

African-American Voice

March 2000

PMB 145, 2920 S. Grand Blvd. Spokane WA 99203-2530 (509) 455-8274 rllloyd@cet.com

Volume 4 Number 10

If you don't choose the platform, they'll choose it for you

Participate in Party Caucus March 7

March 7 is Super Tuesday! It's your opportunity to participate informally with your neighbors in the political process and make your voice be not only heard, but count. The February 29 election is non-binding and more of a popularity contest. It is the process that begins at the Caucus on March 7 that determines whom a party's candidate choice will be.

Meetings all over the state will take place at 7:30 PM. The purpose of the caucus in Washington is to

develop the Party Platform and to begin the selection process for delegates to the State and National Conventions. In each meeting those attending will express their preference for a candidate for US President and delegates will be elected in proportion to the candidate's support. The caucuses are an opportunity to vote on important public policy issues that you think should be included in your party's platform.

Precinct caucuses are an opportunity for you to make your voice heard at the most grassroots level and, if you choose, to continue to make it heard



throughout the process. The introduction of resolutions is an important way to make sure issues of concern to you are heard by the party leadership.

All you need to know to participate in your Precinct Caucus is your

precinct number or name and where to go.

How do I find out what precinct I'm in?

Check your voter registration card. It will appear as your Legislative District number--dash--

Precinct number or name.

If you can't find your voter registration card, go the web at

<http://dfind.leg.wa.gov>. If you don't have access to the web, call Spokane

Continued on page 8

INSIDE

Page 6
Between the Congo & the Fish

Page 7
Diallo verdict

Page 11
New VP at EWU

Spokane's Black Pioneers

95th Happy Birthday

Wally Hagin, 85, at right with another Spokane black pioneer, Lillian Burnette, at a celebration of her 95th birthday given by her daughter Evelyn Burnette and other family members on February 5.

Wally Hagin has been around in his 82 years in Spokane - a pre-med student at Gonzaga University, a trumpeter in the Gonzaga University Pep Band, a pilot, a soldier, an embalmer, an entertainer, an integrator of neighborhoods and a photographer of the people of Spokane since soon after World War II.

In an informal chat on February 23 at Gonzaga University with Bob Bartlett, Director of Multicultural Education, photographer Wally Hagin reminisced about his life in Spokane in conjunction with an exhibit of family and personal photographs currently on display at Foley Library.

Born in 1915 in Great Falls, Montana, his parents Wallace and Irene Hagin moved the family to Spokane to help Rev. Reed reestablish Calvary Baptist

Church when Wally was 3.

Enrolling at Gonzaga University in 1929 as a pre-med major (but really to play in the Pep Band, says Wally) he was later recruited by GU professor Father Yates who had started a Civilian Pilot Training program and thought it would be nice to have a Black man in the program. He did receive his pilot's license. Later, after Pearl Harbor, he went down to Fairchild to enlist as a pilot but was told they "didn't take Negroes". Late in the war he was on the list to join the Tuskegee flyers but the war ended.

A career as an embalmer ran into similar difficulties. After two years at the University of Minnesota he received his morticians certification. Meanwhile, his father had collected signatures from the black community to present to Hazen and



Jaeger to set up a position there for Wally. But when he showed up with his credentials he was told "We don't want any niggers looking at naked white women." You'll have to ask Wally what his reply to that was. He had to go to Seattle to find employment with a mortuary.

And then there was

the short lived experience working at the Spokane Club. The club hired lots of black help but did not admit any as members, until years later Carl Maxey after the passage of the Civil Rights Act threatened to sue every night club in town that discriminated. Wally got a job

Continued on page 15

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CONTEST

Leaders we have known and admired



Who is this man?

Ask your parents, ask your teachers, ask a librarian, ask your community leaders. At the end of a year's issues, will you know the name of each leader?

Youth who write a short article for the history page earn \$25 if accepted for publication.

Mr. Miggins goes to City Hall

By ANTHONY BRADLEY

There have been numerous accusations and a cloud of controversy surrounding the hiring of Spokane's new city manager. On Monday, February 21, Mayor John Talbott introduced the new city manager, Henry Miggins, to the city. Mr. Miggins addressed a small gathering of thirty with a message of hope and determination to keep the city moving forward. Miggins admitted that there were other issues that caught his attention, but his focus would be only on the city and its transition into the strong mayor form of government. He knew there were a lot of questions about what he was planning to do. He stated that he would spend some time familiarizing himself again with the city and its

employees.

Miggins believed the mind set of the city would play an important role in getting things accomplished. He wanted everyone to know that if anything was to get done in the city it would take team work.

Miggins stated the excitement of the job and his love of community/public service were the reasons he took the position. Miggins is not planning to continue on after his 10 months are up, but would be open to the possibility of remaining. If the job was not an option after 10 months, then he would retire.

On the subject of working with the city council, Miggins stated that he knew there would be some disagreement, but once a decision had been made, he expected the council to move forward

as a whole. Miggins was present Monday at the city council meeting as the council discussed his contract. Councilwoman Roberta Greene acknowledged that the city needed to move forward but voiced her disagreement over not being able to view the contract until the evening of the meeting. Eventually, Miggins' contract was approved by the council on a 5-1 vote. The one vote against the contract approval was from councilman Rob Higgins. Councilwomen Phyllis Holmes declined to vote. The contract was the same as previous city managers except the annual salary of \$90,500 was lower.

Miggins closed the official press conference by stating he was looking forward to the job and would always be accessible through his open door policy.

From the Spokane Human Rights Commission

Notes:

A letter will be sent to the MLK Board of Directors addressing a controversy, centering on sexual orientation that came out of this year's MLK Celebration planning.

Dreams into Reality -

Why should I care?

The Community Congress on Race Relations is in full action! The approach to organization this year is proving to be more efficient. The Task Force on Race has divided up into 5 committees for the purposes of planning the Community Congress, which takes place on April 28 this year. The committees are: Faith, Education, Government and Service Agencies, Logistics, Publicity. Each committee will be providing breakout sessions for their target constituency. Featured speakers include John Gray and William Leftwich III. The CEO breakfast speaker will be Sylvia Palms. We welcome your involvement! Each meeting brings more community members. For more information, please contact: Vince Lemus at 625-6263 e-mail: vlemus@spokanecity.org or Maureen Reickers at 625-6266 e-mail: mreickers@spokanecity.org

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We serve a broad community

Who reads and who pays for the African American Voice? 3,762 copies are mailed out to homes and offices. 1,238 are distributed at over 50 drop sites. 532 people have paid for at least a one year subscription. 157 people have subscriptions which have not yet expired. 3,605 people and or organizations who are not currently subscribed are receiving the paper by mail free.

Others who read the AA Voice

AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY RESOURCES 81
ASIAN COMMUNITY RESOURCES 15
ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS 17

BLACKS 721
BLACK CHURCH 13
BLACK NEWSPAPER 33
BUSINESSES 116
CHURCHES, PASTORS & MINISTRY 647
COMMUNITY AGENCIES 62
COMMUNITY CENTERS 2
LATINO & LATINA COMMUNITY RESOURCES 13
MENTORING AND YOUTH PROGRAMS 3
MINORITY BUSINESSES 66
NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY RESOURCES 18
TASK FORCE ON RACE RELATIONS 62
WOMEN'S RESOURCES 33
UNIVERSITIES & COLLEGE 15

AA Voice Drop Points

- | | | | |
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African American Club
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SCAN
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SCC Single Parent Program
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Spokane City Hall
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TASC
University of Idaho Multicultural
University of Washington
Washington State University Multicultural
West Central Community Center
Western Washington University Multicultural
Whitworth College Multicultural
Yokes (Sprague & Sullivan) |
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The Spokane, Pullman African-American Voice

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Summit aims to bridge gap between Africans, U.S. blacks

Organizers say event can help improve relations by dispelling stereotypes and misunderstandings.

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Sunday February 13
Washington -- Despite their historical ties, misunderstandings and stereotypes have created a rift between some African-Americans and Africans living in the United States.

But if organizers of the first National Summit on Africa have their way, some of these will be cleared up and relations between the groups will improve.

In bringing Africans and African-Americans together here for a summit that begins Wednesday and runs through next Sunday, organizers also hope to increase understanding of Africa and improve U.S.-Africa trade. In addition, they hope to educate all Americans, regardless of race, about the vast continent that some refer to as the "Motherland."

"Most Americans don't know anything about Africa, except Tarzan, Jane and wars. And most Americans don't know that Africa matters," said Leonard Robinson, the summit's organizer. "Africa is portrayed as the glass is half empty, not as the glass is half full. We want to portray Africa in a way that it hasn't been portrayed before."

Robinson, a high-rank-

ing State Department official in the Reagan and Bush administrations, conceived the idea of the summit several years ago at a White House conference on Africa. He has traveled there extensively over the past 30 years.

The National Summit on Africa has invited nearly 1,800 representatives from all 50 states, as well as leaders from six African countries. Their goal is to draft and adopt a plan of action that will help guide U.S. foreign policy makers in their relations with Africa, a vast continent of 54 countries, 800 million people and roughly 1,000 languages.

President Clinton, Atlanta Mayor Bill Campbell and former South African President Nelson Mandela have said they'll attend.

Sometimes contentious relations between Africans in the United States and African-Americans exist because some have skewed impressions of each other, said University of Connecticut professor Michelle Williams, an Atlanta native.

Some Africans think African-Americans dislike them and believe that they are lazy, she said. Likewise, African-Americans often feel the same way about Africans, she added.

At the same time, she said, African-Americans sometimes perceive Africans as arrogant and believe they have superior

attitudes toward their counterparts in the United States.

"Many African-Americans still think of Africa as having no modern conveniences, and everybody lives in grass huts," said Williams, who teaches courses in African-American studies.

Stereotypes that Africans and African-Americans hold of each other are rooted in misunderstandings, not malice, because they have been isolated from each other, historians believe.

"We have been conditioned" to dislike and be ashamed of Africa, said Patricia Dixon, an African-American studies professor at Georgia State University. During slavery, blacks were brainwashed to believe that Africa was a primitive place that was inhabited by savages, she said. Some historians believe this brainwashing caused many slaves who were brought to America to develop a historical amnesia.

African-Americans and others are still being brainwashed by the white-controlled media, said Sandra Jackson, director of the Center for the Culture and History of the Black Diaspora at DePaul University in Chicago.

It is rare, she said, that major American publications and television programs show African cities with gleaming office buildings, mansions, hotel

resorts, luxury cars or African men and women dressed in designer business suits using cellular phones.

"Instead, the media focuses on the bizarre, the corruption, the violence and nothing on the regular African people," Jackson said.

Similarly, African-Americans are portrayed negatively in the African media, said Georgia State University professor Makungu Akinyela. He said African-Americans often are presented as gangsters, drug dealers, welfare queens or murderers. And when African students come to America, he said, they are cautioned by their white sponsors about associating with black Americans.

Still, others like retired professor Bernard Magubane, who returned to his native South Africa in 1997 after teaching for nearly 30 years in the United States, said in a telephone interview from Johannesburg that he sees no problem with African and African-American relations. And it's normal for groups of people to disagree, he said.

"If you take the attitude of ordinary Jews in New York, they have the same stereotypes, that the Israelis are arrogant and etc.," he said. "At the personal level, people may have a personal experience, but at a larger historical level, you begin to understand why those

stereotypes came into being."

Erku Yimer, executive director of the Ethiopian Community Association in Chicago, disagrees. He said "once we come here, the behavior African-Americans show Africans is not conducive to establishing a good relationship."

The summit may help improve African and African-American relations, but it is not the only solution to the problem. The key is to begin educating young people at home and from the time they start school, said GSU professor Dixon, who was not exposed to African history until graduate school.

"For the African-American community to neglect Africa is to, in effect, neglect its own existence and its own future and its continent," Robinson said. "Economically, politically, culturally, the richness of the combination, the potential power that (the African and African-American) community could have bridging across the Atlantic Ocean is just mind-boggling."

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Overcoming credit barriers

BY CHUCK HORMEL

Mortgage lenders approve loans based on the borrower's income, assets, liabilities, employment history, and credit history. It used to be that a poor credit history or a high debt-to-income ratio made it almost impossible to buy a home. The 1996 Home Mortgage Disclosure Act cited credit history as the number one reason for denying a mortgage application. More options are available today than ever before for people with less-than-perfect credit.

Subprime mortgage loans have less stringent qualifying criteria and generally carry a higher interest rate to offset the increased default and foreclosure risk. Credit counseling services offer free counseling and assistance in overcoming credit problems so that you then can qualify for a conventional loan with a more competitive interest rate.

Roberta Greene Completes 9 yr. term with CCS

February 15 was the last meeting of the Community Colleges of Spokane Board of Trustees for trustee Roberta Greene. She served for nine years on the board, including two terms as chair and one term as vice chair. "Her leadership was acknowledged with a resolution of appreciation, a standing ovation and numerous tributes from trustees and staff," said On the Inside, the weekly newsletter for the faculty and staff of the community colleges.

Free medical clinic needs funds

The East Central Community Organization Primary Care Medical Clinic recently held a fund raiser "Arrested for Good Health." Volunteers arranged to have themselves arrested for an hour and a half and raised bail of \$500 each. The clinic primarily serves low-income residents throughout the east central area, and in the entire Spokane area. While the clinic depends on donated services of health workers, there are still costs of operation and funds are needed if it is to continue to provide these much needed services.

For more information on how to contribute call the East Central Community Center at 625-6699.



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Arts and Culture

Book Review

Roots of the Rich

By LEONARD GILL,
MEMPHIS FLYER, 1/25/99

Our Kind of People: Inside America's Black Upper Class by Lawrence Otis Graham

It's a club called Jack and Jill and a camp called Atwater for the kids. No question about it. The Alphas, the Kappas, or the Omegas for college men: the AKAs or the Deltas for college women. For the wives, it's a toss-up: the Links or the Girl Friends; for the husbands, the Boule or the Guardsmen. And depending on where you live, who you are, whom you know, and what you make, make that Oak Bluffs, Sag Harbor, or Highland Beach for a real taste of an old-guard summer.

If the names of these clubs, fraternities, sororities, and vacation spots mean nothing to you, to a segment of America's upper-crust that positively prides itself on pickiness and rank, they can mean only one world - a separate world made up of and exclusively for a membership that is professionally accomplished, socially well-connected, supremely

status-conscious, avowedly elitist, wealthy to super-wealthy, and black... This is invitation-only territory, and if you're expecting an invite, expect your background to count, your money to matter, and the lighter your skin tone and straighter your hair, the luckier you are... If you're Colin Powell, Andrew Young, Lena Horne, or Bryant Gumbel, you've already got it. Jesse Jackson, Maya Angelou, Alice Walker, Clarence Thomas, Diana Ross, don't even try.

Graham, the son of a successful but not-too-rich father, didn't necessarily have it either, and he should know... The major misstep in his impeccably groomed past as a former Jack-and-Jiller, former escort to black debutantes, and known vacationer on Martha's Vineyard, Graham's suspect decision not to attend Howard, Morehouse, or Fisk, and to settle instead (to the point of apology) for Princeton.

This then, is social history with a fair dose of memoir mixed in, and a rarely looked-into and valuable social history, from slavery down to the present day, warts and all...



Between the Congo and the Fish

On the evening of February 23 the African American Education Program at Eastern Washington University with the help of the Music Department provided an audiovisual journey through the southern regions of Africa in song, dance, poetry, anecdote and slides.

Performing were Chipo Mashingaidze of Zimbabwe and Robert McLaren (Mshengu Kavanagh) originally from Durban, South Africa. Their more than 30 songs sung acapella or accompanied by mbira, guitar or drum explored the history, culture, love,

life, struggles and laughter of the people of southern Africa.

Chipo Mashingaidze is from a small village in Zimbabwe, earning a BA at the University of Zimbabwe in English and Psychology, minoring in Theatre Arts. She is a member of the political theater group Zambuko/Izibuko and is a television presenter. Dr. McLaren has a B.A.Hons. in English from the University of Cape Town, a B.Phil./M.Phil. in English from Oxford which he attended on a Rhodes Scholarship, and a D.Phil. from the University of Leeds. He

has been a university professor in Africa and Europe. He helped found the influential Workshop '71 theatre organization in South Africa, from which he went into exile in 1976. In 1985 he became a Zimbabwean citizen where he co-founded Zambuko/Izibuko, and the Children's Performing Arts Workshop. His publications include a translation of Xhosa satirical poems, *The Making of a Servant*, a collection of plays, *South African People's Plays*, *Theatre and Cultural Struggle in South Africa* and most recently *Making People's Theatre*.

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The Eulogy

REV. ERNEST RUFUS

I was survived by my family with heaven on my mind.

It's hard to believe that I worked for mankind.

I was rejected by the world and betrayed by my friends.

My heavenly Father knew that I was praying for an end.

I was born from a race of kings who ruled upon high,

But the cotton fields of Mississippi is where I withered and died.

I was a minister working for the betterment of our labor.

My enemies had the same respect that I gave my neighbor.

Working, night and day for my master, paid its toll.

What does it profit a man to gain the world and lose his soul?

I've always wondered about the history of our race.

I rather rejoice in the promise that has been put before my face.

The world can change because there is love to give.

I bless his holy name because I have one more life to live.

EVENTS

Tell us what you or your organization is doing in the near future

African American Mothers Celebration
Mar 4 Sat 11:30 am SCC Lair Bldg 6 1810 N Greene.

Teenage Writers Workshop
Mar 4 Sat 9 am - 4 pm IEL Lodge, 3315 W Ft George Wright Dr. \$23 Bring samples of work, plus lunch. Call CCS IEL 533-3770.

International Women's Day Celebration
Mar 4 Sat 1:30 - 4:30 pm African American Women in History performance. Unitarian Universalist Church 4340 W Ft Wright Dr. Call 624-7551.

Six Steps for Raising a Confident, Competent Child
Mar 6 Mon 7 pm SCC Lair Student Center. Free. Donations accepted for scholarships to cooperative preschool program. Call Kris Miller 533-3738.

Marketing on the Internet
Mar 6 & 8 Mon & Wed 6 - 9 pm SIRTI 665 N Riverpoint \$45. Call 358-7890.

A Midsummer Night's Dream
Mar 8 Noon, Mar 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18. 7:30 pm SFCC

Playhouse, Bldg 5 Spokane Falls Community College 3410 W Ft. Wright Dr. \$6, \$3 seniors and students. 533-3608

Finding Our Own Voice, All of Us
Mar 8 Wed 11:30 am - 1 pm Judy Gorman offers 45 min lecture on the multicultural history of women, followed by a 45-min musical performance.

The Old Settler Onyx Theatre
Mar 10 - Apr 1 Spokane Civic Theatre, Firth Chew Studio. Tickets \$8. Call 325-2507 or 1-800-446-9576.

Auditions
Mar 13 - 14 Mon & Tues 1 - 4 pm "Working, A Blue Collar Musical about Working Men, Women and Children" auditions SFCC Playhouse. Call Bill Marlowe 533-3592.

The Crucible
Mar 12 Sun 7 pm Reading Stage. Spokane Civic Theatre, Firth Chew Studio. Tickets \$5 at the door only.

SFCC Jazz Ensemble
Mar 15 Wed 7:30 pm Bldg 15 Spokane Falls Community College 3410 W Ft. Wright Dr. Free

Africa's Dino Giants
Mar 15 Wed 7 pm Geology lecture by Univ. of Chicago professor Paul Sereno. SCC Lair Bldg 6 1810 N Greene. Free.

SFCC Jazz Combos
Mar 16 Thurs 7:30 pm. Bldg 15 Spokane Falls Community College 3410 W Ft. Wright Dr Free

Spokane Jazz Orchestra
Mar 18 Sat Sounds of New Orleans & Louis Armstrong. The Met. Tickets \$18.50/\$16.50 325-SEAT.

Chase Youth Awards
Mar 28 Tues The Opera House. Call 625-6909.

The Neville Brothers
Mar 29 Wed Coeur d'Alene Casino, Worley ID. Tickets \$30/\$20. 325-SEAT

N-Shira-Pa
Apr 8 Sat 10 - 9 pm. African American festival & business forum. Spokane Valley Mall. Call Carol Shook at 535-0741.

Pre-Paid Legal Services
Tuesdays 7:15 - 8:30 pm Downtown Travel Lodge, 33 W Spokane Falls Blvd. Call 509-625-0299.

Blacks in Government
Meets 4th Tuesday of the month. Conference May 31 - June 2 in Spokane. Call 924-3490.




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PENNIES COUNT . . .
Saturday, March 25th
7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



Watch for the "Kids for Kids" Community Day Penny Drive to benefit developmentally disabled children, birth to three, who attend the Spokane Guilds' School and Neuromuscular Center. All services are provided up to 200 children per year without regard for ability to pay.

Please take time to make a difference! Remind your friends, relatives, everyone about this event. Drop off your pennies at any of the following sites:

- Spokane Guilds' School
- Inland Northwest Dairies
- Windermere, North Wall
- Windermere, Johnson
- H & R Block (Airway Heights)
- Lawton Printing
- Spokane Valley Mall
- Windermere Valley, Inc.
- KHQ-TV parking lot
- Windermere, Manito

Please call Faris Charbonneau, Penny Drive Chairman, at 467-8025 if you have any questions.

WSU Coach Mike Price and Debra Wilde, KHQ-TV, Honorary Co-Chairmen

Onyx Theatre presents The Old Settler

Opening March 10 and running through April 1 at the Firth J. Chew Studio Theatre at the Spokane Civic, this bittersweet comedy written by John Henry Redwood is directed by David Denman Smith and produced in cooperation with the Onyx Theatre Troupe.

Two fifty-something sisters living in 1943 Harlem take in a young

male boarder who has come to New York to search for his lost love. This ruefully funny look at "last chance" flirtation with love is skillfully laced with sweet sorrow, wry humor and poetic language.

Don't miss this Inland Northwest premiere. Tickets are \$8. Call 325-2507 or 1-800-446-9576 for reservations and times.

Dennis Mitchell Branches out to legal services

"Prepaid legal is to the legal industry what medical insurance is to doctors. Without medical insurance, very few people could afford to practice preventative medicine or see their doctor. The same is true with legal issues", said Dennis Mitchell.

Well-known in the area for his Success-N-Effect Empowerment Seminars, Mitchell is now also involved with Pre-Paid Legal Services, a company founded in 1972 to provide prepaid attorney services through membership plans. A

nationwide network of thousands of licensed, practicing attorneys provide services to Pre-Paid Legal members. Membership covers member, spouse, and dependent children for a monthly fee. Group rates are also available.

Pre-Paid Legal invites anyone interested to attend their weekly meetings Tuesdays from 7:15 to 8:30 PM at the Downtown Travel Lodge, 33 W. Spokane Falls Blvd. Call B.J. Wilkerson at 509.625.0299 to reserve space.

Does the big bad wolf get a bum rap?


Peter and the Wolf

SPOKANE OPERA HOUSE - SUNDAY, MARCH 26
FUN FAIR AT 12:30 P.M. • CONCERT AT 2 P.M.


Is he really all that bad or simply in the wrong place at the wrong time? Your children can decide for themselves as brave Peter helps save his animal friends. Prokofiev's music-filled story is presented by the Magic Circle Mime Company.

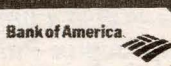
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Guest Editorial

African-American and Asian-American relations: a historical perspective

History tells many tales with one story, and tales can be told with as many perspectives as there are people to walk the earth and share them by voice, sign, facial expression, joy and pain.

The curiously turbulent relationship shared by African-Americans and Asian-Americans was placed in the public scope of about 25 people to examine at Washington State University's African-American Student Center. The small group gathered to listen and share thoughts with WSU Assistant Professors Dr. Linda Vo and Dr. Kelly Ervin. The Black History month program encouraged discussing the many dynamics that have constructed the fragile relations between the two respective communities in the United States.

The small, student sponsored and produced forum aimed at bringing out the issues that bind the two communities, painted in many public pictures as competing for second place in the US's social, political and economic power/class struggles. Vo stressed that historically both groups have been brutally exploited and added that all US Americans reap the benefits of hard work/slavery of Asian and African-Americans. She added, "I didn't learn until graduate school the history of African-American people and why we all lived in the conditions we did."

The misinformation gathered by Vo throughout her young life, after coming from Vietnam to California as a child, left her in the dark in regards to how her own cultural identity affected her. She said this kind of ignorance perpetuated by the public school systems in the US is part of the reason that "we don't understand each other... because we don't understand ourselves."

When someone in the group raised the point that some white people have been agitated and/or threatened by the thought of people of color coming together in acknowledgment of struggle and exploitation, Dr. Ervin addressed the group with her hypothesis. "What people of color have found out is that 'I can be pro-Black without being anti-anything.'" She later followed up her statement adding that one her students asked her, "Wouldn't blacks get upset if we had a 'White Student Union, A White Miss America Pageant or a shirt that says 'It's a White thing... you wouldn't understand?'" Ervin said to her student, "I think that people would not be upset, we want you to love yourself and who you are, but that doesn't mean to express pride by coming across the street and burning down my house."

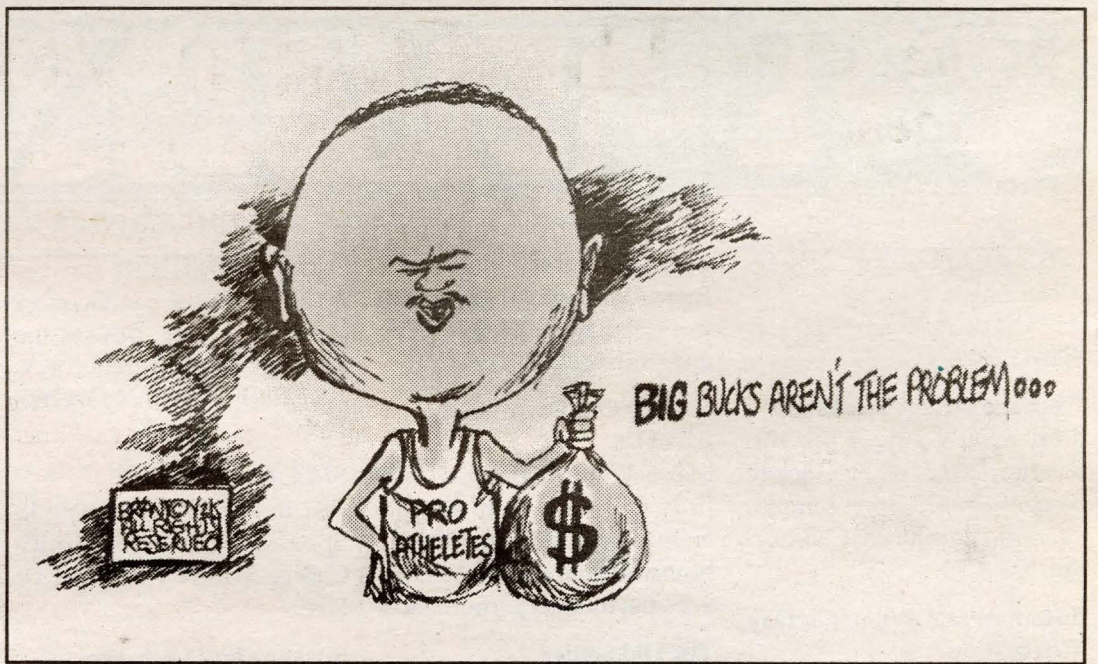
The group adjourned, but not before sharing a few experiences and ideas of how to combat the daily subtleties that rear their "cute-joke" heads every day in class, at work or at the dinner table. One woman suggested asking people what they prefer to be called, after finding out, thanks to an Asian-American associate of hers, that in many circles the term Oriental is considered highly offensive in application to Asian folk. Her associate shared with her, "To some people, using the term Orientals is the equivalent of someone calling you N*****." Hello.

The healing of the communities is not an easy task, but how many things of value are easy to replace, fix, heal or communicate about? One of the keys is to communicate these issues within the home and address them with the youth, who most likely won't get information at school and aren't far away from leading this potentially great nation.

Will we advance or retreat when confronted with the realities that will define and design our futures? Well, a few WSU students have answered one of the many calls to advance into the forbidden zone - the future's possibility.

Jose S. Gutierrez, Jr.

Jose Gutierrez, Jr., Pullman editor for the African American Voice, is a community activist and a graduate student at Washington State University in Pullman. He is also a broadcaster with station KZUU 90.7 FM Hip Hop in Pullman.



Opinions

"The stakes are a bit higher for us"

Washington D.C. The NAACP's bureau chief takes the Census Bureau to task for its new multiracial categories.

BY DARYL LINDSEY
SALON.COM > NEWS
FEB. 16, 2000

Tiger Woods could be the poster boy for the 2000 Census, as it attempts to count multiracial Americans for the first time. Although the champion putter won't find "Cablinsian," the term Woods famously told Oprah he preferred to African-American, he will this year be able to check all four racial categories he belongs to: African-American, Asian, white and Native American.

But while the new data may please Woods, as well as demographers and historians keen to trace multiracial population trends, civil rights groups are worried. Ever mindful of the basic principle of strength in numbers, organizations such as the NAACP and the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium are concerned that the myriad combinations resulting from the new categories could dilute estimates of racial populations, and cost some groups political clout. They say the new formulas could curtail the enforcement of equal-rights laws and the allocation of funding for race-targeted government programs such as health care, education and public transportation.

But their solution -- let Americans of mixed parentage identify all the races in their family tree,

but then have the government assign them to a designated racial group for the purposes of civil rights enforcement -- will no doubt bother some advocates for the multiracial, who don't want the government, or the NAACP, deciding which race they legally belong to.

Only weeks before the release of its latest survey, the US Census Bureau still hasn't decided how it will process the new data -- an example of bureaucratic disorganization that has only compounded the fears of all parties to the debate. The new form could result in as many as 63 racial combinations, or 126 if Hispanics -- an ethnic group, not a race -- are factored in.

In a recent interview, Hilary Shelton, director of the NAACP's Washington bureau, talked about how the good intentions that led to the introduction of multiracial categories in Census 2000 could backfire.

What are the NAACP's arguments against the proposed "mark all boxes that apply" multiracial census?

We're not opposed to the "mark all boxes" -- we're probably the last group that would opposed something like that. We went through the process where the country referred to us as all sorts of things, and we wanted to identify for ourselves what we are. We decided that we're African-Americans. It's simply a way of allowing people to self-identify instead of simply being locked into an area...

Your position is: People should have the right to self-identify as multiracial; then

the NAACP wants the Census Bureau to revise those figures and put people back in their historical categories in their final reports. How can you have it both ways?

The tabulation at the end is extremely important. The emphasis on the tabulation at the end is to see to it that we can most fully and consistently enforce our existing civil rights laws. Civil rights laws are there to protect ethnic minority groups that have a history of being discriminated against. When you do the analysis of who's being discriminated against, there has to be some tool to see who is self-identifying and which ethnic minority groups they would have historically been placed in for the purposes of civil rights enforcement -- so the full weight of the law can be used to provide these people with protection.

But how can the NAACP take on the role of determining the ethnic identity of someone who would historically be considered African-American but is now self-identifying as a mixture of black and other races? How is it qualified to make such personal decisions for people?

The NAACP wouldn't be involved in making the determination -- it would be involved in helping to steer the government agencies that are responsible for that enforcement to make sure that they're sensitive to what the multiple check-off is going to mean for historic discrimination and present-day enforcement of civil rights laws. Does that make sense?

The fundamental fear is that you're going to have

Continued on page 8

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The Diallo Verdict

These men are outraged. Are you? What can we do?

Today's verdict in the Diallo Case is yet another case of Black Tragedy in White America. The tragedy of this young man's vicious murder -- shot 19 (fired upon 41 times) time by 4 white New York City police offi-

cers and their acquittal by the legal justice system is a sad reminder that this same thing can happen anywhere in America...even here in Oregon, and it can happen to you. All of us should be outraged...if not by the verdict, but the entire incident.

If we are to see an end

to this kind of racial injustice...we must all take responsibility for staying engaged with government, police departments, churches, civic and community organization to work for change.

Carl Flipper
1/25/2000

Carl,

The verdict made it quite clear that it is the DUTY of policemen traveling in packs to think of black men they see standing in front of their homes as robbery or rapist suspect and gun them down by shooting them in the back and while they lay on

the ground. Think about it, if a policeman shoots a dog that is chasing him he loses his job or is fined or is given a suspended sentence or all four for doing something wrong. The general public and the courts won't tolerate that kind of barbaric behavior. On the other hand, if a gang of policeman murder a BLACK man using overkill, it is ok.

Now, if the verdict in the Diallo case does not make every fair minded American, black, white, and foreign born, make a contribution to the NAACP nothing will!

GH

LETTER

Editor

I wanted to share these poems with you because they opened my eyes when I read them. No matter how a mother treats the child, the child still wants her. A child's desire to be

needed is so strong that not times even the cruelest of treatment can't break the need for Mama. We need to help our children understand addiction, so when the doubt comes, when all reason has been exhausted, they can

still reach out and know love. She beat him with cords, left him for the pipe, allowed him to be raped, and still he cries for Mama. These poems show me the addiction through the eyes of a child.

Jo Saylor

Our kids are crying out for help

Poem ^{to} My Mama
BY TRAVIS

The Black Man's Poem

Mama is a crack fiend
I don't think she know how to smile,
I see her as a Black Queen, as all her chillen's runnen wild,
The white man is after me,
Even as a boy in the sand,
The white man is catchen me,
Feels like my life is going to waste,
Cuz in my heart there is so much hate.

May God Be With You

Here is something I've wanted to say,
May God be with you every day,
With tears of both joy and sorrow,
I hope he is with you until tomorrow.
Have faith in him each and every day,
And he will be there each step of the way,
Here is something I've wanted to say,
May God be with you every day.

Still I Cry

I cried tears of happiness,
when you were around,
I cried tears of sadness,
when you were not,
I cried tears of both joy and sorrow,
Still I cry them until morrow,
Now you are gone,
I wish you were here,
And still I cry every tear.

LIFE

Grief, sorrow,
Searching, wakening, lusting,
Stress, pressure - family, friends
Giving, prayer, weeping,
Mourning, sadness,
DEATH

Editor

As per our conversation at the Martin Luther King Jr. Day March, I am sending some poetry written by one of the students that I work with. I have been involved with this student for the past several months, and am very impressed

with her skills as a poet. Her name is Marquita Duncan, and she is a 14 year old Spokane native.

Hopefully, Marquita's writings will be an inspiration for other young African-American youth to write.

Candace P. Greene

The Thank You Note

BY MARQUITA DUNCAN, AGE 14

Thank you

For teaching me wrong from right,
And encouraging me to keep my dreams in sight.

For showing me not to let obstacles keep me down,
And for creating a smile from a frown.

For saying that you care about me,
And for showing me just how special love should be.

For wiping my tears away when I'm feeling sad,
And for calming me down when I

tend to get mad.

For helping others with the good things that you do,
And for teaching me that I should help others, too.

For hugging me when I am feeling blue,
And for whispering in my ear "I love you".

Thank you, brother, for all that you do,
I don't know where I would be if it weren't for you

Citizens for Nonviolent Action Against Racism

SPENCER HAMM
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CINAAR cancelled it's February meeting due to the changing of the guard at City Hall and the uncertainty of the outcome of the strong mayor and CINAAR board members decided to search for a new location. CINAAR cultural diversity shopping center will still serve the Spokane area with its revenue. CINAAR is still making preparations to build the shopping center and securing funds through grants and donations. The revenue from the shopping center will be used for job training, homeless shelters, housing

repair for low income owners, drug and alcohol treatment, mental health, children and adult music and performing arts, free garden, eye care, prescription drugs, dental care, short term recovery center for homeless and people that don't have insurance, child care programs, health education programs, city beautification funds, scholarship funds and other needed programs that will benefit the entire community of Spokane.

For further information call CINAAR at 536-1827. Send comments and donations to CINAAR, 2613 East 2nd Ave, Spokane, WA 99202.

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DISTRIBUTION

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Continued from page 1

Participate in Party Caucus March 7

County Election & Voter Registration at 477-2320.

How do I find out where my precinct caucus will be held?

Call the county office of your political party. For Spokane County, Democrat call 324-8525. For Spokane County, Republican call 838-6162.

How can I contact a minor party for information?

American Heritage Party (Constitution), 888-396-6247, www.americanheritageparty.org

American Reform Party, 619-299-9866, www.cpusa.org

Communist Party, 206-329-9171, www.socialism.com

Freedom Socialist Party, 206-682-0992, www.socialism.com

Green Party, 206-264-5110, http://vader.boutell.com.sea

Libertarian Party, 425-277-8192, www.natural-law.org

Reform Party, 352-543-5538, www.rpusa.org

Socialist Party, 212-982-4286, www.sp-usa.org

Socialist Workers Party, 206-323-3429, www.pitt.edu/~socialist

Workers World Party, 206-325-0085, www.workers.org

Become a Democratic Precinct Committee Officer

The Spokane County Democratic Central Committee has appointed a Diversity Committee to recruit all interested persons to participate in the neighborhood Caucus and to become Precinct Committee Officers (PCOs). PCOs are the backbone of each political party. This can be a very rewarding position, and it is hoped to find people of diverse backgrounds to become PCOs.

Why become a PCO?

The precinct is the most fundamental voting and organizational unit within the state. Precincts

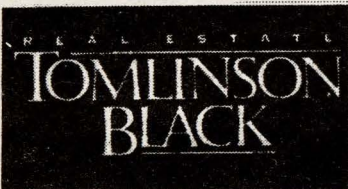
contain anywhere from 300 - 1,000 voters in a geographic area, and it is the PCO that provides information and literature on current issues. The PCO also is the link between precinct volunteers and the County Democratic Party.

This is true democracy at work and a chance to be sure that the voices of your area are heard and understood. Should you desire, you can then work toward other positions of leadership in the county or state, and even on a national level.

What would I have to do?

The duties of a PCO are to canvas his/her precinct and identify individuals who favor the principles of the Democratic Party, encouraging them to vote; assisting in voter registration; keeping informed on current issues and candidates; helping to distribute education materials and campaign literature to assist the voter understand the issues; attending Legislative District and County Central Committee meetings.

There are vacancies at this time - if you are interested call the County Democratic Office at 324-8525.



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Learning to lead

Leadership Spokane is seeking a diverse group of highly qualified and motivated members of the Spokane area community for its Class of 2001. Call 459-4116 or 459-4110. Applications are available now at the Leadership Spokane offices at 801 W. Riverside, Suite 400.

VIBES Conference Set March 3-4 at WSU in Pullman

African American high school and college students will soon be arriving for the VIBES/Visionaries Inspiring Black Empowered Students Conference at Washington State University March 3-4.

WSU, the Black Women's Caucus, and the university's chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., sponsor the annual event, which features separate programs for women and men.

This year's conference theme is "From Followers to Leaders: Preparing for the Challenges of Tomorrow."

According to conference chair J.J. Oliver of the WSU admissions office, those taking part in VIBES will "gain a variety of ben-

efits: leadership skills, tips to improve access to higher education and jobs, insights into the historical perspectives of African American culture, information about health issues that affect the African American community and enhancement of self-esteem."

On March 3, Bernice Buchanan, Spokane School District 81 diversity educator, will deliver an address, "Reaching into the Past as We Soar Into the Future." She is a Mississippi native active in the 1960s civil rights movement. Her daughter, Bernadett Buchanan, is the WSU Board of Regents' student member.

Other presentations will be made by Carl Mack; Shauna Weatherby, a nurse practitioner for

Planned Parenthood; Seattle educator Kipchoge Kirkland; Milton Lang, WSU College of Education student recruitment director; Herb Delaney, WSU Office of Multicultural Student Services community relations assistant director; and WSU grad Jai Elliott, special assistant to the provost at Howard University, Washington, D.C.

Housing for participants and chaperones will be available in residence halls on the Pullman campus.

For additional information or to register, see the WSU Conference and Institutes' Web site <<http://www.eus.wsu.edu/c&i/programs/VIBES00.htm>> or telephone 800/942-4978 or 509/335-3530.

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Continued from page 6

Multiracial Census categories

people who look African-American, who have grown up in communities that are African-American, who are going to experience the discrimination that African-Americans have historically experienced, but not have even

the existing civil rights protections because they're being identified now in this census in a way that's inconsistent with how it's been monitored in the past and how law enforcement is tooled to enforce it now. The numbers aren't important. The enforcement of civil rights are. No matter what you're calling yourself, we want to make sure

you don't get lost or left on the periphery of civil rights protection.

For the full text of the interview with Hilary Shelton, visit Salon at <http://www.salon.com/news/feature/2000/02/16/naacp>

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City of Spokane's Human Resource Director Retires

BY ROBERT C. WILLIAMSON JR

James Smith Jr., the Director of Human Resources for the city of Spokane, has retired after 22 years of service. I caught up with Jim at his home and collected some of his thoughts and perspectives on his life and on the twenty two years he spent serving our city.

Jim is originally from Beckley, West Virginia. He enlisted in the Air Force in 1953 and retired at Fairchild Air Force Base in 1975. Sixteen years of his military service was as a Security Police Specialist and the last seven years he worked in the Consolidated Base Personnel Office at Fairchild Air Force Base.

After retiring from the Air Force, he had to give some thought to what he wanted to do with regard to finding a new career. He tried his hands at a couple of jobs but realized that he did not want a job that required a lot of physical labor.

"I had been in management positions for the better part of my military career and that's what I truly wanted to continue doing," Jim stated.

Although Jim had plenty of experience in management he found out what a lot of retired enlisted people experience. Most employers have a hard time understanding what the scope of your military experience is about and how that experience translates to their business. Although you have the work experience in management, without a college education it's difficult to get an interview.

So it was back to college. Prior to joining the military he attended had Bluefield State College in Bluefield, West Virginia where he met his wife V. Anne. Jim enrolled in Spokane Community College where he received a AA degree in management and went on to Ft. Wright College where he earned a BS degree in Management.

Jim worked for the Soil Conservation Services while attending college, and after graduation he left to take the job as a Personnel Technician for the City.

He credits Lydia Simms, the Affirmative Action Officer for the City of Spokane at that time, for telling him about the posi-

tion. Jim states that she walked him through the hiring process and the Civil Service System.

Jim studied for the Civil Service examination and did very well on the test. He states that the interviews were very tough. He interviewed twice for two different groups of people. He said that if they had called him for a third interview he would have told them to keep their job.

As a Personnel Technician, he had a myriad of responsibility. He was responsible for administering personnel policies and procedures to the city's Water, Refuse, Sewer, and Fleet service departments as well as the Waste Water Treatment Plant. According to Jim there was no method to the madness. For example an employee would have an accident in a city vehicle and no investigation was conducted. The City usually wound up paying for the accident. Jim implemented a system of investigating accidents, saving the City money while at the same time holding employees accountable for their actions.

In 1983, conditions had improved and things were running well. It was time for a new challenge. What he had done for several departments, Jim wanted to do for all personnel and departments of the City of Spokane. Roger Crum, Deputy City Manager, promoted him and gave him the title of Assistant Personnel Director.

There was some resentment about Jim's new assignment. Eventually he got past the hurdle and got on with the task of doing the job. His boss passed away and a new director was hired. This director was soon let go and another nationwide search was conducted. In the meantime, Jim was the acting director. A decision was made to make Jim the Director of Human Resources.

Jim stated that he had one weakness at the time of his appointment and that was in the area of contract negotiations. That weakness was corrected when he was sent to school in California in 1983. He credits a majority of his successful career to the skills in management that he acquired in his military career.

One of the low points

in his career is the flack that he has taken from the African American community about not doing enough to get more people of color jobs with the City. Jim states that he made efforts at getting more people of color into the system. He always passed out information to the local churches about job openings and got little response.

He worked with the Civil Service and implemented a training program that was targeted for people of color. If you completed the program and passed the Civil Service examination you were hired for the job. Several people of color completed the program and have since moved and taken positions with other cities. Many of them are doing very well. I had the opportunity to read several thank you notes from people who benefited from Jim's wisdom and advice.

With regard to the Strong Mayor, Jim is not in favor of this form of government. He feels that it produces cronyism and that we are witnessing cronyism at it's best. He went on to say "As things stand at City Hall, they've got a real mess on their hands".

Although Jim is retired from the City, he and his wife of 47 years, V. Anne, have not decided if they will remain in Spokane or relocate to Virginia. Jim plans on staying active as a Human Resource consultant and with community organizations.

He has spent many years working on some national boards and committees and he plans to continue with that work. There are some other offers that he is pondering.

Several months ago Phyllis Holmes, Councilwoman at large, stated that the City is going to be losing a lot of corporate knowledge. After meeting and talking with Jim, I truly understand what she meant. Whoever fills Jim's shoes will have some large shoes to fill. If I ever want to know something about this city I will be consulting with Jim Smith.

Jim. I would like to thank you for inviting me to your home and sharing your story with our readers. We here at the African American Voice applaud your service to the City of Spokane and wish you and V. Anne the best of luck in whatever you do.

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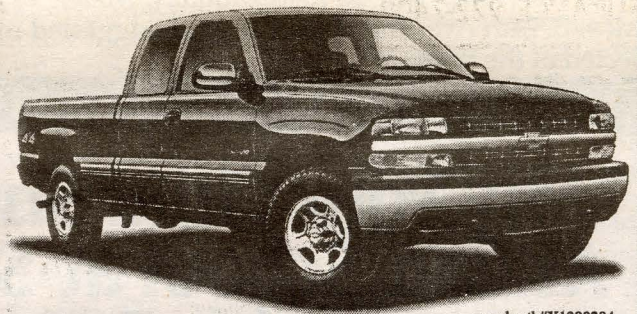
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2000 Black History Month Essay Contest

The Eastern Washington University African American Education Department essay contest winners this year were:

Elementary (grades 4-6): Lauren Hahn, Wilson; Amanda Taylor, Grant.

Middle school (grades 7-9): Kirsten Randolph, Mead; Erin Van Antwerp, Evergreen.

High school (grades 10-12): Rachel Jordan, Cheney High; Ashley Washington, Ferris.

College: Gwendolyn K. Wind, EWU; Brad Bullington, EWU.

The following essay is one of the winning entries.

ASHLEY J. WASHINGTON
FERRIS HIGH SCHOOL

A lot of children and teens think they have it bad. Even I think I have it bad a lot of the time. Some of this comes from the lack of knowledge of our black history...or just not caring. My life would be a lot worse than it is today without the changes brought in by Dr. King and other civil rights

leaders. Last year as a freshman at Ferris High School, we didn't learn anything or even set aside a time for black history, not even during Black History Month. When I asked a teacher that had been there for awhile why we didn't learn anything about black history, she was dumfounded and shocked that I had even asked her. She told me that they had one school year to fit all the required lessons in and that wasn't one of them. At first I was a bit upset, but I got over it.

After awhile I started to think that maybe I shouldn't get over it because it's reasons like that which make us (black children) ignorant about our history and past struggles. I feel this is part of the reason why some youth today think they have it bad or just don't understand what "life" was like before Dr. King's non-violent stand -- the "life" of high powered water hoses, riots, with segregated bathrooms and water fountains -- the "life" of segregated restaurants and schools. I know my life is better

and many more doors have been opened for me because of people like Dr. King and the civil rights leaders who fought for what they believed in and what they knew was right.



Dr. King is not the only one who has helped us come this far. I am grateful to one person in particular, Marian Anderson. Because of her I can sing anywhere I like and be in our school choir. She was the first black person to sing at the Metropolitan Opera House. She

helped destroy racial road blocks so that she could help herself and people like me.

My mother is a registered nurse. She told me about the early 1900's when our people were not allowed to go to the hospitals like white Americans. Now people all over America are asked first if they have insurance before they can even think of seeing a doctor. Sometimes it seems as if the only color that matters is green.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and many others fought for HUMAN rights as well as Black American rights. President Kennedy said, "Some men see things as they are and say why? I dream of things that never were and say, why not?" This quote made me look at all of the violence and injustice and ask WHY? This made me dream of the things that never have been, like total peace, equality, and justice for all, and say WHY NOT?

Workshop on racial extremism Mar. 27

St. Mark's Lutheran Church will host an evening of learning and discussion with a presentation by Tacoma pastor Rev. Jerry Walters, author of *One Aryan Nation Under God: Exposing the New Racial Extremist*.

Pastor Walters found himself in the midst of turmoil in central Montana as he arrived to serve a parish in Roundup during the Freeman confrontation. This resulted in his taking an active role in fighting racism and caused him to study the subject, particularly as the Aryans cite scripture as a basis for their beliefs.

The workshop will be held Monday, March 27 from 7 - 9 PM at St. Mark's, E. 24th Ave. and S. Grand. A \$5 suggested registration fee will be collected at the door.

Quick, Easy Applying for Federal Student Financial Aid

FROM COMMUNITY COLLEGES OF SPOKANE

Millions of students applying for federal student financial aid this year will find the process easier and faster than ever before, according to the US Department of Education, the nation's largest source of college student aid. In addition, tax credits of up to \$1,500 per student for tuition expenses paid last year are available for 1999 federal income tax filers.

This year, an estimated \$51.4 billion in federal grants, loans, and work-study opportunities will be awarded to some 8.4 million students out of 10 million applicants. Even students who are not financially needy enough to qualify for grants or federally subsidized loans are eligible for loans at interest rates lower than those offered by commercial lenders.

The first step is filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Students can file electronically or on a paper application. Students are encouraged to talk to the financial aid directors at the schools they hope to attend to learn about financial aid packages and other sources of assistance.

Students can obtain a paper application at high school guidance offices, libraries, or by calling the Federal Student Aid Information Center toll-free at 1-800-433-3243 (TDD 1-800-730-8913).

Electronic filing is faster and less error-prone because the software immediately identifies error and allows for on-the-spot corrections. Go to FAFSA on the Web at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Help

is available by calling the customer service hotline at 1-800-801-0576 (TDD 1-800-511-5806).

Reapplying for aid is simpler than ever because students need only add a minimal amount of new information on the 2000-2001 renewal form and update any information that has changed. Renewal can be done electronically after receiving a PIN number. Check with school financial aid administrators for questions.

PIN numbers will be mailed to new students who apply for aid. It can be used to access the student's account information online, access renewal FAFSAs, and take the place of the student's signature for FAFSA on the Web applications in subsequent years. Beginning March 6, students can make corrections to an aid application through the Internet.

Education tax credits are available -- up to \$1,500 for the HOPE tax credit for each student enrolled in the first two years of college or vocational school; and up to \$1000 for the Lifetime Learning tax credit for those beyond the first two years of study for students enrolled in vocational, college, graduate and professional schools, or adults taking classes part-time to improve or upgrade their job.

To take advantage of the Hope and Lifetime Learning tax credits, taxpayers must complete and submit IRS form 8863 with their federal tax return. For more information call the IRS help line at 1-800-829-1040, read IRS publication 970 or visit the US Treasury Department's website at www.irs.gov.

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Ross Thomas, Saint George's Teacher

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Time: **Program begins at 2:00 p.m. Student Guided Tours follow**

Place: **Saint George's School**

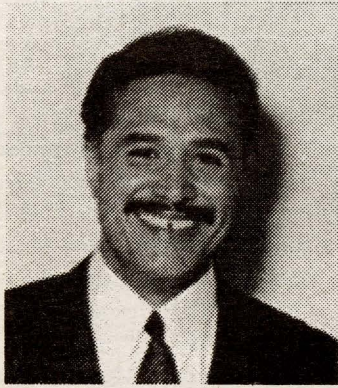
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EWU has new Vice President



Peter A. Dual begins as Eastern Washington University's new vice president on April 1. His appointment was announced February 18 by Stephen M. Jordan, president, who said, "I believe he brings the right balance to our university. He is articulate, has significant experience as an academic administrator and has shown great capacity in building programs."

Dual, presently executive associate for Academic Affairs & Leadership Development at California State Polytechnic University-Pomona, has over 30 years of experience in education, and has lectured, worked and traveled extensively in Japan, China, Taiwan, Zimbabwe, Tanzania

and Kenya.

"I have been blessed with national and international experience in education health care and social policy that enabled me to make a difference in the lives of people," Dual said in an interview for the Eastern Washington University Weekly.

Dual will be moving to the area with his wife Toni and son Alfred, 16, a world class swimmer who has already qualified for the Olympic trials this summer. Moving with them will be Toni Dual's mother.

Academically, Dual's research interests include the role universities play in the health of communities, and policy formation/health behavior/interests of underserved populations.

He is currently a tenured professor in the health professions and is developing a teaching and applied research program on community approaches to eliminate disparities in health concerning ethnicity/race and culture and health.

Dual holds advanced degrees in public health and education, including a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from Michigan State University.

Continued from page 15

Canadians often develop a second-hand, borrowed impression

that Canadians often develop a second-hand, borrowed impression about what it means to be black in Canada from the American experience.

Canada is not nearly as integrated as we like to think. As a novelist and as a writer about black history in Canada, I've been invited into schools countless times. And when I have spoken in schools with a substantial black student body -- in Toronto's Jane-Finch corridor, or Scarborough, for example, or in Dartmouth, N.S. -- I have noticed that black and white students are often apart. They sit apart, in school assemblies. They walk down the halls, apart. The black students don't have any choice but to learn about Canadian (read "white") history.

But how many opportunities do other young people have to learn what it means to be black in this country, or what black people have gone through? They can always watch *The Green Mile* or *Driving Miss Daisy*. Many Canadians can tell you that Martin Luther King Jr. led a glorious, dignified, love-thy-brother struggle for civil rights in the United States, until he was assassinated in 1968. They can tell you that Malcolm X led

a more smoldering fight for black nationalism, or that American slavery finally crumbled during the Civil War. If they're younger Canadians, they'll salivate over Denzel Washington or Will Smith, or groove to the rap music of Queen Latifah. But where, oh where, does Canada fit in all this?

I have my thanks to thank for teaching me, plenty young, that Canadian history encompasses more than the two "founding nations" (an attitude, I suppose, that equates the First Nations to chopped liver). They arrived here as American immigrants in the 1950s, and adopted Canada and its history with the passion of religious converts.

An opinion piece in *The Globe and Mail* is hardly the place to begin a lecture about black history in Canada. But the next time you or your children actually feel like learning something about your country, try talking to that person next to you on the bus, or who works in your office, or who is renting an apartment from you, or is teaching your child. I'm talking about the one who is invisible, but black.

Canada is literally teeming with black history. But let's get one thing straight. We all love to point fingers at those nasty Americans, but slavery existed in this country, too, until it was finally abolished in 1834. John Graves Simcoe, Upper Canada's

Washington State Parks recruiting ranger 37

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission is seeking applicants for entry level Park Ranger positions with Washington State Parks. The recruitment will be used to fill more than 25 current vacancies and all positions that become vacant within the next two years. Starting salaries range from \$1922 to \$2106 per month. **THE RECRUITMENT CLOSES MARCH 8, 2000.**

The positions are year-round, full-time and occur throughout

the state. Entry level rangers assist higher level rangers in the administration, operation, maintenance, development, interpretation, education, visitor services and law enforcement of a state part or park area. They are covered by a union shop provision.

Park Rangers hired after November 19, 1999 will be required to carry a firearm and must successfully complete an extensive background investigation prior to the selection process. Applicants must be 21 at

the time of employment and possess sufficient physical stamina and dexterity to work arduous manual tasks over extended periods.

For a complete job description and an application go to the state department of personnel's webpage

(www.wa.gov/dop) or contact:

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(360) 902-8565
Christy.Woodward@par
ks.wa.gov

first Lieutenant-General, tried to eradicate it entirely in 1793, but he failed. Some of the leaders of the government of the day were slave owners themselves, and they weren't having any part of it. However, Simcoe did manage to introduce a legal compromise that slowly began to phase out slavery, and for that he remains esteemed among black Canadians.

You think Quebec is devoid of black history? Think again. Canada's first known black slave, Olivier LeJeune, was a six-year-old boy sold into bondage in Quebec City in 1628. And in 1734, a Montreal woman named Marie-Joseph Angeline set fire to her owner's house when she learned that she was about to be sold elsewhere. She was caught, publicly tortured, and hanged.

Thousands of black Loyalists -- some as slaves and others free -- came to Nova Scotia after the American Revolutionary War. (Some were so disgruntled by Canada's broken promises and the hard living here that about 1,200 of them turned around in 1791 and set sail for Sierra Leone in Africa.) Some 600 blacks sailed up from California and landed on Vancouver Island in 1858. Some were in the Gold Rush. Others became police officers and in 1860 formed an all-black militia unit, the Victoria Pioneer Rifle Company.

Still others settled in Prairies in the late 1800s and early 1900s. We're talking about black cowboys here -- men like John Ware, a Texan and former slave who settled in Alberta in 1882, where he wrestled steers, won prizes in roping competitions, and died when the horse

he was riding stepped into a hole, fell heavily and landed on him.

Thanks in part to the courage of Underground Railroad "conductors" such as Harriet Tubman and the Belleville physician Alexander Ross who helped slaves escape to Ontario, black communities grew up in St. Catharines, Windsor, Amherstburg, Toronto and Collingwood. Anderson Abbott, born in 1837, became the first Canadian-born black doctor in this country, and served as a Union Army surgeon in the American Civil War. Returning to Canada after the war, he became coroner for Kent county.

Even in wealthy, sheltered Oakville -- where the morning buses are jammed full of men and women in suits en route to work in Toronto -- black people can trace their families back to fugitive slaves who began arriving around 1850 (some hidden in schooner hulls and ferried across Lake Ontario). Eight decades later, a group of 75 Ku Klux Klansmen led by a Hamilton chiropractor named William Phillips turned up in that same sedate Oakville. They burned a cross outside the front door of Ira Johnson, a

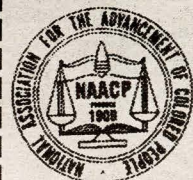
black man who planned to marry Isabella Jones, a white woman. Mr. Phillips was eventually convicted and jailed for three months.

When I was a boy, growing up in Don Mills in the 1960s, there was virtually nothing in the schools or in the public libraries about black history in Canada. We no longer have that excuse. In recent years, there has been an explosion of books about the history of blacks in Canada, and of works of literature by gifted black Canadian writers such as Dionne Brand, Andre Alexis and Austin Clarke, to name just a few.

Skip *The Green Mile*, if you've got half a mind to learn something new about Canada. Hit the library, instead, or call up one of the countless educators and artists across the country who speak with authority and passion about black history in Canada. If you really care, you don't have to limit yourself to the shortest, coldest month of the year.

Lawrence Hill's most recent book, *Any Known Blood*, is a historical novel about five generations of a black family in Canada.

From *The Globe and Mail*, Wednesday, February 9, 2000



NAACP

Office : 709 E. Desmet, Spokane WA
(509) 323-6368

Regular meetings are
7 pm on the 3rd Monday of each month
East Central Comm. Center 500 S. Stone St. Spokane

NEED HELP

The Legal Redress Committee of the Spokane Chapter of the NAACP wants to help you if you have been a victim of harassment and would like to file a complaint, complaint forms can be picked up at the following locations

For Information Contact : President Eileen Thomas

WSU Tri-Cities and WSU Spokane benefit from Gates Foundation gift to MESA

Washington State University programs at the Tri-Cities and Spokane campuses serving ethnic minorities and women will benefit from a recently announced \$1.6 million gift from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The gift is to the Washington Mathematics, Engineering and Science Achievement (MESA) program.

WSU's MESA efforts began at the Center for Graduate Study in Richland in 1984. In 1989, the Spokane MESA program was established and responsibility for MESA was transferred to the branches, WSU Tri-Cities and WSU Spokane.

The gift and its potential please Kirk Reinkens and Terrie Scott, respective directors of the Yakima Valley/Tri-Cities and Spokane programs.

"This is very exciting for MESA's statewide efforts at the elementary level, and specific efforts to partner and support the Native American community are wonderful," said Reinkens. Added Scott, "It provides an opportunity to serve more students and

build on our existing program strengths."

Underrepresented students targeted by the MESA program at WSU include Hispanics, African Americans, Native Americans and women. The Yakima Valley/Tri-Cities and Spokane programs both serve students in grades 6-12.

"MESA serves not only students, but it also supports teachers and others in schools to assure they have the support and access to resources needed to raise student awareness and encourage student success in mathematics and science," said Reinkens.

High schools and middle schools in the Pasco, Yakima, Toppenish, Wapato, Sunnyside and Spokane districts participate in the program.

WSU MESA offerings for students and teachers include conferences; science, logic and engineering competitions; Olympic Park Institute visits; and support of progressive classroom activities involving inquiry and problem-solving instructional strategies.

Spokane loses civic and spiritual leader

Monday evening February 21, 2000, the Spokane Chapter of the NAACP passed a motion to commend the Reverend Kenneth Beason for contributions made to social justice and human rights in the Spokane Community.

Rev. Beason was active with Churches Against Racism and was on the board of the NAACP.

We wish him luck in his future work. It is a shame that the church could not find a way to retain this vital pastor in our community.



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Hey Kids! Who wants to be ...

Want to play 'Who wants to be the next resident of the White House'?

BY VICTOR E. BUKSBAZEN

There is more than a morsel of truth in the argument that politics has become boring and superficial. The struggle to succeed Bill Clinton in the White House attests to that reality every day.

On the Democratic side, Vice President Gore and former Senator Bill Bradley are about as exciting as witnessing a tray of ice cubes melt. Although they are bright, knowledgeable and passionate about important issues, they leave the impression that they are the perfect reform for insomnia.

Contrived campaigns

The Republicans fare no better. GOP front-runner George W. Bush has an eagerness to lead and a certain personal charisma, but his campaign is palpably superficial, excessively contrived and choreographed to a fault. No one really knows just what his position is on any national issue. His clarion call for "compassionate conservatism" says little, but can be claimed by just about everyone.

It is a hollow statement created by political consultants who want us, the voters, to know as little as possible about their candidate. Modern political campaigns are all about control. Candidates are cautious, their speeches are rehearsed, their rallies carefully choreographed. Every effort is made by them to ensure that no controversies or problems arise. That is what consultants are paid to do. An embarrassed or surprised candidate can make an inadvertent comment that could prove disastrous.

There is a dark side to this as well. Spontaneity is forfeited and voters are largely deprived of the opportunity to observe the candidates react under pressure or think quickly on their feet.

Face-to-face debates help, but they don't go far enough. Candidates rehearse their lines on major issues. The panel seldom asks embarrassing or non-political questions. Also, the answers to policy queries are often vague and obscure. Therefore, many prefer watching games instead of debates.

Understandable reactions

This reaction is sad but understandable. Politics, rightly or wrongly, does not mean much in many people's lives. Most people who register and vote do so out of a sense of patriotism or one of responsibility, not one of being proud to participate in the one activity which, more than any other, makes democracy possible.

Some voters probably cast ballots out of self-serving interests. But these two groups form a minority of all eligible voters. The non-voters, by-and-large, see no real reason to vote. No candidate or issue lights a fire inside of them. They are alienated from the political mainstream, and only care about their own small world.

But every now and then, a candidate emerges who is able to energize non-voters and turn them out on Election Day. In recent times, the quixotic campaign of Jesse Ventura illustrates this phenomenon probably better than anybody else's. This irrepressible former professional wrestler and Navy Seal is now governor of Minnesota. Say what you will about some of his post-election diatribes, he knew how to convince legions of non-voters to support his candidacy.

This type of situation usually occurs when the candidate has celebrity status. Sports heroes, movie and recording stars and even former game show contestants have an ability to connect with non-traditional voters who are turned off by the run-of-the-mill candidate. They know how to wed pop culture with political culture for their own advantage.

However, I am not convinced that only celebrities can attract these voters. Any political candidate can do it, but they must be bold and imaginative and able to reach out to them in non-traditional ways. For instance, in 1996 President Clinton went on MTV to answer questions presented to him by young people. As a result, he was perceived as someone who could relate to

non-traditional voters - many of whom were probably casting their first ballots - and created the impression that he was at least trying to communicate with them on their own terms.

Who wants to be president?

Perhaps we need non-traditional forums for national political events. The three televised debates sponsored by the League of Women Voters are not the only possible format.

Campaign managers ...use your imaginations! For instance, why not design a game show on the order of "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" Seriously! It could be presented in two segments - general political knowledge and personal issues. No questions would be taboo.

Basically, the show would be located at the intersection of Generation X and the Daughters of the American Revolution! Such an exercise might be of great value. Politics would never be the same. While the general knowledge category is often slighted by potential voters seeking to screen the field, it does give one insight into a candidate's qualifications to run one of the world's two or three extant superpowers - and, make no mistake about it, there is more than one left!

Answers to questions in the other category would probably carry more significance. The questions could include the following: What is your favorite non-prescription drug? Have you ever committed serial murder? When was the last time you were abducted by ET's?

Such a Q and A format might elicit some startling responses from those who seek to lead our nation. I, for one, would volunteer to ask some of the questions.

Wouldn't you?

Note: The primary on February 29 offered a choice of either Republican, Democrat or Independent ballots. This was a one-time chance. On March 7 it will revert to the old procedure.

The African American Voice reminds you to vote.
Your Vote Counts!

Where was the Color in Seattle?

Looking for reasons why the Great Battle was so white

By ELIZABETH (BETTITA) MARTINEZ
COLORLINES FEBRUARY 2000

In the vast acreage of published analysis about the splendid victory over the World Trade Organization last November 29-December 3, it is almost impossible to find anyone wondering why the 40-50,000 demonstrators were overwhelmingly Anglo. How can that be, when the WTO's main victims around the world are people of color? Understanding the reasons for the low level of color, and what can be learned from it, is absolutely crucial if we are to make Seattle's promise of a new, international movement against imperialist globalization come true.

A major reason for not participating, and the reason given by many others, was lack of knowledge about the WTO. As one Filipina said, "I didn't see the political significance of it how the protest would be anti-imperialist. We didn't know anything about the WTO except that lots of people were going to the meeting." One of the few groups that did feel informed, and did participate, was the hip-hop group Company of Prophets. According to African American member Rashidi Omari of Oakland, this happened as a result

of their attending teach-ins by predominantly white groups like Art and Revolution. Company of Prophets, rapping from a big white van, was in the front ranks of the 6 a.m. march that closed down the WTO on November 30.

The problem of unfamiliarity with the WTO was aggravated by the fact that black and Latino communities across the US lack Internet access compared to many white communities... So information about WTO and all the plans for Seattle did not reach many people of color.

Limited knowledge meant a failure to see how the WTO affected the daily lives of US communities of color...

Along with such concerns about linkage came the assumption that the protest would be overwhelmingly white as it was. Coumba Toure, a Bay Area activist originally from Mali, West Africa, said she had originally thought, "the whites will take care of the WTO, I don't need to go." Others were more openly apprehensive. For example, Carlos ("Los" for short)

Windham of Company of Prophets told me, "I think even Bay Area activists of color who understood the linkage

didn't want to go to a protest dominated by 50,000 white hippies."

People of color had reason to expect the protest to be white-dominated. Roberto Maestas, director of Seattle's Centro de la Raza, told me that in the massive local press coverage before the WTO meeting, not a single person of color appeared as a spokesperson for the opposition. "Day after day, you saw only white faces in the news. The publicity was a real deterrent to people of color. I think some of the unions or church groups should have had representatives of color, to encourage people of color to participate."

Four protesters of color from different Bay Area organizations talked about the "culture shock" they experienced when they first visited the "Convergence," the protest center set up by the Direct Action Network, a coalition of many organizations. Said one, "When we walked in, the room was filled with young whites calling themselves anarchists. There was a pungent smell, many had not showered. We just couldn't relate to the scene so our whole group left right away." Another told me, "They sounded dogmatic and paranoid." "I just

freaked and left," said another. "It wasn't just race, it was also culture, although race was key."

In retrospect, observed Van Jones of STORM (Standing Together to Organize a Revolutionary Movement) in the Bay Area, "We should have stayed. We didn't see that we had a lot to learn from them. And they had a lot of materials for making banners, signs, puppets." "Later I went back and talked to people," recalled Rashidi, "and they were discussing tactics, very smart. Those folks were really ready for action. It was limiting for people of color to let that one experience affect their whole picture of white activists..."

Few predominantly white groups in the Bay Area made a serious effort to get people of color to Seattle. Juliette Beck of Global Exchange worked hard with others to help people from developing (third world) countries to come. But for US people of color, the main organizations that made a serious effort to do so were Just Act (Youth ACTION for Global JUSTice), formerly the Overseas Development Network, and Art and Revolution, which mostly helped artists...

One of the problems Coumba said she encour-

tered in doing this was "a legacy of distrust of middle-class white activists that has emerged from experiences of 'being used.' Or not having our issues taken seriously. Involving people of color must be done in a way that gives them real space. Whites must understand a whole new approach is needed that includes respect (if you go to people of color thinking you know more, it creates a barrier). Also, you cannot approach people simply in terms of numbers, like 'let's give 2 scholarships.' People of color must be central to the project..."

Unfortunately the heritage of distrust was intensified by some of the AFL-CIO leadership of labor on the November 30 march. They chose to take a different route through downtown rather than marching with others to the Convention Center and helping to block the WTO. Also, on the march to downtown they reportedly had a conflict with the Third World People's Assembly contingent when they rudely told the people of color to move aside so they could be in the lead.

Next month: What people of color were at the WTO protest in Seattle and why?

Juan Williams new host for public radio talk show

A new voice has joined Talk of the Nation, National Public Radio's call-in talk show. African American reporter and author Juan Williams is the new host of the live show, which airs weekdays from 11 AM to 1 PM.

Williams, a graduate of Haverford College, is the author of the critically acclaimed biography, Thurgood Marshall - American Revolutionary. He is also the author of the bestseller Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Years, 1954-1965. In a 21-year career at The Washington Post, Williams served in many capacities, including White House reporter. He has won an Emmy award for TV documentary writing.

Talk of the Nation discusses the issues of today and the issues behind the headlines. The program provides listeners access to decision-makers, authors and analysts from a wide range of ethnic, cultural and political backgrounds.

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Building Community

In a community such as Spokane where the African American population is dispersed throughout the city, it is important to build a sense of community. One of the first criterion for developing a community is to know its members. African American Voice will publish profiles of community members each month.

Stephanie Y. Nobles-Bean

BY NIKKI KEALAH

"Stephanie" is written on her birth certificate, her driver's license says "Stephy" and Whitworth students affectionately call her "Mama Beans." The name you give Stephanie Y. Nobles-Beans is not what matters, for it is her character, past experiences, and her compassion that formed her into a community leader.

Beans is currently assisting Spokane to become a more diverse community and the Intercollegiate Racial Concerns Committee is just one way that enables her to do that. Committee members brainstorm ideas about attracting minorities to the Spokane community and getting them to stay. What attracted Beans to Spokane was her daughter Rekeshia.

Before coming to Spokane Beans had lived in a handful of places, but she was born and raised in Dallas, Texas. Texas is noted as one of the most racist states in the country and Beans grew up there during the times of the Civil Rights Movement. The two factors put together assisted in making Beans a strong woman.

When Beans was a little girl, her father worked as a janitor. Beans was at work with him one day when his boss called him "boy." Beans had always seen her father as civil and calm, but at this moment he picked his boss up off the floor and pinned him to the wall. Moments later he was crying. It was a moment in Beans' life she would never forget and one that brought her to the realization of racism. Her mother told her, "Words are nothing. You let it roll off and you go on." After seeing what her father went through, Beans knew she had a battle ahead of her.



Beans suffered the experience of rape at the age of 13 and the whole ordeal was repeated when she turned 17. She thinks that those two moments in her life are drops of water compared to the oceans of torment others have been through. "Everyone has a worse story" Beans said. She has discovered that fact through Women of War or W.O.W., an organization she formed in 1994 to ensure that women do not have to go through the frightening moments of their lives alone. Battered women, prostitutes, rape victims, and other suffering women join together for meetings, dinners, and prayer. W.O.W. participants have the option of turning to fellow members for comfort or tuning to God. Beans stresses that God is and always will be an option for people in need.

Beans' father was a minister throughout most of her childhood. Beans has finally been able to combine her love for God and her experiences with racism. The Lighthouse Tabernacle, Beans' current church, is part of Churches Against Racism, a group of churches in Spokane's community that fight against racism. When there was a cross-burning in front of an African-American church, Churches Against Racism gathered together to lean on one another's shoulders

and let people know that they will stand up and stand strong.

Beans' encourages students of color to stand up strong at Whitworth College where she is an advisor to minorities. Beans is also Whitworth's Forum Coordinator, a program held twice a week that brings in speakers and artists from around the world to enlighten Whitworth students on the world around them.

Beans is also Whitworth's BSU Advisor. The BSU put on The Gospel Explosion, which filled Whitworth's chapel with students and community members listening and singing. The voices combined with the tambourines and sounds of clapping shook the chapel late into the night. After the event students thanked Beans for bringing such an event to Whitworth's campus.

Still, Whitworth is not just a place of work for Beans, she is currently a Whitworth student. Studying for a Bachelors of Science in humanities with a minor in theology keeps Beans very busy. Her four children see how hard she is working and constantly ask her to slow down, but Beans has big plans and big dreams.

Beans' ultimate goal is to travel the world and speak to people about loving one another and loving the Lord. Beans realizes that she can't do that right now because the Lord wants her to stay right here in Spokane and continue working hard.

"I have a great compassion for people. I have a great love for people, and that's what keeps me going," Beans said. If everyone could just be themselves, the world would be a better place."

Jury finds government conspiracy in King killing

From The Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane

A Memphis jury found a widespread government conspiracy responsible for the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. During the four-week civil trial, which ended in early December, jurors heard no evidence to dispute the wrongful death claim made by King's family, not even from the defendant's lawyer!

The King family filed the suit against Loyd Jowers, a retired Memphis businessman who claimed on national television six years ago that he paid someone other than James Earl Ray to kill King in Memphis in 1968. The Kings were represented by William Pepper, who was Ray's lawyer and has for years claimed the assassination was the result of a vast conspiracy involving the FBI, CIA, Army, organized crime and various state and local officials. The jury found Jowers was liable in King's death and that unnamed others, including government agencies, were involved. After issuing the verdict, one juror said it was a "cut-and-dried" case.

At the heart of Pepper's arguments in support of the conspiracy claims re vivid reminders of King's opposition to the Vietnam War and his plans to bring thousands of poor people to Washington for a march. According to Pepper, the impression of King as a leader concerned only "with the plight of black people in the South ... has been locked in time, locked in a media image, locked as an icon in the brains of the people of this country." However, in Pepper's opinion, "Martin King had moved well beyond that."

By the mid-1960's, King was an international figure, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate whose voice and opinions were significant world-wide. In Pepper's words, "He commanded world-wide attention as few had before him." King had become a "successor, if you will, to Mahatma

Gandhi in terms of the movement for social change through civil disobedience. So that's where he was moving." On April 4, 1967, one year to the day before he was killed, King made clear his intention to move the boundaries of this considerable influence to include action against the war in Vietnam. On that day, in a momentous speech delivered at the Riverside Church in New York, he, for the first time, publicly opposed the war. And, from the time of the Riverside speech until he was murdered, King never wavered from that opposition.

In his trial summary, Pepper makes the point that King's opposition to the war made him, essentially, an enemy of the State. But, more importantly, King's ability to influence and mobilize people made him dangerous to those who were the direct beneficiaries of the war. According to Pepper, King's threat "had to do with money. It had to do with huge amounts of money that the war was generating to large multinational corporations that were based in the United States."

Pepper asserts that another piece of King's work also caused a great deal of consternation in the circles of money and power. That was the commitment to take a massive group of poor people to Washington, encamp them in the shadow of the Washington memorial, and "try to compel the Congress to act, as they had previously acted in terms of civil rights legislation, now to act in terms of social legislation. Now, he began to talk about a redistribution of wealth, in this the wealthiest country in the world that had such a large group of poor people, of people living then and now, by the way, in poverty."

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Every month is Black History Month

Black like us:

Canada is not nearly as integrated as we like to think

BY LAWRENCE HILL

Okay folks, this is the deal. We're vaguely aware that black people have been around in Canada for a while, and that they've been through a thing or two, and that we should know more about it even though we can't be bothered. Let's take the shortest month of the year and call it Black History Month.

Schools, libraries, arts organizations, the media and bookstores are all asking people to talk about black history, this month, as they did last year, and as they will next. Excuse me while I roll my eyes. Actually, I'm not bored. I'm ticked. Does it make any difference? Do we know much at all about the history of black people in Canada? Do we care?

It's quintessentially

Canadian to define ourselves in terms of what we're not (Americans). Well, even that is tenuous, when it comes to understanding the black faces in this country, where they've been, and where they came from. On the streets, in the subways, in the workout rooms, in the malls, when I hear talk about black people at all -- talk that isn't being conducted by black people themselves -- this is what I hear.

"Did you see The Green Mile?"

"Yes, didn't that just kill you? I sobbed through the whole movie."

I'm not knocking the film's dramatic intensity. But there are two things wrong with this picture.

First, like Driving Miss Daisy, Fried Green Tomatoes and To Sir With Love, it's one more reas-

suring depiction of the strong, silent, reserved, thoroughly unthreatening black male. He won't sleep with your daughter, or lift your wallet, or "knock you upside your head" (one of my father's favourite expressions) in a back alley. He's the noble savage, personified. In The Green Mile, the towering but tame black male is not only gracious, but he's vaguely dull-witted. All the better. This is a black man we can feel safe around. More God fearing than average, and dumber to boot.

The second problem with The Green Mile, the thing that makes me want to shout when I overhear those conversations about how sad and touching it was, is that it has nothing to do with Canada. That would be fine, were it not

Continued on page 11

continued from page 1

Wally got a job

there as a waiter, but one day as he crossed the room carrying a large tray he heard a deep voice call "Hey, boy." He kept walking. "Hey, boy!" he heard again. He still kept walking. The man approached him and said "Do you know who I am? I'm the governor of the state". "I don't care who you are, I ain't nobody's boy" replied Wally. "They drug me out before I could hit him. I never worked there again".

Over the years Wally played in jazz groups in the many clubs and night spots that used to dot Spokane and the northwest. In many places it was necessary to be a member of the musicians union, but Spokane's local did not accept blacks so Wally and his fellow musicians had to get their licenses through a local in Kansas City. That is, until Wally, with the help of the Thomas Lynch firm of attorneys, sued the Spokane union.

Wally Hagin also integrated neighborhoods. Though real estate agents tried to steer black to the east side, Wally purchased homes on the north side. He located the house he purchased in the 40's on

116 E. Heroy (he remembered the addresses of all his homes) through an ad in the paper. The neighbors were not happy at first - he found out the man selling the house was angry with the neighbors and got revenge by selling to a black man. But the Hagins became an asset to the neighborhood and they didn't have much further trouble.

In this house Wally set up his photography studio.

As he talked, Wally often turned to long-time friends in the audience for corroboration, a name, a date. DuWayne Watts (whose youngest son Steven is also a photographer in Spokane) was the first black man hired at Kaiser and now works at the GU Library. Oscar Anderson, after a career at the Spokane Club culminating as maitre d'hôtel, was the first black man to work at the telephone company in Spokane and in 1957 was the first black to receive a liquor license in Washington State. Also in the audience were Oscar Anderson's sister Lillian and Tony Scruggs, the first black man licensed in Washington as a massage therapist and who works on the Sea Hawks.

The audience

adjourned to the lobby of the Foley Library to view a selection of Wally's photographs on the lower level and second floor. They included early family photos -- his parents, grandmother, brother, and a year-old wide-eyed Wally in Montana. They are only a fraction of Wally's entire collection of 13,000 negatives and 1000 prints he graciously donated to the Cheney Cowles Museum with the help of Jerrelene Williamson and the Spokane Northwest Black Pioneers and curator Marsha Rooney.

Stop by and see them, but you will have missed the commentary - Wally Hagin, DuWayne Watts, Lillian Anderson and Oscar Anderson pointed out old friends, grandparents, aunts, and cousins and told more stories, filling in a part of Spokane history not everyone hears.

Publisher's note: Some of Wally Hagin's photos are included in a recently published book on Spokane history "Spokane and the Inland Northwest: Historical Images" by Tony Bamonte and Suzanne Schaeffer Bamonte, Tornado Creek Publications, PO Box 8625, Spokane WA 99203. It is also available at Auntie's Bookstore and Hastings.

Pillars of the People

Over the course of 1999, BlackVoices.com users from across the nation and abroad nominated who they believe are the "100 African Americans who most influenced the 20th century." The results are in! This list is the most unique of its kind, using Internet technology to combine the opinions of average online users with those of experts in African-American history. Some important names are not here and some controversial ones are. There is no doubt all of them - for good or ill - have significantly influenced American society.

Tremendous advances in industry, technology and other human endeavors have resulted in the 20th century being called "The American Century." But the 20th century was also the "African-American Century" because of the invaluable contributions Blacks made in the building of America. At the century's beginning, African Americans were just a few years out of slavery, yet at its end, they possess some of the most important leadership positions in the country. The BlackVoices.com/DayStar Research "Pillars of the People" list is a tribute to the African-American men and women who helped make this remarkable accomplishment possible.

Over the next ten months, the Spokane/Pullman African American Voice will list 10 personalities from the list - beginning with #100 and ending with #1. Any youth who writes a story using one of the people listed is eligible for a \$15 award. We hope you find the list interesting, thoughtful, and engaging.



Vernon Jordan



John Dizzy Gillespie



Gordon Parks



Bessie Smith



Sammy Davis Jr.



Aretha Franklin



Zora Neal Hurston



Sidney Poitier



Nat King Cole



Michael Jackson

#100 **Vernon Jordan** (1935-) Lawyer, civil rights activist, presidential advisor. A very close friend of President Clinton who was key in getting Clinton the necessary support within the Democratic party to run for president.

#99 **John Dizzy Gillespie** (1917-1993) Jazz innovator. With Charlie Parker, he pioneered "Bebop" and also blended jazz with influences from world music.

#98 **Gordon Parks** (1912-) Photographer. One of the first African-American motion picture producers/directors in Hollywood. His photo helped document the Civil Rights Movement.

#97 **Bessie Smith** (1894-1937) Singer known as the "Empress of Blues," influenced generations of Jazz, Blues, and Gospel singers.

#96 **Sammy Davis Jr.** (1925-1990) Actor, singer, dancer who opened doors for other African-American entertainers.

#95 **Aretha Franklin** (1942-) Singer, musician known as the "Queen of Soul." Received a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 1994.

#94 **Zora Neale Hurston** (1901-1960) Author, anthropologist and leading figure of the Harlem Renaissance.

#93 **Sidney Poitier** (1924-) Acclaimed award winning actor (The Defiant Ones, No Way Out, A Raisin in the Sun) and director. The first Black major Hollywood star.

#92 **Nat King Cole** (1919-1965) Musician and entertainer. First African-American to host a TV show.

#91 **Michael Jackson** (1958-) Singer and song writer. The "King of Pop." Known for eccentric ways as well as benevolence.

Something You Can Do If You Will

Ten Ways to Fight Hate

1

1. - ACT - Do something. In the face of hatred, apathy will be interpreted as acceptance - by the haters, the public and, worse, the victim. Decency must be exercised, too. If it isn't, hate invariably persists.

2

2. - UNITE - Call a friend or co-worker. Organize a group of allies from churches, schools, clubs and other civic sources. Create a diverse coalition. Include children, police and the media. Gather ideas from everyone, and get everyone involved.

3

3. - SUPPORT THE VICTIMS - Hate-crime victims are especially vulnerable, fearful and alone. Let them know you care. Surround them with people they feel comfortable with. If you're a victim, report every incident and ask for help.

4

4. - DO YOUR HOMEWORK - Determine if a hate group is involved, and research its symbols and agenda. Seek advice from anti-hate organizations. Accurate information can then be spread to the community.

5

5. - CREATE AN ALTERNATIVE - Do NOT attend a hate rally. Find another outlet for anger and frustration and people's desire to do something. Hold a unity rally or parade. Find a news hook, like a "hate-free zone."

6

6. - SPEAK UP - You, too, have First Amendment rights. Hate must be exposed and denounced. Buy an ad. Help news organizations achieve balance and depth. Do not debate hate mongers in conflict-driven talk shows.

7

7. - LOBBY LEADERS - Persuade politicians, business and community leaders to take a stand against hate. Early action creates a positive reputation for the community, while unanswered hate will eventually be bad for business.

8

8. - LOOK LONG RANGE - Create a "bias response" team. Hold annual events, such as a parade or culture fair, to celebrate your community's diversity and harmony. Build something the community needs. Create a Web site.

9

9. - TEACH TOLERANCE - Bias is learned early, usually at home. But children from different cultures can be influenced by school programs and curricula. Sponsor an "I have a dream" contest. Target youths who may be tempted by skinheads or other hate groups.

10

10. - DIG DEEPER - Look into issues that divide us: economic inequality, immigration, gay/lesbian. Work against discrimination in housing, employment, education. Look inside yourself for prejudices and stereotypes.

The "10 Ways to Fight Hate" are explored more deeply in a publication from the Souther Poverty Law Center, a non-profit legal and educational organization. A copy of the booklet can be obtained by writing to SPLC, 400 Washington Ave., Montgomery, AL 36104. The website is www.splcenter.org.

Scholarship deadline April 7

The Hispanic Business/Professional Association (HBPA) of Spokane, in cooperation with Spokane Community College, has scheduled their 5th Annual Hispanic Graduate Awards Ceremony on May 4, 2000. The awards program is designed to recognize each Hispanic/Latino graduating high school and college student by celebrating their educational success.

Once again the HBPA will award academic scholarships to those enrolled in college or continuing their college education. The scholarship application deadline is April 7, 2000. For more information call Rachel Rodriguez Iddings at 509-927-9012 before March 31, 2000.

The Hispanic Business/Professional Association is a group of Hispanic business owners, professionals and educational leaders working together to promote and encourage Hispanic Hispanics in the Spokane. The HPBA meets the second Thursday of each month at noon at Days Inn on Sunset Highway in Spokane.

Anne Frank Exhibit

The traveling educational exhibit on the subject of the Holocaust is being sponsored by Gonzaga University this spring. It comes from the Anne Frank Center USA in New York. This is a comprehensive and educational display intended to teach us about the atrocities of the Holocaust, preserve the memory and look to the future. This display vividly demonstrates what happens when hate

and intolerance prevail over tolerance, mutual respect and basic human rights. To be involved, please contact the Anne Frank Exhibit Office at 323-3604 or email annefrank@soc.gonzaga.edu

We welcome your involvement!

The Task Force on Race Relations has made encouraging progress in their efforts to plan the 3rd Community Congress on Race Relations. The Task Force reconvened in September 99. They are working hard now to lay the groundwork for the Community Congress on Race Relations, April 28 2000. The congress is completely funded by donations. This year's theme is "Dreams Into Reality-Why Should I Care?" Designed as an educational tool for adults, teens and young children, the annual congress has become a trademark for race relations education in the Northwest and this year promises to be a dynamic program.

For more information, please contact:

Vince Lemus at 625-6263 vlemus@spokanecity.org or Maureen Rieckers at 625-6266 mrieckers@spokanecity.org

Race Relations Task Force Meetings

Meeting schedule, as received from Jacinta Connell with Gonzaga University. Her telephone number is 323-6102 should you have questions. Held first Tuesday of the month at 11:00 am - 1:00 pm.

Tuesday G U Library 03/07/00	Tuesday G U Library 04/04/00	Tuesday Riverbend 05/02/00	Tuesday G U Library 06/06/00
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Navigating your HIV/AIDS therapy

Join Seattle Treatment Education Project (STEP), Positive Voice Washington, and the Client Caucus of the Washington State HIV Early Intervention Program on March 25, 2000 for a free discussion on managing your HIV/AIDS treatment. The presentation will share the latest informa-

tion about HIV treatments, staying adherent with your medication schedules and how to deal with side effects of the medications. The presentation will be held from 1:00p.m. to 3:30p.m. at Spokane Regional Health District Main Floor Auditorium, 1101 West College Avenue, Spokane, WA. 99201.

STEP will be presenting information on when to start HIV/AIDS therapy, when to change therapies, managing side effects, and taking your pills the right way.

The Client Caucus of the Washington State HIV Early Intervention Program will offer information about the caucus, as well as present infor-

mation about accessing medical, dental and prescription drugs for persons who are HIV positive. Spanish translation is available upon request. Persons living with HIV/AIDS and HIV care providers are encouraged to attend.

This event is Co-Sponsored by the Spokane Ryan White

CARE Consortium.

This is a FREE presentation and LUNCH IS PROVIDED. For more information or to register, please contact Spokane AIDS Network at 509 455-8993 or Mark Garrett, local member of the Early Intervention Program Client Caucus at (509) 534-4202.

The Health Library

Today most children receive vaccinations that prevent them from contracting the childhood diseases that their parents suffered through as kids. Nearly gone are the outbreaks of measles, mumps, whooping cough, and soon, chickenpox, that swept through schools. Even though it may not be required, the new vaccine against chickenpox, the varicella vaccine, prevents the discomfort of the itchy blistering disease that most of us had as children. The vaccine also protects against the later complications of chickenpox that many adults suffer from as they age - shingles. For anyone who has ever had shingles or known someone who has, you know that preventing this painful illness is important.

If you're not certain what shingles has to do with chickenpox, it's because shingles is part of a disease complex. Shingles is caused by a virus -- varicella zoster (VSV) -- the same virus that causes chickenpox, which is how the virus comes to reside in sufferers' bodies. According to the book, *Living With Shingles*, by Mary-Ellen Siegel and Gray Williams, VZV belongs to the family of herpes viruses. What these viruses have in common with one another is the fact that once they invade your body they never completely die out. They become inactive but they live as long as you do, and their effects upon are controlled by your immune system.

The VZV virus that was contracted as chickenpox retreats to a dormant state in the sensory nerves next to the spinal column where it will remain contained and harmless until your immune system is weakened by disease or medication. The triggering



of shingles is not completely understood, but the virus begins to reproduce in the sensory nerve and then migrates over a few days, back to the skin erupting in a rash of small painful blisters. At this point you have shingles.

An important aspect of treating shingles is prompt medical attention and administration of antiviral drugs which stops the virus' ability to reproduce, thereby shortening its course. However, the early warning symptoms of shingles are vague and final diagnosis can't be made until the rash appears a few days later, lessening the effects of the drug.

However, Siegel and Williams point out that people should be alert to the early symptoms of shingles and should contact their doctor if they experience the following: a tingling, itching or pain that occurs in a single area of your body; if the sensation occurs on just one side of the midline, even though it may extend from the front around to the back; if it grows progressively stronger and more constant; if the pain feels sharp, stabbing or burning (rather than, say, a dull ache); if it seems to diminish somewhat when you lie down and relax.

Shingles differs from chickenpox in its length of duration -- while the rash itself lasts about a week to ten days before scabs form, the episodes of pain are likely to continue for another couple of weeks. The normal duration of shingles is five weeks, and if the pain persists after that time, it is called post herpetic neuralgia (PHN). This side effect of shingles,

PHN, is caused by damage to the nerve cells which can continue to cause pain sensation long after the virus has subsided. It requires the special attention of a doctor, and while there are a variety of treatments to help manage the symptoms, there is no cure for PHN.

Living With Shingles, and other books like *Shingles and PHN*, by Thomas Carl Thomson, are terrific resources for dealing with this difficult disease, and are available in The Health Library. For those who are caught in the middle of shingles, the books give practical advice on coping with the pain and itching, and provide enough material to help you discuss treatment options with your physician. The National Library of Medicine's website MEDLINE Plus at <http://medlineplus.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/shinglesherpeszoster.html> has many resources from the US government and state agencies that deal with shingles. MEDLINE Plus also lists clinical trials where there are studies being performed on treatments for shingles and PHN for those interested in pursuing the newest possible treatments. Information about the chickenpox vaccine can be found on the American Academy of Pediatrics website at: <http://www.aap.org/family/chickpox.htm>.

The Health Library welcomes questions from the public for future columns. Write to The Health Library c/o The Palo Alto Weekly or e-mail us at Health_Lib@hosp.stanford.edu. The Health Library resources are not intended as a substitute for medical care and should be used to formulate questions for discussion with your physician.

The Spokane AIDS Network is committed to reducing the impact of HIV/AIDS in the Inland Northwest.

Call the Spokane AIDS Network for more information about how to prevent HIV/AIDS.

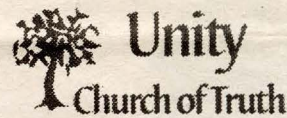
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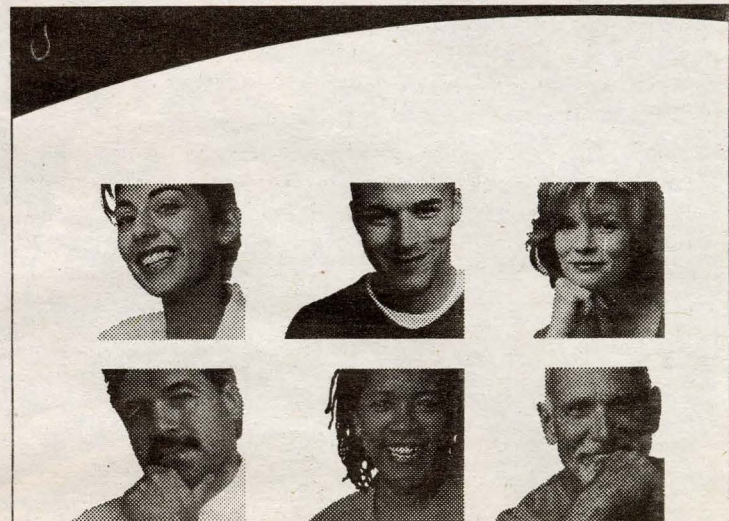
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Many ideas. One goal.

When it comes to generating the best ideas, one thing is for sure—you never know where they'll come from. Which is why we strive to surround ourselves with quality people who bring a wide spectrum of backgrounds, perspectives and experiences to work with them each day. Contact the Avista Job Message Line at 509-495-4281 or visit www.avistacorp.com for information.

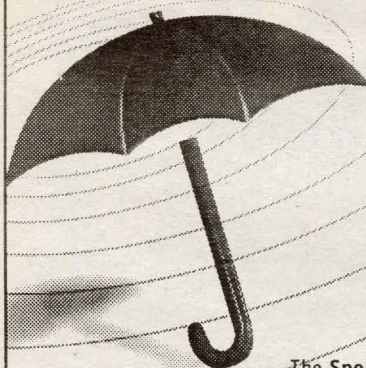


Avista Corp. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
 We are Committed to Diversity in Our Workplace. NYSE: AVA

Ask us about...

OUR NEW GUARANTEED INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Insurance experience is not required.



BACKGROUND: Travelers Insurance has been in business since 1864, issuing the first automobile insurance policy in 1897; offering the first aircraft liability insurance in 1919; and in 1969 being the first to provide coverage of space flight and lunar exploration. Travelers Group and Citicorp merged on October 8, 1998 to become Citigroup, one of the largest financial services companies in the world with over 160,000 employees. Under the Citigroup red umbrella logo, you will find Salomon Smith Barney, Travelers, Citibank, and Citifinancial.

The Spokane, WA office of Travelers Property Casualty is now hiring

SALES CONSULTANTS

RESPONSIBILITIES: Quoting, underwriting and selling Personal Lines Insurance Products. Sales Consultants will sell Auto & Homeowners Insurance directly over the phone to a pre-screened customer base. Successful candidates must have excellent communication skills, solid computer knowledge, and the ability to sell. **Insurance experience is not required.**

INCOME: In addition to a base salary, Sales Consultants are eligible to earn monthly sales incentives (some are earning \$3,000+ in a month in addition to the base).

TRAINING: Travelers offers paid training and assistance in obtaining a Washington Property/Casualty Agent License. You may also be eligible to earn a **\$500 BONUS** during the first month of training for passing the P&C licensing exam on the first try!

BENEFITS: Our total compensation approach includes a competitive base salary, incentives, contests, employee referral program, stock purchase and option plans, 401(k), strong work/family programs, and medical/dental and disability coverage. Travelers also offers all employees a subsidized bus pass and city pass.

SCHEDULE: Full-time work schedules vary with daily start times from 8:00 A.M. through 11:00 A.M. Saturday work is required on a rotating basis (approximately two Saturdays per month).

Travelers has a new guaranteed Incentive Program during the first few months of employment.

Qualified applicants may send or fax a resume with cover letter, including salary requirements, to: Travelers Property Casualty, Attn: HR-SR, 707 W. Main St., Suite 300, Spokane, WA 99201; Fax: 509-835-7031; or call our Jobline: 509-835-7777. Visit our Web site: www.travelers.com

TravelersPropertyCasualty
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We are an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer, committed to workforce diversity. We actively promote a drug-free workplace.

Whitworth College

Director Facilities Management
 Whitworth College
 Spokane, WA

Application review begins April 10, 2000. Position open and applications will be received until filled. Campus interviews anticipated for May 1, 2000.

FUNCTION: Reports to the Vice President for Business Affairs. Provides leadership which fosters a positive, collaborative, team-oriented environment in response to dynamic and changing campus needs for facilities and facilities services. Plans and directs fiscal and human resources for the planning, construction, and maintenance of all existing and proposed facilities. Provides through assistant directors preventive and corrective building maintenance, custodial services, grounds operations, security service, utility systems, conservation and compliance programs. Plans facilities and services focused on the college's strategic plan and leads the facilities emergency response team.

QUALIFICATIONS, SKILLS AND ABILITIES: Bachelor's Degree in a closely related field and a minimum of seven years experience or an equivalent combination of education and experience which have provided comprehensive knowledge of overall facilities operations including human resource, budget and construction management, and senior level leadership skills in strategic planning and implementation in higher education or equivalent organization.

For a full position description and application process, please visit our web site at www.whitworth.edu or call (509) 777-4413.



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