

Our View

Liver cancer threatening former football great

Walter Payton, the sweet-moving, lullaby-voiced Chicago Bears running back who ran roughshod over the NFL and right into our hearts with his generosity and caring, has cancer.

The NFL's all-time leading rusher left many a defender either grasping at air or grabbing onto his heels but couldn't elude one of life's most formidable foes. Payton has primary sclerosing cholangitis. The cause of the disease, which blocks the bile ducts, is unknown, but isn't related to alcohol, steroids, hepatitis or immune deficiency. Symptoms include fatigue and jaundice — yellowing of the pigment of the eyes and skin. It afflicts just three in 100,000 people.

Payton, routinely visited Las Vegas and spoke with several Runnin' Rebel basketball and football teams during the 1980s. To see a haggard, frail version of the 202-pound former All-Pro struggling to make it to the podium in Rosemont, Ill., earlier this week to tell the world he would die without a liver transport was sobering.

Payton, once affable and unflappable, was humbled. But the former Jackson State running back has never had a problem with humility, whether he was running past, over and through defenders, speaking to youth or conducting business — he co-owned an Indy-CART auto-racing team, ran a restaurant and other businesses in the Chicago area. He won with grace and lost with dignity.

Evaluations for a transplant are taking place at the Mayo Clinic, the same place where former Arkansas Gov. Jim Guy Tucker in 1996 received a liver transplant for the same disease. Tucker was on a waiting list for four months. Let's hope that doctors can show the same diligence in finding Payton a liver, as all lives are precious.

His former coach Mike Ditka said "Sweetness" — as he was called — was the greatest player in NFL history and that if anyone could beat this disease, he could. We're all praying for you Walter.

Gates appeal to commission keeps Dauquirigate swirling

Months after the so-called Ethics Commission ruled that a county commissioner overstepped her bounds by attempting to obtain leases for a daiquiri business in Strip casinos she regulates, Dauquirigate is still in the news.

Clark County Commissioner Yvonne Atkinson Gates recently filed an appeal of the board's ruling. That's her right. But we wonder whether or not this was the best move. As soon as the vultures at the city's major daily got whiff of the appeals filing, they were on it. That means more bad press.

At best, ethics and ethics laws are convoluted and filled with gray areas. At worst, they are indecipherable and flaccid. The Ethics Commission says one thing. City and county attorneys say another. And the commissioners themselves don't come from some moral high-ground. They are prone to the human failings of all people elected or appointed to sit in judgment.

It is our hope at the Sentinel-Voice that the appeal helps our county commission chairwoman to clear her name.

REXBABIN TOWNS UNION



Afrocentric public education movement gaining steam

By Dr. Conrad W. Worrill
Special to Sentinel-Voice

The movement to implement an appropriate African Centered Curriculum in predominately African-American inner city schools is critical to the on-going struggle for the liberation of African people in this country.

We must continue to demand that the truth be taught.

This movement has now become known as the African Centered Education Movement. Simply stated, it focuses on teaching the truth concerning the contributions of African people to the development of civilization in all subjects.

During African History Month we must heighten the dialogue concerning the importance of this movement.

Throughout the country, African-Americans are now challenging African-centered public school curriculums on the basis that they are racist.

Through the National Black United Front and its world African Centered Education Plan, more African-Americans are beginning to see the need for massive curriculum change in public schools.

Not a day goes by that someone does not call my office seeking information and help on how to start the process of changing the curriculum in his/her school.

It is clear that the public school system is the place

where African-American children receive a significant portion of their view and history of the world.

And, it is also a place where large numbers of African-American youth are miseducated under the system of White supremacy.

Let's turn to Carter G. Woodson's great book, "The Miseducation of the Negro" to get some further insight into this problem.

Woodson observes "the so-called modern education, with all its defects, however, does others so much more good than it does the Negro, because it has been worked out in conformity to the needs of those who have enslaved and oppressed weaker people.

"The philosophy and ethics resulting from our educational system have justified slavery, peonage, segregation and lynching.

The oppressor has the right to exploit, to handicap, and to kill the oppressed," he writes.

Woodson further explains that, "No systematic effort toward change had been possible for, taught the same economics, history, philosophy, literature and religion which have established the present code of morals, the Negro's mind has been brought under control of his oppressor."

But, he also offers a solution: "The problem of holding the Negro down, therefore, is easily solved. When you control a man's thinking you do not have to worry about his actions."

It is, therefore, inspiring to see so many of our people waking up all over America and seeking the truth concerning the real contributions of African people to the world.

Through study groups, conferences, Black talk radio and information network exchanges, African-Americans are coming into a new consciousness that seeks to reclaim the African mind and spirit.

Through the Portland Model Baseline Essays, the work of the Kemetic Institute, Association For The Study of Classical African Civilizations and other writings, African-Americans are becoming more aware that the following points must be incorporated into school curriculum:

— Africa is the home of early man.

— Africa is the cradle of modern man.

— Africa is the cradle of civilization.

— Africa once held a

position as world teacher including teacher for the western world.

— There was and there still is a continental wide unity in Africa and in African communities around the world.

— The first time Africans left the continent was not on slave ships.

— Africa and African people all over the world have been under siege for nearly 2,000 years and only recently by European slavery and colonization.

— There is an African Diaspora all over the world today.

— African people have resisted domination on the continent and all over the world.

— Even under slavery, colonization, segregation, apartheid, African people have made monumental contributions to arts, science and politics.

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