

## Monthly Newsletter Jan-2009

From: **afropanavisions** (obaptiste@afropanavisions.com)

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To: List Member (oswaldbaptiste59@msn.com)

Attachments: [ATT00000](#) (17.2 KB), [ATT00001](#) (7.9 KB), [ATT00002](#) (8.0 KB), [ATT00003](#) (20.2 KB), [ATT00004](#) (21.1 KB), [ATT00005](#) (11.4 KB), [ATT00006](#) (12.8 KB)**Afro-PanaVisions.com**

Visions of a more united, self-determining, nurturing, and networking community

**On-Line Newsletter**

January 2009

**Evaluating the Mis-Education of the Afro-Panamanians****Zeroing In on Our Major Problems**

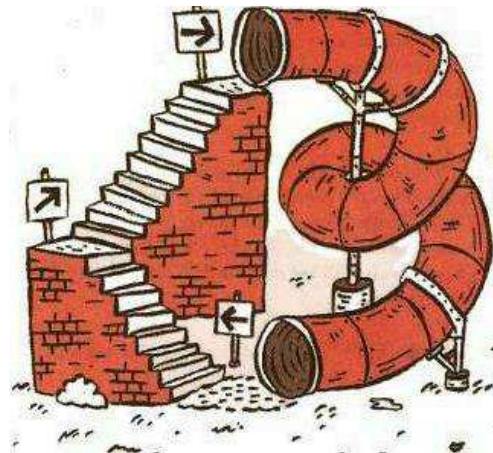
(It is Time to View Ourselves in 3-D)

**Are we capable of rising above ourselves and history?****Are we ready to change the way we live?**

**Fact:** Since our emancipation in the Caribbean Islands, we have generally, as a people, been idle while the whites continue to apply themselves to the task of defining our status and compelling us (blacks) to accept it as such—case closed and settled forever. We, it seems, feel we must learn from others how to take care of ourselves or to urge us to self-assertion.

We must/should not remain content with taking the leftovers that others decide/set aside for us. We have not shown/had the courage nor have we learned how to free ourselves from these unnatural barriers in order to reach/occupy higher grounds. We must affirm ourselves as deserving human beings, no longer viewing our bodies, minds and souls through white lenses, and believing ourselves capable of taking control of our own destiny. We must not continue to remain on the community/world stage mainly the product of the trial and error method.

We obviously need to enforce the proper authoritative structure for accomplishing any progress we are to make regarding our community activities! We recognize that it takes certain, select individuals bringing their talents, expertise and perspectives to coalesce and team creatively to develop innovative, life-changing solutions to the challenges we propose. This "unexplored" situation, in our opinion, is the real problem, one we must energize ourselves to try to solve. Whosoever is not interested in it and makes no effort to try to help solve it, shows no compassion for our plight or our present struggle and is holding up progress—in other words—

**Afro-PanaVisions**

(Historical Analysis Should Be Ongoing in Order to Educate our Youth and to Shape Their Identity)

**Simulating our History**

We cannot, mindlessly, continue the patterns of the past. For us at AfroPanaVisions, passivity is no longer an option. Historical reality has issued us a marching order because of our past, strong, imitative behavior patterns: Take action or watch a culture and people doomed to extinction!

We realize that our unifying (solidarity) theory may veer towards oversimplification and that there will be shadows and crevices, and more importantly, a "political order" that must be dealt with along the way. We, as a group, have a lot to learn, and hopefully from each other. We cannot promise that everything will fit together perfectly, but we can try to get pretty close to it being so and be successful and effective. As examples we need not look further than the former Soviet Union's government system, as well as the current U.S. financial and economic system.

We strongly feel our proposal offers something new, challenging

worthless!

It appears the vast majority of us are obviously in denial and despair! We must be willing to admit and understand that we had no real preparation for the task to be undertaken, primarily as a result of the substandard (rote learning) education imposed on us by the oppressors. Those who pretend to believe they understand the situation (by talking the talk) have clearly demonstrated their ineptitude in the failure to help educate the masses (particularly our youth) along the lines in which they could admirably reach for a higher cultural order. The lack of such instruction in the community conforms to the policy of "keeping the Negro in his place." That is, economically enslaved and dependent, for the most part.

Thus, our aim is to continue awakening the mis-educated so-called/self-proclaimed leaders in the community (through our generational analyses stories) to seeing how we have been deceived and brainwashed, in hopes that we can focus and address ourselves to the too-long-neglected work—that is, community teamwork.



(Working Together For the Common Good!)

#### **Teamwork, the true master of innovation!**

First, quality leadership is neither the product of one great individual nor the result of old historical accident. Rather, it comes from deeply bred traditions and enlightened communities that shaped and molded talented and gifted persons. Without an energetic and vibrant tradition of resistance passed on to new generations, there can be no nurturing of a collective and critical consciousness. Thus, only professional conscientiousness (status) survives, and is applauded and venerated in our community.

Group effort allows us to move forward much more quickly and see a successful outcome much faster. There is an electrifying dynamism that occurs amongst the people that produces results you just don't see with any one individual. Heck, even Albert Einstein, society's most common mental picture of genius, needed/sought group input to hone his theories and insights.

Despite the enduring myth of the lone genius in the community, innovation does not take place in isolation. Innovation today isn't just a sudden break from the past or a brilliant insight that one lone self-proclaimed genius pushes through to save the community. Just the opposite: innovation today is a continuous process of small and constant changes, and it's built into the culture of any successful community organization/company. (In our community the problem is everyone wants to be Moses, the number one!

Furthermore, it is neither the matter of a new "star-boy-figure" emerging on the scene or another organization springing up from out of nowhere. Rather, it's a matter of grasping the consequence and effect of the structural and institutional damages that have

and irresistible, that is, the possibility that we can alter/change, or at least control our lives by coming together with our ideas. We must keep in mind, however, that any community system will work only by insisting/imposing personal and professional order/discipline. As long as we "Keep our Eyes on the Prize" we must try to keep the right mindset and, hopefully for the better. No one knows what they can do until they try!

#### **Our quotes of the month**

"None of us is as smart as all of us." –Japanese proverb

"Inspirational slogans in 'forwarded' e-mails cannot substitute for substantive historical and social analysis." --Afro-Panavisions

***Congratulations are in Order!***

***Elders of "the Village"***

**Happy Birthday/Feliz Cumpleaños!**



**Ruth Baptiste-Fearon** celebrated her 102nd birthday on December 24, 2008. Ruth is the great-aunt of our Editorial Coordinator.

disfigured and deformed our communities in such a distorted manner that the resources for nurturing collective and critical moral commitment for courageous engagement are vastly underdeveloped.

Simply stated, community teamwork can deliver surprisingly innovative results that will endure.

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#### Editorial Board

Oswald Baptiste -Editorial Coordinator

Claretta F. Prescott -Content Review Editor

Earl P. Waton -                   - Jacqueline King

Joselyn Lynch                    -Evita Dove

Veronica Rosemond



**Herman Watson** celebrated his 93rd birthday on December 18, 2008 with his son, Earl, his grandson, Gary, and great grand-son Alex. Earl is a member of our Editorial Board.



**"Pearl (Tiny)" Prescott** seen here celebrating her 90th birthday on December 03, 2008, with her son, Reinaldo Prescott. She is the mother-in-law of our Content Review Editor, Claretta F. Prescott.