

EDITORIAL

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Addenda on "Mobutu is back"

Letter To The Editor

I would like to refer to your article "Mobutu is back. What must Africa do?", by Dr. Lenora Fulani which was produced in connection with a television interview I had with Dr. Fulani.

I want to take this opportunity to both correct some factual errors that were made in the column as well as make it clear that a number of the statements made in the article were Dr. Fulani's opinions and could not be attributed to either me or the Government of Rwanda.

First and foremost, I want your readers to be informed that the Rwandese Patriotic Front is not a government. The Rwandese Patriotic Front is one of the five political parties which constitute the government of National Unity.

The United States did not pressure the United Nations Security Council to reduce the small peacekeeping force stationed in Rwanda.

The United Nations former Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali holds the major responsibility for the re-

duction of the UN peacekeeping force during the genocide crisis in Rwanda.

Rwanda does not provide any political or military support to the alliance of the democratic forces for the liberation of Congo, Zaire nor to the constitutional democracy movement led by Etienne Tshisekedi. Rwanda supports and encourages regional mechanisms that can lead to a political solution to the crisis in Eastern Zaire.

Hence, the Rwanda government has been participating in the major initiatives at the level of the Heads of States and governments of the Great Lakes region.

The recent series of meetings which took place in Uganda and Kenya are some of the examples of Rwanda's commitment to the search for a political and peaceful solution to the problems of the region.

Please accept the assurance of my highest consideration for Dr. Fulani.

Pierre Emmanuel
UBALIJORO
Second Counselor
Republique Rwandaise

Just as he has done so many other times in his political career, Newt Gingrich once again survived a major challenge to his leadership.

By the slimmest of margins (3votes!), Newt was re-elected Speaker of the House. And like President Clinton, Gingrich won a plurality victory, with 216 votes, just less than half of the U.S. House.

Democratic leaders continue to whisper that Newt's days are numbered, that his ethics problems will soon bring him down the way that similar problems ended the career of Jim Wright. JacFax is not so sure--we note that Gingrich has had numerous narrow escapes during his career. Indeed, were Newt a cat, he would be down to the last of his nine lives!

Consider:
*Gingrich lost two races for public office in the 1970s before he finally won his House seat; had he lost a third time, he'd have been done before he even started.

*Gingrich built a career as a

NATIONAL RAINBOW COALITION

Speaker Gingrich

Rockefeller Republican in a right-wing party; as a transplanted Pennsylvanian in suburban Georgia; and as the lead GOP attacker against a solid Democratic majority.

*He barely hung onto his House seat in 1990, defeating the Democrat by less than 1,000 votes; he survived a new redistricting plan, which could have left him with a Democratic district; then, in 1992, he narrowly edged out a fellow Republican in the primary.

*He won promotion within the GOP Causcus in 1989, winning a party leadership election by only one

vote!

*He lost half his House margin during the last election, leaving him the highest level of party opposition in recent history. However, he did manage to hang on to the leadership despite party defections, despite Nixonian approval levels, and despite having all his fellow Republicans "morphed" into him during the campaign for slashing medicare and Medicaid, education and the environment.

*In 1996, Newt spent \$5.4 million to win re-election, more than any other House candidate (\$100,000

spent per percent won!).

In short, he has survived narrow escapes before. Newt Gingrich may be wounded--but he is still Speaker of the House. And while JacFax has certainly differed with the speaker many times, he remains an interesting politician because he refuses to be predictable.

In fact, JacFax would like to congratulate the speaker for setting the right tone in his speech this week. He surprised everyone by seizing the moral offensive, raising critical issues that were largely ignored in last year's campaigns: race; drugs; ignorance; morality; D.C. He noted that the new Congress looked like America, unlike the first congress two centuries ago. His comments were inclusive, not divisive. Reverend Jackson even met with the Speaker for an hour on, to encourage him to follow through on his remarks to take race and ignorance seriously, and to invite him to be a guest on this week's TV show. If Newt means to take these issues seriously, 1997 could be a very interesting year.

perspective

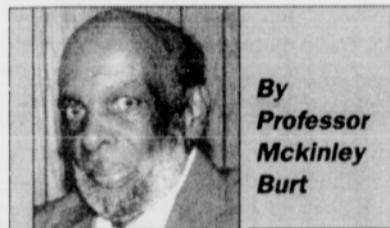
We Have Fire, Now Let's Move On: Conclusion

As you probably have gathered by now, when I work with youths, parents or guardians are involved to a great extent. And, clearly, in many cases this is a decided advantage. But in some it is not, most youth being more or less rebellious by nature -- though sometimes we would not want the twig bent in the same direction as the tree.

Given all that, a common intergenerational pattern is to be seen among African Americans and call it cultural, genetic or whatever your value system dictates, they are seen to be the most enthusiastic of innovators, visionaries and inventors. And this obtains from time immemorial as one might surmise after reading two of the books cited in my "Good Reading List" on another page of this paper.

Reprising my 'motivation' theme, "We did it before, we can do it again", I again have thrown Isaac Newton, and The Great Pyramid into the fray. And never, never letting the youth in my science and mathematics seminars forget that the seminal sources for the great discoveries was a fecund African womb. And why I document exactly what people Newton was talking about when he said, "I was talking about which he said, I

stood on the shoulders of those who came before me." So did Mercator and Fibonacci!



By Professor McKinley Burt

And I am ever reminding student and parent that we have excellent role models for this type of back-grounding right in our own community. I cite the example of Ms Lulu Stroud Johnson, the single parent who has done such a magnificent job of guiding three over-achieving daughters through the treacherous Portland education maze. But then, this is a family I've known for three generations and Black History and motivation have always been their forte Continuing a Straight A pace at the university, we certainly will have some more great black scientists (micro-biology, etc.)

I was very proud that one of the girls chose Norman Rillicux, the inventor of the sugar refiner, as the subject for an award winning essay while still in high school. He was featured in my book, "Black Inventors of America", and that reminds

me of a painful fact. My popular cable television presentation of "Great African and African American Inventors" no longer appears--ran several times a month -- used extensively by schools, students, parents and general public. We are trying to remedy this.

I believe I have mentioned the interest white parents, students and teachers are showing in the motivational value of black inventors. A twelve year-old white student from Gresham won the \$25 prize I offered in the 3/27/96 issue of the Portland Observer. The task was to identify a black inventor from Buston, Iowa who invented a "railroad semaphore displayed 'inside the cab' of a locomotive." The device was activated by a minute electrical signal conducted through the rails and the locomotive wheels.

Having more or less given up on the school system and having industry people saying almost weekly, "Why didn't you come to us in the first place? That's what you did in The Dalles to gain the support you needed for that award-winning science, math and communications demonstration". Nothing renews your will and determination like having two CEO's and a plant manager stepping over 'floor files' and spreading pa-

pers on a banquet table in your Alberta office/apartment. "We like it and you've got a track record! We're talking the high end of six figures, here."

I'm building prospecting now, to house a twenty-first century upgrade of my S.E. Belmont 1969 operation where the upstairs was devoted to an online education network, including curriculum and terminals in the classroom -- and that 5000 Sq. ft. basement with working models of power system consoles, telemetry models for remote monitoring of weather instruments, flood and irrigation controls. I even had several examples of the voltage regulators I made for the sixty polines at the Harvey Aluminum plant. "Hands on learning" is my thing.

A lot of the electronics I used to simulate industrial and even astronomical functions were obtained by cannibalizing coin-operated amusement devices and pinball machines (interesting little devices). I hauled two van loads of this junk down to Portland from The Dalles. Milt Martin, the rancher who partly financed my first 1966 operation owned a coin device shop across the street from my house in The Dalles. Well, students, parents we will see how it goes this time.

The Myth of Black Self-Destruction

BY MALIK RUSSELL

The CIA, or as some now call it, the Cocaine Importation Agency's operatives, made cocaine affordable and readily attainable to African-American neighborhoods at rates that Crazy Eddie couldn't beat.

In turn, it also created a boon industry for crime, murder and mayhem, in a manner similar to what the African slave trade did to the economies of European states. The infusion of drug money has allowed the L.A.-based gangs to spread "crack" cocaine around the nation and purchase expensive weapons of mass destruction such as Uzi machine guns, Glocks and Street sweepers among others.

This all occurred under the Reagan-Bush administrations, although ostensibly it was not U.S. policy. This is by no means a street-level operation, it more so represents a cooperative of untold billions dollars operating under the authorization of an American governmental organization. Many questions abound, particularly if the CIA set up this operation, which was later picked up and supported through the White House via Oliver North. They include, what other drug running operations are there in the African-American community, for example? I'd like to know. Just in case I buy some

crack, I'd like to write it off as a tax break.

If we are going to be truthful, we must also acknowledge that the past two presidents were or still are CIA operatives. According to an article appearing this past year in the Washington Post, Bill Clinton was far from a Vietnam war protester, its more likely that he went to study in Oxford, England under a double major, English Literature and spying on his more radical classmates.

Unfortunately, the question is not about the president, U.S. government officials, the CIA or the FBI with their annual racist Freaknik or 'Good Ole boy' cookouts. The question is more about us. During the "Blackploitation" films of the 1970's we knew that the institutions created to protect us were involved in a plan for our genocide. Today "Blackexploitation" artists and other folk act as if believing that governmental agencies are working for our destruction is some wild theory; this when "ain't nothing changed except the weather." What we must ask is where our leaders and spokespeople stand on the call for an independent investigation into the CIA's connection to the infusion of crack cocaine and guns into the African-American community?"

It's a simple barometer test, which should be extended to all political candidates as part of an African-

American agenda. "Where do you stand?" Must be the hue and cry of our people to those seeking our vote or support of any kind. Each member of the Congressional Black Caucus should be held accountable. At this point, since we know the game, we should at least call for the cards to be placed on the table. One wonders where the melaninated parrots such as J.C. Watts, Armstrong Williams, and others are, who regularly beat down their own people like grinning overseers? They are extremely quiet and astoundingly absent when it comes to criticizing the system. They scream from the rooftops concerning the faults of their brethren and yet scurringly rush to hushed circles when the system logically reveals, as the government assassinated Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. noted, that "the logical conclusion of racism is genocide."

This should be no surprise, but the surprise for many should be the realization that despite the genocidal tendencies of this government, we as the descendants of the Original people, Ethiopians, Ether peoples--meaning spiritual or heavenly--are in control of our destiny.

We must begin to ask ourselves what we are doing to improve conditions for our children. There were brothers and sisters around when we sold out Denmark Vesey, assassinated Malcolm, Martin, Patrice Lumumba, Mickey Leland; infiltrat-

ed and destroyed the Black Panther Party, whose best services were free health clinics and free breakfast. There were brothers and sisters around when they deported Marcus Garvey, created shams which were supposed to help our children--but didn't, introduced AIDS through genetic warfare, murdered Ron Brown, nearly wiped out the Native Americans, and consistently and daily through the television and media drill into the minds of the world and our children their alleged inferiority, criminality, and lack of values compared to the other folks. I ask again, where are those who know? When will those who know remember the courage of their ancestors such as Queen Nzinga who refused to bow to the enslavers and that of such modern day warriors as Congresswoman Maxine Waters?

For many it is the fear of death, yet in many cases the courageous are not in fear of losing their life, but rather a superficial acceptance in society, their jobs and careers. This is the dilemma that our people face, and each individual must make the determination to stand and simply fight for what's right.

Yet we continue to fail to stand, to fail to fight for what is right and true and then wonder why so many of our children are considered lost--we have some nerve. Well, then again, maybe we don't. PEACE.

Martin Luther King Day is observed on January 20th.



Letter To The Editor

Send your letters to the Editor to:
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