

FREE INFORMATION ON
QUALITY THINKING



If you feel you are not living up to your full potential. And if you are ready to change your life, your families lives and your community; and if you are ready to grow past racism, then pick up your phone and call The Quality Thinking By, Design Institute of Seattle. Get free information on the Seven Principles of NGUZA SABA/Blackness, along with workshop and seminar information. Call 721-3546.

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The Magic Of Amended
Returns

By: Lorna M. Walker, Financial Tax
Accountant Former IRS Tax
Examiner, INTERCONNECTIONS
"Reshaping Your Financial Future"



There are hidden treasures in old tax returns. I am surprised how many returns that have come across my desk that needed to be amended for one reason or another. Many times when I amend a tax return I find hundreds of dollars that have not been properly accounted for. The reason I feel this occurs is because of lack of knowledge on the taxpayers side and lack of inquiry into the actual life style for the client by the preparer.

For example one clients' return I amended showed a tax liability of \$5,000. after careful review for their return the actual tax liability should have been \$1,400. Not only was the client relieved to know he did not owe as much that had been originally reported, he was extremely grateful for my personal service. Now I am not saying that all returns can be amended, but what I am saying is if you owe back taxes for whatever the reason, have a competent accountant review your return for errors.

Most taxpayers' are afraid that they will trigger an audit if they file an amended return. This fear, which is common and understandable, prevents them from getting refund they're entitled to. The truth about amended returns is that they are not an automatic invitation to an audit. 9Very few, in fact, are ever audited. Many types of amendments are processed routinely and yes some amendments are safer than others The audit rate for amended returns, while higher than for regular returns, is still quite low. You can minimize the risk of an audit by sending back-up documents with form 1040X.

This is Lorna Walker reminding you once again" be money wise and stay money smart and always try to "Keep the man out of your pocket!" I will be a guess speaker at the First Friday. The next meet will be held at the MECCA International, 1150 23rd Avenue in Seattle, on Friday, February 2, 1996 at 6:45PM. SEE YOU THERE!

A Letter Of Appreciation

To: Charko of Charko's School of
Fashion & Fitness agency
From: Your children from the Hood
Merry Christmas To You And Yours!

We want to thank you, Charko, for coming into our lives two years ago. You did more for us than our own parents and for that we are grateful.

We are ex gang members and when we first met you, you told us to put down our guns and pick up a book, learn to read and to get back in school, and try to make our lives productive. You told us that if we came to your school you would help us learn to read and help us with our homework. We met your challenge. We put down the guns and got back in school, and to this day, we are proud to say, you have changed the lives of over 100 of us. We are still in school, and it is all good.

You told us we have to help one another, to talk with one another and help to keep each other out of trouble. We want you to know that everything you told us to do we are doing. We are no longer walking the street looking for trouble; we've gained respect and love for our parents.

Remember you said that not many Blacks are into the field of science? Well, we want you to know that some of us are taking science courses and some of us look forward to going on to college.

Your lessons were valuable in teaching us how to listen how not to be judgmental about people, also teaching us about self-esteem and self-confidence. You said that if we combine our street sense with book sense, we could be unstoppable in our quest for success.

We would like to say to our homies, you probably wonder where we are, you don't see us on the streets anymore. That's because we traded the streets for the school corridors. We ain't dead. Check around you, homey, and see that there are so many of us who get killed or end up in wheel-chairs of just plain crazy. That's no life to live--not trusting anyone including yourselves. Right now, we want to challenge you to put down the gun and pick up a book and get on with your life and career.

Ms. Charko, we will all miss you very much; you are the best thing that has ever happened to us. We want you to know that we love you and because of that love, if there is anything we can do, let us know. We want to thank you for saving our lives.

Off The Corner
By Leon Conley

A warm November sun almost tempted me to leave home without a jacket---but this was Seattle and I knew better.

Meme parked her car in the three minute lodging zone and left the motor running. Leaning against the rail, I smiled at her. She rolled her eyes and hurried past. Angry over something I said about her in one of my columns she made it a point to keep me on her s--- list.

Two mud-bones seated on a bench near the sidewalk watched her enter the building. Fearing mud-boneitis I maintained a safe distance but remained within earshot.

"See what I mean," one of them said, "We ain't going to so right."

The other one ignored what was said and continued talking.

White folks know how to live. On the plane back home all they did was eat and drink."

It took a lot of self control not to clown on those Amos and Andy niggers. Common sense told me there was no hope for a handkerchief head.

"Maybe if we do like they tell us things would be better." His companion nodded in agreement

"Yeah, like not parking in a loading zone."

Toward the south a mass of clouds clotted out the warm November sun. And just like that the temperature dropped.

Over near the driveway Katie busied herself sweeping up leaves. she hollered out at me.

Bring me that trash can over yonder." No. No. "I responded, "I moved in for low rent not to serve."

She shook her head in disapproval and went to get the trash can.

I knew how to retire. That was one thing I prided myself in. If work accidentally fell on me, I would call somebody to move it.

Nita, with the bill of her cap pulled low over her eyes, swinging her hips, came up the sidewalk toward me.

"Hello, neighbor."

I offered my hand. she pushed it away and walked by me as if I wasn't there. it was such a joy to be loved by so many friends.

By now it was raining hard and I backed into the bus shelter and waited for the seven.

The Seattle Alliance Of
Black School Educators
And The Community
Honor Dr. Robert Gary



Dr. Robert Gary, a Central Office Administrator, dedicated and faithful colleague retires from Seattle School District after 39 years of serving children.

Dr. Gary has made a deep personal commitment to education. This has been reflected in the tireless quest for excellence and the hours of time he has spent not only in work on committees but in the schools, working with teachers and children, determining needs, constantly striving for the best for all children.

Dr. Robert Gary is a man of honor a principle who saw a need and did not shirk from his responsibilities in filling that need; a man who worked tirelessly and long to produce the best education for the children in this district; a man who has stood up for his principles time and time again in the face of heavy opposition. He is a man to be cherished!

Dr. Robert Gary exemplifies the professional educator at his best. Whether during his years as a teacher, guidance counselor, assistant principal, principal of the last several years as a Central Office Administrator, the people associated with him could not help but benefit from his drive, his energy, his sense of humor, his intelligence, his insight...and his love; which carried us through the darkest time

Yes. His Love! Because, if anything characterizes Dr. Robert Gary, it is his love....love for the children he has served so well, love for the ideals and goals of the profession which he chose, love for those who have served with him, and love for life which has manifested itself in a brilliant career which has spanned thirty nine years.

No one can deny that Dr. Gary has earned his retirement, and there is no one who is not delighted that he will finally be getting some time for himself. At the same time, we all know that Dr. Gary's retirement is a serious loss to this school district. a part of what has made our school system the outstanding educational service that it is will no longer be with us. We will miss your absence.

You have blessed our lives with your kindness, care, and concern. May your retirement years be golden and warmed by love we bear you which you have so richly earned over the years.

Please join us in this celebration. Respectfully Submitted Seattle Alliance of Black Educators.

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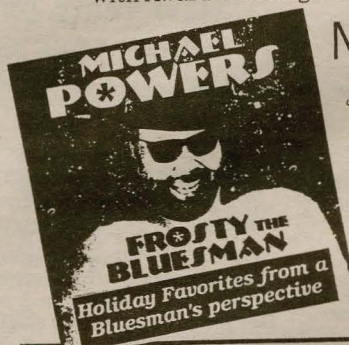
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MICHAEL POWERS

Michael Powers has established himself among a new breed of guitarists and composers who, with each new release, continually redefine jazz. "It's hard to categorize my music. . . . If I had to put a label on it, I would call it contemporary instrumental music, a sound rooted in the jazz tradition, that keeps pace with Pop, R&B, and Blues; with Blues being at the core of my inspiration." The sharing of knowledge has also become a strong element in Michael's persona and contribution to his community. He conducts Jazz/Blues workshops as Artist-in-Residence for the Washington State Arts Commission in schools and prisons throughout the state. Powers' self-produced debut album *First Time Out*, won the 1989 Jazz Album of the Year award from the Northwest Area Music Association, the Northwest version of the Grammy awards. In 1991 he was named Best Northwest Electric Guitarist by NAMA, and in 1991 and 1993 his group The Michael Powers Group won the EARSHOT Golden Ear award for the Best Northwest Jazz Group (Electric). Recent credits include performances at the 1983-94 Bumbershoot Festival of Arts, producer for the SeaFirst Corp. in-house video soundtrack, music director on KTZZ's *Standing Room Only* for the 1993-94 seasons.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17th, 1995 * 2:00 p.m.
Langston Hughes Cultural Arts Center
For Tickets or Information call: 684-4757

This event is a Benefit Concert in support of our new,

GOOD SHEPHERD
Community Center

This new building project will be located on Union St. between 21st and 22nd Avenues. It is designed to enhance the quality of life in our community by providing a new facility with a 2,200 sq.ft. Auditorium, Library/Resource Center, and Meeting Rooms -- all available for public or private use. For more information on how you can support us call 325-2733. This project is sponsored by The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 2115 E. Union St., Seattle, Wash.



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your community and hear some Great Holiday Music!!!