

EDITORIAL

Editorial Articles Do Not Necessarily Reflect Or Represent The Views Of The Portland Observer

Attention Readers!

Please take a minute to send us your comments. We're always trying to give you a better paper and we can't do it without your help. Tell us what you like and what needs improvement... any suggestions are welcomed and appreciated. We take criticism well! Get your powerful pens out NOW and address your letters to: Editor, Reader Response, P.O. Box 3137, Portland, OR 97208.

P E R S P E C T I V E S

Black History Month Is Here (Again) II

The Portland Observer

(USPS 959-680) Established in 1970

Charles Washington
Publisher & Editor

Mark Washington
Distribution Manager

Gary Ann Taylor
Business Manager

Larry J. Jackson, Sr.
Director of Operation

Iesha Williams
Graphic Design

Tony Washington
Associate Editor

Contributing Writers:

Professor McKinley Burt,
Lee Perlman,
Neil Heilpern
Joy Ramos

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

Deadline for all submitted materials:

Articles: Friday, 5:00 pm Ads: Monday, 12:00pm

Send Address Changes To: Portland Observer,
P.O. Box 3137, Portland, OR 97208.

Subscriptions: \$60.00 per year

The Portland Observer welcomes freelance submissions. Manuscripts and photographs should be clearly labeled and will be returned if accompanied by a self addressed envelope. All created design display ads become the sole property of the newspaper and cannot be used in other publications or personal usage without the written consent of the general manager, unless the client has purchased the composition of such ad. © 1996 THE PORTLAND OBSERVER. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR IN PART WITHOUT PERMISSION IS PROHIBITED.

The Portland Observer--Oregon's Oldest Multicultural Publication--is a member of the National Newspaper Association--Founded in 1885, and The National Advertising Representative Amalgamated Publishers, Inc, New York, NY, Oregon Federation of Advertising, American Minorities Media, and The West Coast Black Publishers Association • Serving Portland and Vancouver.

SUBSCRIBE TO The Portland Observer

The Portland Observer can be sent directly to your home for only \$60.00 per year. Please fill out, enclose check or money order, and mail to:

SUBSCRIPTIONS

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER; PO Box 3137
PORTLAND, OREGON 97208

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State: _____
Zip-Code: _____

THANK YOU FOR READING THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

BY PROF. MCKINLEY BURT

Last week, we asked if the traditional, if somewhat perfunctory, yearly observance of a "Black History Month" could even begin to take advantage of millenniums of glorious and inspired contributions to the world's culture and technology?

And we rather strongly suggested that this very same data or cultural base could provide the experience-based tools and solutions to contemporary economic or social problems facing African Americans. There is much truth to that old adage, "We've done it before, we'll do it again" - well, haven't we?

Several readers, academics among them, took umbrage at my reference to "Homer", the Greek epic poet, as being "illiterate." Two doubters acknowledged the veracity of my statement after consulting "higher authority"; one having called two universities and the Greek Embassy in Washington, D.C. this is why I and other

black historians spend far more on research and documentation than those of some other cultures. Even our utterances on the weather may come under attack.

But back to my observation that black history provides the data base containing the information and tools for solving today's problems. And last week, I did say that data bank needed to be searched in a serious and meaningful way. There is no doubt what-so-ever that we all simply need to 'feel good' at times, to dance, to sing, to exhilarate in the sheer joy of who we are and that we have survived (all God's children).

And then, too, there is the spiritual strength to be gained through reverence of those who have gone before and in the worship of the theological forces, and the peace that piety brings us. But we also must extract and practice those hard lessons that have sustained us whenever, as historians put it, "barbarians appear at the gate."

I cited just such a circumstance when I noted that some prudent African Americans are thinking, "careful, this new black middle class that appears to have made it, may not have. It's easy to fall back when you're on the lowest rung of the ladder." The vital statistics of this often precarious position in American society is easily derived from a review of the aforementioned "Black History Data Base," so blithely honored one month a year.

But for a realistic assessment in a survival mode - sorely needed at this particular time - read "Black Corporate Executives: The Making and Breaking of a Black Middle Class", Sharon M. Collins, Temple University Press, 1997.

The book is thoroughly researched and represents an accurate and unsparring assessment of the tenuous position of a black social class in "a political climate that has become more conservative and an economy

that is rapidly restructuring.

This challenging and incisive Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Illinois, Chicago, has made realistic and valuable judgments - most of which parallel my own experience-based conclusions from my 30 years of industrial practice that preceded my academic tenure. Be sure to get this book! Especially if you only have been giving your Black History that "once-over-lightly" review one month out of a year.

I assure you that this author has 'been there' and that her honest and accurate observations can indeed point the way toward rediscovering the vital tools, the economic and social structures for survival.

As we've said, they are there for the taking, firmly embedded in our magnificent historic past. Other culture have seized them, can't we a waken?

Concluded next week.

Dear Editor:



Letter To The Editor

Send your letters to the Editor to:
Editor, PO Box 3137, Portland, OR 97208

The growth of distance learning affects no group more than over scheduled business professionals eager to advance their careers. Kaplan Educational Centers, one of the nation's premier education companies, has launched the first ever online CPA review course at www.kaplancpareview.com; using the technology of distance learning to set a new standard for convenient preparation.

Simply by logging on to the Internet, CPA candidates get the kind of comprehensive, high-quality review Kaplan is known to deliver. Students have round-the-clock Internet access to the course's 28 lectures by leading professors and accounting professionals. Students also receive Kaplan CPA Review's study books, 500 flashcards, and software featuring tutorials, topical

tests, ten actual CPA practice exams and computer-analyzed feedback on performance.

"Most candidates are busy professionals who recognize the long-term career value of a CPA, and need to fit studying into their schedules when they can," said Jack Goetz, vice president of Kaplan's professional education division. "Kaplan's CPA Review on the Internet offers an unprecedented degree of convenience and flexibility. Students can access any part of the course 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from wherever they want.

No other review course provides this option."

When students sign up for Kaplan CPA Internet Review, they are issued a personal password that allows them unlimited use of the site and remains valid until test day.

Students have the flexibility to view lectures repeatedly as needed, download slides and handouts from the lectures, and stop sessions at any time to e-mail questions to Kaplan CPA instructors.

As of February 15th, students can enroll in Kaplan CPA Internet

Review by calling 1-800-KAP-TEST. Interested students who lack Internet access can request a free 30-day trial through AT&T or American Online, compliments of Kaplan. For students without computers who want to take advantage of the distance learning option, Kaplan offers an audio tape series.

If you are interested in learning more about Kaplan CPA Internet Review, please contact me at 212-492-5890, or Kate Lefer at 212-974-2769.

Sincerely,
Andrea Wilson

RAINBOW PUSH COALITION

The State of the Union

As the President said, "the state of our union is strong." Examining the major points of the President's speech, we find much with which we can agree. We also find that, on issue after issue, the Republicans are stones in the passway to improving the lives of working families. We're right. They're wrong.

Education

Our nation's public schools are in disrepair and classes are overcrowded. To combat these problems, President Clinton intends to push for 100,000 new teachers in grades 1-3 and 6,000 new schools. Instead of fixing the problem, the Republicans want to rely on private and parochial schools and abandon the founding fathers' commitment to public education. We're right. They're wrong.

Crime

Most juvenile crime is committed between 3pm and 8pm when kids get out of school and do not have anything to do before their parents get home from work. The President wants more after-school programs to give kids something productive to do during those critical hours. The Republicans want to spend more and more

money on jails and longer sentences. We're right. They're wrong.

Minimum Wage

To keep pace with inflation and give working families a fighting chance to support themselves, the President has proposed an increase in the minimum wage this year. Claiming that the minimum wage costs jobs, Republicans like Dick Arney would like to eliminate the minimum wage entirely. But the facts show that, since the last time we raised the minimum wage (August 1996), the economy has created 3.9 million new jobs and inflation has fallen from 2.9% to 1.7%--its lowest level in a generation. We're right. They're wrong.

Day Care

Far too many families today have to choose between the job they need and the children they love. To correct that problem, the President wants \$21.9 billion, targeted at low-income working families, to make child care better, safer, and more affordable. The broken-record Republicans dismiss it as "big government" and will use this issue to call for more tax cuts. We're right. They're wrong.

Medicare

One of the great success stories of the federal government this century has been lifting seniors out of poverty and into the middle class. Medicare is central to that accomplishment. The President now wants to give people in their 50s the opportunity to buy into Medicare--a modest proposal that would give millions of uncovered Americans health insurance and would not increase the deficit. The Republicans have opposed Medicare from its inception and have already announced their opposition to the President's new plan. We're right. They're wrong.

Civil Rights

There is currently a backlog of 60,000 cases at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The President asked Congress to bolster the staff at the EEOC so that these Americans can find justice.

By their exploitation and demagoguery of affirmative action and immigration, the Republicans would rather use race as a wedge to divide us than as a bridge to unite us. We're right. They're wrong.

"Paradise" & The Civil Rights Movement

(Washington, D.C.)-Author and Nobel Peace Prize winner Toni Morrison believes there are some serious questions to be addressed in Black literature. "Even when I keep explaining to people that the erasure, or absence, of Black women writers on the screen has been so long, so profound... the presence of

ten (Black women writers) looks like millions," she says.

As for the recent "absence" of Black male authors, Morrison asserts it's not the issue. "Where are the Black men buyers?... Black male writers are all over the place," she states.

Morrison's latest book, "Para-

dise," is the final chapter in a trilogy about "investigations into certain kinds of love." Loving something or someone completely, according to Morrison, is very difficult for most African-Americans. "Paradise" is... about the love of God," she says. "It's about faith, and how it can suppose, build and lead.



THERE'S NONE SO REMARKABLE AS THOSE WHO TURN CHALLENGES INTO TRIUMPHS.

For proving you can, when others say you can't. This virtue is upheld by the men and women of Washington Mutual, who have had a long standing commitment to making the American dream of home ownership come true for all individuals. By looking beyond the numbers, we're able to tailor our home loans to meet your needs, not just ours. It is a unique distinction, one that we are proud of. For more information visit your local Washington Mutual home loan center.

Washington Mutual
#1 HOME LENDER IN THE NORTHWEST

