

EDITORIALS

Quiz To Increase Our Awareness

As Black History Month approaches, and the community is increasingly aware of the numerous roles in the history of the Western world played by blacks, we wish to add to this ever-expanding reservoir of knowledge.

The following quiz may prompt or increase African-Americans' awareness of history.

1. Name the black identified by some scholars as arriving with Columbus in the New World.
2. To what state and in what year did the first group of blacks arrive to erect a settlement in America?
3. Name the black discoverer of what is now Arizona and New Mexico.
4. In what state was the first law enacted protecting slaves who flee owners because of ill treatment, and was also the first to legalize slavery?
5. Name the slave poet who wrote "Bars Fight" and was generally considered the first black poet in America.
6. Name the 22-year-old free black who was the first person in the North American colonies to build a clock, though he had never before seen one, and which clock chimed accurately for more than 20 years.
7. Name the black abolitionist born in Wilmington who in 1827 established a secondhand clothing

business in Boston, and two years later wrote "Walker's Appeal," a call for revolt in the South which created such a furor among slaveowners that at least one Southern state legislature made circulation of it a capital offense.

8. Which of America's founding fathers wrote, "I have never owned a slave [even] when it has cost me thousands of dollars for the labor and sustenance of free man, which I might have saved by the purchase of Negroes at times when they were cheap"?

9. In what city was the Zion Methodist Church organized in 1796?

10. In what city did Richard Allen organize Mother Bethel Church, a Negro Methodist Episcopal Church, and also the city of the first black Episcopalian congregation in the United States?

11. Historically, blacks were considered what fraction comparative to non-blacks in America?

12. In what city was the first abolitionist society in the United States organized.

The answers to the above questions are Pedro Alonzo Nino, South Carolina, Etevanico, Massachusetts, Lucy Terry, Benjamin Banneker, David Walker, John Adams, New York City, Philadelphia, three-fifths, Philadelphia.

Multi-Cultural, Yes; Minority, No!

There are already enough obstacles in college and life for students of color without having to be subliminally conditioned to accept substandard campus, national and world citizenry. We are talking about being labeled "minorities."

Four-fifths of the world's population is Asian, Asiatic-African and African. In Western terminology, that means yellow, brown, red and black folks. Not only are they in the majority with regards to numbers, but also in terms of land mass occupancy. Contrary to what is shown on most world maps such as the Hangstrom Map of the World (Alaska is not larger than China, Greenland is not larger than India, Russia is not larger than Africa?), a more accurate picture of the world has emerged using the Peters New World View Map published by Friendship Press.

The Peters Map has been around since 1973 and presents a balance to world geography. Whereas the Hangstrom Map is colonial and ethnocentric in design, Peers more accurately positions Africa and Asia as center and near-center. In fact, in terms of size, the USA could be placed within Africa at least twice and still have room to fit all of Europe.

For example and closer to home, New York city is predominantly black and brown, yet daily those same residents are told that they are in the minority.

Eighty-five percent of the students in the New York City public school system are black and brown, yet those young minds are "educated" to believe that they are in the minority in that city. Is it any wonder that New York still doesn't have a black or brown mayor or even majority representation on its Board of Estimates (made up of the five borough presidents)? All together now, "I

love New York!"

In California and Texas, can anyone deny that the brown tide is rising? The Latino community will be even more tremendous by the year 2000.

An ironic and unfortunate dilemma that is faced regarding "minority" is its usage among those who are educated and should know better. In terms of numbers in this country, when referring to people of color, minority might seem accurate, but challenges still need to be offered. There is too much excess baggage and negative connotations that come with the word (less than, inferior, losing side) for people to continue to refer to themselves in that way.

Whether one majors in sociology, accounting, medicine or any other field, it's going to be very important to challenge those who attempt to describe you and your cultures as minorities.

Propose the use of the word "multi-cultural" or m-c for several reasons: (1) it is more accurate and positive, implying a forward appreciation and understanding of more than one culture (remember that America is a pluralistic society); (2) unlike the word "minority," which was actually assigned to us, m-c comes from our own self-identification; and (3) phonetically, it is as short and easy to pronounce.

This idea of replacing "minority" with multi-cultural or m-c has picked up momentum around the country. For example, at many predominantly white colleges/institutions, m-c students and professionals are successfully changing their minority affairs offices to multi-cultural affairs. The key is that they are raising the right questions and collaborating to find answers. This is higher education.

Desperately Seeking A Gentler And Kinder Society

BY REP. GUS HAWKINS
Guest Editorial

As Ronald Reagan rode out into the sunset last week he left behind a budget that was of the same vintage of prior years. More money for the military, and less for children and families. In the last eight years he has run up the biggest budget deficits in history, leaving behind a fiscal mess that will undoubtedly pit one good program against another.

Because we are in the final days of the Reagan administration, I would normally ignore these funding requests. But I am concerned that the incoming administration may go along with some of these figures, including program cuts in

education and the painful reductions in child nutrition.

The Reagan budget is so absurd in terms of its deep cuts in "people" programs it sets up the possible scenario of "bad cop, good cop" routine. If Bush asks for a few increases in some education, housing and health programs he will appear to be a welcomed improvement to his predecessor. But the problems in education and urban America are too significant to simply throw scraps at them.

For example, cost-effective federal programs are now reaching levels far below their eligible populations:

•Head Start, a super

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Miller Says

BY SHERMAN N. MILLER
SUPERCONDUCTIVITY AND SOLAR ENERGY WILL
OBLVIATE OPEC

We are now at the dawn of the 1990s, so I will try my hand at being a futurist. I foresee an economic nightmare for the Arab world by the year 2005. It will be a direct fallout from terrorist bombings, such as Pan Am Flight 103.

Now before I am labeled a kook, I ask you take a moment to grapple with my rationale.

In 1988, I found myself rushing through a domestic airport to catch an airplane. When I got to the person and baggage check-out station I promptly handed my laptop computer over to be checked. Then I started through the metal detector.

The alarm went off. I told the lady that I had on safety shoes. I expected her to merely run the handheld metal detector over my shoes. But this lady made me take off my shoes so they could be run through the X-ray machine.

I was perturbed because I looked a bit foolish with my shoes off standing in the midst of a major airport. When this officer saw that I had told the truth, she said that her stringent checking was for my own safety, especially with all the terrorist problems in the world. I left thinking she was just too lazy to pick up the handheld metal detector and check my shoes.

On a late October 1988 trip to Geneva, Switzerland, my dander was raised once again. En route to the airport, I stood outside of my taxi to watch the driver load my bags. I wanted to be sure nothing went wrong as I was anxious to see my wife and children.

I had passed through London, England and Belfast, Northern Ireland on segments of this trip. I had even spent a couple of days in Londonderry, Northern Ireland. I had anticipated the body search I received at the Belfast airport. However, I thought Geneva was the last place on earth to encounter problems with terrorism.

Before leaving for the airport that morning I ate breakfast. My bags were already packed before I went down to eat. When I returned to my room I saw some dirty socks that I had failed to pack.

I opened one of my two bags and put them in. I did not think any more about this incident until I got to the airport. A young lady came up to me while I stood in line trying to check my bags.

She started asking questions. "Were your bags ever out of your sight? Did anyone give you anything? Were your bags ever opened after you packed them?"

I truthfully answered her questions. The next thing I knew they pulled the bag that I had opened. I readily agreed to let them search it on the spot.

They shipped my bag to a special screening area where I was required to open it in their presence. They claimed they wanted me to check to see if everything was the way I had packed it.

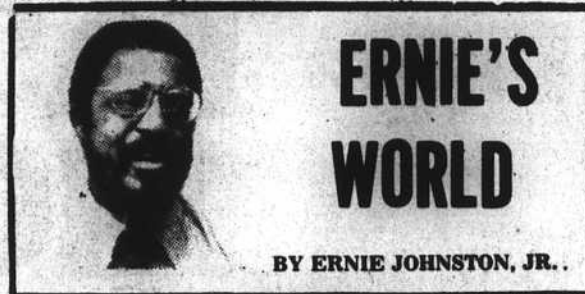
I felt like a suspected terrorist; a criminal, whose only crime was telling the truth. But I did not hesitate to follow their instructions.

I opened my bag. They then placed a seal on it. My nerves calmed now that my ordeal was over.

I headed for the plane. Each person on a TWA flight had to pass through a screening door. When the fellow looked at my ticket I found myself in a room getting the third degree.

I staved my anger because I wanted to get home. I promptly answered the interrogator's questions. Once I was anointed for passage on board TWA Flight 0831 from

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BY ERNIE JOHNSTON, JR.
SUPER BOWL PARTY TURNS INTO
SCHOLARSHIP DOLLARS

Every year a group of us guys get together to watch the Super Bowl and it is now billed as our own annual party.

For the most part, those in attendance are Aggies, alumni of A&T State University with a few others who went to a historically black college.

One of the unique things about this gathering is that all of the guys were at A&T during the same time period so it makes for a lot of reminiscing.

The idea of the party is to rotate sites each year and each person in attendance is charged with bringing a dish of food, so there is plenty of food and drinks at the party.

Ed Pitt, one of the early organizers of the party, came up with a unique idea this year. Just prior to this year's party, he was on the phone to me suggesting that the party would be a good forum to ask the Aggies to make a financial pledge to the annual giving campaign.

In previous years, those attending numbered about a dozen or so. Last year there were about 16 people at the Super Bowl party. This year was a record number with one person saying that maybe in the future we will have to book a hotel ballroom.

Out of the 24 people, at least 18 or so were Aggies, so during the halftime of the game, Pitt along with Fred Davis, who is a member of the national alumni annual giving committee, explained the importance of the alumni giving back to the institution where they had received an education.

Each person was asked to make a financial pledge and when all the pledges had been tallied, it amounted to a little over \$3,000.

The consciousness of African-Americans is being raised nowadays with the likes of Bill Cosby and others who are making financial contributions to the historically black colleges.

African-American graduates are now seeing the importance of giving something back to their alma maters. Ed Pitt made an important point during his appeal for pledges—that those from other institutions at the party should contribute to their own schools.

More and more dollars are needed today than ever before to send those deserving students to school. What happens with the Aggie Super Bowl party could be duplicated by others who have such gatherings.

And then again, it does not have to be a Super Bowl party to generate funds to a school's financial giving campaign.

There are those who get together from time to time during social gatherings and those would be splendid forums to make financial pledges to institutions of higher learning.

These days with increased tuition and the need for African-Americans to receive an education, the concern should be toward making a financial commitment to assure that there can be a successful and productive generation to take their place in this society.

Nowadays it should be a little more than getting together, swapping jokes and having a good time. We don't have the millions and millions of dollars that Cosby and others have made to our African-American colleges but we can do whatever we can to meet our obligation.

OPINION

Great expectations from a new man

By Chuck Stone



Abraham Lincoln's inaugural wish that the Union be touched "by the better angels of our nature" has been reunited with fellow Republican George Bush's yearning for "a kinder, gentler nation."

The parallels are irresistible. Lincoln inherited a nation divided by geography. Bush inherits a nation further segregated by his immediate predecessor.

A strong-willed Lincoln forged unity out of a mean-spirited divisiveness. A resolute Bush has pledged an enlistment of his energies against the remnants of that national schism.

"Bigotry and indifference to disadvantage ... will find no safe home on our shores, in our public life, in our neighborhoods, or in our homes," Bush declared four days before his inauguration. "It will, I promise, be my mission as president of the United States."

That George Bush would group "indifference to disadvantage" with bigotry is especially encouraging because this nation's moral bearings have been momentarily sidetracked.

As MIT educator John S. Wilson observed, "The Reagan years made people feel more comfortable expressing intolerance."

The Bush years are expected to be the opposite. So much of Bush's philosophy, defined in his warm-hearted inaugural address, portends a new national climate.

Ironically, Americans have been snugly burrowed in the old climate. How else to explain a 68 percent approval rating for a departing president with an eight-year record of naked hostility to racial equality, contempt for human suffering and senile oblivion to honesty.

Ronald Reagan was never a class act. Unlike Lincoln, he never rose above his humble beginnings. He wallowed in their excesses.

Instead of gracefully turning over the nation's stewardship to a faithful subaltern, the Lilliputian-minded actor stalked out of the White House ... defending resigned-in-disgrace Attorney General Edwin Meese from a Justice Department censure ... blaming black leaders for the contumely of the nation's black citizens ... scolding the homeless to read the want ads ... shrugging off responsibility for the

deaths of 241 Marines in Beirut ... and defending an unconscionable plot to exchange hostages for arms.

With his 68 percent approval rating after a record like that, the Great Communicator will be remembered by posterity as the Great Prestidigitator.

George Bush arrived at history's doorsteps not a moment too soon.

In many ways he should excel. For starters, he's capable of staying awake through cabinet meetings and being a president de facto in charge. Even when he pauses and seems to grope for an answer, he does something Reagan never did. He *thinks*.

He also has surmounted contradictions with grace. After denouncing Dukakis for his "Harvard yard boutique" obsession, the Yale alumnus appointed four Harvard men to his cabinet. Promising an administration of new faces, he instead borrowed liberally from both Reagan administrations. Opening his presidential campaign in Texas with a plea for racial tolerance, he later allowed aide Lee Atwater to orchestrate an insidiously racist campaign. Bush's biggest problem will be finding a way to restrain Atwater from routinely referring to blacks as "niggers" in conversations.

The president sets a tone that challenges our conscience and fathers great expectations. Reagan failed grievously on both counts.

Finally, George Bush returns two elements that the presidency had lost — an affinity for the values of the founding fathers and a wife ("the silver fox") strenuously committed to equality.

In 1980, I interviewed Reagan exclusively in his home the weekend before the GOP convention. He expressed enthusiasm for minority self-help, and I left with great expectations. In 1989, I'd settle for a .500 batting average — and another Lincoln.

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OTHER VIEWPOINTS

A MUSLIM PERSPECTIVE: HOW TO SOLVE THE CRIME PROBLEM
BY SULTAN MUHAMMAD ABDUL MU'IZZ

Crime and corruption plague man today more than at any other time in human history. We build more prisons, give stiffer prison sentences, and hire more policemen; yet, the crime rate continues to rise. Over the last four years the nation's jail population has risen nearly 40 percent. In many American cities the only municipal construction projects are the building of new jails.

What is the solution to this problem? Why is it that we can send men to the moon, manufacture body organs and make ages-old diseases obsolete but when it comes to preventing our youths from becoming thieves, robbers, extortionists, and murderers, we can only express anger, frustration, fear and powerlessness, thus becoming fair game for self-serving politicians who promise to legislate stricter laws and tougher penalties.

The death penalty issue is what I call a good example of political flim-flam. Politicians promise a fearful and angry public that if they are elected they will make the streets safe by executing murderers, rapists, and heavy drug pushers. The fact is that death penalty laws have never aided in the reduction of crime in the past and are obviously having no effect on today's crime problem in America.

Man must realize that he cannot solve this problem on his own. This problem will only be solved when man turns to his creator for guidance. Allah (God), the creator of man, guides man by sending prophets to teach him what he does not or cannot know by his own means. Prophets are sent to teach the secrets of life, the true nature of man, about good and evil, right and wrong and how to purify the soul from evil and correct the thinking and actions of men. The last and greatest example of this is found in the life and works of Prophet Muhammad.

Prophet Muhammad was born in 570 of the Christian era in what historians refer to as the Dark Ages. This period of human history was characterized by ignorance, superstition, immorality, and widespread terror and injustice. The influence of true religion was all but dead in the world. Both Christianity and Judaism had become weak and corrupt institutions, impotent in the face of man's moral, spiritual and intellectual stupor.

During the Dark Ages, the people sunk deepest in vice and immorality were the pre-Islamic Arabs. The Arab prided in his ignorance and boasted of his barefaced immorality. He was addicted to drunkenness, buried female offspring alive, married stepmothers and treated women like chattel. The physically strong took advantage of the weak and robbery, violence and murder were a way of life.

When Prophet Muhammad reached the age of 40, Allah (God) revealed the Holy Quran to him to serve as the means to guide humanity to the straight path, by quickening his soul, awakening his conscience and enlightening the human mind.

It is found in the Quran that the Arabs were worshipping idols, stones, trees and heaps of sand. Within less than a quarter of a century, the worship of one true God ruled the entire country, sweeping away all superstition and giving in its place the most rational religion that the world could imagine. The Arab who prided himself in his ignorance had, as if by a magician's hand, become the lover of knowledge. Drunkenness disappeared so entirely that the very vessels used for drinking wine could no longer be found. Cruelty, vice, and senseless violence had given way to brotherhood, kindness, charity, sexual morality and chastity.

The moral transformation brought about by Prophet Muhammad, guided by Allah's last revealed scripture, the Holy Quran, is unparalleled in human history. The Islamic attitude toward immorality, and the mission of Muslims is described in the Holy Quran in the following words:

Let there be a community among
You, advocating what is good,
Demanding what is right, and
Eradicating what is wrong.
These are indeed the successful.

—Holy Quran 3:104

You are the best community ever
Raised, you enforce what is
Right, fight what is wrong, and
Believe in God.

—Holy Quran 3:110

It is the Islamic belief that in order to address human problems we must first understand the human being's nature. It is the Christian belief that man in his basic nature is evil, born sinful and touched by the devil. Some social scientists believe that there are certain body types that are more prone to

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