

African-American Voice

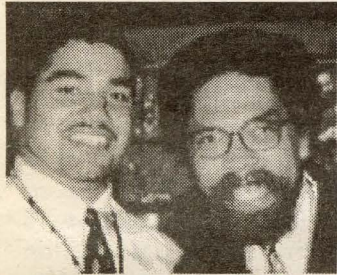
AUGUST 1999 PMB 145, 2920 S. Grand Blvd. Spokane WA 99203-2530 (509) 455-8274 rlloyd@cet.com Volume 4 Number 3

GOVERNOR GEORGE W. BUSH

BLOWS OFF 6,000 MINORITY JOURNALISTS AND COMMUNICATION PROFESSIONALS

By JOSE GUTIERREZ

More than 6,000 journalists and communications professionals from every region of the United States converged on downtown Seattle for the second Minority Journalists UNITY Conference.



Jose Gutierrez and Cornel West

The Pacific Northwest Newspaper Association hosted UNITY '99 at the Washington Convention Center from July 7-11. Several corporate sponsors visited the conference and showcased their commitment to the value of multiculturalism in the workplace, and proved it by hiring on the spot.

The theme of multiculturalism and awareness of gender, "race" and background in the workplace and community stood at the forefront of the conference. With strong representation from the Asian

American Journalists Association, the National Association of Black Journalists, the Native American Journalists Association and the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, UNITY '99 was a center for discussion on political, ethical, racial, educational and national issues of the present and in the new millennium.

A who's who of the political arena were invited to attend and address the conference. Some public figures accepted the invitation, one declined and later, in the midst of public and media criticism for not accepting, changed his mind.

Texas Governor George W. Bush was the decliner turned acceptor, making a brief visit to the corporate information booths, but without formally addressing the journalists. Bush had told the conference organizers that his schedule was filled. However, after the media addressed his lack of concern for over 6,000 gatekeepers of public information, Bush decided that he

could stop by.

Those who did attend and converse with journalists were US Senator (D) Bill Bradley, who was accompanied by

The public servants discussed their views on responsibility in the media. "From 1994 to 1997, murder (in the US) decreased 20%, but coverage of murder in

memberment, and the conference location was meant to be a testament to their convictions. In one debate between several round table guests regarding affirmative action, Farai Chideya, renowned journalist, author and ABC News correspondent, in response to an anti-affirmative action statement made by I-200 chairman John Carlson, revealed that a poll of the top 50 companies in the nation employ more aggressive hiring practices than Federal and State affirmative action policies require.

Unity '99 provided a diverse atmosphere for open dialogue, networking, problem solving and learning for many professionals. The gathering refreshed the communal concept of working towards the progress of "us" rather than the usual "me". One of the encouraging acts of the conference was the combination of corporate and academic education reflecting how people of color in particular and people in general can succeed collectively in

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African-American scholar and Harvard Professor Dr. Cornel West; US Senator (R) John McCain; Rev. Jesse Jackson; and US Vice President Al Gore. Gore, Bradley and McCain have expressed interest in the US Presidency.

the media increased by 720%," stated Sen. Bradley. They also spoke of multiculturalism in the workplace and how affirmative action plays a role in society.

Conference organizers openly opposed the passing of I-200 and other acts of affirmative action dis-

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JAMES FARMER DIES FREEDOM RIDE ORGANIZER



He changed the face of America

By KEVIN TAYLOR

Think of the Civil Rights movement and think of the '60s, think of MLK, of Malcom X and Mississippi burning.

As the struggle for equal rights has been codified in popular culture, an entire movement has been reduced to icons and sound bites and film clips. Lunging police dogs and fire hoses and I have a dream.

But on July 9 one of the quiet giants of the Civil Rights movement died in Fredericksburg, Va.

James Leonard Farmer, Jr., who co-founded the

Congress of Racial Equality, or CORE, in Chicago in 1942 and soon after began the nation's first organized sit-in, who 20 years later organized and led the Freedom Ride - died at 79. He had been in failing health for many years.

Farmer was the last of the "Big Four," who led the fight for desegregation and racial equality in the 1950s and '60s to die. His accomplishments have been lost in the shadow of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Roy Wilkins of the NAACP and Whitney Young of the National Urban League.

Think of the Civil Rights highlight reel. Think of I have a dream. See the key players of the movement gathered behind Dr.

King, crowded shoulder to shoulder as he delivered his speech at the culmination of the March on Washington.

Look through all those black and white photographs and you won't see James Farmer.

James Farmer was in a jail cell down South with all the young people -- Blacks and whites -- arrested during civil rights protests. Others had made bail in order to make the March on Washington, to make the public point. Farmer stayed with the foot soldiers.

Which is fitting. After co-founding CORE, Farmer saw the group as the Marines of the Civil Rights

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NEW FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTORS

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To Protect and Serve...Who?

By A. Bradley

About two weeks ago I was reading The Tacoma News Tribune and found an interesting story by John Gillie, "Police, media argue over access to reports". There was an argument being waged in the Washington State Supreme Court by two of Spokane's finest agencies - Spokane Police Department and the Spokesman-Review newspaper.

The debate was over public access to crime incident reports. Cynthia McMullen, an attorney for the Spokane Police Department, argued that initial reports written by officers contained information such as the names of suspects or confidential informants that could jeopardize further investigations if publicized. McMullen went on to say that premature disclosure of information about a suspect and the incident could taint a juror's view at the trial.

The Spokesman-Review's attorney, Duane Swinton, argued that confidential information need not be published and could be deleted from the reports. He argued that without access to the

Judicial TRAFFIC



reports, the media and citizens had no way of getting information on day to day crime.

Mr. Swinton was also concerned that if the courts decided to allow law enforcement agencies to keep these reports secret, they would only feed the public information that law enforcement decided was important. It would also give law enforcement the opportunity to keep private any embarrassing information about their own conduct or about the arrest of prominent and influential people.

The case that brought these two foes to the State Supreme Court involves a refusal by the Spokane Police Department to relinquish information about the arrest of a Spokane assistant city attorney accused of drunken driving and assaulting a police officer. The attorney,

Milt Rowland, later plead guilty to driving while intoxicated, fourth degree assault and leaving the scene of an accident after getting his car stuck in a neighbor's yard. The details of his sentence were not reported. Mr. Milt Rowland presently maintains his public position as assist city attorney.

The Spokane Police turned the report over to the Spokesman-Review only after Mr. Rowland's plea. The Spokesman-Review wanted the information at the time of incident.

A Supreme Court judge had earlier ruled in the Spokesman-Review's favor, but the decision was overturned by a state appeals court. The Spokesman-Review appealed it to the Supreme Court, who will rule on the crime incidents report access case in about two months.

I find this story interesting because I am torn about the sincerity of both of these parties. One's claim is to protect me and the other's claim is to serve me. I somewhat agree with the Spokesman-Review in that I do want to hear about the possible crimes being committed in the city and my neighborhood. I also know that they want news as early and as sensational as they can get it.

However, I also agree with the Spokane Police Department in that protecting the identity of the innocent is of the utmost importance. The question

in this case is whether everyone enjoys this right of privacy or is it for the chosen few and to cover up the inappropriate behavior of its officers?

City Election Update

BY A. BRADLEY

This is the week for citizens to officially declare themselves as a candidate for the city council. There are three city council positions open. Filing for position # 1 were incumbent Roberta Greene, challenged by David Bray, Gail Howard, Joanne McCann and Robert Schroeder. Filing for position # 2 are Steve Corker, Al French, Joshua Gilstrap, Maury Nollette, Scott Smits, Louise C. Stamper, and Edward Thomas Jr. The declared candidates for position #3 are incumbent Jeff Colliton and Steve Eugster, Judith Gilmore, Barbara Lampert, and Roosevelt Brother Thomas.

Also on the ballot for September 14th will be a 28 million dollar levy proposal for Fire Department improvements and the 14 million dollar park levy. The November 2nd election will feature the strong mayor initiative and other proposed changes to our city government.

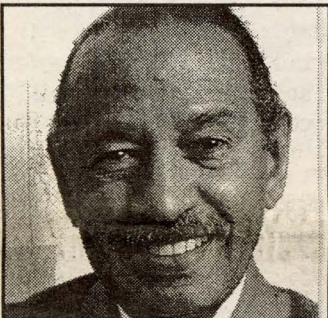
Who will go and who will stay? Be a part of the answer and prepare yourself. The candidates will soon be soliciting your vote.

**Register and vote!
Your voice counts.**

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

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.



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500 S. Stone
- EWU Black Education
Monroe Hall
- FAFB African American Club
- Unity House
Gonzaga University



GOT ROOM FOR ONE MORE?

Washington State Children's Administration's 1997 reports show that more than 17,000 children were cared for in out of home placements as a result of child abuse and neglect. New placements for that year totaled 8,969. There is a critical need for foster and adoptive parents who will rise to the occasion and are for children in out of home placements. Homes are especially needed for medically fragile children, adolescents, teens, children of different ethnic groups and those with other special needs.

You can apply to become a Washington State Licensed Foster Parent if you:

- Are married or single
- Are at least 21 years old
- Have a stable source of income
- Rent or own, and have adequate space and bedrooms
- Can successfully pass the criminal background clearance
- Care about children and want to help them feel safe and loved
- Are able to protect children in a safe and healthy home environment
- Can complete an 18-hour pre-service training and other requirements by the Division of Licensed Resources

1-800-558-3040

Be A Foster Parent

Local Businesses Help "Grow" 5th Annual Unity Celebration

Diverse cultures from throughout the world will be celebrated August 21 at one of Spokane's premiere family events -- the 5th Annual Unity in the Community in the Park Celebration held at Liberty Park. The action starts mid-morning, with the entertainment beginning at noon.

With plenty of activities for both kids and adults, this year's Unity event is the biggest ever, thanks to support from ten local businesses and the newly formed AHANA Business and Professional Association.

This year's theme, "Partnerships in Diversity," reflects a new commitment among businesses to work together on issues of diversity, economics and empowerment, said Ben Cabildo, chair of the Unity planning committee and president of AHANA.

"We believe Spokane can only grow stronger as

we work together to promote a better understanding and support for diversity," said Cabildo.

AHANA stands for African, Hispanic, Asian and Native American.

More than a dozen musical events are planned for this year's Unity celebration -- from gospel music and rap to traditional Filipino dance and classic guitar. Poet and storyteller Stephy Beans also will perform.

Speakers at the noon program include Rev. Lonnie Mitchell of Bethel AME Church, Spokane Mayor John Talbott, and City Councilwoman Roberta Greene. Representatives from the ten sponsoring companies also will be honored.

Free medical screenings will be provided throughout the day by Inland Northwest Health Services, which is holding a health care fair in conjunction with the celebration. In addition, several

companies will have exhibits, and AHANA will be distributing its first directory of minority-owned businesses in the region.

Families can bring their own picnic lunches to the park, or purchase hot dogs and ice cream floats at a concession sponsored by the Citizens League of Greater Spokane. The League will also operate a "dunk tank" with State Representative Jeff Gombosky in the hot seat.

Corporate sponsors for the 5th Unity celebration are: Community Colleges of Spokane; AHANA Business and Professional Association; Avista Corporation; Bethel AME Church; Empire Ford; Inland Northwest Health Services; Metropolitan Mortgage and Securities Co., Inc.; Paine Hamblen Coffin Brooke and Miller, LLP; Pixelmation Internet Technologies; and Washington Trust Bank.

Continued from page 1

Minority Journalists

different arenas of interest, by working as a unit. The question that we should be asking ourselves is: "Why aren't our elected public service officials addressing similar issues with the public in an open forum, solution-based setting?" Maybe the question isn't as important as the answer, because the presence of the attending corporate, government and educational leaders had a profound effect on the development of the conference, and the community.

WSU finally hires Multicultural Director

After a national search, Washington State University found its new director of the Office of Multicultural Student Services right on its own campus last month, appointing Steve Nakata to the post.

Nakata, who came to WSU in 1988, had been serving as interim director of the office since the previous director, Lee Jones, left WSU for Florida State University. Nakata was

UNITY '99 addressed many issues in the media that have come under fire by politicians. UNITY '99 also provided an arena for people to job hunt, but according to one conference goer, the most striking thing about the conference since its inception in 1994 at Atlanta is its growth, economic power and ability to expand. Conference organizers and attendees say that they expect UNITY will expand greatly and continue to address issues that the general public is often left in the dark about.

one of four finalists for the job.

The office includes programs and services to recruit minority students to WSU, help them stay and graduate.

"Steve has shown by example during the interim period that he has the ability, dedication and work ethic to lead this important university effort, serving our students of color," WSU president Sam Smith said.

Continued from page 1

James Farmer dies

movement and began doing battle as early as 1942 with the sit-in at a Chicago coffee house.

The 1961 Freedom Ride, which took Black and white protesters on Greyhound and Trailways buses from Washington, D.C. to Jackson, Miss., was a direct challenge to Jim Crow laws requiring segregation on public transportation.

"We got a front seat on the bus," Farmer said. "We got to sit down at the counter and eat a hot dog. We got to ride where we wanted without being dehumanized by segregation."

Farmer endured a number of beatings and jailings -- 40 days in the Freedom Ride alone -- and barely escaped lynching one night in Louisiana, where he was leading a protest against police brutality.

He took refuge in a funeral home and later got away in the back of a hearse. Writing later in his autobiography, "Lay Bare

the Heart," Farmer would say, "If any man says that he had no fear in the action of the '60s, he is a liar."

Farmer, the son of a preacher, stood on the front lines in the fight against hatred with his hands open.

During divinity school -- he later refused to become ordained because his Methodist congregation was segregated -- Farmer became interested in the philosophy of nonviolence espoused by Mahatma Gandhi during India's fight for independence.

Farmer made nonviolent protest a widespread tool in the Civil Rights movement beginning with the Montgomery bus boycott.

Farmer was largely interested in labor issues and one of his most significant contributions during his years in CORE was his efforts to improve the position of Blacks in the job market and in labor unions.

Realizing African Americans faced disadvantages in schooling and training, Farmer pushed

for "compensatory" action by employers and the government. He approached Lyndon Johnson, who was then the vice president, with these ideas and they later became the basis of what Johnson called "affirmative action," one of the foundation stones of his Great Society.

During the mid-1960's as the movement became more militant and CORE turned away from principles of integration and nonviolence, Farmer left the organization. In 1969 he faced a storm of criticism when he accepted the post of Assistant Secretary of Health Education and Welfare in the Nixon administration. Farmer, who felt Blacks should reach out to all political parties, was given the job of increasing minority participation in government. But he never felt comfortable in the Nixon administration and resigned in 1970.

In later years as diabetes cost him his eyesight and both legs, Farmer con-

tinued to teach a popular course on the history of the Civil Rights movement in which "Lay Bare the Heart" served as the text.

In January 1998, President Clinton presented Farmer with the Medal of Freedom, the highest government honor a civilian may receive.

At the ceremony, before draping the ribbon and medal around Farmer's neck, Clinton said, "He has never sought the limelight, and until today, I frankly think he's never gotten the credit he deserves. His long overdue recognition has come to pass."

Farmer took in his hands the medal he couldn't see and kissed it.

"It feels wonderful," he said.

"James Farmer changed the face of this country," said Val Coleman, a fellow CORE worker and now a professor at Columbia University. "He is the seed from which the Civil Rights movement grew."

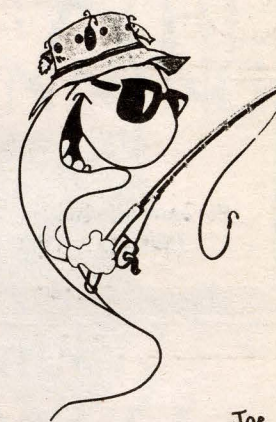
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Planned Parenthood of the Inland Northwest

"Demonstrations are CORE's only weapons. If we talk to wrongdoers and ask them to change their ways, they'll laugh at us if they know we've given up our weapons. If we try to negotiate, we become an amateur Urban League. If we file suit, we become an amateur NAACP or Legal Defense and Education Fund. For CORE to give up demonstrations, even for six months, would be to give up its genius, its reason of life. It might sound our death knell."

James Farmer

Arts and Culture

How much do you make!

Prison of Intelligence

The fugitive citizen-
 Worlds collapsing
 Trying to escape
 the everlasting
 iron-hand of
 the city of stones

Repaying the taxman
 With my life-
 Everyday the world
 takes another
 slice
 of me-

But bastards has
 brothers-
 And fear, the
 monster,
 ready to eat the unwary
 and unfit

And when doors become
 hungry mouths
 and stairways
 infected throats,
 they say time
 is a myth

And death a dream

Marius du Plooy
 lema@dundee.lia.net

A man came home from work late again, tired and irritated, to find his 5-year old son waiting for him at the door.

"Daddy, may I ask you a question?"

"Yeah, sure, what is it?" replied the man.

"Daddy, how much money do you make an hour?"

"That's none of your business. What makes you ask such a thing?" the man said angrily.

"I just want to know. Please tell me, how much do you make an hour?" pleaded the little boy.

"If you must know, I make \$20.00 an hour."

"Oh," the little boy replied, head bowed. Looking up, he said, "Daddy, may I borrow

\$10.00 please?"

The father was furious. "If the only reason you wanted to know how much money I make is just so you can borrow some to buy a silly toy or some other nonsense, you march yourself straight to your room and go to bed. Think about why you're being so selfish. I work long, hard hours everyday and don't have time for such childish games."

The little boy quietly went to his room and shut the door. The man sat down and started to get even madder about the little boy's questioning. How dare he ask such questions only to get some money.

After an hour or so, the man had calmed

down, and started to think he may have been a little hard on his son. Maybe there was something he really needed to buy with that \$10.00 and he really didn't ask for money very often.

The man went to the door of the little boy's room and opened the door.

"Are you asleep son?" he asked.

"No Daddy, I'm awake," replied the boy.

"I've been thinking, maybe I was too hard on you earlier," said the man. "It's been a long day and I took my aggravation out on you. Here's that \$10.00 you asked for."

The little boy sat straight up, beaming. "Oh, thank you Daddy!" he

yelled.

Then, reaching under his pillow, he pulled out some more crumpled up bills. The man, seeing that the boy already had money, started to get angry again.

The little boy slowly counted out his money, then looked up at the man.

"Why did you want more money if you already had some?" the father grumbled.

"Because I didn't have enough, but now I do," the little boy replied. Then he said, "Daddy, I have \$20.00 now. Can I buy an hour of your time?"

Contributed by
 Xcylur Stoakley.

Free guide to films on race

National Video Resources (NVR) has produced Viewing Race, a publication designed to promote the discussion of race and its impact on

American life. The project's goal is to assist national and grassroots organizations, libraries, colleges and local efforts to build community dialogue on

the issues of race, ethnicity and tolerance using independent film and video.

The VideoForum: Viewing Race includes essays by filmmakers and scholars, an annotated videography for reference and teaching use; discount-

ed prices on many of the 73 films and videos in the collection; recommendations for programming and discussion sessions, and a resource list of national organizations engaged in diversity and anti-racism work.

Senior editor is Dr. Chon Noriega of UCLA's Department of Film and Television. He and the staff of NVR managed the publication in collaboration with a panel of filmmakers and educators, as well as a board of over 20 library, academic and institutional advisors.

To order a free copy send your name, address and organizational affiliation to NVR:

By EMAIL:
 ViewingRace@nvr.org
 By FAX: (212) 274-0284
 By MAIL: National Video Resources, 73 Spring St, Suite 606, New York NY 10012

John Lane receives award



John Lane, right, with Tom and Beverly Henry

John Lane III of Yeadon Pennsylvania, one of the paper's most far-flung faithful readers, recently received an award for color prints

from his camera club. This fall he will begin work on a degree in business at the Univ. of Pennsylvania where he also works. Best of luck, John!

Rhythm Camp for Kids

August 14, 1999
 10 A.M. - 3 P.M

Fees:

Child (7-13) - \$25

Child with
 Parent/Adult Partner:
 \$40

Location:

Unitarian Universalist
 Church
 4340 W. Ft. George
 Wright Dr. Spokane WA

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 & ECCC Present

Fashion & Variety Show

August 14th 1999

6:30 pm

East Central Community Center Gym

Donation:

Adults \$5.00 Youth under 13 \$2.00

5 and under Free

Get tickets at

East Central Community Center

When
 you
 know
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 know,
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E V E N T S

Children's Art Classes
Session IV Aug 2-12;
Session V Aug 16-26. Mon -
Thur. Painting, drawing,
ceramics, fiber arts, bead-
ing, sculpture, and more.
Call 328-0900 for schedule
and cost.

Group Drumming Class
Aug 5 Thurs 7-8:30 pm First
meeting of 8 week class.
Moon Shadow 2 N Howard,
Spokane. \$80 for 8 weeks.
Call 509-624-7573.

Spokane Brass Works
Aug 7 Sat 4 pm Spokane
Symphony musicians play
at Hillyard Festival, Sharply
Harmon Park. Free. Call
326-33136

Plateau Indian Market
Aug 7 Sat. 10 am - 8 pm 19
Artists booths, demonstra-
tions, live entertainment, sto-
rytelling, food booths.
Browne's Addition, Coeur
d'Alene Park, Spokane.
Call 456-3931.

**Full Gospel Mission
Thirty-ninth General
Conference**
Aug 12-15 Thurs - Sun.
Looking Toward the Future
Without Fear of the Past,
1912 E First Ave.
Call 535-5064.

**Washington State
Senior Games.**
Aug 12-15 Thurs - Sun.
Spokane Community
College. Call 465-9043.

Rhythm Camp for Kids
Aug 14 Sat. 10 am - 3 pm
\$25. Unitarian Church 4340
W. Ft. George Wright Dr.
Call 509-327-8303.

**Spokane Falls NW
Indian Encampment
and Pow Wow**
Aug 27 - 29. Cancer, drum-
mers, crafts, food.
Riverfront Park, Spokane.
Call 535-0886.

**5th Annual Unity in
the Community in the
Park**
Aug 21 Sat. 10 am - 6 pm
Liberty Park.

**Breast Cancer Support
Group**
Aug 4, 18 Wed 6 - 8 pm.
5719 N. Lidgerwood. Call
325-8716.

**Adolescent Support
Group**
Aug 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Mon 5:30
- 7 pm. For children coping
with chronic illness in the
family. Holy Family
Hospital. Call 325-8716.

Babysitting Basics
Aug 7 Sat 8:45 am - 3:45 pm
Class for 11 - 13 year old
boys and girls. Holy Family
Hospital Health Ed. Center.
\$20. Call 835-8960 to regis-
ter

**Summer Sizzle
Concerts**

Fri 11:30 am - 1:30 pm Wall
Street, Spokane. Free.

Aug 6 Christopher Lucas

Aug 13 Sweet Fancy Moses

Aug 20 Corimba - Coeur
d'Alene Marimba

Aug 27 Planetary Refugees

**Two Slim & the
Taidraggers, Spokane
Jazz Orchestra Combo**
Aug 16 5 - 9 pm Live After
5. Grand Opening
Riverpark Square. Call 456-
0580.

Festival at Sandpoint
Aug 6 - 15 Spokane
Symphony, Jazz, Judy
Collins, Nitty Gritty Dirt
Band, Peter Frampton. Call
325-SEAT for tickets.

Coming in the Fall

**Spokane County
Domestic Violence
Consortium Service**
Sept 9 Thurs 8 am - 1:30 pm
Thurs. provider fair.
Mukogawa Ft. Wright
Commons, 4000 W
Randolph Rd, Spokane. Call
487-6783.

**Please
VOTE!!!
Sept 14 Tues**

**People of Color in
Predominantly White
Institutions**
Oct. 15-16 Fri - Sat.
Conference. University of
Nebraska, Lincoln.
[http://www.unl.edu/cont-
ed/acpp/people99/](http://www.unl.edu/cont-ed/acpp/people99/)

Race Relations Task Force Meetings

Hello. Forwarding the meeting schedule, as received from Jacinta Connell with Gonzaga University. Her telephone number is 323-6102 should you have questions.

Held first Tuesday of the month at 11:00 am - 1:00 pm.

Tuesday Library 09/07/99	Tuesday Library 12/07/99	Tuesday Library 03/07/00	Tuesday Library 06/06/00
Tuesday Riverbend 10/05/99	Tuesday Library 01/04/00	Tuesday Library 04/04/00	
Tuesday Library 11/02/99	Tuesday Library 02/01/00	Tuesday Riverbend 05/02/00	

**Maureen Rieckers
Human Rights
Office 625-6266**

Habitat asks for bids on homes

Habitat for Humanity-Spokane is accepting applications from people wishing to bid for one the homes on the site of the future Fred Meyer Store in East Central Spokane. The deadline for submitting a pre-qualifying application is August 9.

Those wishing to have a tour and make a bid on one of the homes need to request an application by phone, or drop by the Habitat office, 728 N. Napa St. and pick one up. The homes are located in a two-block area including the 400 block of S. Thor, 3200 & 3300 block of E. 4th, 3200 block of E. 5th and 400 block of S. Ralph.

Selected homes will be sold to the public by Habitat-Spokane through a pre-qualification process to

determine serious buyers. Homes will be selectively shown after the pre-qualification date to serious buyers only. Bids will be accepted at that time from pre-qualified applicants only.

The highest bidder will be responsible for moving the home off the Fred Meyer site at their own expense by October 31, 1999. If you are interested in purchasing any of the homes, contact Habitat-Spokane by calling 534-2552 and request a pre-qualification application. The application form is due to Habitat-Spokane by August 9th, 1999.

Other homes not adequate for moving will be salvaged and the salvaged material sold at a later date.

*The African
American Voice*

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Reality Check

Commission seeks to build respect for cultural differences

Reprinted from *Catholic Health World*, July 15, 1998

As smoke filtered from the patient's room at Sacred Heart Medical Center, a pungent odor filled the air. A concerned nurse summoned help. Minutes later, three security officers burst into the room and confronted the visitors there. Instead of the drugs and destruction they suspected, they found a Native American patient and his family conducting a "smudging" ceremony, in which sage leaves are ignited and left to smolder in a container. In their culture, the time-honored ritual - accompanied by prayer - is healing.

This incident illustrates the breaches that can occur when people do not understand one another's cultural differences. It also prompted Sacred Heart Medical Center's Commission on Cultural Diversity, established five years ago, to develop a safety protocol for the use of smoke and open flame for religious ceremonies.

The misunderstanding with the Native American

family reinforced the need to create a culture of understanding. The commission's purpose goes deeper than dealing with individual examples of insensitivity, however. Made up of 15 people from many areas throughout the medical center, the commission seeks to transform the work environment so that staff and patients feel comfortable, regardless of their race, color, or creed. Commission members hope, too, that the medical center can serve as a model to the community.

Attention to diversity issues has not always been prominent in this town where 94 percent of the population is of Caucasian, Euro-American descent. But many fear that as the city's ethnic base grows, the potential for cultural clashes will increase as well. One Sacred Heart spokesperson noted that neo-Nazi groups operate nearby.

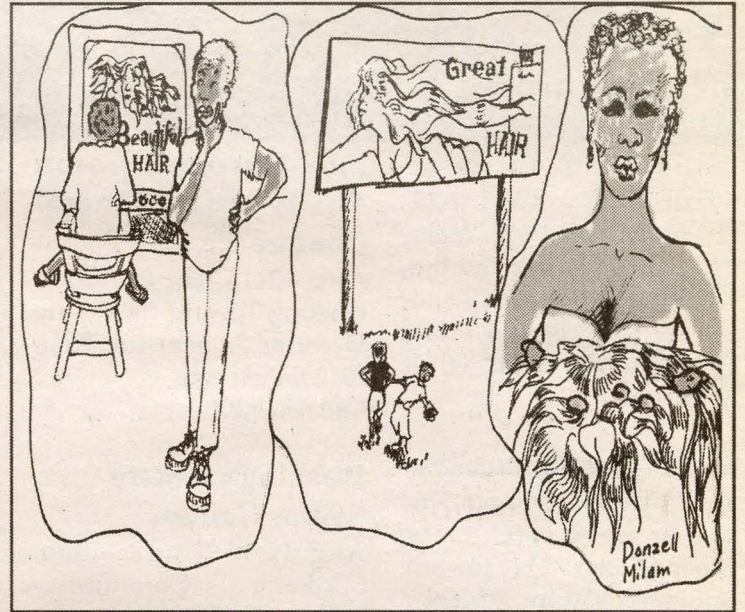
"There is a conservatism here in Spokane - things are underneath the surface," said Pete Kleweno, a registered

nurse, program director for case management services, and a commission member. "Our staff is just a microcosm. We have to wake ourselves up."

The 15 commission members began by hiring a consultant to help them understand the issues. They invited the elders and leaders from the five major ethnic groups in Spokane - Russian, Hmong, Vietnamese, Hispanic, and African American people - to serve as a focus group, answering questions such as, If you came to Sacred Heart, how could we help you feel more comfortable? and What could we do to incorporate your spiritual rituals and customs that you believe help healing? From there, they launched an awareness campaign for administrative staff, employees, and physicians.

"We want Sacred Heart to be a place where all feel welcomed and respected in their diversity," said Sr. Monica Ann Lucas, SC, director of chaplaincy services and commission cochair, "a place where people feel free to express to us their cultural rituals and needs, as a way of helping in their healing of mind, body, and soul."

The medical center



encourages openness among employees as well. A series of focus group interviews, for example, uncovered some troubling experiences: negative expectations about an ethnic employee's potential, the inability of supervisors to handle intercultural situations, and verbal harassment in the form of ethnic jokes, racial slurs, and name calling.

One African American nurse said she was supervised more closely than her white counterparts. Patients referred to her as "the black girl," "the dark-skinned girl," and "the chocolate nurse."

As painful as those experiences are, they are also opportunities for learning, according to Alicia Steed, a registered

nurse who cochairs the commission. Sacred Heart has incorporated some of those experiences into a video that communicates what it feels like to be on the receiving end of prejudice. The video is an integral part of in-house educational sessions.

In addition to the focus groups, the commission conducted a survey, which indicated that staff had limited exposure to other cultures. But staff also indicated an openness to learn, Steed said.

The medical center has implemented other ideas aimed at building respect for cultural diversity:

- Lunchtime talks by a variety of religious and cultural leaders are recapped in the weekly

Continued on page 20

Opinion

KHALIL ISLAM

This January, after significant debate and public discussion, the Spokane City Council passed a Human Rights Ordinance. This ordinance, originally drafted by community volunteers and members of the Spokane Human Rights Commission, was in response to a mayoral inquiry on ways the City of Spokane could limit discrimination to all members of its community. After significant research and investigations, the group drafted and brought forward a proposed Human Rights Ordinance.

While the drafting of the ordinance was advertised and input was requested from across the community, people opposed to equal rights did not take the opportunity to come to the table for discussion. Only after the Human Rights Ordinance was brought to the City Council for discussion did the opponents turn out. Armed with an agenda of either causing the ordinance to fail alto-

gether or removing reference to gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender people, the opposition came out in full force.

Their ammunition? A hateful array of false information and slander. Council Member Jeff Colliton, on the night that the Human Rights Ordinance passed, called the slurs and slanders offered in opposition to the ordinance "homophobic attacks." Opponents of the Human Rights Ordinance brought forth everything from the myth that gay men are child molesters (fact: the overwhelming majority of child molesters - over 95% - are heterosexual men) to the myth that gay people want civil rights to more easily recruit others into the "gay lifestyle."

The opposition also spread myths about the purpose and scope of the ordinance. The incorrect idea that the ordinance would give "special rights" to gay people was one of the primary myths of the Human Rights Ordinance.

In reality, all the ordinance did was make it illegal to deny employment, deny rental and sale of property, and deny access to public accommodations to gay people (as well as other classes protected in the HRO). There are no special preferences given to gay people. No bonus points. No recourse for those who are denied access to those three things for legitimate reasons. No "special rights."

But just what are "special rights" anyhow? A street survey in Spokane led me to believe that perhaps a definition for special rights is privileges or benefits that are not earned. None of the members of the unscientific street survey considered obtaining a job that an individual is qualified for and able to do a special right. None of them considered renting an apartment or purchasing a house, if you can afford the rent or purchase price, a special right. None of them considered using public facilities (busses,

restaurants, shopping centers, and parks) to be a special right. So if these are not really special rights, why do members of our community feel comfortable denying these basic rights to people based on their sexual orientation?

Several members of the opposition urged the Spokane City Council not to support sexual orienta-

tion in the Human Rights Ordinance because their perception is that people choose to be gay. In closer examination of the ordinance, some of the other categories of protection are religion and marital status, both of which are choices that people make. Are we to start denying rights based on perceived choic-

Continued on page 7

And God said

In Response to "Fit for a King", *South Side Voice*, *Spokesman-Review* July 29, 1999.

Lonnie, Lonnie, Come on! I can't imagine God envisioning your thought processes to go forth and discourse, in church, upon the naming of a street to glorify a mere mortal - which act has been reduced to a token gesture by our government. When, if ever, has a stretch of pavement bearing a name impacted the lives of people? (Have you seen Martin Luther King streets in other cities?)

Maybe God's vision to you is to utilize Martin Luther King's methods to restimulate "SpoKKKane"

and the Black community. It would prove more effective to instill a desire in our Black community to participate on every level possible. Period! Including the 182 member congregation. Martin Luther King was a great man, and it would behoove any man to follow his example in life, but we are not to set up idols before God!

In this way a person seeking public office would not need to "sit on the fence" with his or her opinion until after the election, for fear of losing votes on either side.

And, was it really necessary to mention which row and pew was occupied by any individual?

Laurie Montgomery

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Sues Kaiser

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has filed a discrimination lawsuit under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 against Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corporation. The suit, filed in US

District Court in Spokane, charges the company with unlawful employment practices based on sex.

The suit alleges that Kaiser violated federal law in its use of the Physical Capabilities Exam, a pre-employment physical test,

which discriminates against female applicants for labor positions. The Commission alleges that Kelly Flynn and a class of females applicants were denied work at Kaiser's Trentwood facility near Spokane, because of their

inability to pass the Physical Capabilities Exam. The complaint seeks monetary and injunctive relief.

Commenting on the lawsuit, EEOC Seattle District Director Jeanette Leino said, "At Kaiser, practically all men who took the test could pass the Physical Capabilities Exam. Many women could not pass the test and were

then denied job opportunities. Where employees use tests that result in the exclusion of a particular group of job applicants, as was the case with females at Kaiser, the employer is required to show that the challenged test is related to the job in question and necessary for its business, and that no alternatives to using the test are available."

Continued on page 8

No! Discrimination

Continued from page 6

es, where do we draw the line? Is it then ok to discriminate based on religious choice and the decision to marry as it apparently is to discriminate against someone based on their perceived choice of sexual orientation?

So where is the Ordinance now? It has been law in the City of Spokane since January. Since it's passage, a conservative Christian focused organization called, ironically, Equal Rights -Not Special Rights requested that the City Council remove sexual ori-

entation from the ordinance. Amazingly enough, the request failed - they were unanimously told to go through the initiative process. This process requires that the opposition to the Human Rights Ordinance gather just under 3,000 signatures of residents of Spokane. That group of people recently turned in 5,000 signatures of people who do not support equal rights and will be requesting that the Spokane City Council make the matter of sexual orientation in the Human Rights Ordinance a ballot measure.

In answer to the efforts of Equal Rights -

Not Special Rights, a political action committee has formed to defend the ordinance.

No! on Discrimination, a coalition of local people from a variety of backgrounds formed and has been active in educating members of the Spokane community by participating in campaign canvassing. The goals of No! on Discrimination are: 1. To build a broad-based coalition of people from the Inland Northwest who believe in fair treatment for all people, 2. To defeat the proposed ballot measure, 3. To ensure that Spokane does not ensure discrimination and there-

fore supports a healthy environment in which to do business, and 4. To remind everyone that Spokane is a wonderful and fair-minded place in which to raise their families. Members of No! on Discrimination believe that they can help defeat the proposed ballot measure based on the result of early canvassing and the history of support that Spokane has for human rights initiatives.

The Human Rights Ordinance is an important piece of Spokane's commitment to social justice. This law does not create any kind of "special rights"

or "preferential treatment" for anyone. In fact it only opens touches the tip of the iceberg on the oppression that is so a part of Spokane and the surrounding region that people like Richard Butler feel free to invite their brethren to come into our neighborhoods to roost.

People interested in volunteering with the No! on Discrimination campaign can email nodspokane@juno.com, call the NOD office at (509) 532-9803, or write to NOD at No! On Discrimination - PO BOX 922 - Spokane, WA 99270-0922.

Lessons at lunch

BY JOY PECK

One doesn't have to leave a country to be an exile from it. A person may live an entire life as an exile in the midst of those who have decreed them to be of lesser importance, or even of no importance at all.

Although my step-grandmother was a teacher of teachers and an active community worker, it was the teachers of exiles she taught and the community of exiles she served.

By the time I was born in 1947, all four of my biological grandparents were dead, but my late paternal grandfather's second wife remained and so was the only grandparent I ever knew.

In the 1920's, several years after Granddad's wife had died, he married a beautiful, graceful woman of mixed parentage - Native American, black and white.

She was a charming woman with a welcoming smile, a professor of history at an all-black college, a possessor of great depth, and gentleness under pressure. She was gifted with a lilting soprano voice that the church members admired.

But she believed that

all the education and character in the world could not free her from her exile, that she had to wait on the slow march of time and progress, the unfolding of events, and ultimately, the consent of those who had created the exile to lift it. She was a woman of color in America in the first half of the 20th century.

Even into her 70's, she was still growing more beautiful, her shoulders never slumping, her manner never rushed.

She always seemed to have time for every chore, service to others, and still found time for problems that needed listening to.

Such a person is an inspiration and there are many moments in our short time together that deserve telling, but one stands out. It turned my life upside-down, inward and around.

It was Indianapolis, 1952. I was 5 years old and we were on our monthly shopping trip downtown. Shopping with Grandma was a different experience than shopping with my mother... we went to a narrower range of stores, she did not go into the store restrooms with me, and she always gave me the money with which to pay clerks, bus drivers, and cashiers.

This was how I learned to count money before I began first grade.

After the shopping was completed, I began to wheedle and pester her to buy me the fancy-style hot dogs sold at the dime stores. We had often had Cokes at the downtown stores and I liked sitting on the high stools, feeling quite grown up. Grandma always stood behind me to "make sure I didn't tip backward and fall."

When she finally agreed, I ascended the counter stool not unlike a monarch who believed in the divine right of kings,



very proud of my victory.

As always, I ordered for the both of us and, as Grandma liked me to do, put the money on the counter so the waitress could see I could pay.

All the while I was asking her to sit beside me so we could talk, and telling her I was old enough to sit on the stool without her in back of me. somewhere along the way she turned serious and firm in her insistence to drink her cola

standing up.

I remember looking to the man behind the counter, suggesting he help me win the point, confident that he could not refuse me.

"Your nanny can't sit at the counter," he blurted out.

"She's not my nanny," I shot back...my bullets as good as his, "She's my grandmother!"

"We don't serve her kind at the counter." His last shot hit home.

I turned and looked at this beautiful, gracious woman, and suddenly too many realizations flooded my head to ever remember what I actually grasped then and how many came in the following hours and days. We silently left the store and went home.

On the streetcar she gave her usual loving counsel..."There will always be people who are unkind and unwise. That means they need more love, not less, There are rules that make no sense, but following them shows even more respect for the law than obeying just the ones easy to understand. Unloving attitudes from others can only hurt us if we give up our own loving attitude."

But they were only words that day and took years to fathom.

That was the day I began to notice that people of color were spoken to and

treated differently, seldom looked directly in the eye, and often obviously ignored when waiting for service.

I was expected by society to learn and follow the "proper" lunch-counter etiquette... to adopt the rules of my culture. Instead, I became somewhat of a rebel and during the '60's, would join in the marches for civil rights.

I leaned that the oppressed must be more insightful and understanding that the oppressor to survive intact; that rather than being strong, bullies are usually weak people; and that prejudice is a form of ignorance.

My grandmother was deeply in love with America and was as full of patriotism as anyone in the land of the free and home of the brave. But she was not free in the same way that I, an untutored, willful white child, was free.

She died when I was about 8 years old, but she had already given me an understanding of the principles of tolerance and nonviolence.

I had learned about injustice and observed her strength during adversity and prejudice, and carry with me her hope that the lunch-counter mentality, in whatever modern forms it appears, will end and America will finally free its exiles.

Continued from page 7

Kaiser sued

The EEOC enforces Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which prohibits employment discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin; the Age Discrimination in Employment Act; the Equal Pay Act; prohibi-

tions against discriminations affecting individuals with disabilities in the federal sector; sections of the Civil Rights Act of 1991, and Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in the private sector and state and local governments.

Infant Crisis Bank

The Infant Crisis Bank has recently been recognized as a Discovery by the Health Improvement Partnership (HIP). The Infant Crisis Bank provides items such as cribs, car seats, high chairs, play pens and baby clothing to low-income families and individuals. The service is available to all infants, age birth to two years.

The Infant Crisis Bank opened in May. It is part of the Mission Community Outreach Center. Infant items are given to qualified individuals as available, with the agreement they will not be given away or sold and will be used by the individuals for a period of three years. Free baby formula and diapers are also available.

"All infants deserve to grow up with their basic necessities met," said Walt Shields, Executive

Director of the Mission Community Outreach Center. "The Infant Crisis Bank is a unique outreach program which provides these necessities to the Spokane community."

The Bank is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1:30 to 5:00. Volunteers and donations are needed. For more information, please contact Walt Shields at 536-1084.

HIP is a growing alliance of citizens and organizations working to make Spokane County a healthier community. HIP believes every citizen, business and organization can make a positive impact on community health, and they are committed to supporting and helping those efforts through the Discovery program.

Stoakley's Rants.....

OK here it is. Since the creation of this paper my father, our intrepid and persistent publisher, has been after me to make a regular contribution to the AAV. As those of you who know me are well aware I have an opinion on just about everything. Dad has been after me to put them on paper. So here they are.

Disclaimer: All views expressed are my own *OPINION!* (unless otherwise noted). I reserve the right to change my mind, play devil's advocate, waffle, or (God forbid) be wrong. If you disagree with anything I say GREAT. Feel free to respond with counter arguments, examples, or opinions of your own - either through letters to the editor or to my email: AAVrants@aol.com. I like nothing better than a good argument. I will make a reasonable attempt to back up any statistics, "facts", or quotes I use. Anything not supported may be taken as opinion, conjecture, or estimation.

Fear the Nerd

BY STOAKLEY LLOYD

Caution: What I'm about to say may sound heartless or unsympathetic. The truth hurts: GET OVER IT!

Well folks, it's happened. White suburban kids have started shooting each other. After decades of "inner city" violence, teen violence and gun control have become a real issue. Even the right wing, gun-toting, pick-up driving, John Deer-hat-wearing Republicans are being forced to take a long hard look at where their beliefs are taking this nation. But that's a whole other rant that I'll save for later. What I want to talk about this time is why it happens and what can be done.

Recently the House passed "The Ten Commandments Defense Act" an amendment to the Juvenile Crime Bill that would allow the ten commandments to be posted in classrooms and other public buildings in an effort to curb violence in schools. Now all arguments about church and state aside, I must say that this is the most pointless piece of legislation enacted in recent memory. This is nothing more than an attempt to use a tragedy to gain support from the right and ease the pain of new gun control laws that would likely lose representatives votes from that sector. I would put these postings in the same category as the warnings on cigarettes. No one with enough education to read the warning is unaware that cigarettes are bad for you. In the words of Dennis Leary "You could put cigarettes in a black pack with a skull and cross bones on the front and call them tumors and people would line up around the block to buy them". Likewise all of these kids were completely aware that killing is wrong. Knowledge of social and/or religious morals is not the problem.



It's not like the kids where shocked when the cops showed up. No one is pleading ignorance. So post away, Bible thumpers. "Thou shalt not kill" didn't do the Native Americans, the Moors, or the slaves much good. How is it going to help our kids?

Now why is it that these most recent suburban shootings have taken place? The cause, at least in part, can easily be seen in the photos of the perpetrators and statements by survivors. How many of these kids were the captain of the football team or class president?

HMMMM, could it be NONE?

Yes, that's it. All of them were skinny, bookish, smart, and by common standards unattractive. In short, they were nerds. By the admission of their classmates, all of them were ridiculed and ostracized on a regular basis. Now, as it has been for centuries social acceptance has been a critical factor in the self-esteem of the young. All the notes reading "no one likes me so I'll kill myself" throughout history could probably be stacked from here to the moon. Until recent years suicide and silence have been the only options open to the nerd. The people who do the taunting and other abuse are most often larger and more numerous than the victim, so retaliation, physical or otherwise, was out of the question until now. The easy availability of guns has changed

that. You see. with an AK-47 in hand and a full clip a 98 lb. weakling could take on the San Francisco 49ers and 10 black belts all alone. A gun is the great equalizer.

I can sympathize with these kids. Until high school I was unpopular on a grand scale. My three friends, the "computer geek", the "hippie", and the "fat" kid, spent many a late night plotting the hypothetical demise of the jocks who kicked proverbial sand in our faces. I would NEVER say that what these kids did was right, but I do understand why they did it. Even the smallest dog will bite you if you kick it enough.

So what can be done? Well the true power to change this lies with the kids themselves. Now I'm not going to preach about the golden rule or ask why we can't all just be friends. That is what kids have been told since time began and it hasn't helped. It's time to appeal to kids on the grounds of self preservation. They must be taught that they have a vested interest in other people's self esteem. It's a real short mental hop from "I'm miserable I'll kill myself!" to "I'm miserable and its your fault so I'll kill you!". If I hate myself why should I care about you? The most dangerous person in the world is someone with nothing to lose.

So kids, next time you feel the need to shout geek, nerd or freak at someone, or a nerd asks you on a date, stop and think. In most of these cases the perpetrators warned friends to stay home or stay away on the day of the shootings. Even if you can't stand them for what ever reason, would you rather be one of the forewarned or one of the victims?

Stoakley Lloyd is a 23 year old graduate of The University of Oklahoma with a B.A. in Philosophy.

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Remembering the real John F. Kennedy, Jr.

EARL OFARI HUTCHINSON

I don't think I've seen as many of you in one place since they announced the results of my first bar exam.

This off the cuff quip by John F Kennedy, Jr. was his way of showing his displeasure at the mass media's glutinous feeding frenzy after his failure to pass the New York bar exam in 1989. Kennedy had spent most of his adult years trying not to indulge the media's lustful attempt to shove down the public's throat the image of him as the crown prince, heir to Camelot, and an American icon. He thought he had found ways to beat the media's ploy. He quietly became a social and political activist.

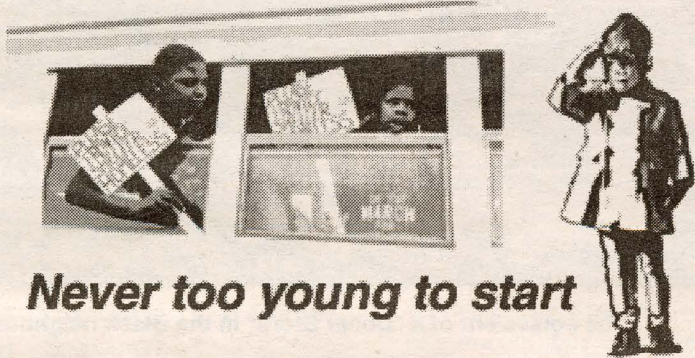
He warned about the dangers of environmental destruction. He founded Reaching Up an organization dedicated to assisting the poor and developmentally disabled youth through scholarships and grants. He established an educational foundation to bankroll programs to challenge South African apartheid.

He also tutored low income children, served as a Peace Corps volunteer, started a politically savvy magazine, and founded the Profiles in Courage Award that was given to individuals for their service to humanity. In a back door rebuke to Hollywood he said that he hoped that one day the ceremony for the award would be as big as

the Academy Awards ceremonies. He wisely resisted the pleas of Democratic party regulars to run for an office, any office. He understood that they were more interested in exploiting his name and image rather than his talents.

The sensible personal

his significant social and political contributions. From the start he was ripe for the tabloid pickings of the press. It decided that the public had an insatiable appetite for every tidbit of rumor and gossip about his and his family's private lives, and that's what the public got.



Never too young to start

decisions he made about his life and his involvement in social and political causes have been drowned out in the ad nauseum deluge of mind numbing references from the TV network talking heads to him as the most eligible hunk, gossip snipping about his glamour wedding, endless tales of his romantic links with Hollywood starlets, and dredging up the sordid saga of the drug, alcohol, sex, violence, and reckless living escapades of the other Kennedy family members. These were the same things that the media pounded away on when he was alive.

Kennedy probably wouldn't have been too surprised by the downplaying or flat-out omissions by the TV networks, major news weeklies, and newspapers of

And why not.

The National Enquirer, Star, the Examiner, and the other tabloids have successfully parlayed gossip, innuendo, rumor, half-truths, and outright lies into hugely profitable empires. They have millions of devoted readers. Their market continues to expand. More people read the tabloids than read the Los Angeles Times, New York Times, or Washington Post. More Americans get their "news" from Extra and Rescue 911 rather than from the three major network evening news programs.

But the tabloids exploited the life and now death of JFK, Jr. for cash and public titillation. They don't pretend that they are informing or educating the public. The mainstream press does. It

kids itself that it is a public spirited benefactor satisfying the public's seeming bottomless need to know about JFK, Jr.

The mass media has honed and refined the technique of icon creation and celebrity image making and enhancement with the O.J. Simpson case, the Monica Lewinsky-Clinton sex frolics, and the Princess Di tragedy. News gathering is of course, a business and sensational news does sell. TV and magazine advertisers depend on those increased sales to more effectively market their products. Publishers run the stories and the TV networks air the news and features that they think will boost sales and attract greater ad revenue. The JFK, Jr. tragedy is certainly a moving and compelling human interest story. In the coming weeks

he will be featured in magazine and newspaper cover story after cover story and TV news clips and specials after news clips and specials. The political and social contributions JFK, Jr. made battling apartheid, homelessness, educational neglect, and environmental devastation will be a scant footnote deeply buried beneath the hunk, Kennedy family curse, heir to Camelot, and the crown prince spin.

In 1992 Kennedy told an interviewer that he wanted to create something on his own terms. The ultimate tragedy is that despite his best efforts the media preferred to create him on its own terms. And it won't stop with his death.

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

Back-to-School

Photos Needed

The Spokesman-Review is looking for photos of kids - and parents, too - as they head off to school - kindergarten, middle or high school, and college.

Pictures will be published in the IN Life section on August 29.

The Spokesman-Review is looking for diversity so all of our region's ethnic communities are reflected.

Send your snapshots by August 20 with your phone number and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

School Photos, IN Life
The Spokesman-Review
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Hate crimes, real and statistical

When the Washington Association of Sheriff's and Police Chiefs released the latest figures on crime statistics the other week, the numbers for Spokane were all over the bar chart.

Violent crimes and property crimes in the city were up 9.1 percent in 1998 compared to the previous year.

Murders were down 71 percent in the same time span.

Robberies down 29 percent. Vehicle thefts down 27 percent. Rape reports down 12 percent.

But when it comes to numbers, hate crimes have been left without a context. The police association's figures show 222 reported hate/bias crimes in the entire state in 1998. No figures were provided for comparison.

But then what do numbers mean when it's 8 o'clock on a July Friday night -- just the other side of a weekend from when the crime statistics are released -- and a 6-foot tall, 240-pound man with Aryan tattoos starts yelling racial insults and pulls out a five-foot chunk of chain and starts swinging it around while you are

waiting for your bus at the STA Plaza?

The man, identified as Edward Scott O'Brien, was reported to have assaulted a woman near the Bon Marche in downtown Spokane on the night of July 16. According to a police report, O'Brien then went to the STA Plaza, began shouting racial slurs until police came and pulled out the length of chain -- with a lock and a sharp piece of metal at one end -- and twirled it over his head while advancing on a police officer even though the officer had drawn his gun.

A 17-year-old girl jumped in front of O'Brien and yelled at the officer not to shoot. Another officer hit O'Brien with pepper spray. O'Brien then ran from the STA Plaza, chased by the police, who were chased by the 17-year-old girl shouting obscenities at them, the police report says.

O'Brien and the girl were both arrested.

Is this the reality of hate crime, the sense of menace and of being afraid -- or at least on guard -- in a public place? How will this register on a chart?

Pond Jumping



Photo by Patrice Williamson

The equivalent of a "Dollar Store" in the Black neighborhood of Brittany in London

BY PATRICE S. WILLIAMSON

After months of saving all my pennies, this summer I loaded up my camera and packed my bags for a three week adventure on the other side of the pond. I went to London, England.

You're Going Alone?

Before the trip more than a few of my wide eyed friends looked at me and said, "You're going all by yourself?" in a "Girl you must be crazy" tone of voice. Admittedly I was a bit nervous about leaving the country by myself because I'd never left Spokane without friends or my parents. However, once I got to London I found that traveling alone is great because I was on my own schedule. I didn't have to worry about spending time in places that didn't interest me or rushing in certain shops because my sister (or whomever) is bored and wants to leave.

On the top level of a double-decker tour bus I met a girl not much older than myself who was from Ohio. She was backpacking across Europe by herself and had already been to several countries in which English wasn't spoken.

Although she only spoke English she said she used sign language to get what she needed and never had a problem. She told me that as a single female one has to be careful, especially at night. But that is true everywhere.

No Pictures Please

I brought ten rolls of film with me but because I went to a lot of touristy places like museums and castles I only used three. I can't count how many times I was greeted at the

door of a historical site with a poster of a large camera covered by a large red letter x. Luckily the exits of most sites force tourists to leave through an expensive gift shop where they can purchase prints and postcards of the sites for exorbitant amounts of money.

How thoughtful.

"American Men Are Just Horrible"

Seeing television images of African-American in the UK reinforced the need for more positive, accurate depiction of our lives. The level of damage that has been done by stereotypical depiction was clarified during a conversation with a Jamaican born hairdresser named Sheila. As she concluded a story about an old beau she added, "Of course, American men are just horrible." *What?*

I've heard similar statements a countless number of times in Spokane, but from the mouth of a foreigner it just sounded so wrong. I found out that her perception was based mostly on the media because I was one of the few African-Americans she'd actually met. With Destiny's Child crooning "Can you pay my bills good for nothing type of brother" and 702 referring to men as property, it's easier to understand Sheila's mindset. This misconception can't all be blamed on women. A couple of times I heard rapper Jermaine Dupree spitting romantic lyrics like "If I buy you a drink you're coming home with me." This too doesn't do much for the black male image.

They Hate Americans

I was warned that some Britons don't fancy tourists from the US but I found the British to be very helpful and nice. Surprisingly, it was me that began to hate some Americans' attitudes.

Because certain planes don't ever seem to leave the airport travelers can become anxious but shouting, "The plane is late again, what kind of country is this?!" like an angry American male did at the Gatwick airport in England is never appropriate.

Also it would be nice if some people could keep their bigotry to themselves.

At St. Paul's Cathedral I overheard two teenage American boys warning two girls to, "Watch out for those Italians, we hear they're pretty bad."

And finally, I saw plenty of Americans practically shouting so that everyone around them could hear their American accents. This isn't rude, it's just incredibly stupid.

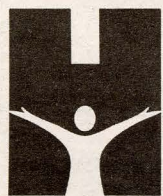
If this type of stuff goes on all year long it's obvious why "they hate Americans".

Like Dorothy said "I had a great time in London but it took some getting used to because I didn't like English food and there were just so many people. I really enjoyed the day trips that I took to smaller towns outside of the city because the English countryside is lovely and much quieter than the city. Despite most everything being ridiculously expensive I found some deals in the many markets within the city.

I would love to go there again, but I'm glad to be home.

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Building Community

In a community such as Spokane where the African American population is dispersed throughout the city, it is important to build a sense of community. One of the first criterion for developing a community is to know its members. With the encouragement of President Bill Robinson of Whitworth College and

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

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

Community Profile: La' Brenda Hill

TRACY LARSON,
WHITWORTH COLLEGE

La' Brenda Hill dreamt of becoming an elementary school teacher while growing up in Fayetteville, N.C. She wanted to encourage young children to shoot for the stars and realize their full potential.

Hill's mother was her biggest supporter, encouraging her to work hard and telling her that if she could believe it she could achieve it. Her dream of becoming an educator was realized, but not exactly as she had pictured it as a child.

Today she works as a Human Resources Representative, responsible for recruiting the majority of faculty, administrative, and professional exempt personnel for Community Colleges of Spokane. At the same time she encourages others to dream and reach for the stars by showing everyone it is okay to dream. She does this by getting to know young people and helping them to set goals and through those goals they set together, they are able to reach the stars.

The best part of moving to the Northwest for Hill was "meeting different people and interacting with the



culture and contributing to diversification of the Community Colleges of Spokane."

Hill has lived in this community for two years and still remembers the decision to accept the job, which meant leaving her family in Mississippi.

While recalling this decision, her cheery voice seemed to get lost in a wave of reflection, but she quickly recovered when relaying the positive aspects of this leap of faith.

"This made me appreciate my family and what's important in life," said Hill, a wife of 28 years, a mother of three, and a grandmother of six.

Hill has applied her roles of grandmother, mother, wife, and daughter to the committees she serves. She is a positive role model for the children by spending time with them and letting them know

there is someone that cares. This is especially true for the minority children in Spokane, she believes.

"I was one of ten children and my mother told every one of us to set positive goals and that we could do anything," she said.

Hill stands only 4'11" and 1/2, but her heart is as large as the expanse between us and the stars she encourages everyone to reach for.

She has become involved in almost as many organizations as her mother had children. Though she has only lived in this community for two years, serving groups such as Blacks in Government, the Task Force on Race Relations, People of Color Committee, Unity in the Community, Diversity Recruitment Committee, Society for Human Resources Management, African American Women in Community Colleges, and the African American Graduation Celebration. This is only a taste of the causes she has an appetite for.

"I'm into helping people in this community," Hill said. "It doesn't matter what color they are. I reach out and help wherever I can."

All of Hill's organiza-

tions aim to help people of color in the community feel they belong, while ensuring positive steps are being taken to make Spokane a more diverse community.

Hill remembers what people had told her before she moved up here, but she wasn't sure what to expect.

"I was warned and prepared but didn't realize what it was actually like," she said. Hill recalls a time after first arriving that she and her husband were on a walk and her neighbors would intentionally cross the street to avoid them. She does not want to sit by and let this kind of thing keep on happening, change is needed and she sees the answer.

"The heart has to be changed. It is easy as living by the golden rule," Hill said. "We wouldn't need all these committees if people would just treat people the way they should be treated."

Since moving to Spokane, Hill has begun obtaining the education she was not able to receive when she was younger.

She has received her associates of arts degree from Spokane Community College within the last two years. She earned a bache-

lors of arts degree in liberal studies with an emphasis in Human Resources and Communications from Eastern Washington University in June. Hill's days are not spent with children as she once dreamt. Instead, she is working to ensure Spokane is a welcoming community where everyone is able to achieve their dreams.

Publisher's note: Since this article was written, family obligations have necessitated a return to the south. The loss of her energy and concern for minority recruitment for the Community Colleges, whom she represented on the Diversity Recruitment Committee and through her participation in community college and human resources committees and organizations will leave a major hole in diversity efforts there. With whom will they replace her? The African American Voice will also miss her energy. In spite of all her commitments and classes, every month she telephoned our extended group to remind them of our meetings. La' Brenda and her husband Willie will both be greatly missed in this community.

Profiles continued on page 13

Just do it, Bill

By A. Bradley

I woke up about two weekends ago to some shocking news. No, it was not the plane crash, it was closer to home than that. I learned that our City Manager had decided to resign. What a surprise it

was. Who would have believed it? After his public/ private job evaluation, I believed he would be around to sign more severance checks. He said that he felt like it was time for him to leave. He felt the time was right. There were a lot of controversial

issues surrounding him. For example, the Williams firing and severance, the Chertok resignation and severance, and there were others. So he will resign, but he has not said when.

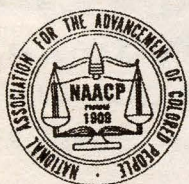
For his 20 plus years of city service, the city council is contemplating a

severance in excess of 80,000 dollars. The question is will Mr. Pupo receive payment for 100% of his sick leave or not. In the past, his predecessors only received 40% percent of their sick leave. City Council member Orville Barnes stated that he feels that "Pupo should get it because he has done a better job than any city manager before him".

We all have our own opinion about whether

that is true or not. I do know that with the assistance of the City Council, some serious blunders have been made. I can't place all the blame for those blunders on Bill. Someone had to be advising him. This bring us to the other appointed member who assists the city council. He is Jim Sloane, the city attorney, a position he has held since 1979. He was appointed by the city manager, and confirmed by the council. During his tenure he has survived several mayors, three city managers and numerous city council members. In his 27 plus years of service he has managed to remain anonymous and quiet. I wonder how many public/ private evaluations he has had since 1979?

Since Mr. Pupo has not officially resigned yet it would be so fitting if before he left he would relieve the city of Jim Sloane. **Just do it Bill!**



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JOB RESOURCES

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The July issue of the African-American Voice detailed articles one through ten of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The story introduced articles eleven through twenty. This month each article - eleven through twenty - is shared in detail. We also introduce articles twenty one through thirty.



Article 20 (1) Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

PHOTO FROM ELI REED'S BLACK IN AMERICA

Article 11

(1) Everyone charged with a penal offense has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defense.

(2) No one shall be held guilty of any penal offense on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offense, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offense was committed.

Article 12

No one shall be subjected to

arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honor and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

Article 13

(1) Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State.

(2) Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

Article 14

(1) Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.

(2) This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Article 15

(1) Everyone has the right to a nationality.

(2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

Article 16

(1) Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage,

during marriage and at its dissolution.

(2) Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

(3) The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

Article 17

(1) Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association of others.

(2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

Article 18

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public and private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

Article 19

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive

and impart information and ideas through any media regardless of frontiers.

Article 20

(1) Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

(2) No one may be compelled to belong to an association.

Article 21 - Right to Participate in Government and in Free Elections

Article 22 - Right to Social Security

Article 23 - Right to Desirable Work and to Join Trade Unions

Article 24 - Right to Rest and Leisure

Article 25 - Right to Adequate Living Standard

Article 26 - Right to Education

Article 27 - Right to Participate in the Cultural Life of Community

Article 28 - Right to a Social Order that Articulates this Document

Article 29 - Community Duties Essential to Free and Full Development

Article 30 - Freedom from State or Personal Interference in the above Rights

Racist lawyer denied license

An Illinois man has been denied the privilege of practicing law because of his racist views according to an Electronic Urban Report.

Matt Hale, of East Peoria, Illinois, had his law license rejected after an Illinois state hearing board ruled that his beliefs and character make him ill-suited to practice law and incapable of adhering to state rules of conduct for lawyers.

"If you are a racist, as I am, then they're saying you don't have the right to say what you believe and be a lawyer. That's a denial of free speech," said Hale. "If someone doesn't like what I have to say, I don't have a problem with that. But why can't I practice law?"

The board that decided against granting Hale a license to practice law proclaims that his beliefs are in "absolute contradiction" to required conduct of lawyers in their discipline. Hale contends that many lawyers share similar views to his, but choose not to publicize them.

Hale is the leader of the World Church of the Creator, the same organization to which the man responsible for the racially motivated murders of two people and the wounding of nine others in Illinois and Indiana, during the Fourth of July weekend, claims to have belonged.

Hale says he plans to

appeal the decision of the board to the Illinois State Supreme Court and file a federal civil rights lawsuit.

Contributed by Jose S. Gutierrez Jr. from EUR, Electronic Urban Report, a free daily factual online information. To subscribe send a note to: subscribe@EURweb.com.

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Community Profile: Gail Vails

By NICHOLE MARICH,
WHITWORTH COLLEGE

It was an offer Gail Vails could not refuse. When One Church One Child asked her to find foster families for children of color, Vails did not hesitate. After all, this opportunity involved one of her greatest passions: working with children.

"I love children. I love to see them meet their full potential. I believe that they all deserve a fair chance," Vails said.

One Church One Child seeks foster families for children of African American decent. Executive Director Gwendolyn Townsend said as many as 40 related programs exist throughout the United States. Each program somehow con-

nects with the Black church and community.

Vails became a Family Recruiter for One Church One Child in the summer of 1997. Ezra Kinlow, her pastor at Holy Temple Church of God in Christ in Spokane said he encouraged Vails to involve herself in the program.

Recruiting families for foster care is Vails' chief responsibility. She also informs the Spokane public of the need for foster care through social events and advertising.

"Gail is instrumental to the One Church One Child program in Spokane. I think through her direction, it is going to grow. She does a beautiful job of reaching out to the community," Townsend said.

Kinlow said Vails

devotes a lot of time and effort to make the public aware of One Church One Child, however the public has not responded with much enthusiasm.

"I wish that we had more families that would seriously consider taking one of these children," Kinlow said.

In the two years she has worked for One Church One Child, Vails has recruited only four families for permanent placement. In Vails' opinion, reasoning lies behind the public's reluctance to foster children of color. Traditionally black families have brought extended family members into their homes but not strangers, Vails said. Kinlow added that African Americans may not realize the extent of the need.

On the other hand, deciding to adopt a child requires careful consideration. Many of the children needing placement have emotional, physical, or developmental disabilities.

Also, prospective parents must meet certain qualifications.

"It's a lot of responsibility. You are volunteering to direct someone else's life," Vails said.

Having fostered a child in the past, Vails knows about the responsibilities attached to foster care.

"It is a lot of emotional work. There is a money exchange because you are paid through the state for foster care, but it is not a significant amount. It is a job that you undertake because your heart tells you to. The reward is a successful situation with the child."

One Church One Child discovered Vails through her work in foster care and service on the Multicultural Board under the Washington State Department of Children and Family Services. As a member of the board, Vails assists the department in making decisions for foster children. One of

the boards' duties includes deciding whether or not to remove children from their parents in the case of child endangerment.

"Children are so valuable and important. We take them for granted" Vails said. Vails' life has revolved around working with children. For 15 years she worked in the school systems of Indiana, her home state, and of California as a teacher and counselor for government programs. Teaching Sunday school at Holy Temple is another one of her activities.

"Show them love in any arena, Sunday school or foster care, anywhere that you can touch a child," Vails said.

Vails challenges everyone in the Spokane community to accept the responsibility of caring for unfortunate children.

Publisher's note: Gail Vails is no longer with One Church One Child but is still active and available in her community.

Greenes Receive Community Service Award

The recent Agora Awards were announced and Nate and Roberta Greene, owners of Empire Ford in Spokane, WA, were the recipients of the C. Michael Archer Community Service Award for 1999.

This award is named for the former Spokane Area Chamber of Commerce Communications Director, Michael Archer, who died in 1997. The award recognizes Empire Ford as a company that has made the effort, through time and resources, to make Spokane a better commu-

nity. In Empire Ford's case the Agora judges said, "In many high-profile ways, Nate and Roberta Greene



have contributed immeasurably to the well-being and quality of life of the greater Spokane community. And in many quieter

ways, Empire Ford is making Spokane a better place to live by providing opportunities to many who find opportunities hard to come by."

The Greenes are active in educational community endeavors such as an internship program set up with Ford Motor Company that employs college students of color at their dealership. Empire Ford also contributes to a number of college scholarship programs, and chairs the minority business school scholarship program at Eastern Washington University that provides support

for minority students pursuing business degrees.

The Greenes are constantly looking for ways to encourage young people of color to take the steps necessary to enter the business world. "We're trying so hard in Spokane to improve diversity," he

says. Roberta and I feel it's our obligation and our responsibility to do what we can to make the community better for everyone, but particularly for the few minorities who live in the Spokane area. The opportunity to contribute is there," he adds. "We try as best we can to reach out."

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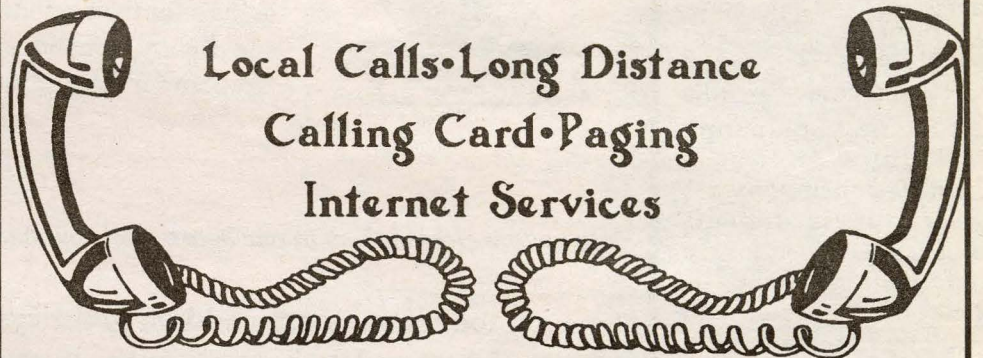
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Something You Can Do If You Will

Climbing barriers that stop the progress

BY DWIGHT CUMMINGS
Imagine if you will, a beautiful peaceful Spokane night. Not a care in the world and you are dozing off in your favorite reclining chair. Suddenly, you are awakened by a crying child. At first you don't recognize the crying child, but upon closer inspection you realize to your complete amazement it's you when you were a child. You don't know what to say or do. But, the child stands and looks you in the eyes and asks what happened to our life? Remember all the dreams and ambitions? Remember when life was fascinating and fun? Remember when it did not matter what others thought about you? Remember when learning was an everyday occurrence and failures were forgotten in seconds? Remember when you faced the future with anticipation and not intimidation?

All you can do is remember as the tears roll down your face and you look at the mess your life is in. Many of us started off in

life with such big dreams and lofty ambitions. However, for some the impulse to dream and to aspire for the greatness which we all have inside of us, has been slowly beaten out of us by the experiences of life, teaches motivational speaker. So many of have settled for this and settled for that, some have compromised to the point they don't even know what it is they want out of life.

Humiliation, rejection, failure, racism, ignorance, lack of self confidence, and feelings of inferiority are the barriers that stop the progress and totally convince people that what they are doing is all they are capable of doing.

Dennis Mitchell, a local motivational speaker, tells a story of a bear in a cage. For many years the bear would walk ten feet to a tray of food and eat, then walk back to his favorite spot. One day the zoo keepers as an experiment removed the bars on the cage. The bear never even noticed the bars were gone. He just continued his

meager existence - ten feet forward and ten feet back.

Sound familiar? Do you know anyone that goes to a job every day and does nothing but complain day in and day out? Same situation as the bear: there are no bars keeping them there but they continue their meager existence - doing just enough so the boss doesn't fire them and the boss paying them just enough so they won't quit.

Many of us decided a long time ago, consciously or unconsciously, to be average and ordinary, not giving all that we have to give. Les Brown is convinced that many people die at age 21 but just don't get buried until much later in life: they just walk around dead. The process started when they were that crying child they are seeing right now as memories burst through the tears of hurt, listening to others: you're not black enough, you're not white enough, smart enough, tall enough; you can't do math; you'll be just like that no

good daddy of yours. And if that wasn't enough, you started doing it to yourself with disempowering self talk like: my nose is too pointed, my teeth are too crooked, my breasts are too flat, I'm just not as beautiful as everybody else, I can't, what will they think?

The fact of the matter is all men and women are self made! Why is it that only the successful will admit to it?

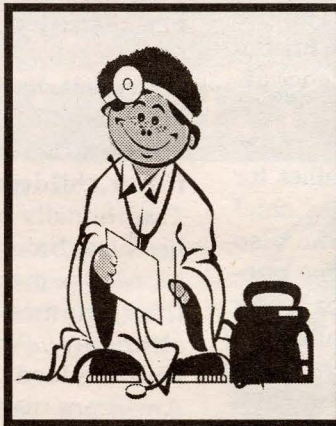
There is hope for everyone. It doesn't matter how old you are, whether you were a liar, cheater, thief, drug dealer, drug abuser. It does not matter what you did in the past - if you wouldn't do it today and you think it does matter, you are convicting an innocent person, according to Mr. Brown. You can be more, you can have more, you can learn more because you can become more.

Life is a journey and not a destination. You didn't ask to be here and you can't stay even if you want to. We are just passing through. If this is as true for you as it is for

me, then we need to appreciate the journey and understand that this thing called life is a gift. Many believe that life is a gift from God and what you do with it is your gift back to God. So the ultimate expression is really who you become during the journey, and not what you acquire along the way. You can't take it with you, but the difference you make to humanity endures.

Quickly, go hug that crying child. Tell your inner child how much you love him or her. One of many steps on the road to improving your life is to love yourself and to accept yourself as you are right now, as a growing ever-changing human being, created in God's own image - and remember, God don't make no junk!

The next step is to realize that you are more than what you have become. Nobody knows what you are capable of, no one knows the great things that you can achieve if only you believe in yourself. Set a step by step game plan for the achievement of your goals and dreams and then take massive action to bring them into reality! You can do it, if you want to!



Caribbean Institute

A business, university, government based partnership will bring technological skills to Jamaica.

Furman University, in South Carolina, is paving the way for the partnership implementing the Caribbean Institute of Technology (CIT) based in Montego Bay, Jamaica. The institute will soon graduate students who will work in the United States for American companies as "certified computer technology professionals."

The US companies that the first graduating class will work for has contracted their software needs to these students abroad. The reason for the contracting in Jamaica is attributed to the lack of computer programmers in the US. this has forced US demand. Although India is often resourced for workers, Jamaica's strong educational system, geographically short distance from the US and high unemployment rate are major factors for installing

the program, according to David Shi, president of Furman.

The Jamaican economy is expected to receive a hefty economic boost by the presence of the "well-paying" jobs, provided by

the CIT program, but specific monetary goals are not provided.

Contributed by Jose S. Gutierrez Jr. from EUR, Electronic Urban Report, a free daily factual online infotainment. To subscribe send a note to: subscribe@EURweb.com.

Effective Black Parenting

The East Central Community Center is sponsoring effective black parenting classes. This effective approach to parenting, which consists of 15 sessions, will explore such topics as:

- self-discipline,
- modern day approaches to parenting,
- modern discipline methods,
- drugs & alcohol,
- chit-chat time to share specific problems and concerns.

All classes are free and there is a limited amount of free child care available on a first come, first served basis for children birth through age six.

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To enroll, call Evelyn Anderton at 625-6693, Monday through Friday between the hours of 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM.

Refreshments will be served at each class.

Funded by Spokane Community Mobilization Against Substance Abuse through the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (Federal) and the Omnibus Controlled Substances and Communities Act of 1994 (State).

"I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits."

Help us to welcome them in our hearts and communities.

There are too many of our children in the system without a home and without a family. If you would like to become a fostercare or adoptive parent or would like more information, please contact Brenda Kane at the MLK Center, 845 S. Sherman, 455-8722.

OUR CHILDREN ARE WAITING

This month is USA History Month

PRESS RELEASE

San Francisco: The Board of Directors of United Native Americans (UNA) announced today that the organization has purchased the state of California from the whites and is throwing it open to Indian settlement.

UNA bought California from three winos found wandering in San Francisco. UNA decided the winos were the spokesmen for the white people of California. These winos promptly signed the treaty, which was written in Sioux, and sold California for three bottles of wine, one bottle of gin, and four cases of beer.

Lehman L. Brightman, the Commissioner of Caucasian Affairs, has announced the following new policies: The Indians hereby give the whites four large reservations of ten acres each at the following locations: Death Valley, The Utah Salt Flats, The Badlands of South Dakota, and the Yukon in Alaska. These reservations shall belong to the whites "for as long as the sun shines or the grass grows"

(or until the Indians want them back.)

All land on the reservations, of course, will be held in trust for the whites by the Bureau of Caucasian Affairs, and any white who wants to use his land in any way must secure permission from Commissioner Brightman.

Of course, whites will be allowed to sell trades and handicrafts at stands by the highway. Each white will be provided annually with one blanket, one pair of tennis shoes, a supply of Spam, and a copy of The Life of Crazy Horse.

If you are competent enough, you will be able to be a BCA reservation superintendent. Applicants must have less than one year of education, must not speak English, must have an authoritarian personality, proof of dishonesty, and a certificate of incompetence. No Whites need apply.

Commissioner Brightman also announced the founding of four boarding schools, to which white youngsters will be sent at the age of six (6).

"We want to take those kids far away from the backward culture of their parents," he said.

The schools will be located on Alcatraz Island; the Florida Everglades;



Point Barrow, Alaska; and Hong Kong. All courses will be taught in Indian languages, and there will be demerits for anyone caught speaking English.

All students arriving at the school will immediately be given IQ tests to determine their understanding of Indian Language and hunting skills.

Hospitals will be established for the reservations as follows: Whites at

Death Valley may go to the Bangor, Maine Hospital; those at the Utah Salt Flats may go to Juneau, Alaska Hospital; those at the Yukon may go to the Miami Beach Hospital; and those at the Badlands may go to the Hospital in Honolulu, Hawaii. Each hospital will have a staff of two part-time doctors and a part-time chiropractor who have all passed first aid tests. And each hospital will be equipped with a scalpel, a jack knife, a saw, a modern tourniquet, and a large bottle of aspirin.

In honor of the whites, many cities, streetcars, and products will be given traditional white names. One famous Indian movie director has even announced that in his upcoming film, "Custer's

Last Stand", he will use many actual whites to play the parts of soldiers, speaking real English, although, of course, the part of Custer will be played by noted Indian actor Jay Silverheels.

Certain barbaric white customs will, of course, not be allowed. Whites will not be allowed to practice their heathen religions, and will be required to attend Indian ceremonies. Missionaries will be sent from each tribe to convert the whites on the reservations. White churches will either be made into amusement parks or museums or will be torn down and the bricks and ornaments sold as souvenirs and curiosities.

Author unknown

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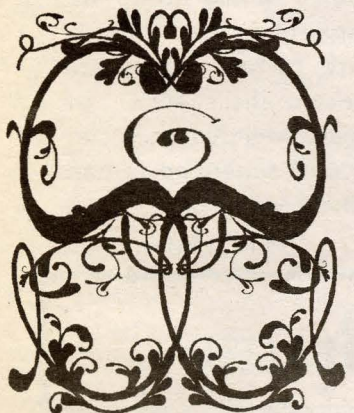
Enrollment Begins at New Childcare Center



The Northeast Child Development Center located at the Northeast Community Center, 4001 N. Cook, is scheduled to open early September, 1999. The center will provide care

for infants 3-12 months, toddlers 123 months through 3 years, and pre-schoolers 4-5 years of age.

Interested families are asked to call and leave their name, phone number, and ages of children they would like placed on the waiting list with Shari Shepherd at 5333-8532, or Susan MacLane at 483-4478.



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HEALTH

Heart disease and race

By MARY E. MILLER

Coronary heart disease is a leading cause of death and disability in the United States. But certain minority groups have higher rates of heart disease than average. This is because various risk factors for heart disease are more prevalent in these populations. In this article we'll discuss these risk factors and how they relate to racial groups. It is important for people with heart disease - and those without - to be aware of their heritage and how it may affect their health risk.

AFRICAN AMERICANS

In 1993, death rates from cardiovascular disease were 47% higher in Black males than white males. For Black women, death rates from cardiovascular diseases were 69% higher than for white females. These differences are due to many factors, most importantly that high blood pressure is more common in African-Americans, is more severe, and occurs earlier in life. It is often not treated early or adequately, and it is more likely to result in serious complications. Here are the statistics:

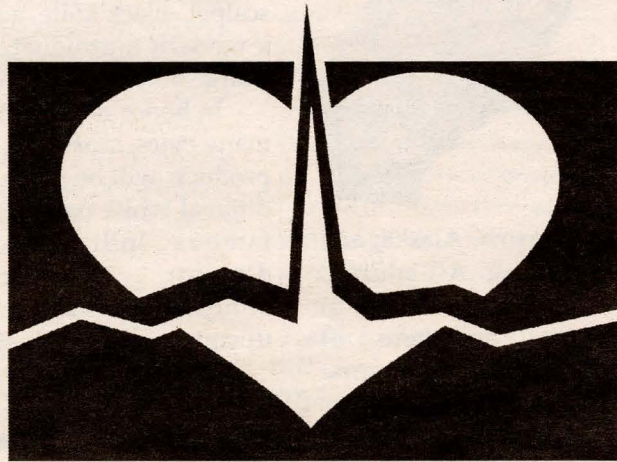
- In 1993 the death rate from high blood pressure for Black males was 361.5% higher than for white males; for Black women, the rate was 370.8% higher than for

white women.

- About 71% of all African-Americans over age 60 have high blood pressure.

- Blacks develop high blood pressure at an earlier age and, at any decade of life, hypertension is more severe than in whites. This results in a 1.3-fold greater rate of nonfatal stroke, a 1.8-fold

of white males and 33.5% of white females. Being overweight increases the risk for high blood pressure and diabetes, another contributing factor for heart disease. (Among African-Americans, 4.1% of men and 4.9% of women are diabetic). Inactivity is a contributing factor for being overweight; recent studies



greater rate of fatal stroke, a 1.5-fold greater rate of heart disease deaths and a 5-fold greater rate of end-stage renal disease.

- As many as 30% of all deaths in hypertensive Black men and 20% of all deaths in hypertensive Black women may be attributable to high blood pressure.

In general, the proportion of people who are overweight is higher among African-Americans, especially Black women. 31% of Black males and 49% of Black females are overweight, compared to 32%

show that 62.8% of Black men and 67.7% of Black women have a sedentary lifestyle. Cholesterol levels need to be mentioned, but it is interesting to note that there is virtually no difference between white and African-American blood cholesterol levels for all ages.

Concerning smoking, the latest estimates are that one-third of Black men and one-fifth of Black women are smokers. During the last ten years, the tobacco industry has aggressively increased its advertising for African-American consumers. A

recent marketing campaign for "Uptown" cigarettes was squashed by health, consumer and social justice groups who opposed the test marketing of this product. Black-owned and Black-oriented magazines receive proportionately more revenues from cigarette advertising than do other consumer magazines. In addition, stronger, mentholated brands are more commonly advertised in Black-oriented magazines. Billboards advertising tobacco products are placed in African-American communities four to five times more often than in white communities.

What, then, can African-Americans do to decrease their risk for coronary heart disease? First, it is very important to pay attention to blood pressure and body weight levels. Beginning in the teen years, blood pressure should be checked yearly. If it needs another check, it should be taken again within a month. If it still high, a doctor needs to be seen immediately for blood pressure control. It is very important to keep seeing the doctor and stick with the treatment prescribed. Other interventions may include:

- losing weight
- reducing salt intake
- cutting down on alcohol intake
- becoming more physically active
- quitting smoking
- taking all medications (particularly for high blood pressure) as prescribed

HISPANICS

Statistics show that heart disease is the leading cause of death among Hispanics but the rates are lower than for Caucasians. Mexican-Americans seem to have a low rate of heart disease

even though, as a population, they tend to have high rates of obesity and diabetes. Here are a few statistics:

- About 61% of Mexican-Americans ages 60 and over have hypertension.
- 61.5% of Hispanic men and 61% of Hispanic women have a sedentary lifestyle.
- 39.5% of Mexican-American males and 47.9% of Mexican-American females are overweight.
- Among Hispanics, 3.7% of men and 3.5% of women are diabetics.
- Studies show that among Hispanics, an estimated 24.3% of men and 15.2% of women smoke.

Again, the tobacco industry specifically targets the Hispanic consumer, having noticed that Hispanics tend to be more brand-loyal than white consumers. There is very little other data to help guide Hispanics toward reducing heart disease and stroke rates. It is probably best to continue with lifestyle changes and general risk factor reduction.

AMERICAN-INDIANS.

There is very little information on American-Indian populations and heart disease. Heart disease and stroke are the leading cause of death in this group, as with all minority populations. Recent studies show only 10.3% of American-Indian men and 13.8% of American-Indian women have high blood pressure. 53.7% of men and 33.1% of women in this group are smokers and roughly a third of both sexes are overweight. 4.2% of American-Indian men and 5.0% of American-Indian women are diabetic.

Continued on page 17

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SOS Save Our Sisters

You are the backbone of the African American community. We need you more than you realize. You're the head of the family in many homes and you bear the brunt of raising young African American men and women. In many African American homes you are mother, father, sole provider, and spiritual leader in the home. You are the force behind many black organizations that have male figure heads that reap the benefit and the glory. Throughout our bleak history in America Black women have been there struggling for the cause and raising children and taking care of the household.

Your fortitude and strength are legendary, yet there are those that hold your strength and tenacity in contempt. African American women have never had the opportunity or luxury to be anything other than strong.

You hold your head up with pride, as the media and our society constantly bombard our subconscious with the image of the ideal woman as blond and blue-eyed, and not with your African features. And when some of your sons, brothers, uncles and fathers buy into that absurdity, you keep on

proudly doing what you need to. My beautiful Nubian queens and princesses I know you are facing things I can't even articulate or even began to understand. I can attempt to point out the many major killers confronting African American women: heart disease, diabetes, AIDS, high blood pressure, sickle cell and breast cancer.

While we need to focus on all of them, let's address breast cancer. Here are a few facts:

- Breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer death among African-American women between the ages of 30 and 54.
- Black women develop the disease at a younger age than white women.
- For Black women, the five year post diagnosis survival rate is only 69 percent, compared to 84 percent for white women.
- Breast cancer deaths among African American women are on the increase and on the decline for whites
- Although white women are more likely than Black women to get the disease Black women who get the disease are twice as likely to die from it.

Sisters, these facts are frightening, but it is true in

many cases you lack access to cancer prevention educational programs, early screening and early care. The one fact that you should be aware of is that early detection can surely save lives. You must give yourselves monthly breast self exams and get mammograms.

Women health screening days are Monday August 9th and Monday August 23rd at the East Central Community Clinic from 8 am to 5 pm. Women 40 and older who are under insured (high deductible) and low income may qualify for free services that include a pap test, clinic breast exam and a pelvic exam.

For more information about this program feel free to call the EncorePlus program at 326-1190 ext 118 or the Spokane Regional Health District at 326-1541. The African American Voice will provide refreshments and a free year subscription to anyone who gets an exam on August 9th. We implore people to spread the word and insist that someone you love - a sister, mother, aunt, grandmother or friend, get an exam.

We are sending out this SOS. Save Our Sisters. Early detection is the key.

Class of '99 funds \$12,700 Diversity Endowment

Gonzaga University's Class of 1999 raised more than \$12,700 to fund an endowment for diversity, shattering its \$10,000 goal. The students felt it most important to fund diverse educational opportunities for the future at Gonzaga.

"We want our gift to help support student life with programming outside the classroom and inside the classroom through implementation of a cultural requirement in the curriculum, the continued development of gender studies, and the support for speakers on topics of diverse human experience," said Marites Fiesta, chair of the gift campaign. The donations came

primarily from seniors and their parents.

For the past 20 years, senior classes have made gifts to the University's annual fund. The 1999 gift reflects Gonzaga's continued emphasis on diversity and cultural issues, said Raymond Reyes, Gonzaga's first associate academic vice president for diversity.

"At Gonzaga we teach leadership for the common good," Reyes said. "The Class of 1999 transformed the rhetoric to reality by taking a leadership role in our commitment to diversity. I feel extremely proud of them." To contribute to the fund, call 509-323-5993.

Spokane County Domestic Violence Consortium Service Provider Fair

The Spokane County Domestic Violence Consortium is holding the 2nd Annual Service Provider Fair on Thursday, September 9th from 8AM to 1:30PM at Mukogawa Ft. Wright Commons. This year's Fair will feature dozens of resource booths as well as a number of panel discussions and presentations.

Panel discussions will include information on services available for victims of domestic violence, child witnesses, teens and the gay/lesbian population; all with an emphasis on cultural diversity.

The SCDVC will be launching the first service provider computerized directory. The IRIS program will

give community access to all service providers in our region.

In addition, a program developed in cooperation with Spokanimal will be introduced. Often times, the thought of leaving one's pet behind in an abusive situation, prevents victims from leaving domestic violence. Through this new program, volunteer families will foster pets in hopes of preventing further harm to the victim and pet.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend the Fair to see how our community is working together to prevent intimate partner violence. For more information or to reserve a free booth, call 509-487-6783.

LETTERS

The Editor welcomes letters. You can respond to articles or write about any topic of your concern. You can also call and dictate a letter. If we are not in, you can narrate your letter in our voice mail. The editor reserves the right to edit letters for language, content and space. Write to: The Editor, *The African-American Voice*, PMB 145, 2920 S. Grand Blvd., Spokane, WA 99203-2530. Please include your name and day time phone number for verification.

Dear Dwight

Thank you for the copy of your vasectomy article. It was a well-written, and a well presented article that properly discusses the vasectomy. If I can be of further help, please do not hesitate to call.

Steven Silverstein, M.D.
Diplomat, American Board of Urology

Continued from page 15

Heart and race

ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDERS

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in this population. Interestingly, only 9.7% of men and 8.4% of women who are Asian/Pacific Islanders have hypertension. But 75% of Japanese-American men age 71-93 have high blood pressure. One fifth of men in this group smoke compared to only 7.5% of women. 56.6% of men and 64.7% of women lead sedentary lives. Only about 10% of Asian/Pacific

Islanders are overweight improved.

(both men and women) except among Hawaiian Islanders, where 65.5% of men and 62.6% of women are overweight. Diabetes rates are similar to those of Hispanics: 3.4% of men and 2.4% of women are diabetic.

While nothing can be done to change our race as a risk factor for heart disease, it is still important to know how our risk factors are affected by our heritage and history. We can then focus our efforts on specific risk factor reduction so that our own health and the health of our families can be

Sources:

Biostatistical Fact Sheets. American Heart Association. 1997. <http://www.amhrt.org>

American Heart Association. Your Heart, an Owner's Manual. Prentice Hall. 1995, pp. 12-17.

The Health Promotion Council of Southeastern Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Health Department. "Blacks Can't Afford to Gamble with High Blood Pressure: the Stakes are Too High!"

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HEARING INSTRUMENT FITTER/DISPENSER TECHNICIAN INSTRUCTOR/COORDINATOR/FT: Develop and direct activities related to establishing Hearing Instrument Fitter/Dispenser Technician (HIFDT) programs. Prepare competency-based curriculum from State Skill Standards and Curriculum Guidelines. BA and three years recent continuous full-time experience as licensed fitter/dispenser in "good standing" or meet WA State licensing eligibility requirements. \$35,000 annually. Additional funds for coordinating duties and responsibilities may be available. Closing Date: 9/3/99.

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

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Casey Family Partners of Spokane (a non-profit child abuse and neglect center) is seeking a Receptionist to provide secretarial support to the Director and staff members. General office duties include: greeting and registering clients, helping families apply for health insurance, typing assignments, filing, copying, scheduling staff meetings, posting schedules, answering phones and directing calls accordingly. Discretion and attentiveness in guarding confidential and private client information is essential. Decisiveness and problem solving skills are needed in daily routine work. Must have excellent verbal and written communication skills, type 50-60 WPM, pass a spelling test. Possess computer skills in Word, Excel, Access. High School graduate and/or two years related experience desirable. Wage DOE, EOE, excellent benefit package. Resume must be received no later than 8/16/99. Send to INHS Human Resources, P.O. Box 248, Spokane, WA 99204.

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The Spokane County Civil Service Commission will be accepting applications from August 9 through September 3 to test and establish an eligibility list for Deputy Sheriff. This entry level position performs general law enforcement work in maintaining the peace, in the protection of life and property, and enforcement of the law; to prevent or investigate law violations and accidents. Successful applicants are hired as Officer Candidates and commissioned as a Deputy Sheriff upon graduation from the Academy. A complete description of this position and an application packet may be obtained at the Spokane County Civil Service office, 1115 W. Broadway, Spokane WA 99260. (509) 477-4711. Resumes are not accepted in lieu of application. Completed applications must be received in the Civil Service office no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, September 3, 1999.

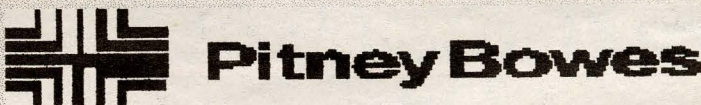
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JOB

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Requires: Graduation from an accredited college or university with course work in business administration, public administration, accounting, social sciences or related fields; AND, two years of increasingly responsible claims management/administration experience in industrial insurance. Additional experience may be substituted, on a year for year basis, for up to two years of the educational requirement.

OUTREACH COORDINATOR

(\$28,897 - \$35,704 annual salary)
 Opens Monday, August 2, 1999
 Closes Friday, August 13, 1999

Duties: Performs responsible, outreach and public relations activities to promote the arts and enhance attendance at arts events in the city and surrounding area. Develops strategies to reach new audiences of the arts in Spokane. Attends Marketing Committee meetings and

assists Committee in development of marketing projects. Writes news releases, articles and reports. Monitors grantees and works closely with artists. Develops directories, brochures, and cultural calendar to promote Spokane's arts to tourists, business, and the general public. Coordinates production of media projects, TV PSA projects, and other media events.

Requires: Graduation from an accredited college or university with a degree in Fine Arts or a division thereof, theater, or music; and two years experience in promoting fine arts events or activities. Appropriate experience may be substituted on a year-for-year basis for up to two years of the educational requirement.

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 Closes Friday, August 6, 1999

Duties: Performs responsible, professional work in human services planning, administration, and program evaluation. Plans and conducts research, analyzes and evaluates data, and other activities in support of needs assessments and human services planning. Researches and analyzes census data and program research, support and evaluation. Acts as a department contact for media and community groups requesting information on homelessness and other related human services issues. Performs human services computer application training, supervises the maintenance of the human services automated data base, and computer support activities for participating human services providers and community groups. Assists in the development of grant applications and the administration of grant funds. Performs related work as required.

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We are an equal opportunity employer committed to hiring a diverse workforce.



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Reality Check

employee newsletter.

- Staff peer evaluations have a section on cultural diversity.
 - The library contains a cultural diversity bookshelf.
 - Front-lobby displays honor ethnic groups (e.g., Black History Month).
 - Chaplains function as "cultural advocates," calling in Native American shamans, Christian Science practitioners, or Jewish rabbis, for example, at patients' requests.
 - New admitting forms elicit information about spiritual and cultural values and potential language barriers.
 - The interpreter services policy has been revised to make it easier for multilingual staff to assist non-English speaking patients.
 - Each nursing unit has a copy of a book on nursing care for 224 ethnic groups. The book describes how to do a cultural assessment and communication variables that differs from culture to culture; conversation style and pacing personal space, eye contact, touch, and time orientation.
- Meeting patients' cultural needs is not only the right

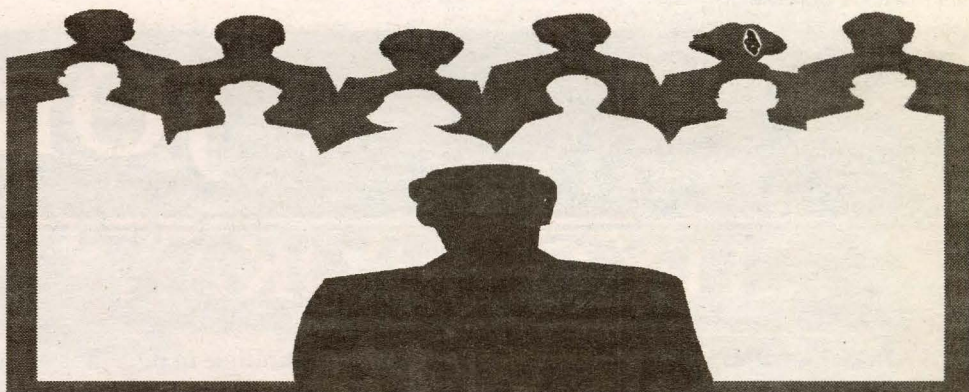
thing to do. It can speed the recovery process, Sr. Lucas said. She cited the example of a Native American man who was not doing well until his bed was turned around so he could watch the sun rise. As long as a religious or cultural practice does not violate Sacred Heart's values, it will probably be permitted, she observed.

Although responses among staff and patients have been mostly positive, diversity is still a "touchy" subject because it "disturbs the status quo," Steed said. Deep feelings are often involved and lifelong beliefs may be challenged.

Still, Sacred Heart nurse Vivian McGee said the journey may be easier than some might expect. "We're more similar than we are different. And we can build on our similarities."

For more information, contact Sr. Lucas at 509-455-4973.

Publishers note: This article was contributed by Sacred Heart Medical Center Vice President Mary Butler, who adds that lots has happened since it was first published. We applaud the efforts of Sacred Heart to be sensitive to and appreciate cultural differences. How are they doing? Comments from individuals with experiences there would be welcome.



The Most Dangerous Game We've Ever Played

BY VICTOR BUKSBAZEN

A friend of mine who is a veteran of the Spokane Police Department, told me once, in a conversation about racial thinking and treatment of minorities when he entered the force in the early '50's, that Blacks were resented and made the butt of locker room jokes. Now it has gone completely the opposite direction. White officers have a genuine fear of simply offending both the public and their non-white colleagues.

For many Americans -- Black, white and otherwise, our system of legislation and enforcing the law and judging alleged violations of it is anything but "criminal justice." It could more accurately be termed "criminal injustice."

And its principal practitioners? Lawyers, of course!

The Necessity of Probable Cause

Our federal Constitution mandates probable cause to search, detain or arrest any citizen. This requires a much higher standard of proof than mere suspicion; it is protected by the Fourth Amendment. And yet, whole neighborhoods are sometimes targeted by law enforcement in some major cities, based on nothing more than the "likelihood" that they may be a spawning ground for illegal activity.

Thus, a group of Blacks or Asians or Hispanics, because an often paranoid officer suspects they may be planning or engaged in a crime says so in an affidavit, they may be detained for questioning or even arrested. Barring a corpus delicti, or body of facts proving a crime, mere suspicion is not sufficient and is a violation of the suspect's right to due process under the first, fourth, fifth, and fourteenth Amendments.

Any evidence seized thereby may be ruled inadmissible and may be suppressed, or not admitted at the trial. Many citizens may object to this, saying that if that were the case, few bad guys would even be charged, let alone arrested.

But that is precisely the way the Colonial founders of this nation wanted it! You see, in England (and many other lands, of course), the authorities were free to arrest and imprison at will -- and that's just what our forefathers were trying to escape!

The Origin and Propagation of Racial Stereotyping

While studying Police-Community relations 35 years ago, it occurred to me that, in a great number of similar or identical cases, white "perps" were either not charged with anything, or were "misdemeanorized," while Blacks and other minority group members had the proverbial book thrown at them!

meanorized," while Blacks and other minority group members had the proverbial book thrown at them!

Aren't those who uphold justice supposed to be neutral?

There is no more dangerous person, white or Black, than an overzealous prosecutor or police officer who goes about his daily tasks with the conviction that criminality is somehow related to the color of one's skin.

The belief that African Americans tend to number more criminals in their ranks than other races is about 400 years old -- and is about as accurate as saying that all Romani (Gypsies) are thieves! It stems, in part at least, from an erroneous belief that Africans as a group deserve divine punishment for something which is beyond their control - their skin color.

The intent of slave laws and codes was to guarantee that the non-whites would not be covered by legislation and public policy insuring civil rights to whites. In other words, in order to justify the mistreatment of slaves, their human rights first had to be nullified -- as if that were possible anyway!

If they had no God-given rights, the reasoning went, then there was no reason why they should be treated as equals. This, in turn, meant that plantation owners were morally free to abuse or even kill their slaves at will - with complete impunity!

Such an institutionalized view of slavery left African American women unprotected prey for any man who wanted to abuse her, sexually or otherwise! They destroyed what was left of the Black family, which, in many areas, still has not recovered. Also, they laid the foundations of a perpetual cycle of out-of-wedlock pregnancy and irresponsibility on the part of many fathers. The never-ending cycle encouraged by ill-conceived and misguided welfare laws produces ignorance, poverty and crime in generation after generation.

A comprehensive course in attitudes, race relations and law should be taught in every police training facility in the country. Citizens in general - and peace officers in particular - usually have only the most rudimentary, superficial understanding of what it means to be "One nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

The next police chief of this great city had better be screened with a lot more emphasis on how he treats people who are of a different culture, than upon whether or not he knows how to keep city hall purring!

For those who think gambling is a problem in Spokane, how about a game of racial roulette?



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