

EDITORIAL

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THANK YOU FOR READING THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

perspectives When Reality Is Real, Not Virtual, III

By Prof. McKinley Burt

Well, everyone seems happy with the shift from \$200 sneakers to Microscopes and Telescopes - or Electronic Kits and optical benches. There is something about owning and cherishing your very own personal instrument that really gets to a kid. An attitude for a life time.

I fielded a number of questions on the list of equipment and tool suppliers supplied last week. Some parents said they could not give the answer to the question, "why haven't we thought of this before? We have been programmed right out of our birthright, haven't we? Your generation of African Americans and those going back 120 years gave America and the world so many of its critical inventions of the industrial revolution."

While we are on the subject of devices, including model-building for the younger ones, be sure to include both "Gilbert Erector Sets" and the ever so eclectic "Leggo Blocks". I still remember my childhood experience with the erector sets; building cranes, tractors, automobiles, skyscrapers, you-name-it. Interestingly, Gilbert was a native Or-

egonian and the world-wide distribution of his versatile learning toy is reflected in a museum in Salem.

A number of readers commented on the fact that in last week's article a teacher at The Kellogg School commented on "the student's interest in inventors as people working to improve conditions for humanity and not necessarily personal gain-speaks well of your influence on these young people (Fern Morey)."

If there ever was a time for the humanizing of our youth and the need for developing sensitivity, consideration and tact in their societal interactions, its now. You do remember my recent series, "Who Will Pay The Piper"? (Jonesboro and the rash of youth violence). Just as it was when I was a kid, it is already observed here that the close cooperation and mutual respect are required to develop a science club project. Parents say they are amazed at the disappearance of animosity and hostility among neighborhood peer groups. "They want to win Westinghouse, General Electric, MIT, Etc. science prizes." They will do it, too. One mother, a senior employee at a

chip manufacturer was speaking about a dated youth science kit she bought for her "new" idea when she started yelling. The lady was waving a February 1998 report on the Science Director's "ACT" program. First, she was angered by the statement, "students' interest in inventors is on the rise." Portland "Parade" and news set 27 different trophies. "I discovered a machine of passion."

The second incident was a state of outrage was the information that a central focus was the weapons and fragility and certainly his address at North and North Portland schools were not as exposed to the "parade" as Mr. Burt didn't you just write last week about the first time during the "parade" that the computer was the only trophy demonstrated for the students were, "the winners are listed under their class."

"This is the year 1998 and..." Speaking of the "parade" the kids are identifying "parade winners" and kids of similar achievement that their parents would not want to miss a "parade" were the "parade winners" "TAX"

gals" instead of "pen pals for each invention science group will have its own machine. I just started cleaning my older machine when a father informed me, my ten year old can do that. He cleans mine." First interstate hookups and science project competitions will be in Atlanta, Chicago, St. Louis and Houston.

Youngsters pay close attention to things overthink they miss. They noticed that the Oregonian article on the Spruce Goose display by Evergreen Helicopter described the reunion of the technicians who worked on the huge plane. "They were all white Mr Burt, and then your piece comes out documenting that local Benson graduate, Thomas M. (Don) Radford was a key engineer on the project. He was on that maiden flight. Why do they hate us so badly? Why do they deny that we invented the technology we did? Why are they so frightened?" Out of the mouths of babes.

My reply is quick and succinct, "Ask them!" And then I tell the youth, "you see why you've got to study harder and do it better and finance better." Concluded next week.

To Be Equal Achievement Is Cool

By Hugh B. Price
PRESIDENT
NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE

Achievement is cool. That's one way of characterizing the goal of our Campaign for African-American Achievement, the national effort we and a broad-based coalition of black religious, professional, fraternal, and civic organizations have launched to inspire more African-American youngsters to strive to do well in school.

We held our inaugural induction ceremony for the Thurgood Marshall Achievers Society last Friday, April 24, our Campaign's honor society, which, of course, is named after the late civil rights hero and United States Supreme Court Justice.

In twenty-seven cities across the

country, local Urban League affiliates joined with our partners' local representatives to honor more than 2,200 elementary and high school-aged youth. Each youngster received a certificate attesting to their induction in the Achievers Society and a jacket with the Society's logo designed by the talented young fashion designer, Karl Kani.

We want our youth to believe that achievement is cool. As in "hip." As in desirable. As in good. Millions of black youth already

know that, and are acting on it. They're the ones who are doing well in school and excelling in their intellects and displaying the discipline and stamina that they need to prosper in an increasingly

We want to celebrate those youngsters and use their myriad examples to persuade more of their peers that they, too, can identify their own future by acting on the principle that achievement is cool.

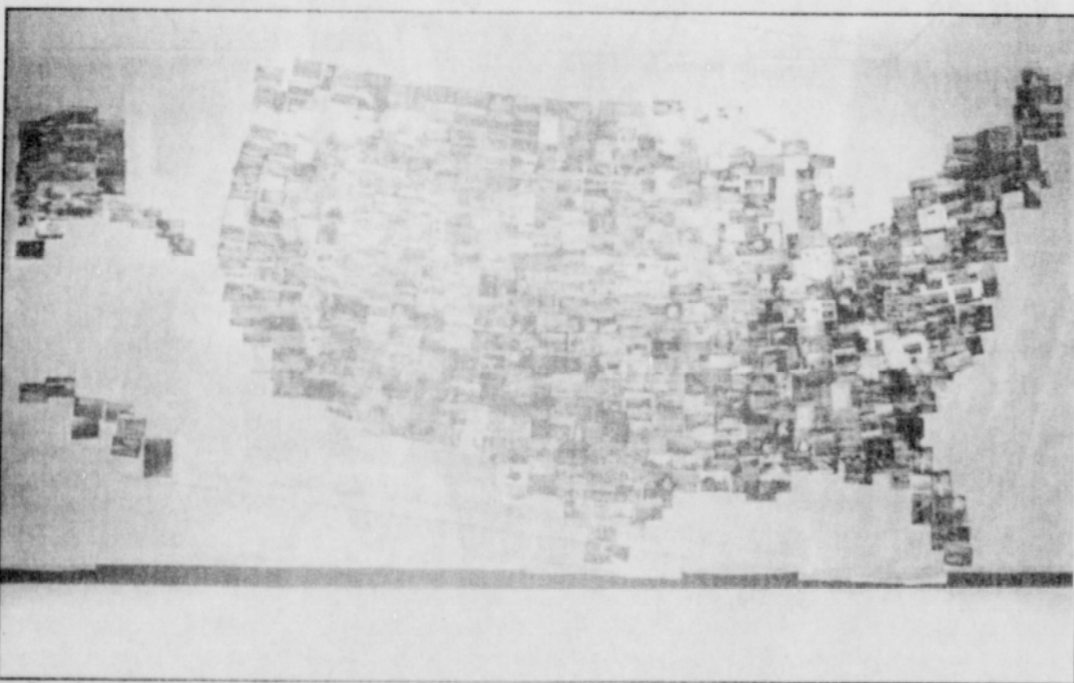
Our Campaign for Educational Achievement, of course, is hardly something new. It remains a pursuit

has been both a cornerstone and a guiding star of African Americans' very existence in this land.

But we want to emphasize that it must become even more so if African Americans as a group are to prosper in the twenty-first century. More of our youngsters must understand the full meaning of the expression found in so many 19th-century memoirs of former slaves who had educated themselves: I studied because I found that knowledge is power.

Letter To The Editor

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



Dear Portland Observer,
Thank you! My class covered our wall with postcards. We have 5,000 to 6,000 postcards altogether. Our postcards made a shape of the U.S.A. Thank you for all your help.

Your friend,
Joseph Guevara
Stephenville, Texas

Letter To The Editor

Dear Friend,

Please let me introduce myself. My name is Tracie Mitchell. Perhaps you have heard about me prior to reading this letter, but if you have not, please let me tell you a little about myself.

I am an African-American woman who has overcome and achieved many things in her life. I am continuing to reach my fullest potential through employment, education and seeking opportunities to grow.

And to accomplish these things, I am in need of your help...

I have been given a unique opportunity both as a woman from this community and a graduate of the PCC Skills

Center to participate in the Mark O. Hatfield Internship Program. This internship is being offered through the office of Oregon's Republican Senator Gordon Smith. It is approximately a two-month program in Washington D.C., where one gets hands on experience in the working of our government. Many participants of internships return with experience to pursue governmental and other leadership positions in their own communities.

I want the chance to learn, to experience and "give something back" to my own community...

This is the first time this internship has been offered to any community college student, and with your financial contributions, I will be able to go.

I am a single mother of two children. My budget cannot afford the \$3,000.00 it is going to take for travel expenses, finding room and board in Washington D.C. and maintaining my household here to take care of my children while I am gone. I am scheduled to be in Washington from June 5, through July 24. I found out only recently that the PCC Skill Center does not have any funding available to help.

I am humbly asking for help from all of you. Please find it in your heart to help me get to Washington...

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 685-2072 at my work or 240-6795 at my home.

Sincerely,
Tracie Mitchell

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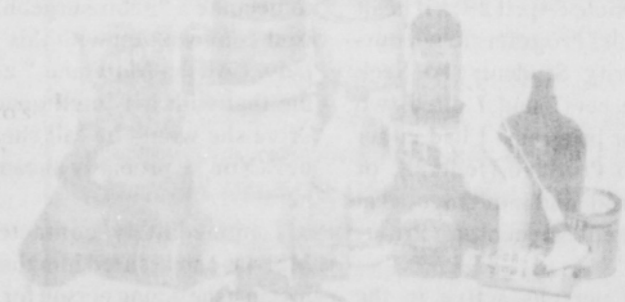
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- safer alternatives for home and garden
- hazardous waste disposal

Metro Recycling Information is open 9:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call us for a free refrigerator or give us yours! We'll always have our number handy.

Tip of the week: Free hazardous waste disposal

Clean unwanted hazardous household products off your shelves and bring them to Metro's free collection event - Saturday, May 16 at Washington Square, or to Metro's permanent hazardous waste facilities.



Call us at 234-3000 for more information. Visit Metro's web site at: www.metro-region.org



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