

African-American Voice

June 1999 PMB 145, 2920 S. Grand Blvd. Spokane WA 99203-2530 (509) 455-8274 rlloyd@cet.com Volume 4 Number 1

SCREWED AGAIN

➤ **One**

Washington State voters approve Initiative 200

Two

Community Colleges lose President
Dr. Jim Williams

➤ **Three**

Mayor Talbott sabotages
Task Force On Race Relations

FOUR

Spokane police mutiny
drives out Alan Chertok

The Spokane Chief of Police we just lost

BY LORENZO HERMAN

Publisher's note: This article was written before Chief Chertok's resignation. Perhaps we can learn from his ideas about what makes a good policeman and how we can hire more of them. Perhaps city government and the police department will get the message about needed fundamental changes.

It's not that often that

the chief of police gets the opportunity to talk about the issues that concern his employer (which is us) in a non threatening environment. Usually, there is hostility between a chief and his constituents for a variety of reasons. The AAV invited Spokane's new chief of police to one of their meetings and Alan Chertok accepted. It was not your typical press meeting. There were no TV cameras, no reporters shouting over each other's questions to get a quote in the paper, the chief was not in uniform, the staff did not wear name tags either. It pretty much felt like a town hall meeting.

Chief Chertok was rather comfortable at the meeting. He spoke about his background and where he came from, which is Virginia. He is a retired police officer, a reservist in the military, and he has been in Spokane for seven months. Generally, he thinks the people here are nice and he is looking forward to making a difference in Spokane, including for people of color.

He reads the Spokesman Review and the African American Voice to keep on top of things. Chief Chertok is ready to take the heat of his department's inability to communicate effectively with the community. Whenever there is an issue



brought to the table through this newspaper about his department, he responds to the issues at hand. He says the media loves to talk about him and sometimes they try to smear his character. He does not understand why some of the local television stations spend so much time probing into his personal life and making allegations without any substantial evidence. This is one of the reasons he has an open door policy, to make it easy for people to ask him questions, to get the information directly. If someone feels the need to talk to the chief then he or she can have a one-on-one conversation with him at his office. This paper has referred several citizens with problems to him and each received his time and attention.

Chief Chertok believes better and more communication is the key to better policing. He would like to see an additional media person (right now there is only one) who would

move around in the community and communicate in English, not in police jargon. He says police use force, but that all police officers also need to learn "verbal judo", to be able to communicate to people what they are doing.

He also feels that the Civil Service has done great things for the city as far as recruitment of new police officers, but there is always room for improvement, especially in the area of recruiting, hiring, and promoting women and people of color. One major obstacle is the fact that the police exam is only given every other year. He would like to see it done three times a year so minority candidates aren't lost while waiting to take the test. The Civil Service Commission says it would cost too much to do this, however.

The chief wants to get things done and is open for changes. One of the major problems of any police department is the difficulty of changing the status quo. The three state-

ments he doesn't want to hear are "That's the way it's always been done" and "If you do that you will be liable" and "It's been working fine so why fix it." These kinds of attitudes hinder growth and development within the department.

Chief Chertok believes that the younger troops of his department will change the police force because they are more educated, more ambitious, and more optimistic about the future. But they will also need training in cultural sensitivity to deal with the different kinds of people that make up the Spokane community, which is becoming less white every year.

So what is it that the chief would like for the department to be in the future? He wants the department to be made up of citizens who just happen to wear a blue uniform. He feels that it is important that the department become a part of the community as well as serving the community.

If you already contributed thank you. If not please subscribe if you can.

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INSIDE

- Letter to the Chief p 7
- Something you can do p 10
- Star Wars Viral Wars p 12

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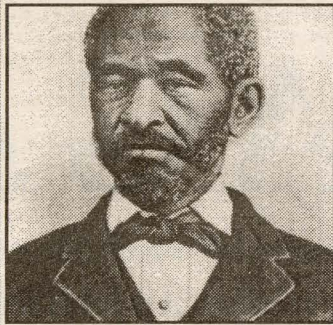
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\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

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.

AA Voice Drop Points

- Chicken - N - More
502 W. Sprague
- Global Folk Art
1401 W. First
- Spokane City Hall
• Salon East
1703 E. 4th
- Hastings Books Music & Video
11324 E. Sprague
- All Excell Food Stores
• East Central Comm. Center
500 S. Stone
- EWU Black Education
Monroe Hall
• FAFB African American Club

Free College Tuition, Books, and Childcare Offered

BY TRACY STRUBLE & BEVERLY WALKER-GRIFFEA

Many working parents in the Spokane area are looking for how they can make more money, upgrade job skills, and retrain for a better job. There is finally an answer!

The Wage Progression Tuition Assistance Program at the Community Colleges of Spokane provides students with tuition, books, and childcare. Students qualify, if they are working parents, whose family income is 175% at or below the federal poverty level. It doesn't matter if you have defaulted on a loan.

Angela Taylor believes participating in this program will increase her wages by \$5 an hour. Angela is a Nurse's assistant studying at Spokane



ANGELA TAYLOR

Community College to be a Nurse. The single mother of three remarked, "This is a program to help working parents get help with tuition, when they cannot financially afford to go to school."

If you are interested in taking classes that will increase your wages, upgrade job skills or help you retrain for a better job, then call 533-3752.

1998-99 Income Guidelines

Family Size	175% of FPL	Annual
2	1,583	18,966
3	1,991	23,892
4	2,399	28,788
5	2,808	33,696
6	3,216	38,592
7	3,624	43,488
8	4,033	48,396
9	4,441	53,292
10	4,849	58,188

For each additional person, add \$432 per month

The fight goes on

BY ALI PARKER

At some time in our lives we lose someone whom we cherish. The pain of losing someone whom we love is acute, as it is with the untimely death of my nephew, Colin Beckles. Our combined families have been wrestling with this recent bereavement, not fathoming the depths of the illness that caused him to take his own life. I call it an intellectual suicide because of the thought he apparently put into his mission. It was not a random act; rather he felt he had accomplished all that he could on earth, and promised to continue his

tasks from the other side.

There have been many glowing reports on the impact Colin made on so many people and organizations that we know his intellectual legacy will live on. His fight for the downtrodden will be continued by another able and charismatic leader. All is not lost. Colin's memory will live on; he'll see to that!

To Colin's friends: Thank you for being a part of his life. His death is not in vain. He's reunited with other family members and is leading them on a course of enlightenment.

Gone but not forgotten

African American Voice has new address

Changes in rules for mailbox holders means our address has changed. "PO Box" must now read "PMB" so our address is as follows:

African American Voice
PMB 145
2920 S. Grand Blvd.
Spokane WA 99203-2530

After November 1, mail not marked with PMB will be returned as undeliverable.

From African Culture and Mystical Powers to Babysitting

Spokane Falls Community College's Summer Youth College offers two-week courses, taught by college faculty and staff, for young men and women between the ages of 9 and 13. The first session is June 21 through July 1. The second is July 6 through 16. Pre-registration is required. For information and a complete listing call 533-3522. Following is a partial listing of courses in the first session:

Africa in Art and Culture
9:30-11:20, Bldg. 16, Room 112, SFCC - \$55

Art Experience
12:30-2:20, Bldg. 6, Room 117, SFCC - \$60

Mystical Powers of Earth
1:30-2:20, Bldg. 8, Room 123, SFCC - \$35

Babysitting Plus
8:30-9:20, Bldg. 16, Room 112, SFCC - \$35

Cartooning
8:30-9:20 or 9:30-10:20, Bldg. 2, Rm. 203, SFCC - \$31

Ceramics
8:30-9:20, 9:30-10:20 or 10:30-11:20, Bldg. 6, Rm. 116, SFCC - \$38

Cooking up a Storm
12:30-2:20, Bldg. 16, Room 112, SFCC - \$57

Geography Fun
3:30-4:20, Bldg. 5, Room 115, SFCC - \$29

Math Magic
2:30-3:30 (9-10 yr.) or 3:30-4:20 (11-13 yr.), Bldg. 8, Rm. 125 - \$28

Photoshop
3:30-4:20, Bldg. 19, Room 134, SFCC \$37

Spanish
10:30-11:20, Bldg. 5, Room 115, SFCC - \$26

Sign Language
1:30-2:20, Bldg. 5, Room 117, SFCC - \$26

Wilderness Survival
1:30-3:20, Bldg. 8, Room 124, SFCC - \$55

The Spokane, Pullman African-American Voice

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Black Education Revival

By PATRICE WILLIAMSON

"Schools teach those they think they must and when they think they needn't, they don't," was once said by Dr. Ron Edmonds, founder of the Effective Schools Movement. On April 17, 225 concerned citizens met at Tacoma Community College to address the reality of Edmonds, comments as well as the state of public education as it pertains to Blacks living in Washington.

The statewide education revival was sponsored by the African American Education Think Tank (AAETT) and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). The AAETT was formed in February 1998 by OSPI in order to review the status of education for Blacks after a disappointing performance by Black students on the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL). The group consists of about 46 community activists, educators, and school administrators from across the state.

AAETT knows that Washington state is in the process of raising standards for all students so they feel that it is time for

the Black community and the school system to ensure that the 49,000 Black students enrolled in the K-12 system won't be left behind.

Everyone at the conference received a copy of A Strategic Action Plan For the Education of African-American Students in the State of Washington published by OSPI. It outlined some signs of an ineffective education and they included:

- Underinvolvement in school activities other than sports.
- Underrepresentation in programs for the gifted.
- Overrepresentation in special education programs.

Other contributing factors were said to be:

- Staff members who communicate low expectations for behavior and achievement of Black children.
- Staff members who fear Black children and their parents and subsequently avoid interacting with them.

To combat these problems the plan stated the numerous goals of the AAETT. Basically they are calling for the mobilization of the entire community to solve the problem of acad-

emic underachievement.

A small delegation from Spokane attended the conference. Some of them received sponsorship from Empire Ford, Dr. James Williams, Larry's Barber Shop, and Pantrol. While in Tacoma the delegation held a short brainstorming session to garner methods that could be used to teach the black student the importance of taking control of his/her own education. Also noted was the general lack of participation of Spokane Blacks in the Black community.

"There are many adults who are working in the community and they're tapped out. Even so, one of our biggest challenges is to train and nurture our young people's growth" said Karen Boone, a conference attendee from Spokane.

She also said, "Another challenge is to find ways to bring in other people. I think Jennifer Roseman (member of the AAETT) has done that by giving us the opportunity to develop a community action plan."

Since April some of the members of the delegation have presented the mission of the revival and the AAETT at an NAACP meeting.



Photo by Grandma Jerri Gray

Congratulations Stoakley, on your graduation from college. We're proud of you. Your parents, Robert and Diane Lloyd

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That none should be excluded

By VICTOR E. BUKSBAZEN

Everything I ever needed to know about public education in Spokane I learned by watching *M*A*S*H.

It was *M*A*S*H that introduced me to the concept of triage. Derived from the French verb "trier" (to sort), triage is a battlefield protocol designed to cope with the prospect of too few doctors having to deal with too many patients. A trained specialist is supposed to make life-and-death decisions about who can be saved with the available resources, and who cannot. That means that sometimes the most severely injured must be left to fend for themselves when the heroic measures required to save them might ultimately cost the lives of other less-seriously injured casualties, who might be forced to wait too long for their care. Multiple acute shrapnel wounds to internal organs? Sorry, buddy! Nothing personal, you understand! But even trying to save you might cost the lives of three less-severe trauma cases over here!

Call it pragmatism, but this constitutes a "reduction ad absurdum" of intolerable working conditions affecting desirable outcomes. The ends justifying the means, in other words. Imagine yourself having to condemn one casualty to death to save another!

How could anyone function effectively under such conditions and still maintain his sanity? It just can't be done! Regrettably, though, this process has become a metaphor for our modern

system of public education. Today, if teachers are to survive in their classrooms - same or not - they have to become "educational triage specialists!"

Never furnished the time, facilities or finances needed to reach every student, teachers must often cut their losses by giving up - albeit reluctantly - on students who do not exhibit the skills deemed necessary for survival in the classroom.

Not enough of a self-starter

Continued on page 8

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Arts and Culture

Color of Water author speaks to Spokesman Review staff

BY BOB GLAZA

James McBride, author of *The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother*, was invited by The Spokesman-Review Diversity Committee to speak at a lunch May 26 for the newspaper staff.

When a young James McBride asked his mother if he was black or white she snapped, "You're a human being. Educate yourself or you'll be a nobody." This is but one small portion of the life's lessons passed from mother to son in this book. Written about affectionately as "Mommy", Ruth McBride Jordan was born an Orthodox Jew named Rachel Zilsky. Her family moved from Poland to Virginia in the 1930's where her father was a rabbi and a store owner. When she fled from Virginia to Harlem, fell in love and married a black man, her family disowned her. The book is structured with alternating chapters - James McBride writing about his life in one chapter and his mother talking from her perspective in the next. The story is told with great attention to detail.

To Be A Slave Because Of Your Color

BY ESTRELLA ATKINSON
AGE 11

A slave is someone with skin other than white "usually black". But people don't have a color, what some people do I think isn't right. People think people not like them should be treated differently, The people who treat people wrong think everything is perfectly right.

Some of your own people capture you of money. They shouldn't do that unless they want to be captured also. People take horrible care of you and that's not all, They sell you for money whether you're short or tall.

These horrible things happen to African-Americans. Their brown skin can turn to red with a whip, isn't that sad. It isn't right to do this to people, they shouldn't do this at all, would you do this? I wouldn't.

The author introduces the reader to the cast of characters and the neighborhood he grew up around. We are invited to share the life of a mother raising 12 children in Brooklyn's Red Hook projects. The story includes the antics of the brothers and sisters, the successes and failures, the joy and the sadness. Mommy teaches her children love and respect for each other and for all people. She teaches them we are all more alike than we are different. And she insists the kids go to school and study. The result is everyone in the family - including Mommy - graduated college and most earned advanced degrees. James McBride tells his story with a great sense of humor - a sense he credits as a gift from Mommy. He shares the good times and the bad times. As it turns out, the good outweighs the bad. This book is a treasure - you'll be glad you read it.

The Color of Water by James McBride, Riverhead Books, 1997 is available at local bookstores. Readers not only liked it but called it an easy read.

Remember people do the horrible deed Even if it can give them some greed.

A slave is someone who is owned by another person. Like a car, a chair, house, animal, or a picture.

To work for another person without getting paid, Tending a child, putting meals on the table. Try to run away to get freedom of yourself, but they catch you at night and whip you everywhere.

If you do this to your people, You should change your sense of cruelty or even evil. Martin Luther King was an important man, he led marches, and helped people hand in hand.

Harriet Tubman helped people to freedom. It didn't matter how long the distance for others' freedom. A lot of people have helped others, and that is what this world is for, no matter where the place.

Music of Africa and the World This Summer

BY BEA LACAFF

African musicians and dancers will be traveling half way around the world to perform in our region this summer; and it's worth a little trip on our part to go hear them!

Folk Life Festival

Seattle's free Folk Life Festival, the annual celebration of the music and

dance of all the worlds cultures happens every year over Memorial Day weekend. Hundreds of performers share their songs and dances. A featured musician this year is Alpha Yaya Diallo, a singer, composer, guitarist and band-leader from Guinea. Now based in Canada, he brings music based on the traditions of his home and other West African people,

served up both hot and elegant, interpreted in a contemporary groove. Also playing at FolkLife is Shona mbira master Tute Chigamba, from Zimbabwe, with his family mbira ensemble, Mhembero. The Chigambas may be making a tour of the Inland Empire early this summer, and hopefully sharing their music, stories, and dance with us in Spokane. (If you would like to let this African Spirit warm your heart, please contact Bea at 509-327-8303)

Fifth Annual Summer Theatre for Youth

June 16 -29 for young people ages 8 to 17

Eastern Washington University offers its 1999 Summer Theatre for Youth workshop this June 16-29 to give young people ages 8-17 the chance to learn theatre arts by getting hands-on experience with all aspects of theatre.

Fun, demanding and intense, the workshop covers acting, music, dance, improv, painting, lighting, makeup, puppetry, acting for the camera, video production and preparing an acting resume. Theatre professionals from the university and Spokane community will work with students along with the some university-level student assistants. In addition, all participants will perform in a showcase June 28 and 29.

The workshop will be held on Eastern's campus in Cheney - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. This is a day camp experience and attendees should bring a sack lunch.

A Theatre for Youth T-shirt comes with the \$195 cost of the two-week session. The workshop is limited to the first 120 students, so send applications early. Some scholarships are available.

For applications, please contact Linda Douglas at 509-359-2459 or e-mail: ldouglas@ewu.edu. For general information and scholarship information about the Summer Theatre for Youth workshop, please contact Don McLaughlin, director, at 509-359-6672 or

email:
dmclaughlin@ewu.edu.



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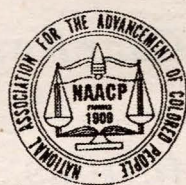
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NAACP

Office : 709 E Desmet, Spokane WA
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Regular meetings are on the 3rd Monday of each month.

East Central Community Center

500 S. Stone Street Spokane WA. 7 PM

For Information Contact : President Eileen Thomas

EVENTS

SPOKANE

Playwrights

Forum Festival '99

June 4-6, 11-12. Best entries from Spokane Civic Theatre 16th annual playwrights competition. To see all plays attend two nights. Tickets \$5 per night. Call 509-325-2507 for reservations and schedule info.

14th Annual ArtFest Music and Arts Festival

June 4-6 Fri. 12 - 8:30 p.m., Sat. 10-8:30 p.m., Sun, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Cheney Cowles Museum Grounds 2316 W First. Call 509-456-3931.

Annual Spokane Dixieland Jazz Festival

June 4-6 Fri. 3 p.m. - Sun. 6:15 p.m. Masonic Temple, 1108 W Riverside. 509-235-4401.

Dixieland Gospel Service

June 6 Sun. 9:30 a.m. Black Swan Classic Jazz Band. Masonic Temple Auditorium 1108 W Riverside. Free. 509-235-4401.

KPBX Kids Concert

June 18 Fri. 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Riverfront Park. Free. 509-328-5729.

Teddy Bear Picnic

June 19 11 a.m. 3 p.m. Cheney Cowles Museum Grounds 2316 W First. Call 509-456-3931.

Portraits; Something for the Ladies

Screenprints by Carl Richardson Through June 24. Eclectic Electric 9 N Washington. 509-744-0910.

Sculpture of Auguste Rodin

June 1 - July 31 Video 12:30 & 2 p.m. Jundt Art Museum, Gonzaga University. Free. Call 323-6611 for hours.

Children's Art Classes

Spokane Art School, 920 N Howard. Session I June 21 - July 1; Session II July 5-15; Session III July 19-29; Session IV Aug 2-12; Session V Aug 16-26. Mon - Thur. Painting, drawing, ceramics, fiber arts, beading, sculpture, and more. Call 328-0900 for schedule and cost.

Seattle

Diversity: the True Color of Art

June 12 - July 31 Pratt Gallery at CoCa. 65 Cedar St. Seattle.

Grover Washington, Jr.

June 19 Sat 7:30 p.m. Paramount Theater 91 Pine St. Seattle. Tickets \$36. 206-628-0888.

Bill Cosby

June 24 Thur 8 p.m. Chateau Ste Michelle, 14111 145th St., NE Woodinville, WA 425-488-3300. Tickets \$44.50 - \$99.

Appreciation Banquet for Pastors Lonnie and Kerry Slater

You are invited to join the members of Full Gospel Mission in two Appreciation Events to honor Pastors Lonnie and Kerry Slater. They have both received military change of assignments to Turkey. While stationed at Fairchild AFB, they have made substantial spiritual, social and financial contributions to our local community. They have served as pastors of the Full Gospel Mission church for nearly two years. Pastor Lonnie Slater is currently serving as President of the Spokane Ministerial Fellowship Union. The theme for both events is "A Spiritual Workman's Attitude." At 5:30 p.m., June 12, the Appreciation Banquet will be held at

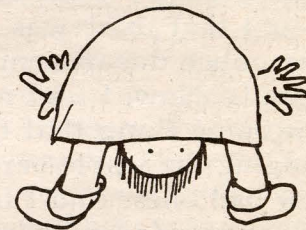
Spokane Days Inn - 4212 Sunset Blvd. The guest speaker is Chaplain Jimmie Sanders, Fairchild AFB. Ticket price is \$20.00 and the deadline to purchase is June 7. Please call 328-4428 for reservations. The Appreciation Service is scheduled for 3:00 p.m., June 13 at Full Gospel Mission for All Nations - on the corner of First and Magnolia. Guest speaker is Bishop Richard Taylor, Seattle, WA. Pastors Lonnie and Kerry Slater have made substantial spiritual and social contributions to the Spokane and Fairchild AFB communities. They will be missed by all, especially the members of Full Gospel and the Spokane church community at large.

If your event is of interest to a diverse audience, send us the information for this page:

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IMAGINE

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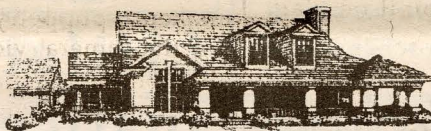


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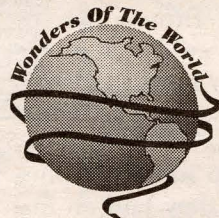
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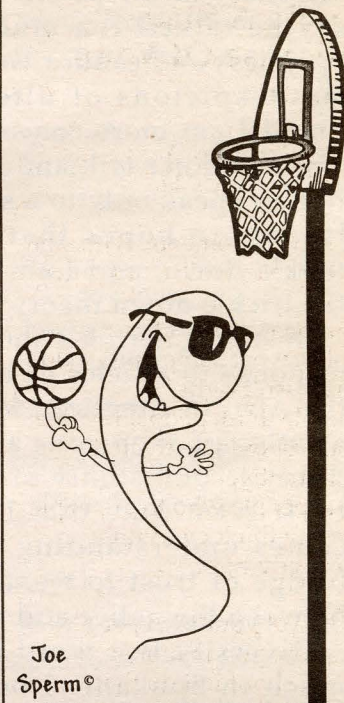
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GUEST EDITORIAL

Never in my life could I imagine that I would write a letter in defense of a police chief or in this case of a former chief. A large part of my young adult life was spent trying to explain while getting hit, punched, kicked, and being accused of being a gang member or a criminal and many times down the barrel of a loaded gun, "Hey it wasn't me" or "Hey I'm not in a gang!". In my old neighborhood in the L.A. area I feared the police more often than I did the gangs. The gangs knew I was on the straight and narrow but the police never seemed to be able to distinguish between the gangs, the criminals and me.

When the Rodney King beating was caught on video, it didn't shock me at all because I was already convinced beyond a shadow of a doubt that there was a serious problem with the police department and the minority community. Now, I find myself years later doing the same thing that the police were doing - judging the whole barrel of apples based on a few bad ones. And I find myself compelled to take a stand inside myself knowing that we all must make personal sacrifices for the good of the whole. I come to the defense of this former police chief to confront my own biases against the men and women in blue, to prove to myself that I am better than those that persecuted me because of the color of my skin.

In my experience, I have met very few police chiefs - they just never frequent the places that I do. However in Chief Chertok's short tenure I met and talked with him in places that I visit. I was impressed by his comfortable nature and his ability to communicate with surprising candor. In a couple of those situations he was one of maybe two Caucasians in the room.

Community based policing, cop shops, it means nothing if the man at the top is aloof and not accessible to everyone in the community. As a minority in Spokane I don't visit the famous cop shops and I don't feel a particular closeness to the police department. The critics say he talked too much. In my opinion his openness and candor were welcome because of my suspicions of ulterior motives. I have found I am more concerned about those leaders who don't talk and hide behind their position or speak only to a select group of minority leaders in hopes that the information will trickle down, and I am not at all a believer in the trickle down theory.

In Alan Chertok's short tenure he wrote two response to articles or opinions he had read in the African American Voice. I believe this was an attempt at opening a dialogue, which shows direct accountability to the minority community. It set a tone that I liked. With dialogue comes understanding and the building of a bridge of trust to weather the coming storms between the police and minority community.

Diversity is a word that has been used so much in Spokane. I believe that this whole fiasco with the chief is a fine example of what diversity is really about when confronted with a strong institution that demands their own brand of diversity. Which is why we need real diversity.

I believe the chief never had a real chance because the police department is not practicing diversity. The mandate for change did not come from the ranks but from the city. And it was from the ranks and the city manager that the sabotage came when a chief was chosen who was an outsider and was mentally different from the basic WASP good old boy net-

work. They could not live up to all the hoopla of diversity. Diversity and change go hand in hand. There is no progress without struggle.

I personally think the chief was damned if he did and damned if he didn't. He told everyone he was going to assess the situation and then make the needed adjustments while getting to know the community. I am awed that he withstood those who pushed for cosmetic or

purely symbolic changes for political expediency. Now I guess I'll just have to wonder if he could have improved relations with the minority community. It certainly appeared so to me.

I feel the way the whole thing was blown up in the media has opened up a Pandora's box that will continue to haunt the police department and the city.

Dwight Cummings



Opinion

Littleton exposes criminal justice system's double standard

BY EARL O. HUTCHINSON

Even with the arrest of a gun dealer in Littleton for selling a weapon to one of the suspects in the Columbine High School massacre authorities continued to drop hints that more arrests may be made. But the big question is why haven't more arrests been made? Authorities have repeatedly said that they believe others were involved, or had knowledge of the attack. They have a horde of investigators working on hundreds of leads and sifting through thousands of pieces of evidence in the case. They have snapshots of the close pals of Klebold and Harris defiantly mugging it up in school photos. And they had an initial offer by Klebold's parents to cooperate. Yet, they have managed only the one arrest.

Then there's the question of why the two killers were running loose with no close police supervision even though police admit that they had received a formal complaint, complete with the emails he sent, that Harris had threatened another student. Yet, they did not

bother to question him about it even though he was on probation at the time of the incident.

Littleton officials say that it's a big, complex case that demands deliberate and careful police work. Maybe, but their snail's pace investigation also tells much about the gaping difference in the way much of law enforcement deals with crime, and the suspicion of crime, when committed by whites, especially middle-class whites, and African-Americans.

The recent ugly scandals in several states involving the convictions of black men on false charges have exposed how police and prosecutors conduct slipshod investigations, eagerly suppress and manufacture evidence, bully witnesses and suspects, and commit perjury to get convictions. Many of those convicted wound up on death row. And in Illinois several of the prisoners falsely convicted came within a whisker of being executed. In nearly every state young blacks complain, and many police officials don't deny, that they are stopped and frisked on the streets and

in their cars even when there is no evidence that they were involved in a crime, or even that a crime had been committed.

The Columbine massacre also raises questions about what happens when whites are arrested particularly on weapons charges. What charges are filed against them? How vigorously are they prosecuted? If the charges are subsequently dropped are their guns returned to them?

What happens when young whites are convicted or plead guilty to a crime? Harris and Klebold pled guilty to breaking and entering a vehicle, supposedly a felony. Yet, they received no jail time and were given a glowing probation report and released early from supervised probation.

This raises still more questions. While African-Americans are more likely to be jailed when convicted of crimes, how many whites are allowed to plea bargain lesser sentences, receive probation, community service, are fined and make restitution, are referred to diversion or rehabilitation programs, or are placed under house

AAV invites Alan Chertok to join staff

The resignation of Alan Chertok is a great loss to the Spokane community. The fact that he was driven out over petty differences and trumped up allegations does not speak well for our city government, our police force or the

future of community relations here in Spokane. This however does not have to be an end to Mr. Chertok's community involvement. As Obi-wan Kenobi said "You can't win Darth. If you strike me down I shall become more powerful than you could possibly imagine". Now that Mr. Chertok is a private citizen and responsible to no one but his own conscience,

the AAV would like to invite him continue and expand his role both with this paper and as a community leader. It may be that he can be of even greater help to Spokane in this capacity than he could fighting his way through government red tape and resistant public officials.

Robert Lloyd Publish

LETTERS

The Editor welcomes letters. You can respond to articles or write about any topic of your concern. You can also call and dictate a letter. If we are not in, you can narrate your letter in our voice mail. 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 Blvd., Spokane, WA 99203-2530. Please include your name and day time phone number for verification.

SPD officer speaks

Dear AAV

First - let me express my heartfelt sorrow for Colin's Death. Although I only met him recently, he seemed to be a genuine human. I also sense that Our Lord is loving and enjoying him now (and forever!)

I've had some great opportunities to talk to new officers and have discussions about the attitudes and actions that lead to "Profiling" and "DWB" and am hopeful that it will help. I also suggested that S.P.D. make a public declaration against any/all stops based on race... with strong discipline policies attached. I pray that my profession begins to take the racial biases that we create by oppressive policing not because it's politically correct or because we've been caught with our pants down... But because it is right.

As a very white male who works for his Lord and our community to serve and protect I remain committed to the many struggles for civil/Human rights. Please consider me a resource and call on me, if you ever need,

Your Servant
Tom Sahlberg

Character First

Dear Mayor Talbott

I wanted to share, briefly, my impression of the "Character First" program as presented May 18, 1999.

When you initially mentioned a community building program to me last month at the Spokane Human Rights Commission town meeting, I was expecting a program that would help facilitate dialog within the community around some of the many issues we need to address. What I was not expecting was a set-in-stone perspective of leadership development and character building. While I firmly believe that our community needs to come together

and discuss our issues, I do not believe that it needs to be done with the "Character First" program nor will I support this program as either a citizen of Spokane or a member of the Spokane Human Rights Commission.

My perspective is that if our community wishes to focus on character development, we must come to the table and set our own community standards. We must also decide, on our own, what our community standards and characters are. From there we can, as a community, work on developing those characteristics and standards.

The bottom line is that I do not believe the city needs a program to address character. What I am willing to work on, however, is a program designed to encourage people to define their own character traits, what is important to them, and how to use that information to make healthy and community oriented decisions. From there, we can work on how to enhance those personally chosen traits, discover how to implement them into our life, and discuss how we can use those individual characters and values to help one another realize our full potential.

To further address the questions you asked of me while at the SHRC town meeting I offer the following thoughts:

If not this, what? Mayor Talbott, there are plenty of programs and organizations working toward making Spokane a more accepting and tolerant place to live. Groups such as the Task Force on Race Relations, Churches Against Racism, the Spokane Chamber of Commerce, the NAACP, the Human Rights Commission, the Black Ministers Alliance, Leadership Spokane, P-FLAG, PJALS, the Unitarian Church, the Metropolitan Community Church, and many other organizations and individual citizens. From my perspective, a galvanization of these forces to prompt the discussion on

improving our community would be, by far, a more effective use of both community dollars and community resources. These people are the experts on our community and re very in-tune with our community's needs. To imply that there is another, better, way of addressing our community needs without first making real and serious attempts to discuss them with the people who are doing social justice and community building work in Spokane is denigrating to the work they do.

If not now, then when? Contrary to what you may or may not believe, the discussion on how to improve living in Spokane, from a human relations perspective, has been going on in Spokane for years. I would like to point your attention to the Community Congress on Race Relations as a prime example. While attendance was down this year, it has been a very successful program. Perhaps we can focus some of the money and energy that would be required to initiate a Character First program and build on the Community Congress. While this is just an idea, I believe that if, as I mentioned above, we were to galvanize an open group of community leaders to honestly and sincerely address the core problems we have in Spokane, we might come up with any number of realistic solutions. Since the discussions are already going on, I would suggest that we immediately tap into some of the previously mentioned organizations to form a community building commission. A note, however, is that to best reach the broadest segments of the community, a meeting of this nature will need to take place outside of the 9-5 working hours box and may need to convene on a weekend.

If not me, who? Mayor Talbott, as I mentioned, our community has been addressing the concerns that you brought up in your let-

ter. My suggestion as to who again falls back to the community at large. If you want to join in these discussions, I wholeheartedly encourage you to bring your ideas to the table. There is room enough for those sincerely interested in

helping to make Spokane a better place to live and work.

The bottom line is that we will not find a panacea for the social ills (a major one being race relations) that face Spokane until we look honestly at what they are. That means when we come to the table, we may need to give up some of the things that we hold so dear. In that, we will need to set aside some of the perceptions about others and how we feel that they should behave as inspired by our various faiths, we need to set aside our titles and positions in order to come to the table as members of a community, and we need to find the value in other's beliefs and needs even when they don't match up with our own. That, Mayor Talbott, is a difficult thing to ask, but is necessary if we are to address our community problems.

I look forward to further discussing these ideas with you at the May 25, 1999, meeting of the Spokane Human Rights Commission.

M. Khalil Islam
Commissioner Spokane
Human Rights Commission

Khalil

I understand from John that you had a healthy discussion at the Commission meeting last night. I am sorry you left the 18th meeting with the understanding that Character First was locked in stone. I seem to recall the speaker as well as myself that the program could best serve our community by being adapted to our community and become ours not someone else's.

Thanks for your message.

Mayor John Talbott

New Chief

Editor:

Spokane Police Chief Alan Chertok has resigned. The citizens' concerns about the leadership of the Spokane Police Dept. are as pressing and relevant today as they were during the search process that tapped Chertok. It is vital that the same, maybe even more inclusive, citizen involvement in the search process occurs during the next stage.

Chrys Ostrander

Dear City Council et al:

I meant to be the first to do so but was too slow, sorry. While I would have initially liked to have seen Roger Bragdon given a chance at the job, I quickly warmed up to Chief Chertok shortly after his arrival. No one here helps me practice my bad Spanish as much as he does!

More seriously, though, I want to see him given a fair chance to succeed, for all of our sakes, as well as his.

Fences!

Editor

As an African American, constantly bombarded with everything else and little of African American history, it took constant reminders from one of the cast members in "Fences" to convince me to see this play.

I work graveyard, so I thought this "Fences" play better be good because I'll have to go to work right after the show. "Fences" is the most powerful, awesome play I've ever seen. As the play emotionally, spiritually and physically took me where I needed to be, I felt happy, sad, angry and excited.

Sincerely, my hat's off to the entire cast. Thank you! Thank you! I'd sacrifice a little sleep any day to see "Fences".

Jonathan Bell

Attorney speaks on race, poverty, & the death penalty

By A. Bradley

On April 6 The Gonzaga University School of Law Criminal Defense Law Caucus presented Bryan Stevenson. Mr. Stevenson is a criminal defense lawyer who specializes in representing poor people against the death penalty. He is the director of the Equal Justice Initiative of Alabama. One of Mr. Stevenson's cases was the subject of a book by Pete Earley, *Circumstantial Evidence: Death, Life, and Justice in a Southern Town*. The book is

about how Mr. Stevenson took on a case of an individual who had been on death row for six years. After some luck and hard work the individual was found innocent and was able to walk free.

On April 6, Mr. Stevenson addressed the crisis in our country surrounding legal services for poor people whose lives are at risk in the criminal courts, jail and prisons. He reiterated the fact that poor people are being sentenced to long-term imprisonment and to death at record levels. Racial bias and increased hostility to the plight of the disadvantaged exacerbates this crisis and undermines the equal administration of justice.

The Equal Justice Initiative of Alabama (EJI) seeks to amend these problems. EJI is a private, nonprofit organization that provides legal representation to indigent defendants and prisoners who have been denied fair and just treatment in the legal system.

Mr. Stevenson spoke about poor people giving up home on receiving justice from our justice system. He spoke about large number black people receiving the death penalty. He went on to say that the Supreme Court told him that "a cer-

tain amount of racial bias was inevitable within our justice system." With that statement it seemed as if the Supreme Court had given up hope also. I have suspected this for some time but for the Supreme Court to tell Mr. Stevenson that was a total disregard for the Constitution. I was disappointed that more people did not get to enjoy the presentation by Mr. Stevenson. It was interesting and very informative. I am sure others share in his concerns about the system. I applaud his dedication to the poor. It is easy to be concerned, but action speaks louder than words. Mr. Stevenson closed by stating that his firm was committed to challenging the hopelessness that often plagues the administration of justice for disadvantaged and the poor. He challenged the entire audience to stand up against the injustices that are being waged on the poor.

Note: For anyone interested in contacting Mr. Stevenson or making a tax deductible contribution, you can reach him: Equal Justice Initiative of Alabama, 643 South Perry St., Montgomery AL 36104, 334-269-1803, fax 334-269-1806, ejibryan@aol.com.

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Continued from page 3

Exclude none

to crack your books and get your assignments completed? Sorry, student, the hours needed to get you to conform even minimally with the standards will negatively impact (harm) those who are able to perform at the right level.

Just the facts, ma'am

Much like the surgeons in a battlefield hospital, teachers today confront a student load that is, at best, daunting. Not only are the numbers overwhelming, but far too many students cross their thresholds who believe that their sole function in the classroom should be to disrupt the class and prevent others from learning anything. (I used to be one of them!)

Hence, most teachers would like to devote the majority of their time and efforts to those students most likely to respond favorably. That makes sense, doesn't it?

"But surely," you might ask, "Aren't our kids far better off than someone lying wounded in a field hospital?" Are they, really? Physically, perhaps, but emotionally? We must unfortunately count far too many of our children among the walking wounded. One of the reasons for this is that the community to which they belong places above preparing them adequately to face life's challenges in the new millennium which we are about to enter!

Education without fear

Neither county nor state is able to transform our public schools into safe havens where students can study and play and do after-

school activities without the fear that they might be gunned down or blown up. Lamentably, in this age of alienation and dissociation, our kids are the disenfranchised victims of societal indifference to their plight.

The demographics of educational triage suggest that it is tolerated by the white middle class largely because it is confined mostly to two groups - poor children of color and recent immigrants. With the recent announcement that up to 50 refugee families from Kosovo are headed to Spokane in the next month or so, we wonder how this tacit policy will affect them. If this state and community - despite all its official policy declarations - aspires to do no more than the educational equivalent of meatball surgery on the battlefield, then our mission is accomplished already.

However, if teachers and administrators are to do more than simply sort out those who likely will make it from those who probably won't, we must find an effective and equitable manner to plan, staff, fund and deliver an appropriate education to all types and levels of student, no matter how poor or handicapped they may be.

And we must do it immediately. Education, after all, is one of the key building blocks of society. It is the main ingredient of success. And none should be excluded.

The author, a Spokane Human Rights Commissioner, is a former high school history and science teacher. He also served as the president of Foursquare Full Gospel Seminary in Seoul, Korea.

Weekend hosts needed for Japanese students

Twenty-three college-age Japanese students from Osaka University will attend Spokane Falls Community College's Intensive English Training Program July 26 - Aug. 22 and they need a place to call "home" the weekend of July 30 - Aug. 2.

Although students live on the Mukogawa-Fort Wright Institute campus during the week, weekend home stays give students a chance to experience American family life firsthand, said program director Akira Yoshida. They are

eager to practice English with their host families and spend a "typical weekend" with an American family.

Families may host one or two students, picking them up late Friday afternoons and returning them to campus Monday morning. Hosts are encouraged to plan weekend activities and outings that allow students to see a little bit of Spokane, Yoshida said.

Contact Yoshida, 624-5630, or Salamah Dick, SFCC international student services office, 533-3844 for more information.

Celebrate Diversity!

A community message from Metropolitan Mortgage & Securities Co., Inc.



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. With the encouragement of President Bill Robinson of Whitworth College and

the assistance of Professor Virginia White and her feature writing class, the African American Voice will publish profiles of community members each month.

Stephanie Nobles-Beans, Ken Beason, Deborah Brown, Nathaniel Greene, Roberta Greene, La'Brenda Hill, Leslie McAuley, Rodney McAuley, V. Anne Smith, Peggie Troutt, Gail Vails, • Jann Williams, • Jim Williams, Wallace Williams.

Rodney McAuley

BY DAVID EDWARDS
WHITWORTH COLLEGE

On a spring day in 1971, Rodney McAuley was walking with a group of friends down a Tacoma street. Suddenly a White man confronted them. Showering the boys with insults and racial epithets.

Overcome with anger, the four friends pursued him, ran him down and beat him. Then they walked away, leaving him crumpled and battered on the ground.

McAuley, now pastor of Spokane's Antioch Foursquare Church, looks back on the incident with regret. Though only a high school freshman at the time, he doesn't use his youth as an excuse. He believes he had the right sentiment but made an improper response.

Nevertheless, that anger is still there. But it's

been transformed into what McAuley calls a "righteous indignation." He's since learned to channel the emotional fire within himself.

"There's a mixture of Malcolm and Martin that I have in me," he said. "I desire to be a synthesis of the two."

That combination took root in Tacoma in the wake of the King and Malcolm X assassinations of the 1960s. His parents' household gave McAuley his first lessons on race relations.

Young Rodney, the oldest child of Emmanuel and Johnella McAuley, maintained close ties with his maternal grandmother, aunts, cousins and other relatives. The extended family included uncles who participated in the black militant movement, and McAuley absorbed some of their feelings dur-

ing his adolescence.

Emmanuel and Johnella provided their three children with a strong Baptist upbringing. They worked hard, he as a warehouse worker and she as a secretary, and their presence in the home fostered a godly family environment.

After a Young Life retreat reawakened him spiritually, McAuley went to work for Kaiser Aluminum. In 19 years with the company, he worked in the Chicago and New York areas, as well as at both Spokane plants.

But Kaiser terminated his position in March 1998, so McAuley took on the ministry full time.

As pastor of Antioch Foursquare on Third and Browne, he directs the fiery vigor of his youth toward his congregations and Spokane's African-American community.

That community is fragmented, McAuley

believes.

"There are relatively few of us, and I see us divided into too many camps," he said.

McAuley's vision for the city's African-American community, though primarily spiritual, affects young and old, believers and non-believers alike.

Through the Foursquare Church, he seeks to present "authentic Christianity," a commitment to live in congruence with biblical principles.

"God wants to bring revival to Spokane," he said. "We want to be a part of that equation. We believe that the primary purpose is to make it difficult for the people in this town to go to hell."

Included in that aim is a desire to make community life less hellish.

"We've harbored grudges, proclaimed love and holiness but operated in hate and impurity," he said. "We've produced a

mixed message."

McAuley believes many young African-Americans leave Spokane after growing up. They perceive an area devoid of hope and lacking a viable future for them. Offering some incentive for them to stay and contribute to the community is crucial, he said.

His great hope is to see a more unified African-American community combined with a more accepting white community.

And the anger that once drove McAuley to fight is now a zeal with which he fights for a cause.

"We've let old wounds fester too long," he said. "My vision is to see all the strengths and gifts pooled together for the good of the overall community. I hope to trigger open, honest, transparent dialogue that will be part of the healing."

Ms. Betsy Wilkerson

BY KAREEM WILCHER

Ms. Betsy Wilkerson, born in West Point, Mississippi is the daughter of Louisiana Moore. Her mother, a single parent with seven children moved to Spokane 1963. Betsy has two sisters and 5 brothers. One of her brothers, Dennis Mitchell, was given recognition at a youth leadership graduation ceremony last year.

Betsy has lived in Spokane for many years and graduated from Lewis & Clark High School in 1973. She went to Jarvis Christian College in Hawkins, Texas, where she graduated with a Business Major. In 1981, Betsy returned to Spokane as a single parent with her 22 year old daughter Shalena, daughter 22 and her 20 year old son James. Both children are attending college. Shalena is at Rice University in Houston, Texas and enrolled in an engineering program. Betsy's son is at Spokane Falls Community College. She is looking forward to James attending Eastern Washington University.

Betsy got her start in the banking industry where she went to work at a credit union from 1981-1988. She moved on to teach banking at a private vocational school. Through a volunteer association, she went to work as a Program Manager for the American Heart Association. Betsy was charged with overseeing education programs throughout the Eastern Washington Region encompassing seven cities. The programs focused on heart disease prevention and provided interactive programs directed at K-12 students. Prevention

awareness information was also supplied to various medical institutions. Betsy stated she was involved in a pioneering movement establishing the model for worksite well-

ness programs between 1988 - 1992.

Not only was she a pioneer but an entrepreneur with a family business called Moore's Boarding Home. The business is a congregate care facility serving special needs adult population. She took over the family business in 1992 to the present. Betsy also finds time to be an active community member. "My start in volunteerism was a value drawn from church experiences and I currently serve on the board of Mount Zion Holiness Church," she said. She has been a member of her congregation since her arrival back in Spokane. Her community commitment led her in multiple directions to include serving

as Community Director for the Junior League of Spokane overseeing nine committees that are community impact programs. "I work among women who are rolling up their sleeves and performing actual hand-on services."

Most recently, Ms. Wilkerson has been nominated as President Elect of the Women Helping Women Fund which locally funds various women's and children's programs in Spokane county. Women supporters who

believe in the program's mission were speakers like Cecily Tyson, Judge Glenda Hatchett, and Gloria Steinem. Betsy says that she is looking forward to expanding media venues to promote and educate our community on the opportunities that Women Helping Women have to offer.

Betsy also actively participates in the MESA program through WSU targeting under-served

Continued on page 12

Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Matthew 5:6

Chicken -n- More

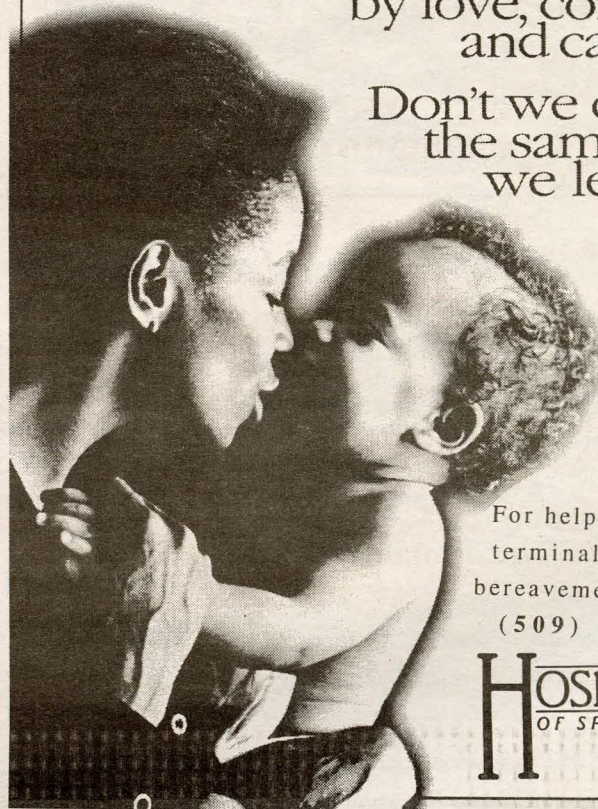
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African American Education Program starts mentoring program

The Advisory Committee of the African-American Education Program is looking for mentors for incoming freshmen and sophomore students at Eastern Washington University. The AAEP hopes to prepare incoming students of color with a strong foundation of awareness of the importance of a college degree, to instill integrity, self-esteem, self-discipline, and commitment to goals and objectives.

"These elements will play an intricate part in the molding and shaping of students, not only for a college career, but also

hopefully for a lifetime," says Robert Jones of the Advisory Committee. "It can be a gratifying experience when someone is able to support another individual by offering sound advice, providing quality leadership, and giving positive insight on various issues and topics, all the while assisting in the development process of expanding the horizons of mentees."

If you are interested in the possibility of being a mentor, please call the EWU African American Education Program Office at 509-359-6150.

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Martin Luther King Jr., 1929-1968

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Invitation from the Publisher

I expressed a concern at the April 19th NAACP meeting. We have 200 plus members - what is it that each of them is willing and committed to doing? I've heard all the arguments about organization whatever being too militant or not militant enough.
SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



Summer is just around the corner. Which means it's time to pick up an STA Summer Youth Pass. For just \$29.95, you'll get three months of transportation and money-saving discounts at all kinds of fun places. Or, you can choose the Super Summer

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Frederick Douglass, 1817?-1895
Abolitionist and Autobiographer

Got something on your mind?

Write the African American Voice PMB 145
2920 S Grand Blvd Spokane WA 99203

Every month is Black History Month

June teenth Celebration June 19th at Liberty Park

BY PEGGIE TROUTT

"Free at last, free at last, thank God Almighty we are free at last!" These words from the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. still ring in our ears today. Freedom is a precious gift and it did not come to us overnight. Brave men and women struggled for freedom long before we were born...work-

ing against all odds to put an end to slavery. They fought not only for themselves, but for every generation to come. We celebrate a part of this heritage on Juneteenth - the date freedom finally came to Texas more than a century ago. For thirty long months after President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, blacks remained subject to slavery throughout the southwest. Then, in June 1865, federal troops conquered a band of holdout Confederate forces at Galveston - paving the way for an emancipation order

in Texas, issued on June 19, 1865. Thus, Juneteenth celebrations all over the country today! Spokane is one of many communities fortunate enough to have people dedicated to keeping the memory of that freedom alive. The Umoja Steering Committee has come together once again to organize the annual Juneteenth celebration. These men and women are proud of their heritage and want to ensure that we remember those who paved the way for the freedom we enjoy today. The celebration will be held

at Liberty Park, June 19th, 12 - 5 p.m. The Committee is inviting vendors of culturally diverse backgrounds to come out and celebrate Juneteenth and share their own culture with hundreds of people from the Spokane and surrounding communities. There will be a variety of food booths, booths avail-

able with different artifacts, music, dancing, recitals etc. Come out and enjoy an afternoon of celebration. Points of contact are Clara Boston - 535-4091 (during the day) or Ella Huffman - 487-2666 (after 5 p.m.).

ADMISSION IS FREE AND ALL ARE WELCOME!

Who was Dred Scott?

By JOHNATHAN BRADLEY

In 1857 the growing abolitionist movement suffered a major setback when the United States Supreme Court handed down a controversial decision in the case of Dred Scott V. Sandford. Dred Scott, a black slave, had been taken by his Missouri master to the free-soil of Illinois, from which both later returned to Missouri. Back home again, he brought suit against his owner on the grounds that he had legally become emancipated by living within a free-soil state.

The Supreme Court ruled against Scott, declaring that as a black man he

was not a United States citizen and thus had no right to bring a suit in a federal court. More important, the court ruled that a slaves did not automatically gain his liberty by entering a free state. Under this logic, a man who resided in free territory could nevertheless own slaves. He had only to travel into a slave state, buy as many slaves as he desired, and taken them home, where they would remain slaves ever after. After the Dred Scott ruling no former slave could find a safe haven within the United States. This decision made it increasingly obvious to abolitionists that slavery would never be ended without a full-scale war.

Negro Leagues Baseball Museum

Are you a baseball fan? If so these names have something in common - Josh Gibson, Cool Papa Bell, Buck Leonard, Joe Williams, Bruce Petway. These guys would have been major league All-Stars - except they were denied a chance because of their skin color. But racial hatred never stopped them. They formed their own teams, and their own leagues - and then went out and played some of the greatest baseball

America has ever seen. Back in 1990, Ernie Banks and a few old Negro Leaguers decided to put together the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum. They found and purchased original pennants and uniforms, compiled statistics and dug up old photographs. Their current project is to build the Buck O'Neil Research Center - named after the Negro League Baseball Museum Chairman and former

Negro League All-Star. Its staff will tape interviews with former players, track down lost statistics, restore old baseball bats and gloves used by the Negro League stars and more. Are you considering a vacation or have one planned? The museum is located in Kansas City, MO. If you're in the area, it's worth a visit. If you want to write: NLBM, 18th and Vine, P.O. Box 47900, Kansas City, MO 64188-7900.

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- We also offer the only MSW in the entire Inland Northwest.

For complete BSW Program information call Debra Wilson, MSW, Student Service Coordinator at (509) 359-6482.

EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

What are you willing to do?

I ran across a quote the other day from Mamie Bradley, the mother of lynching victim Emmett Till:

"Two months ago I had a nice apartment in Chicago. I had a good job. I had a son. When something happened to the Negroes in the South I said, "That's their business, not mine." Now I know how wrong I was. The murder of my son has shown me that what happens to any of us, anywhere in the world, had better be the business of us all."

We've all seen the poster platitudes about all being in this together. The African American Voice runs its Something You Can Do page every month. The question now seems as if it should be not what is it you can do, but what is it you will do.

King said if there's nothing worth dying for there's nothing worth living for. You may believe there is nothing worth dying for, but what is worth living for?

The struggle for social justice has room for all kinds of people at all kinds of levels of commitment. All we're looking for is a few good people.

What are you willing to do? Please mark it

Please mark the term that best describes how you see yourself yourself:

Radical left Liberal Moderate Conservative Christian Far Right

Mark what you will do !

Logistics (manning a phone, licking stamps, letter writing, etc.)

Civic participation (vote, voter education, voter registration, lobby political leaders)

Financial contributions (donate money, fund raise to support social justice issues)

Direct action (boycott, demonstrate, walk a picket line)

Creative civil disobedience (effective action that may mean jail time or a fine)

Whatever it takes Other _____

Other _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Return this form to the African American Voice at PMB 145, 2920 S. Grand Blvd Spokane WA 99203. We will also be surveying people by phone.

Light sabers won't help African Americans in this war

BY DWIGHT CUMMINGS

May the force be with me as I attempt to capture the attention and imaginations of the many AAV readers. As the world is bombarded with the new Star Wars adventure I am compelled, by the force I suspect, to want to capitalize on all the attention given to a make-believe war. I would like to switch gears to a different war, a real one - one that needs the fanaticism and financial backing of the mega hit Star Wars. Maybe George Lucas might read this article and get some ideas.

The war I am talking about - let's call it Viral Wars. We won't even have to leave the planet to fight it. There will be no Jedi Knights - only doctors armed with knowledge. There will be no light sabers - only a great need for financial backing for research. The death toll through the ages in this war are in the millions, because there are "evil aliens" - let's call them viruses, the smallest known forms of life. They are parasitic monsters whose sole purpose is to infect or attack host cells of other living organisms to reproduce themselves at the expense of the infected cells. Sooner or later this kills the infected cells - causing disease.

Viruses are responsible for a wide range of disease in humans, ranging from the common cold and the flu, to small pox, AIDS, and hepatitis. The purpose of this paper is an attempt to make more people aware the dangers and growing health risk of Hepatitis C. Awareness is the first step in a long battle.

It is believed that around 4.5 million people in the United States are infected with Hepatitis C and over 200 million

around the world. With more people infected with Hepatitis C than HIV (the virus that causes AIDS), if something is not immediately done to slow down the spread of this disease, the death rate from HCV will surpass that of AIDS. Simply put, this makes Hepatitis C one of the most dangerous health threats this century and will top the charts in the new millennium.

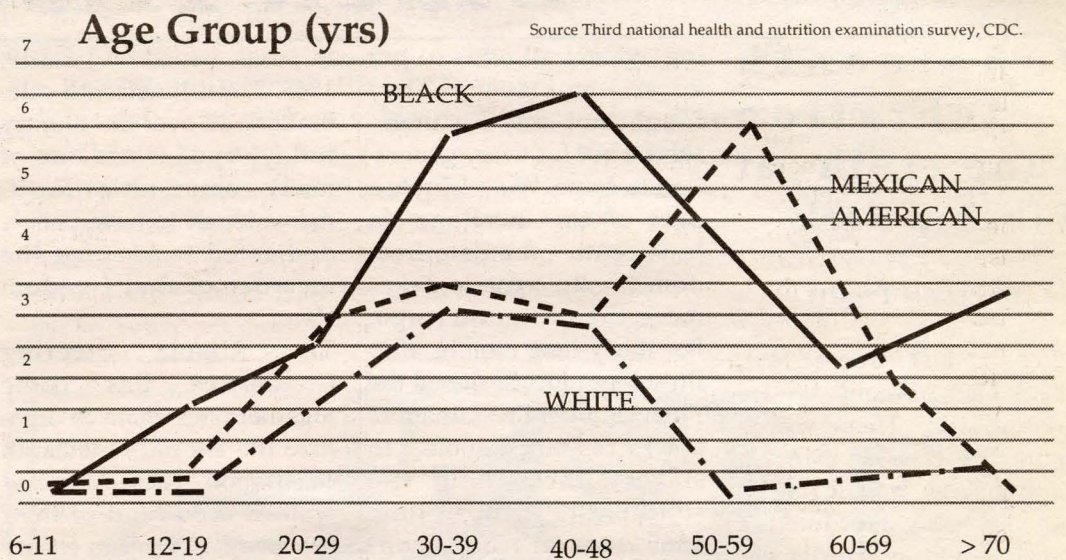
Hepatitis C is the liver disease caused by the Hepatitis C virus (HCV) which was first identified in 1989. HCV is spread by direct contact with the blood or body fluids of an infected person. Almost any direct or indirect exposure to infected blood can transmit the virus. This includes IV drug use, poorly sterilized medical instruments, blood spills, tattooing or body piercing performed without sterile precautions as well as shared razors or tooth brushes or body secretions that may contain small amounts of blood.

Previously known as "non-a, non-b hepatitis," Hepatitis C differs from Hepatitis A, which is spread through eating or drinking contaminated food or water. Hepatitis B is caused by a entirely different virus which is also spread through contact with blood or body fluids of an infected person.

Most HCV infections become chronic and lead to liver disease, including cirrhosis (scarring of the liver tissues) and liver failure. Hepatitis C in combination with the less common Hepatitis B now accounts for 75% of all cases of liver disease around the world. Liver failure due to HCV is the leading cause of liver transplants, according to former

surgeon general C. Edward Coop.

Betsy says, "People are not born as leaders. Leadership arises out of caring for the people around you working toward a better or preferred future. I believe the greatest reward is seeing people's lives enriched. In my own community, I am excited about the leadership taking place in Spokane because the landscape of community is changing. Anyone who is committed and passionate can become a part of this new landscape. People keep waiting for others to lead. I say, just start!"



In the United States, African Americans have the highest incidence rates, followed by Native Americans, Hispanics, and whites. Similarly, low income groups seem to have the highest risk of infection. Other specific risk groups would be healthcare workers, military veterans, IV drug users, alcoholics, and prisoners (rates of infection in some prisons have exceeded 80%). So what do you think your risk is if you are African American and poor?

Blood transfusions account for nearly 10% of all cases of Hepatitis C, especially those people who received a blood transfusion prior to 1990 when there were no tests for HCV in donated blood. There are now screening measures in place.

The symptoms of HCV are often very mild, at least in the early stages of infection, and can be undetectable. The most common symptom, commencing sometimes years after initial infection, is fatigue. Other symptoms include mild fever, muscle and joint aches, nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, vague abdominal pain and sometimes diarrhea. Many cases go undiagnosed because the symptoms are suggestive of a flu-like illness which just comes and goes. When the disease

progresses and damages the liver badly enough the symptoms become cirrhosis and liver failure, including jaundice, abdominal swelling and coma.

According to the trustees of Dartmouth College web site on HCV you should always:

- Use caution and wear gloves when touching or cleaning up blood on personal items, tissues, tampons or other items;
- Clean up spilled blood with a strong disinfectant, and keep skin injuries bandaged;
- Use condoms if you have multiple sexual partners or when having sex with an infected person (some physicians believe that the risk of sexual transmission is low enough that this should be discretionary with a long term partner)
- Don't share chewing gum or pre-chew food for a baby;
- Make certain any needles or other sharp implements for drugs, ear and body piercing, manicuring and tattooing are properly sterilized.
- Remember that blood products are in many cases not tested for HCV outside of the US

and Europe.

• If you feel that you or another family member are at risk for being infected with Hepatitis C or any other form of hepatitis, get tested! A simple blood test can put your mind at ease and protect the health of your family.

There is no vaccine for Hepatitis C; however, because HCV is a slowly progressive infection, infected patients have long life expectancies with proper treatment. Recent research is showing that early detection and treatment lead to a better and longer lasting results - if not a cure, a slowing down of the progression of the disease.

If you have additional questions or concerns please feel free to call the American Liver Foundation 1j-800-223-0179 or the local HEP C Coordinator Deborah Brown 509-224-4895.

Local Hepatitis C Support Group

Infected with Hepatitis C? Don't carry the burden alone. Join us at the local Hepatitis C support group on June 30 from 5:00-8:00 PM. The phone number to call is 509-244-4895. The meeting location is Spokane Public Library, 906 W. Main, Rm. 1A, Spokane, WA 99202.

Continued from page 9

Ms. Betsy Wilkerson

students of color, middle and high school girls.

Betsy believes in continual education and training and is currently enrolled in a leadership development training program that gears its participants toward community trusteeship. The program only selects those individuals who demonstrate potential leadership with a commitment toward healthier communities.

No or low cost health insurance available

"Health for All" seeks to reach people who do not have health insurance but may not realize they qualify for low or no-cost available through Medicaid or the Washington State Basic Health Plan. The outreach campaign focuses on:

- Children under 19 up to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level;

- Pregnant women up to 185% of the Federal Poverty Level;
- Families, whose income and family size would qualify them to receive TANF(welfare) benefits, but who chose not to receive cash benefits. One reason many eligible people are not enrolled in State-sponsored health plans is that they mistakenly think that they must be receiving welfare or be unemployed to qualify. This is not the case. In fact,

many working families in Spokane County qualify for coverage for themselves and/or their children. The program with the highest income limits is Medicaid for children under 10. For this coverage for a family of four monthly gross household income could be as much as \$2,754 allowed after deducting expenses such as child care, child support and a part of their earned income. If you think you might qualify call the Health for All Hotline 444-3066.

Continued from page 6

Double standard

monitoring when they commit crimes, even violent felonies?

The way police and prosecutors gingerly handled Harris and Klebold and the other Columbine non-suspects in the school massacre case is hardly the exception. According to the annual FBI Uniform Crime Reports since 1991, more whites have been arrested for murder, rape, robbery, assault and drug related crimes than blacks, but they are less likely to be imprisoned than blacks.

And while more young white juveniles are arrested on misdemeanor and felony charges than young blacks they are less likely than blacks to be held in custody and even less likely to be tried as adults, and thus face imprisonment if convicted.

But even if blacks disproportionately commit more crimes than whites, and there is deep doubt about this, and there were no deep racial-taint to the enforcement of gun and felony laws, it still would not explain why so many fewer whites that are convicted of felony crimes are imprisoned than blacks who commit similar crimes. As the tragic events in Littleton proved when legal incompetence, official indifference and racism allows potentially violent white offenders such as Harris and Klebold to slide through the legal cracks we pay a heavy and deadly price.

Earl Ofari Hutchinson is the author of The Crisis in Black and Black.
email: ehutchi344@aol.com

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The following is excerpted from a message to young people from Kofi Anan, Secretary General of the United Nations, at the beginning of the 50th Anniversary Year of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

"Human rights are the foundation of human existence and coexistence. When we speak of human rights, we are speaking of tolerance. Tolerance promoted, protected and enshrined will ensure all freedoms. Without it we can be certain of none. Human rights are foreign to no culture and native to all nations. Tolerance and mercy have always and in all cultures been ideals of government rule and human behavior. It is the universality of human rights that gives them their strength. The struggle for universal rights has always and everywhere been the struggle against all forms of tyranny and injustice: against slavery, against colonialism, against apartheid. Friends all over this world. You are the ones who must realize

these rights now and forever. Their fate and future is in your hands. Seize them. Defend them. Promote them. Understand and insist on them. Nourish and enrich them."

Over the next few months, the AAV will print the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in abbreviated form.

Article 1 - Right to equality

Article 2 - Freedom from Discrimination

Article 3 - Right to Life, Liberty, Personal Security

Article 4 - Freedom from Slavery

Article 5 - Freedom from Torture and Degrading Treatment

Article 6 - Right to Recognition as a Person before the Law

Article 7 - Right to Equality before the Law

Article 8 - Right to remedy by Competent Tribunal

Article 9 - Freedom from Arbitrary Arrest and Exile

Article 10 - Right to Fair Public Hearing

Women have higher stake in social security reform

By Leslie McAuley
Social Security Field Representative in Spokane WA

Women as a group depend more on Social Security than men, Social Security data shows. The impact of the program on women as a group is so dramatic that the President has called for attention to this issue in any consideration of reforming the Social Security program.

In his State of the Union message, the President noted that women represent more than 60% of all aged beneficiaries and 75% of beneficiaries aged 85 and over. About 75% of unmarried elderly women depend on Social Security for at least half of their income and about 25% of unmarried elderly women depend on it for their only source of income.

Women head some 12.2% of households with no husband present. Men head about 3.2% of households with no wife present. For this reason, Social Security family protection features, which provides survivors and disability benefits to spouses and children, impact more heavily on women. Women represent 98% of recipients receiving benefits as spouses with a child in their care. More than 74% of elderly widows receive benefits based on the earnings of their deceased spouses.

On average, women

have tended to earn less, work fewer years, and to receive fewer worker benefits as a result. Since women live longer than men, resources must last longer. Because aged women are more likely to be poor and to be more dependent on Social Security than are aged men, there is particular concern about benefit adequacy and retirement income security for women in any discussion of reforming Social Security.

The present system provides an inflation-protected benefit that is especially important to women who tend to live longer than men. The progressive benefit formula provides a higher replacement rate for workers with low earnings, for the median female retiree, social Security replaces 54% of average lifetime earnings, compared with 41% for the median male.

Thus, changes in basic Social Security protection may have a greater impact on women than men. Any reform of the program must address these concerns if we are to truly meet the needs of future generations.

For more information on how Social Security works so that you can be better prepared to participate in the national dialogue, call 1-800-772-1213, and ask for the booklet, Social Security: Basic Facts. Or visit the online site <http://www.ssa.gov>.

No or low cost health insurance available

"Health for All" seeks to reach people who do not have health insurance but may not realize they qualify for low or no-cost available through Medicaid or the Washington State Basic Health Plan. The outreach campaign focuses on:

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- Pregnant women up to 185% of the Federal Poverty Level;
- Families, whose income and family size would qualify them to receive TANF(welfare) benefits, but who chose not to receive cash benefits.

One reason many eligible people are not enrolled in State-sponsored health plans is that they mistakenly think that they must be receiving welfare or be unemployed to qualify. This is not the case. In fact, many working families in Spokane County qualify for coverage for themselves and/or their children. The program with the highest income limits is Medicaid for children under 10. For this coverage for a family of four monthly gross household income could be as much as \$2,754 allowed after deducting expenses such as child care, child support and a part of their earned income.

If you think you might qualify call the Health for All Hotline 444-3066.

Morality and values begin at home. If black America is to continue its greatness, it must take care of its children.

Alvin Poussaint, 1934-
Psychiatrist



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JOBS

EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK AND HUMAN SERVICES

TITLE IVE (CHILD WELFARE) FIELD UNIT COORDINATOR

MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Under the supervision of the Director of the Idaho Child Welfare Research & Training Center, the Title IVE Field Unit Coordinator will:

- Develop field placements in social service agencies with Title IVE eligible clients for students in the campus BASW and MSW programs.
- In collaboration with the School's Spokane and Lewiston Part-Time Program Coordinators, develop field placements which serve Title IVE eligible clients for the Spokane and Lewiston Part-Time MSW Program.
- Ensure qualified student supervision for all students: (a) provide supervision where and when qualified supervisors are not available, (b) in collaboration with the school's Practicum Director, provide training to agency supervisors working with students.
- Assume the role of Faculty Field Instructor for students placed in the unit, including advising.
- Design and teach practicum seminars focused on providing social services to Title IVE eligible clients.
- Teach classroom courses as appropriate and assume the normal responsibilities of a faculty member of the School of Social Work and Human Services.
- Assist student in identifying and implementing research projects to improve the capacity of the Department of Health and Welfare to deliver services to Title IVE eligible clients.
- Promote recruitment of students for jobs with in public child welfare service upon graduation from BASW and MSW programs, especially students of color and disability.
- Recruit present Idaho Department of Health and Welfare employees as applicants for MSW part/full-time and advanced standing programs.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

MSW with 3 years recent employment in the Department of Health and Welfare (or equivalent agency), teaching experience, and experience in child welfare, knowledge of the curriculum of the School of Social Work and other social service resources within Northern Idaho. A three year commitment to this position is required (contingent on continuing grant funding).

SALARY

Salary is negotiable depending on experience and qualifications with a maximum of \$42,369.60.

APPLICATION DEADLINE AND INFORMATION

Review of applications will begin on June 22nd and continue until position is filled.

Eastern Washington University is committed to increasing the diversity of its faculty, staff, students and academic program offerings and to strengthening sensitivity to diversity throughout the institution. We are an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer, and applications from members of historically underrepresented groups are especially encouraged.

The successful candidate will be required to show proof of eligibility to work in the US pursuant to US immigration laws.

FIELD UNIT COORDINATOR POSITION

Family Resiliency
(Violence Prevention and Treatment)

The School of Social Work, in partnership with the YWCA's Alternatives to Domestic Violence and Children and Youth Services Programs, is in the process of developing a "state of the art" field unit to prepare social work students for the changing world of practice. The field unit will be headed by a 50% time coordinator whose responsibilities will include: (1) working with faculty and agency staff to develop practice relevant curriculum; (2) developing and monitoring field placement experiences for students; (3) teaching field unit relevant content to students in integrative seminars; and, (4) working with a field unit advisory committee.

This position includes a Special Faculty appointment and a full benefit package.

Requirements include an MSW and 2 years post-masters experience.

Starting date for the Field Unit Coordinator will be July 15th.

Candidates should submit a cover letter, indicating their qualifications, along with a resume and the names of references to:

Dr. Michael Frumkin
Dean, School of Social Work
MS-19 Senior Hall
Cheney, WA 99004

The successful candidate will be required to show proof of eligibility to work in the US pursuant to US immigration laws.

Review of applications will begin on June 15th and remain open until the position is filled.

Eastern Washington University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer, and applications from members of historically underrepresented groups are especially encouraged.

Denise St. Peter
Area Recruiting Specialist

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Now creating an applicant registry of the following openings: 1) one full time (40 hr/wk) temporary Receptionist in our Community and Family Services Clinic to be filled immediately; 2) several Intermittent Receptionist (on-call, less than 70 hours per month) positions in our Community and Family Services Division working at our main clinic and other sites; and 3) this registry will also be used for a period of 6 months for any additional regular receptionist positions that may become available throughout the Health District (i.e., full-time regular appointment).

The current position opening will greet clients and visitors to SRHD's multidiscipline main clinic area in person and by phone; provide basic information and assistance; schedule appointments; receive and distribute mail; use typewriter/computer to type forms, correspondence and access and enter data base records; file; refer clients to appropriate programs for additional assistance; and provide back-up for other clerical functions. Prepare charts for new clients and updates existing charts as needed. May assist with distribution of vaccines to private providers; process related paperwork; and organizing off site immunization clinics.

Requires high school graduation or GED, and six months receptionist or public contact experience. Good filing and clerical skills as well as proven people skills working with diverse populations, and previous medical office receptionist experience is preferred.

CLOSES:

Friday, June 11, 1999

Obtain required app. & job bulletin at:
Spokane Regional Health District
Human Resource Services Rm# 345

1101 W. College Ave. Spokane, WA 99201
(509) 324-1506 TDD (509) 324-1464 FAX (509) 324-3604
www.spokane county.org/health
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INSTRUCTOR: MA level Automotive Service Excellence Certification (ASE). Two years post-secondary education. Five years work experience in automotive technology field. \$35,000 annually. Close 6/11/99.

CENTER MANAGER/FT:

BA or BS in Early Childhood Education, Social Services, or related field and three years of responsible supervisory and/or administrative experience in related field. \$37,080 annually. Close 6/4/99.

ANTICIPATED OPENINGS

CONFIDENTIAL ASSISTANT

TO THE VICE PRESIDENT OF SCC

ELECTRONICS INSTRUCTOR

PRE-HOSPITAL CARE INSTRUCTOR

NOTE: Positions dependent upon adequate State of Washington funding.

Applicants must have a sensitivity and ability to successfully interact with diverse populations. To ensure consideration, apply by closing dates indicated. Must request official application by contacting: Human Resources Office, Community Colleges of Spokane, 2000 N. Greene Street, Spokane, WA 99217-5499. Phone: (509) 533-7429; for TDD: (509) 533-7466. FAX: 509/533-7151. Website: http://ccs.spokane.cc.wa.us AA/EOE

JOBS

CITY OF SPOKANE

FOR ALL POSITIONS, Please contact the Civil Service Office for a detailed job announcement and an application. If long distance call (509) 625-6160 to have an announcement and an application mailed to your address.

CLERK I

(\$18,812-\$23,677 annual salary)
Opens Monday, May 24, 1999
Closes Friday, June 4, 1999

Duties: Performs a combination of routine general clerical tasks in a variety of offices, which do not require a knowledge of the systems or procedures. Types letters, notices, forms, reports, tabulations, and other material from copies or rough drafts. Makes transparencies. Receives, sorts, and routes incoming mail; issues receipts; makes simple postings. Sorts and files correspondence, vouchers, index cards, forms or other material by predetermined classification. Acts as telephone receptionist. Routes calls, and provides information to routine

inquiries. Types and issues permits and licenses and collects fees. Makes simple arithmetic computations concerning interest, penalties, requisitions, labor and time reports, or other routine records or reports. Hand posts simple bookkeeping records.

Requires: High School diploma or its equivalent; OR, one year of general clerical experience. Must type a minimum of 200 keystrokes (40 words) per minute.

DESK TOP COMPUTER SPECIALIST I

(\$25,223-\$33,282 annual salary)
Opens Monday, May 24, 1999
Closes Friday, June 11, 1999

Duties: Performs technical work in the installation and maintenance of system software and hardware for desktop computers throughout the City. Receives, assembles, configures, and installs desktop computer hardware and oper-

ating system/application software for use by City Employees. Investigates and resolves computer problems with customers. Receives work requests from customers having problems or inquiring on how to use specific desktop computer products, such as spreadsheets, graphics, database, printing, word processing, terminal emulation software, or operating systems. Instructs individual users on site in the proper uses of desktop computer system software and hardware. Performs related work as required.

Requires: Two year degree from an accredited college in computer or business related field; AND, one year of experience in the installation and configuration of desktop computer products to include hardware and software. Additional experience may be substituted for the education requirement on a year for year basis.

SUPERVISORY OPPORTUNITY

The Spokane office of Lutheran Social Services of Washington and Idaho has an opening for a Supervisor of its ACT for Kids program, a unit dedicated to informing and educating the public about personal safety and child sexual abuse issues. The ideal candidate will possess a BA or MA degree in education, Social Work, Marketing/PR or equivalent. Position requires a minimum of five years of supervisory and program development experience. Marketing experience is a plus! Strong computer skills (MS Word, Excel and Powerpoint) are needed. Must be able to work some evening and weekends, travel regionally and nationally and transport one's self and materials to various regional locations. We are a positive working environment and have a terrific benefit package! Position is full-time and salary is competitive and commensurate with education and experience. Send cover letter, resume and salary requirements to Lutheran Social Services of Washington and Idaho, 7 S. Howard, Suite 200, Spokane, WA 99201; ATTN: SF. No phone calls. Closing Date: 6/13/99. EEO)

Coordinator of Asset Building program

POSITIVELY IMPACT YOUR COMMUNITY! The Spokane office of Lutheran Social Services of Washington and Idaho has an opening for a Coordinator of its Asset Building program. The goal of this position is to bring the concept of building assets in youth to the Spokane and Coeur d'Alene communities through an ecumenical partnering of churches. The ideal candidate will possess a BA or MA degree in Community Development, Social Work, Marketing/PR or equivalent. Position requires a minimum of three years of relevant and progressively responsible work or volunteer experience. Marketing and/or training experience is a plus! Strong computer skills (MS Word and Powerpoint) are needed. Must be able to work some evening and weekends, travel regionally and nationally and transport one's self and materials to various regional locations. We are a positive working environment and have a terrific benefit package! Position is full-time and salary is competitive and commensurate with education and experience. Send cover letter, resume and salary requirements to Lutheran Social Services of Washington and Idaho, 7 S. Howard, Suite 200, Spokane, WA 99201; ATTN: SF.

No phone calls.

Closing Date: 6/13/99. EEO)

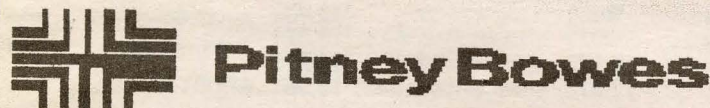
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