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HILTON

**LATINOS & THE NEW NAACP:
HOWEVER A CRUCIAL POINT
STILL NEEDS TO BE AC-
KNOWLEDGED FIRST!**

KEITH O. HILTON

Let's begin by talking baseball for three paragraphs. How is this for an all time baseball team? Manny Sanguillen; catcher, Orlando Cepeda; first base, Rod Carew; second base, Dave Concepcion; short stop, Tony Perez; third base, Roberto Clemente, Tony Oliva and Manny Mota; outfielders, Juan Marichal; pitcher and Felipe Alou; manager.

Let's throw in a few reserves (some old and some new) for good measure; Bobby Bonilla, Luis Polonia, Pedro Guirrero, Luis Tiant, Manny Alou, Jesus Alou, Moises Alou, Ruben Sierra, Sandy Alomar, Roberto Alomar, Pedro Martinez, Ramon Martinez and Alfredo Griffin.

Anyone with basic knowledge of major league baseball would immediately see that Puerto Rico, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Venezuela, and a few other Latin American countries are well represented in America's favorite past time. The second point about the above mentioned gentlemen is the fact that they are all of African descent, much like the majority of the readers of this newspaper.

Some of you may ask why would we start an article about Latinos and the NAACP with baseball information. In a very fundamental way, major league baseball has served as the best window to the world for millions of people who are considered "Black" or "minorities" in the United States.

When Dr. Ben Chavis of the NAACP announced that he was going to actively expand the membership of the association by recruiting Latinos, he clearly took a small step in the right direction.

A bigger step for the new Executive Director to take will be to move beyond surface discussions of "coalition building between ethnic groups" and focus on deeper cultural roots that run between some people in these communities.

Indeed, many Latinos are African, not all, but enough. Some will say yes if asked, some will say no. However, it is clear that in many Latino communities, darker Latinos are proudly connecting with African Americans in ways that go beyond many superficial coalitions. We are not suggesting that all coalitions are superficial.

If the NAACP and other major civil rights organizations are going to lead the African community into the twenty first century, they are going to have to move away from defeatist misery rhetoric about "Black people continue to lose ground...AIDS epidemic...Black men are an endangered species...minority (beg), minority (beg), minority (more begging)."

EDUCATION

Sometimes I cringe and sometimes I laugh when I hear that "by the year 2000, Hispanics will be the nation's largest minority."

Let's get serious. Will it be the NAACP, the Humanitarian Common Market, the National Urban League, the Latin African Tradition, Howard University, EBONY or some other organization or college that leads the charge that "By the year 2000, the African including the Afro Latino) community will continue to grow and

become stronger."

In the interim, HILTON: HIGHER EDUCATION will continue to spread this message. For those who don't believe us, please re-read the first four paragraphs of this column.

HILTON: HIGHER EDUCATION is designed to dialogue with college and world readers. Education is ongoing and certainly not limited to classroom study. Let's talk. (909) 899-0650.

NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION STAFFER BECOMES FIRST MINORITY TO HEAD FEDERAL EDUCATION RESEARCH

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Leaders and staff of the National Education Association held a reception June 10 to honor staff colleague Sharon Porter Robinson's move to a high-level education position within the Clinton Administration.

Robinson is leaving NEA after 14 years to assume the position of Assistant Secretary of Education, heading the Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI). Robinson's confirmation by the United States Senate represents the first time a Black has been selected to fill the influential research and planning post within the U.S. Department of Education.

As the federal government's educational research chief, Robinson will be responsible for helping to develop educational standards and reporting on progress toward meeting those standards within the nation's 16,000 school districts.

"We're very proud of Sharon," said NEA President Keith Geiger. "She will bring a real hands-on perspective on what can be done and what it takes to get things done in the field of education reform and restructuring."

Robinson's most recent re-

sponsibility within the NEA was to direct the Association's restructuring and reform efforts through the NEA National Center for Innovation. As director of the Center, she helped create school' and district based reform efforts, and facilitate the linking of reform-minded school employees nationwide via an interactive computer network.

A native of Louisville, Ky., and a graduate of Shawnee High School, Robinson received her undergraduate, graduate, and Ed.D. degrees from the University of Kentucky in Lexington. She was a classroom teacher in Lexington and taught in the overseas military school in Bitburg, Germany.

Robinson joined the NEA in 1979. Prior to creation of NEA's National Center for Innovation, she served as the Association's director of Instruction and Professional Development. Robinson also served on the executive committee of the American Educational Research Association, on a Visiting Committee of the Educational Testing Service, and as a staff consultant to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and the Carnegie Task Force on



NEA Executive Director Don Cameron bids farewell to former staff colleague and new Clinton Administration Assistant Secretary of Education Sharon Robinson.

Teaching as a Profession.

"One of the real needs for education in America is an understanding at the federal level of the appropriate role—the necessary role—the federal government must play in revitalizing our nation's schools," added

Geiger. "The selection of Sharon Robinson to fill this position at the U.S. Department of Education demonstrates fully the Clinton Administration's commitment to meeting that need. There could not have been a better selection."

YOUTH TO BE HIGHLIGHTED AT THE NAACP'S 1993 CONVENTION

Youth will play a major role at the NAACP's 1993 Annual Convention in Indianapolis, IN, July 11-15, as some 3,000 participate in a broad range of activities including competition for over \$300,000 in scholarships and awards, forums, workshops, other special events, and a massive Youth Night Rally on Tuesday night, July 13th, at the Indianapolis Convention Center.

Taking part in the competition will be over 1,200 high school students who have already been

adjudged local and regional winners in the NAACP's Afro-Academic, cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO), and will travel to Indianapolis seeking national laurels.

The ACT-SO program was conceived in 1978 by nationally syndicated columnist Vernon Jarrett, and is designed to encourage African-American students in grades nine through 12 to achieve academic excellence.

(See Youth, Page 9)

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