

The pulse of Malcolm still beats

by Ulysses Tucker, Jr.

Since his death on February 23, 1965, the name of Malcolm X has been almost synonymous with hatred of the white race.

As Malcolm Little, he was born May 19, 1925, in Omaha, Nebraska. His mother was a native of Grenada, British West Indies. His father, the Reverend Earl Little, supported the "back to Africa" movement of Marcus Garvey. Malcolm's negative attitude towards whites was formulated early in life.

According to Associated Press writer Austin Scott, Malcolm was quoted as saying, "My father was the color of this," pointing to his black shoes, "and my mother, whose mother was raped by a white man, was light enough to pass for white. I hate every drop of white blood in me because it's the blood of a rapist."

In his pre-school days, his mother told him descriptive accounts of night raids by the Ku Klux Klan, when men on horseback would smash windows in the Little's home. Malcolm's father took the advice of the rednecks and moved his family to Milwaukee, Wisconsin as soon as Malcolm was born.

Two years later, the Reverend Little was found bludgeoned to death under a street car. Malcolm later described his father's death as a lynching.

"Thinking back," Malcolm once told an interviewer. "I never was non-violent. When someone threw a rock at me I threw it back. Sometimes I threw one before one was thrown at me..."

A sharp and ambitious youth, Malcolm was president of his class in one school year. When he was eleven, with most of his formal education behind him, Malcolm ran away, winding up in a detention home, from which he fled to the home of his half-sister in Boston.

At fifteen, by fibbing about his age, Malcolm obtained a railroad job. He was fired soon after. That's when he slipped down to Harlem's "street life"—dope peddler, number runners—and started to hang out in dance halls and nightclubs. He sold marijuana to cultivate connections.

Towards the end of 1945, tall, sandy-haired Malcolm returned to Boston as part of a burglary ring. There he was arrested, convicted, and sentenced 8-10 years in Charlestown State Prison before he was 21-years-old.

Even in prison he continued using dope and alcohol, until he met another inmate who helped him to reform his life, and started Malcolm on the path to leadership.

Malcolm read serious works and allowed language to become an obsession with him. He read the dictionary from A to Z in preparing himself as an orator. Malcolm read the Bible, and the Koran. He changed his name, substituting the X for the "white slave masters name, which had been imposed upon my paternal forebearers by some blue-eyed devil."

Along with his name, he shed



MALCOLM X

alcohol, nicotine, de... pork, and prayed five times towards Mecca daily. He observed the Muslim dictates of clean body, a clean mind, clean speech, and after his marriage to Betty Shabazz, a clean home. Malcolm fathered five children.

As a Black Muslim, Malcolm used word power well, he soon became the spokesman and right hand of Black Muslim leader Elijah Muhammad. Malcolm joined this sect in 1952, four years following his parole after serving 77 months in prison.

His fiery break with the Muslims forced Malcolm to fear for his life. And he hired bodyguards to keep his home well protected. The break came after he made his pilgrimage to Mecca, he had made it clear that he hated whites, whom he referred to as white devils, but after he arrived back in the U.S., Malcolm said in his autobiography: "Since I learned the truth in Mecca, my dearest friends have come to include all kinds—some Christians, Jews, Buddhist, Hindus, agnostic, and even atheist! I now have friends who are capitalist, Socialist, and Communist! Some of my friends are moderates, conservatives, extremist—some are even toms! My friends today are black, brown, red, yellow, red, and white!"

However, the Black Muslims were not ready for this erudite philosophy. They were a completely Black organization. Thus causing the split. Malcolm remained a member of the Muslim religion and ran Mosque No. 7 in Harlem. But he

founded a new Black group, the Organization of Afro-American Unity to appeal to non-Muslims.

Years later, the son of Elijah Muhammad, Wallace D. Muhammad who studied under Malcolm X as a youth allowed whites to enter the all Black sect after his father's death. The same ideology that Malcolm tried to implement after his enlightened trip to Mecca.

Malcolm, one of the greatest Black leaders ever to exist was also one of the most misunderstood. He tried hard to reach the huge masses of Blacks around the world. Whether or not this was accomplished is up to an individuals understanding of his purpose. At present, there is a generation of youngsters who are not familiar with Patrice Lumumba, Malcolm, Martin, and others who have died so that we may live a better life.

Were these martyrs taken for granted?

Malcolm also contended that "the black man in the ghettos has to start correcting his own material, moral, and spirited defects and evils. The black man needs to start his own programs to rid drunkenness, drug addiction, prostitution, and black on black crimes.

"The black man must lift up his own sense of values..." One thing that legislation can never do for Blacks is to give us self-respect, it starts from the heart. The sooner the better.

Madison heads mental health program

Lonnie Bates, Chairman of the Board of the Center for Community Mental Health, announced that Lee Madison has been named Acting Executive Director. Ocie W. Trotter, who has resigned as Executive Director, will work with the Agency on a consultant basis until a new director is named.

Madison joined the Center in 1976 as a Mental Health Therapist. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Social Welfare in 1975 from Southern University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and his Master of Social Work degree in 1976 from Portland State University. Presently, as Program Director, Madison supervises all clinical staff and conducts individual, marital and family therapy sessions. He also provides consultation to other social service agencies and assists in development of proposals for funding of existing or potential mental health programs.

The center, located at 6329 N.E. Union Avenue, provides mental health services to individuals and families in Northeast Portland and provides consultation and training to schools, agencies and businesses in the metropolitan area.

The center has received applications for the director position and is screening now for mid-September appointment.

New students require inoculations

All children receiving immunizations in Multnomah County Immunization Clinics during the month of August and September will also get a coupon for a regular hamburger, courtesy of Burger King and a Star Wars poster. Burger King has joined county health departments in Oregon in promoting the need for all children to receive their protection against polio, measles, rubella, diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus particularly in time for school this fall.

In order to help parents meet the state immunizations requirements, immunization clinics are scheduled around the county for accessibility and convenience. If parents are unsure whether their child needs additional shots or they just need more information, call Multnomah County Information at 248-3816. Cost for immunizations is based on a sliding fee scale. However, no one will be turned away. The law requires that all children entering Oregon schools for the first time have immunizations against polio, measles, rubella, diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus. Mumps vaccine is recom-

mended but not required. Exceptions are granted for children because of medical reasons or religious objections to immunizations.

The Health Education Section of the Multnomah County, Department of Human Services, in conjunction with AAA of Oregon will be providing information also to parents on teaching their children how to safely get to and from school. Topics included are bicycle safety, school bus safety, playground safety and pedestrian safety. This information can be obtained by calling Multnomah County, Health Education at 248-3704.

Immunization clinics in Northeast

Portland: Multi-Service Center, 5022 N. Vancouver, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:30 p.m.; Wednesday, 9:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-7:00 p.m.; Indo-Chinese Health Center, 1811 N.E. 39th Avenue, Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00-5:00 p.m.; Special Indo-Chinese Immunization Clinics, Rose City Park Presbyterian Church, N.E. 44th and Sandy Boulevard, August 7th-14th, 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. In North Portland: 8912 N. Woosley, fourth Thursday of every month, 1:30-4:00 p.m.; Special clinic times for August 23rd, 1:30-7:30 p.m., September 27th, 1:30-7:30 p.m.

Public Works answers questions

Wondering when your street will be paved? Curious about the bicycle and pedestrian program? Wondering how our sewers work?

Commissioner McCready announced that Public Works employees will be available in five neighborhood district offices for a trial period to answer questions, explain policy and procedures on a variety of subjects and offer other direct services.

For the trial period Public Works staff will be in the neighborhood offices for one-half day each month, from September through November. Anyone wishing to know the specific schedules can call their neighborhood district office directly: Southeast Uplift, 5224 S.E. Foster, 777-5846; Southwest, 7780 S.W. Capitol Highway, 248-4592; Neighbors North, 7508 N. Hereford, 248-4524; Northeast, 4815 N.E. 7th, 248-4575; and Northwest, 817 N.W. 23rd, 223-3331.

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