



# Opinion

Articles do not necessarily reflect or represent the views of The Portland Observer

## Native Born Americans Can Unite America

By R.D. DAVIS

A slavemaster must rob a new slave of his or her identity. Once this is accomplished, further brainwashing and dehumanizing of the slave is possible. Our Negro African ancestors were robbed of their identities in this manner.

Today, in the name of Marxist-driven "political correctness," all Americans are being robbed of their true identities. What's really bad about this is the fact that unlike the new African slaves arriving here hundreds of years ago, the robbery taking place right now did not require any force.

If you were born in Arkansas like I was, you are a native Arkansan.

You are an Arkansan even if your parents were from Timbuktu.

If you were born and raised in America, are you some sort of hyphenated American? No, you are simply a Native American.

Our race has been categorized in several different ways in my lifetime. First, our race was colored, then we became Negroes. Later on, we were called black. Somewhere along the line, we were Afro-American. Then, in the early 1990's at a press conference, Jesse Jackson made it official by telling the gullible mass media, "We are no longer to be referred to as blacks. We are African-Americans."

Who gave Jesse Jackson the au-

thority to decide what our race is called, anyway?

I don't care what Jesse said: I'm not an African-hyphenated-American. I'm tired of changing my identity like a professional wrestler changes his personality. At some point, people of other races may begin to start thinking we're confused.

Besides, Africa is not a country. Africa is a vast continent that currently has 55 countries with different ideologies, governments, traditions and cultures. Moreover, calling ourselves "African-Americans" says absolutely nothing about the color of our race. On the continent of Africa, you will find

people of all color variations from as lily-white as Casper the Ghost to as jet-black as the ace of spades. Africa is not a one-race continent.

When a "leader" hyphenates a population of Americans, he is dividing them from the rest of America. The demagogue now maintains control and power over his balkanized population.

To prove my point about how division promotes racism, look to David Duke. I recently saw this white racist and former Ku Klux Klan leader on a cable news channel. He had recently formed a "European-American rights" group. I guess he figured "what's good for the goose is good for the gander."

You see only racists — no matter what their color — would want to hyphenate Americans so that they can divide America.

I am a Native American, but I am also proud to be black of African Negro heritage. A friend of mine, Ezola Foster, the president and founder of Americans for Family Values, wrote back in June of 1995 in what was Headway magazine, "By any other name, a rose is still a rose."

By whatever means our ancestors arrived, an American is still an American. Like it or not, our true category is American. Shouldn't we share this with our children?"

To unite America, we must.

The  
Portland  
Observer

USPS 959-680  
Established 1970

## STAFF

EDITOR IN CHIEF,

PUBLISHER

Charles H. Washington

EDITOR

Larry J. Jackson, Sr.

BUSINESS MANAGER

Gary Ann Taylor

ASST. PUBLISHER

Michael Leighton

COPY EDITOR

Joy Ramos

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Robert Parker

4747 NE Martin Luther King,  
Jr. Blvd.

Portland, OR 97211

503-288-0033

Fax 503-288-0015

e-mail

news@portlandobserver.com

subscription@portlandobserver.com

ads@portlandobserver.com

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to

Portland Observer

PO Box 3137

Portland, OR 97208

Periodical Postage  
paid in Portland, ORSubscriptions are  
\$60.00 per yearDEADLINES  
FOR ALL SUBMITTED MATERIALS:

ARTICLES:

Monday by 5 P.M.

ADS:

Friday by noon

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.

## It's Property Rights, Stupid

By NANCIE G. MARZULLA

Bill Clinton beat George Bush in the 1992 Presidential election because the economy at the time was in a slump, according to most political observers. The established notion that people vote their pocketbooks was captured by the colorful slogan: "it's the economy, stupid."

The Clinton Administration has been blessed by an economy that almost immediately surged into hyper drive, fueled in no small part by the explosive growth of technological advances.

That economic boom continues today. So if Al Gore defeats George W. Bush this year, it will probably be because a strong economy favors the incumbent party candidate.

Today the American economy is enjoying unquestioned world market dominance that is based primarily on the contribution of inven-

tors and creators and their intellectual property alliance confirming that U.S. copyrights protection is rooted in the Fifth Amendment's due process and just compensation clause in the heart of Bill of Rights.

Protection of intellectual property is set forth in Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, which explicitly commands Congress "to promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited time to authors and inventors the exclusive rights to their respective writing and discoveries." Thus, not surprisingly, Microsoft, a company at the apex of the computer industry, is a homegrown success.

It's market value, a whopping \$400 billion, depends directly on this country's commitment to protect its patents, copyright, trade secrets, brand name, market presence, and intellectual know how

— its' intellectual property rights. In short, our economy today is based on property rights, stupid.

This truth seems to have been lost on both major presidential contenders. Although the Democratic Party platform asserts that "technology is no longer just wondrous gadgets, it is an ever more integral

part of our economy — and an enormous part of what has been driving economic growth," the platform does not even deem property rights protection worth mentioning. According to George W. Bush, "Governments don't create wealth. Americans-by creativity and enterprise and risk-taking create

wealth. The great engine of wealth has become the human mind- creating value out of genius." Yet the Republican platform, which deserves credit for its commitment to protecting property rights in land, fail to make the connection between intellectual property protection and property.

## There's No Better Time Than Now to Be A Black Republican

By CARLTON T. PEARSON

For as long as I can remember, both sides of my family been registered voter with the Democratic Party and unquestionably and often without thinking voted the Democratic tickets.

But when Ronald Reagan was running for president in 1980 primarily because of his emphasis on moral and ethical integrity, and his conspicuous embrace of conservative concerns regarding faith in God and the church, I changed parties and voted Republican. I have done so ever since.

For the first several years after changing party affiliations, I was a closet Republican. "Primarily because Republicans and their party platform have been considered the enemy of African Americans and other minorities. The Democratic leadership knows that, for the most part, they have our vote, so they don't necessarily have to listen to us, and in many cases they don't. In my opinion, the "one party system" African Americans has been our curse.

When I saw Vice President Al Gore pandering to the NAACP crowd, even emulating the stereotypical oratory of African American preachers, my stomach turned. He and his liberal Democratic cronies assumed that if they played the music right, we'd dance to their tune. I was insulted by his presumption and disappointed by our gullibility I wonder if Lee Alcorn, who resigned as president of the Dallas chapter of the NAACP after making anti-Semitic remarks about Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman, would have been denounced as he was if Lieberman had been a Republican.

Yet while the majority of African American leaders have career commitments to the Democrats, there are a small but growing number of black urban professionals ("buppies") who are reconsidering the long-and short-term benefits of our carte blanche commitment to the party's liberal agenda. Within the African American community, there are some definite conservative instincts and inclinations. To those people, I would say: It's all right to be black and Republican.

African Americans are making more

money, seizing more opportunities and accessing more power and influence than ever before. We've never before realized the powerful advantages of a capitalistic society. But after decades of strong, forceful and consistent civil rights activism and the continuing influence of the powerful and prophetic dreams of Martin Luther King Jr., African Americans particularly the baby boom generation are beginning to experience different options and political dispositions.

Some high-profile African American commentators have denounced the Republican Party's attempt to include minorities in their convention, accusing them of "tokenistic" Motives and of "airbrushing" their underlying disdain for interests that serve the African American needs and concerns. I agree with Republican National Committee Chairman Jim Nicholson. However, when he says that it was time for the party to start showing minorities that the GOP is becoming a "different party for a different time." Sure, there were more minorities on the Republican National Convention stage than among the delegates on the floor, but you have to start somewhere. How could there be more minorities on the floor until there are on stage with whom they can identify? It is far more effective to address African American concerns from within the party than from outside it. Gen. Colin Powell had much greater impact and influence on issues such as affirmative action and broadening the appeal to minority concerns during the Democratic convention in Los Angeles.

As African Americans, let's leverage our political options by removing the unspoken taboos associated with party affiliation. I think George W. Bush could be a powerful catalyst for change. This could be a great new start for the two-party system, especially as it relates to people of color. There is no better time to be a black Republican than now.

Suffering from  
teleconfusion?

Here's a simple, local,  
friendly solution!

integra  
TELECOM

BE HEARD.

LOCAL, LONG DISTANCE & INTERNET FOR BUSINESSES  
Call Integra Telecom today at 503-748-7777



Visit our website:  
www.integratecom.com

Now with  
Drawings

Every  
Day!

lucky for  
LIFE

Begins Oct. 8, 2000

Odds of winning 1:7. Must be 18 to purchase. Be a smart player. Know your limit. LOTTERY.