U.S. SOCIETY & VALUES

VOLUME 1 ELECTRONIC JOURNALS OF THE U.S. INFORMATION AGENCY NUMBER 5

# AMERICA'S OLYMPIC SUMMER: REFLECTING U.S. VALUES

# WELCOME

*Welcome to the fifth in the series of biweekly electronic journals from the U.S. Information Agency. Each edition is devoted to one of five rotating themes: Economics, Global Issues, Democracy and Human Rights, U.S. Foreign Policy, and U.S. Society and Values.*

*The U.S. SOCIETY & VALUES edition will explore fundamental traits that are a product of, and also shape, American society. We hope to provide an understanding of the entire American mosaic by looking at individual segments, such as artistic accomplishment, ethnic diversity, individualism, religion, education and politics.*

*In this issue, we take advantage of the upcoming Olympic and Paralympic Games being hosted in Atlanta, Georgia, to consider some basic American values. Invariably, the Olympic Games mirror the culture, spirit, attitudes, perspectives and belief system of every country that participates. However, the nation that hosts an Olympiad has a unique opportunity to reveal itself through the prism of this world event.*

*America's Olympic summer is unfolding in the fastest-growing region of the United States, in both economic and demographic terms. Yet it is an area known to many primarily through conflict — the Civil War and the struggle for civil rights. Today, however, the South has moved beyond this identification, and Atlanta is its symbol of determination, progress and success.*

*USIA — and the staff of this journal in particular — is committed to the idea that "a free society is its own best witness." We are excited about our nation's vibrancy and dynamism as we move into the 21st century, and we hope our readers will share this excitement. We invite your comments, which you may send by e-mail to "ejvalues@usia.gov" or write to:*

*Editor, American Society and Values (I/TSV)*
*United States Information Agency*
*301 Fourth Street SW*
*Washington, DC 20547*

U.S. SOCIETY & VALUES

ELECTRONIC JOURNALS OF THE U.S. INFORMATION AGENCY

VOL.1 / BUREAU OF INFORMATION / U.S. INFORMATION AGENCY / NO. 5

ejvalues@usia.gov

JUNE 1996

# CONTENTS

## AMERICA'S OLYMPIC SUMMER: REFLECTING U.S. VALUES

### INTRODUCTION



### FOCUS

## DEPARTMENTS



U.S. SOCIETY & VALUES

*Publisher.....Judith S. Siegel*
*Editor.....William Peters*
*Managing Editor.....Michael J. Bandler*
*Internet Editor.....Chandley McDonald*
*Associate Editors.....Charlotte Helene Astor*
*.....Guy Olson*
*Contributing Editors.....Carmen G. Aponte*
*.....Helen Sebsow*
*.....J. Riley Sever*
*.....Nancy H. Starr*
*.....Rosalie Targonski*
*Reference and Research.....Mary Ann V. Gamble*
*.....Kathy Spiegel*
*Graphic Designer/Art Director.....Thaddeus A. Miksinski, Jr.*

***PICTURE CREDITS:*** *Page 3: Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce. 9: U.S. Olympic Committee. 17: Courtesy of Ambassador Andrew Young. 22: Chris Hamilton, courtesy Atlanta Paralympic Organizing Committee, Inc. 25: Jane and Bert Hunecke. 26: Private Collection, Santa Fe, New Mexico, Photo by Dan Morse.*

USIA's electronic journals, published and transmitted worldwide at two-week intervals, examine major issues facing the United States and the international community, and inform foreign publics about the United States. The journals — ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVES, GLOBAL ISSUES, ISSUES OF DEMOCRACY, U.S. FOREIGN POLICY AGENDA and U.S. SOCIETY & VALUES — provide analysis, commentary and background information in their thematic areas. French and Spanish language versions appear one week after the English. The opinions expressed in the journals do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. Government. Articles may be reproduced and translated unless there are specific copyright restrictions cited at the end of the article. Current or back issues of the journals can be found on the U.S. Information Service (USIS) Home Page on the World Wide Web at "http://www.usia.gov/journals/journals.htm". They are available in several electronic formats to facilitate viewing on-line, transferring, downloading and printing. Comments are welcome at your local USIS office or at the editorial offices — Editor, U.S. SOCIETY & VALUES (I/TSV), U.S. Information Agency, 301 4th Street SW, Washington, D.C. 20547, United States of America. You may also communicate via email to ejvalues@USIA.gov.

# A PRESIDENTIAL PERSPECTIVE ON THE OLYMPIC SUMMER

**By President Bill Clinton**

*Like any great public endeavor, an Olympiad reflects the spirit of its organizers. It embraces the myriad contributions and cultures of its participants and visitors and embodies the flavor and identity of its host city.*

*That is why I am so pleased that the centennial of the modern Olympic Games is being held in Atlanta. The athletes, coaches, and spectators who encounter Atlanta this summer will witness a dynamic, thriving city deeply rooted in the American values of tolerance, hospitality, and community service.*

*The Atlanta organizers are working tirelessly to encourage the widest possible participation both in the Olympic and the Paralympic Games this summer. And they are expanding opportunities for athletes from around the world to demonstrate the Olympic spirit of sportsmanship, friendly competition, and a commitment to personal excellence. The world will see firsthand what we can accomplish in America when the public and private sectors, nonprofit groups, and private citizens work in partnership to achieve a common goal.*

*I am confident that the Games in Atlanta will stand as a testament to the Olympic ideals reborn in Athens a century ago and to the finest values of this city, our nation, and the world. I join my fellow Americans in welcoming people from across the globe to Atlanta and in extending best wishes for an exciting Olympic season.* ❑

# DOING OUR SHARE: THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND THE SUMMER GAMES

**By Vice President Al Gore**

(The Vice President describes the U.S. Government's role as vital, but very much that of a junior partner, in collaborating with America's private sector, the state of Georgia and the city of Atlanta on the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The following comments are excerpted from a May 14, 1996, press conference in Washington, D.C.)

*Today, the Olympic torch is being carried across the plains of Nebraska by horseback on the very same trails that the Pony Express rode a century ago. That torch will continue to travel the length and breadth of our country and our country's history. Before it reaches Olympic Stadium, a lot of people have to do their part. When their turn comes, they have to grab the torch and run hard, so to speak.*

*In the same way, the gigantic task of putting on the Olympic Games requires that all do their part. The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games is doing its part. The state of Georgia is doing its part. The city of Atlanta is doing its part. The Federal Government must do its part, too, especially if we want to assure that these Centennial Games are the most successful ever.*

*President Clinton and this entire administration are honored that the United States has the opportunity to host the 1996 Olympic and Paralympic Games. But we also know that with opportunity comes responsibility. We have an obligation to the American people and to the entire world to help put on games that meet the Olympic standard of excellence. After all, these aren't only Atlanta's Games, they are America's Games. And because of that, America's government must run the leg that only it can — specifically in the areas of security, the processing of international visitors, and transportation.*

*Twenty-four hours a day during the Games, someone has to help the local authorities to keep people safe, whether those people are heads of state from other lands — and a lot of them will be attending — or ordinary families who are coming for the trip of a lifetime to witness the Olympic Games. Someone has to help patrol the streets; gather intelligence; check cars, trucks and packages for explosives; and take the lead on counterterrorism. Only federal law enforcement agencies, teamed up with the Department of Defense, have that kind of muscle and the tens of thousands of people to take on that responsibility.*

*Over the four weeks that the Olympic and Paralympic Games take place, someone needs to process the visas of 40,000 members of the Olympic family — that is, the athletes, trainers, coaches, referees, journalists, all arriving in Atlanta from 197 countries. That number, incidentally, is 12 more than the number of United Nations members. Only the State Department and the INS (Immigration and Naturalization Service) have the know-how to take on that particular responsibility.*

*There will be over 10,000 athletes and two million visitors at the Games. To make sure that they get from venue to venue, someone has to help create and maintain what will be the second largest transit system in the nation this summer. Only the Department of Transportation has the resources to take on that responsibility.*

*Simply put, without all of this, without our contribution of thousands of troops and federal law enforcers to secure the Games, without the federal government's processing of visitor permits, and without our help in building the transportation infrastructure, these Games could not go forward.*

*Now, I don't pretend for one second that the federal role in this summer's Games is the primary one — far from it. This is a partnership. And in this case, the federal government is very much the junior partner. As I said before, it is ACOG — the Atlanta Committee — the State of Georgia and the City of Atlanta who are carrying the much heavier loads. But we're going to do our part.*

*The current figure that we have for the cost of federal government assistance to the Games is $227 million. But if you look at what other countries have spent, and if you look at what ACOG's expenditures are, you'll see it in perspective. Look at our number — $227 million — and contrast that to $1.7 billion spent by ACOG, the private committee, and you can see it in context.*

*Yet that U.S. Government contribution is still extremely important. With the security environment that we face in the world in 1996, with the need to protect the millions of U.S. citizens and millions of visitors who are coming from around the world, we feel this is absolutely the responsible approach. We're going to make absolutely certain that we've done everything possible to provide for the security of the American people, for the security of the Games and for all of those who attend the Games.*

*The world will be watching. The athletes who will be competing in the Olympic and Paralympic Games have waited a lifetime for this opportunity. They have overcome so many obstacles to reach the top of their sports. Spurred on by President Clinton's leadership, we pledge to do our job to make sure that the world sees the best games ever. We pledge that once the athletes get to Atlanta, there will be no obstacles blocking their path.*

*In that exciting atmosphere, they will have the opportunity to push their abilities to the limit and showcase their talent and the human spirit to the entire world.* ❑

# THE OLYMPICS: THE MOVEMENT, THE GAMES, THE CENTENNIAL

## A CONVERSATION WITH LEROY T. WALKER

*(Dr. Leroy T. Walker, a native of New York City's Harlem, is president of the United States Olympic Committee — USOC. A graduate of Benedict College in South Carolina, he won honors in three sports, including All-America ranking in U.S. college football. He went on for a master's degree in health sciences and physical education from Columbia University, and later earned his doctorate from New York University.*

*Over the past four decades, Walker has devoted himself to sports and sportsmanship — first as a teacher/coach and then chancellor of North Carolina Central University, later as a track coach of future All-Americans, national champions and Olympic medalists. His roles of coach and adviser eventually drew him into the U.S. Olympic movement, which he served in several capacities — from head men's coach of the U.S. track and field team for the 1976 Montreal Olympics to USOC board member and treasurer, to his current post. In addition, for many years he coached or advised national track teams in a number of countries in the developing world.*

*In this conversation with William Peters, Walker reflects upon his experiences, and upon the U.S. commitment and contribution to the Olympic spirit.)*

**Question:** The Olympic philosophy of Baron Pierre de Coubertin, who founded the modern Olympics in 1896, represented the values of his day. Today, with the 1996 event, we are on the eve of the 21st century. What is the relevance of the Olympic movement today — and where does the United States fit in?

**Walker:** I think it is indeed relevant on a global scale. Just look at the nearly 200 countries coming to participate. A hundred years ago, you had 13 nations with about 300 athletes, as opposed to the 10,000 competitors coming to Atlanta. The lesson to be learned today, most of all, is that with the cultural differences and language differences, there need not be any divisiveness on the broad scale.

You have to draw a distinction, though, first of all, between the Olympic movement and the Olympic Games. When Coubertin first developed his proposal, in the wake of the Franco-Prussian War and at the time of the Dreyfus affair — as France suffered considerable loss of esteem and was mired in decadence, he thought — he sought some way of rallying countries, and particularly his own fellow Frenchmen. The importance, he believed, was not to win, but simply to participate. That was the essence of sports, as he saw it. General Douglas MacArthur later said something similar: that on the fields of friendly strife are sown the seeds which on other fields, in other years, will bear the fruits of victory.

The marketplace has begun to take over, to my regret, as far as the Games are concerned. You see the shift from the laurel wreath and the opportunity to light the Olympic fire to the gold medal and the thousands of dollars in advertising endorsements that have become today's rewards. But even if we're never going to go back to the laurel wreath, we don't have to be overwhelmed by the marketplace. Somewhere in between, as the pendulum swings, we must find a way to enable the Olympic movement to retain some of its earlier values.

**Q:** Take that notion of the difference between the movement and the Games a bit further.

**A:** Well, on the one hand you have the rush of the Games — 26 sports in 28 different venues, a multibillion-dollar event. On the other hand, you have the basic values of the movement, the five

*Leroy T. Walker*

characteristics I like to discuss — vision, focus, persistence, discipline and commitment. Those exist not only during the "16 days of glory," but also during the years in between Olympiads, forming the foundation of a lifestyle for these young athletes. The movement consists of sports clinics, development programs, job opportunities, junior programs. There are values that need to be developed over the long haul, utilizing those teaching moments that exist in sports as much or more than in a classroom. You instruct the individual that success is a journey and not a destination. I don't think we've lost that, but people don't hear much about it. The truth is that the Olympic Games reveal what you have learned in the Olympic movement. You don't learn it at the Olympic Games — you simply display it there.

**Q:** Going into the Atlanta Olympics, can you cite any peculiarly American values that athletes from abroad are going to encounter as they participate in the 1996 Games?

**A:** Well, there's always a lot of discussion of us versus them. I think they're going to see more of us in them. They're going to stop looking at our differences and see our similarities. They're going to see that we have an overall sense of values that is somewhat relevant to theirs. We may have a more diverse culture than some of them may have. But while we have different regions — the Northwest, the deep South and so on — there is a common bond that holds us together in terms of pride in our country. We want to do well at the Games, but not at all costs. Our athletes have paid the price through vision and focus and discipline — but so did the others. On any given day, one athlete may be better in his or her skill than another — but it doesn't mean he or she is a better person. I think that athletes from other countries will see that Americans have a compassion that we often are not given credit for — that's what's good about coming together for international competitions.

**Q:** One distinction between the U.S. Olympic movement and those of other countries is that the United States Government does not fund its national teams or structure as a whole. Is that understood overseas?

**A:** I'm asked that question all the time. In this country, we mix public and private support. I remember when we were going to a dual meet with Germany in Stuttgart. They had just built a great indoor facility. 'Why don't we have something like this?' our athletes asked. I said, 'Well, have you been to [the University of] Michigan? Ohio State? Have you been to Duke?' We have facilities around the United States that belong to our intercollegiate sports programs. I've just appointed a task force called USOC-NCAA [National Collegiate Athletic Association] that will explore how our Olympic athletes can make use of these collegiate facilities. That way, we don't have to develop separate Olympic training centers.

**Q:** Are these collegiate facilities public or private?

**A:** Both. The ones attached to state schools — like the University of Michigan or Ohio State — are public, and the ones on campuses of privately endowed universities — like Duke — are private. But all of these schools belong to the NCAA, and we hope we can work out a way to serve our mutual needs and objectives.

**Q:** What about having a structure like the Canadians, who have a government sports office?

**A:** Well, most countries have government offices or ministries for sports. But I don't want a ministry of sport in Washington that is going to dictate to every [sports] organization. Right now, the USOC has a

congressional mandate to deal with all of the sports federations as the body responsible for assembling our Olympic teams and all teams competing in international multisport events. We have the responsibility to make the rules. For example, we just adopted a very, very stringent code of conduct for our Olympic athletes. We have to operate within the laws of this country, including those which define due process, so that athletes are assured of a fair hearing. But our organization, which is made up of people from the sports and competing athletes, actually defines how we expect our teams to behave. We actually can say that if an athlete is not willing to abide by these requirements, he or she may not be a member of the team, because participation on an Olympic team is a privilege, and not a right.

**Q:** What is the role of the U.S. Government, then?

**A:** Well, we're in the middle of the torch run now. You'll see the Olympic flame travel some 15,000 miles, carried by 10,000 runners through 42 states, and you're going to hear the whole population talk about the USA, and our country, and our athletes. Well, if that's what the people are seeing and saying, I think it's okay for their government to give us a little support. And it does. We've got millions of dollars of cooperation from the Department of Transportation for the Atlanta Games. And we've got millions of dollars of support for security from the FBI [Federal Bureau of Investigation] and other agencies. We're getting substantial state support, too. The governments know that the Games are providing terrific values and it's appropriate for them to assist in their implementation. But at the same time, we have major support from the corporate world, from our $40 million partners and our $20 million sponsors. A major part of our funding will come from broadcasters' rights fees. So the Games really are a partnership production of the public and private sectors.

**Q:** The Olympics today is truly a global phenomenon, shaped over the course of this century. What would you pinpoint as America's premier contribution to this revived global movement?

**A:** There's no question that the exchange programs we developed have been highly significant. I coached track and field in Israel, Ethiopia, Kenya, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago, for example. We gave those countries' national teams the capability of becoming independent, and no longer reliant on us. Many professional sports within different countries around the world include athletes we trained — in soccer, basketball, even handball. Some would say that by training foreign athletes, we are helping them to defeat our own. From what I can see, though, many of those countries are dominating specific competitions — for example, the distance events — because of their different work ethics and lifestyles. Still, in many ways, I'd say, we've helped elevate the level of sports and competition around the world.

*"The truth is that the Olympic Games reveal what you have learned in the Olympic movement. You don't learn it at the Olympic Games — you simply display it there."*

**Q:** One interesting aspect of the Olympic Games this year is that teams from other countries are training in a number of communities across the southeastern United States, not just in the Atlanta area.

**A:** I started looking into that five years ago, when we began putting the Atlanta Games together. We did a survey of facilities in cities and towns from Florida to Virginia, because we wanted different communities involved. As a result, to give you one example, about a dozen national teams — including Australia, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Germany, Guatemala, Jamaica, New Zealand and Norway — have been doing their pre-training in North Carolina. Now, when those teams have come to train, we've asked each country to send two young people along as ambassadors. They're not officially on the team, but are there for exchange — to learn about us, and about what we and they share in common, so that the interaction of our cultures will enable them to understand us better. Sydney [site of the Summer Games in the year 2000] and Salt Lake City [site of the Winter Olympics in 2002] already have expressed interest in adopting this kind of approach.

Moreover, Atlanta's churches have gotten together to host, in their members' homes, families of athletes from overseas. There must be thousands of parents and their children who are going to be living in Atlanta for those three weeks. They're going to have an extraordinary experience — one, I think, that will be a legacy for the future.

**Q:** As a black American now heading this prestigious committee, talk for a moment about the impact of sports in bringing different races together.

**A:** I think sports has had even more of an impact than the churches. I remember how Adolph Rupp, the old University of Kentucky coach, said back in the 1960s that he didn't think black basketball players were good enough and smart enough to ever play for Kentucky. And then seven black guys playing for the University of Texas-El Paso went out and beat his team, and won the national collegiate basketball championship. Sports have been wonderful for both the men's and women's programs on college campuses.

**Q:** Related to that answer is the fact of your own rise to the presidency of the USOC — the first black to gain that post.

**A:** I chaired every other major committee, too, over the past 20 years. But I got to each position on merit. I always believed that if I was in constant pursuit of excellence, some people with the right attitude would actually choose me to move ahead. That's what I'd like my fellow minorities to keep in mind. I remember what my momma told me years ago. She said, 'Don't ever worry about the next task. Do the one you have the very best you can, and some good things will happen to you.' So I never thought about being president of the USOC. That wasn't the issue when I was treasurer, for instance. My task was to be the best treasurer they'd had.

**Q:** Given your lifetime involvement in sports, what aspect has had the most impact upon you?

**A:** There've been many. My mother trained me wonderfully after my father died when I was nine. Living in Harlem, I never thought I'd get out of New York City. And yet sports have carried me into almost every major city of the world. I've won medals. Team members I've coached have won medals. But I most remember a conversation I had with a sportswriter at a reunion of some of my athletes from their college days. He asked me the same question you just did, and mentioned the 75 or 80 national champions I'd trained, the 35 or 40 All-Americans, the 10 or 15 Olympic medalists. I said, 'I'll come back to the question in a minute.' Then I went around the room, asking everyone to tell us what they were doing then. One fellow said he was a banker. Another was a school principal. We kept going from athlete to athlete. The sportswriter listened to the comments, but was puzzled. 'What about the answer to my question?' he asked. I told him, 'You don't understand — you just heard the answer.' ❑

# THE GAMES AND THE COMMUNITY: A CITY PREPARES

**By Michael J. Bandler**

A few years ago, early in the intensive preparations for the 1996 Olympic Games, the city of Atlanta passed a municipal ordinance mandating that for every four seats in any new sports facility, at least one parking space had to be provided nearby.

For the inner-city university neighborhood within which an Olympic basketball stadium and field hockey arena were to be situated, the ordinance posed a dilemma. Only by spending more than $5 million could such expanses of parking be provided. The only recourse was to persuade the local zoning board to support a variance to cancel the requirement for parking spots.

"The first question the zoning board asked," recalls Ann Kimbrough, director of community relations for the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG), "was, 'what do the neighborhoods say?' We had the answer, because we'd prepared."

Through the process that has become generally accepted in this dynamic, evolving capital of the "New South," Kimbrough's office already had gained grass-roots support by working with the neighborhood planning units (NPUs) in the university sector. She and others had explained the tangible legacy residents would enjoy with the permanent siting of new sports facilities in their communities, to benefit college and neighborhood kids alike.

Neighborhood empowerment — in which residents choose their own leaders from within their community — is a fact of life in Atlanta today, one of many that, when taken collectively, comprise a telling commentary on a city that has found strength in some very basic, essential values.

From the inner-city neighborhoods to the corporate boardrooms, from political circles to the churches and universities, Atlanta is preparing to host the Centennial Olympic Games, welcoming the dawn of a new century in the best fashion it knows: by reflecting tolerance, individual and communal growth, altruism, and the innate worth of every man, woman and child — of every racial and ethnic group, on every economic and intellectual level.

Atlanta is a city very much aware of the history of its region —the South. Yet beyond the U.S. Civil War and the vanishing of the plantation life of Tara so indelibly etched on the world's consciousness in Margaret Mitchell's *Gone With the Wind*, today there are newer images to conjure.

With a population that currently is 60 percent black, the city of Atlanta has traversed — survived, some might say — the past 100 years harmoniously. If the laws of the land dictated, as they did for much of that time, a principle of "separate but equal" when it came to facilities for blacks as opposed to whites, it was chiefly in Atlanta, among all the cities and towns of the South, that the greatest measure of equality, albeit separate, was achieved.

For the decades of Peachtree Street's existence at the heart of white Atlanta, Auburn Avenue thrived as a nexus of everyday life for blacks. There, black professionals — doctors, attorneys, educators, clerics — relentlessly protected and cared for their fellow blacks. Nearby, universities flourished and music and art blossomed.

It was not surprising, then, that in the wake of the cataclysmic judicial, legislative and executive reassessment of the principle of "separate but equal" in America in the mid-1950s, the sensibilities of Peachtree Street and Auburn Avenue — at least figuratively — began to merge.

In part, this resulted from a singular event — the bombing of a religious institution, Atlanta's preeminent Jewish house of worship, in the fall of 1958. That explosion shattered complacencies, but

it also was a clarion call to all citizens —black and white, Jewish and Christian.

The message, author Melissa Fay Greene observes in her recent book, *The Temple Bombing*, was indisputable: "Democracy was a stable commodity, a renewable resource; that if blacks became full citizens it did not mean that whites were no longer full citizens, nor that American citizenship was not worth having."

Almost immediately, the disparate communities blended — politically, emotionally and from a business standpoint. The far-thinking white leadership — collectively known as "the big mules" — included a succession of mayors (William Hartsfield, Ivan Allen, Sam Massell) and Coca-Cola executive Robert Woodruff. Soon, with the support of black and white religious leaders (Atlanta was, after all, the home of the Martin Luther King family) and professionals, a black political structure emerged, bringing Congressman (and later United Nations ambassador and mayor) Andrew Young and Maynard Jackson (a three-term mayor) to the foreground. This reservoir of good will helped the city move ahead of its Southern counterparts, which took longer to establish a basic commitment to the era's changes.

If Allen and Massell concentrated on creating harmony within the city, Young looked outward, to the challenges of the nation and the world. Jackson was a combination of the two, a pioneering black leader whose advocacy of the construction of a new airport began the process of creating a cosmopolitanism for his city. Many point to that project — which immediately increased the flow of international visitors and business prospects to the city — as one of the factors helping to launch Atlanta on the global economic scene.

"When the black power structure took over the political process here," says Lynn Pitts, an Olympics leader, "there was a potential for divisiveness and conflict, but it never materialized. Our feeling was, 'We've all got to live here — let's get on with it.'"

Several harmonious decades later, Atlanta seemed ready — in the eyes of a select group of visionaries — for an Olympiad. Leading the pack was a fiercely motivated local real estate lawyer, Billy Payne. In 1987, having experienced an outpouring of community good will while chairing a church fundraising drive, he decided to take his activism to a higher level. Gathering money and friends — including Mayor Young — together, he turned disbelievers into passionate advocates when he and his colleagues convinced the International Olympic Committee to award the 1996 Games to Atlanta.

From the time of that announcement in 1990, Atlantans have worked creatively — and very much in keeping with the perspectives of the recent past — to reflect, in planning for the Olympiad, the core values that have helped bolster and enhance the city and the region in the eyes of the nation and the world.

Dan Sweat, a leading figure in The Atlanta Project — a campaign first envisioned by former President Jimmy Carter to refurbish the city's more blighted sectors — set out that objective in 1991, soon after the awarding of the Games to the city.

"We won't emerge in September of 1996 as a world-class city if all we've done is build some stadia and staged good games and entertained the visitors of the world," he said then. "If we haven't significantly improved the daily lives of the people at the bottom of the economic heap, we don't deserve world-class status."

The fact that citizens took his caveat to heart is evident in snapshots of the kinds of developments occurring every day.

For example, from the outset, knowing that the Games would take place in an inner-city venue, all parties — from the corporate boardrooms to people in the street — agreed that broad community support was vital in order to ensure a smooth process. As with much of what happens in Atlanta these days, there was precedence for this — the existence of the NPUs as a component of municipal decision-making.

"Remember, a lot of folks from ACOG come from the corporate environment," Kimbrough stresses, "and it is pretty heady stuff to have local residents calling, writing — whatever form the activism takes."

One key episode was sparked by Mattie Jackson, an irrepressible local figure who was appointed to the ACOG board of directors primarily because of her nearly four decades of volunteerism across the organizational landscape of the city. At a meeting of the board three winters ago, Kimbrough recalls, Jackson "kind of upset the apple cart by demanding that ACOG not let the Olympics come to town and leave out the very folks most affected by the construction and change."

Jackson urged the appropriation of $150,000 "to create an innovative, flexible job training program in the construction trade," Kimbrough notes, "and then allow these same folks to be part of the labor pool — in other words, taking the work needed and putting it back into the community," and, simultaneously, helping to reduce the welfare rolls. "I called it a jump start," Jackson explains. "We already were organized, but we needed help."

This early dialogue proved fruitful. The program initiated has trained and employed hundreds of citizens of Summerhill and other neighborhoods that are part of the Olympics' venue. As part of the plan, the community relations office of ACOG contracted for day care facilities for young children of the newly employed. When office staffers learned that some construction workers needed to be on the job at six in the morning — two hours before the opening of the day care center — volunteers came in to babysit.

As tracts in the older inner-city neighborhoods were being transformed into parking lots or sports venues, a handful of families had to be displaced from their garden apartments or houses, which were being demolished as part of the renovation. But local authorities — guided by the community relations office — identified these families and reestablished them in better housing than that which they had left.

Enhanced grass-roots empowerment is one of a number of gains being tallied for the community as a whole. In another area of interest — education — the Games have been a catalyst for expanded horizons and greater community participation. Marilyn Arrington, director of ACOG's Youth and Education Program, sees the goal of her project as one of "motivating students to strive for excellence in all aspects of their lives — educationally, culturally and physically."

The privately funded program, serving the state of Georgia as a whole, has several components (including an international summer camp) that targets different audiences. Elementary and intermediary schoolchildren have been active in the Olympic Days in the Schools project, which offers curriculum guides and speakers about the various countries participating in the Games, culminating in schoolwide field days that mirror the Olympic competitions. Each year, 100 secondary school students have been selected, through an extensive essay competition/interview process, as members of a "dream team" of volunteers, who serve their communities in environmental awareness, literacy programs and the promotion of cultural diversity. Somewhat more tangibly, Olympics organizers have been looking to the Games to build upon years of economic growth in the region. With the awarding of the event to Atlanta, they designated Georgia Power Company — the state's leading electric utility — to create and shape an economic development project called Operation Legacy.

"We wanted to use the excitement, exposure, mystique of the Games to showcase Georgia from a business point of view," says Lynn Pitts, the Georgia Power executive assigned to manage Operation Legacy. They began by identifying industry clusters to be targeted — among them, the aerospace, telecommunications and automotive parts industries, both domestic and international.

"We are encouraging as many as possible to invest in the state by building a new manufacturing plant, or distribution center or even a national headquarters," Pitts adds. "We've got one hellacious good product here — this is a great place to do business, and we want corporate decisionmakers to come look at what we've got to offer. For us, the 'legacy' in Operation Legacy is job opportunities."

In taking advantage of the presence of the Olympics, says Randy Cardoza, Georgia state commissioner for industry, trade and tourism, "we are trying to emphasize the values that people have, to reflect how the state, the region and the country are going to be portrayed for millions — even billions — who will see us for the first time."

Georgia Power exemplifies the commitment to the Games throughout the corporate sector — from such venerable locally based global firms as Coca-Cola to newer arrivals like United Parcel Service (a worldwide mail and package delivery company) and

Home Depot (a North American discount chain offering hardware and construction supplies). More than 100 American and Canadian Olympian athletes and hopefuls are being employed in Home Depot outlets as part of an Olympics job opportunities program. In addition, Home Depot is sponsoring the sale of engraved bricks to help fund a park in the once-ravaged Atlanta neighborhood that is now the Olympic venue.

The efforts underway to devise new plans, programs and projects around the Olympics are matched by the need to deal with challenges the Games present. One — for an urban sector already overflowing with private vehicles during the workweek — is traffic control.

With the equipment the city has on hand to deal with the issue, Atlanta will be "taking us into the 21st century," predicts Chrstine Johnson, head of the intelligent transportation systems office of the U.S. Department of Transportation. Much of that equipment will remain in place as another Olympics legacy.

In particular, for the first time in the United States, all of the transportation agencies of a city will be connected — via fiber optic cable — to highway cameras scanning two major freeways, roadside monitors and stoplights, offering an indication of the usefulness of "intelligent" systems in the years ahead. In addition, selected pedestrians will receive test navigation devices to guide them around town; dashboard devices will aid rental car drivers in navigating city streets; and interactive television systems in certain hotel rooms will provide guests with customized data on traffic patterns on major routes. This is merely a beginning to solving the ubiquitous congestion problems of urban America. But it is a beginning, and it is taking place in Atlanta.

The jobs and new housing created in Summerhill and elsewhere through a combination of private and public funds, the enthusiastic support and involvement of people from all spheres of the city, the emphasis on education, on economic development and on problem-solving all reflect a determination to create a momentum for change that will not cease with the closing ceremony.

Looking to the future beyond the Games, beyond the pageantry and glory of those 16 days in July, Randy Cardoza reflects one common sentiment.

"When all the dust settles and everybody leaves," he says, "we really hope there'll be a sincere belief on the part of those who came, or who saw the Olympics on television, that our way of life — the way we like to be treated, the way we treat people — is very real to us. We are tremendously proud of our history, but even prouder of what we are today, and more expectant of our future."

For Mattie Jackson, too, these are sunny days.

"I feel good about the impact," she maintains. "Because of the Olympics, we have been able to get people, banks, corporations into our community which had been thought of as 'at-risk.' Today, if you take a tour of the South Side, you'll see new houses going up, new sidewalks, trees planted, new lights and sewer lines, a new stadium, a new track field. A whole lot of us have benefited from it, one way or another.

"This is once in a lifetime. It might never come back again. But now that it's here, I know it will leave its mark." ❑

# MY OLYMPIC JOURNEY

**By Andrew Young**

*(Andrew Young, a renowned African-American statesman and politician, has served his city, state and nation with distinction during the last third of this century. A former United States Ambassador to the United Nations, mayor of Atlanta, and United States Congressman, he serves at present as co-chairman of the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games. His book,* An Easy Burden: The Civil Rights Movement and the Transformation of America, *will be published in November 1996 in the United States by HarperCollins.*

*In the following article, Ambassador Young reflects upon his own ties to the Olympics, and upon the spirit and values at the core of the 1996 Centennial event.)*

I've always been an Olympic fan, from the day my father took me to a segregated movie theater in New Orleans, Louisiana, to see the newsreels when Jesse Owens won in 1936. My dad used the Olympics to explain two things to me — one, the significance of Hitler's claim about a master race, and two, the way Jesse Owens quietly and athletically crushed that claim. That experience, when I was four years old, helped me believe that I could do anything I trained hard or worked hard to do — and that skin color and place of birth were not necessarily limitations.

All through college and even afterwards, I was trying my best to make the Olympics, as a sprinter in training. I never smoked, never drank, tried to keep in good condition. Those personal Olympic values really carried over into my politics and my professional life. They state that nobody ever loses when they catch hold of the Olympic dream.

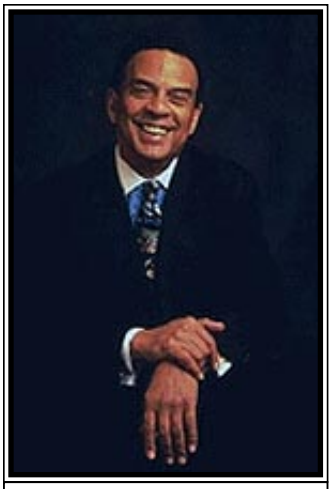
When we in Atlanta started out to pursue it, as a city, we felt that even if we didn't get selected, it was a wonderful experience to start, in 1988, dreaming about 1996. By being chosen, it means we have a chance to showcase the values and the vision of a people living together in peace and prosperity, in spite of the fact that there are many cultural differences.

The Olympics have always represented a healthy approach to the diversity of the human race. The Games, coming to Atlanta at the end of this century, in celebration of the Olympic Centennial, present a unique opportunity. Never in history have so many countries — 197 in all — agreed to come together. Because of the pace of technology, somewhere between two-thirds and four-fifths of the human race will see something of the Games through some mass media — sharing the same positive experience by coming together as one, to witness both the differences and similarities in their cultures as their countries compete in sports.

Atlanta's selection as the site, in large measure, grew out of a recognition that we understood what was at stake. During the bidding process, when representatives of the International Olympic Committee visited us, invariably they saw someone from their same heritage doing well in Atlanta. When IOC representatives from Latin America came here, they saw a man of Hispanic descent as president of Coca-Cola. I was working for the largest engineering firm in the city. Its chairman and CEO happened to have been born in India. He came to the United States as a 17-year-old, got his engineering degree and worked his way to the top. Most of the city government is of African descent. We have Asian banks, manufacturing and telecommunications firms all functioning in our city. Every visitor could take a measure of personal pride in something, or someone, in Atlanta.

They recognized as well a mutually supportive global commitment. During my eight years as mayor, we brought in more than a thousand international companies to Georgia. Some 300 Japanese companies had created 70,000 jobs. That also helped build our support with the IOC.

The site selection representatives saw something else, too — a spirit of volunteerism. For instance, even though the visitors lived in hotels, they were



*Andrew Young*

entertained in our homes, with our families. We did that for them because we didn't have any money! But it turned out to offer a rare opportunity. Many of our guests had been to the United States on a number of occasions, but they'd never been in a typical American home, or to a backyard barbecue or fish fry. They got a chance to experience that with us in Atlanta.

Our ethnic diversity helped us too. When St. Patrick's Day was coming around, we had our Irish-American citizens invite the IOC representative from Ireland for the parade and a game of golf. The Dutch businesses invited the IOC representative from The Netherlands. And the Polish neighborhood group told the Polish IOC delegate, 'we not only want your team to come, but we also want to make our homes available to the families of your athletes at no cost, so they can come and share in the Olympics.' It went from that gesture to an Atlanta host committee sponsored by AT&T that is involving a thousand churches.

This was really a wild, crazy dream. Nobody gave us a chance to win. And we did it with no government money. It was basically a gathering of about 25 or so families that volunteered their time and their own funds to pursue this dream. Only when we were designated — after competing against 14 other U.S. cities and then the rest of the world — did Atlanta and Fulton County and Georgia contribute some money to help us get started, money the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games is going to pay back.

Even though we were raising most of the money privately, we wanted to include everybody in the planning and decision-making; we wanted fulltime interaction with community groups right down to the grass-roots level. We have the broadest possible board of directors — probably the first such Olympics board that includes individual millionaires, executives of major corporations and welfare mothers.

*" ... nobody ever loses when they catch hold of the Olympic dream."*

We're also making sure that everyone will share in this Olympic experience, and in the growth and economic development that will result. Forty percent of our spending and construction went to black and female-owned firms — one of those cases where affirmative action really worked.

We've also made it an Olympics of the American South — not just limiting it to Atlanta. Besides the yachting we have planned in Savannah and softball in Columbus, there'll be white water competition up in Tennessee, soccer over in Birmingham [Alabama] and down in Miami [Florida] — and even in Washington, D.C.

The eyes and ears of the media — globally, but even closer to home — are on us as we go about our work. It's interesting that when the local newspaper was assigning reporters to cover the Games, it picked one man who didn't particularly like the Olympics and didn't even like sports. He told us that that was specifically the reason he was assigned. The role of a free press in a society like ours, you see, is to be analytical and critical. Because we knew he wasn't necessarily going to be sympathetic, it meant we had to be very self-critical. That's another lesson we learned. It has kept us on our toes, and means that everything we're doing will be done right in the open, where the public and the media can scrutinize it.

Atlanta, I believe, represents America at its best. We came through the civil rights movement of the 1960s without violence. It would have been very easy, after the Second World War, for us to turn on each other. We could have been another Beirut or Bosnia. But it was really mostly our religious foundation — led by Martin Luther King and others — which spurred us to solve problems without destroying either person or property. Non-violent problem-solving, therefore, is also part of the Atlanta legacy we hope to share with

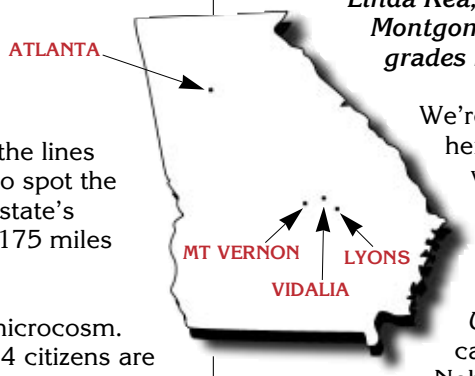
the rest of the world. We have all of the problems, divisions, insecurities that the rest of the world has — but we've made a habit of dealing with them around a table, talking them through.

We have black banks that are about 100 years old, black banks and insurance companies that go back almost to the beginning of this century. We built this city, which today has a black majority of about 65 percent, from the black perspective — around religious faith, education, political opportunity and free enterprise.

You know, in the 1960s, Atlanta came up with a slogan — "a city too busy to hate." When we were bidding for the Olympics, we took some IOC members to visit a kindergarten where the children had made an Olympic Village out of Lego blocks. These four-year-olds, preschoolers, were asked by one of the visitors, 'Do you want the Olympics to come to Atlanta?' And they all jumped up and screamed, 'Yes!' Then the visitor asked, 'Why should the Olympics come here?' And one of these four-year-olds said, 'because we're a city too busy to hate.' ❑

# VOICES FROM AN OLYMPIC VILLAGE

**By Michael J. Bandler**


You have to look carefully, deep into the lines and contours of the map of Georgia, to spot the diminutive town of Mt. Vernon, in the state's timber and agricultural region, about 175 miles southeast of Atlanta.

Mt. Vernon reflects rural America in microcosm. For the most part, the lives of its 1,914 citizens are centered around lumber and farming, around the various social and fraternal organizations that are even more vital in America's small towns than in its urban locales, and around a prominent institution of higher learning, Brewton-Parker College. One hundred years old, this Baptist coeducational school, whose enrollment nearly matches the population of the town, is half as old as Mt. Vernon itself.

With the coming of the Olympic Games to Atlanta and the decision by the organizing committee to bring many cities and towns into the Olympic framework as training sites, though, Mt. Vernon has taken on a more heightened visibility as one of the host communities, paired with Vidalia (famed for its onion-growing) some ten miles to the east, along the Altahama river basin.

Two summers ago, the weightlifting contingent of the national team of Greece arrived to train at Brewton-Parker. They returned in mid-1995, and are about to arrive for the final round of workouts just prior to the 16 days of Olympic competition. Equally exciting to expectant townfolk south of what locals call the "gnat line" — where a swat at a pesky insect sometimes is mistaken for a friendly wave — is the imminent arrival of 115 athletes comprising the national team of Uzbekistan.

How are these newly established links with men and women from halfway around the globe affecting life in Mt. Vernon and Vidalia? How are they being received? What lessons is the experience providing?

Here are some reflections by those on the scene — citizens of the region — voices from the Olympic village of Mt. Vernon-Vidalia, so representative of the anticipation and the reaction of people hosting athletes in training sites across the state and across the southeastern United States.

***Linda Kea, social studies teacher, Montgomery County High School, grades nine through 11:***

We're a very close-knit people down here in rural Georgia. Sometimes we tend to be suspicious of outsiders, particularly if we're not widely traveled. So what I try to get across to these kids, when we learn about Greece or Uzbekistan, is that we no longer can think of ourselves as isolated. Nobody is isolated in the world today. And the only way we're going to be able to have peace around the globe is if we're able to understand people. And you can't understand them if you don't know something about their culture. That's why I think the Olympics are vitally important — maybe one of the most important things to happen in the state of Georgia, because they're giving kids and adults, especially those of us who are native-born and rural, the chance to meet and accept people who are different.

***Don Harbuck, area manager, Georgia Power, and a former president of the local Chamber of Commerce:***

Our company is deeply committed to the Games. We're sponsoring both the Olympics and the Paralympics afterwards. I've volunteered to work on the Paralympic Games. All in all, it's a lot of work, but I really believe we'll get more out of it than we put

in. The fact that we have athletes of renown coming here as international guests has broadened our awareness of the importance of this effort. The Greek athletes have gone to different clubs, to meet people and be honored. It's been very much a person-to-person experience, and on that personal basis, those of us who have the chance to meet these visitors will be enriched by doing so. It's opened a window on both sides to the larger world outside, which is very rare. And it'll have a legacy: The athletes that come over will be interested in having their children come back here some day.

***Larry Atkins, Montgomery County Bank executive:***

I went to my daughter's kindergarten graduation last night, and the theme was the Olympics — with flags and bunting. It's put a lot of spirit into the little children. There've been a lot of cultural exchanges between the Greek athletes and our local folks. They've been over to the bank. And we took them out for a barbecue dinner at a cabin way back in the woods, and a square dance. The community has bonded with the Greeks as if they were our own team. Growing up as a child in the rural South, we might have been concerned about outsiders coming in. But this experience has shown us that everybody inside is the same — no matter what you look like on the outside or where you come from.

***Karen Poole, fifth-grade teacher, Montgomery County Elementary School:***

Early in each school year since Atlanta was named as the Olympics site, we've chosen four countries to research. This year, we're working on Japan, Greece, Nigeria and Venezuela. We're going to have the unit on Greece next week. The kids are finding out the population, the geography, aspects of the culture of the country, using encyclopedias and information in the computer, and then will report their findings to each other. We also have a sports Olympiad — in soccer, hockey, basketball and tug-of-war — featuring the four countries. Through learning, they find out about the art of a country, the food the people eat, the types of houses they live in. Out of this, I hope they will begin to realize that although we all live differently according to our surroundings, we can still all work together through understanding — getting along and learning from each other.

***Ray Meadows, physical education teacher, Montgomery County Elementary School, kindergarten through fifth grade:***

There's a glow effect here because of the Olympics. The community is cleaning up — hanging banners and flags. Of course, the kids want to know where Uzbekistan is, and why their athletes are coming here, of all places. We've got educational information from the Atlanta Committee on the Olympic Games so that each subject, in one way or another, is tied in with some aspect of the Games. You can talk about language, about math, about history, about any subject, through the Olympics.

***Glenda Anderson, director, Paul Anderson Youth Home (a Christian rehabilitation center), and one of the designated "community heroes" chosen to carry the Olympic torch as it passes through the area enroute to Atlanta:***

The Vidalia Onion Festival each year has caused our different communities to come together from time to time. But nothing has had more of a unifying effect on the leaders — to work together for the betterment of the whole area — than the Olympics. Here at the home, I work with young men ages 16 to 21 who would otherwise be incarcerated. The fact that my late husband was so renowned as an Olympian has always been an attention-getter*. But the Greek weightlifters who've come here have brought a charisma with them that has an impact on the guys living in our home. The message is that you can achieve if you're willing to discipline yourself to keep on working. Everything about the Olympics shows what's possible through discipline — how to become an "overcomer." ❑

**Paul Anderson won a gold medal in weightlifting in 1956 in Melbourne, Australia.*

# THE PARALYMPIAN — ANOTHER KIND OF HERO

**By G. Andrew Fleming**

*(G. Andrew Fleming is president and chief executive officer of the Atlanta Paralympic Organizing Committee. A double-leg amputee, he is a nationally recognized wheelchair athlete and a medalist in track, swimming and basketball.)*

## THE POWER OF SPORT

Historically, sports have been a vehicle for changing society's attitudes, an ideal way of altering stereotypes. Look back at the 1950s, when black athletes broke the color barrier in baseball and other sports. If people with disabilities can gain the recognition they deserve through athletic competition, then they can break through other barriers too — in education, in medicine, in the market place — anywhere.

The Paralympic movement continues this assault on the barriers — political, ideological, societal and so on — that separate us, in building a positive environment which fosters greater awareness and understanding. Once you've proven that people with physical disabilities can be exciting, world-class athletes, you've made a case for their ability to do other things well, too.

When it comes to the disability community, the United States has made considerable progress, as a society, towards breaking down the physical barriers of entry to buildings and structures, access to transportation and ease of travel. We now have the Americans with Disabilities Act; that law gives us the legal environment in which to effect change. But such reforms on behalf of people with disabilities will never be embraced until we're able to abolish cultural stereotypes and alter attitudes on the part of the general public.

We all — able-bodied and disabled — still face barriers of the mind and of the heart. And what's unique about these internal obstacles is that they are mostly born of our own human emotions. When we see a person using a wheelchair or another with a prosthetic arm or leg, we feel compassion. We care. Perhaps we are unsettled by the thought of how we would handle our own lives in a similar situation. Though benign in gestation, this reaction creates a veil which distorts our view of the person. Sports competition gives us a focal point which can help us get through the veil.

## THE IMPACT

The 10th Paralympic Games this August will be a watershed event, much as the 1984 Los Angeles Games were for the Olympics. This will be the first time that the Paralympics will be televised in the United States and offered worldwide, the first time that tickets will be sold, that sponsorships will be developed and marketed on this level. The impact and awareness of the Paralympics will jump exponentially this year.

The Games will feature 3,500 athletes from 127 countries competing in 17 medal and two exhibition sports over 10 days of competition. One thousand coaches and other team staffers will be on hand, along with more than 1,500 journalists from around the world. They will be supported by 1,500 Paralympic staffers, officials and technical personnel and 12,000 volunteers — with some 1.5 million spectators cheering them on.

## THE ATHLETES

Each participant has a compelling story to tell. Inspirational? Absolutely! And yet, consider a recent article on disabled athletes in Sports

Illustrated, and the response of Shawn Brown to a request to be interviewed after he set an unofficial disabled world record in the discus on one leg. "Is this going to be a sports story? I don't do human interest." They may well be inspirational but these people are athletes first and want to be recognized and respected for their ability to compete and win.

When Tony Volpentest runs the 100-meter sprint in just over 11 seconds, he is so fast that you must wait till he stops to notice that his feet are prosthetics and that he has no lower arms. The excitement of an impossible pass to a breaking teammate from Dutch basketball star Gert-Jan Van der Linden has nothing to do with the wheelchair he uses. The Paralympic wheelchair records of America's Scot Hollonbeck in the 800 meters and Heinz Frei of Switzerland in the 5,000 meters are faster than their Olympic counterparts, Sebastian Coe of Great Britain and Said Aouita of Morocco.

The Paralympics are a turning point both for the athlete and spectator alike. It is an opportunity for us to overcome our own internal hurdles, to get past our own discomfort that creates a barrier when we deal with individuals with disabilities. The pure competitiveness and sheer excellence of these athletes help us see past the wheelchair, the prosthetic, the disability, and to see the athlete, the competitor, the person. Paralympians are as exceptional as any athlete on a world level. Beyond that, they are every one of us, facing challenges and working to meet them. It is important that the definition of the person be the person, not the disability. Let each individual stand on their own merit and character.

## THE OPPORTUNITY

For many athletes from developing countries, this will be the first opportunity to experience a relatively barrier-free society. They will be staying in Atlanta, a modern city that mirrors the many advancements of the United States in providing access to the handicapped, from accessible public transportation to barrier-free shops, restaurants, hotels and amusement parks.

The Third Paralympic Congress, Aug. 12-16, held simultaneously with the Games, will further establish and continue dialogue and action towards breaking down the barriers facing people with disabilities. The Congress will consider an agenda embracing many areas of concern. Topics will include: defining a human rights agenda for people with

disabilities; the future of sports opportunities for disabled adults and children; expanding opportunities for employment and economic viability; broadening awareness in developing countries of the challenges facing disabled athletes, and increasing possiblities for them. More than 150 public and private agencies from more than 50 countries are participating. Affiliated programs also will include an International Trade and Economic Initiative for international government and business leaders; an Abilities Expo, featuring exhibits of assistive technology and services; and the Cultural Paralympiad, a celebration of the work of internationally acclaimed disabled artists.

## GOOD BUSINESS

The Paralympic organizers have been able to demonstrate conclusively that the disability community represents a powerful consumer bloc of more than 49 million Americans and their families. Research indicates that people with physical handicaps comprise a $461 billion economy. It tells us that 54 percent of the buying public will redeem a coupon for a product or service of a company that promises a contribution to a worthwhile cause, that 38 percent will purchase a product or service from a business that donates a portion of its profits to the Paralympic Games, that 32 percent will buy a product or service from a firm that sponsors an event supporting a special disability cause. This isn't charity — it's good business.

And, it should be noted, the Atlanta Paralympics will mark the first time that these Games will have raised the majority of its funding from the private sector.

## THE GAMES

The Paralympics are the most significant expression of the idea that people with disabilities can perform at the highest levels of human achievement. It is parallel to the Olympics for elite athletes with physical disabilities. In rare instances, we are seeing the communities converge. This year, one visually impaired athlete has qualified for the athletics trials for both the Olympic and Paralympic teams. Marla Runyan, a multi-dimensional heptathlete, gives equal measure to both competitions, because she is an athlete first, an Olympian or Paralympian second. This exemplifies the broader significance of the Paralympics. The games will be exciting, to be sure. But they will also elevate the status of people with disabilities in the United States and, hopefully, around the world, as never before.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

A word about volunteerism, and the American tradition of helping others:

Often, it is easier to ask for money than for a person's time. But in this instance, the response from people has been extremely gratifying.

The 12,000 volunteers who will work during the Paralympics will have an impact at the Games and afterwards. When the competition ends, they will take their first-hand knowledge, experience and newly discovered appreciation for the vitality of the disabled with them into their lives and their communities so that others will benefit. No doubt the millions of spectators who will view the Games in person or on television in America and around the world will also gain this broader perspective and understanding, which will be a major legacy for future athletes and fans.

The true success of the 1996 Atlanta Paralympic Games will be measured not on August 25 at the closing ceremonies, or by gold medals, ticket counts or sponsorship dollars. The most reliable, durable test of our accomplishments will simply be the positive changes resulting from our relentless campaign to break down the barriers that have separated us. ❑

**PARALYMPIC/OLYMPIC RECORD COMPARISONS — ATHLETICS**

| Event | Paralympic Record | Olympic Record |
|---|---|---|
| Men's 100m | 10.72<br>Ajibola Adoye, Nigeria<br>(arm amputee) | 9.86<br>Carl Lewis, United States |
| | 11.63<br>Tony Volpentest, United States<br>(double arm, double leg amputee) | |
| Women's 200m | 25.31<br>Marla Runyan, United States<br>(visually impaired) | 21.34<br>Florence Griffith Joyner<br>United States |
| Men's 800m | 1:40.63<br>Scot Hollonbeck, United States<br>(wheelchair) | 1:41.71<br>Sebastian Coe, Great Britain |
| Women's 1,500m | 3:45.23<br>Connie Hansen, Denmark<br>(wheelchair) | 3:53.96<br>Paula Ivan, Italy |
| Men's 1,500m | 3:54.61<br>Javier Conde, Spain<br>(arm amputee) | 3:29.46<br>Said Aouita, Morocco |
| Men's 5,000m | 11:10.41<br>Heinz Frei, Switzerland<br>(wheelchair) | 12:58.39<br>Said Aouita, Morocco |
| Men's High Jump | 1.96 m<br>Arnold Bolt, Canada<br>(single-leg amputee) | 2.38 m<br>Guennadi Avdeenko, USSR |
| | 1.98 m<br>Jonathan Orcutt, United States<br>(visually impaired) | |
| Men's Long Jump | 5.58 m<br>Dennis Oehler, United States<br>(single-leg amputee) | 8.90 m<br>Robert Beamon,<br>United States |

# 'RINGS' OF CULTURE

## A CONVERSATION WITH J. CARTER BROWN

*(A dozen years after successfully spearheading the revival of the Olympic Games in the modern era, French activist Baron Pierre de Coubertin reflected, in a 1908 essay, upon how the Games had confirmed, "in the completest manner the marriage of Arts and Sports — that is to say, of muscular strength and creative imagination, those two poles of human life...."*

*Today, as the Centennial Olympics nears, the spirit of Coubertin prevails in a series of cultural events in, and in association with, Atlanta. In February 1994, with the Lillehammer Winter Games, Atlanta began a series of cultural events and exchanges. In the spring of 1995, for example, an international contingent of Nobel literary laureates gathered to discuss their craft. This summer, at the Olympics, film festivals, fine arts and photography exhibitions, displays relating to the culture of the American South and the indigenous African-American art of the region will take place.*

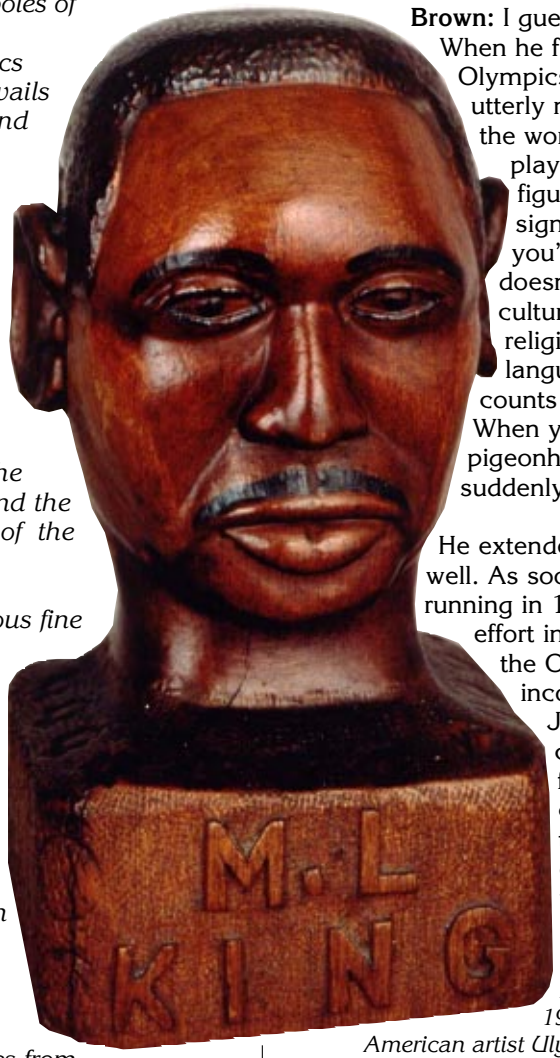
*By all accounts, the most ambitious fine arts presentation is "Rings: Five Passions in World Art." This exhibition brings together 129 works from around the globe — classics of Rodin, Manet, Rembrandt, Picasso; a centuries-old Chinese landscape scroll; pre-Christian designs from Ecuador, Mexico, Greece and Romania; an Egyptian illustration from an edition of the Koran; masks from Japan, Nigeria and Zaire; Buddhist sculptures from Korea, India and Thailand; Australian aboriginal art; ceramics from Japan, ancient Persia, Ottoman Turkey, China and France; and a selection of U.S. works, ranging from seventh-century Native American pottery to a contemporary video installation.*

*The "five passions," or emotions, around which the selections are organized are love, anguish, awe, triumph and joy. J. Carter Brown, director-emeritus of the National Gallery of Art in Washington, and curator of "Rings," recently discussed with Michael J. Bandler the genesis and purpose of the exhibition, which will run from July 4 to September 29 at the High Museum of Art in Atlanta.)*

**Question:** When Ned Rifkin, director of the High Museum, first proposed that you conceive and organize an international exhibition for the Olympics in Atlanta, what was it that piqued your interest?

**Brown:** I guess it goes back to Coubertin. When he first tried to revive the Olympics, most people thought he was utterly mad to bring all the peoples of the world together onto the same playing field, both literally and figuratively. That, to him, was the significance of the Games: While you're competing in them, it doesn't matter which of the world's cultures you come from, which religion you practice, which language you speak. All that counts is how well you can perform. When you hit the playing field, any pigeonholes we're all put into should suddenly become irrelevant.

He extended that ideal to the arts as well. As soon as the Games were up and running in 1896, he began putting a lot of effort into incorporating the arts into the Olympics, as they had been incorporated in ancient times. Just as sports can establish conditions in which we escape from our pigeonholes, so, too, can the arts. That, to me, is the excitement of the enterprise — the opportunity that the arts allow us of




*Head of Martin Luther King, Jr., 1968, mahogany, by African-American artist Ulysses Davis (1913-1990).*

arching over our differences, not only in space but in time, over the millennia.

I was excited, too, to learn more about this extraordinary Frenchman, whose mother was an artist and whose father was a musician, and whose passion in life was education. He felt that French society was eroding because the education was not taking account of the whole person. He was, rather unusually for a Parisian, a great Anglophile. And the playing fields of Eton were very important to developing a sense of leadership and the relationship between mind and body which the ancient Greeks understood, and which he thought ought to be brought back. So he defined that ideal — which he called Olympism — as sport plus culture, and always championed the presence of an arts component.

**Q:** Given the location of the 1996 Olympics — Atlanta — and the fact that any similar event reflects its surroundings, what are the American values and tenets that you believe are mirrored in this year's Games?

**A:** One of the things that's been most difficult for people outside the United States to understand is the extent to which we truly do represent a coming together of an enormously diverse set of cultures and ethnicities. And the glory of the Olympics since antiquity has been to provide that level playing field for all sorts of competitors. Coubertin himself designed the five interlocking rings which he saw as symbolizing that geographic coming together. What we are doing with our exhibition is to take the interconnectedness that those rings embody, emblematically and metaphorically, to a level that goes beyond mere geography and involves the interrelatedness of peoples everywhere through art. And so the United States — of all countries that have a stake in finding ways in which people get along with each other, as a kind of microcosm of the world's cultures — has a particular opportunity to project those values by espousing such a show.

*Leaves of a Plant, ca. 1942-43, oil on canvas, by American artist Georgia O'Keeffe (1887-1986).*

**Q:** As you made your selections, when you approached directors and curators of established museums to request certain items on loan, what was their reaction?

A: I went with some trepidation. It's one thing to conceive of such a show — to sift out, to balance the best of the best — and something else again to convince people it's worth their giving up their objects to join in this enterprise. I recognized that this show was unprecedented — highly unfashionable. But it's also highly sophisticated, I argue — way beyond where art history is today. It branches into the cutting edge of neuroscience and cognitive psychology and anthropology — and the role of affect, as it's called, in the human brain. Now that we have very sophisticated tools for exploring where in the brain certain things happen, that role suddenly has been given a new status.

It has been argued that there is a whole school of neuroscience that has put down emotion as being some kind of primitive stage of human development which has been gloriously superseded by the power of the mind. One new book says that that is rot — countering that the human mind gets some of its best achievements through a combination of emotion and reason. So I think that the breadth of our concept of this exhibition idea reflects some highly recent and adventurous intellectual thought. At the same time, it is also designed to speak to visitors who may never have been in an art museum before. At first blush, a number of curators assumed 'Rings' was some kind of razzle-dazzle sideshow. But once I took out my illustrations and showed them what the idea really encompassed, it was so gratifying to see the scales fall from their eyes. Generally, in the end, they were not only willing but enthusiastic about participating.

**Q:** You spoke a moment ago about arching over differences. How does the arrangement of this exhibition serve that goal?

**A:** This gathering of extraordinary objects made by people in all parts of the world and in all periods — spanning 7,500 years of creativity and representing virtually all major geographic areas and principal religious traditions — is truly

innovative, I believe. For the first time, a major presentation is organized according to the emotional impact of works of art, rather than according to monographic issues. Normally, when we tour an exhibition, we expect to see works that are as similar as possible, brought together so we may study their nuances with greater and greater precision. Museums bring together art that shares the same time-frame, or style or iconography. Our approach is the polar opposite: We have brought together paintings and sculpture that are as diverse as possible — in scale, in materials, in original function and in place of origin.

**Q:** Let's go a bit deeper into the rings themselves. Given so many emotions one can identify, why did you focus in on these five?

**A:** Well, naturally I could have chosen others, but these five in many ways subsume a lot more emotions than you might think. Hate and jealousy are pretty much related to anguish, and awe — while not normally in the list of emotions — contains the same sense of spirituality that is really the center of gravity of the show. As a whole, this exhibition takes you from a high of romantic love to the depths of anguish, then rises to triumph and joy.

**Q:** To me, the five also seem multifaceted.

**A:** Right. Triumph, for example, is victory, but it also has defeat contained within it. It's a two-edged sword. Part of the idea was to develop an internal structure that could carry out the concept of overlapping and interconnecting. So the fun is that on top of all the other philosophical and metaphorical ways in which the show operates, in a very basic sense, one emotion shades off into the next. Anyone who knows much about love knows that it has an anguished side. You get to the anguish of love from separation, which is very close to bereavement. When you get physical anguish pushed all the way, it becomes death — and that tends to raise the question, is that all there is? That is the next overlap — to what might be beyond. You get a sense of the beyond from nature and from disaster. That propels you into a sense of spirituality and inner life. When that inner life, to which Asian culture is so attuned, comes under control, this is a form of triumph. So we go from a bronze depicting the awe of an athlete in ancient Greece praying — the Olympics, after all, were dedicated to the god Zeus — to El Greco's *Resurrection of Christ* to *Christ in Majesty*, an icon from early Russia, which gives you a sense of religious triumph.

*"One of the things that's been most difficult for people outside the United States to understand is the extent to which we truly do represent a coming together of an enormously diverse set of cultures and ethnicities."*

From religious triumph, we get into military and athletic triumph. And one component of triumph is, of course, joy. That is the lead-in to the final section. Love itself has its joyous side, and joy is often expressed in love. We end up with dance — with Camille Claudel celebrating her passionate relationship with Rodin — a link to the beginning of the exhibition, Rodin's *The Kiss*. The final image — by Matisse — is a circle of dancers, five, in fact, in a ring, showing that perhaps all humanity can join hands once every four years within the Olympic framework.

**Q:** One of the few downsides of this exhibition, as planned, is that it is limited to one site — Atlanta — and has no planned touring component. Regrettable as that is, is there some way this diverse display might have an afterlife?

**A:** There are ways, yes. One is electronic, through a CD-ROM that has been prepared. Second, the U.S. public television network is planning an hour-long program on the exhibition, which, we hope, will perpetuate the show through subsequent showings at home and abroad, after the initial presentation on the network, as well as on a new all-arts cable network, Ovation. I have also learned that the seed of this exhibit may have taken root elsewhere. I consider the idea so open-ended that it's possible for other museums, as part of their educational process, to do their own 'Rings' exhibit, perhaps out of their own fine art, printing or photographic collections. That's what the Akron Art Museum in Ohio is doing. It's a good enough basic concept that everyone can have

a shot at it if they like. I chose these five emotions — but other curators can use any emotions they wish. It's a simple but very powerful organizing principle.

**Q:** Any final thoughts as you prepare to unveil 'Rings'?

**A:** Well, there's one more thing to keep in mind. We often speak about the works in an exhibition like this one in terms of their "universal" properties. 'Rings' will not deny the obvious — that there are differences among these objects and in the cultures that produced them. If anything, those differences ought to leap to the eye, when you put an 11th-century Indian sculpture next to a work by Rodin.

Let's remember one thing, though. Artists make works of art for all sorts of reasons, but almost never for people just to study. The formal study of works of art, as a specialty of higher education, is not much more than a century old. On the other hand, people have been making works of art for something like 30,000 years. 'Rings' is intended for art historians, cognitive psychologists and cultural anthropologists, to be sure, but ultimately, frankly and openly, for human beings — all of us who must have been getting something out of the visual arts for all these millennia.

I believe that the arts can give us something to share — not something to keep us apart. ❑

# BIBLIOGRAPHY

## IF YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT. . .


**The Olympic Games**

Bennett, Lerone, Jr. "Jesse Owens' Olympic Triumph over Time and Hitlerism" (*Ebony, vol. 51, no. 6, April 1996, pp. 68-75*)

*Chronicle of the Olympics: 1896-1996*. Anaheim, CA: DK Institute, 1996.

*Historical Dictionary of the Modern Olympic Movement*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing Group, 1996.

Lobo, Ruthann and Lobo, Rebecca. *The Home Team*. New York: Kodansha International, 1996.
— Rebecca Lobo, a member of the U.S. Olympic women's basketball team, wrote this celebration of family life and sports in collaboration with her mother, Ruthann, a breast-cancer survivor.

Young, Andrew. *A Way Out of Nowhere: The Spiritual Memoirs of Andrew Young*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1994.

*The 1996 Centennial Olympic Games*
http://www.atlanta.olympic.org/
The official website for the Olympic Games. Provides background on the games, "Frequently Asked Questions" and information on volunteer activities. Searchable links to a detailed program schedule, ticket and travel information, the Olympic Arts Festival, hot news, news archives, sports and venues, and entertainment. This website will be updated in real time and will "provide live Olympic results, competition information, athletes and teams data, commentaries, photographs, videos, interviews and much more."

*Official Home Page of the Salt Lake Olympic Organizing Committee*
http://www.slc2002.org/
The official site for the Salt Lake Organizing Committee, which will host the XIX Olympic Winter Games February 9-20, 2002. More than 2,000 athletes from approximately 85 nations are expected to attend. The site offers information on Salt Lake City, Utah, and on Park City and Weber County, all of which are designated locations for events from the Games. The site is under construction and promises additional information on a regular basis.

**The City of Atlanta and the South**

Allen, Frederick. *Atlanta Rising: The Invention of an international City, 1946-1996*. Marietta, GA: Longstreet Press, 1996.

Bayor, Ronald L. *Race and the Shaping of Twentieth-Century Atlanta*. Durham: University of North Carolina Press, 1996.

Greene, Melissa Fay. *The Temple Bombing*. New York: Addison-Wesley, 1996.

Hudson, Kari. "Atlanta's Transit System 'Trains' for the Olympics" (*American City and County*, vol. 111, no. 1, January 1996, pp. 30-41)

Katz, Donald. "Atlanta Brave: Billy Payne, CEO of the Atlanta Committee for the Olympics" (*Sports Illustrated*, vol. 84, no. 1, January 8, 1996, pp. 72-93)

Pomerantz, Gary. *Where Peachtree Meets Sweet Auburn: The Saga of Two Families and the Making of Atlanta*. New York: Scribner, 1996.

Randolph, Laura B. "The Atlanta Olympic Story: Are Blacks Getting Any of the Real Gold?" (*Ebony*, vol. 50, no. 4, February 1995, pp. 30-34+)

Schwartz, Janet and Black, Denise. *Ethnic Atlanta: The Complete Guide to Atlanta's Ethnic Communities*. Marietta, GA: Longstreet Press, 1993.

Sieder, Jill Jordan. "Fun Beyond the Games" (*U.S. News & World Report*, vol. 120, no. 8, February 26, 1996, pp. 72-75)

Stafford, Patrick. "Games Spark Race for the Gold" (*State Government News*, vol. 39, no. 5, May 1996, pp. 14-18)

Sweat, Dan E. and Anthony, Jacquelyn A. "The Role of Corporations in Urban Revitalization: The Experience of the Atlanta Project" (*National Civic Review*, vol. 84, no. 3, Summer-Fall 1995, pp. 239-247)

Wieneck, Henry. "The Road to Modern Atlanta" (*American Heritage*, vol. 47, no. 2, April 1996, pp. 82-92)

*City of Atlanta*
http://www.city.net/countries/united_states/georgia/atlanta/ This City.net site links to much information about Atlanta from arts and entertainment, education, news and weather, museums, parks, to travel and tourism.

**The 1996 Olympic Arts Festival**

Cullum, Jerry. "An Olympiad for the Eye and Mind" (*ARTnews*, vol. 1, no. 4, April 1996, pp. 59-60)

Reiss, Alvin H. "Arts to Play Key Role in 1996 Summer Olympics" (*Fund Raising Management*, vol. 25, no. 8, October 1994, pp. 61+)

Shapiro, Michael, ed. *Rings: Five Passions in World Art*. New York: Abrams, 1996.

*The 1996 Olympic Arts Festival*
http://www.atlanta.olympic.org/acog/oaf/d-oaf.html
"Designed to link the artistic and cultural traditions of the world with the artistic and cultural traditions of the American South, the 1996 Olympic Arts Festival is the most comprehensive multidisciplinary arts festival ever to take place in this region of the country and one of the Modern Olympic Games' largest cultural celebrations." Festival events can be searched by category, including exhibitions and special programs, public art, dance and theater. Tickets are available for purchase online.

**The 1996 Paralympics and Disability Issues**

Mackenzie, Leslie, ed. *Complete Directory for People with Disabilities, 1995-96*. Lakeville, CT: Grey House, 1994.

National Council on Disability. *Voices of Freedom: America Speaks Out on the ADA; a Report to the President and Congress*. Washington: July 26, 1995.

Nesbitt, John A. and Driscoll, Jean, eds. *Sports, Everyone! Recreation and Sports for the Physically Challenged of All Ages*. Cleveland, OH: Conway Greene, 1995.

Shapiro, Joseph P. *No Pity: How the Disability Rights Movement Is Changing America*. New York: Times Books, 1993.

Wendling, Dan. "Surfing the Internet: Would It be Useful to You? Listing of Resources Useful to People with Disabilities" (*Accent on Living*, vol. 40, no. 4, Spring 1996, pp. 73+)

*1996 Atlanta Paralympic Games*
http://www.paralympic.org
Includes background information on the games, facts and figures, "Frequently Asked Questions," profiles of athletes, news items, an official program calendar, volunteer activities, sports and venues.

*Americans with Disabilities Act Document Center*
http://janweb.icdi.wvu.edu/kinder/
"This website contains copies of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), ADA regulations, technical assistance manuals prepared by the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) or the United States Department of Justice(DOJ), and other technical assistance documents sponsored by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) and reviewed by EEOC or DOJ." Also includes extensive links to other Internet sources on disability and other health issues.

*Internet Resources for Non-Profit Public Service Organizations*
http://www.sils.umich.edu/~nesbeitt/nonprofits/nonprofits.html (for the full guide)

http://www.sils.umich.edu/~nesbeitt/nonprofits/disabilitymenu.html (for the disability section)
One of the Clearinghouse for Subject-Oriented Internet Resource Guides, this site devotes a section to disability resources. Descriptions of the contents of the resources are available as well as a direct link to the sites themselves. Sites include:

— Americans with Disabilities Act information from the U.S. Dept. of Justice gopher

— Americans with Disabilities Act discussion list

— Cornucopia of Disability Information from the State University of New York-Buffalo gopher

— Disability Resources, Products, Services, and Communication from Evan Kemp Associates

— WebAble, a comprehensive site that focuses on accessibility for the disabled.

**Volunteerism and Grassroots Movements**

Alter, Jonathan. "What Works: Grass-roots Programs That Make a Difference" (Newsweek, vol. 75, no. 22, May 29, 1995, pp. 18-24)

Forward, David C. *Heroes after Hours: Extraordinary Acts of Employee Volunteerism*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1994.

Garr, Robin. *Reinvesting in America: The Grassroots Movements That Are Feeding the Hungry, Housing the Homeless, and Putting Americans Back to Work*. Reading, MA: Addison- Wesley Longman, 1995.

*Giving and Volunteering in the United States: Findings from a National Survey Conducted by the Gallup Organization for the Independent Sector*. Washington: Independent Sector, October 1996.

O'Connell, Brian. *America's Voluntary Spirit: A Book of Readings*. New York: Foundation Center, 1983.

O'Connell, Brian. *People Power: Service, Advocacy, Empowerment; Selected Writings*. New York: Foundation Center, 1994.

Sack, Kevin. "Making Volunteerism Easier for Busy Workers of Today" (The New York Times, November 25, 1995, Sec. 1, p.1+)

*Independent Sector*
http://www.indepsec.org/
This nonprofit coalition of more than 800 corporate, foundation and voluntary organization members serves as a national leadership forum, working to encourage philanthropy, volunteering, not-for-profit initiative and citizen action. The site contains information on the Independent Sector's programs and publications, and provides statistics on giving and volunteering.

*Reinvesting in America: Fighting Hunger & Poverty in Your Community: An Access Guide to* Reinvesting in America.
http://www.iglou.com/why/ria.htm
Includes capsule summaries of some of "America's best grassroots programs that fight hunger and poverty by building self-reliance." Also contains other resources on hunger and poverty.

# SPEAKERS/SPECIALISTS

*The U.S. Information Agency/Service (USIA/USIS) informs overseas audiences on aspects of American society and values through diverse programs utilizing a wide range of speakers and specialists. These programs present American approaches to a variety of problems and issues, and underscore the U.S. interest in sharing these approaches with citizens of countries around the world. Following are some examples of recent speaker programs on subjects ranging from archaeology to welfare:*

— **Dr. Gwendolyn Calvert-Baker**, President and CEO of the U.S. Committee for UNICEF, worked with the **Belarus** Ministry of Education on issues of educational reform, underlining U.S. commitment to the emerging nation's concern for excellence in education.

— Filmmaker **Charles Burnett**'s Teleconference with an audience of film professionals and students in **Jordan**, complemented the embassy's celebration of Black History Month in the United States, and allowed a direct conversation with the prominent African-American filmmaker. Programs such as these create a highly valuable link for students of film in that country.

— In **Australia**, naturalist/biologist **Barry Lopez** spent three weeks participating in book festivals in Adelaide and Salamanca, and speaking and reading from his works in Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne. Salamanca Festival organizers credited Lopez's presence as an important draw for the record audiences. Both participants and sponsors affirmed that the reaction to the Australia programs underscored the deep interest in American studies overseas, specifically for continuing discussion of quality modern American literature.

— Academic specialist **Dr. Kathryn VanSpanckeren**'s presentations in **Tunisia** on contemporary ethnic American literature and poetry paved the way for useful dialogue about the relationship linking ethnicity, literature and political empowerment. Dr. Van Spanckeren, a professor of English at the University of Tampa, offered an overview of the freshness, vigor and idealism of contemporary American verse.

— In **Belgium**, North Carolina's **Sandra Porter Babb**, Executive Director of the Governor's Commission on Workforce Preparedness, addressed a conference on Reforming the Social Safety Net in a Federal System. Audiences for her speech and related programming appreciated her insights on U.S. approaches to welfare, and in Americans' overriding belief in the value of work and importance of personal responsibility.

— **Dr. Susan Niles**, of Pennsylvania's Lafayette College, visited major archaelogical sites in **Peru** during her two-week program to provide guidance to the National Institute of Culture on U.S. legislation for the protection of cultural patrimony. Peru plans to petition the U.S. government for such protection.

* * *

*Increasingly, organizations around the world look to non-public funding for support for their varied activities.*

— In **France**, **Greece** and **Belgium**, **Dr. Judith Checker**, fundraising consultant from the University of Illinois, met with national Fulbright Commissions as part of a process of developing long-term funding strategies for these international educational exchange programs.

— In **Canada**, **James Carey**, professor at the Columbia University School of Journalism, identified possible sources of support among private foundations in the U.S. and Canada, for Carleton University's new American Studies Program.

— In a brief visit to **India**, University of California-Irvine fundraising head **Jim Asp** explained American strategies for raising funds and discussed their application in a society seeking innovative approaches to identifying resources.

# ARTICLE ALERT

## SOME RECENT ARTICLES OF SPECIAL INTEREST OFFERING INSIGHTS INTO U.S. SOCIETY AND VALUES

**Alford, Steven E. MIRRORS OF MADNESS: PAUL AUSTER'S *THE NEW YORK TRILOGY* (Critique, vol. 37, no. 1, Fall 1995, pp. 17-33)**

In this analysis of *The New York Trilogy* by Paul Auster, Steven Alford attempts to answer the question, "Who narrates these stories?" Alford describes the novels — *City of Glass, Ghosts,* and *The Locked Room* — as "nominally a collection of detective stories that, within the generic constraints of detective fiction, engage in a series of self-oriented metaphysical explorations."

**Brinkley, Douglas. CAUTION: I BRAKE FOR HISTORY (American Heritage, vol. 47, no. 2, April 1996, pp. 62-74)**

History professor Douglas Brinkley writes about the unconventional course he developed in 1992 that takes college students out of the classroom and on the road. For three months of the year, Brinkley and 20 students travel the United States by bus, reading American literature and visiting the homes, birthplaces, and graves of famous Americans. They meet some of the authors they read, as well as people who played central roles in the events they read about. Along the way, students also participate in community projects, from planting trees to working in soup kitchens to building homes for the homeless.

**Crouch, Stanley. AMERICA'S GOT THE BLUES, HALLELUJAH! (Interview, vol. 26, no. 4, April 1996, pp. 32-33)**

In this brief, evocative essay, writer Stanley Crouch asserts that blues music is at the heart of the American condition. "Now, once again," he says, "the blues are rising up into sound and sight, this time moving across the disciplines of expression, particularly film and literature, with such penetration that we feel their presence, even if we don't know why it is that they're everywhere again."

**Ellison, Ralph. THE UNPUBLISHED ELLISON (The New Yorker, vol. LXXII, no. 10, April 29 & May 6, 1996, pp. 110-115)**

Two unpublished stories by Ralph Ellison, probably written in the late 1930s, were found in the author's apartment some time after his death in 1994. "Boy on a Train" and "I Did Not Learn Their Names" are published here for the first time with an introduction by Ellison's literary executor and friend John F. Callahan. The stories reflect the impact of Ellison's childhood and his lifelong fascination with American identity. They are of particular interest because until now, this novelist's reputation, for the most part, has been rooted in one book — his novel, *Invisible Man.*

NOTE: *The issue of* The New Yorker *from which this citation is drawn is devoted entirely to the subject "Black in America."*

**Gates, Henry Louis, Jr. KING OF CATS (New Yorker, vol. 72, no. 7, April 8, 1996, pp. 70-81)**

Noted educator Henry Louis Gates, Jr., profiles Albert Murray, the great contrarian of American cultural criticism, who has inspired generations of thinkers to reject all exclusionary answers to the question of what it means to be black. Murray, who has just published two new books, made his literary debut in 1970 with *The Omni-Americans*, a book, Gates says, that "brought together his ferocious attacks on black separatism, on protest literature, and on what he called `the social-science fiction monster.'" A longtime associate of Murray, Gates constructs an intimate portrait of Murray's life and work and of his friendships with such cultural icons as novelist Ralph Ellison and painter Romare Bearden. He also discusses Murray's influence on younger artists, including musician Wynton Marsalis, writer Stanley Crouch and novelist James Alan McPherson.

**Massaquoi, Hans J. ROSA PARKS: STILL A REBEL WITH A CAUSE AT 83 (Ebony, vol. 51, no. 5, March 1996, pp. 101-104)**

Rosa Parks, known as the "Mother of the Civil Rights Movement" in the United States, "keeps up with a numbing schedule of events that would be daunting

to a person half her age," the author says. Parks "holds education workshops across the United States, stressing to young people the importance of finishing school, registering to vote, and working toward racial peace." She has also embarked on a 381-day tour of the United States and several other countries, including South Africa, in commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the Montgomery, Alabama, bus boycott.

**Newman, Jody. DO WOMEN VOTE FOR WOMEN? (The Public Perspective, vol. 7, no. 2, February/March 1996, pp. 10-12)**

Public opinion is divided on the question of whether women candidates for political office have an advantage among women voters. Jody Newman, former executive director of the National Women's Political Caucus, reports on that organization's study of the "gender gap" in U.S. Senate and gubernatorial elections in 1990, 1992, and 1994. Using voter research surveys and exit polls, the study compared the votes of women and men by political party and gender of the candidates.

**Remnick, David. DR. WILSON'S NEIGHBORHOOD (The New Yorker, vol. LXXII, no. 10, April 29 & May 6, 1996, pp. 96-107)**

Sociologist and educator William Julius Wilson has been studying the decline of the South Side of Chicago for 25 years and is about to publish his findings in a book called *When Work Disappears*. Remnick profiles Wilson, whom he calls "the keenest liberal analyst of the most perplexing of all American problems — race and poverty."

NOTE: *The issue of* The New Yorker *from which this citation is drawn is devoted entirely to the subject "Black in America."*

**Samuels, Steven; Tonsic, Alisha. THEATRE FACTS 1995 (American Theatre, vol. 13, no. 22, April 1996, pp. 1-16 [special section])**

*American Theatre* magazine presents a report on performance activity and financial conditions in the American nonprofit theatre based on Theatre Communication Group's annual fiscal survey. "Theatre Facts 1995" examines statistical changes between the 1994-95 theatrical season and the previous year, provides a five-year overview, and, for the first time, looks back over the last 15 years. Among its findings, the report reveals that overall attendance has been increased — at least partially by appealing to audiences with popular fare — but warns that theater directors may be sacrificing the development of new works in the process.

**Smothers, Ronald. GOLD RUSH FOR COLLEGES IN ATLANTA (Education Life Supplement, The New York Times, March 31, 1996, Section 4A, pp. 24-25, 36, 39, 44)**

The 1996 Summer Olympics has brought millions of dollars in government and private money to several colleges and universities in Atlanta, Georgia. The funds have been used to renovate and construct new housing for Olympic athletes, to build and remodel athletic facilities for the games, to install sophisticated communications systems, and to fund research and study grants related to the Olympics. At Georgia Tech, the heart of the Olympic Village for athletes, a 15- to 20-year construction plan was compressed to five years with the influx of $160 million. Progress has not come without some hardship and inconvenience; problems are mentioned briefly.

**Sommerfeld, Meg. INTERNSHIPS CONNECT STUDENTS TO THE REAL WORLD OF WORK (Education Week, vol. XV, no. 27, March 27, 1996, pp. 6-8)**

Students at City on a Hill secondary school in Boston, Massachusetts, are getting more than a classroom education. In February 1996, all 65 of the school's students worked at museums, hospitals, government agencies and other sites during their two-week semester break. City on a Hill is an experimental school "that seeks to cultivate an understanding of citizenship and the democratic process through a rigorous liberal-arts curriculum," and the internship program "is designed to give students a chance to take what they have learned in the classroom and apply it to real-world settings," the author writes.

---

*The annotations cited above are drawn from a more comprehensive Article Alert list available on the home page of the United States Information Service.*