

African-American Voice

August 2000

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

Volume 5 Number 3

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

Is Cheney Bush's Idea of Inclusion?

By
EARL OFARI HUTCHINSON

Within moments after George W. Bush picked hardline conservative Dick Cheney to be his Republican running mate, Al Gore beat a hot path to Jesse Jackson's Operation headquarters in Chicago. He warned the mostly black gathering that Bush's much repeated vow to get more minorities in the GOP was nothing but a smoke and mirrors ploy to deceive blacks and Latinos.

This was easy for Gore to say. Cheney's Congressional scorecard includes opposition to the Equal Rights Amendment, tough gun control laws, busing to achieve racial desegregation, federal funding for abortions, child nutrition programs, and a separate education department.

His knee jerk conservative voting record was a made in heaven chance for Gore to brand Bush a political fraud when he claims that he wants greater minority inclusion.

But if Bush blew his chance with Cheney to break the iron grip that the Democrats have on black and Latino voters he has no one but himself to blame.

In the days before he picked him there were some signs that the Democratic grip on black and Latino voters was slipping. Following the March 7 Super Tuesday election

primaries exit polls in California showed that Bush had pared the traditional colossal bulge in Democratic support among Latinos down to a

were also heartened by the whopping margins in which Latino, black and Asian voters supported the anti-gay ballot initiative that limits marriage

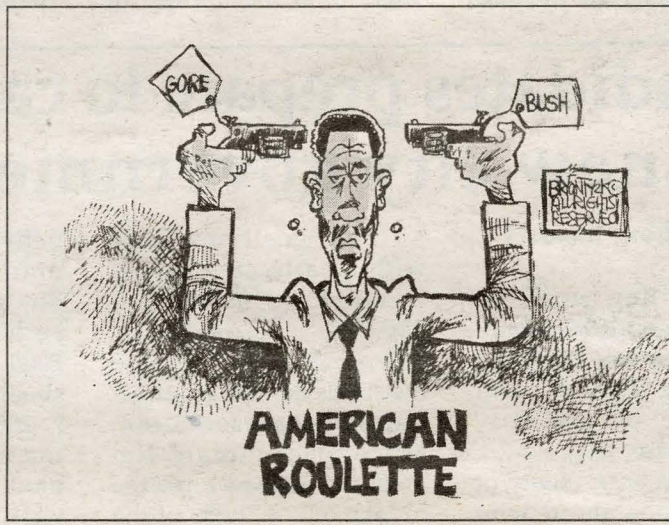
to a man and woman, and gave near majority support to another conservative powered initiative that mandates tougher sentences for violent juvenile offenders.

winning office. The substantial support blacks gave Bush, at least in Texas, also shattered the myth that blacks are cradle-to-grave reflexive party-line Democrats. A sizable percentage of blacks are pro-life, pro-school prayer, anti-gun control and anti-welfare. Many also enthusiastically support school vouchers, three strike laws, stiffer sentences for crime and drug use and oppose abortion and gay rights.

The National Urban League's recent annual State of Black America report confirms that blacks, like many whites, have benefited from the boom times.

They are better educated, own more homes, have made impressive gains in the corporations and the professions.

Continued on page 12



2 to 1 margin. Overall 15 percent of the blacks, nearly 30 percent of Latinos and more than 40 percent of Asians voted for Bush-McCain.

The Republicans

In Texas and Florida, Bush, and his brother Florida governor Jeb Bush, fondly brag that they bagged about half of the Latino vote and one-third of the black vote in



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Local student jumps obstacles all the way to China

Lara Nelson, a high jumper and an academically high achiever who will be a senior this Fall at Mead High School, shares with African American Voice readers her exciting trip to China with a track and field cultural exchange team. We hope other young readers will share their experiences, whether it's a trip to China or a trip to camp, a summer school class or a visit to relatives, whatever has made a significant difference in their lives.

By LARA NELSON

My coach handed me a letter from USA Track and Field. I was invited on an exotic trip with a Washington Cultural Exchange team, for a price, of course. Assuming my parents would never allow it, I carelessly tossed the letter on the dining room table.

When I came back home, my parents were talking about that letter, and China. Mom said it was a wonderful opportunity, well worth fundraising. They asked if I wanted to go. Who wouldn't, but could I raise that much money?

I sent many letters requesting financial support. People were so generous, and I'm so grateful to friends and relatives who made it possible for me to seize the opportuni-

ty.

June 30th my parents drove me to Seattle to join 38 other participants. Not knowing anyone but Coach Basket from Mead, I was quite nervous. That changed as I met other athletes. I knew I would have fun.

We flew via Los Angeles and Seoul. In Hong Kong, it was straight to the hotel where I had an awesome roommate, Brooke Sullivan, another high jumper. I was pumped, but we hardly had time to unpack before touring.

At a mall we were on our own in this foreign country, but I enjoyed the freedom. After dinner we toured downtown with instructions to be at the hotel at 8:00. Several of us set out to explore and, about time to catch the

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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.

NEW FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTORS

We wish to thank:

Believers \$1 - \$49

Marlin Clark

Subscribers \$20

Vickie Countryman, Equity Office, Spokane School District #81

Evelyn Sage

Reference Newspaper Library, Spokesman Review

Uniting our community through diversity

Looking for some summer fun for the family? The 6th annual Unity in the Community event will be held on Saturday, August 19th at Liberty Park. This year's theme Uniting Our Community Through Diversity reflects collaboration efforts between diverse communities, organizations and civic groups to provide a fun-filled day celebrating the value of each and everyone involved.

The celebration starts mid-morning and includes

a program with speakers, entertainment, games, community booths and prizes. There are plenty of activities for both students and adults. There are more than a dozen entertainment groups scheduled periodically throughout the day. New this year will be random drawings of prizes to include Hasting's Gift Cards, restaurant certificates, recreational passes, and other fun gift items for the family. In addition, the community fair will host over 80 tables of

information, give-a-ways, and free services such as medical screenings.

There is no cost for this event and it is open to the public. Families can bring their own picnic lunches to the park, or purchase food items at several concession stands. The hours for this event are from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. If you have any questions, please call #534-0999. Don't miss out on this event - last year we had over 1500 people attend. Bring your family and

friends - we look forward to seeing you there!

This year's event was made possible by community members and the following corporate sponsors: Paine Hamblen Coffin Brooke & Miller LLP, Metropolitan Mortgage, Sacred Heart, Bethel AME Church, Empire Ford, Washington Trust Bank, AVISTA, Riverpark Square, YMCA, NAACP, Casey Family Partners / Spokane, Spokesman Review and Baha'i Faith.

Candidates prepare to campaign for new city government

By ANTHONY BRADLEY

The filing week for declaring yourself a candidate for the new positions of Strong Mayor and President of the City Council was July 24-28. There have been plenty of speculations about who would run but after completing the form and surrendering a filing fee of \$1,009.94 (1% of the position salary) the mayoral candidates made it official. The individuals to declare themselves as candidates were Robert Kroboth, Jim West, John Powers and current mayor John Talbott. Councilmen Steve Corker and Rob Higgins entered their names into consideration for the newly established position of City Council President.

Both positions come with an attractive salary increase -- \$109,000 and \$40,000 respectively. Advocates of the increase insist it is needed to attract quality representation. Mayoral candidate Jim West has signed a pledge to take only \$71,000 of the mayor's annual salary and said he would give the rest to charity or back to the city. He has challenged the other candidates to do the same. Candidates Kroboth, Powers and Talbott have shown no interest in signing such a pledge.

September 19, 2000, is the date for the primary election. Citizens who plan to participate in that election must register by mail no later than August 19, 2000, or you can hand

deliver your registration until September 1, 2000. The general election will be held on November 7, 2000, registration by mail should be done by October 7, 2000. Registration walk ins will be accepted up until October 23, 2000. All walk in registrations must be delivered to the 2nd floor of the County Court House located at 1116 W. Broadway Ave. Voter registration forms can be obtained from any manned fire station, City Hall, schools, libraries and the Court House. Salaries, library hours, the parking garage, downtown development and city council cohesiveness could be some of the issues to be discussed doing the campaigns. To comment on these and other issues you

may contact your candidates by phone or email.

For mayor: Robert A. Kroboth 327-1365, www.robertkrobothformayor.com

John Powers 838-7740 or www.johnpowersformayor.com

John Talbott 625-6520 or www.johntalbottformayor.com

Jim West 747-6888 www.jimwestformayor.com

For City Council President:

Steve Corker 625-6255 scorker@spokanecity.org

Rob Higgins 625-6255 rhiggins@spokanecity.org

For comments and questions about the election process or voter registration contact:

County Election Office 477-2320

www.spokanecounty.org.

The NAACP is planning a candidates night. Details to be announced soon.

A A Voice Drop Points

Churches:

- Bethel
- Calvary
- Full Gospel
- Holy Temple Mt. Zion
- Morning Star
- Mt. Olive
- New Hope

- Refreshing Spring
- Salvation Inn
- Solid Rock
- St. Matthew's
- Zion Temple

Other Drop Sites

- Casey Family Partners

- CCS Institute for Extended Learning
- Central Washington University
- Chicken N More
- Children's NETT
- Crosswalk
- Department of Children and Family Services
- Global Folk Art
- Downtown Public Library
- East Central Community Center
- East Central Community SDA
- Eastern State Hospital
- Volunteer Services
- EWU African American Education Program
- Excell Stores
- Fairchild Airforce Base
- African American Club
- Gonzaga University
- Unity House
- Group Health (Lidgerwood)
- Hampton Institute
- Hastings (Valley)
- Jantz High School

- Jose Vigil Iagemakers
- Juvenile Court
- Larry's Barber and Styling
- MLK Center
- North East Community Center
- North Idaho College
- Moon Shadow
- Multicultural
- Salon East
- SCAN
- SCC Multicultural
- SCC Single Parent Program
- SFCC Multicultural
- Spokane City Hall
- Spokane Mental Health
- TASC
- University of Idaho
- Multicultural
- University of Washington
- Washington State
- University Multicultural
- West Central Community Center
- Western Washington
- University Multicultural
- Whitworth College
- Multicultural
- Yokes (Sprague & Sullivan)

The Spokane, Pullman African-American Voice

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Why are our black men and women dying?

BY KEITH BOYKIN

In the early hours of July 4 in Grant Town, W. Va., Arthur "J.R." Warren Jr., a 26-year-old black gay man, was brutally beaten to death by two young white men, who then bundled his body into a car, dropped it on the roadway on the edge of town and ran over it several times, according to police who say the teen-agers have confessed.

At the same time on the same day, four hundred miles away in Brooklyn's Prospect Park, two men walking through this popular black gay hangout were approached by a man with a weapon, who ran after them, caught one of them and slashed him in the face, wrist, knee, ankle and back.

In the past four months, six black gay or transgendered people on the East Coast have been murdered or attacked in high-profile cases.

In April, 28-year-old Dondre "Deja" Johnson, a black transgendered woman in Miami was murdered. Last month, Amanda Milan, a 25-year-old black transgendered woman was murdered in New York. And the masked slasher in Brooklyn's Prospect Park has attacked four people in the past month, including three black gay men.

In a culture that privileges socially-constructed, testosterone-injected "mas-

culinity," it's not surprising that all the murder victims challenge the popular macho image of the black man. It's much more acceptable to be gay if you're still "masculine" or "strong" or "straight-acting" or "unclockable." But what makes us so masculine if we're not able or willing to help those in need? What makes us so strong if we're afraid of supporting transgendered women or effeminate men?

Gary English, executive director of People of Color in Crisis, a black gay organization, explained that black gay men have been victims of attacks in Prospect Park for years. His organization is handing out leaflets in the park to warn visitors about the danger. "This is something that black gay men should be up in arms about," he said.

But are we?

At a vigil for Arthur Warren a week after his killing, no representatives from black gay organizations attended or spoke. In contrast, the well-funded Human Rights Campaign quickly and correctly dispatched three of its staff to West Virginia.

Unfortunately, our lack of response simply underscores the powerlessness of our community and its institutions. Black gay people are killed and attacked and we don't have the organizations, the staff, the money or the resources to respond

quickly.

It's not too late to do something. We can contact TV stations, newspapers and radio stations, and demand coverage of these crimes. We can organize and participate in vigils to show our solidarity. We can demand that our legislators support laws that treat hate crimes seriously. And perhaps most importantly, we can support and develop black gay organizations that are ready and willing to fight for our rights.

A few of our organizations are taking action, but many more need to be vigorously involved.

Black gay poet Essex Hemphill once wrote, "When my brother fell, I picked up his weapons." It's time to follow his advice. Our brothers and sisters are falling every day, and where are we to carry on the struggle?

Send your ideas to Keith Boykin at KeithBoykin@gay.com and we'll put them to good use.

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www.blackradical-congress.org email: blackradicalcongress@email.com

Go British Airways

An uplifting story is making the rounds among diversity folks on the Internet. Comments from readers reveal how good it is to see individuals and a company face discrimination head on. So enjoy this "true story from a South African newspaper".

A middle-aged, well-off white South African lady has found herself sitting next to a black man. She called the cabin crew attendant over to complain about her seating:

"What seems to be the problem Madam?" asked the attendant.

"Can't you see?" She said, "You've sat me next to a kaffir. I can't possibly sit next to this disgusting human. Find me another seat!"

"Please calm down Madam", the stewardess replied. "The flight is very full today, but I'll tell you what I'll do -- I'll go and check to see if we have any seats available in club or first class."

The woman cocks a snooty look at the outraged black man beside her (not to mention many of the surrounding passengers). A few minutes later the stewardess returns with the good news, which she delivers to the lady, who cannot help but look at the people around her with a

smug and self-satisfied grin:

"Madam, unfortunately, as I suspected, economy is full. I've spoken to the cabin services director, and club is also full. However, we do have one very nice seat in first class." Before the lady has a chance to answer, the stewardess continues, "It is most extraordinary to make this kind of upgrade however, and I have had to get special permission from the captain. But, given the circumstances, the captain felt that it was outrageous that someone be forced to sit next to such an obnoxious and uneducated person. Therefore he has given his full approval for such a seat change to occur."

With which, the stewardess turned to the black man sitting next to the woman and said: "So if you'd like to get your things, Sir, I have your new seat ready for you ..."

At which point, apparently, the surrounding passengers stood and gave a standing ovation while the black guy walks proudly up to the front of the plane.

*People will forget what you said....
 People will forget what you did....
 But people will never forget how you made them feel.*

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Hospice needs volunteers

Hospice is well known, respected, and appreciated for providing patients and their families with a homelike and supportive environment in which to share their remaining time together. What may not be known is that Volunteers are a vital part of the hospice care team.

"We would not be able to provide the services in the community that we do without their support," said Susan Haufe, Development Coordinator.

The next volunteer training classes will start in September. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer or would like to know more about Hospice, contact Jim Edwards, Director of Volunteer Services, (509) 456-0438 or (888) 459-0438.

Fall Evening Training 6 - 9 pm

- Wed. Sept. 6
- Mon. Sept. 11
- Wed. Sept. 13
- Mon. Sept. 18
- Wed. Sept. 20
- Mon. Sept. 25
- Wed. Sept. 27
- Mon. Oct. 2

Fall Daytime Training 9 am - 4 pm

- Thurs. Oct. 12
- Mon. Oct. 16
- Thurs. Oct. 19
- Mon. Oct. 23

Dis train ain't goin' nowhere without you. Don't want to speak for you, only want to provide a vehicle for you to speak through. We need your help. If you like the way this paragraph is written, we need you...

Arts and Culture

'Too Black' by C'Moore Productions

They take my kindness for weakness
They take my silence for speechless

They consider my uniqueness strange
They call my language slang

They see my confidence as conceit
They see my mistakes as defeat

They consider my success accidental
They minimize my intelligence to "potential"

My questions mean I'm unaware
My advancement is somehow unfair

Any praise is preferential treatment
To voice concern is discontentment

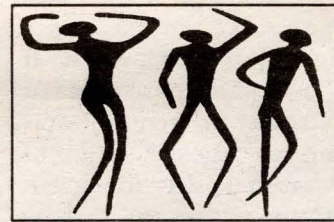
If I stand up for myself, I'm too defensive
If I don't trust them, I'm too apprehensive

I'm deviant if I separate
I'm fake if I assimilate

My character is constantly under attack
Pride for my race makes me **"TOO BLACK"**

Fall Folk Festival looking for performers

The Spokane Folklore Society's Fifth Annual Fall Folk Festival will be held Saturday, November 11 from 11 a.m. till 10 p.m. There will be a Family Dance 6:30-7:30 p.m. and a New England style Contra Dance 7:30 p.m. till 10:00 p.m. The goal of the festival is to promote awareness, appreciation, development, and continuation of the varied cultural and ethnic traditions existing in the Inland Northwest and to provide a showcase for sharing these traditions in a spirit of community. This year the festival will be held at Glover Middle



School, 2404 W. Longfellow Ave.

Performer applications are out and the deadline is August 15th. Applications will be accepted after this date, but there is no guarantee that there will be room to accommodate performers if applications come in after this date.

The Festival will feature:
• Music and Dance

performances of many cultures

- Interactive Music and Dance Workshops of various ethnic traditions
- Storytelling and kid's Sing-a-longs and performances
- Free Children's craft making
- Home made soups, baked goodies and ethnic treats for sale
- Handcrafted items for sale

Call 747-2640 for more information or visit the webpage at <http://www.runway.net/sfs/FolkFestival/>

Picking Up the Pieces

BY SUNGEE

REVIEW BY
ARKAME B. CURRY

"Picking Up the Pieces" will have you laughing out loud and feeling sentimental soon thereafter! It is one of those books that brings an anticipation of what will happen next for the reader. Sungee has created a beautiful piece of work that takes you on a journey about young people making their way in life. Her debut novel makes Sungee an upcoming author definitely worth watching.

"Picking up the Pieces" is about four professional African-Americans, two

women and two men. These characters are fun, risk-takers in their careers as well as their romantic interests.

Players can be fun and take risks in their sleep, but can they learn to trust themselves first, and then learn to trust one another or are they playing so hard, they play themselves right past their soul mate. These types of issues are addressed in the most heartfelt way. I could easily see "Picking Up the Pieces" going to the silver screen in a real way!

Picking Up the Pieces can be ordered through Celestial Sun Publishing, PO Box 92114, Atlanta, GA 30314-0114, (404) 212-7533.

Small town Blues Festival offers a day of fun!

BY ANTHONY BRADLEY

On the July 8, 2000, the town of Ritzville held its 8th annual Blues Festival.

The festivities kicked off at noon and lasted late into the night. There were a variety of souvenirs, display motorcycles, food, drinks and music to entertain the over 3000 people who visited the small town festival west of Spokane.

21 bands that participated in the Blues Festival. Although some were not well known, they were very talented and showed enormous passion for their craft. The music styles varied from the New Orleans Cajun sound of Etouffee and the Mississippi Delta sound of Carey Bell to the soulful sound of Tommy Castro.

So if you enjoy good food, beautiful bikes, meeting people or a variety of blues music, add this festive event to your calendar and make a day of it. See you next year? For information contact the Ritzville Chamber of Commerce at (509) 659-1936.

Buy and sell at the Flea Market

On Saturday, August 12, The Spokane Faith Center is sponsoring a flea market. Rent a 10 X 10 space for \$25 and bring arts and crafts, antiques, and yard sale items you would like to sell. Private businesses are also welcome. The Flea Market will be held at 3330 W. Central from 8 am - 4 pm. Come and check out the bargains. For further information and to sign up for a booth please call

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EVENTS

NOTE:

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

Events

Figure art exhibit

Jeannette Kirishian, Mel McCuddin, Thimgan Ruppert
Aug 1-31 Chase Gallery, Spokane City Hall, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd. Call 509-625-6050.

Festival at Sandpoint

Aug 3 - 13 America, The Manhattan Transfer, Laura Love, The Fabulous Thunderbirds, Spokane Symphony, Family Concert and more. For schedule and ticket info call 888-265-4554 or visit www.sandpoint.org/festival.

Art on the Green

Aug 4-6 Arts, crafts, entertainment & food. City park, Coeur d'Alene, ID. 208-667-4040.

Group Art Exhibit

Aug 4 - Sept 2 Lorinda Knight Gallery, 523 W Sprague Ave. 509-838-3740.

Fitness Festival

Aug 5 Sat 9 am - 3 pm. Demonstration and hands-on lessons on a wide variety of sports, exercises and activities in the new state-of-the-art Inland Empire YMCA Sports Complex in the Spokane Valley.

Stories & the stars

Aug 5 Sat 9 pm -12 am. Spokane Astronomical Society Presentation. Spokane House Interpretive Center at Riverfront Park 509-466-4747.

Spokane Highland Games

Aug 5 Sat 9 - 4:30 Spokane Interstate Fairgrounds. Adults \$8. Senior & youth \$5.

Aerospace Days

Aug 5 Sat 9-4 USAF Thunderbirds. Fairchild AFB. 509-353-2425

Tribal sovereignty meeting
Aug 6 Sun 2 pm. EWU Riverpoint Campus. Call 625-6263.

Gold Panning

You and Me Tuesday
Aug 8 Tues 10 -Noon. Children's Museum of Spokane, 110 N. Post. 509-624-KIDS or www.childrensmuseum.net

Instructors Michael Moon Bear & Mabiba Baegne. Registration due by Aug 11 to Moon Shadow, 2 N Howard. Call 509-624-7573.

Sidhe

Summer Concert Series
Aug 10 6 pm Thur. Coeur d'Alene Park in Browne's Addition. Free.

Spokane, 110 N. Post. 509-624-KIDS or www.childrensmuseum.net

Super Cool Science You & Me Tuesday

Aug 22 Tues 10-Noon Children's Museum of Spokane, 110 N. Post. 509-624-KIDS or www.childrensmuseum.net

Manufacturing Consent: Noam Chomsky and the Media

Aug 23 Wed 6:30 pm Film showing at Peace & Justice Action League Office 224 S. Howard, Spokane.

Storytime

Tino Jimenez
Aug 23 Wed 11 am Children's Museum of Spokane, 110 N. Post. 509-624-KIDS or www.childrensmuseum.net

KPBX Blues Cruise

Too Slim and the Taildraggers
Aug 23 Wed 7-9. Boarding 6:45 at the Boardwalk Marina east of the Coeur d'Alene resort. Tickets \$18 donation. Call 509 or 800-328-5729

Gaye Hight

Aug 25 Fri 7:30 pm. Spokane African American author Gaye Hight (has contributed poems to the AAV) discusses the process of creation and the writing of deeply felt thoughts and ideals. Auntie's Bookstore, 402 W Main. 509-838-0206.

Spokane Falls NW Native American Encampment & Pow Wow

Aug 25-27 Fri - Sun. Riverfront Park, Downtown Spokane. 509-535-0886.

Middle Eastern Scabland Band Percussion Workshop & Potluck

Aug 26 Sat 11 am. Workshop 2 hours, followed by a hafla (potluck picnic with drumming and dancing). Sponsored by the NW Assn. of Middle Eastern Dancers. Tickets

\$12 advance, \$15 at the door.

Madama Butterfly Spokane Opera

Aug 30 - Sept 9. The Met, 901 W Sprague. 800 or 509-325-7328

Pig Out In The Park

Aug 31 - Sept 4 Riverfront Park, Downtown Spokane. 509-921-2205.

Spokane Symphony Outdoor Concert

Sept 4 Mon 6 pm Comstock Park 29th & Howard. Free. 326-3166.
Sept 6 Wed 3 pm Terrace View Park 12535 E 24th. Free. 326-3166.

Coming Events

Pend Oreille Rhythm Retreat

Sept 8-10 The Drum Brothers. Bear Paw Camp, north of Newport. West African and contemporary hand-drumming classes and more. \$180 includes instruction, meals, lodging. Registration deadline Aug 31. Call Satsang Music at 406-726-4448. Sponsored by Community through Rhythm, Spokane WA. Join them 7 pm first Sat. of every month at Corbin Senior Center. Call 921-0027 for details. www.ctrhythm.homestead.com.

Maya Angelou

November 1 7:30 pm. Gonzaga University. Tickets \$10 - \$40. Call (509) 323-3548 for reservations or email lybbert@gu.gonzaga.edu

Fall Folk Festival

Nov 11 Sat 11 am - 10 pm. Glover Middle School. Call Spokane Folklore Society 747-2640 or email naberm@home.com

Mail information regarding your organizations event to PMB 145 2920 S. Grand Blvd. Spokane 99203
email_rlloyd@cet.com

Fight to Win

- A new challenge appeared in getting myself right,
- I willingly gave in, I was too tired to fight.
- One more time I thought to live life again,
- If I have to fight, why not fight to win.

Gaye Hight

Storytime

Theatre Ballet
Aug 9 Wed 11 am. Children's Museum of Spokane, 110 N. Post. 509-624-KIDS or www.childrensmuseum.net

Washington State Senior Games

Aug 10-13 Spokane Community College Mission & Greene. 509-344-7787 ext. 134.

KPBX Kids' Concert Moko Jumbie

Aug 11 Fri Noon - 1. Clocktower Meadow, Riverfront Park, Spokane.

Asthma Awareness Day

Aug 12 Sat 10-3 Spokane Valley Mall Free screening, resource packets, raffle, prizes, activities for children.

Annual Feast of Assumption Pilgrimage of the Coeur d'Alene Indian Tribe

Aug 15 Tues Dinner, drumming, singing & dancing. Old Mission State Park, Cataldo, ID 208-682-3814

4th Annual West African Drum and Dance Camp

Aug 18-20. Camp Neewahlu, Lake Coeur

Columbia Basin Blues & Jazz Festival

Aug 12 Sat. Outside show 2-10 pm, tickets \$15, junior \$5, children free. Inside show 10:30 pm-1 am Tickets \$10. ID required. 49 Degrees North. 800 or 509-325-7328

Young Women's Summer Science Camp

Aug 14-18 9-4 WSU Spokane CityLab 44 W 6th \$135. Call 509-358-7635.

Rot & Roll - worm composting

Aug 15 Tues. 10 am & 11 am. Children's Museum of Spokane, 110 N. Post. 509-624-KIDS or www.childrensmuseum.net

Unity in The Community

Aug 19 Sat 10-6. Diversity picnic, entertainment, vendors. Liberty Park, Spokane.

Ben Harper

Aug 20 Sun 7:30 pm Coeur d'Alene Greyhound Park, Post Falls, ID. Tickets \$25. 509 or 800-325-7328

Kids Create!

You and Me Tuesday
Aug 20 Tues 10-Noon. Children's Museum of

Spokane Race Relations Task Force Meeting

First Tuesday of the month 11:00 am to 1:00pm. Lunch served. For more info contact Vince Lemus, Human Rights Specialist, City of Spokane, 625-6263, www.racerelations.spokane.net
Become a member!
Add your event to our calendar.

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

Editorial

Last month I asked if anyone knew of any organizations that were worthy of a \$25,000 donation. Seeing that I have heard from no one, I assume you don't know of any either. That doesn't mean that there are not problems to be solved or that there are not people working on them. Below are a list of challenges affecting our children and organizations working on them. Most of the "Programs That Give Hope" listed in the Kids Count report seem to be in Seattle. Are there programs like them here that they just overlooked or didn't list? Where are they? We'd like to print their story.

Robert Lloyd

The real facts of life for children of color in Washington State

These key findings are from a recent report published by Washington Kids Count, a project of the Human Services Policy Center at the University of Washington. The organization monitors the conditions of children and families in Washington, educates the public and policy-makers about those conditions, and urges public action on behalf of improved outcomes. For a copy of the full report or other reports, call 206-685-7613 or read the report online at <http://hspsc.org>.

Social & Economic

- Most children of color in Washington live in solid families with more than one adult present and working, often at multiple low-paying jobs.
- The percentage of adults working full time is greater for people of color than for whites, however, differences in wages, benefits and business opportunities produce great disparities of income and wealth between the two groups.
- The average income for people of color is \$25,000; one-third lower than the \$37,000 average for whites.
- One in eight Hispanic and Native American children lack health coverage; twice the rate of white children.

Education

- Washington students of color place a high value on learning (57%), but only a little more than a third of students of color (39%) report that their schools are giving them meaningful and important work.
- Across grade levels, 10 to 15% fewer students of color are meeting basic standards for math, reading and writing than their white counterparts.

Health

- Rates of harmful substance abuse are no higher for adolescents of color than whites, and half never use them.
- However, the rates of harmful substance use remain alarming for all groups of children.
- Teen substance abuse is much higher for youth who are depressed -- as many as half of adolescents of color report signs of depression compared to one-third of white students.

Safety

- One in three Washington girls and one in five boys say they have been physically or sexually abused at some point in their lives. Hispanic, Native American, and African American youth self-report higher rates of abuse than white, Asian or Pacific Islander youth.
- Adults of color are equally or more protective of children than white parents. When parents of color are given opportunities to receive parenting help they seek it eagerly, but they resent the lack of understanding of their families and culture by many family service professionals, who may mistake different parenting approaches for abuse.

Programs that give hope

Social & Economic Support

- The Northwest Labor and Employment Law Office
- The Washington Alliance for Immigrant and Refugee Justice - Western & Central Washington
- The Cross Cultural Health Care Program - Seattle

Educational Performance

- Powerful Schools - Seattle
- The Seattle Coalition for Educational Equity

Radio KDNA - Yakima Valley

Health and Substance Abuse

- Washington Asian Pacific Islander Families Against Substance Abuse - Seattle

Safer Children

- Consejo - Western Washington
- African-American Children's Section of the State Division of Children & Family Services - King County



Opinions

Anger pointed in the wrong direction

By ROBERT C. WILLIAMSON JR

How many times have you spoken with someone who was angry about something or someone and you thought their anger was aimed in the wrong direction? Let me give you a few examples of what I am talking about.

I had a twenty-six year old, single female with no children tell me that she was upset with the fact that migrant workers could get healthcare insurance but she could not. She went on to say that if she was single and had a baby she could get the healthcare insurance and other assistance that the welfare system offers. She felt penalized because she did not fall into that category and I got the impression that she thought there should be some assistance for her because of her status (single with no children). I asked this woman if she buys fresh produce from the supermarket. She said yes and I responded with did you know the reason why we can buy fresh produce year round is because of the migrant worker? Her response was yes. I inquired if she harbored any resentment against the farmer who employs migrant workers? Her response was no. I ask if she was willing to do the work and live in the horrible conditions that the migrant workers live and work under. Again her response was no.

To bring things closer to home, I recently spoke with a disgruntled 15 year Kaiser employee. He spoke about losing materi-

al items (a boat and two trucks) and barely being able to maintain his home. What upsets him more is his wife has to work and be the primary breadwinner, while he's stuck at home with his children. From this gentleman's perspective he would have preferred to keep working at his \$35 an hour job. He stated that this strike benefited the old timers more than people like himself with 15-20 years in the company. He stated that he and his cronies with the same status were quite happy. He stated that it was people like his boss who has a home with five bathrooms who wanted more. I asked him why he went on strike and his response was he had to because he was in the union and he felt that if he did not strike there would be repercussions from his fellow employees. He felt as though his life and the lives of his family would be in danger. As the conversation went on he said the thing that angers him the most are the Scabs who crossed the line and took his job.

These are just a couple of examples of people who were angry at somebody who had nothing to do with their present dilemmas. In both cases these people were angry with another group of people who were powerless and just trying to survive.

The twenty-six year old female does not want to be a migrant worker but chooses to be angry with them because the system will not respond to her needs. The Kaiser employ-

ee is upset with the Scabs for taking his job.

In these situations and others like them people should use some rational thinking to deal with their anger. This may be difficult for some people because it may be easier to blame others -- and generally those who are not in a position to defend themselves. If you do not sort your issues out and put closure to the matter anger builds. This anger impacts relationships with loved ones and society in general.

One method I found that works in addressing anger is to take a long walk and begin to sort the issues out. I usually ask myself how much ownership I am willing to assume in any problem. I also ask myself if my interpretation of the event that occurred is an accurate one. Our interpretation of an event impacts the way we feel and behave. After reviewing the situation I generally ask myself what action am I going to take or can be taken to address the issue. Then I ask myself how important is the issue and do I want to invest the time and energy to do something about it? If the answer is no, I am generally able to let the issue go.

I have found in many instances I am able not to think about the issue anymore and I feel a lot better. It's not to say that the issue will not cross my mind but the sting of the situation is no longer there. So the next time you're angry at something or someone give this method a try.

READ A VOICE? --- YES, THE AFRICAN AMERICAN VOICE

The Power of Forgiveness in Racial Reconciliation

BY STACY HERSRUD,
RESTORING JUSTICE, INC.

When you hate, you become that which you hate.

When you struggle, you become that which you struggle against.

When you protest, you take on the very qualities of the thing against which you protest.

How else would you know so well the intricacies of that which you despise?

Yoruba Proverb

I am perhaps halfway through my life at this time and a good ten years into working with human rights and social justice on a professional level. I am just now beginning to understand and appreciate the need for mutual respect and cooperation. I am just now beginning to trust deeply in the power of forgiveness and how the human heart can heal. I, as so many others (I think) in this country have done, have spent much of my energy invested in being right. I have held on to that 'rightness' with a false sense of bravado and licked my wounds and kept them raw myself. In doing so, I have missed time and people and places of the heart.

Being right does not preclude the need for forgiveness or compassion. I would argue, that in and of itself, being 'right' demands the courage and gentleness which calls for those very things. The movement towards racial healing and reconciliation requires the presence of forgiveness and compassion from all involved. Forgiveness is hard work, as is acknowledging the harm we have caused. Both are essential to restoring a sense of peace and justice in our lives and communities. A genuine desire for and willingness to reconcile is essential as well. One of the best examples of this is evidenced in the following:

Imprisoned for twenty-seven years, treated harshly by whites, Nelson Mandela somehow found it within himself to forgive his white captors, the oppressors of his race. This inner change of heart was the solitary soul-searching act of an individual in the hope of reconstructing a South Africa in which both blacks and whites could live together in peace and prosperity. Mandela succeeded in persuading first his colleagues and then his people, to tread the same difficult path of forgiveness and reconciliation. An individual act of spirit thereby became an emotional shift among millions, a political force with far-reaching effects.

Forgiveness has become an increasingly rare

commodity, making it ever more valuable and necessary. To forgive releases immense spiritual power, it frees us from the past and moves us towards the future. The power of forgiveness has long been documented in terms of the individual and the literal and spiritual healing it can provide. A mother offering forgiveness to her son's killer, a husband forgiving the betrayal of his wife, a child forgiving the abuse by the parents. What makes these stories of forgiveness and reconciliation so compelling is their rarity. That they are the exception to the rule is testimonial to both the difficulty of and the need for forgiveness. Forgiveness does not release accountability, rather, it releases the energy of the wounding of the heart. Forgiveness is the ointment for healing the spirit, both salve and salvation for us all.

I have found that while I am quick to ask for forgiveness, have even defiantly and arrogantly expected it - demanded it, I have been excruciatingly slow in finding the grace to bestow it. Yes, grace. And I have been slow to invite grace in because I recognize that grace can only reside in humility. The prideful arrogance, the self-righteous anger of victimhood which I have worn closely as a garment on my skin, has not, finally, served me well. In truth, it has been an ill-fitting veil, a mask of fear and separation which has kept my heart hurt and unforgetting.

Forgiveness is the movement of the spirit into the heart of the matter. Forgiveness may be likened to spiritual heart surgery, restoring us to the natural rhythms of life and love and true relationship. To forgive opens the door for all involved to find their way back to each other and themselves.

One of the difficulties I have experienced with forgiveness has been the vulnerability it can bring. When I move from my head to my heart, when I allow the hurt out and bring forgiveness forth, I am 'giving up' the power of my self-righteous anger. I am relinquishing the mental defense systems I have so readily created and by which I hold a false veneer of strength. This false veneer, this barrier to the truth has caused the perpetuation and re-creation of so much pain. It has manifested within my self and certainly within the world. We are all too familiar with the impact and effects of holding within the pain and the fear of recreating the victimization of our recent and ancestral past. Only when we release it

lovingly and forgivingly will we be able to create a new and bright tomorrow.

Failure to forgive holds the past in place. It keeps us from truly moving forward and provides some level of justification for our victimization of others. It has long been proven that children who are abused are likely to become abusers themselves. Holding on to destructive patterns of learned behaviors creates the context out of which the patterns will repeat. It is so easy to do unto others as they have done to you, but what about doing "unto others as you would have done unto you"? That's where the real work begins - the movement away from a false sense of safety into a different kind of vulnerability - the vulnerability of a forgiving heart.

In an increasingly interconnected world, vulnerability increases as well as conflict. This increased vulnerability is partially due to global travel, the proliferation of nuclear weapons and technology, and open borders. We see our interconnectedness and universal vulnerability in that we are all experiencing the impact of global warming, the destruction of the rainforests, and the depletion of the ozone layer. We, ourselves, are putting the lie to the idea of separation and the myth of invulnerability. This growing vulnerability provides greater motivation for the prevention and resolution of conflict, particularly as it manifests in racial, ethnic, and religious separation. We have a significant

investment in racial reconciliation if we are going to survive as a species.

In South Africa, the process of reconciliation has been facilitated by the acknowledgment of the harm caused by discrimination. This acknowledgment has come from those in government and society who created, perpetuated and benefited from apartheid. The establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission created a tribunal, an arena, in which people could come forward, speak truthfully about the harm they had caused through their actions, and seek forgiveness and reconciliation. F.W. de Klerk, previously one of the foremost proponents of apartheid in South Africa, has done just that. In doing so, he has tapped the power of truth to heal the past and change the future.

In acknowledging the error publicly, he helped his own people, rigidly attached to the old ways, accept the painful necessity of surrendering much of their power and privilege to the black majority. The surprising magnitude and speed of transformation in South Africa cannot be explained by a change of mind alone; a change in heart and spirit was required. In the final analysis, deep-seated conflict is resolved largely through the emotional, psychological, and spiritual work of the parties. It is the voice that urges us to heal old grievances; it is the capacity to listen to the other side and show empathy; it is the

impulse to respect the basic human needs of all.

Ultimately, the path to any authentic reconciliation between individuals, nations, and cultures will occur through the heart and spirit. Telling the truth and offering forgiveness are the first and only genuine steps that will place us on that path.

Publisher's Note:

The publisher questions the use of the above Yoruba proverb, at least as quoted, as well as the basic premise of the article. To say that you take on the qualities of that which you protest is not only illogical it is a sentiment destructive to any movement striving for change. To say that someone is what they hate is to accuse them of hypocrisy. Instead let us heed the more cautionary words of Frederick Nietzsche "Whoever fights monsters should see to it that in the process he does not become a monster. And when you look long into an abyss, the abyss also looks into you".

As for the point of the article, it is the opinion of the publisher that one must stop committing racism or any other action before one can be forgiven for it. Before you can be forgiven you must accept responsibility, express contrition and make substantive changes.

Pregnant? Breastfeeding? Child under age 5?



Call me to see if you are eligible for these services from WIC - the Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children:

- \$40 - \$50 of healthy food monthly
- Baby book for pregnant women
- Nutrition and breastfeeding tips
- Help finding health services

WIC serves working families on a tight budget, unemployed families, those on Healthy Options and Medicaid.

WIC Income guidelines per month
(a pregnant women counts as 2)
Family of 2 earning up to \$1,735
Family of 3 earning up to \$2,182
Family of 4 earning up to \$2,629

Call us - It's easy to apply:
1-800-322-2588
Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies

Getting WIC will not affect your immigration status

WIC is an Equal Opportunity Program

AHANA

BY CHARITY DOYL

Business & Professional Association

The African-American, Hispanic, Asian and Native American (AHANA) Business & Professional Association was created to empower minority businesses through training and creating networks, collaboration and coordination with other businesses to improve AHANA's economic base, opportunities and contributions to the economic and cultural development of Spokane.

BY CHARITY DOYL

America is a melting pot comprised of people of many ethnic origins mixed together.

We are so culturally diverse and yet maintain our cultural identity amidst the mixture.

This article seeks to increase multicultural awareness as our community works together to strengthen and promote culturally diverse relationships and a sensitivity to each other's social customs and traditions.

I hope to give you do's and don'ts in cross cultural situations. If you have any questions or comments on this subject, please send them to:

ahana1@aol.com

or mail it to:

AHANA's Cultural Tips

P.O. Box 40102

Spokane WA

99202-40102

Cultural tips

There are 5,000 different languages spoken worldwide. There is a difference between English - English versus American English, Castilian Spanish versus Mexican Spanish. There are words that are similar to some English words but with a different meaning and some English words that are similar to other languages but also with a different meaning.

English - English vs. American English

This applies to Britain, Australia, New Zealand and other countries where English is spoken.

What we call an elevator in America is called a "lift". The word "napkin" means a diaper and a "serviette" is what we call a napkin. The toilet is called a "loo", to excuse oneself to use the bathroom is to say "to spend a penny."

In Australia breakfast is "brekky", a pregnant woman is "preggers", a milkman is "milko" and what we call a delicatessen is

called a "milkbar".

In American restaurants we call the main course the entree but in Europe and other countries the "entree" is what we call an appetizer.

English vs. Spanish/ Spanish vs. Spanish

The Spanish word "embarasada" does not mean to be embarrassed, in Spanish it means "pregnant". The word mattress sounds like the Spanish word "matrix" which means uterus. The Spanish verb "molester" does not mean "to molest", instead it means "to bother". The Spanish word "coger" in other Spanish speaking countries means "to catch" as in "to catch a cab". But the same word in Argentina, Uruguay & Paraguay means to "fornicate".

Famous Advertising Mistranslations

In the 1960's GM Corporation came out with a car called the "Nova". The car sold successfully

in North America but not in Spanish speaking South America. In Spanish, the word "Nova" sounds like the phrase "no va" which means "it doesn't go".

GM Corporation's advertising campaign "Body by Fisher" became "Corpse by Fisher" in Flemish.

In 1984, The American Sav-On Drugstore chain changed their name to Osco. The number of Spanish speaking shoppers dropped instantly. In Spanish the name "osco" sounds like "asco" meaning something disgusting & nauseating. The company changed Osco back to Sav-On Drugstore.

Pepsi Cola's "Come Alive with Pepsi" Ad campaign when advertised in Taiwan turned out as "Pepsi brings your ancestors back from the grave".

A Swedish company that makes the Electrolux vacuum cleaners came up with the English ad "Nothing sucks like Electrolux".

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next meeting:

August 15, 2000

5:30 - 7:30 PM

AVISTA Cafeteria

1411 E. Mission

Special speaker

1999 "Success Magazine's Man of the Year" Paul Dunn

September 16, 2000

Hosted by

Spokane Faith Center

3330 W. Central

Call 327-WORD (9673)

for time information.

AHANA NEWS

Showcase 2000

AHANA plans to participate at Showcase 2000 September 21 at Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue, Washington.

The Northwest Minority Business Council

sponsors this trade show as a meeting opportunity for corporations, government agencies and minority business enterprises.

Website

www.barney.gonzaga.edu/~ahana is still under construction. Special thanks to Professor Pete Chong and his students; Michelle Smith, Amy Gustafson & Bob Morato of Gonzaga University. The website will be updated and maintained by Peggy Tipton of PuterNana Productions.

If you are in the 1999 - 2000 Directory, we encourage you to check out the website for corrections and business updates. If you are a new member and would like your business posted at the website please contact us. The directory will be used to

promote AHANA businesses to both private and public sectors.

Focus 21 speaker

Thank you to Ms. JoAnne Ficca - Regional Manager of QWEST for being AHANA's July speaker. She shared tips and information to AHANA members about Focus 21, a program for funding diversity initiatives. Ms. Ficca was so inspirational that we asked her to speak at a future AHANA meeting.

Promotion campaign

AHANA, The Spokane-based Belo stations- KREM-2, KSKN-TV, NWCN, the Northwest Minority Business Council, and member corporations and public sector agencies met for breakfast at Cavanaugh's Inn at the Park July 20 to discuss

"Northwest Works" a program designed to accomplish the following:

- Increase the visibility of the Northwest Minority Business Council and AHANA.

- Profile corporate members and public sector agencies in the Northwest committed to using minority vendors.

- Assist business members in growing their businesses.

Ideas discussed were an awareness campaign, a business to business television campaign composed of a series of 30 second announcements broadcast on KREM-2, KSKN-TV and NWCN designed to educate the community about the goals of NMBC, AHANA and profile corporate members and public sector agencies within the group who have suc-

cessfully entered into a relationship with minority vendors.

AHANA is thankful to Susan Hagy - Marketing Consultant of Belo Marketing Solutions for organizing the breakfast meeting and a special thanks to the CEO's and company representatives who attended, your presence speaks of your willingness to help the economic growth in our community.

EMPOWER YOURSELF AND YOUR BUSINESS, JOIN AHANA BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION!

AHANA

PO Box 40102

Spokane WA. 99202-40102

(509) 325 - 5057

ahana1@aol.com

Top 10 Purchase Mistakes

The Consumer Literacy Consortium released its list of the top consumer purchase mistakes as part of its ongoing campaign to reduce wasteful consumer spending.

"Consumers lose billions of dollars each year because of hasty, uninformed purchases - not

just on big ticket items, but on everyday purchases as well," said Consumer Federation of America Executive Director Steve Brobeck.

The common, repeated mistakes that needlessly cost consumers include:

1. Leasing rather than buying a car in the belief that leasing costs less;
2. Not searching carefully

for a competent, honest, auto mechanic;

3. Assuming their insurance agent will "shop the market" to get the best auto and homeowner policy;

4. Not holding a cash-value life insurance policy for at least 15 years;

5. Not maintaining the minimum balance required to avoid checking fees;

6. Holding many credit cards;

7. Taking out a 30-year

mortgage loan rather than a 15-year loan, just because the monthly payments are lower;

8. Paying in full for home improvements before the work has been completed satisfactorily;

9. Purchasing new appliances that are not energy efficient; and

10. Not comparing unit prices on supermarket shelves.

This list and the tips

contained in the free consumer guide "66 Ways to Save Money" are part of a campaign to reduce the more than \$100 billion a year of wasted consumer expenditure. The brochure is free by sending a SASE to "66 Ways to Save Money" PO Box 12099, Washington DC 2005-0999. For a copy of the 10 Mistakes: CFA, 1424 16th Street, NW, Suite 604, Washington DC 20036.

Not the windows again!

By RUSTY NELSON,
HANDFUL OF SALT, PEACE
AND JUSTICE ACTION LEAGUE
OF SPOKANE NEWSLETTER
JULY, AUGUST 2000

There may be something particularly perverse about the latest vandalism to hit PJALS. It's hard to say since the perpetrator(s) did not leave a calling card after smashing the two large windows next to the front door of our office.

Nancy and I got a call at home on Saturday, July 8, telling us the windows had been broken and police were at the scene. We know a police report was filed but have not talked to an investigating officer.

My own investigation suggests that Martin Luther King, Jr., may have provoked the "sidewalk rage" that resulted in the dastardly deed. Our large poster of Dr. King had been in the window, and one of the two points of impact was right in his face, sending the lightly framed poster across the room with two-pound chunks of glass.

Everyone who's been around PJALS for a while will recall that we've had these same windows destroyed before. That was June 9, 1996, the day of the Pride march. The vandal in

that case left a brief message on the door to indicate a conviction that the violence was justified by a severe case of homophobia.

We're not happy about this window-breaking, but there's a bright side. We'd rather have this kind of property damage than someone's person attacked for reasons of racism, homophobia or other social disease. . .

Having endured two arsons and two window incidents in the past seven years, we might feel a little vulnerable, but some perspective is in order. The arsons were non-political pyromania, and businesses with valuable objects in the windows are at higher risk than PJALS for vandalism and theft. The level of violence in our society leaves little chance that an individual or an organization will be unscathed. With no personal injury, we are surely among the fortunate victims of this systemic violence that is modeled, not only by thugs, criminals, and the unstable, but by almost every level of our government. And that has a great deal to do with the existence of PJALS.

Any success we have will reduce the chances of creation of more victims in

Diversity Dome consultant explains next step in plan

By PAUL HAMRE

PHASE TWO: CONSTRUCTION

Are you ready to dig a hole and put a house in it? Not quite yet, there is still a lot to do before you start: apply for and secure construction financing, get a building permit, establish supplier accounts, negotiate subcontracts, and, most importantly, develop a construction schedule in a format that can be continually updated and modified. Remember the adage, "plan your work and work your plan"? Well, now is the time to plan your work.

The planning and implementation of the construction process is an intricate skill best learned from years of experience that you may not have. But what you do have is a superbly honed ability to manage. After all, you have been managing most all your life. You have managed your daily activities, your education, your recreation, your health, your family life, and your

career. In fact, you are the best possible manager for the construction of your home. There is no one else who will equal your interest and intensity in the success of the project. Why? Because this is your house and you more than anyone want it done right.

So how do you get

and implement work in the proper order. Someone who will at all times respect your abilities and decisions, encourage you to continue, and applaud your accomplishment.

Guiding owner/builders is a specialized practice that works best when provided with a program specifically designed for the way you want to manage your project, how much work you want to do yourself, and how much time you want to take. You may say, "I have a neighbor who is a builder and he will help me." Be wary.

Mr. Builder is going to want to do it his way, not necessarily your way. Besides, he has his own business to tend too. It may be best just to remain good neighbors.

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

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

past the "years of experience" part? You guessed it, hire a consultant who can provide the specific industry knowledge, and help you develop your schedule and implement it. A guardian angel so to speak. Someone who will look ahead for you while you implement the details to move the project from milestone to milestone. Someone who will inspect the work on a prescribed schedule and advise you on options to correct errors.

Coming Next Month

State and county agencies provide a host of services and expert advice to help you in areas such as land evaluation, fire safety, wise ecological use of the land, and home garden problems.

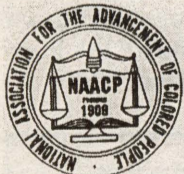
Osei and Walker-Griffea honored

Denise Osei and Beverly Walker-Griffea were among 15 faculty members from Community Colleges of Spokane honored with Exceptional Faculty Awards this year.

Established in 1997 by the CCS Foundation, the awards are funded with matching dollars from the Washington State Legislature and the Community Colleges of Spokane Foundation placed in an endowment fund. This year \$8,500 was available for awards. Each faculty member chosen received \$500.

Recipients are nominated by students, faculty and staff at SCC, SFCC and the Institute for Extended Learning (IEL). A committee of faculty, staff, administrators, students and a CCS foundation representative review the nominations and select the award winners.

Denise Osei is the multicultural specialist in IEL Student Services and Beverly Walker-Griffea is a counselor in SCC Student Services.



NAACP

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

Regular meetings are
7 pm on the 3rd Monday of each month

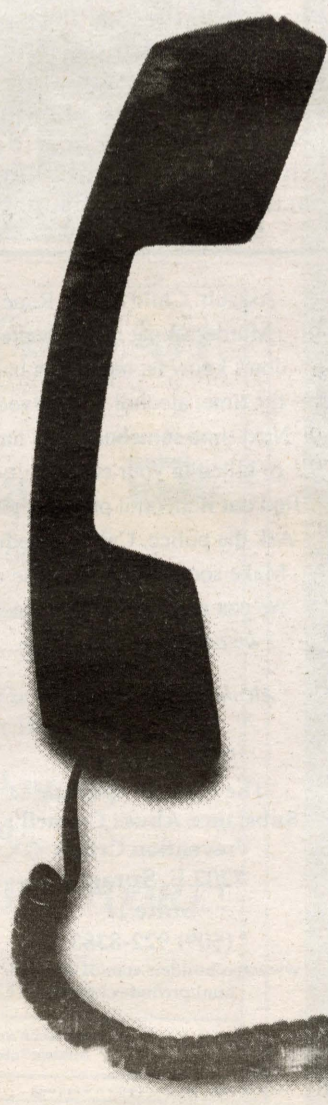
East Central Comm. Center 500 S. Stone St. Spokane

NEED HELP

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

For information Contact: President Eileen Thomas

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Getting the home you've always dreamed of starts with just one phone call to UBuildIt.®

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ubuildit.com

Living Waters for All Nations

Diversity camp provides positive outlet

BY KHALIL ISLAM

So what is this camp? Well, until about two months ago, I hadn't heard much about it. But I am thoroughly impressed and interested in seeing this camp thrive and become successful in our community. Living Waters

for All Nations is a minority/woman owned non-profit organization located in our own community. Its primary mission is to positively impact youth from all ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds with a theme of "Diversity in Motion." The camp,

held this summer July 17-23 (for ages 8-12) and July 24-29 (for ages 13-17) places an emphasis on diversity, technology, financial responsibility and entrepreneurship, creativity, and outdoor recreation. But hey, the real reason that this camp has

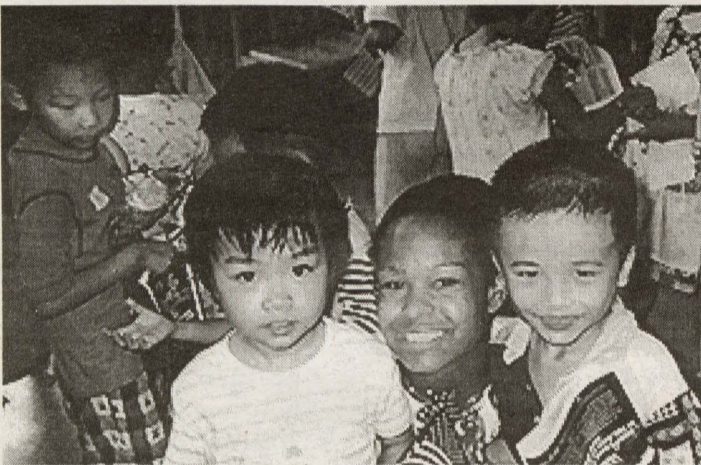
come into being is so that kids can have fun outdoors in a safe and structured environment.

This camp is personally important to me because I strongly feel that our youth need positive outlets that support their ethical, intellectual

and moral development. It is also important to me because many of the youth currently registered for camp would not have the benefit of a summer camp experience... and if you've had a summer camp experience, you know exactly what I am talking about.

Continued from page 1

Lara Nelson, high jumper



return shuttle, discovered we were lost. It was frightening, but we made curfew.

Next day, we were up at 6:30 and off to a hot, humid practice. After breakfast, there was more touring, and exhaustion at the end of the day. After three days of that, we went to the mainland and Canton. We had a track meet and I did okay, but not my best.

My favorites places in Canton were the market with extremely different foods like snakes and scor-

pions, a porcelain factory, Buddhist monastery, a kindergarten where we spent time with the kids, and the main street at night (great shopping!).

After four days, we returned to Hong Kong for another meet and more touring. My Hong Kong favorites are the main street, the mall, Victoria Peak, Stanley Market, touring the harbor in a sampan, and Pizza Hut.

Our Washington team was great in Hong Kong. We won! I was disappointed I had a foot injury and didn't jump well, but the only sadness was that we were leaving the next day.

I had an amazingly wonderful, fun-filled trip to China. I'm extremely glad I went and hope to see the people on the trip

Living Waters for All Nations

Linda R. Bracey, President, and Angela Jones, Vice President, describe the purpose of the new camp this way in their brochure:

"As we head into the twenty-first century, we hope our children are prepared to be America's next generation of leaders. Unfortunately, America's children often face challenges that hinder the physical, social, emotional, and mental development necessary to be successful, happy and healthy.

Living Waters for All Nations is a new non profit organization comprised of individuals who desire to provide children and youth with opportunities that nurture personal growth and a healthy self-esteem. Furthermore, we believe bringing children and youth together from all walks of life will build bridges and break down the socio-economic, ethnic, and domestic barriers that currently exist in our communities."

Programs are being designed to build team and leadership skills and raise cultural awareness through activities designed not only to experience different cultural customs and stories but also learn about people with disabilities and interact with the elderly. Technology and math activities emphasize problem solving and cultural role playing. Experience and practice in entrepreneurship and financial responsibility, art projects that explore the cultural experience as well as challenging outdoor activities round out camp offerings. Camp is held at WSU's Camp Roger Larson near Worley, Idaho, on Lake Coeur d'Alene.

For more information about the camp or to contribute in any way, call 509-536-6290 or email Linda Bracey at lbracey@aol.com, or Angela Jones at anjylla@yahoo.com.

AAV congratulates Shayla Bush on scholarship

Shayla Bush, the daughter of Ivan and Fannie Bush, is off to Rutgers University on a volleyball scholarship. A

Ferris graduate, she was 1st team All GSL in volleyball and track. She was All State in volleyball.

Shayla's father is not

just proud of her athletic ability, "She has a sense of identity and is well grounded," he said.

Student forum on area hate group activities

The Aryan Nations, Richard Butler, the White supremacy parades in CDA, Spokane's four cross burnings in 1998, recent Nazi graffiti. Many of us have seen the headlines or have heard from friends from out of state about Hate in the great Northwest. But how do these groups and their activities impact us, par-

ticularly our youth?

The City of Spokane Human Rights Office, Spokesman Review and District 81 Equity Office are hosting a student forum on area hate group activities August 29th at the City Council Chambers in City Hall from noon until 2 p.m. The purpose of this forum is to share information about the militia movement, area hate groups, and recent hate crimes in our area and brainstorm avenues for youth to reduce prejudice, prevent hate and take a stand against hate group activity. Local civil rights groups and the media will be participating to share opportunities to be active in community efforts

Have you ever thought about writing an

article on this issue in the Teen Generation Page or being a speaker? What about developing a city-wide youth group to discuss and act on these issues? The opportunities are endless. We need youth that want to make a difference regardless of your background or knowledge level. We need your voice and leadership. Whether you want to learn or are already active, please join us on Tuesday the 29th of August. Parents, school officials, and interested residents are also invited.

Call Vickie Countryman 354-5956 or Vince Lemus 625-6263 to reserve your spot. This event is free and lunch will be provided. We hope to see you there!

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Lonnie Hamer of National Lighting, Inc.

By J. L. WILBORN, JR.

Spokane businessman Lonnie Hamer has much to say about the state of African American businesses in this area.

Through his company, National Lighting, Inc., Hamer has witnessed many of the challenges faced by minority owned businesses. Yet through his passion for his work and his "Microsoft Dream" he is determined to make National Lighting, Inc. a successful global company.

Originally from Chicago, the Air Force brought Hamer to Spokane. After four and a half years of service, Hamer left the military and settled in Spokane to continue his education and start a business.

It's one thing for an African American to leave Chicago and choose to live in Spokane, but to start a business here? What would possess a man - an African American man - to do such a thing? Hamer explains, "The reason for that is a long soul searching, heart wrenching time with myself and my parents who advised me to make my own mark. That is why I decided not to go home and follow in my father's footsteps or my mother's footsteps".

He attended Whitworth College where he received a double undergraduate degree; one in Research (Behavioral) Psychology and one in Theology. In 1984 he and his wife, Janice, started what would later become National Lighting, Inc. (incorporated in 1991).

National Lighting does electrical contracting and general contracting. Its specialty is energy management. When a commercial business hires National Lighting for energy management, the company will analyze the business's energy use through such sources as heating, air conditioning, and especially lighting. Better, more efficient alternatives will then be sought. The results will be compared to the current cost of operation. The amount saved can be applied to the cost for materials that will be used to make the business run more energy efficient.

So, how can an African American run a successful company in the midst of a field dominated

by whites? As Hamer states, "Learning quickly the nature of the beast, the nature of how you do business, why you do business, who buys your product, and why they buy it. And learning what the establishment will give you and what they won't give you".

One problem facing National Lighting upfront was the fear the white establishment had of the African American male. As Hamer notes, "African American males still, to this day, fight vehemently, ardently, zealously a system of perceptions, and old guard / old boy systems that make it very difficult to do business consistently and profitably". Two business resources are particularly affected: banking relationships and access to capital.

Hamer recalls in 1991 he went to US Bank for a loan and a line of credit. He was turned down on both requests despite having an account with Toys 'R Us. A Euro American business partner, with similar credentials, and on behalf of National Lighting walked into another branch of US Bank and was able to obtain credit cards and other bank considerations. "I've

never forgotten", Hamer recalls, "As a consequence, as an African American male seeing that, the natural encouragement is to try to ally oneself with a Euro American counterpart, especially for that type of thing. I have personally refused that pull in that direction and I believe that as a consequence of that I've been hurt."

Despite these early setbacks, Hamer is determined to pursue his dream of making National Lighting a profitable global player, as he calls it, reaching his "Microsoft Dream."

Hamer believes African Americans must be trailblazers and have trailblazers. African American businessmen must work "twice as good to get half as much" as their white counterparts. Once this is accomplished, it will be easier for the African American male to follow and establish himself in the field.

For African American owned businesses starting out in Spokane, "the playing field is not level". The African American starts out up hill, while his white counterparts start out on level ground. But Hamer says this should not encourage African

American businessmen to set up shop in another area. "Start in your own back yard," he advises, "pick your passion. Do what you love and love what you do". Hamer says to work on your passion as if you "have six months to live". The stronger the passion, the more likely you will be to overcome the obstacles.

Hamer believes education is important to the African American. In his case, it wasn't learning who was the first president, but learning to think for himself.

How would Hamer like to be remembered when he is gone? "As a father who had his children taken care of, and spent time with his children," he answers, "A hero

to my six children and a faithful and loving husband". He would like to be remembered as a person who helped his fellow man and as a trailblazer who passed the ball to a new generation of African Americans whose pursuit of the American dream was made a little easier by the accomplishments of a local company called National Lighting, Inc.

The African American Voice
suggests you support those who support you.

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NWCD Youth Institute Aug 6-10

The Northwest Coalition for Human Dignity will be hosting its sixth annual Youth Leadership Institute (YLI) August 6-10 at the Lion's Club Camp for the Blind on Casper Mountain, in Casper, Wyoming.

Youth from throughout the Northwest will gather to explore the impact that their actions have on their community, to explore issues of bigotry, and to expand their community organizing

and leadership skills.

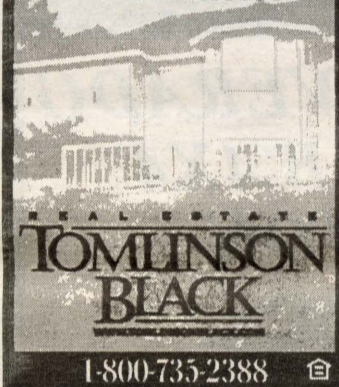
Students from past years have taken the skills developed at the YLI and deeply affected the way their communities have approached human dignity issues. Youth in Jackson, Wyoming have been attending YLI's since 1996, and their skills reached a crescendo this school year when four young women developed their own curriculum to teach issues of diversity and respect to fifth grade students in their community.

For more information about the 2000 YLI please contact Mark Houser at 307-734-0096 or Kate Boyd at 206-233-9136.

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Continued from page 1

Bush vs Gore

Democrats see this as a plus for them. They bank heavily that they won't risk rocking the boat by voting for Bush. But that same prosperity and political comfort can be a double-edged sword for the Democrats. Many blacks and Latinos now feel that they have a stronger stake in the system. Republican's try to play to that feeling by pitching to blacks and Latinos that their proposals for school vouchers, bigger tax credits and cuts, and more aid to small business, and school vouchers are the best way for them to accelerate their upward social and economic climb.

But prosperity, relative racial peace, and the social and the increasingly political conservatism of many blacks and Latinos is not

enough to cause them to make a headlong dash into the Bush camp. He would have to do much more than dole out the few paltry dollars the Republicans have on ad campaigns to attract more Latinos. And he would certainly have to do much more than utter the kind of stock, warmed over platitudes about diversity that he did at the recent NAACP convention.

He would have to pledge to make political appointments in his administration that reflect the diversity of America and to confront such hot button issues as immigration reform, racial profiling, the death penalty, the grotesque racial disparities in the prison and criminal justice system, a disastrous drug policy, support massive funding increases for

health care and education and greater protections for social security.

The Cheney pick, however, makes a mockery of Bush's dangled hints that he would do any of these things. It also gives no reason to think that Bush will do anything to make over the GOP from a clubby, party of ole' conservative white guys into a party of gender and racial inclusion. In fact, a poll released the same day that Bush picked Cheney showed that black and Latino support is still rock solid for Gore. No wonder that Gore gloated, "See -- I told you so," about Bush to Jackson's group.

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

Purce leaves WSU

By Jose S. Gutierrez Jr.

Washington State University said good-bye to a resigning Dr. Les Purce, Vice President of Extended Business Affairs earlier this summer.

Dr. Purce, one of the few African-American administrators at WSU who had been there since 1995, decided to resign after successfully interviewing for and being offered the presidency of Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington.

The liberal arts college is nationally respected as one of the best, and will receive one of the best administrators WSU has had

for the past few years. Purce leaves WSU as an accomplished administrator who has assisted in several notable acquisitions for the university and in business partnerships, and who has been a contributor to WSU's recent surge in the arena of technological education.

Purce exits WSU at what many call a time of transition. In addition to major WSU budget cuts, the university's presidential stability will be tested with the departure of popular retiring president Dr. Samuel Smith who had been at WSU since 1985. Purce's replacement had not been selected as of press time.

Ice Cream Social to meet your candidates

Outside the Lines, a political action committee for responsible political action fundraising in the Inland Northwest, is holding its annual summer fundraiser to support human rights positive candidates and issues. It will be held Saturday, August 5 from 4 - 6 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 4340 W. Ft. George Wright Drive. Admission is \$10 per person. Meet your candidates, socialize and support your local human rights PAC.

Outside the Lines is led by Spokane area individuals and will support political candidates and issues significant to the human rights interests of inland northwest residents: Michael P. Flannery & Ruth Langstraat, M.D., co-chairs; Cary Snyder, treasurer; Karen Licklider, Dean Lynch, Maggie Montana, Gene Otto, Rosanne WhiteLight.

NWC for Human Dignity Conference

Building Our Base to Counter Hate is the theme for the 14th annual Northwest Coalition for Human Dignity. (Formerly the conference of the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment which this year merged with the Coalition for Human Dignity). It is scheduled for October 27 - 29 in Boise Idaho and will focus on practical skill building. Organizers suggest that "Whether you've wanted to start a local human rights task force

and wondered how to begin, or your task force seems to be experiencing a mid-life crisis -- or any variant in between -- you will find the expertise and spirit to get you going".

The NWCHD conference will also cover anti-Indian activism, white supremacy, and the radical religious right. It will host a summit of tribal leaders and young activists are planning a Youth Summit.

For more information call the NWCHD at 206-762-5672.

New members appointed to Citizens' Review Commission

The Citizens' Review Commission reviews complaints from the public about the Spokane Police Department. The City Council recently appointed new members Rich Richard, a retired District Court judge; Vern Burch, a Spokane postal worker; and William Ogle, a Spokane citizen. Reappointed were the Commission's chair, the Rev. Lonnie Mitchell, of Bethel AME church; and chair pro tem, Atara Clark, a psychology student at Eastern Washington University.

The Citizens' Review Commission meets monthly at City Hall and hears complaints involving allegations of misconduct. To file a complaint or get more information call Vice Lemus, the City's Human Rights Specialist, at 625-6260.

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Health

Is it a matter of poverty or race?

By ROBERT C. WILLIAMSON JR

Recently I read a study that found that pharmacies' stocks are low in minority neighborhoods. The study revealed that cancer patients and others with severe pain who live in black, Asian, and Hispanic neighborhoods may have trouble getting medicine for their pain, because their local pharmacies often do not stock morphine and related drugs, doctors are reporting.

A survey of 347 pharmacies in New York City found that in nonwhite neighborhoods, only 25 percent of pharmacies had enough morphine-like drugs, or opioids, to treat severe pain. But in white neighborhoods, 72% of the stores had adequate supplies.

Although the survey

was conducted in New York, interviews with pharmacist and doctors in Los Angeles, Chicago, Minneapolis and Detroit suggested similar problems in those cities.

My first thought when I read the report was why are they always doing studies that have obvious findings. After reading quite a few surveys, blacks and other nonwhites do not fare well in any study. By now you already know that blacks live in the filthiest neighborhoods, have the worst healthcare and when it comes to earning money we are at the bottom of that list too. So why would it come has a surprise that pharmacies located in these neighborhoods would not be stocked to address pain related diseases?

As I generally do I began to think about

poverty and its impact on poor blacks, whites and nonwhites. I wonder if poor whites are getting a better deal than poor blacks. Are the pharmacies in poor white neighborhoods better stocked than the ones in black neighborhoods? As I read more literature about this subject there is evidence that makes a case for this subject being a matter of racial injustice vs. poverty.

The study further revealed that druggists who did not carry medicines blamed low demand, onerous regulations and fear of theft. But when the analysis of the numbers was adjusted to take actual crime rates into account, opioid availability was still linked to the racial makeup of the neighborhood.

Doctors say the problem fits into a nationwide

pattern of racial inequality in health care, revealed by recent studies showing that blacks are less likely than whites to be referred for kidney transplants or surgery for early-stage cancers of the breast, colon or lung, and that blacks and Hispanics are less likely to be given painkillers for broken bones or pain following surgery.

What convinced this writer that this is a case of racial injustice is an article I read in the New England Journal of Medicine (April 6, 2000, Vol. 342, No. 14) titled Racial Injustice in Health Care. The literature states that a growing body of compelling and disturbing evidence points to inferior medical care for black Americans, even if they are on an equal economic footing with whites. Differences in access to

treatment and the quality of the care are at least part of the reason why the rates of death from some diseases are higher among blacks than among whites.

Particularly troubling is the recent finding that the lower survival rate among black as compared with white patients with early stage lung cancer is due largely to a lower rate of potentially curative surgery among blacks.

The two groups did not differ significantly with respect to socioeconomic status, insurance coverage, or access to care.

There is a belief that the common thread in these findings is a subtle form of racial bias on the part of medical care providers. The level and extent of the problem are unknown, but it is real and potentially harmful,

Continued on page 17

Gonzaga Service Learning offers volunteers

Zandra Rice, Volunteer Service Coordinator at Gonzaga's Center for Community Action and Service-Learning (CCASL), is seeking service placement for students and campus clubs. She hopes to establish a better relationship with community-based organizations by meeting with volunteer coordinators and arranging to volunteer a day at programs to

better recruit potential student volunteers.

"Although we might not always be able to provide a project with volunteers, we have an extensive volunteer database on which to post it", Rice said. "An added plus is that Gonzaga's Knights and Setons, a fraternal service organization, and Circle K International, a renowned service group, all have strong ties to CCASL. By connecting

with us, many more people will become aware of your needs and the issues you address."

Any organization interested in Gonzaga student volunteers may call Zandra Rice between 9 and 4:30 Monday - Thursday at 323-6824.

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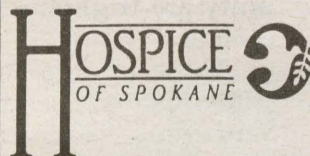
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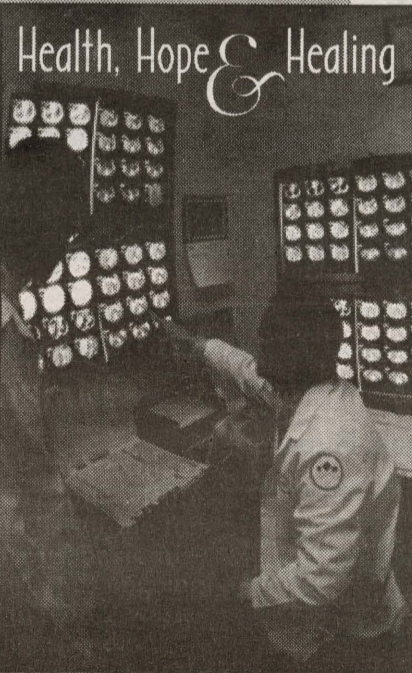
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Native American sovereignty under attack

Washington State Republican Party passed a resolution calling for the abolition of tribal governments during their state convention in Spokane. Spokesman July 3, 2000.

Contrary to an article since July 3rd headlines in the Spokesman, "Indians Hope Outcry Stops GOP Resolution" please remain cognizant this is not solely an 'Indian issue'. At a meeting held on Sunday, July 9, more than 50 individuals and organizations came to voice concerns and set a direction, in collaboration with the local tribal councils. The issue of tribal sovereignty is a public issue with racial, cultural, moral, ethical, political and not to mention, constitutional impact. As evidenced by the questions and comments by both the audience and panelists, plenty of learning took place.

"What can we do?" We can all do something. Here are some of the suggestions:

- Write to the GOP
- Call the local GOP office 838-6162 and voice your displeasure in the resolution
- Email the Republican Party HQ mailto: comments@wsrp.org and voice your displeasure at the reso-

lution, ask to have resolution rescinded

- Attend a Pow Wow or other cultural celebration
- Get yourself registered and VOTE
- Encourage others to get educated on the many Tribal issues under discussion today
- Get connected and join the Northwest Coalition for Human Dignity 206-233-9136
- Go to www.spokane.net/newsstory.asp?date=071000&ID=s824695 and comment on the article in Spokesman Review
- Contact Russell Lehman, 1st American Education Project 360-352-9833 or email mailto: rlehman@earthlink.net and ask him to send a representative out to do an educational piece here.

• Sign a petition against the initiative on the website <http://www.petitiononline.com/sca12/petition.html>

Thank you to all for your support. A meeting to continue the dialogue will be held on Sunday, August 6th at 1 pm at Riverpoint, Trent Ave., Spokane. If you have any questions or comments please feel free to email or call: Vince Lemus 625-6263; vlemus@spokanecity.org.

Publisher's note: The African American Voice received an article for publication from an apologist for John Fleming's resolution on reservation government stating that the writer's research revealed that the Spokesman Review misquoted Fleming, and that there was a misunderstanding as to the meaning of "Republican form of government". I think the Republican party resolution was quite clear in its intent - to limit Native American sovereignty by allowing reservation residents who are not tribal members to dilute tribal self-government.

I decided not to print this article because similarly, I do not want to dilute the African American voice of this paper by printing everything Euro-Americans may want to say. They have enough venues in which to express themselves. This paper is interested in the minority viewpoint. We would particularly like to solicit Native American opinions. See for example the "Your Turn" article "Complacency could cost us our sovereignty and more" by Margo Hill in the July 29 Spokesman Review.

We are what we remember

By VICTOR E. BUKSBAZEN

The \$1,000,000 question hung in the air like a Sword of Damocles. The contestant -- a college history professor -- after much deliberation opted to take the half million he'd already won and leave, stumped by "Who was the Revolutionary War general who defeated the British at the Battle of Yorktown?"

This scenario actually took place not long ago on the show "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" Despite four choices -- one of which was meant as a joke -- this highly educated, tenured professor could not correctly answer a question which I studied in sixth grade history.

For the sake of argument, consider the ramifications if only a handful of college-educated citizens could place the phrase "government of the people, by the people and for the people" as a line from the Gettysburg Address. Or that James Madison was the father of the US Constitution?

Laboratory of forgetfulness

Face it, unless the core curricula at American institutions of higher learning are amended to require coursework in American and world history (78% of students now have no history requirement attached to their degrees), American universities will become a living laboratory in which the effects of historical amnesia can be studied.

Last year researchers asked 556 students at 55 top-ranked institutions high school-level American history questions. Nearly 80% of them scored either a D or F.

While only 30% of them were able to ID George Washington as the Revolutionary War general who defeated the British at

Yorktown, 99% and 98% respectively were able to field the questions asked about the cartoon characters Beavis and Butt-Head, and rapper Snoop Doggy Dogg.

This raises the question of how relevant the study of our own history really is in the high-tech, bottom-line world. One might even be led to ask whether the entire school process might not need revision, from first grade to the Ph.D. level?

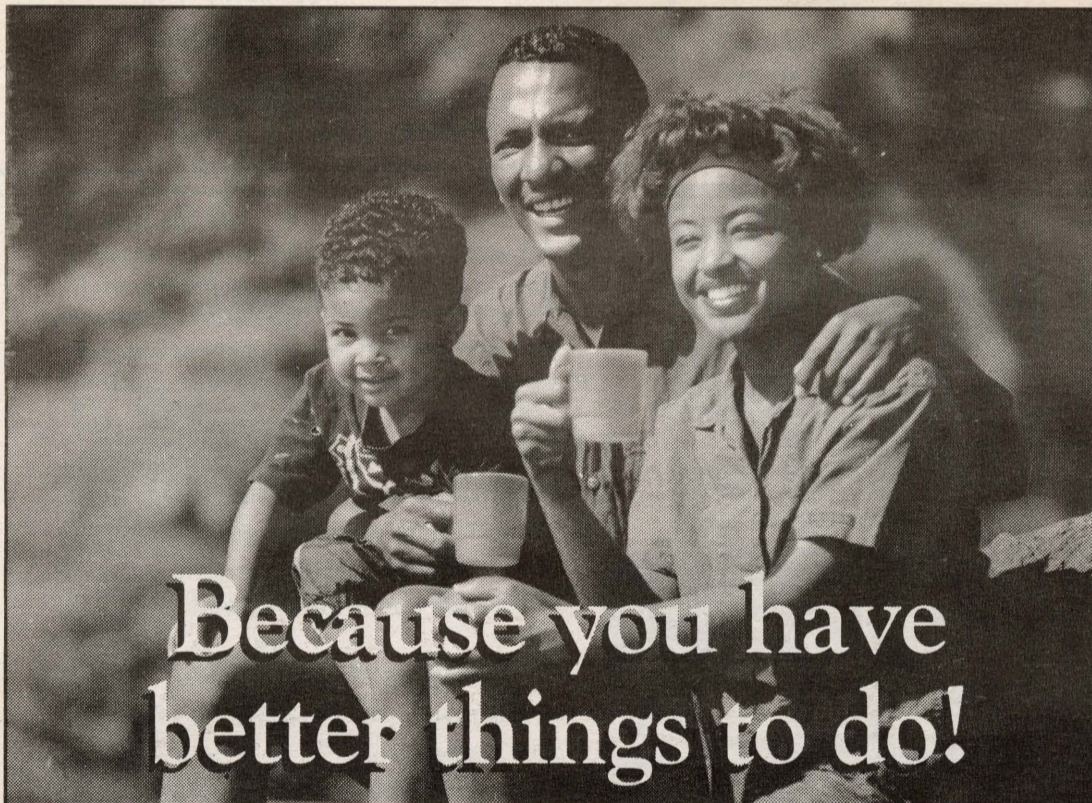
Resolution for change

Results of the study, appropriately entitled "Losing America's Memory", have generated more than the predictable hand-wringing. Senator Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut convened a congressional meeting on it. In introducing his resolution, he sagely observed, "When we lose the memory of our past, when we lose our understanding of the remarkable individuals, events and values that have shaped this nation, we are losing much of what it means to be an American".

What difference does it make? While many other countries benefit from the cultural adhesives of a common religious or ethnic background, we Americans, rightly or wrongly, have only our shared past to serve as the civic glue that binds us together. Both the shame of slavery and the glory of academia are shared by all Americans, and are a part of that glue.

If this trend is not reversed, does democracy itself hang in the balance? Probably not. But the risks of falling into a stupefying loss of cultural pride and unity are frightening enough.

Those who do not study history, George Santayana said, are doomed to repeat it. Thus, cultural amnesia could have serious consequences for our entire nation.



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Geronimo Pratt

LAWSUIT SETTLED

The City of Los Angeles and the Federal Bureau of Investigations have agreed to settle a 4.5 million dollar law suit with former Black Panther Party member Geronimo Pratt. Reportedly the city has agreed to pay Mr. Pratt \$2.7 million dollars and the FBI has agreed to pay \$1.75 million. Pratt served 25 years in prison before his conviction was overturned. Pratt was convicted of robbing and fatally shooting a schoolteacher. Pratt claimed that the FBI destroyed tapes that proved he was in another city during the shooting death.

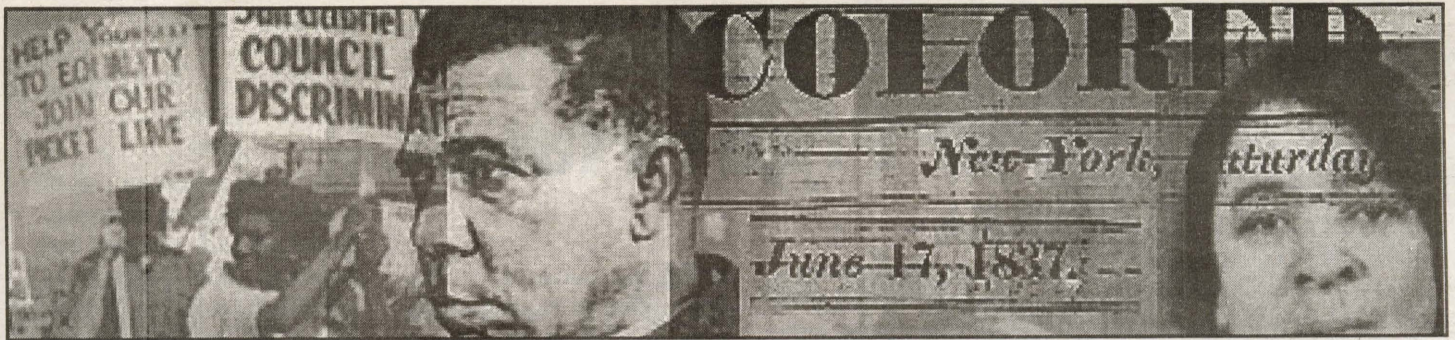
Moko Jumbie KPBX Kids' Concert

The next KPBX Kids' Concert will be a Caribbean music by Moko Jumbie. The concert will take place at Riverfront Park's Clocktower Meadow on August 11 from noon - 1 pm.

During the concert, kids can make special projects with the Spokane Art School.

Moko Jumbie plays reggae, calypso, and samba-styled music and likes to involve kids in the music.

Three of the members of the group, Bryan Bogue, Paul Raymond, and Rick Westrick, had been in a percussion group a number of years ago and became interested in world rhythms. They credit the fourth member of the group, Angus Nunes, with their current direction. "Angus is from Trinidad, and got us digging deeper into it", said Bryan.



Every month is Black History Month Black Panther Party

BY OLIVE VASSELL

They were not only young and angry, but thought they could change the world. And in the course of 10 years, they did.

Armed with sincerity, the words of revolutionaries such as Mao Tse-Tung and Malcolm X, law books, and rifles, The Black Panther Party fed the hungry, protected the weak from racist police, and presented a new paradigm of Black political and social activism. Founded in October 1966 by Bobby Seale and Huey P. Newton in Oakland, Ca., the Party grew to at least 5,000 members nationwide, with chapters in more than half of America and an international branch in Algeria.

Its "survival programs"-such as food giveaways, free health clinics and free breakfast programs for children were popular fixtures in Black neighborhoods in the early 1970s, but for the white power structure and the vast majority of the white public, the Panthers represented only

anti-government militancy; a view which engendered the wrath of the police and FBI and led to the murder of several Party members by law enforcement. Some were little more than teens when they were killed,

For those not killed, the threat of incarceration was ever present. Some, like Panther Minister of Information Eldridge Cleaver, would be arrested, on what often seemed little more than engineered charges. Despite

But it was divisions within the Party itself, along with a focus on winning local political campaigns in Oakland, which led to its decline by the mid-1970s. Decades later, however, the legacy of the Panthers remains vivid in the minds of many; for it is a powerful illustration of the ability of individuals to rise up and join together to fight oppression.

And even today, the organization evokes strong emotions. Some believe that the current plight of former Panther and journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal, for example, is at least partially linked to his membership in the group.

Time has not erased the memory of these young revolutionaries. The still potent image of the black-clad Panthers, with their trademark berets testifies to the fact that these were young men and women who were unafraid to take power into their own hands and defend the rights of their people, whatever the cost to themselves.



like 20-year-old Illinois state leader Fred Hampton, who was gunned down with fellow Panther Mark Clarke, in an early morning raid of the group's Chicago headquarters on Dec. 4, 1969. The attack, aided by the help of an infiltrator, was masterminded by the city's police force and the FBI powerful counterintelligence program (COINTEL-PRO).

government hostility, the organization flourished for a while, sweeping across Black America and attracting some of the most articulate young Blacks on the revolutionary scene of the 60's. Among them were H. Rap Brown and Stokeley Carmichael, both former presidents of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, and activist Angela Davis.



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Something You Can Do If You Will

Ten Ways to Fight Hate

#4 Do Your Homework

From *Ten Ways to Fight Hate* by Jim Carrier, 2nd edition, Southern Poverty Law Center, 2000.

Know who and what you're fighting. Eruptions of hate generally produce one of two reactions: apathy ("it's just an isolated act of kooks") or fear ("the world is out of control"). Before reacting, communities need accurate information about haters and their danger.

The Southern Poverty Law Center reports around 500 organized US hate groups, virtually all white supremacists with a handful of black separatist groups. Some are tiny -- a handful of men -- but armed with a computer, E-mail and a Web site, their reach is immense, their message capable of entering a child's private bedroom.

In their literature and Web sites, hate groups rail at growing minority populations that will make whites another minority in the 21st century. Like some of their brothers-in-

arms in militia groups, they also spread fears of losing control of America to a "One World Government" dominated by Jewish bankers, multinational corporations and the United Nations. More often than not, members of hate groups use scapegoats to blame for their personal failures, low self-esteem, anger and frustration. They frequently act under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Though their views may be couched in code words, members of hate groups typically share these extremist views:

- They want to limit the rights of certain groups and separate society along racial, ethnic or religious lines.
- They believe in conspiracies.
- They try to silence any opposition.
- They are antigovernment and fundamentalist.

And yet, most hate crimes are not committed by member of hate groups.

SPLC estimates that less than 15% of hate crimes can be linked to group member. The majority appear to be the work of "free-lance" haters, young males who are looking for thrills, or defending some turf, or trying to blame someone for their troubles. Rarely are they acting from deeply held ideology. These young men have adopted the rhetoric of hate groups, however, and they mix stereotypes with a culture of violence. In their minds, certain people are "suitable victims," somehow deserving of their hostility. They attack target groups randomly, choosing whoever is convenient.

Get help from experts

The Southern Poverty Law Center, the Anti-Defamation League and many other human rights organizations have information and advice on hate groups. They have helped many communities deal with crises.

- When skinheads

threatened to disrupt the performance of a punk band with a human rights message, Eugene, Oregon, panicked and canceled the concert. "The Neo-Nazi skinheads won," said Eric Ward, co-director of the University of Oregon's black student union at the time. "None of us knew anything about the white supremacist movement." Ward helped form a group, Communities Against Hate, and sent for literature from the Southern Poverty Law Center. "I remember reading my first Klanwatch Report and feeling sick to my stomach." The group then gathered data on local skinheads and, when several individuals fired a machine gun into a Jewish synagogue, provided police with tips that led to an arrest. When skinheads began following students of color home from school, the group called a forum and showed slides of Nazis living in Salem, 60 miles away. The skinheads were identified with brutal frankness: "This guy took an ice pick to a Hispanic... This Nazi took a knife and stabbed Stephen at this

school", said Michele Lefkowitz of Communities Against Hate.

• When a white power rock concert was announced in Traverse City, Michigan, a group of citizens created "Hate-Free TC" and sought help from the Center for New Community. In a day-long seminar, human rights experts educated local people about neo-Nazi skinheads, their racist music and their connection to an international movement that includes Nazis, white supremacists and the Christian Identity church. They later held an alternative rock concert, and the publicity forced cancellation of the white power gathering.

• After seeing mail, including a "pastor's license", arrive for his son, an Indiana father realized that the teenager was connecting to a hate Web site operated by a white supremacist group quised as a church. It helped explain the boy's adoption of Nazi symbols and style. The father wrote the church, demanded that E-mail be stopped and threatened suit.

Twenty-one things we can do

1. Register to vote, or shut up!
2. Take all that money out of those stocking caps, tin cans, beds mattresses, floorboards and invest your money in something. For starters, invest in the foods you eat and clothes you wear.
3. Learn another language, Ebonics does not count.
4. Stop using the "N" word in the year 2000, especially since Merriam Webster

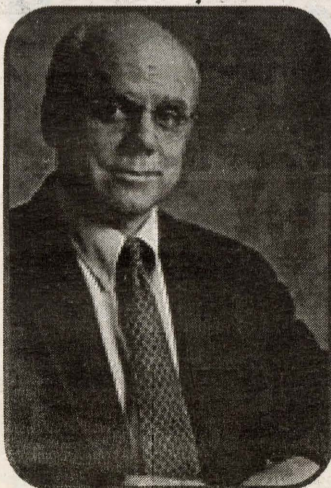
5. Buy something each week from a black vendor.
6. Stop blaming white folk for 98% of your problems, while giving them 100% of your money.
7. Subscribe to American Visions, African American Voice, Emerge, Color Lines, Crisis, QBR the Black Review, Ebony, Jet, Black Enterprise, and Essence. Then subscribe

8. Stop walking past each other and not speaking.
9. Be on time for something - anything!
10. Get an annual check-up; herbs do not cure

11. In all thy ways acknowledge Him (GOD) and He shall direct thy path.
12. Stop being jealous of one another, learn to look past the material things and see the person for who they are.
13. Say a prayer for someone besides yourself.
14. Get involved in at least one charitable or voluntary community

15. Hug your child/spouse/parent today.
16. Love one another!
17. Learn to Let Go and Let God.
18. Stop talking about it, and be about it.
19. Let GOD order your steps instead of the world.
20. P.U.S.H.! Pray until Something Happens!
21. In all that you do get understanding.

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Continued from page 13

Inferior medical care

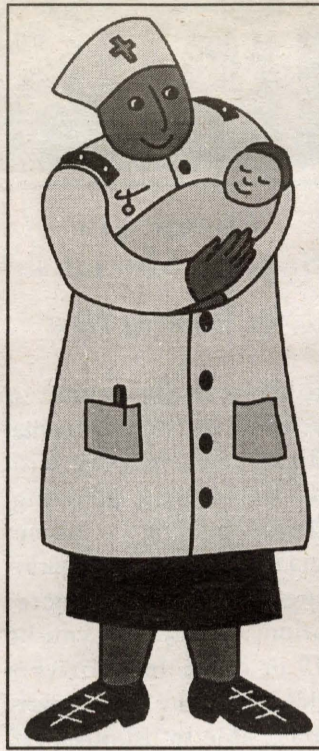
even though predominantly unintentional. It is believed that Americans perceive, value, and behave toward one another through a lens of race. This lens can create false assumptions that result in unintended but serious harm to members of minority groups—especially those who are powerless and vulnerable.

One of the recommendations to address these unacceptable facts is to have nationally and locally supported campaigns to create a high level of awareness of these issues

among medical trainees and professionals. It was also considered important to establish and monitor standards of medical care, with special attention paid to the quality of pain control and palliative care.

In conclusion the literature suggests that physicians, as well as pharmacists, police officers, and others, must learn to see people not through the lens of race but instead as the individual persons they are.

Appropriate judgments and actions in medicine and in society at large will follow.



HUD Headquarters named

Housing and Urban Development Secretary Andrew Cuomo presided over the renaming of the HUD Headquarters Building in Washington to honor Robert C. Weaver, the first HUD Secretary and the first African American member of a President's Cabinet.

Cuomo was joined for the renaming by Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan and Congressman Charles Rangel of New York, who sponsored legislation renaming the building the Robert C. Weaver Federal Building. The building was originally dedicated by Weaver on September 9, 1968.

"Robert Weaver was a pioneer who broke through barriers of racism again and again, to build a life of extraordinary achievement and public service," Cuomo said. "His brilliance, his talents, his hard work, and his dedication to a better America drove him forward to make history and to make our nation a better place. He is a role model and an inspiration for all of us at HUD."

Senator Moynihan said: "How fitting that we name for Bob Weaver today a building that fulfills President Kennedy's call for the choice of designs that embody the finest contemporary American architectural thought. As with the building, so with the man who brought it about - the finest contemporary American."

Congressman Rangel said: "Anyone who knows of Dr. Weaver's achievements is aware that his activities have greatly enhanced the American

way of life, for much of what he did helped many throughout the country achieve a piece of what we have come to call the American Dream."

The renaming of HUD headquarters took place at a ceremony attended by HUD employees. Eddie Eitches, President and Regional Vice President of the American Federation of Government Employees, Local 476, said: "Local 476 is honored that Dr. Weaver is being posthumously honored. Our members will have even more pride as we walk into this building and serve the public in providing housing and community development to our nation."

Weaver, who served as HUD Secretary from 1966 to 1968, was born in Washington, DC, in 1907. He died on July 17, 1997.

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy appointed Weaver to head the Housing and Home Finance Agency - a collection of agencies that included the Federal Housing Administration, Urban Renewal Administration and the Federal National Mortgage Association.

When President Lyndon B. Johnson elevated the agency to Cabinet level in January 1966, he nominated Weaver to become Secretary, rejecting objections from some to the appointment of an African American to the Cabinet.

Weaver served as HUD Secretary until December 1968. During his tenure at HUD, Weaver is credited with increasing the availability of affordable housing, fighting to

end housing discrimination by working for the passage of the landmark Fair Housing Act, and launching a comprehensive revitalization of America's urban centers.

Weaver graduated from Dunbar High School in Washington and went on to earn undergraduate and graduate degrees from Harvard University.

Weaver began his career in public service in 1934 in various positions at the Department of the Interior and as part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "Black Cabinet," an informal advisory group that focused on jobs, education and equal rights for the nation's African Americans.

In 1955, Weaver was appointed Deputy Rent Commissioner for the State of New York. He later became the first African American to serve in the New York State Cabinet when he was appointed Commissioner.

After his tenure at HUD, Weaver held teaching positions at Hunter College, Carnegie-Mellon University, Columbia's Teachers' College and the New York University School of Education, and also served as President of Baruch College. In the 1970s, he was one of the original directors of the Municipal Assistance Corporation, formed to help rescue New York City from financial crisis.

Weaver was married to Ella V. Haith from 1935 until she died in 1991. They had one son, who died in 1962.

Avoid Identity Theft

You've probably heard of cases of an identity thief using someone else's identity to open bank accounts and apply for credit cards. The resulting delinquencies and bad checks then go on their credit record.

- Before revealing personal identifying information, find out how it will be used and if it will be shared with others. Ask if you have a choice about the use of your information: can you choose to have it kept confidential?

- Pay attention to your billing cycles. Follow up with creditors if bills do not arrive on time.

- Give your Social Security number only when absolutely necessary. Ask to use other types of identification when possible.

- Carry only those cards with identifying information that you actually need. If your ID or credit cards are lost or

stolen, notify the creditors immediately, and call the credit bureaus to ask that a fraud alert be placed in your file.

Keep it to yourself

- Order a copy of your credit report from the three credit reporting agencies every year. Make sure it's accurate and includes only those activities you've authorized.

- Keep items with personal information in a safe place.

- Tear them up when you don't need them anymore.

- Make sure charge receipts, copies of credit applications, insurance forms, bank checks and statements, charge cards that have expired, and credit offers you get in the mail are disposed of appropriately.

From the Federal Trade Commission. Website www.ftc.gov

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