

African-American Voice

November 2000

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

Volume 5 Number 6

VOTE VOTE VOTE

What the candidates aren't talking about

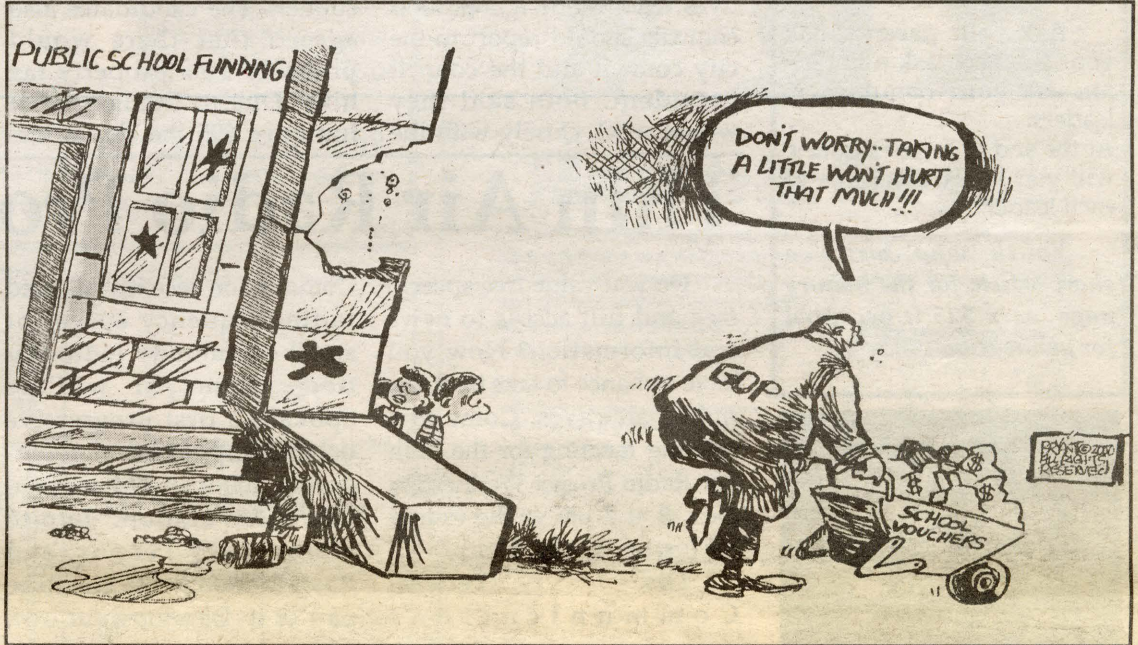
We continue to spend \$300 billion a year on what we call defense - as much in real dollars as during the heart of the Cold War, and a figure that, when added to costs still being paid from past wars and weapons buildups, accounts for nearly half of all discretionary federal spending. But I bet you haven't heard any political candidates seriously address this subject. Yes, we're reaching the end of another long campaign season and nervously awaiting the selection of our country's future leaders.

As we frantically wade through various voter pamphlets and examine each candidate and every ballot mea-

sure, I trust we'll patiently and carefully consider the leadership qualities of those we elect to public office. How will their priorities compare to our priorities? Will they tell us we can't afford to provide health care for all our children and then continue building prisons? Will they tell us we can't afford to ensure that our children attend adequate schools and then continue sending rockets into space? Will they tell us we can't afford decent and safe housing for all Americans and then continue research on cloning animals?

Enough resources exist in America to meet our public needs. But we must reform the policies and institutions that allow our society, in the words of economist John Kenneth Galbraith, to be dominated by "private affluence and public squalor". It's simply a matter of priorities. And while budget numbers may seem abstract, they nevertheless represent the common resources of our society - resources that could support better schools, efficient mass transit, low-income housing, community investment corporations, inspiring arts programs, universal health care, or a serious investment in repairing the environment. (Consider this: for less than half of the tax cuts that Congress gave corporations and wealthy individuals in the 1990's alone, we could bring the health, nutrition, and educational standards of every child in America up to European standards!) Just imagine what we could accomplish in

Continued on page 13



Four voices urge us to participate

A discussion has been going on about the most effective way for Black people to use their votes on the Oregon Assembly for Black Affairs listserv. The African American Voice only comes out once a month, and only had room to report out three of the opinions. Join the listserv, hear them all, and put in your two cents worth as well. For more information see the article OABA on page 17.

- Nader gets my vote • We don't need a 'benevolent man'
- Elect the lesser of two evils • I came to the dance with Al

Nader gets my vote

From: James Posey
[SMTP:posej@jps.net]
Sent: Sunday, October 08, 2000 7:41 AM
Subject: (Nader gets my vote)

As a life long Democrat, and before it's too late, I needed to take a moment to register my concern about Black people continuing to vote for the Democratic or Republican tickets. It is a crying shame to watch this happen again and again each political season.

Admittedly the Democrats do a better job of at least of paying lip service to Black issues, but in the final analysis they fall far short of attempting to address the systemic problems afflicting the Black community. This is especially true regarding economic issues.

The Republicans talk about notions of trickle down, but the democrats have become masters of its implementation. The implication for Blacks is that the Democrats, even more than the Republicans, are assuring the country at large that there will be no redistribution of wealth. And that in spite of what they say, they intend to maintain the economic status quo in favor of whites. Interestingly enough they have enlisted the support of most prominent Blacks to this

end. It is really annoying to see groups like the New Party, OABA and others trying to get Blacks to vote for Democrats when they know this party is using Black people like a worn-out leather shoe.

Conversely, these groups and others are only hinting that Ralph Nader is really the only viable candidate that Blacks could comfortably support. He is the only one who would attempt to change this system in a way

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CONTEST

Leaders we have known and admired



Who is this woman?

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.

NEW FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTORS

We wish to thank:

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- James Rhodes
- Rev. Canon Charles Wood

Candidates accent the positive for campaign's final days

By ANTHONY BRADLEY

The mayoral candidates were on their best behavior and agreed on issues as diverse as the city attorney, neighborhood councils, and property taxes. John Talbott and John Powers got together at Gonzaga Preparatory School October 22 for one of their last debates before the election.

The two candidates, incumbent John Talbott and newcomer John Powers, agreed that the representatives from the neighborhood councils should report to the city council and the council president. Both said they would work closely with the

city council. The candidates agreed that it was time for a change in the City Attorney's office. Talbott cited the lack of attention given to current neighborhood issues. Powers concurred, and acknowledged that city manager Henry Miggins' decision to retain Jim Sloane to assist in the transition to a strong form of government was best for the city. Jim Sloane, the city attorney since 1979, recently received a no confidence vote from the city council. The candidates also agreed that there would probably be a property tax hike. Due to the fallout of Initiative 695 the city is fac-

ing a budget shortfall of 6.5 million. Powers felt that no leader enjoyed raising taxes but if he could regain the people's trust in city government he could motivate them to act. Talbott agreed with the possibility of a tax hike. "It depends on the demands the people put on the government," he said.

The candidates, poised to make their final solicitation for votes, did not mention any of the negativity that has been a part of the campaign. In September, the two candidates became involved in a bumping incident before the primary. Powers accused Talbott of blocking an exit as

he tried to leave. Talbott does acknowledge the bumping, but will not admit to bumping or being bumped.

Powers has been the subject of a mail and radio campaign by Citizens for Fair and Open Government. The advertisement asked the question, what do we really know about John Powers? It also said we should question Powers involvement in the River Park Square Project. Powers attributed the ads to Talbott. Talbott informed the public that he had no ties to the citizen group and that he had received negative press

Continued on page 8

Thin Air Radio Project meeting

Do you value free speech, free and full access to news and information? Now you have a chance to take back the public airwaves. Come to a briefing meeting for the Thin Air Radio Project Wednesday Nov. 8 at 7 pm at the Center for Justice (423 W. First).

The Federal Communications

Commission recently allowed radio frequency space for small community radio stations. Thin Air will be Spokane's first progressive listener-supported, non-corporate, 100-watt FM community radio station. Lupito Flores, Lucy Lennox, and Rusty Nelson invite you to be part of it. Develop your own

programs, broadcast the music you want to hear, produce your own news hour.

Intrigued? Come to the briefing meeting, ask questions, get involved at any level you like. This will be your radio station.

Thin Air news and public affairs programming shall place an emphasis on provid-

ing a forum for non-corporate and neglected, progressive perspectives on important local, national and global issues, reflecting values of peace, social, economic and environmental justice, human rights, democracy, multiculturalism, freedom of expression and social change. While

Continued on page 11

A A Voice Drop Points

Churches:

- Bethel
- Calvary
- Full Gospel
- Holy Temple Mt. Zion
- Morning Star
- Mt. Olive
- New Hope
- Refreshing Spring
- Salvation Inn
- Solid Rock
- St. Matthew's

Zion Temple

Other Drop Sites

- Art By Yourself
- Casey Family Partners
- CCS Institute for Extended Learning
- Central Washington Univ.
- Chicken N More
- Children's NETT
- Crosswalk

Department of Children and Family Services

- Global Folk Art
- All Public Library branches
- East Central Comm.Center
- East Central Comm. SDA
- Eastern State Hospital
- Volunteer Services
- EWU African American Education Program
- Excell Stores

- Fairchild Air Force Base
- African American Club
- Gonzaga Univ. Unity House
- Group Health(Lidgerwood)
- Hampton Institute
- Jantz High School
- Jose Vigil Iamemakers
- Juvenile Court
- Larry's Barber and Styling
- MLK Center
- North East Community Center
- North Idaho College
- Moon Shadow
- Salon East
- SCAN
- SCC Multicultural
- SCC Single Parent Program
- SFCC Multicultural
- The Shop
- Spokane City Hall
- Spokane Mental Health TASC
- University of Idaho Multicultural
- University of Washington
- Washington State University Multicultural
- West Central Comm.Center
- Western Washington Univ. Multicultural
- Whitworth Multicultural
- Yokes (Sprague & Sullivan)

The Spokane, Pullman African-American Voice

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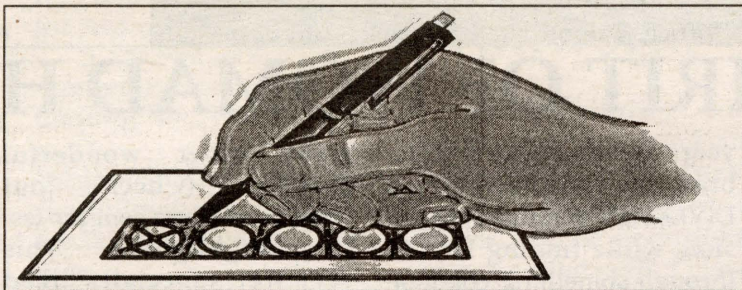
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Flynn and Clear endorse Tom Keefe

After the September primary, two former candidates for the 5th Congressional district nomination threw their support to George Nethercutt's strongest challenger Tom Keefe, who won the Democratic nomination with 21% of the vote.

"It's time we look at the man, rather than the party," said Republican Richard Clear on September 22. "If we want better legislation out of Washington, DC, we need better people. I would rather disagree with someone on



some issues and know that he would back them up, than vote for someone who tells me what I want to hear. I will take character over agenda every day. In getting to know Tom Keefe, I appreciated that he was always a gentleman

on the campaign trail and a dedicated family man. I know that he'll be looking for bipartisan answers for what ails the 5th district."

On September 29th Tom Flynn, who had sought the Democratic nomination, also

endorsed Tom Keefe in a show of Democratic unity and support. "Tom and I share the same goals - representing working families, ensuring livable wage jobs, adding prescription drug coverage to Medicare, and protecting Social Security."

The primary results and recent endorsements have drawn both local and national attention to the race, which is listed among the top 32 competitive races in the country by National Journal's "House Race Hotline", and

the Wall Street Journal's "Washington Wire" says that Nethercutt's broken term-limit pledge "may cost him his seat," according to a recent press release from the Keefe campaign.

Flynn and Clear are only the latest in an impressive list of Keefe endorsements. Former senator and presidential candidate Bill Bradley, Congressman Norman Dicks (WA-6), Mrs. Warren G. Magnuson, and the Spokesman-Review have also expressed their strong support.

World Aids Day Observe

The World AIDS Day Committee is working to promote a moment of silence within the community and the schools at 9:00 am on December 1st with the concurrent tolling of the bells within the community. The bells of the city will toll 19 times to acknowledge the 19 years that have passed since the HIV/AIDS crisis was identified.

Also in honor of the 12th annual World AIDS Day, Gonzaga University will host a collection of panels from the Names Project Foundation AIDS Memorial Quilt honoring those Inland Northwest residents who have succumbed to this epidemic. The Quilt will be on display in the Spokane Room of the COG from December 1st through 3rd.

The World AIDS Committee invites the community to join them on December 1st at 7 pm at the Crosby Student Center in a Celebration of Life and Candlelight Vigil prior to the opening of the Quilt.

World AIDS Day aims to increase awareness of the magnitude of the HIV/AIDS crisis globally and in the US despite new hope in treat-

ment. Ending the silence about HIV/AIDS will stimulate the development of new programs for young people to minimize their vulnerability to HIV and reduce the stigma and discrimination surrounding the epidemic. "Hosting the quilt here in Spokane is a fitting way to remember those friends and family lost to the disease while promoting attention and awareness to an epidemic that hasn't left us yet," says Joe Sullivan, who serves on the local committee. "We have a rare opportunity to bring our community together in remembrance in order to build our strength for future battles."

As of this year, nearly 40 million men, women and children worldwide were estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS. All communities are affected by the continuing spread of AIDS.

In 1987, a small group of strangers gathered in a San Francisco storefront to document the lives they feared history would neglect. Their goal was to create a memorial for those who had died of AIDS, and to thereby help people understand the devastating impact of the disease. Today, more than 13 years later, the

Quilt is a powerful visual reminder of the AIDS pandemic. Over 41,000 individual 3-by-6-foot memorial panels, each one commemorating the life of someone who has died of AIDS-have been sewn together by loved ones.

The Quilt Display and the World AIDS Day efforts are sponsored by the Gonzaga University General Student Body Association and the local World AIDS Day committee.

Congressional Voting Records on Key Gun Issues

Hand Gun Control, an organization dedicated to increasing licensing, registration and safety precautions for gun handling and storage, has been tracking the voting records of congressman on these issues since 1988.

Senator Slade Gorton voted with Handgun Control (HCI) only 3 out of

19 times. Senator Patty Murray voted with HCI on every vote.

Republican Congressman George Nethercutt voted with HCI once of the 6 votes taken since he has been in office, Jack Metcalf 3 out of 6, Doc Hastings 1 out of 6, Jennifer Dunn 2 out of 11. Of the Democrats Norman Dicks voted with HCI 16 of 16 votes, Jim McDermott 15 out of 15, Jay Inslee 5 out of 5, Brian Baird 4 out of 5, Adam Smith 3 out of 5.

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Arts and Culture



BRINGING THE SPIRIT OF WOMAD HOME

BY PATSY WHITE

What can we do to make our annual summer event, Unity in the Community, even better? Reflecting on Charle Ella Stoakley's eloquent suggestions (AAV; August, 2000), and having just attended the third WOMAD-USA Festival, one answer is clear: Let's invite performers from every ethnic background we can find that live in our area to share their music and dance at Unity in the Community. Here in Spokane we can let music be the solvent that dissolves lan-

guage, race, and political barriers, and allows us to celebrate one another, our differences, and what we share in common.

This summer music and dance from Africa, South America, Asia, the South Seas, Europe, the Middle East, and North America joyfully exploded during the last weekend in July in Redmond, WA. The colorful event was the 3rd Annual WOMAD-USA Festival of Music and Dance. These festivals were started by British singer-songwriter Peter Gabriel 10

years ago as a way to celebrate the infinitely varied DIVERSITY of human expression, while finding UNITY through something common to all peoples - music and dance!

WOMAD provides an unforgettable experience. It works on people's hearts so the ability to hate those who look different from us is replaced by curiosity and a willingness to share and enjoy.

Highlights of this year's WOMAD festival included Ali Farka Toure, guitar giant from Mali, legendary South African singer and Freedom Fighter Miriam Makeba, Bonnie Raitt, Los Lobos, and

many other wonderful groups. (Check out www.womadusa.com for festival highlights.) This reviewer especially liked Senegalese rappers Positive Black Soul, the mysterious and saucy Tuareg musicians from Mali, Tarita from Madagascar, and Hun-Huur Tu, throat singers from Tuva. The hottest AND smoothest group was Wendo Solokoy and his fellow septuagenarians, playing Congolese rumba.

Special "WOMAD Moments" included the sharing of food and music among old and new friends in the festival-goers car-camp global parking lot village. Another

special moment came watching Arab and Israeli musicians jamming together, trading harmonious lead lines during the Grand Jam at the end of the Festival.

WOMAD festivals travel the world, and the magic of music and dance works everywhere. Let us in the Spokane area actively seek out the talent and traditions from the many different cultures now living together in this region, and invite everyone to share their music and dance at the next Unity in the Community picnic.

I hope Ms. Charles Stoakley and her friend (sister) will return to share the day with us.

CHILDREN'S OPEN CALL AUDITIONS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2000 • 5:30PM
National Tour to Perform at the Spokane Opera House

Needs 2 boys to perform with show for Spokane performances - December 5-10, 2000

SEEKING

Two (2) African-American Boys Ages 4-6
Height No Taller than 40" (3'4")
For The Role of "Little Coalhouse"
in RAGTIME - THE MUSICAL

AUDITION INFORMATION

Children accompanied by a parent/guardian may register in person at 5:30 p.m. Auditioners will be seen on a first come, first served basis commencing at approximately 6:00 p.m.

Auditions to be held at the Spokane Opera House



For more information call:
777-6303

This is a non-speaking role. A.E.A. Production minimum.



Civic holds auditions for South African play

Master Harold ... and the Boys is an award-winning drama by South African playwright Athol Fugard that exposes 'the very impulse and core of racism'. The Spokane Civic Theatre in cooperation with The Onyx Theatre Troupe will be presenting the play on the Main Stage beginning January 12. Auditions for the parts of 2 black men and 1 white teen boy will be held Monday and Tuesday, November 13 & 14 at 7 pm in the Firth J. Chew

Studio Theatre. all three characters have substantial line loads and will ultimately need to speak with the appropriate South African accents. All auditioners are requested to read the script (available from the Civic).

Auditions are also being held for The Hunger Shorts by Rita Nachtmann on Monday and Tuesday, November 6 & 7 at 7 pm in the Studio Theatre. Three men and 2 women are needed. The play is a collection of

one-act on the subject of life's cravings.

For more information call 509-325-1413.

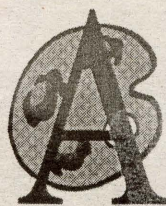
Coretta King at YWCA luncheon

This year's YWCA Women of Achievement benefit luncheon on November 2 at the Spokane Convention Center feature Coretta Scott King, the widow of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

This luncheon is the Y's major fundraiser of the year, and recognizes women in our community who have provided outstanding leadership in art and culture, community service, the professions, or racial justice as well a Young Woman of Achievement.

Tickets for the lunch are \$100. Proceeds go to support YWCA programs such as the confidential safe shelter for women and children leaving violent homes; the after school program for homeless children, and the professional clothing bank for women re-entering the work force.

Call the Benefit Luncheon Information Line 326-1190 ext. 127 for more information.



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EVENTS

NOTE: Events may change between the time we receive the information and we go to press. You may want to call accompanying phone numbers for confirmation.

Bertoni Jones work exhibited

Bertoni Jones, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Jones of Spokane, is exhibiting his mixed media work at Out of Our Minds Gallery, 828 W. Sprague from Nov. 10 - Dec. 9. He has previously exhibited at Cat's Eye Gallery.

Bertoni's work is oil stick on wood or masonite with mixed media elements. It is contemporary, but comes out of personal experiences and those of his family. One piece for example features a black soldier in World War II uniform against a blue background. Laid across the painted figure are white wooden slats like a picket fence with the partially obscured words "no colored" across it. It represents the experiences of Blacks in the South after the

war - allowed to lay down their lives but not to get a cup of coffee.

Bertoni doesn't remember a time when he wasn't carrying around a pad and drawing. "I loved the freedom to do whatever I wanted to do on a piece of paper," he said. He attended Spokane schools, took a couple of art classes at Spokane Falls Community College and then transferred to Washington State University where he received a BA in Fine Arts and a minor in Art History. He says he only learned about five African American artists in class and had to do research on his own to find out about others, even those early in the history of America.

Rap 'edutainer' A.K. Black at Eastern Washington Univ.

A.K. Black, a rap lyricist, speaker and 'edutainer', will give a free public concert on November 16 at Eastern Washington University at noon in Showalter Auditorium.

Black, whose rap lyrics focus on environmental and social justice, performed at last February's Black History Month Banquet at

Eastern and is again sponsored by the EWU African American Education Program for his November 16 performance at the university.

While on campus, he will also speak in a classroom and with student groups. For more information call Director Nancy Nelson at 509-359-6150.

Benefit features Native American singer

Jack Gladstone, a Native American singer, songwriter, and poet from Montana, will be performing at 7 pm at the MET in a benefit performance for the Medicine Wheel Academy. The Academy is attempting to raise the \$8,000 they need to reach their objective of \$26,000 for the purchase of a van for use after school taking students to cultural and social events, speakers, and

field trips. The van is to be one of the means by which at risk youth can be directed to activities that are a safe, healthy alternatives to drug and alcohol use.

The tickets for Jack Gladstone's performance are \$10 and are available at the Bancroft Center, 1025 W. Spofford, from Audrey Bliss or Pam Austin (354-7110, or at the door.

Maya Angelou
Nov 1 Wed 7:30 PM Martin Centre, Gonzaga Univ. Tickets \$10 - \$40. Call 509-323-3548.

Coretta Scott King
YWCA Women of Achievement Benefit Luncheon
Nov 2 Thurs Noon YWCA benefit. Donation of \$100. 326-1190 ext. 127.

Blacks in Government
Nov. 17 5:30 pm Antioch Foursquare Church 112 E First. 924-3490 for information,

Kwanzaa Celebration Planning
Mondays through Dec. 18, 5:30 pm Bethel AME Church 924-3490 for information.

African American Graduation planning meeting
Nov. 16 5:30 pm Emanuel Center 600 S. Richard Allen Ct. 924-3490 for information.

Jazz Trumpeter Byron Stripling
Nov 11 Sat. 8 pm with Whitworth College Jazz Ensemble. Cowles Aud. Whitworth College. Tickets \$10 325-SEAT or at the door.

Native American History Month

Tribal Sovereignty Panel
Nov 2 Thurs 12:30 pm Lair Student Center Spokane Community College

Christopher Columbus
Nov 3 Talk by Don Barlow followed by dance exhibition. Institute for Extended Learning 3305 W. Ft. Geo. Wright Dr.

Univ. of Idaho events

Skull Wars
Nov. 2 Thurs 7 p.m. David Hurst Thomas, anthropology curator of the American Museum of Natural History in New York, SUB Ballroom.

Pow-Wow
Nov. 3 Fri. 7 pm, Nov. 4 Sat. Noon - 7 Kibbie Dome.

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Q. Does this mean that once I get Sisterlocks, I can still change hairstyles?

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A. The initial locking process takes about two thirds as long as getting extensions of comparable size. For medium length hair, this means about seven hours. The beauty of Sisterlocks is that tightening them as your hair grows out is extremely simple, since there are no extensions to remove and reset.

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Opinions

Remove Felon Voting Bans

By EARL OFARI HUTCHINSON

A year ago the Sentencing Project, a Washington DC prison reform group, issued a report that found that seven states permanently barred ex-felons from voting. With the gaping racial disparities in prison sentencing, the vote ban has fallen heaviest on black men. One out of four black males were disenfranchised by these laws. Civil libertarians screamed foul and called it a return to Jim Crow segregation days when Southern states routinely used poll taxes, literacy laws, political gerrymandering, physical harassment, threats and intimidation to bar blacks from the polls.

If they were appalled last year at the number of states that permanently ban felons from voting, the latest report from the Sentencing Project is even more appalling. It revealed that two more states have slapped a permanent ban on ex-felons voting. And the racial disparity is even greater. Black men now account for one out of three ex-felons barred from the polls. Even worse, the number of blacks disenfranchised by the anti-felon voting laws will probably soar even higher. More than 1 million blacks are now behind bars. The draconian drug sentencing laws, three strikes laws, racial profiling, and the disparities in prison sentencing virtually insure that more blacks will be arrested, convicted and sentenced more harshly than whites. The estimate is that in the next few years 40 percent of black men will be permanently barred from the polls in the states with this restriction.

This terrible, racially-tinged policy wreaks much havoc on African-Americans. It drastically cuts down the number of black elected officials, increases cynicism, if not outright loathing, by many young blacks for the criminal justice system, and deprives black communities of vital funds and resources for badly needed services that result from their increased political strength.

The rationale for keeping and putting more felon vote bans on the books in more states is that they make it rougher on lawbreakers. This is nonsense. The US is the only

country in the world with blatantly discriminatory laws that ban a person from voting for life based on a criminal offense. Many of the men that are stripped of their right to vote are not convicted murderers, rapists, or robbers. They are not denied the vote because of a court imposed sentence, since no states require that a judge formally bar an offender from voting as part of a criminal sentence, due to the seriousness of the crime, or severity of the sentence.

In fact, many offenders don't even serve a day in prison. They have been convicted of felonies such as auto theft or drug possession. They are more likely to receive a fine or probation. Most of these offenders were young men when they committed their crimes. The chances are good that they didn't become career criminals, but hold steady jobs, raise families and are responsible members of their communities. Yet the states that stamp them with the legal and social stigma of being a one-time felon deprive them of their basic constitutional right to vote and relegate them to second class citizenship in perpetuity. This cruelly mocks the notion of rehabilitation and gives lie to the fondly repeated line that when criminals pay their debt to society they deserve and will get a second chance.

While surveys show that a majority of Americans think that the felon voting ban is bad policy, only a handful of civil liberties groups and the NAACP in Virginia and Florida have challenged these restrictive laws in court. At present the only recourse that ex-felons have in the states that permanently bar them from voting is to seek a pardon from the governor. This is a dead end for most. Governors read the fierce public mood on crime, and know that many Americans consider ex-felons pariahs that deserve any treatment they get. So few ex-felons even bother to request a pardon.

Civil liberties groups have urged state legislatures to rescind the laws or at least resist the temptation to place new voting restrictions on the

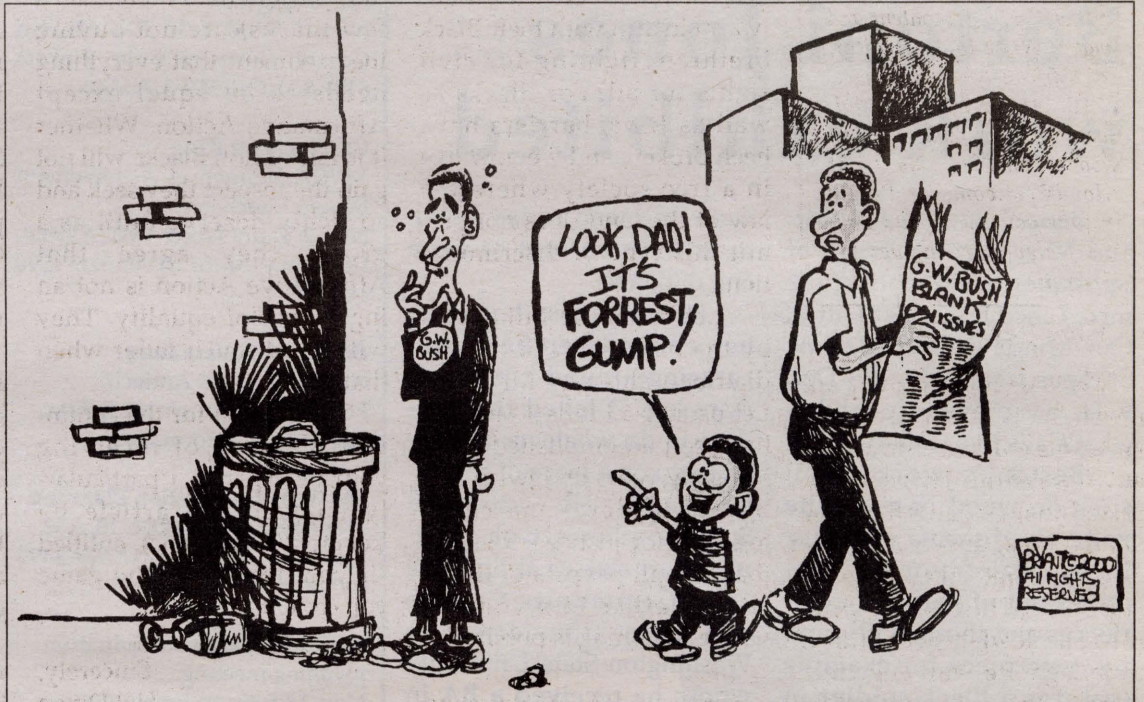
books. The only state to heed their call and do the right thing is Delaware. In June lawmakers in that state restored voting rights to some ex-felons.

The exclusion of thousands of blacks from the voting rolls

thirty years after the civil rights movement waged a titanic battle to abolish Jim Crow voting bans is worse than a travesty of justice, it's a horrid stain on American democracy. It's a stain that state officials should

immediately wipe away.

Earl Ofari Hutchinson is the author of *The Disappearance of Black Leadership*. email: ehutchi344@aol.com



John Powers has "A Capital Plan" for Spokane

John Powers, who is challenging incumbent John Talbott for the position of Spokane's strong mayor, sees Spokane as the "Small Business Capital of America's New West":

"I envision Spokane reaching new economic prosperity, building family wage jobs and attacking poverty by narrowing the gap between the "haves" and the "have nots" and re-establishing a healthy middle class."

How does he propose to do this? His plan was detailed in a July 17 whitepaper on economic community development. Following are excerpts from that "Capital Plan".

- City Hall must help develop entrepreneurial infrastructure that supports existing Spokane businesses, and attracts startups.

- (Creating) an e-government City Hall utilizing web-based technology will eliminate red tape, streamline customer service and act as a sponsor of new business.

- Support the creation of an on-line small business tool

kit, with access to small business capital resources, market information, and small business growth counseling.

- Work in partnership to support, advance and amplify the efforts of the many in our city and region that are dedicated to a diverse and strong economic development. The table must be large, round and inclusive.

- Create a marketing oriented City Hall that will drive Spokane and our region to collectively compete with the strength of a nation, building a new high-powered economic engine that will deliver broad-based benefits to all citizens.

- By combining education, training, and social capital with entrepreneurial infrastructure... erase the lines between the dot-coms and the not-coms.

- I propose Spokane take the lead to strengthen family stability through formation of a renewed economic unity for our region .. ever mindful that it is social capital, healthy relationships, that

bind a community together.

- By enhancing regional technology, we can increase family wage jobs and grow existing Spokane small businesses into the URM's, WorldWide Packets, Telects, West Coast Hospitality's and Hollister-Stier's of the region.

- Create a cross-jurisdictional regional mayors' council to include mayors from Washington, Idaho, Montana, and Canada... to inspire collaborative thinking to deal with the challenges and opportunities we share.

- Encourage our emerging regional biotech industry and leverage our local health-care industry, so that, Spokane can continue on its way to being one of the world's leading specialized medical centers.

Powers closes "I ask you to join me, in a renewed spirit, so that together, we can continue our journey. Let us unite toward a new destiny that offers prosperity and freedom from poverty and under-employment. Let us get ahead of the curve and stay there!"

The African American Voice

Doesn't speak for you. It is a place where you can speak. We respect a diversity of opinions. Affected classes are encouraged to write. And don't forget to let us know about your successes, joys, and meaningful events in your lives.

Letters to editor

The editor welcomes letters. You can respond to articles or write about any topic that concerns you. The editor reserves the right to edit letters for language, content and space. Write to: The editor, The African-American Voice, PMB 145, 2920 S. Grand, Spokane, WA 99203. You can also email us at rllloyd@cet.com. Please include your name and daytime telephone number for verification.

Gore-Vey,

My wife Shirley and I are Jewish, as is Tim Wise, who wrote this editorial. However, our views of our Jewish history, and that of our father and grandfathers, differs dramatically from that of Mr. Wise.

We feel his article portrays the Jewish people in a very negative way and may harm the relationship between Jews and Blacks in our community. His writing is especially harmful to our Jewish community because he denigrates our patriotism. He calls our gratitude to America, where a Jewish boy from a poor emigrant heritage can rise to be nominated for the Vice Presidency of our nation, "patriotic blather". What a cruel statement!

He states that our success comes "at the direct expense of Black People". This terrible condemnation of the Jewish people is absolutely without foundation! When we read this inflammatory remark, we wondered if Mr. Richard Butler could have done as good a job of creating negativism towards our Jewish community.

We all have come a long way, Black and Jew. As a child in Spokane, we could not live in "restricted covenanted neighborhoods"

that were off-limits to Jews as well as Blacks. Jews could not join certain social clubs or golf clubs, or rise in any important position in many businesses. Through the sixties, the Jews marched proudly arm in arm with their Black brethren, fighting for civil rights for all. For Blacks as well as Jews, barriers have been broken, and we now live in a free society where the law of the land does not permit this type of discrimination.

Let us not be influenced by the negative "self-hating" diatribe written by Mr. Wise. Let us instead reflect on what has been accomplished these last sixty years by Jewish and Black leaders marching together for justice - a justice that lifts all peoples of diversity together in a country where "anything is possible".

Respectfully yours,
Larry and Shirley Grossman

Greetings!

I am a 51 year old white male who receives your newspaper and enjoys it very much. I offer a quick response to Mr. Foer's editorial. While praising the Bush family in the first paragraph or two, he then proceeds to take them to task at the end when he states "...the best way of recognizing black equality would be to treat blacks (sic) like everyone else." However, a paragraph above that he chastises Governor Jeb Bush for doing exactly that when he opposes Affirmative Action. It would seem that Mr. Foer believes that the black population should be treated equally on everything except those issues where they have been able to achieve preferential treatment. Upon stating this obvious contradiction Mr. Foer's editorial loses every

ounce of credibility. It is certainly not my place to tell people of color what to believe in. However, proponents of Affirmative Action policies need to realize that most Whites (and more than a few Blacks) are not buying the argument that everything needs to be equal except Affirmative Action. Whether it is fair or not, Blacks will not gain the respect they seek and so richly deserve until as a group they agree that Affirmative Action is not an ingredient of equality. They will stand much taller when that occurs.

Thank you for the continued pleasure of receiving your newspaper. I particularly enjoyed the article by Robert Williams (sic), entitled "If you don't play the game you cannot score".

Sincerely,
Hal Dixon

Speaks Up for Talbott

I first met John Talbott as an opponent in a racquetball tournament - 1989. Neither of us to this date can recall who won - or won't admit it - but from that date it was instant friendship. We followed each other in pursuit of a City Council position with one thought in mind - participate in local government for the greater good of the community. John Talbott's attitude and high sense of community convinced me to become an ally and supporter in his run for Mayor. Victory came for change!

Under the present city manager system, John Talbott has been acting as if the 'Strong Mayor' had already

been in place. He met issues head-on - above ceremonial greetings. His leadership provided the hiring of a new city manager - Henry C. Miggins, open accountability, getting approval to hire an internal auditor, a street plan, re-organization and an appointed team - last summer - to devise a Strategic Plan for Sustainable Economic Development. This plan was presented to the public October 13, 2000 and available on the City of Spokane's web site.

The city manager in turn selected Dorothy Webster to be deputy city manager and established a weekly news conference for all media, TV, radio and newsprint. Unprecedented! His worth is already being felt throughout city government.

John Talbott is trying to protect the interest of Spokane through questioning the funding of River Park Square's parking garage. The 1997 City Council voted to use parking meter funds - normally used for streets - to supplement the garage even though repeated reports to the contrary - specifically requested by one council member - not to participate in this venture. Malfesance?

The City of Spokane filed a lawsuit against the Parking Consultant whose inflated estimate for the Spokane Downtown Foundation was used to sell \$31.5 million in tax-exempt bonds. One of the issues - among others - in this lawsuit (now filed independently by other petitioners) has to do with the Spokane Downtown Foundation's articles of incorporation as non-profit under 501(c)(3).

KXLYTV/CAMAS magazine.com reported this foundation incorporated but did not file with the I.R.S. for a federal tax status. Also reported was that Duane Swinton - a registered agent for the Foundation - is also the attorney for the developer. Further connection revealed that Michael Ormsby, who also serves as a registered agent and legal counsel for the Downtown Foundation, is the Treasurer for John Powers, candidate for Mayor, (back door for the 'good old boy system') recently confirmed by KREM TV.

If this Foundation did not file with the I.R.S., are the bonds' taxes exempt? If the developer's attorneys are the agents of record for the Foundation, are the bonds legal? Is there a conflict of interest for the Treasurer and John Powers?

This comment is on target... "No candidate that would serve us can get elected if we do not support them with our time, money and votes. And we need to identify them by looking at who is serving our interest in some capacity - not someone who just shows up looking for votes at election time mouthing love of all humanity and 'freedom and justice for all'..."

John Talbott has been visiting throughout the city since getting elected. He has met with every group, organization, and individuals almost daily. The difference between a candidate and an elected official is what happens after they are elected. After win-

Continued on page 10

New Hope Baptist Church

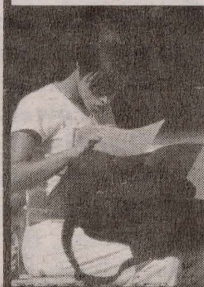
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Ten Ways to Fight Hate

#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.

The fight against hate needs community leaders willing to take a stand. Mayor, police chief, college president, school principal, corporate CEO: key people can quickly turn a hate event into a positive community experience. They can muster support. They are quoted in the news. They set a tone, direction and good example. Without leadership, much of the public, busy with raising children and changing channels, will continue to avoid the issue.

Silence from a leader cre-

ates a vacuum. Rumors spread and victims and perpetrators get the wrong message. Since Hitler's Germany, silence has been recognized as hate's greatest ally. The lesson was relearned in the 1980's and 1990s in many American states faced with the new white supremacists and militia groups. Fear of "negative publicity" resulted in silence. In many cases, hate escalated and became not just a public relations nightmare, but also a deadly threat to individuals and the civic order.

We Recommend:

- A quick serious police response to hate crimes. Vigorous prosecution also encourages the public to stand up against hate.

- A strong public statement by political leaders. Politically, there is no "down side" to a public stand against

hate, and official opposition intimidates members of hate groups. The mayor of Albuquerque, New Mexico, for example, signed an official proclamation declaring a hate group "to be unwelcome in our city." In Wisconsin, the Dane County board issued a strongly worded official condemnation of the KKK prior to a rally.

- A working relationship between police and human rights coalitions. When police are called and determine a hate crime, they should notify coalitions. Victim support can begin immediately. In return, coalitions can act as early warning systems for law enforcement. Montgomery County, Maryland, sponsors a hot line for reporting crimes, with rewards for tips leading to an arrest.

Tolerance on the Job

The workplace in America is an untapped resource for promoting tolerance. Adults of all sexes, races, religions and ethnicities mix for long hours in pursuit of a common goal. We urge CEOs to turn this force loose on both the bottom line and community problems.

- Proctor & Gamble has funded television ads, "Don't Be Afraid, Be a Friend," that encourage children to make friends across racial, ethnic and disability lines.

- Levi Strauss contributed \$5 million to Project Change to reduce racial prejudice and hate crimes and to help people of color get loans in communities where it has plants: Knoxville, Albuquerque, El Paso and Valdosta, Georgia.

- The Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce sponsors "It's Time to Talk" to encourage business professionals to share personal experiences across race lines. After an annual banquet, the chamber coordinates hundreds of integrated dinner parties in private homes.

- The White Dog Cafe in Philadelphia uses "good food to lure customers into social activism," says founder Judy Wicks, who began a "sister restaurant" program in the city's ghetto areas. She escorts upscale white customers out for dinner at minority-owned restaurants followed by ethnic programs ranging from Latino dance clubs to black theater. Ten percent of the company's profits go into social activism.



Ms. Adrian Williams presents Trailblazer Awards

Jennifer Roseman named Trailblazer

Jennifer Roseman was named a Trailblazer for Diversity this month at the 5th Annual Unity in Our Community celebration October 13 at Spokane Community College.

Born and raised in Spokane, she returned after attending college and working out of state. Active throughout the Spokane community, she was given the award as "a true champion for our youth, adults, and seniors of color throughout the city of Spokane and the state of Washington."

John Vargas, president of the Inland Empire Hispanic Association and producer of the television show "Que Pasa", also received a Trailblazer award. Avista received the Corporate Trailblazer award for their many years of support for scholarships, programs and activities

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Continued from page 2

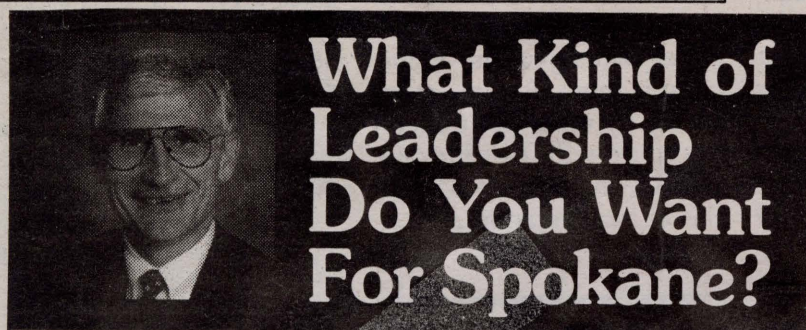
The mayoral candidates were on their best behavior

in 1997 and in this campaign as well. The candidates did find something on which they disagreed. Powers asked Talbott how the voters could trust him to lead the city when the majority of the employees have not pledged their support to him. Talbott concluded employees were uneasy because they knew there would be some employee cuts with the budget shortfall. Powers disagreed, and informed Talbott that he had the backing of the city's fire fighters, police guild and the majority of the city employees long before the projected budget was in place. Powers stated, "Although they are a good team, they were looking for a new coach and a change of direction in city government."

A panel member asked the candidates to name a leader in American history whose leadership style they preferred. John Powers named Abraham Lincoln "because he was courageous, spoke from the heart and made some difficult decisions...he was a visionary." "Harry Truman, the buck stops here," said John Talbott.

The candidates ended the debate with the same message as in previous weeks. John Powers wants to use the strong mayor position to give the city the unique opportunity to come together and move in a positive direction. Powers feels that a good leader will bring people together. Powers stated, "I am soliciting your vote on November 7, to join with me in leading our city forward. One Spokane in the 21st century for everyone's benefit." Incumbent John Talbott reflected upon his campaign of two years ago and how the communities lacked trust in the government and in the institutions that were directing our city government. He feels those institutions have involved the city in dealings that have caused the city's poor bond ratings. "I promised openness, and to set new agenda. I have given openness, and I have set a new agenda. We are moving forward in the area of jobs, in the area of cause and effect, in the area of parks, and every discipline of the city," said Talbott.

*The polls are open from
7:00 am until 8:00 pm,
"Go Vote."*



What Kind of Leadership Do You Want For Spokane?

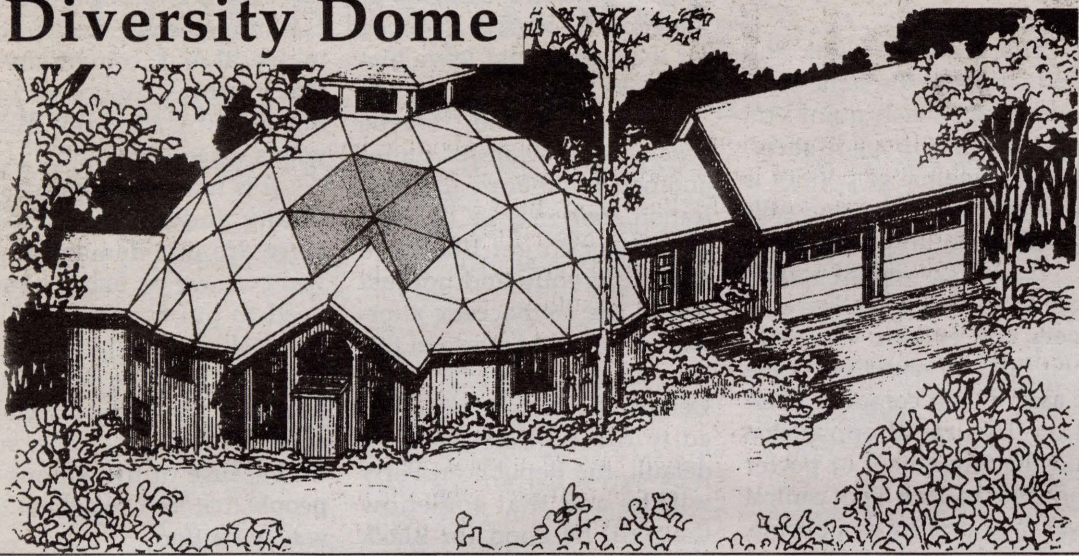
Rob Higgins' Leadership as City Council President means...

- ... more, better paying jobs.
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- ... renewed pride in our city.
- ... a bright future for Spokane.

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Diversity Dome



WHO WOULD LIKE NEXT DOOR TO YOU ?

During the month of September two Inland Empire activists were looking for a new place to live. I was wondering which one would find a home first. Both were evicted for their political activities. One preached hate and violence and the other

preached diversity, non-violence and alternative architecture. One is bankrupt and the other has 25 years of home equity and saving. One has the support of a right wing millionaire and the other is on his own.

Who do think will find a home first?

Who would you rather have for a neighbor? One seems to have found his home in three weeks and the other is has been trying to find a lot for his home for over a year.

Stay tuned. Next month we'll have the final results for both activists.

This article is part of a series on the dome that diversity is building.

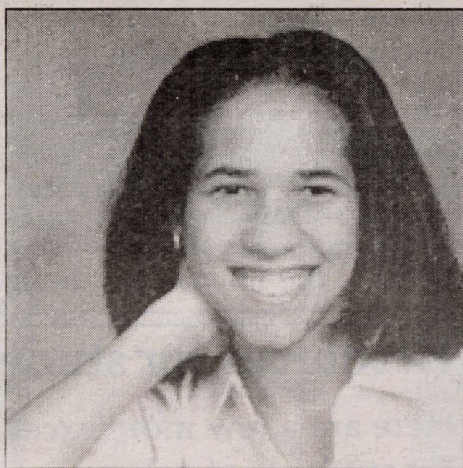
The A A Voice is trying to compile a list of diverse contractors, suppliers, building trade workers, artists and craftspersons, landscapers, interior designers, suppliers of furnishings, and anyone else who thinks they have something to offer to this project. If this includes you or someone you know write the AAV at PMB 145 2920 S. Grand Blvd. Spokane WA 99203.

Pine State Golfers reward excellence

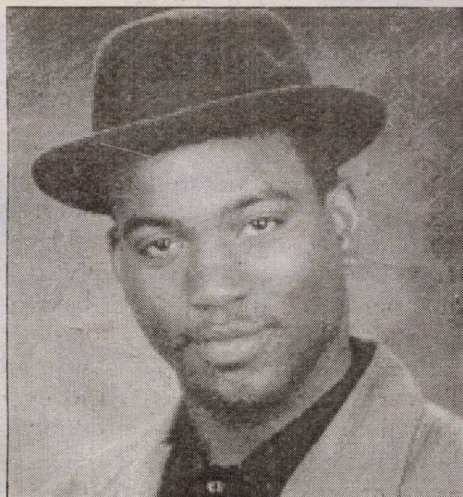
The Pine State Golfers have rewarded two students with college scholarships for their efforts - one a model high school student and the other a once not so model student who has turned his life around.

Jonikka Price is a graduate of Rogers High School and impressed her peers, counselor, and teachers with "her persistence and dedication to learning" and her "moral and ethical character". In addition to school she volunteered and worked. Her goal was to attend Johnson & Wales University and major in Hotel and Restaurant Management.

Gerald Moore, Jr., 26, is also a success story. While a capable student and gifted in mathematics, he got into trouble with the law and spent four years in prison. Though worried this would be an obstacle he could not overcome, he entered Eastern



Jonikka Price



Gerald Moore

Washington University determined to excel in computer science and made the dean's list both years. He applied to transfer to five major colleges, one of which was Morehouse, which he very much wanted to attend. In spite of his record, he was accepted at all five and with the help of the Pine State Golfer's scholarship is now at Morehouse. His father, Gerald Moore, Sr., says he is the proudest dad in the world because of the way his son turned his life around. "He's going to make something of himself, but he had to leave Spokane to do it."

The Pine State Golfers are an organization of African American men who have been meeting for over years not only to play golf but to support each other and their community. They have been awarding scholarships for several years.

Landlord or tenant problems?

Are you a landlord with units in the west central community or a tenant renting a house or apartment? If you are then call Stay Put. Stay Put helps landlords and tenants solve problems that threaten to end in eviction or abandonment. To find out more call Amber Ramanauskas at 389-0642.

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Continued from page 1

Four voices

that would really benefit Blacks. Blacks would get a real fighting chance at equity under Nader, not this weak, meaningless stuff that the Democrats are trying to dish up.

Yes, and I know all the arguments for not voting for Nader, like no chance of winning, throwing away a vote, a vote for Nader is vote for Bush, Supreme court nominations are in jeopardy, etc., etc. But you know what, I am one of those who believes that Blacks ought to sacrifice whatever it takes to send a message that you can't take the Black vote for granted.

Maybe Blacks need to suffer under another Republican administration. Pain may be the only motivator to get Blacks to vote differently and not just accept the Democratic alternative.

I know one thing for sure, regardless of whether Gore or Bush gets in, Blacks can expect at best 4 more years of varying degree of mediocre efforts to improve conditions for Blacks.

It is also a shame that the above groups are focusing so much attention on the national elections and so little on the performance of local candidates.

If I am wrong, somebody please school me.

Reply:

Hey James,

I take the blame for not informing you enough about what we need to do to address the concern you so

legitimately expressed. To vote for Nader is not the way to get Black folks out of the doldrums of dehumanizing treatment by the Dem and the Republicans. Such moves would only continue to sustain some black folk fantasy, that some how, our salvation depends on some "benevolent man". To shift our support to another "benevolent man" does not guarantee our day of dignified inclusion into the main stream, contrary to what you think James. I believe that was the delusion we bought many years ago. Building future potentials among our young ones to contest for opportunity within the fringes of these political parties is one way to crank the way open. Having a comprehensive and definitive platform that addresses our issues is another. We have simplistically rested our collective political destiny on others, at the expense of building a solid base. Is Black Political Leadership stupid? I don't think so. Maybe you need to ask Gore's Campaign Manager sister Donna Brazine.

I admit this a feeble attempt at responding to your concern James, you bet, I am coming to your store to talk sense into you.

Amadla,
Promise King

Reply:

Folks should participate

From: GH a-zebra@a-zebra.com
Subject: RE: (Nader gets my vote)

Date: Mon, 9 Oct 2000
15:02:58 -0700

James,

You are 100% right, and dead wrong at the same time, depending which point you are making. You made several. The dynamic of politics is not static. Each situation calls for a different response.

Black folks should participate in politics at all levels in every conceivable way with their primary objectives being to assure their complete liberation from racial oppression and the attainment of power sufficient to give them control over their destiny as a people. It makes little difference which political party they align themselves with as long as that party, in fact, is more likely, if elected, to permit them to achieve their twin objectives.

Of course, unless the political party Black folks support wins the election, Black folks will have most likely wasted their time because at best nothing will change for them and at worst the clock will be turned back for them. How bright would you think a hungry person is if he were told that he could catch either of three buses to get to a dining hall to eat and he opted for bus #1 or bus #2? Bus # 1 is always crowded and is usually too full to stop at the hungry persons bus stop; bus # 2 carries a nutritionist, cooks, and others who know all about food and what is going on in the dining hall, but it does not have enough fuel to reach the dining hall; and bus #3 will certainly stop for him and take him to the dining hall, but

once at the hall the other passengers on board will grab as much of the food as they can for themselves and leave him with very little.

James you said, "Maybe Blacks need to suffer under another Republican administration. Pain may be the only motivator to get Blacks to vote differently and not just accept the Democratic alternative." Should I interpret this to mean that if the Democratic Party is not elected to the White House, by default, the Republican Party will be and that somehow that will be good for Black folks?

If Black folks are not going to try to elect the lesser of two evils, they should not even vote. The luxury of not trying to influence the outcome of an election in your own favor, can only be had by people who are already "fully free" or are in a long-term war with the system in which the election is taking place. I submit that Black folks do not fall into either of these categories.

Black Americans should attack the hegemony of the Republican and Democratic parties' dominance of American politics in local non-partisan elections and in local and state elections where the critical mass of Black voters can make a decisive difference.

One should never cut off his nose to spite his face.

Comment:

Say to any and all candidates

If there was not so much to lose in this election for

black people Ralph might get my vote. But for the life of me I do not remember seeing him in one BLACK community in this country. I cannot remember hearing him ask Black voters what they want.

It is time Black voters say to any and all candidates, Here are our demands, we want ..., we as black voters need to put a stop to politicians telling us what we need. They do not live where we live, they do not work where we work, and they do not suffer because of the actions of people that look like them the way we suffer.

I am upset over comments made by both candidates, especially when they both said "we need to take care of our friends." One, (Bush) went so far as to let us know that Black life is not important: We cannot be the world's police. So turn your back on the death of 600,000 black people being killed in Africa. Turn your back on affirmative action. Oh by the way AA is all about quotas. And he wants to be president.

My question is when will white people stop being afraid of Blacks? So that all of you know. *We want what you want, a chance to make a good living, a good education for our children and to live in a nice and safe community*. Being treated as someone other than the black guy wouldn't hurt either.

All I am saying is until we Black folk get it together Ralph is no different for Black voters than Al or George, but I came to the dance with AL and that's who I am going home with.

Continued from page 7

Speaks Up for Talbott

ning a post, that official has to be accessible based upon time constraints while performing the job. In addition to as many visits as possible, John Talbott has a regular Monday news forum for the media, i.e., TV, radio and newsprint. He is also available for citizens at 625-6250.

John Powers' 500 meetings are called - name recognition. It was no surprise that Powers got 41% of the vote after spending more than \$164,000 in the primary. Local lawyers provided the majority of these funds with one donating in excess of \$8,000. Whose gold rush is it? Since only 36% of the registered

voters voted, those not registered or simply stayed at home was a major contributing factor in Power's success. Is John Powers the candidate your editorial referred to with the good old boy connection using rhetoric... "at election time mouthing love of all humanity and 'freedom and justice for all'?"

We already have a chameleon on the City Council that was part of the parking garage scheme that has caused immeasurable damage to Spokane. Now after sacrificing John Talbott to initiate change, would you abandon the messenger for a chameleon named John Powers? It takes a bit more than a visit to Boise and coaching little league football to run this city.

There is only so much a candidate can do as an overseer for residents of Spokane in trying to affect change. Now is the time for Spokane to lend a hand if we are interested in continuing open accountability. John Talbott needs your help while 'putting you first' in this 'Strong Mayor' election. Remember ... 'a vote for John Talbott, is a vote for you' ...

Edward Thomas, Jr.
Chair, John Talbott
Strong Mayor October 10, 2000

Resources for students of color

Here are a few more excellent resources for students of color:

The Big Book Of Minority Opportunities: The Directory Of Special Programs For Minority Group Members, 7th Edition, Ferguson Publishing Company.

The Minority And Womens Complete Scholarship Book, Sourcebooks Inc.

There are many scholarship and financial aid web sites out there.

Fast Web: Financial Aid Search <http://www.fastweb.com/>

The African American Voice speaks
of your choice.
But only you have can Vote your choice.

Silent Suspicion:

A Lincoln Keller Mystery BY DR. LEE MEADOWS

Review by A.B. Curry of the AHB Network

Here's another page turning Lincoln Keller Mystery by the African-American author that brought you his first piece of work "Silent Conspiracy", Dr. Lee Meadows.

Silent Suspicion is an easy read that keeps you in suspense, laughing and interested in the adventures of Lincoln Keller. He's the intelligent, smooth and crafty-minded brother who knows how to deal with politicians, police, punks and the ladies. Keller finds his services requested by former NFL defensive tackle turned Detroit's own Wayne Court Circuit Judge Warren "Warzone" Henderson. Keller is asked to find out who is responsible for the death of Henderson's sister-in-law, Deborah Norris.

Miss Norris was a beautiful Black woman, free-spirited, compassionate and a talented investigative freelance journalist. Judge Henderson and his wife hire Keller to investigate the case, but the problem is that it's eight years old, and they're not convinced that Norris was robbed and shot like some say. And unfortunately for Judge Henderson, being part of the criminal justice system didn't lead to an arrest, trial or conviction - nothing.

As the layers of the case begin to peel off, Meadows re-introduces the straight shooter and quick-witted Ms. Julie Block of Info. Search. Keller utilizes her services to discover the deception and contempt in the case. Lincoln, being a former NFL Oakland Raider, calls upon his old defensive moves from time to time to keep the knuckleheads in check.

As the case draws to climax, the Keller brothers - Roosevelt, Jefferson and Truman also known as "All the President's Men" - lend their distinguished dynamic areas of expertise to help solve this case. Although these brothers are professional business men in their own right ... push come to shove, they can and do throw down!

Here's hoping that readers will be introduced to the little brother, Kennedy Keller, in Lee Meadows' next book "Silent Rage."

Dr. Lee E. Meadows is a graduate of Michigan State University with a Doctorate in Higher Education and Management. If "Silent Suspicion" is not in your local book store, ask for it or write: Proctor Publications LLC, PO Box 2498, Ann Arbor MI 48106-2498. 1 (800) 343-3034 or email at www.proctorpublications.com.

Continued from page 2

Freedom of expression

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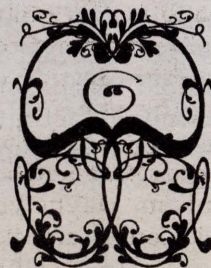


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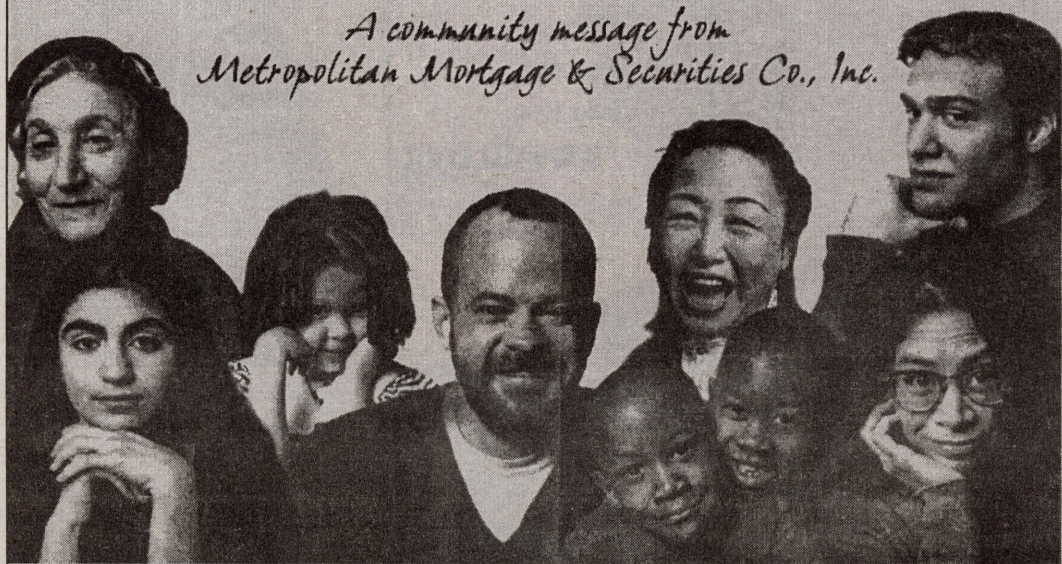
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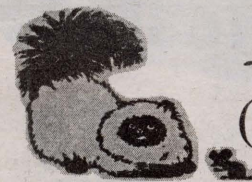
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'I am the big homie, and that's why I'm telling you what's RIGHT.' Ice T in Spokane

BY PATSY WHITE

Who IS the "Original Gangsta", and why did he come to Spokane?

Ice T became famous rapping about gangs, crime, violence, sex, and drugs. He has sharp, original intelligence, raw honesty, and a way with words. He appeared Oct. 6 at Spokane Falls Community College to talk to us, and answer all questions. Local rappers 4th Dimension opened the show and welcomed the legendary Ice to Spokane

Ice T was orphaned as a young child, but eventually found a sense of family in the LA gang scene. He tried to better himself in the military, but soon realized he was being lied to and used as cannon fodder. He returned to civilian life and got involved in dangerous, glamorous high stakes crime, then became a pimp. After a near fatal accident, Ice reconsidered his choices. With his



love of music, and gift of gab, Ice found success as a rapper. He kept his old friends, but left his criminal activity behind. He has since found additional success in TV and film.

If you've ever seen a picture of Ice T, then you know "The Look": tough, belligerent, hostile. His cold cover is blown now though - that night he treated everyone as if they were important,

enjoyed gentle jiving with us, and was available to EVERY soul that wanted an autograph or picture taken with him. And, when the man smiled, he flashed dimples an inch deep!

Ice T spoke for hours on a wide variety of topics. Here is a small sample:

Q: What's the difference between rap and hip-hop?

A: Hip-hop is the culture,

the vibe. Rap is just a vocal delivery. Rap is percussion, not singing. It's **COMBAT VOCALISM!**

Q: Why is Ice T on a speaking tour?

A: For the **MONEY, Dog!**

Q: Why did he leave the life of crime?

A: When I was in the car accident, it pumped my brakes a little, you know. My thing was I didn't want to be hated - I didn't want to have nobody care about me. It was kind of an emotional thing, it wasn't to "step away from crime".

Crime is a matter of perspective, anyway - it's not connected to morals.

Q: What "melts the Ice"?

A: True emotion. When you tell me, "Ice, you doing the right thing", when a guy says, "I listened to you in prison and it got me through." Somebody who really got true emotion, man that touches me. I feel like I got a lot of retribution to do. I've done a lot of things in my life. And this is a way to kind of balance out my karma, you know. That's what keeps me going, that's what's real.

Q: Is Ice an activist?

A: No, I'm just speaking my own truth. Jesus couldn't change people, how can I?

I'm not an activist because I don't think there's enough people who want to be active - to step up to the plate when it comes down. The people aren't really together, they aren't going to do shit. If people really cared, they'd stop driving their cars. It ain't gonna happen.

Ice T doesn't preach, he offers his life as an example of how one may **CHOOSE** to elevate themselves. He says we can choose to think things through for ourselves. We can have the courage to say what's really on our mind, but we must be willing to accept people's reactions. If we want something, we've got to make it happen ourselves. Sure, the crime and gangs may seem glamorous, but they are gruesome, brutal, and pretty soon you'll die or go to jail. No matter how deep into the drugs and crime scene or troubles you get, you can elevate yourself. Stick with your homies, do what you enjoy, find peace and be at One inside yourself.

Keefe with steelworkers

Tom Keefe rallied with remaining Spokane steelworkers, family and friends before the start of the 7 am shift on October 23 as they returned to work after a successful settlement of their strike. His opponent, George Nethercutt, accepted \$5,000 in campaign contributions from Kaiser Aluminum during the lockout, according to a Keefe press release.

"Since Mr. Nethercutt has consistently voted against the working people of Eastern Washington, I'm not at all surprised that he accepted campaign contributions from this company while it was involved in a labor dispute with a large number of his own constituents. Our working families deserve voice in Congress that's on our side. Big business wouldn't be supporting George if he weren't on their side," said Keefe.

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Continued from page 1

Imagine what we could accomplish

just one decade if we provided adequate resources to all those local grassroots efforts that have been most successful in attempting to heal our society's ills and promote human dignity, instead of forcing them to scramble constantly for financial crumbs.

To borrow a phrase from the ecologists, we need a full cost accounting of our political and economic choices. We need to realize what we're missing when kids grow up in poverty - many end up in jail, when watersheds are devastated - salmon runs are destroyed, when corporate executives get tax breaks - students can't afford to go to school, when corporations

lay off employees/reduce benefits - families disintegrate and communities erode. Only when we are honest about the consequences of our choices can we begin to move forward. And changing how we make public decisions would also help. Paul Loeb in his book, *Soul of a Citizen*, writes that "broad-based citizen participation is our antidote to cynicism. If we're going to achieve a more humane society, we're going to have to have a much greater level of involvement, across economic lines, across racial lines, across every line that divides us". In the view of Thomas Jefferson, for example, economic imbalances threatened the foundation of democracy. "I hope," he warned, "we shall crush in its birth the

aristocracy of our moneyed corporations which dare already to challenge our government to a trial of strength, and bid defiance to the laws of our country".

So what vision do our current political candidates have for the "common good", or stated differently our "commonwealth". Will their priorities insure decent health care and child care for all children, adequate vacations for all families, retirement security for all workers, and housing for all Americans? Will their policies strengthen families and our neighborhood organizations need principled leaders, so to do our public and political offices. Will the choices of leaders and public policies we made strengthen our neighborhoods or will they

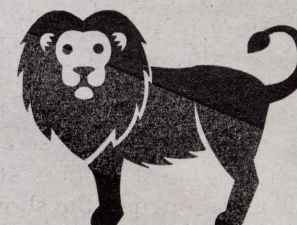
slowly lead to their destruction? The choice is ours.

The Institute for Neighborhood Leadership exists because we firmly believe that YOU are the leaders of our community and we are committed to helping you lead our neighborhoods into the 21st century. The mission of INL is "to provide training and technical assistance dedicated to creating 'grassroots' personal empowerment, organizational capacity and neighborhood revitalization". Our fall training schedule includes the following (partial listing): "Community Action Planning" on November 2; "Introduction to Fundraising" on November 15; "Coalition-Building" on November 16; "Meeting Management" on November 29, and "Interpersonal Communication" on December 7. For more information or to

register for upcoming classes please call or write the institute at 326-9540 or pcmwccc@hotmail.com or visit our web site at www2.thefuture.net/nacca

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The Spokane County Community Development Block Grant Program is seeking applications from organizations that are conducting activities and/or undertaking projects that address the Program's priorities for public services, public facilities, infrastructure, economic

development and planning actions. Copies of the manual listing need categories and activities, proposal instructions, etc. and application forms are available at the Applicant Workshop on November 15 from 1:30 - 4:30 PM at the 721 N. Jefferson, 4th floor conference room

(room 401).

Applicants wishing to attend should RSVP to Denise Toutloff at 477-2588. Copies may also be picked up at the same address in room 200.

Applications must be submitted by noon on Friday December 15.

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Teen voters elect Spokane leaders

The Chase Youth Commission in cooperation with the Citizens League Greater Spokane hosted a Youth Issues Candidates forum on Tuesday, October 10 in the City Council Chambers. County Commission candidates John Roskelly, Kate McCaslin, Karl Wilkinson, and Bill Burke were in attendance along with mayoral Candidates John Powers and John Talbott. City Council President candidates Rob Higgins and Steve Corker were also present. Moderators Nowell Bamberger and Lisa Johnson asked questions on the following subjects:

1. How to establish and continue a dialogue between youth and local leaders.
2. Guaranteeing safe public transit for young people of Spokane.
3. How to promote open tolerance and safety for people of alternative sexual preferences in our community.
4. How to create jobs that pay a living wage to combat the circle of poverty.

The audience of over 200 people submitted over 120 questions for the candidates. Four of these questions were selected to be answered by the candidates. All questions will be forwarded to the candidates. Future conversations regarding these issues are being planned.

At the end of the forum students were able to vote in an election run by Spokane county Auditor Vicky Dalton. 148 students registered for the mock election, and 116 students actually cast a ballot. Here are the results of the election:

	Candidates	# of Votes	%	
Mayor	John Powers	92	79%	Victor
	John Talbott	21	18%	
Council Pres.	Steve Corker	57	49%	Victor
County Comm. 2	Robert Higgins	54	46%	
	Bill Burke	95	81%	Victor
County Comm. 1	Kate McCaslin	18	15%	
	John Roskelly	68	41%	Victor
	Karl Wilkinson	43	37%	

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someone needs a replacement Medicare card they can come to our website. Simply fill out an online form to request a card, know that your security is guaranteed and a replacement card will arrive in the mail.

• Today we have a new website for individuals with disabilities looking to return to work. It's called the "Work Site" and has information on everything from training programs to employer tax incentives. This website is fully accessible to people with disabilities.

• Our customers can use

the Benefits Planner to estimate their Social Security retirement, disability and survivors benefits. They can choose among three options--the quick, the online or the detailed calculator. This website is designed to help people better understand their Social Security protection as they plan their financial future.

• Our customers can subscribe to our free e-mail newsletter. In every monthly issue of eNews our subscribers receive short news bytes about current program developments and information about current events that could have an impact on their lives. All stories are hyper-

Continued on page 15

Spokane Race Relations Task Force Meeting

Next Meeting is Tuesday, November 7 (*voting day*) 11:00 to 1:00 at the C.O.G. Gonzaga U.

For more info contact Vince Lemus, Human Rights Specialist, City of Spokane,

625-6263

www.racerelations.spokane.net

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Continued from page 14

Social Security Online

linked directly to more detailed information on our website. As of September 2000, eNews boasts over 93,000 subscribers!

- Our Internet service provides website visitors with program information and with downloadable versions of the top two dozen forms used by the public. These convenient online forms include a Request for a Benefit Verification Statement and a request for a replacement Social Security Benefit Statement.

What can you expect from Social Security Online in the future?

- Our vision is to make every service we provide today, face-to-face in our field offices or by telephone on our 800 number, also available on Social Security Online. We want our customers to be able to fully transact business electronically.

- Sometime in October, we hope to launch a retirement application online and by the end of next year, customers should also be able to apply for disability, survivors and SSI benefits online.

- We see a future where customers can change their name, get a replacement Social Security card or change their address or Direct Deposit information, quickly, easily and safely, online.

- All Social Security forms will be on line by the end of the year.

- We will be piloting a chat room later this year.

- A site for non-English speaking people will also be debuting later this year.

And the future's closer than you may think.

- Internet use is growing. The U.S. population with access to the Internet is doubling every six months.

- Older adults are already the fastest-growing segment of the web market, and contrary to stereotypes, spend more time, and money online than those in other age groups. More than 14 million people over age 50 are now online, according to Jupiter Communication, and their number is expected to double in the next three years.

Every month is Black History Month



FBI Calling the Kettle Black

BY TIM WISE

That I'm no Biblical scholar is an understatement of monumental proportions. And yet, recently I found myself -- for reasons I'll explain shortly -- thinking of the following verse from the book of Matthew, if memory serves:

Why behold the mote in thy brother's eye, but consider not the beam in thine own eye?

Arcane language aside, let it suffice to say this verse has something to do with what we'd now refer to as the "pot calling the kettle black."

Upon reading the headline of my local paper a few weeks ago, I couldn't help but think of these pots, and kettles, and motes, and beams. For there, in black and white was the following:

"Police role in Holocaust added to FBI Agent's training."

According to the article, FBI Director Louis Freeh has implemented new training for Bureau recruits, to "teach of the failure of law enforcement to protect citizen's rights," in Nazi Germany. According to Freeh, the course will demonstrate the evil of law enforcement when it "abandons its mission to protect people," and becomes "an engine of repression."

Applauded by the Anti-Defamation League, the new training takes recruits on a guided tour of the Holocaust Museum and then asks them to write essays on the relevance of the training to their work. One recruit who went through the process explained it had made clear his duty to "preserve human life and protect the civil rights of every man, woman and child."

How nice. Presumably if Hitler ever comes back, this recruit will make sure to stand tall against the impending threat of German fascism, since apparently, that's the only kind worth fretting over, and the only kind capable of teaching the lesson intended here. The pot calling the kettle black, indeed.

One hardly need travel thousands of miles away and a half-century back in time to demonstrate the complicity of law enforcement with repression. Frankly, new FBI recruits would do better to learn about the nefarious history of their own employer, which provides more than enough examples of the same phenomena Freeh seeks to demonstrate.

The new training spends a great deal of time discussing the passivity of German law enforcement in the face of growing repression under the Third Reich. But we needn't look to Hitler's regime for that lesson.

After all, FBI agents were notorious for standing around, watching, and doing nothing while civil rights workers and freedom riders were beaten by racists throughout the South in the 1960's.

Just ask Howard Zinn: he'll tell you how FBI agents looked him in the eye and insisted they had no power to do anything, even as Selma, Alabama police below the Bureau's own window, dragged, beat, and shocked with stun guns those seeking to register black voters.

Or how, in 1964, J. Edgar Hoover waited 37 hours after the disappearance of three other civil rights workers in Philadelphia, Mississippi before finally beginning a

pathetically weak investigation.

Or how FBI operative, Gary Rowe, rode along with the assassins of Viola Liuzzo, after the Selma to Montgomery march, knowing they planned to kill someone, and yet, did nothing.

"we are more than comfortable discussing the crimes of others, but still unwilling to peek under the hood of our own engines of repression."

And as for the new training's discussion of how law enforcement sometimes takes an active role in repression, here too it's hardly necessary to study German history.

As noted in Michael Linfield's book, Freedom Under Fire, by the late 1920's, the FBI had already compiled an "enemies list" of nearly half-a-million suspected "subversives," and in 1936, even as Hitler was consolidating his power, President Roosevelt authorized the Bureau to spy on organizations considered "dangerous."

Four years later, FDR would authorize massive wiretapping by the Bureau, increasing the number of "anti-subversive" investigations to nearly 70,000 annually. From 1947-1952, the FBI conducted roughly 6.6 million "security investigations" of U.S. citizens: about 3000 such actions every day.

And for involvement with direct repression, you can't get much better than the 2,400 or so FBI COINTELPRO operations to "disrupt and neutralize" targeted groups and individuals from the mid-'50's to 1971. According to declassified documents and a Senate Committee investigation (about which I doubt FBI recruits are informed), the Bureau actively attempted to discredit and destroy the civil rights movement, the antiwar movement, and dozens of organizations dedicated to Black, Latino, and Indigenous liberation.

Martin Luther King Jr. may be a revered icon today, but from the early 1960's until his death, the Bureau marked him for political (if not literal) destruction by wiretapping

Continued on page 16

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Study your history of the FBI

his phones (with the approval of Attorney General and liberal hero Bobby Kennedy), as well as spreading rumors about marital infidelity and sending him letters encouraging him to commit suicide. A month before his assassination, Hoover wrote that there was a need to "pinpoint potential trouble-makers" in the black movement, "and neutralize them." William Sullivan -- the agent in charge of the anti-King operation -- told the Senate, "No holds were barred. We've used similar techniques against Soviet agents. We did not differentiate. This is a rough business."

One suspects the new recruits are too busy learning about the suppression of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising to be told that the agency they've joined conspired with Chicago police in 1969 to assassinate Black Panther Party leader Fred Hampton, by providing them with

detailed floor plans of Hampton's apartment prior to a raid they knew the police were planning to launch. Or that the Bureau collaborated with other police departments in killing nearly 30 Panthers in the late '60's and early '70's.

One imagines the new FBI recruits writing heartfelt essays about the horrors of Kristallnacht, while studiously ignoring their employer's admitted role in fomenting the factional dispute within the Nation of Islam that led to the assassination of Malcolm X, or their all-out war on the American Indian Movement that led to the murder of over seventy residents of Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

I can only guess that these FBI recruits will emerge from their Holocaust training with a newfound revulsion for the support given racism and Nazism by German police, but with no knowledge of their own agency's financial support of a group of white supremacists from

California who attacked Chicano activists and tried to murder anti-war activist Peter Bohmer in 1972.

Figuring that most of the new recruits probably grew up in the Reagan '80's, they should perhaps know -- but I'm sure won't be told -- that even after COINTELPRO, the FBI continued spying on domestic organizations. Early in his administration, President Reagan -- himself a former FBI informant against fellow actors -- issued Executive Order 12333, allowing the FBI to wiretap without a warrant and engage in undercover operations against organizations opposed to his Central America policies.

One of the FBI's key infiltrators in this period, Frank Varelli, has said the FBI paid him to destroy the Dallas chapter of the Committee in Solidarity With the People of El Salvador (CISPES) by burglarizing member homes, recruiting thugs to start fights at CISPES rallies, and even seducing an activist nun so as to procure blackmail photos for use against the group. The FBI encouraged him to plant guns on CISPES members, and Varelli regularly passed information on U.S. and Central American-based activists to the Salvadoran National Guard: the entity in control of that nation's

vicious death squads, responsible for the deaths of tens of thousands of Salvadorans.

And I would imagine Freeh's new foot soldiers will learn all about the diabolical experiments conducted on twins by Joseph Mengele, but nothing about the program operated by the FBI's sister agency -- the CIA -- called MK ULTRA, whereby unsuspecting residents of the San Francisco Bay area were intentionally exposed to a whooping cough virus, and unwitting hospital patients were subjected to chemical experiments using hallucinogenic drugs.

And while we're on the subject of Nazis, one can only wonder if the Holocaust Museum will mention that after World War Two, U.S. intelligence agencies helped over 5,000 Nazi scientists and doctors find refuge in the states, including many who had been directly involved in mass atrocities.

Somehow, I doubt it.

That the Anti-Defamation League is giddy about the new training ought to be enough evidence that there is something wrong with it: after all, it was this group's San Francisco area affiliates who were exposed in the early '90's as having spied on, and passed information to the FBI about, assorted Central American peace and justice

activists, as well as anti-apartheid activists and those supporting Palestinian rights and liberation. Birds of a feather, are, in this instance, flocking very closely together.

Let this serve as yet another exhibit item, to be filed away under "passing the buck," 101: yet further proof that we are more than comfortable discussing the crimes of others, but still unwilling to peek under the hood of our own engines of repression. The one thing the FBI's new attempt at "tolerance training" apparently can't tolerate, is the truth that hits a bit too close to home.

Tim Wise is a Nashville-based writer, activist, and lecturer. He can be reached at tjwise@mindspring.com. Copyright (c) 2000 Tim Wise. All Rights Reserved.

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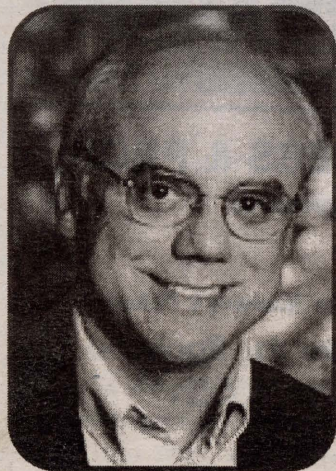
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Tom Keefe: Keeping the Big Boys Honest



Tom Keefe will stand up, speak out, and fight for us in Congress. Tom Keefe's commitment to building and strengthening his community is rooted in the lessons he learned from his family in Eastern Washington and through his life experiences. Senator Warren G. Magnuson taught Tom the importance of "Keeping the Big Boys Honest."

Tom is working for Medicare coverage of prescription drugs, funding for addi-

tional teachers, and to protect Social Security from people who would force seniors into risky investment schemes.

Tom Keefe has spent a lifetime making government work for people. In that tradition, he will continue to stand up, speak out, and fight for us.

Paid for by the Tom Keefe for Congress, 425 W. First Ave., Spokane, WA 99201

OABA helps Blacks find their voices

The Oregon Assembly for Black Affairs discussion list "oaba-b" is an open listser~~v~~ of the Oregon Assembly for Black Affairs (OABA) whose purpose is to allow Blacks in Oregon to discuss, among themselves, issues and conditions affecting the Black Community, and to propose and discuss solutions or alternatives. The list is to be used to share information and announcements that would be of benefit to members of the Black Community.

1. If you want to subscribe to the list, you can send mail to "Majordomo@peak.org" with the following command in the body of your email message:

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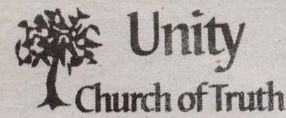
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Editors Note: You do not have to be an Oregonian to belong to this list or to benefit from the lively and interesting discussions on black issues, especially as they relate to the Northwest. It was recommended to the Voice a couple of years ago by Ed Thomas, who is a regular participant.

Famed jazz trumpeter at Whitworth

Byron Stripling, who has been compared to Louis Armstrong and Dizzy Gillespie by leading music critics, will be performing with the Whitworth College Jazz Ensemble, which has won first place at the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival three times in the last four years.

The Saturday, Nov. 11 8 pm performance in the Cowles Auditorium on the Whitworth campus will feature New Orleans bebop style jazz. Tickets are \$10 at the Whitworth Music Office, at the door, or from G&B Select-A-Seat (509) 325-SEAT.



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We are actively recruiting for a number of full-time faculty, administrative and classified positions. We also maintain employment pools for various part-time positions.

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We have new mechanical requirements because newsprint paper prices were increased and our printer changed the size of the paper. The printing area will be 10" x 13". This resulted in a slightly wider column and a shorter paper.

MECHANICAL REQUIREMENTS

We prefer ads to be sent email in EPS format to rlloyd@cet.com. We will accept ads on floppy or zip disks, MacIntosh format, in Photoshop or Pagemaker. High resolution hard copy also acceptable.

Tabloid page is 5 columns wide

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The Spokane African-American Voice is published monthly, at the first week of the month. Deadlines for ads are the 4th Wed. of the month. Circulation is 5,000.

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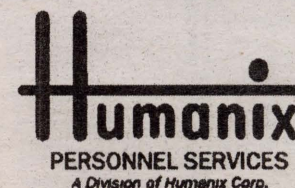
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Contact person Steve Kellen (509) 299-1989. Resume/Letter of Interest must be received by 11/27/00. E-mail Kellese@dshs.wa.gov.

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Diversity Recruitment Committee

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NETWORKING and LIVE RESUMES

What to Expect:

- A chance to network with a variety of employers in the Spokane area
- An opportunity to hear what jobs are available from employers
- A chance to sell yourself and your skills

Suggestions for conducting a live resume:

- Introduce yourself
- Give a brief description of what you are looking for (i.e., a clerical job, an engineering job, an accounting position, etc.)
- Your career goals (long term or short term)
- Bring copies of your resume

Guidelines

- Keep it brief
- Don't talk about personal information, keep it job related
- Remember, this is an excellent opportunity to get connected with multiple employers at once.

WE ARE EXCITED TO MEET YOU!

- If you are not comfortable talking in front of a group of people, you're not alone. After introductions, the bulk of the time will be spent NETWORKING with companies in one-on-one conversations.

Remember If someone doesn't have a job available now, they might in the future. Please be sure to let any DRC member know if you get a job through these meetings. And feel free to come back to future meetings:

3rd Wednesday of each month
1 PM

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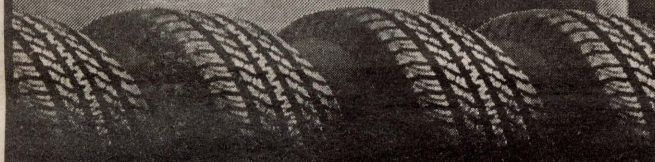
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