

# Black United Front convenes second annual conference

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renominated and reelected to serve out a full term as national secretary, two years. The national secretary is the second highest elected office in NBUF and will assume responsibility for the organization in the event the chairperson is unable to continue in office.

Herndon was also reelected as regional coordinator for the western region of NBUF which includes most the western United States excluding Texas. The regional coordinators last year were primarily responsible for presenting a proposed constitution to all local BUF chapters in the region for initial ratification.

Following regional constitutional conventions, a national constitutional convention committee composed of members appointed from the West, South, Midwest and East developed an agreed upon document which was presented to the delegates for approval. Press people were restricted access to predetermined parts of the convention, but, it was learned that an expected three hours set aside July 4th to ratify the constitution went over by at least five more hours.

"What the constitution represents, this document that you have forged for over one year -- and keep in mind that Black people from every economic and political strata, from every political and religious persuasion put together this document," Rev Daughtry said following ratification by the delegates. "And what it says is that the solidarity that we created in the formation of this document will surely carry us through as we resist the suppression and oppression visited upon our people. We are one people," he concluded, before leading the delegates into another chorus of "Freedom together, backward never."

Rev. Daughtry, who received a plaque from the men in the House of Lords Church at 415 Atlantic Avenue in Brooklyn in recognition of his leadership of the church "for the past 23 years" told those who attended services last Sunday in what appeared to be a combined regular workshop service and end of the convention, that incidents like a white policeman in Philadelphia who responded to a question about a 10-year-old Black boy he had shot and killed, whether he had considered that the boy had been a child. "All I saw was a Black face" Daughtry said the police officer said.

"And so I say to you that wherever you have come from, whatever your economic situation, whatever your social place, if you are Black, it is for you the worst of times," he said, leading to one of the two key principles in the constitution referring to intent and purpose of the organization, the principles of cooperation with African-Americans regardless of their organization affiliations or persuasions. "But it is also the best of times, too," he added, referring to the other key principle, the principles of unity which calls for cooperation and support of the African liberation struggle in Africa, in Europe-England, to name one -- and in the Caribbean. "Black people are unified," he said, "in the liberation struggle for Black people anywhere in the world."

Rev. Daughtry revealed that he had met in New York and also abroad with several national African government leaders. In Granada, in the Caribbean, and as an official delegate for NBUF to the Organization of African Unity conference last year. NBUF was received as an official representative of the African-American people, he said.

In addition Rev. Daughtry said that he and his aides had met with and established what he called "solidarity" with various liberation groups throughout the world, mostly in southern Africa.

The constitutional convention, like the American constitutional convention, whose anniversary went unnoticed by the delegates, was recognized around the world by other nationalist organizations whose struggles correspond with the human rights needs of African Americans.

"Messages of Solidarity," according to announcements by recognized NBUF spokespersons included support for the convention from locally based groups and organizations as the Peoples Anti-War Mobilization, Puerto Rican Independence Movement and Coalition of Black Communications

Workers. The United Nations Ambassador from Grenada spoke to the delegates, lending an air of international diplomatic recognition to the convention. Also spokesperson with the Pan-African Congress movement, in London, also made a presentation according to delegates who attended the session which was restricted to general press, the delegate told of struggles of Africans in London, England to overcome the affects of racism by Briton against their former colonial rulers. The riot this past weekend, in a London ghetto, was touched off when police arrested a Black motorcyclist, in what residents said was another example of deteriorated police-Black African relations. The unemployment rates for whites is 16 percent and twice that for Black Africans living there, however, the three day riot was primarily carried out by whites in the area who are disturbed by the high unemployment and deteriorating conditions.

Representatives from the Haitian Revolutionary-Haiti Movement-in-exile, the National Joint Action Committee from Trinidad and Tabago joined with such organizations as the African National Congress of South Africa and the Revolutionary Democratic Front of El Salvador sent messages of support.

Jitu Weusi, a leader in the Metropolitan BUF, was selected as the National Coordinator for NBUF based on the job he was credited with doing in organizing the second annual NBUF convention. This includes observers who had official status but no votes and other community organizations, primarily African-American and Puerto Rican, who set up booths to display literature, pamphlets, books, clothing and T-shirts.

Black artists entertained following the main order of business for each day, including the Freedom Singers from Atlanta, the Muntu Dance Troupe, and Infra Red Funk from St. Louis. The culture program was concluded Saturday night with the premier presentation of "Liberation Suite" directed by well known poet and activists Amir Baraka (formerly LeRoi Jones) and involved the efforts of well known poets, writers, musicians from across the country. The program brought the house down with its multi-visual affects, drama, music, African sound instruments and actors and readers.

Jitu (pronounced 'G-2'), the national coordinator for the convention, was the creative genius of the African Carnival, an African counter-part to Portland's Saturday Market, which was being held outside on the grounds of Boys and Girls High School where the convention took place. Jitu said the Carnival, which was in its ninth year, had the largest number of participants and persons attending ever.

The Carnival celebrates African heritages and lifestyles in music, food, clothing as diverse as African and Arabic like to Caribbean early and late Americans. Unaware of the significance of the Carnival to the Convention, this reporter failed to attend until the last day, Sunday. Hundreds of people milled around: entertainers in martial arts, jazz, dance, African music and dance gathered with vendors of food, books, jewelry, statues, paintings, various kinds of cloth. Everything, it seemed. And more. Always more to see and more people. Based on the number of people there late Sunday, thousands of people could have easily attended the Carnival itself. And thousands did. It was a record response, Jitu said.

The question unanswered is why were they there? For the Carnival or for the convention. I don't know. But that Sunday late afternoon, with the delegates either gone back to their home towns or on sightseeing tours of New York City, Rev. Daughtry spoke to a crowd I estimated to be actually coming together to listen, and several hundred more within earshot but still going about their business.

"The National Black United Front is in the vanguard of the Black liberation struggle," he said.

As he left, a chorus of "Forward together, backward never," arose from the crowd like a people cheering its Head of State.

(Ron Herndon, Barbara Turner and E. Eddie Edmondson were the only Portlanders to attend the NBUF convention.)



A member of the House of the Lord Church following combined religious and convention service.



Afua, member of Seattle BUF, and "Nene Tuti" (Little Baby).



Asby Cardray, 16, Metropolitan BUF, whose mother arranged housing for out-of-town delegates.

(Photos: Eddie Edmondson)

<p><b>USDA CHOICE</b> <b>Round Steak</b> USDA Choice Beef, Full Cut, Bone-In <b>\$1.88</b> lb.</p>	<p><b>SUPER SAVER</b> <b>Sliced Bacon</b> Armour 1877 Sliced Bacon <b>98¢</b> 12-oz. Pkg.</p>
<p><b>Beef Roast</b> USDA Choice Boneless Bottom Round or Rump <b>\$2.28</b> lb.</p>	<p><b>Cubed Steak</b> USDA Choice Beef Safeway Quality <b>\$2.68</b> lb.</p>

**SAFeway**

Prices effective Wed., July 8 thru Tues., July 14 at all Portland area Safeways.

**Turkey Hindquarter Roast**  
**43¢** lb.

**1-Liter Pop**  
Cragmont, A&T, varieties  
**3 for \$1** plus dep.

**Medium Cheddar**  
Lucerne Carefully Aged For That Popular Safeway Flavor... 2-lb. Loaf  
**\$3.99**

**Whipping Cream**  
Lucerne, Extra Rich, Extra Thick Pint Size  
**89¢**

**Vanilla Fig Bars** Busy Baker Whole Wheat 2-lb. Case of 12 **\$1.99**

**Regular Pint Jars** Famous Kerr or Ball Brand **\$3.69** Case of 12

**Regular Jar Lids** Ball or Kerr 12's 2 for **\$1**

**Crest Toothpaste** With Fluoristan 6.4-oz. Tube **\$1.19**

**Silkience Shampoo** or Conditioner 40-oz. Off Label 15-oz. **\$1.99**

**Totino's CRISP CRUST Party Pizza**  
**Totino's Party Pizza**  
Crisp Crust Pizza  
**99¢** 11.7-oz. to 12.5-oz.

**Cheerios Cereal**  
General Mills Breakfast Cereal... 15-oz.  
**\$1.28**

**Huggies Diapers**  
Disposable Daytime 18's Newborn 24's, Toddlers 12's, or Overnight 14's  
**\$2.88**

**SEEDLESS Grapes**  
Thompson Vine Ripened  
**79¢** lb.

**Sweet Onions**  
Walla Walla Jumbo No. 1  
**29¢** lb.

**Fresh Bread**  
Ovenjoy White or Wheat  
**\$1.09** 3 for 22.5-oz.

**Margarine**  
Blue Bonnet  
**48¢** Limit 2 1-lb. Pkg.

**Ice Cream**  
Lucerne Assorted Flavors  
**\$1.49** Half Gallon

**NuMade Oil**  
Vegetable Oil  
**\$1.69** 48-oz. Bottle