The

African-American Voice

The Newsletter for African-American Youth Empowerment

July -August 1996 Vol 1, Number 2

'Police not doing enough about racial harassment at Gonzaga'

By Alfred Mutua
Editor

The Spokane Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation do not seem to be doing much about the Gonzaga racial harassment incidents according to the president of the Spokane Branch of the NAACP, Billy Morris.

"Law enforcement should have caught someone by now," he said. "I bet if it was a Black person, they would have arrested one of us by now."

Morris was referring to several incidents of racial harassments at Gonzaga Law School. Since last year, Black students have been targets of racial hatred.

Uri Clinton, a second year student, received racist messages on his telephone answering system. In May, another second year student, Coleen Stoudmire, discovered hate messages written on the door and window of her apartment and on the sidewalk out front. The students have also received hate mail. Richard Samad left Gonzaga last fall after racial incidents.

Gonzaga University has been working with the African-American community to solve the problem. The university has offered $25,000 reward for information leading to an arrest in the case.

"I have talked to the dean and I think the college is attempting to do all it can," Morris added. "What I do not understand is why the police have been unable to catch someone by now."

Morris and other concerned parents and Black community members have expressed their support for the students attending the school. It is important that the students know that they have people who will support them and be there for them.

"I do not think anyone should go to school in that condition," Morris said. "African-Americans should be supportive of those students. We should be more vocal — united then vocal."

A city wide meeting was held on Monday, July 8, to discuss a statement of commitment against racism and prejudice in Spokane. The meeting was organized by Gonzaga University President, Bernard Coughlin.

The African-American Voice will keep you informed of events as they unveil.

"It takes a village to raise a child"

Rites of passage program to be held soon

Charneta Scott, a doctoral student in counseling psychology from Howard University, is working with the Martin Luther King Center to offer an African American Adolescent Rites of Passage program. Twenty African-American youth between the ages of 14 and 17 will meet from 5:30 - 7:30 pm Thursdays and Fridays from August 1 to August 25. There will also be an overnight retreat the weekend of graduation. The purpose of the program is to "build a comprehensive African-centered program to increase awareness of cultural history and values; to promote a strong positive sense of self in African-American families and communities." It is based on the philosophical premise that African-Americans are essentially an African people. The program is looking for individuals and organizations to sponsor one or two of the meals for the eight sessions and to contribute to the convocation feast on August 25.

Charneta Scott

"We can all push together, it's our thing " Bob Lloyd

If you know of a young person between the ages of 14 and 17 who may benefit, urge them to apply. Contact Charneta Scott at 458-7458 or Floyd Marshall at 455-8722.

Million man march audit released

It cost slightly more than $2 million to put together the Million Man March in October and more than $66,000 in unpaid bills remain, organizers said in releasing a long-awaited audit of the event.

Black churches become endangered places

The nation's black churches have been added to the list of most endangered historic places in an unprecedented move by the National Trust for Historic Places. Arson fires at more than a score of churches prompted the Trust to make the addition to its annual list of the 11 most endangered sites, said Trust President Richard Moe. There was more news of suspicious fires as flames destroyed a black church in southeastern North Carolina, the second church fire in the state in less than two weeks. Authorities did not immediately know whether arson was the cause. Also, a suspicious fire heavily damaged a former sanctuary at a church in Georgia with a primarily white congregation.

Valerie Marshall resigns from Martin Luther King Center

After six years as the director of the Martin Luther King Center, a non-profit organization serving low-income children and families, Valerie Marshall has resigned to become regional coordinator of Washington's Families for Kids, a child welfare agency.

Humanities grant to Lawrence exhibit

The Cheney Cowles Museum received a grant of $5000 from the Washington Commission for the Humanities for the Jacob Lawrence exhibit and the exhibit "I am somebody" which highlights the Black experience in Spokane. The exhibits run from July 3 to September 1. See page 3 for more information regarding the exhibits and accompanying programs and activities.

Networking directory

To facilitate the implementation of strategies developed to meet the needs of our youth and our community, The African American Voice is publishing a Networking Directory listing resources, organizations, agencies and businesses that are supportive and can help. It includes African American, Asian,and Native American community resources, cultural and ethnic groups, businesses, churches and pastors, community agencies, mentoring and youth assistance programs, peace and justice resources, and women's resources. If you know of an individual, organization, agency or business that would like to be included please contact the Voice. We are also soliciting donations toward the cost of printing the directory. Donors will have space in the directory in which to communicate a message to the community. The directory will be distributed to the 70 men in the African American Mens' Youth Empowerment Group, the 30 African American organizations in the greater Spokane area, libraries, and if funds allow to the over 300 other organizations in the directory. Individual copies will be available for sale. Funds received from sales and donations will be used to print and distribute more copies. The deadline for receiving listings and message copy to be included in the directory is August 1, 1996. Mail to the publisher of *The African American Voice,*. 2920 S. Grand Blvd., Suite 145, Spokane 99203.

Reaching out to Black people

The question of how to contact the African American community has usually been answered by contacting black churches. But not all of us attend churches or perhaps attend churches that are predominantly white. The goal of The African American Voice is to reach the 3000 - 5000 blacks in the Spokane area. All organizations and community agencies wishing to speak directly to the black community can send their press releases to

The African American Voice
2920 S. Grand Blvd., Suite145
Spokane WA 99203

Correction

We all must be held accountable. In the June issue of The African American Voice we reported incorrectly that Jacob Lawrence was speaking at the museum on July 3. We have asked the museum to add our paper to their list for press releases.

The African-American Voice **is published for the Spokane African-American community.**

Publisher: Robert Lloyd

Editor and Typesetter: Alfred Mutua

Distribution and Printing: Peter Urio

You can send letters to The Editor :
The African American Voice, 2920 S. Grand Blvd., Ste. 145 Spokane WA 99203

(509) 455-8274

Upcoming Events

Art Exhibits

Cheney Cowles Museum
2316 W. First Ave. 456-3931

Exhibits: July 3 - September 1, 1996
'I am somebody' A century of Spokane African-American life
Jacob Lawrence: Thirty years of prints (1963-1993)

Museum Events
July 24 7:30 p.m. History instructor Scott Finnie will give a talk on "The Harlem Renaissance: An Awakening"
August 14 Kids' Week Collage: For grades 7-12. Pre-register for either 10 am - 12 or 1-3 pm. $1 fee.
August 14 7:30 pm Art professor Scott Patnode will speak on "What is a Print?"
August 23 - 24 African American Festival

Theatre
August 28 7:30 pm Spokane's Onyx Theater presents "African-American Women: Past, Present and Future"

Drum Workshop
Metropolitan School of Ballet, 820 W. Sprague. Saturday, July 27: Mark Joegbaryu, from Liberia ,will present a Drum and Drum Workshop at the For more information, call 624-7573. The event is brought to Spokane by Malidoma.

Spokane Art School
920 N. Howard 328-0900

Exhibit
Inspirations: Prints by Carl Richardson
July 8 - August 16

Art Workshop
July 26 and 27 10 am - 4 pm Silk screening workshop with Carl Richardson. Register at 328-0900.

Children's Corner Bookstore
814 W Main in the Skywalk
July and August Wednesdays at 11 am Storytelling featuring African American themes

Liberty Park
July 20 East Central Neighborhood Day

City and County Libraries
Displays and book lists of Jacob Lawrence and regional African-American heritage

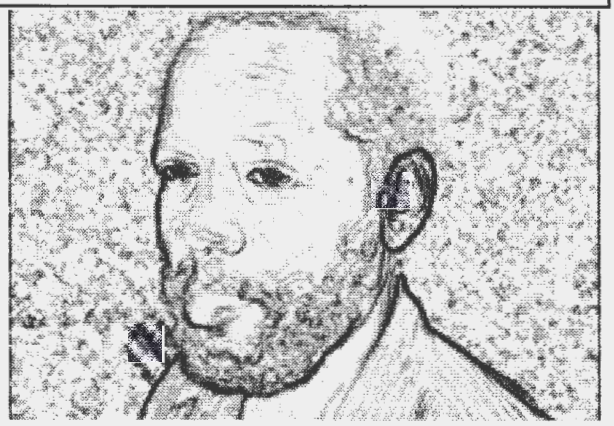
KPBX Radio 91.1 FM
July 23 noon to 1:00 pm
Historian Scott Finnie talks about the Harlem Renaissance. Listen in August for music of the Harlem Renaissance.

African Proverbs
By Peter Urio

African sayings are used for teaching, reprimanding and as daily reminders of an African's roots, which are embedded in his culture. Julius Kambarage Nyerere, former president of Tanzania, once said, "When a people lose their art, they lose their culture, and when a people lose their culture, they die as a people. In their confusion, they suffer an inferiority complex. They are no longer mentioned as a people, for they are forgotten and have lost their sense of unity and collective efforts."

Tomorrow is for monkeys.
Kesho ya manyani.
Kee show yah mahn yah nee.

Monkeys said, "We will build houses tomorrow because we are tired of the rains", and when tomorrow came each was busy collecting the daily ration of fruits and berries. It rained again. They met and said, "We are tired of getting wet. We must build houses! Everyone meet here tomorrow!" The next day the same thing happened. They were busy



collecting food. No time to build a house. That is why they live in trees and on rocks today.

Do not leave yours for a flower blown by the wind.
Usiwache mbachao kwo msala upitao.
Oo-see-wah-chem-bah-chao kwah msah-lah oo-pi-tao.

You have a friend for a long time, and then you meet someone else. You like the way your new friend smiles, and she is very beautiful. Your friends will tell you not to forget your former friend.

Book Review

The Marrow of Tradition
By Charles W. Chesnutt
Vintage, c. 1900, 1990.

Fiction is of great value to any people as a preserver of manners and customs-religious, political and social. It is a record of growth and development from generation to generation. No one will do this for us; we must ourselves develop the men and women who will faithfully portray the inmost thoughts and feelings of the Negro with all the fire and romance which lie dormant in our history, and, as yet, unrecognized by writers of the Anglo-Saxon race.
Pauline Hopkins, 1900

So begins Henry Louis Gates' introduction to 'Three Classic African American Novels' depicting the three crucial epochs in African American history: slavery ('Clotel' by William Wells Brown), reconstruction ('Iola Leroy' by Frances W. Harper) and the Jim Crow era of the 1890's ('Marrow of Tradition' by Charles W. Chesnutt). The following review of 'Marrow of Tradition' appeared in a list of African American literature for adolescents:
"This novel is a thrilling story about love, loyalty, and power. Based on the events leading up to the North Carolina race riots of 1916, 'The Marrow of Tradition' captures the heart of the single most divisive issue that has plagued our society since its inception: race. It is a brilliant story of the fragile world our prejudices and insecurities make for us--one that could come tumbling down at any minute. The book might be viewed as too volatile and controversial of a book to be taught in class. Not only does it depict Blacks in a particularly bad light (i.e. un-educated, slow, violent, etc.), but it often uses the word "nigger." These items can be seen as potentially offensive to the sensibilities of the students and could contribute to animosity in a heterogeneous classroom. However, I believe that we should teach this book for every reason I have just listed. It forces us to confront issues we normally do not. "
Rafiq Jeffries

Express yourself or others will do it for you!

"My brother thinks he's a chicken, but we can't tell him he's not because we need the eggs."
—Woody Allen

Wednesday, July 10th, 118 of Spokane's leaders met to address their problem with racism in the Spokane community. The meeting began and ended on time, for these very important people always have other meetings to go to. Fifteen tables were given 10 minutes to discuss a community resolution for equity and five minutes to discuss what future actions should be taken. Among these people were the usual professional Blacks: self-appointed leaders and Blacks who are paid to be Black and who work for Spokane's institutions. These people spend a major portion of their lives representing us. They are at all the meetings, all the press conferences, and whenever the institutions wants to know what we think they are there with the answer. When the institutions do not like the answers one of them gives, they reach in their bag and pull out another one until their beliefs are reinforced.

The inner circle of "good white people" had access to the resolution before the meeting. I wonder how many professional Blacks also had access to the resolution in order to discuss it with those they represent? With 10 minutes to form our ideas, the issues were discussed in as much detail as time would allow. At my table the scribe and the facilitator selectively filtered what would be brought forward to the larger group in one case and changed the content entirely in the other, but never made it to the "hard questions".

This kind of thing happens when you don't represent yourself. You must show up and express your own point of view. Only you can do it.

Robert Lloyd, Publisher

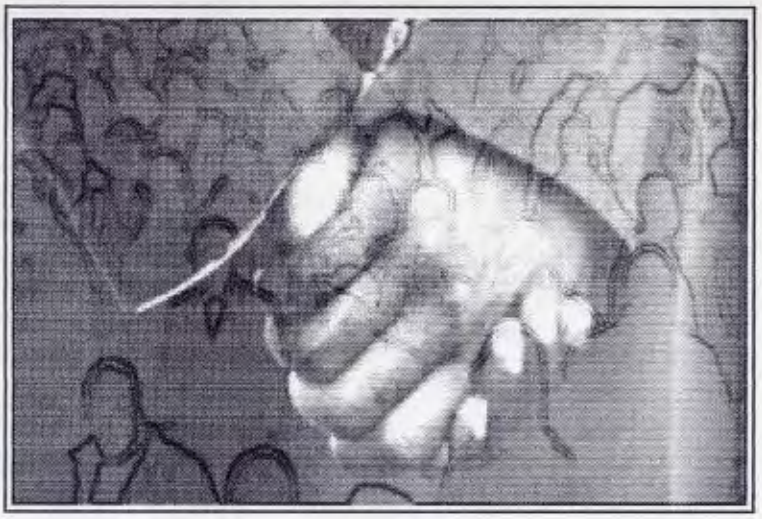
IN OUR VIEW. . . . . .

Question: **Is it just us or are there more black people in Spokane?**

Answer: According to the 1980 census, there were 4,305 Blacks in Spokane County. By 1990, there were 5,105, an increase of 18.6%. A 1994 projection increases this to 5,832 for a total increase of 1,527. Just look around!

1990 Census of Population

	Spokane City		Spokane County		National	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
BLACK	3,416	1.9	5,105	1.4	29,986,060	12.1
WHITE	165,284	93.3	341,874	94.6	199,686,070	80.3
OTHER	12,173	6.9	21,379	5.8	41,391,802	16.6
(inc. Hispanic which may be of any race)						
TOTAL	177,196	100	361,364	100	248,709,873	100



Opinion

Black teenagers are not blowing smoke; says report

Alfred Mutua,
Editor

I was watching the ABC Sunday Evening News with Carole Simpson when a piece of information made me proud. Simpson reported that while the national rate of teenage smokers is rising rapidly, that of Black teenage smokers is dropping. Good news about our youth!

The national rate of teenagers who use tobacco has risen 30 per cent. However, it seems that Black teenagers do not view smoking "as cool," and so are being spared the habit that has become a plague.

We seldom hear good news about Black youth. The media is always reporting of Black youth violence, unwanted pregnancies, school drop outs and apathy. We seldom hear of the achievements and good habits of our young.

I am pleased about this new change because statistics show that if a person does not pick up smoking by the age of 25, he or she is not going to. Statistics also show that if a person does not smoke cigarettes, chances are the person will not smoke marijuana or partake of other illegal drugs.

We need to congratulate our youth and continue supporting them. Let us remind them that whenever one of them starts smoking, he or she is falling prey to a campaign by rich companies. Companies run by people who do not care about them.

Whenever a black kid, or any kid for that matter, inhales, he is not only endangering his life, but is becoming a tool to satisfy the hungry pockets of big businesses.

Let us teach them from a young age that smoke, like youth, is short lived, and if not handled correctly can lead to a lot of harm.

How do we teach them this? By repeated encouragement and most of all, by example.

"With numbers comes strength. With unity comes power."
—Nganga Mutua

Letters

The Editor welcomes letters. You can respond to articles published in the previous issues or write about any topic of your concern. The Editor reserves the right to edit all letters published. Write to The Editor, *The African-American Voice*, 2920 S. Grand Blvd. Suite 145, Spokane WA 99203.
Your input is appreciated. Please include your name and day time telephone for verification.

Publication is timely and vital

Editor:

Thanks for giving me a look at your new (and much needed) publication. Something concrete and regional, like this, can succeed where all the "spokespeople" of great prominence have only vibrated our ears with rhetoric. Perhaps this is so for the simple but obvious reason that when you are at the local level where people congregate, you can't pass it down any farther. You are where it's at! Where it all either makes sense or it doesn't. You are the ultimate basic-bedrock committee where things can't get buried without the toes sticking out of the soil.

That being said, I'm glad that you also take on the national perspective, as in your church burning article. "What we are seeing in the South...is what is happening (here in Spokane) every day." Spokane and daily contacts are the wallet size version of the jumbo-size enlargement (National) ...from the negative!!!

Supporting, as we do, the Southern Poverty Law center and other groups, we get their mailings from time to time. It is downright epidemic, this hate and anger. The far right and the white supremacist movement are highly organized, highly financed and highly armed. Clearly this is not a healthy combination for those they choose to stigmatize and harm.

Organize yourselves along the commendable lines that you discuss in your publication. This is both logical and highly desirable. But the job won't get done against the white supremacists until we put together a great alliance of peoples, as we had during the Martin Luther King days of civil rights confrontation. Divide and conquer was the military strategy of Hitler and others. The supremacist movement hates Blacks, Asians, Jews, Homosexuals, Native-Americans, Hispanics and other. Somewhere down the line, all our collective sleeves will need to be rolled up and our muscle be permitted to flex in response. These people are not kidding around and neither should we respond with anything but the greatest seriousness and the most creative tactics.

Congratulations on your most timely communication.

Morrie Camhi

Is arson color blind?

An Associated Press article in the Spokesman-Review on July 5 carried the headline"Racism doesn't appear to be cause of arson." Citing figures such as 75 fires at white churches and 73 at Black churches in the last 18 months and 248 at white and 161 at Black in the last six years, they come to the conclusion that arson is merely up at all churches. What they fail to do is give the number of fires as a proportion of the number of churches. One source gives the figure of 300,000 white pastors to 65,000 Black pastors, or a ratio of 4.5 white congregations to 1 Black congregation. If the church arsons are random they should be in the proportion of 4.5 to 1. This is certainly not the case. The 18 month figures have a ratio of about 1 to 1 and even the six year figures are 1.5 white to 1 Black. While not all fires at Black churches may be racially motivated, can one really point to the fact that white churches are burning also to deny that racist acts are on the increase? You would expect that 4.5 white churches would be burning for every Black church burned.

Let your voice be heard at census meeting

If you are Multi-Racial, how do you want to be counted in the next census in your community, school or work? The Governor's Affirmative Action Policy Committee is holding a public hearing on Thursday, July 25 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm at the Spokane Public Library to consider this question in preparation for the year 2000 census.

The library is located at 906 W. Main. There is parking under the library (enter from the north side of the building) and in the Parkade on the east side. The meeting will be held in room 1A of the library.

Publisher's Point of View

The Black Diaspora: Does it matter how you got here?

Diaspora n. 1. the scattering of the Jews to countries outside of Palestine after the Babylonian captivity. 2. the body of Jews living in countries outside Palestine or modern Israel. 3. such countries collectively: the return of the Jews from the Diaspora. 4. any group migration or flight from a country or region; dispersion. 5. any group that has been dispersed outside its traditional homeland. 6. any religious group living as a minority among people of the prevailing religion. Origin [Greek diaspora dispersion from diaspeirein to spread about dia- apart; See dia- speirein to sow, scatter]

By Robert Lloyd

This newspaper is called ***The African American Voice***. Who is an African American? You have the right to call yourself whatever you want to. I have been called Negro, colored, African American, Afro American, and Black. I call myself Black, but I am not referring to skin color. I am talking about a political identification based on the Diaspora - the transporting of Africans from south of the Sahara as slaves throughout the world.

Ronald Segal in The Black Diaspora, a book published last year, discusses how bureaucrats use terminology such as Afro-Caribbean, African-American and Afro-Brazilian to separate black communities from each other. Historically, "the racism which sought to sustain slavery and subsequent forms of subjugation or discrimination based itself increasingly on the blackness of the Diaspora rather that on its geographical genesis. This blackness came to include lighter complexions and any other features, such as lips, nose, and hair, which revealed traces of a black ancestry... Increasingly, too, though not until well into this century, 'black' came to be adopted within the Diaspora itself as a term of dignity and defiance, in revulsion from the use of the word 'Negro,' with all the abusive and contemptuous associations that this had acquired. "Black is

Continued on page 9

Membership: The Black Community and Me

By Stoakley Lloyd

I have always known that I was black. Even though my mother is white both my parents made sure that I understood that no one would ever overlook my skin color. That not withstanding, I have had little contact with Spokane's small black community. I grew up on Grand Boulevard on the South Hill in an all white neighborhood. I attended Saint George's School, a predominantly white school, for all of my pre-college life. All of this has had an impact on who I am. I have had my share of experience with racism, albeit not of the overt variety, but most of my life I have been accepted by the white community. The vast majority of my friends are whites to whom I have never felt my race was a issue. Recently my father has asked that I become more involved in the black community. He asked if I would help to tutor or speak to black youth because he thought they would see me as one of them who was worth listening to, that I could bridge the generation gap. This got me thinking. I wondered if they would accept me. I realized that time and time again I have been ridiculed by other blacks my age for not being "BLACK enough." It is never my skin color that is at issue. The problem seems to be that I don't speak the black dialect, I don't "dress black", I don't like basketball, I went to a private school, and they don't think I'm "down with the cause". I have been little but reviled by my peer group within the black community. I wonder how I can help people who see me as more of an outsider than they do my father and why it is that I have been given greater acceptance by whites than by my own race. As a community that is in a time of great struggle we need to come together not stand apart, we must welcome others as brothers and sisters not push people away. Let us stop being concerned with who is "down" so that we may lift everyone up.

Martin Luther King Center

Poem

Drivel

By Anande Urio
Age: 17

Empty words scattered across a sheet of wrinkled paper.
Dark words - shades of slate and coal
Cold words fashioned of ice
That melt upon examination
Like frost under piercing rays of sun
Bright words gathered artlessly together,
Tied with with ribbons and bows
Into sweet bouquets that wither
At a breath of insight
Philosophy, love, pain -
Battered by hearts that feel nothing
Into bold, shining visions
Of no substance.

Story

The Island

By Marvina Rhodes
Age: 14

Emerald-colored island groups stretched toward the horizon across the velvet sea. Encircling reefs cupped pale, green lagoons. As the airplane landed in the water near the dock, I noticed many things. An unbroken reef fences the lagoon, keeping sharks out. While I waddled off the dock with my travel bags in my hand, I stared at the beach. A wealth of seashells, lustrous, intricately patterned, washes ashore on the beach. Island swallows are bound by turtles, clams, crab and fish. The white coral sand reflects the midday sun.

I marched forward and placed my travel bags on the sand. I roamed along the palm-fringed beach. I strolled into the majestic, green forest with a compass in my hand. The needle pointed toward the East. As I walked on further, the wild, green plants brushed against my skin. Soon, I heard a rumbling sound. I found its source. Framed by a dense growth fern, the rushing waterfalls endlessly plunged 185 feet in front of me. Nimble animals ventured near the brine and ran away. I looked around and spotted its wonderful features. In the lush rain forest, brilliant flowers pierced the gloom. Heliconiz concealed blossoms within boat-shaped bracts. Spoon-shaped bracts of Medinilla Spectabilis hung in clusters. In a vigorous courtship performance, a red-plumed bird of paradise displayed his plumage. A Victoria crowned pigeon carried a lacy crest. Above the waterfalls, craggy mountains had climbed from the jungle floor.

The mountains peaked at more than a thousand feet. Toward the West part of the island, slopes and valleys blossomed with fragrant hibiscus. When it was time for me to leave the island, I prepared to take a long stare. As the airplane left the land, I gazed out the window. Foam-white clouds drifted along the sky. The sunset gilded a ware-lashed reef off the island.

It was a beautiful island. I'll never forget that dream.

Developing community leadership

You don't need 'blue blood' to lead

By Delwyn A. Dyer
Institute for Leadership & Volunteer Development

The successful development of local leaders capable of leading groups toward the accomplishment of their stated goals, with a minimum of friction and a maximum of efficiency, is the ultimate goal and test of any leadership training and community development. This training process is influenced by many significant factors. The ability to understand and recognize these factors is important and necessary for community developers.

This publication will attempt to: **(1)** Examine and express in layman's language for lay leaders some of the concepts and definitions of leadership. **(2)**Increase lay leader's and community developer's understanding of the factors which determine the effectiveness of leaders. **(3)** Be a tool for lay community developers in developing and assessing their leadership competencies of the people with whom they work and train.

Leadership - Defined

Who is a leader? What is leadership? Can anyone be a leader? Are leaders born or made? These are modern day questions. Before modern times, such questions were rarely raised. Such silly notions were not allowed to occupy much time or importance in the minds of the common masses. Everyone "knew" that leaders came from or were appointed by the aristocracy. It was also "known" that some persons were BORN to be leaders and unfortunate others were destined to be followers. Leaders were, for the most part, "BORN TO THE PURPLE." They were sons of leaders. They were rulers and, generally speaking, were aristocratic. But times and conditions are continually changing and conception of leadership too changed with the times and conditions. With the awareness that all people have potential for leadership, the democratic-shared leadership idea was born. Within these democratic bodies leaders are real group members, and just as other members, they undertake activities and actions designed to help the group achieve its goals or accomplish its means. Those group members that more strongly engage in goal-centered activities than other members are said to be leaders. Therefore, leadership can be defined as "the art or practice of influencing others in deciding on goals (what to do) or means (how to do it)."

How is this influence exercised? It is often exerted through various means. For example, by importing knowledge, giving advice or suggestions, expressing a belief or opinion, making decisions on behalf of the group, providing assistance, exercising power, lending approval or support, and by examples or demonstrations. For democratic (influence) leadership to develop, there must be several things: **(a)** a group of people; **(b)** a common concern that requires people to work together; and **(c)** members of the group who can throw in useful ideas. Note that there can be no leadership unless there are two or more people doing something. Notice also, that one or more persons must accept the responsibility for getting the group going if the group is to get anything done. Good democratic leadership is really a "helping activity." Leaders must not only see the needs of the group, but must help the group develop plans to meet these needs. They also attempt to induce competent members to work toward satisfying these needs or attaining the group's goal.

Experienced democratic leaders have come to know that members more readily support activities they have had a hand in creating. Consequently they will never assume ALL of the responsibilities themselves, but rather they will insure that opportunities for leadership responsibilities are widespread within the group.

Spokane Public Library Internet Orientation

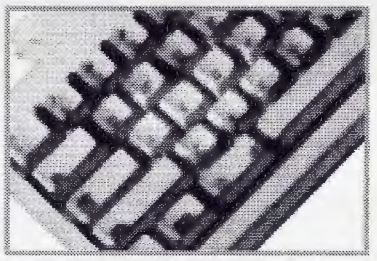
If you would like to take your first trip on the Internet super-highway , or learn more about Internet, you can do so by attending one of the workshops at area libraries:
Library presenters will cover how to get started, the care and use of library equipment, and Internet policy and procedures.

East Side Branch Library
524 S. Stone Public Meet Rm
Tuesday, July 30 7:00 pm
Preregistration is recommended as space is limited: call 626-5375.

Downtown Library 906 W. Main
Meeting Room 1A (First floor, west of Lincoln/Main entrance)
Thursday, July 25 2:00 pm
Saturday, July 27 10:00 am
Preregistration is not required.

South Hill Branch Library
3324 S. Perry Public Meet. Rm
Tuesday, July 23 7:00 pm
Preregistration is not required.
Call 626-5385 for more information or to preregister.

Hillyard Branch Library 4005 N. Cook Public Meeting Room
Tuesday, July 23 7:00 pm
Preregistration is not required.
Call 626-5380 for more information or to preregister.



Learning from the Internet: key by key

Resources by and about interracial and multi-cultural people

Internet Sites:

http://www.personal.umich.edu/~kdown/multi.html

This site contains a bibliography representing some of the literature on and relating to interracial and multicultural people. Most of these articles can be accessed by visiting your local library or a university library.
For more information regarding these and other sources, please contact Karen Downing (kdown@umich.edu), University of Michigan Undergraduate Library.

African-American web sites
http://www.netway.net/~rainbow/RAIN.html

This page gives links to African American sites such as:

Rev. Jesse L. Jackson
Chet Whye, Jr.
Other African American Web Sites of Interest
AfriNET®Home Page
AFRO AMERICA
Continuing Mandela's "Freedom" on the Internet
SHOP-D-NET
The Universal Black Pages
Other Places to Go
VIBEonlineV2
Dealernet
Welcome to Open Market
1742 Old Generals Highway
Home Buyer Real Estate Service
CommunicationsWeek

POPClock PROJECTION
http://www.census.gov/cgi-bin/popclock

One of many interesting sites at the Bureau of the Census, it estimates the current population of the US.

Job market healthy for pharmacists

By Regina Styron Jingles

Students looking for a career that is virtually recession-proof and offers a wide variety of exciting job options, including an opportunity to make a difference in the health care of millions, should look into the pharmaceutical industry. Pharmaceuticals- -whether prescription drugs, over-the-counter medication, or vaccines- -play a major role in helping people lead better lives. It's no wonder that global sales are estimated at an astounding $84.9 billion dollars annually!

The growing elderly population (the largest user of prescription drugs), the severity of chronic illnesses, and the treatment breakthroughs in science and technology, make the pharmaceutical industry an optimal career choice for college students.

The new pharmacist

The role of the pharmacist is changing from that of merely the manager in the drug distribution system to helping manage the drug therapy process especially since more and more pharmacists are working in collaboration with doctors, nurses, and other health practitioners. Pharmacy education is patterning itself after medical schools and students are now completing fellowships and residencies in various specialties ranging from nuclear to surgical pharmacy.

Employment for pharmacists include operating their own independent pharmacy or working for a chain drug store, hospital or governmental agency. Responsibilities include everything from dispensing medication to answering questions about a drug's side-effects. Average starting salaries, according to figures from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), ranged from $45,300 $52,300 annually.

Opportunities in pharmaceutical corporations

In addition to jobs for pharmacists in retail establishments and hospitals, there are opportunities in pharmaceutical corporations for pharmacists, as well as for graduates holding degrees in the various specialties of biology, chemistry, computer science, engineering, and mathematics.

Graduates can find opportunities in sales & marketing, (one of the simplest ways to enter the industry and one of the few areas open to graduates with a minimal science background and some sales experience), in research and development, production & quality control, and management.

Preparing for the job

As with any field, preparation is the key to success in pharmaceutical careers. Besides good grades and professional networking, internships are an advantage for those in the pharmaceutical job market and a requirement for those pursuing a pharmacy license.

One of the country's largest and most competitive programs is the Industry Internship Program offered by the American Pharmaceutical Association and the Academy of Students of Pharmacy. This annual 12-week summer program (application deadline: November 30) places students in the general, clinical or research areas at some of the world's most prestigious corporations. Students accepted to the program usually have high GPA's, good references, and relevant work or volunteer experience. Students should also try and be involved with the student chapters of professional organizations. Communication skills are also highly valued.

Along with academic preparation, students need to be emotionally ready to fight the twin evils of racism and sexism. When books such as the controversial The Bell Curve make the outlandish claim that African-Americans are genetically inferior, the already tough battle to prove competence becomes tougher, especially for those entering the sciences. There may be instances where individuals will be "the only Black" in a classroom, laboratory, retail or corporate setting. However, we come from a scientific culture and corporations can ill-afford to ignore qualified candidates of color when there's such a severe shortage of science professionals.

Regardless of what road graduates take, there are more opportunities in the pharmaceutical industry than ever before. Pharmacists are being tapped to serve on various college, hospital and corporate boards. They act as consultants to nursing homes and correctional institutions, begin their own ventures and move into teaching. Computers are also having an impact. In Florida, a "virtual drugstore" experiment is being tested in which home shoppers can order medications via their television sets. The information superhighway is also attempting to work on linking pharmacists with doctors, hospitals, and patients on-line to ease administrative burdens and ensure efficiency. Other significant trends include the burgeoning biotechnology field with its many products being used in pharmaceutical preparations, the rise of the generic drug market because of expiring drug patents, home-infusion care, and the growing movement toward alternative healing remedies and preventive care. By networking, staying abreast of the trends, and maintaining a positive yet committed focus, African-Americans in pharmaceuticals will be able to advance in one of the world's most needed professions.

Regina Styron Jingles is a writer who lives in the Bronx, New York.

Our community is fortunate to have a pharmaceutical educator, Jutta Joseph of W. S. U. Spokane and one of her prize former students, Josephine Maundu, who is a pharmacist with Payless Drug Stores. The African American Voice has asked these two wonderful resources to share their information on Black health issues in future papers. For a list of professional associations related to pharmaceutical fields, contact the **Voice.**

Apprenticeship Programs

If you are interested in a career in apprenticeship and on-the-job training, the Washington State Department of Transportation and Opportunities Industrialization Center has a program for highway construction trainees and apprentices. Apprenticeship programs include laborer, iron worker, piledriver, cement mason, carpenter, operating engineer, and electrician. The program seeks to recruit, counsel and find placement for individuals in highway construction jobs and emphasizes recruitment of women and minorities. Services provided are:

- Placement on Washington State Dept. of Transportation contracts
- Placement assistance in apprenticeship programs
- On-the-job counseling and support services
- Client advocacy
- Monitoring of progress
- Follow-up on success

For further information call:

Elbert "Jay" Jennings
East Central Comm. Center
500 S. Stone St.
Spokane 99202
(509) 625-6699 or
1-800-481-8774

The Black Diaspora

Continued from page 5

Beautiful' became a slogan, and it was in the cause of Black Power that militancy raised a clenched fist." So when someone asks me "What am I?" the answer is always context-specific. Are we talking about morphology (external appearance), genetics, race, political ideology, culture, ethnicity, geography, history, or affected class?

The governor has asked that you attend a meeting to let government officials know how you would like to be counted in the year 2000 census in your workplace, in your schools, in your community. If these issues are of concern to you, you should attend. I would like to suggest that you be well prepared if you do.

Serious thought should be given to the questions being asked.

Who benefits from the method which the government uses to count minorities? Census figures are often used for the distribution of political power and financial resources.

How do these labels affect you? This could be a tool to divide our communities even further. In the past those of mixed black-and-white ancestry were called "colored" and "mulatto", often treated differently from blacks, and in their turn often regarded blacks as inferior.

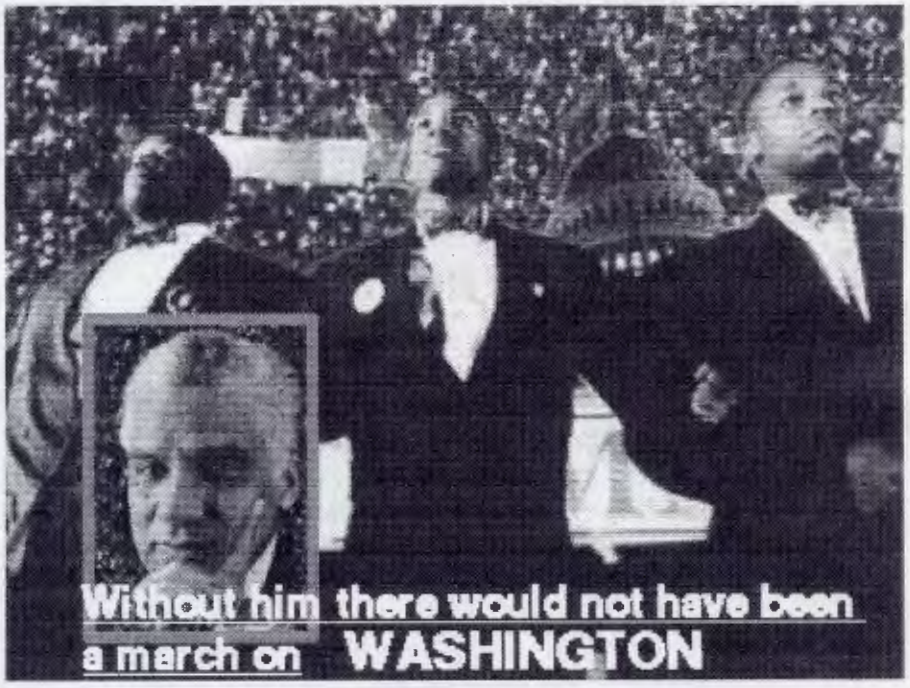
No matter how light your skin is, no matter how straight your hair, no matter what your economic status, you will still be treated as less than equal. As Segal says, "Some 'colored' people still today prefer to think of themselves as almost white. It is sad that they should do so, without recognizing how much more they are losing than gaining in the process."

There is a bus running from Spokane to Seattle. My bus runs from Africa to America. The Spokane-Seattle bus makes many stops along the way. The bus stops in Issaquah, in Ellensburg, in George, and in Ritzville.

My bus stops in Haiti, Brazil, Panama, and America.

This paper is not only for those who took the express bus to America, but for all of those who may have stopped in other places along the way as well.

Survey of Black men's ideology and political beliefs



A survey of participants in the Million Man March on October 16, 1995 was conducted by a group of Howard University political science faculty, students and researchers in conjunction with a market research firm. A questionnaire was administered by teams of students on the day of the march. 1,070 interviews were completed and the information tabulated.

The attitudes and opinions of African Americans including their political attitudes take on special importance in the context of the upcoming 1996 Presidential elections. Given the current strains in race relations, increasing threats to civil rights gains as well as conservatively motivated reversals in social policy proposed in Congress, there are pressures for a response from the Black community. The Million Man March is a substantial expression of that response.

The statistics below represent the feelings and opinions of the African American men who attended the march. How do they compare with your feelings and opinions on these issues? Do those of us in Spokane see things similarly or differently? Indicate your response to these questions and return them to The African American Voice by August 23. The results will be published in a future issue.

Ideology and Political Attitudes

Please mark the sections that best describe you

Registration and Presidential Preference

	March	Your opinion
Are you registered to vote?		
unregistered	14%	
registered	86%	
Are you registered or will you register as		
Democrat	62%	
Republican	3%	
Independent	20%	
Other	5%	
If the election were held today, whom would you vote for?		
Colin Powell	37%	
Jesse Jackson	23%	
Bill Clinton	14%	
Ross Perot	3%	
Bob Dole	1%	
None of the above	23%	

Continued on page 10

Why Communication is important

To all Black Men:

Communication is important because we do not know what you are thinking or what you are feeling. It is important for us as Black Women to know how our men feel. You demand respect and love from us, but you do not do what we want the most and that is to communicate with us. To all the brothers and to the so called brothers, please communicate with us for it is hard to know what you want if you do not. Thank you

A Sister

Black men survey

Continued from page 9

Do you think Congress should make these legislative issues a high priority?

	March	Your opinion
Keeping affirmative action	79%	
Health care	86%	
Police and prisons	21%	
Welfare reform	53%	
Drug enforcement	70%	
Tougher sentencing	56%	
Money for education	91%	
Lowering taxes	61%	
Reducing the federal deficit	63%	

Ideological Identification

How do you identify yourself politically?

Liberal	31%
Moderate	21%
Conservative	13%
Nationalist	11%
Socialist	4%
Other	21%

In which of the following ways have you been socially, politically, or economically active?

Participated in a march before	48%
Contacted a public official	55%
Signed a petition	87%
Volunteered and served in a political campaign	45%
Participated in a public policy hearing	44%

Black Leadership

What is the leadership importance in the Black community of Black leaders and institutions? Rate them on a scale of one to six where 6 is very important and 1 is not at all important.

National Leaders

Louis Farrakhan	44%
Johnnie Cochran	36%
Coretta S. King	34%

National Institutions

Congressional Black Caucus	43%
Nation of Islam	41%
NAACP	37%
Urban League	36%

Local Leaders: Name them and rank them 1 - 6

_____ ____
_____ ____
_____ ____
_____ ____
_____ ____
_____ ____

Local Institutions: Name them and rank them 1 - 6

_____ ____
_____ ____
_____ ____
_____ ____
_____ ____
_____ ____

We look forward to receiving your comments.

ORGANIZATION PROFILE

The Links Inc.

In 1946 Margaret Hawkins and Sarah Scott met with seven of their friends to organize a women's service club that would respond to the needs and aspirations of Black women. Today Links has a membership of 9,600 women in 267 chapters in 40 states, Washington, D.C., the Bahamas and Frankfurt, Germany. The women who began the organization were active in their communities and in education. Both the founders were educators and members of Jack and Jill of America. Early members belonged also to the National Medical Association, the National Dental Association, and local chapters of the National Urban League and the NAACP. The first national assembly of fourteen chapters was held in Philadelphia in 1949.

Today the organization has many programs carrying out various aspects of the organization's concerns. The Links Foundation raises funds to address urgent problems of society.

The Service to Youth Linkage designs programs "to condition youth to become healthy, responsible, accountable, educated and contributing citizens."

The International Trends and Services program raises funds for programs in Africa such as the construction of water wells.

The Arts Linkage promotes and supports African American literary, visual and performing arts.

The focus of Links National Trends and Services is to revitalize and nurture a positive, supportive environment in the African American community for families.

The Education Linkage programs seek to reduce violence in the schools and advance education and career goals, especially in the field of education.

Links Health and Wellness seeks to help African Americans "embrace a lifestyle change in pursuing good health" and raises money for food banks and homeless shelters.

Purpose: Foster cultural appreciation through the arts, develop richer intergroup relations and help women who participate understand and accept their social and civic responsibilities.

"Our mission is to discern the need and fulfill it, whether that is tutoring young children in middle school or visiting the elderly at nursing homes or putting water wells in village in African. We must reserve the culture of the African-American experience and the Diaspora."

Links National President Patricia Russell-McCloud

Subscribe Now

The African-American Voice

In order to help support the continuation of this newsletter, we need your help. To pay for production and mailing, a contribution of $10.00 per year will guarantee that you receive the paper in the mail ten time per year. Send in this form with your check.

_____
Name Phone

_____
Address

_____
City State Zip

Letter from Osaka

The experience of a Black woman in Japan

By Regina Helen Boone

The bustling city of Osaka

I am an African American woman in Japan. I have a mission. I came to Japan as a determined independent woman with the goal of shattering myths about Black people and promoting understanding between two different worlds. I distinctly did not want to come here just as a teacher. I came as an ambassador, role model, and fact-finder. Before arriving in Japan in the Japan Exchange Teaching Program, I had knowledge of the gross stereotypes and misconceptions many Japanese held regarding African Americans.

For example, in 1986, former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone blamed America's minority groups for lowering America's average intellectual level. Two years later, Japan's Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe said that African-Americans "hurt the American economy by not paying their debts." Another Japanese official compared the Japanese problem of prostitution to that of African Americans moving into a neighborhood and causing white homeowners to flee.

Of course numerous friends questioned my reasons for packing my bags, leaving my family and friends behind, and going alone to a place that openly admitted its distaste for people who look like me.

I now have been here for two years, and I interact with average Japanese citizens on a daily basis. These individuals are my colleagues, neighbors, friends, and roommate. Recently I asked my roommate Kozue Kigawa, an English teacher and activist, if she felt that Japan's institutional racism affects the average Japanese person.

She was quick to answer,"Yes, I think most Japanese are a bit ignorant, passive, and really don't doubt what is being reported to them, even if they might have a slightly different perspective. Being different is not a positive thing here." She attributes this way of thinking to the Japanese educational system where it is generally not taught to criticize, have a varying opinion, or stand out from the group.

I have noticed these characteristics in many Japanese people I have met. On Japanese TV it is common to see only bad images of America. The United States is constantly reported as being scary, drug-infested and dangerous. Most of the images illustrating these reports are ones with African Americans. I am sometimes asked, "Do you have a gun? Does your Dad have a gun? Isn't America scary?"

I answer "No!" to all the questions, and ask " Where do you get such views and what kind of Americans do you see in these reports?" The answer is, unfortunately, "TV and 'koko-jin' (Blacks)."

Evidently, there is much to be done.

Disgusting painful stereotypes of Black people abound. Japanese comic strips depict Black people with bones in their noses and exaggerated charcoal faces with big eyes and lips. These negative images, unfortunately, do not stop on the comic pages. I have sadly spotted this same image on one of my student's handkerchiefs. The image was offset in black, green, and gold with the words "African Bush Bitch."

I was walking around the room during a lesson when I almost burst into hysterics. I held my anger because this twelve year-old would not have understood my emotions. Instead I pointed it out to the teacher I was assisting. We then discussed with the class why this was an awful and grossly distorted image.

There are some entertainers trying to win applause with the Al Jolson look. This is all supposed to be cute and harmless.

It is clear that the Japanese fail to understand what we perceive as racist. I feel compelled to chip away at the mountain of propaganda, stereotypes,and misconceptions that ignore the accomplishments and achievements of Blacks today and in the past.

I had the opportunity to speak before a Japanese audience on "The Japanese and African-American Relationship: One Perspective". Everyone was very alert and full of questions immediately following my speech. There are Japanese individuals who have a sincere interest in closing the chasm which exists between the African American and Japanese communities.

I have a Japanese friend who is studying as an exchange student in Washington state. He went there to improve his English, but most importantly he said in a recent letter, "...If you study abroad, you need a clear purpose for studying abroad. My clear purpose in coming here... is to learn Black studies in order to improve the relationship between Black people and the Japanese."This makes me feel like I have made some sort of difference.

While it is depressing that racist images exist in a place so far away, I realize the Japanese are only partially at fault. America is the main source of many of Japan's distorted views of African Americans. The source springs from Hollywood, TV, and the print media.

The Hollywood stars that the Japanese love and idolize are those with pale, creamy, white skin. People like Audrey Hepburn, Marilyn Monroe, and James Dean are loved by people young and old. In fact, several of my students carry their photos in assignment books. This fascination with pale skin leaves little room for Blacks to be adored on the same level.

Even as stereotypes abound, another puzzling phenomenon is unfolding: many young people in Japan have become captivated by African-American culture.

When I first noticed young people who looked remarkably African-American, I thought I was going crazy. But it wasn't a figment of my imagination. In Japan, as in America, it is hip to be Black. Young Japanese invest big to achieve the African American look, often spending over 40,000 yen (about $400) to get a deep tan or to get special twists that yield perfect dreads.

In smoky hip-hop clubs, one can hear the latest from Tribe Called Quest, Ice Cube, Pharcyde, and De La Soul. "Cool" Japanese sport Black urban-inspired attire while swaying to the beat. It is a sight that would make your mouth drop.

I wonder if these folks understand the politics, problems and realities of Black people, or are they just sportin' these clothes for the fashion, waiting for the next trend to blow in from the west. What I have actually found is that the majority are in it just for the look and don't comprehend the racial disharmony that is being felt by Blacks in America or in Japan. But then again, the majority of Japanese don't acknowledge the fact that there is discrimination and racial unrest within this land of supposed homogeneity.

Anything African American is extremely popular and highly marketable--including brother Malcolm X. When Spike Lee's Malcolm X movie was released, demand for the translated version of The Autobiography of Malcolm X skyrocketed. The unbelievable appeal of Malcolm X even caused my junior high school students to hunger for information about our take-no-stuff-from-the-man hero. I saw this student interest as a great opportunity to educate. I used it to launch an introduction to other African-American greats. The response to my efforts I think was greatly accepted. My students were shocked by the simple concept that Black people come in a rainbow of colors.

Following the announcement of Toni Morrison's winning the Nobel Prize for Literature, a colleague of mine joyfully asked me whether I had heard the good news. My colleague was probably more excited by the fact that she knew who Toni Morrison was, knew her work, and knew what she looked like before millions of others (I had shared the book I Dream A World with her everyday for about four months).

Through my membership in the Japan Afro-American Friendship Association (JAFA), I was part of an effort to expose the Japanese to a film documentary, "Struggle and Success--The African American Experience in Japan." The documentary focuses on 20 African-Americans who share their experiences of living in Japan. This documentary was broadcast over cable television, giving Japan the opportunity to see positive images of African Americans living in Japan. I think it curbed the stream of negative impressions about us. The comments that I have heard range from embarrassment to sadness, joy, and amazement.

Despite an environment that too often projects Black people in a negative light, I have yet to be exposed to any situation which made me feel threatened or ill-at-ease because of my racial classification. I cannot say the same for my experiences in my homeland, America.

Regina Helen Boone teaches English in Osaka as part of the Japan Exchange Teaching Program (JET). Boone is from Richmond, Virginia.

Publisher's point of view

Something you can do

Want to help? Need help? Write the Voice and we will put you in contact with the appropriate person or group.

ADVOCACY

We need advocates in the schools and the criminal justice system to solve these issues.

Needed: Parent and community involvement.

Parents need to monitor and ensure that their kids are enrolled in appropriate classes, early on.

Parents should periodically visit their kids school.

Involve the business community in helping to identify the appropriate curriculum.

Parents should be aware of what their kids are doing in school.

African American youth and their parents need need to know what police can and cannot do during a contact and where and how inappropriate actions can be redressed.

THE ACADEMY

An academy of Involved Mentors Providing Academic, Cultural, and Technology has been created that can have IMPACT with your help.

Volunteer to teach or tutor.

Be prepared to contribute financially.

Bring and encourage your children to participate.

MENTORING AND SUPPORT

One person supporting one kid could bring about a major positive change.

Most African American youth are not in contact with the criminal justice system. Support and encourage them.

Provide more African American oriented foster, group, respite and adoptive homes.

COMMUNICATIONS

Contribute information to the Networking Directory.

Buy a directory.

Use the directory.

Ask businesses and organizations you are affiliated if they have supported the directory and to support the directory.

Subscribe to the African American Voice.

Contribute stories, letters, information, ideas, and donations to the Voice.

If you know of any meetings or events that are of importance to the African American community, let this paper know. (Not only of Black organizations but any meetings dealing with issues that affect our quality of life.)

Help us to identify African Americans in Spokane and give us the addresses of friends and relatives that you would like to see receive a copy of the African American Voice.
Suggest places of distribution for the newspaper, e.g. churches and businesses that you frequent.

Attend meetings and events in order to interact with and support each other.

GENERAL

Financially support the things that you believe in.

Support your leadership or provide new leadership.

The African-American Voice
2920 S. Grand Blvd.Suite 145
Spokane WA 99203

The crisis needs to be attacked at all levels,
from the lowest to the highest,
wherever one has a passion to work.

OFFICE DEPOT®

Taking Care Of Business!

Office Depot has a very simple operating philosophy: buy in massive quantities and pass the savings along to our customers. There are never any middlemen involved, so there are no unnecessary middleman mark-ups. We save you up to 60% every day on the very finest selection of brand name office products. Office Depot is so confident we have the best prices, we back them with a written Low Price Guarantee that states we won't be undersold.

Office Depot's enormous buying power means that you never have to wait for a sale–you receive unbeatable savings every day of the week on thousands of different office products. Every superstore is packed to the rafters with a $1.5 million inventory of first-quality office products, from office supplies and business machines to computers and office furniture.

The Business Services Center inside every store gives you warehouse prices on full and self-service copying, custom printing, personalized business forms, engraving, custom signs and banners, faxing services and much more. Plus, we guarantee that your Business Services product will be done right, on time or it will be FREE.

Pick up your free, full color, 240-page catalog for the most convenient way to shop. It's like having an entire Office Depot superstore at your fingertips. Place your order toll-free by phone or fax and receive next business day delivery, guaranteed.*

As North America's #1 office products superstore chain, Office Depot gives you the best savings, selection, service and convenience. We'll take care of your business better than anyone else.

To order:
Call 1-800-685-8800 or
Fax 1-800-685-5010

*All phone orders received by 5pm and all fax orders received by 3pm are delivered the next business day.

LOW PRICE Guarantee EVERYDAY