is true in mathematics as well, though 'Secret'.

I introduced some 'relevant' poetry because through the years it has been made quite clear to me that both young children and older youth more quickly comprehend the concepts of motion, mass, velocity -- and space as the stage on which these phenomena act -- when the performance is interpreted in language that matches the reality (and the student's mode of cognition).

That is why you find that I cited so many books on language and linguistics as having paved my own learning path, e.g. searching for better ways to teach mathematics and logic. Did I omit "Chomsky, or Korzybski, or Levi-Strauss?" I didn't mean to, but not to worry. It was two weeks ago that I described a busy preoccupation with

the design and preparation of related texts, curriculum, CD-ROM, tapes and educational toys. You won't have to plow through my three rooms of books and files; just check my Web site and order.

You know, this 'pedagogic' bag was not always the principal thrust of my rather diverse interests ranging from math and science at a very early

age to the reclaiming of black and African history with a decided emphasis on technology. While I primarily earned a living at public and industry accounting, as frequently as possible I took jobs that allowed development and provided resources in the other areas: computers, electronics technician, teaching.

This tactic found me teaching in the Black Studies Department at Portland State University when the "New Math" blitz hit public education; academia got right in line at the money trough. In the early 1970's, the mathematics department engaged me to teach the 'New

Math' to some of the district K1-12 teachers who had been ordered to "get with it" most immediately.

Actually, everywhere in the United States the educational establishment, from Washington D.C. to the most remote rural school district embraced this new (well-funded) concept with a religious fervor. It was going to be 'apocalypse now' for

America if its hundreds of thousands of public school teachers did not immediately become masters of "sets, topology, Boolean algebra" and familiar with the terms "commutative, associative, commutative, binary."

The 'New Math' revolution has long since been forgotten but the point I wished to make here was that at the same time I was faced with scores of teachers who hadn't a clue to how number systems were constructed, I also was engaged in two related endeavors which couldn't be dropped. This confluence of major math con-

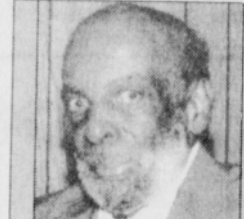
cepts led to the long learning curve described the past two weeks. "In the beginning was the word."

I've detailed before the nature of my Montessori School "computer boards" for teaching little ones decision trees and logic around this same time -- and I was still expanding and developing that "The Dalles award-winning" model for communication/computer technology." The gist of the matter is that all three innovative concepts came together for me in comprehensible, workable form (just too far ahead of my time).

Today I am very concerned that we may again have on our hands another new super-learning crusade that will outstrip both the "New Math" and the "Metric System" for sheer religious fervor and the expenditure of taxpayer dollars.

The "Information Superhighway-the Net-Cyberspace"... will they too 'pass away'? Will they, too, infinitely expand and engage to conceal the fact that there are many yet who cannot count, read or write very well, in front or behind some desks? Continued next week.

By
Professor
McKinley
Burt



Hilton: Higher Education

BY KIETH ORLANDO HILTON

As always, this annual State of the Campus address is dedicated to students of African descent enrolled in colleges and universities throughout the world.

This marks the ninth consecutive year that I have written this column. And each year I remind college students that they are not alone.

There are millions of advocates and other students worldwide who believe in you and want you to succeed.

To my colleagues, who are college officials, I say, "sometimes students just need someone to talk to during rough classroom periods."

Sometimes they need a "stern voice" to keep them focused, and yes, sometimes they are too cocky to admit that they need help.

To this very day, it bothers me to see cocky, arrogant students of any ethnicity. And I believe that parents and educators need to let them know when they are acting that way.

For example, just this summer a recent college graduate of highly-touted liberal arts college was at home discussing his law school plans and made a flip remark about state universities.

He said that he could never see himself going to a state school for graduate or law school because this would be considered a step down from his undergraduate institution. Now that was arrogance mixed with even more ignorance.

I reminded him that most people have never heard of this highly-rated liberal arts college, but I am sure that more people, including prospective

employers, have heard of "lowly" state schools or even Rutgers University--the state university of New Jersey.

"Rutgers University is a state university," he asked? To say the least, he was a little embarrassed as I continued to click off other state colleges, including Oregon State, Arizona State and North Carolina State Universities.

"And when you learned your ABC's, you should have thanked the California State University System, because many, if not most teachers in California go through that system at one time or another," I reminded him.

I could see in the young man's eyes and voice that he was re-thinking his opinion about state schools.

You see, it is still possible to be a confident, assertive and successful

student, while at the same time, displaying humility.

During this academic school year, we will applaud every student who goes through school with excellent grades. We will also be 100 percent supportive of those students who may not get the best grades, but are doing their best.

We won't give up on those students who don't quite see the necessity of being academically serious or cultural centered--yet. We have seen a few diamonds in the rough come through and suspect that many more will follow.

And finally and especially to African-American, African Caribbean, African Latino and continental African students, I continue to say, "Don't blow this opportunity to begin building lasting relationships."

The Power of the Human Tongue

BY JUNIUS RICARDO STANTON

There is a proverb from the Congo that says "a good tongue meeting another good tongue will cause happiness." Do you have a good tongue?

By that I mean are your words edifying, encouraging, uplifting and constructive? When you speak is your intent to build up or destroy, inspire or offend? Are you even aware there is power in the human tongue?

When we were younger we used to sing the rhyme "sticks and stones may break my bones but names will never hurt me." By now most of us are keenly aware that names and words spoken with malicious intent can do more psychic and emotional damage than sticks or stones. That is why it is imperative for us to be cognizant of our words, what we say to ourselves as well as to others.

Our self-talk, that internal dialogue we hold in our minds is crucial

to our self-esteem, self-concept and self-confidence. Are you thoughts self-deprecating? Are you overly critical of yourself? Many times our thoughts pass into our consciousness seemingly out of nowhere. However, you are not a prisoner of your thoughts. When a negative thought pops into your consciousness don't fight it. Wrestling with your thoughts only invigorates them giving them more power. What you have to do is consciously think about something else. Since you cannot hold two separate thoughts at the same time, the thought or image you conjure will displace the one in your conscious mind. In metaphysics this is known as the Law of Substitution. It is the only way to bring about a change of consciousness, a change of attitude and a mental renewal.

You have the power to control your thinking and subsequently the power to control your tongue. As for your conversation with others, the same

rule applies -- think before you speak! Someone once said "make sure the brain is engaged before starting the mouth." Strive to have a good tongue. Speak words of empowerment, truth, support, exhorts others to be their best and greatest selves. Link up with like-minded people who will re-enforce your commitment to positivity.

If you know anything about human nature, the nay sayers, the scoffers cynics and skeptics will not want to be around you when you are upbeat, positive and supportive. Birds of a feather flock together. They want people who agree with them, people who are like-minded. Misery loves company. The nay sayers and critics will attract each other. Trust me.

Don't worry about not having any friends. The last time I checked, no monuments or statues have ever been erected to nay sayers, critics or skeptics. Hooking up with like-minded people, those who are upbeat and positive will, as the proverb said,

bring happiness. It will bring happiness both to you and to those around you. I don't know about you but when I'm forced to be around people who are always down in the mouth, pessimistic and discouraging, I feel drained. That's because I don't willingly or knowingly associate with people like that. I'd much rather be around positive proactive people than negative "do-nothings."

Be a person who sees the possibilities for success and progress rather than one who is always tearing someone or something down. Aesop said "a crust of bread eaten in peace is better than a banquet in contention."

Lastly, we need to realize energy follows thought. Everything proceeds from our thinking.

There is power in our speech. Determine to use your power for good. Decide to create happiness wherever you go. Be a good tongue spreading happiness, the world is in dire need of this!