



The Publisher Speaks

A philosopher once said, "A people's memory is history; and as a man without a memory, so a people without a history cannot grow wiser, and better."

This is "Black History Week." The direction of our educational system this week has been to direct attention to the accomplishments of the Black American. This is important. If truly a people's memory is history, then this nation's memory has been stunted; it has been malnourished for decades, because the Black American's role has been hidden from view. This has prevented this nation from fulfilling its potential growth in becoming a wiser and a better nation.

Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes stated in a famous court case that "a page of history is worth a volume of logic." This is correct. One page of black history can do more to tear away the barriers of prejudice than can pages of philosophy. The accomplishments of the early black man in the fields of medicine, education, agriculture and business, set forth in historical narrative, build the foundation for modern day equal opportunity in all fields, no matter the color of one's skin.

Black History Week is a beautiful concept. I visualize Fredrick Douglas, the ex-slave, speaking in New York, saying, "I hear the mournful wail of millions!" I see the great white man Abraham Lincoln stating to the assembled convention, "I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free." I picture Clarence Darrow, defending in court black doctor Ossian Sweet, by stating eloquently to the jury, "I do not believe in the law of hate."

Hopefully, Black History Week will bring attention to our great heritage. Our "roots" are strong. We must be proud of our history. Because black history will illuminate the past, it definitely will illuminate the present and, in illuminating the present, illuminate the future -- a future of equality of opportunity.



Just the FACTS

Heritage is something handed down from one's ancestors. It is social custom, culture characteristics, attitudes and tradition. Heritage is also defined by Webster as the rights, burdens, or status resulting from being born in a certain time or a certain place, like a birthright.

In America, the abominable heritage of racism has been handed down from generation to generation. The American Heritage of racism, despite the fact that it violated both the doctrines of democracy, and the concepts of Judea-Christian teachings went unchanged and unchallenged for a century after the abolishment of slavery.

Our national conscience is, today, putting our heritage of racism to a severe test. We are now experiencing a social evolution which is destined to alter a heritage which never should have been tolerated in the first place.

Education and inter-group communication are the two most important keys to change our heritage while, at the same time, guard our domestic tranquility. If the adage that a little learning is a dangerous thing applies anywhere, it certainly applies in the area of race relations in every American community. Nothing short of a full understanding can be trusted to assure a painless social evolution.

BUSINESS IN THE BLACK

By: Charles E. Belle

FUNDING AN EDUCATION

There are many ways to pay for post-secondary education. Postsecondary refers to any formal education beyond the high school level. Essentially there are five categories to call upon to pay for education. No matter what color you come in, scholarships, grants, loans, saving and employment are methods for funding an education.

Scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic ability and financial need. It takes some smarts, as well as desperation to deserve this choice dish. Scholarships don't have to be repaid.

Those of us in desperation for a degree at the minus genius levels need grants. Like a scholarship, a grant is a gift. The federal government is one of the largest sources of student financial aid in the United States.

It allocates funds each year to schools. The schools in turn disburse the funds to their students. The first step then is for anyone needing financial support to go to school is to go directly to the financial aid office of the school of their choice and ask for a grant.

The student will then open the many financial doors available for all students. The very least a prospective postsecondary school student can do is pick up an application form from a high school, postsecondary school, public library or write to Basic Grants, P. O. Box 84, Washington, D.C. 20044. Basic Educational Opportunity Grants range up to \$1,400 a year.

In the event a grant is not given to a student, still a direct loan of up to \$10,000 is available from the government. National Direct Student Loans (NDSL) are not repayable until nine months after you graduate or otherwise leave school.

You are allowed up to 10 years to pay back the loan and you are charged no interest while in school, but will be charged 3 percent annual interest on the unpaid balance once you start repaying.

Even a half-time enrolled student can take advantage of NDSL. Furthermore, under certain conditions it is possible not to have to repay part or all of the loan.

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