

FRIENDS OF AMERICA'S FUTURE

After carefully listening to President George W Bush, delivery his inaugural address, I thought I heard him ask for the American people to become personally responsible for making this great country of ours work for everyone, race, gender, physical impairment, class, economic circumstance notwithstanding. That's what I thought I heard.

To make sure that I wasn't mistaken, I went to my computer, got on the internet, down loaded the new president's address while it was still fresh in my mind. I then proceeded to read and analyze it word by word, phase by phase, sentence by sentence and paragraph by paragraph. As I listened to him deliver his statement, it sounded to me as though it was the new president's "ask not what your country can do for you, but what can you do for your country" When I down loaded his address from the internet, and read it, to me it read the same way. Only rather than a catchy phrase he said this:

As the first president of the 21st Century, I'll be a leader who will gladly lead the way. However, for the country's current and future generations to benefit from my leadership, you "John and Jane Q America" must be ready-willing-and-able to do your part both individually and collectively. As I see it, President Bush was asking every American the following question: Are you willing to do your part individually and collectively to assure that America **is Strong, Secure, stable, prosperous and blessed with a promising future.** If you are, then together we can cause our country

Enclosed is the latest news stories about my father Art Fletcher. You will note that one item, ----, pages contains the names of the 20th Century's 100 Most Influential Black Americans. Upon analyzing the list, you will note the following; First, that at the time the list was published February 2000, Black History Month, only 37 of the group of 100 were still alive, That my father was ranked number 18; that at the time the list was published February 2000, Black History Month, only 37 of the group were still alive, and that of the Top 20, only 4 are still living and my father is one of them.

The marketing value in being included in the group at all is honor enough in its self. However, to one of the 4 that's still living among the top 20, is proving to have value that goes off the charts. Where ever dad speaks, parents black and white come in droves to hear the father of affirmative action speak, to hear what it accomplished, where do we go next, and how do young parents and the off-spring prepare for the future that the 21st Century holds in story for the educated, trainable and qualified.

Incidentally, when my father puts a picture (transparency) on the screen, and talks about the family he raised while attending college under the GI-Bill of Right Education Act, and describes, the struggle, sacrifices that my late mother and he had to endure for him to get his degree, and how that effort finally resulted in receiving 4 presidential appointments, not only can you hear a pin drop, but everyone leaves the session agreeing the his sacrifices were with it, and that if he could get through school with a wife and 4 children in 3-1/2 years, and be included in Who' Who, for academic achievements and Extra-curricular Activities, they can too.

Mr. Baker where ever I go and I travel a lot, and tell people that my father is Art Fletcher, to the person they insist that he easily ranks among the top 10 motivational speakers and trainers in the land.

Among the other items included, is a news item entitled "Washburn They Respect You". Check the high lighted paragraph, and you will note that when he spoke to faculty at Washburn University, in Topeka, Kansas, his alma mata, he committed to a \$1 Billion Small College Capital Development Fund. Not he didn't say Small Black Colleges he said Small Colleges, by that he means all small colleges.

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