

Ex-Consultant Offers Critical Perspective on GM Program

The escalating criticisms of the process and pace of GM's initiative to address allegations of discriminatory conduct within its Minority Dealer Development Program do not surprise Philadelphia native Jack Borman.

Borman, a former consultant for the program, says GM officials canceled his consulting contracts because he tried to help minority dealers take advantage of their rights under this program, supposedly implemented to increase GM's minority dealer population.

"There is absolutely no question in my mind that my destruction is the result of my making suggestions to improve the program," said Borman, who has worked in various aspects of the auto industry since 1973.

Borman's principle task with the program was working directly with minority dealers to provide them with hands-on expertise in operating their dealerships.

"There are mid-level GM officials who are hostile to the program. They think it is wrong to give breaks to minorities, continued Borman, who says the comments are not 'sour grapes.' I saw GM put (Black) dealers out of business."

Borman says in 1993 GM paid him to do an extensive report on improvements required for the Minority Program, but once he completed the report GM officials "never looked at it."

Borman's comments on attitudes inside GM about the Minority Program come at a time when frustrated Black dealers and their supporters are calling on GM Board Chairman John F. Smith to

personally get involved with salvaging the controversy-mired initiative.

"Being the largest corporation in the world, GM wields enormous

power and has used that power in intimidating ways in attempting to cover-up the shameful acts of an unscrupulous and racist faction within its management structure, stated a March 28 letter to Smith from Richard Wallace. He is a spokesman for the network of Black dealers, ex-dealers and Black GM executives seeking changes in the program.

Smith could not be reached for comment on the letter from Wallace.

"Network" members are disillusioned with an audit of the program agreed upon last summer by Smith at the urging of civil rights leader Jesse Jackson.

Questionable conduct allegedly committed last month by Doris Davenport, a top aide to Jackson and Weldon Latham, the prominent Washington, D.C. attorney hired by Jackson's Rainbow/PUSH to audit the program, aggravated anger by members of the network.

"If left unresolved, this current controversy has the potential of seriously tainting...GM and most importantly you," stated a letter from Wallace to Rev. Jackson.

Davenport has resigned from Rainbow/PUSH and the Alabama Bar Association has reportedly asked the D.C. Bar to investigate charges of unethical conduct levied against Latham by attorneys of a Black former GM dealer in Tuskegee, Ala. Latham denies the charges.

Jack Borman, like members of the network, doubts the audit will earnestly address deficiencies in the program.

"I have 10,000 pages of documents on how GM's program works. By Mr. Latham not contacting me, I'm convinced there is a cover-up," Borman said during a recent interview. "I'm disappointed with Jesse Jackson," he said.



Jeffrey Elam Jr., 14, created his own direct marketing company.

Young entrepreneur is on the web

Los Angeles — Knowledge Key2Success, a direct marketing company specializing in special interest videos and CD-ROMS announces today that its entire 10,000 title catalog is now available for browsing and ordering on the Internet www.KnowledgeKey2Success.com.

"We put our catalog on-line because we know Internet users are information seekers," said company president, Jeffrey Elam, Jr., "and our line of how-to, instructional and educational videos and CD-ROMS are in big demand." Visitors to the website can shop for products in targeted categories and save on product specials and close-outs. New products are added daily from the more than 300 new product submissions the company receives each month from producers all around the world. We feature many categories that would be of special interest to Afro-Americans. Such as, our Black Americans of achievement Series I and II in our Biography section. In our business category we feature information such as: "Networking for your Personal and Financial Growth", "How to Get a Deal" and much

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In addition to shopping the world's best selection of Special Interest videos and CD-ROMS, visitors to the website can read on-line newsletters about new products, enter a contest for a weekly gift certificate drawing, register to receive an E-mail notification when new products come in, specific categories arrive, and obtain their own link to the website to make extra income. Non-profit organizations and schools can also register for a very unique year round Internet fundraising program. Webmasters from other commercial websites can even exchange banners or links and download banner art directly through the website.

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Internet commerce with us. We accept all major credit cards, will also accept orders through an 800#.

Chamber helps with grant

The Environmental Protection Agency announced today that it would award a pilot grant of \$200,000 to the City of Winston-Salem for the redevelopment of rundown commercial and industrial properties called brownfields.

The city will use the grant money to assess the redevelopment needs of the Liberty Street Corridor, and to educate community developers and others about brownfields, which are hard to redevelop because of real or perceived environmental contamination.

The Environmental Issues Committee of the greater Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce prepared the application for the grant. The Chamber decided to help the city apply for this grant because the redevelopment of brownfields helps preserve undeveloped greenfields while increasing the city's tax base.

"We hope that the grant money will play an important role in fostering the redevelopment of urban areas in Winston-Salem," said Chamber President Gayle Anderson.

The Liberty Street Corridor has long been identified as an area in serious need of redevelopment. The city and other groups have made considerable efforts to redevelop the corridor's core business district over the years.

The state's brownfields law,

which does not apply to seriously contaminated sites, enables developers of brownfields more flexibility in the cleanup of their properties, depending on their intended use. The law also helps protect land owners, lenders and other responsible parties against liability for future cleanup of brownfields.

To discuss the potential for brownfields redevelopment in Winston-Salem, local business and community leaders began meeting last fall, including members of the Chamber's Environmental Issues Committee and developers.

See Chamber on A10

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Thelma Golden To Speak

Thelma Golden, who is curator at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City, will be the guest speaker at the annual meeting of the Weatherspoon Gallery Association, to be held at 5:30pm on Wednesday, May 13, at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

A business meeting will be conducted in the gallery before the speaker to elect new officers for the coming year. A reception will follow. Reservations can be made by calling the gallery at 334-4233 by May 7.

Golden's lecture will be titled "Discussion of Recent Projects" and she is expected to discuss some of the Whitney Museum's recent exhibitions. At the Whitney, she is curator and director of branches. Formerly, she was associate curator and director of the Whitney Museum at Philip Morris.

She has organized several single-artist exhibitions which include Romare Bearden, Jane Dickson, Jacob Lawrence, Suzanne McClell-



Thelma Golden

and, Lorna Simpson, Glenn Ligon and Sam Gilliam. She teaches, writes and lectures about contemporary art, curatorial practice and art issues. Golden is a graduate of Smith College. She is currently a Visiting Critic at the Yale University School of Art.

Education Loans Available

Education loans for North Carolina residents attending colleges in or out of state and for nonresidents attending colleges in North Carolina are available through College Foundation, Inc. (CFI). CFI is the loan originator and servicer for North Carolina's Federal Family Education Loan Program; the program is funded by North

Carolina banks and other investors.

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