

EDITORIAL

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perspectives

Apropos of Everything In Particular



BY PROF. MCKINLEY BURT

Haven't you noticed yet? There is absolutely nothing new about the "WEB" and interaction with various 'sites' from information bases and Chat Rooms to Electronic Malls and Dating Parlors. We have performed this interface most of our lives; on foot, by auto, on the telephone, across the back fence, whatever!

Our community was hard at it the past couple of weeks, and like the general population, several critical (and non-critical) issues stood out; Except of course, some of us examined events with both standard and ethnic appraisals. Survival tactics don't you know—stood the test of time, Very interesting weeks, electronic or face-to-face.

Although it was of no great moment for most us, it was noted that ex-governor Weld of Massachusetts lost his fight to become U.S.

Ambassador to Mexico. The aged, but immovable, Senator Jesse Helms of North Carolina successfully defeated Weld's bid for the job African Americans, of course, have extremely unpleasant memories of the coarse, racist Senator Helms who for so many bitter years fought against Civil Rights, School Desegregation, Fair Employment Opportunity—anything that might advance blacks.

Not being members of the Empire on which it was once said, "the sun never sets" (no ancestral memories of that situation), African Americans did not get nearly as exercised over the tragic death of Princess Diana of Great Britain. This despite an incredible day and night media blitz of an incomprehensible intensity (Pathological?).

Most blacks to whom I talked said words to the effect that, "the event was very regrettable, but this media over-kill is getting on my one nerve. I'm still in shock and mourning the traumatic loss of Mrs. Shabass, the widow of Malcom X. And, furthermore, I'm still numb and disgusted from the stupid year-long racist ex-

ploitation of the 'O.J. Simpson case'—that was a media lynch mob."

While often there was a further comment that "Diana was an icon-helpful in some causes—but Mother Theresa was a 'in-your-face' reality for almost a century, organizing and delivering resources to the poor around the world." And speaking of the "poor" - not to change the subject, but I will.

Did you see that op-ed article on OMSI financing; it appeared in the Oregonian about a week ago and attracted comment for its statement that the science center was too expensive for the "poor"? Most immediately I got calls from the parents I was advising on setting up functional neighborhood science clubs they could afford: "Right on Mr. Burt"

Interestingly, my illustrated article of August 20, 1997, "The Truth About Black Labor (and Brains)" sparked as much commentary about the "Million-Man March" as it did about the pioneering African American manufacturers who accomplished so much at the turn of the century. As to be expected, the predominant theme was

"how in the world could we have retreated, so far from the pinnacle established over a hundred years ago?"

I believe a very needed and highly useful dialogue has begun, I'm getting a lot of 'hits' from my correspondents in other parts of the country. Whatever or wherever the source, the reasons given for the regression range from variations of the "white conspiracy" theories to "the machinations of the black market-men who assured American industry that they could deliver and control the multi-trillion dollar African American consumer market.

We will explore these theories and others in the coming weeks. As a fourteen year-old at a science club meeting remarked, "A million black men could have assessed themselves \$100 a piece and started some great economic things." And, as I have often documented here, fifty years ago and earlier, Portland blacks were pooling their salaries and building economic units. Cont'd Next week.

Multicultural America RAINBOW PUSH COALITION

George Will & Pat Buchanan don't like it much, but America is fast becoming a multicultural nation.

The Rainbow/Push Coalition recognizes this, and Rev. Jackson has spent a great deal of time in recent months working in coalition with Hispanic leaders and organizations.

The Political power of this Black/Brown coalition was illustrated in the 1996 elections, when Black & Hispanics cast 1/7 of the total vote, and elected President Clinton for the second time in a row. The growth in this power was recently illustrated in an article in the National review (of all places!).

Authors Peter Brimelow and Ed Rubenstein predicted that the Republican Party's hostility to immi-

grants, combined with the growing populations of African Americans and especially Latino/Hispanics plus the rapidly-growing Asian American community, whose vote was split in '88—could turn the victorious 1988 GPO presidential coalition into a minority grouping within the next decade (even without Perot).

In 1988, whites made up 78.8% of America's voting age population (VAP), and cast 59% of their votes for George Bush over Michael Dukakis. African Americans made up 10.7% of the VAP, but voted only 12% Republican; and Latino/Hispanics made up 7.4% of the VAP, and cast only 23% of their votes for Bush (who won 54-46%, on the strength of his support among white voters).

By 2008, however, if the voting preferences of these groups remained the same, the Republican share of the presidential electorate would shrink to 49.9%—because white voters will then make up only 71.6% of the VAP. Blacks will increase to 11.6% of the VAP, while Latinos will increase their share of the VAP by over half, up to 11.7%.

By 2020, whites will fall to 67.3% of the VAP (based on Census Bureau projections), African Americans will move up to 12.0%, and Latino/Hispanics will rise to 14.4% (1/7) of the VAP. Thus, by 2020, the Black/Brown share of the electorate will potentially increase to more than 1/4!

The numbers move in the same directions, until by 2048, whites

make up just over half the VAP (56.9%), Asian Americans are 1/11 of the VAP (9.2%), and the Black/Brown coalition rises up to over 1/3 of the VAP (33.9%)—12.7% African Americans + 21.2% Latino/Hispanics.

Obviously, these projections are subject to change, while maintaining a serious voting coalition among African Americans and Latino/Hispanics will continue to be a major organizing project, the key point, however, is one made by political analyst Kevin Phillips:

"major ethnic changes have been negative for the existing conservative parties more often than they have been positive."

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Letter to the Editor
Dear Editor,
How many times does my family have to apologize for slavery? Do I owe any one an apology for what my Grandfather did? Do you owe me payment for my grandfather's actions? Will my children also be told that the apology of 1997 was not enough and they owe another apology and more money? My family was among the founders of Jamestown. My last ancestor arrived in this country before the civil war. I am a daughter of both slaveholders and those who died to free the slaves.

When Jamestown was settled the Lords of the day had servants, both bond and free. Right or wrong it was the labor force of the times.. Slavery was practiced in most of the world, with people selling them selves or children to pay debt. In the Americas, the Indians were found to make poor slaves and the white races had a custom of being servants or workers, not slaves. African was the one part of the world where slavery was a going business, with many groups involved with the buying and selling of other humans. All slaves were first sold into slavery by other blacks, then out to the world to be used as laborers in a world where men did most of the work because most of the machinery of today was not yet invented.

My first ancestors landed in

Jamestown and traded for their land from the Indians. During the next 200 years more of my line migrated to America. Some of my families came to America to flee bondage. Other families were wealthy. Some of the rich families had both servants and slaves. The slaves were captured and sold to slave traders by other Black people in an age old trade. Right or wrong slavery is as old as mankind. Brown, Yellow, White, Red and Blacks people have been both slaves and slave owners. Today slave trade is still practiced in part of the world.

The Farleys were large land owners and slave holders. Today the descendants of those slaves have all the same rights I do, and the same responsibilities. Had their parents not been brought to this country as slaves most of them would not be enjoying the Americans privileges of today. The Farleys owned slaves. The slaves worked the land and the Farleys made the money. Right or wrong, because the Farleys used slave labor, many black people today enjoy the freedom of being Americans. I do know that some of the slaves were freed before the civil war. America made the Farleys pay a heavy price for being slave holders. The civil war was fought to free the slaves. The Farleys were punished in many way, loss of land, property, and lives. The payment was high.

The Morrisons also came to America early in our history. They settled in the North area of our country. Before the civil war they helped slaves gain freedom as members of

the underground railroad risking their wealth, home, lives, and standing in the community to help free the slaves. The Morrisville house still stands today in Morrisville, as a tribute to the stand the family took to free the slaves. Three sons and several other relatives died during the civil war to free the slaves. These men died to save other humans that they had never met, they bled to help a people that were not of their race, religion, or family. These men gave their lives to save another human because they felt it was every mans right to be free to chose his own way of life.

If the Black race feels that I, as a daughter of the Farleys, owe them an apology, What does the Black race owe me for the loss of lives of the Morrisons. If a dept was owed, the Morrisons blood paid it in full. Who do I apologize to? The direct children of the slaves bought by my Farley grandfather? What about all people the Morrisons freed, will their children thank me or do I owe them an apology too. What about all the Black people who have been allowed to come to this country and become Americans. Why do they get an apology because they are Black?

This country is being ripped apart because of some people's attitude that they are "owed by another group. The Native Americans lost all the land, many tribes are totally wiped out, the rest of the tribes lied to and mistreated. The Japanese were forced into war labor camps and lost property. Mormons were run out of the country and slandered, their homes



Picking OJ's Bones

BY JOHN BURRIS
The law profession should hang its collective head in shame at the glee many of its members seem to take in seeing the manner in which O.J. Simpson is totally striped of all his worldly belongings.

The very thought that lawyers and the general population at large can take joy at seeing Simpson mother's piano taken away from her, all in the name of getting back at him is sickening.

The Browns' and the Goldman's have a right to use every lawful means to try to satisfy the \$33 million judgment against Simpson, but this effort to take all of his possessions, including his Heisman, golf clubs, silverware, and more recently his automobiles-- seems less about money and more of an effort to break his soul.

Surprisingly, Simpson has thus far demonstrated the ability to stand above the loss of material things, adopting a position that he will make due with whatever. This above the fray attitude undoubtedly is causing immense frustration for the Browns' and the Goldman's. They must believe that the essence of Simpson is

his worldly goods. As such, for them the ultimate revenge is to leave him penniless, and they are prepared to pick his bones dry.

If their goal is indeed emotional surrender I doubt they will be successful because Simpson seems to have shrouded himself in a protective shield that allows him not to be caught in the legal gamesmanship or the mano mano conflict with Fred Goldman.

Despite the families' motives there should be some standards adhered to by the lawyers as they go about the task of collection.

It does not bode well for the image of lawyers if they are prepared to chase Simpson down night and day, over every petty item, whether his young children, or 85 year mother are present or not, and act in a degrading manner the way any fly by night collection agency would act.

I cannot imagine that the unfortunate Ron Goldman or Nicole Simpson would have wanted it this way.

John L. Burris is a Oakland, California based civil rights attorney and media commentator.