

EDITORIAL

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

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

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.

The Portland Observer

(USPS 959-680) Established in 1970

Charles Washington
Publisher & Editor

Gary Ann Taylor
Business Manager

Iesha Williams
Graphic Design

Mark Washington
Distribution Manager

Larry J. Jackson, Sr.
Director of Operation

Laphael Knight
Graphic Design

Contributing Writers:

Professor McKinley Burt,
Lee Perlman,
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

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

Periodicals postage paid at Portland, Oregon.
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, 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 \$30.00 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

Letter To The Editor

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

Dear Editor,

Most people think of this time of year as a time to get out and enjoy the outdoors. However, here in Portland, there were three days during July and August when the air was unsafe to breathe due to ozone pollution. In addition, there were eight Clean Air Action days when smog advisories were issued. Going outside to work, exercise or play can damage lungs, and for the more than 172,000 thousand people in our state who suffer from asthma, air pollution can be deadly.

A "lethal loophole" in the Clean Air Act exempts 559 of America's oldest and dirtiest power plants from modern clean air standards. Portland General Electric Co.'s Boardman plant fails to meet these standards as do numerous PacifiCorp plants in Washington, Wyoming, and Utah. These plants are the source of one-third of the nation's smog-forming nitrogen oxide pollution, and one-third of the nation's carbon dioxide emissions, the primary source of pollution that causes global warming. Exempting these dinosaur power plants from modern pollution standards is like giving the fastest sports cars immunity from speeding laws.

Oregon's congressional delegation should clean up these old and dirty power plants. Lobbyists for the coal and electric industries in Washington D.C. are waging a big money battle to protect dirty power, but all of us, especially the 172,000 asthma sufferers in Oregon, need clean air now.

Sincerely,
Tiernan Sittenfeld
OSPIRG Field Coordinator

Dear Editor,

Mr. Rangel exactly what are you and the Black Caucus doing to assist the President in these hours of need? I have taken it upon myself to write to each member of Congress (500+) telling them to keep President Clinton in office regardless of Starr's investigation.

I would like for the Black Caucus and all other supporting members in Congress to have each of their constituency write letters to Congress doing the same. Let us not sit peacefully on the sideline and do nothing. Notify all committees and organization members to do the same. I submitted my letters via e-mail but the regular mail system can be used also.

This President had been the most supporting of Black issues since President Kennedy, so please throw him a life line to help keep him from sinking.

Many thanks,
Beverly C. Sanders

Life After Internet: The Lead Pencil Society III

By Prof. McKinley Burt

I'm led to understand that I have a number of people pulling out bundles of fold letters - savoring the handwritten evidence of true friendship. If true, might there come about a return to those days of "human intimacy and sociability"? Will the net release it's hold?

I seriously doubt that to be in the near future. As promised last week, I refer to those "Minutes of the Lead Pencil Club": Bill Hendersoned, Pushcart Press, N.Y.

"The Internet is a channel for the curious. With a click of the mouse the Dead Sea Scrolls can be viewed the President's health care plan will appear, and letters to editors or to cyberzines can be written."

"For a generation accustomed to fast music, fast food, and quick results, the Internet is a perfect match: its easy, its fast, its fun, its free. It is also addictive and as dangerous as it is educational."

The "minutes" continue with horrendous stories of friends lost, skills lost and of grades that have plummeted from 3.3 to 2.5. The failing student explained; "I didn't stop studying, you just like get addicted to it. You're just so into the conversation you don't want to get off and study." Many students "have given up school activities, student government and sports," (and stamp collecting?)

Several readers have called to my attention that the 9/2/98 edition of the Portland Observer has an employment ad bearing a very interesting relation to this series. A large, area employer lists very prominently among the job requirements "...as well as excellent written and verbal communication skills."

Following right on, we are told, "The complete job posting, including addi-

tional preferred qualifications may be seen on our website... an on-line application is also available at the website."

We wonder if this "opportunity" is calling for any of those students with the "plummeting grades". Just kidding, this position asks for years of experience. However, who knows when the tide may turn in favor of a universal literacy? Millions of students, seeing employment as a

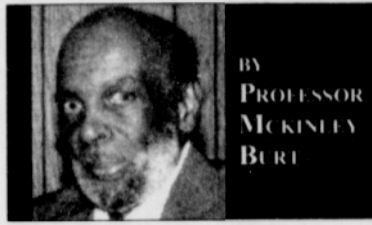
reasonable goal of their education, may turn from search engines like Magellan, Yahoo and Lycos to tools like grammars, style manuals and Roget's International Thesaurus.

Speaking of "style manuals", there are a number of these 'how-to-write-it' guides on the market. The most popular and accepted is "The Chicago Manual of Style", published by the University of Chicago Press. Avail-

able at most bookstores, it is now in the 14th edition. As you may know, other style manuals are available. The U.S. Government, the Associated Press and a multitude of state agencies across the country publish their own.

Again, I am enjoying an excellent reader response, I do hope its deserved. A grandparent says that she located a source for 'new' copies of the famed "McGuffey's Readers", 122 million copies in circulation, 1836 to 1920. The 7-vol set (1600pp) has been reissued, and is sold through the "Mind's Eye" catalog for late fall, 1998, \$69.95.

Others remind me that Plato, the Greek philosopher credited the Africans (Egyptians) with the invention of 'letters', mathematics and astronomy. I have on my study a facsimile of the famous "Rosetta Stone", the translation of which opened the eyes (and minds) of the world to the technical and cultural wonders of an Egypt that antedated the rest of man kind.



BY PROFESSOR MCKINLEY BURT

THE REAL MILLION YOUTH MARCH

By Hugh B. Price, President of the National Urban League

If you think you've missed the Million Youth March, put that out of your mind. There's plenty of time for you to join in.

I'm not talking about that event in Harlem last weekend that was never meant to be anything more than a platform for the odious antics of Khalid Abdul Muhammad.

Although some newspaper columnists and politicians insist upon acting as if Muhammad has some significant following in the black community, there's never been any evidence that the overwhelming majority of African Americans think so. There was none, again, in Harlem last Saturday.

No, the march I'm referring to is the real Million Youth March - is the one going on in neighborhoods all over the country: the long-standing one in which black youngsters, often against daunting odds, strive to do their best in school and strive to be of service to their communities as they march toward adulthood.

We've seen wave after wave after wave of young African Americans make that march. Some of them have come and are coming through the National Urban League Incentives to Excel and Succeed (NULITES) youth program, now almost a decade old. Some we

inducted last spring into the new Thurgood Marshall Achievers Society, part of our Campaign for African American Achievement.

Many have come through the youth program of our civil rights counterpart, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, or through the vast network of national and local social service groups, fraternities and sororities, and community organizations. Still others come by way of a devoted family, or school teacher, or caring adult.

However they come, the evidence that black youth continue to follow the well-trod path to achievement is voluminous.

Do we need to inspire more youth to follow that path? You bet we do.

That is the point of such leaders as the Reverend Jesse Jackson, and Kwesi Mfume, of the NAACP, and the Reverend Joseph E. Lowery, the former president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference made by their presence and their remarks at the Million Youth Movement gathering in Atlanta last weekend.

One should not dismiss that event merely because it drew such a small number of young people: from the first this kind of march faced serious logistical and organizational problems that its models, the precedent-setting Million Man March in 1995 and the 1997 Million

Woman March, did not.

Rather, one should focus one's attention on where the action is: in our neighborhoods and in our schools.

In that regard, then, the Million Youth Movement will have served its purpose if it reminds more of us that the opening of school is the equivalent of new Year's Day for school age youngsters.

It's a season of fresh beginnings and new possibilities - a chance for them to step onto and move further along that path of achievement.

We adults should also take it as an occasion to make some pledges about our children's preparation land future that we'll never break to them, or to our people.

State after state is raising the standards for what our children must know and be able to do in order to get a high school diploma.

Yet, the signs are that the achievement gap is widening again, pushing black children in urban school systems further and further behind academically.

Fortunately, black parents are getting the message. A recent survey by Public Agenda shows that parents want public schools to concentrate on lifting the achievement levels of their children.

But we cannot stop there. Let me purpose five principles that parents

should insist schools in their communities follow.

First, every child has the right to attend a pre-school program that gets them off to a solid start.

Second, every child has the right to be taught by fully-qualified teachers who believe they can achieve.

Third, every child has the right to take rigorous courses that challenge them to reach their fullest potential.

Fourth, every child has the right to attend a well-run, well-equipped and well-maintained school whose primary mission is teaching and learning.

Fifth, every child has the right to participate in constructive after-school programs that can promote healthy development and keep them out of harm's way.

These principles are the foundation of the Urban League's educational programs. More than 90 of our affiliates across the country are participating in our third annual national "Doing the Right Thing" celebration September 19 to honor ambitious and accomplished and hopeful young people in their communities.

These youths, part of the historical and contemporary movement of African Americans into the American mainstream, underscore that putting young people on the path to achievement pays huge dividends for all of American society.

OREGON CONVENTION CENTER
At The Center Of Success

OCTOBER EVENTS

Date	Event	Attendance	Est. Economic Impact
Oct. 3-5	American Society of Landscape Architects	3,000	\$1,869,000
Oct. 8	Spectrum '98--NW Property Mgmt. Conf.	650	\$34,320
Oct. 8	Minority Enterprise Development Week	600	\$31,680
Oct. 9-11	Northwest Women's Show	4,000	\$211,200
Oct. 10-12	Pacific NW Software Quality Conference	600	\$373,800
Oct. 10-16	Western Pulp and Paper	375	\$19,800
Oct. 15-18	Home Improvement and Remodeling Show	20,000	\$1,056,000
Oct. 20	Bravo Trade Show	1,800	\$95,040
Oct. 22	Portland "Roast" Festival Dinner	800	\$42,240
Oct. 22-23	Assn. of Christian Schools Int'l	2,000	\$1,246,000
Oct. 24-25	Franchise & Investment Expo.	2,000	\$105,600
Oct. 25	Church of Christ	1,800	\$95,040
Oct. 26	Worldwide Dreambuilders	1,000	\$52,800
Oct. 26-28	Pacific NW PGA Merchandise Show	2,000	\$1,272,000
Oct. 26-31	Apparel Designer Zone	3,000	\$158,400
Oct. 27	Oregon Peacemakers	500	\$26,400
Oct. 28	Workers' Compensation Forum	500	\$26,400
Oct. 28	Oregon Metals Summit	700	\$36,960
Oct. 29	Columbia Willamette AHEC Health Career Day	700	\$36,960
Oct. 30 - Nov. 1	Cleansing Stream Ministries Seminar	1,800	\$95,040
Oct. 1 - Nov. 1	32 other events, meetings and food functions	4,000	\$211,200

Total Estimated Economic Benefit For The Region For October \$7,095,880