

# Books: The Political Legacy of Malcolm X

By Lanita Duke

*Grassroot News, N.W.*—As the 19th year after the death of Malcolm X (February 21, 1965) passes, Brother Oba T'Shaka, a theoretician for the National Black United Front, has penned a book updating the contribution of our shining black prince—Malcolm X. "The Political Legacy of Malcolm X" (Third World Press, 1983), is nine chapters, 283 pages of

a sorely needed update on the life, death and work of one of the nation's greatest leaders.

T'Shaka sheds light on many questions that still puzzle followers of Malcolm and the movement. According to historian Dr. Asa Hillard, "this book dwarfs all other writings. Both Alex Haley and George Breitman suggest Malcolm made fundamental changes toward the end. It is T'Shaka's contention, and the contention his work

documents, that the substance of Malcolm's thoughts did not change."

T'Shaka tackles the myths put forth by George Breitman of the Socialist Workers Party that Malcolm changed from Pan-African nationalism to socialism; that when he came back from Africa he was turned inside out and believed changes in this society could be created through Black and white unity.

However, any reader of Malcolm could tell you that Malcolm really believed that whites should organize their community and Blacks would organize in their community.

T'Shaka said, "White marxists (socialists), nationally and internationally, could not tolerate the existence of a base outside their control... they have attempted to completely distort Malcolm's image to conform to their own games."

They have done this by writing books about Malcolm before Black historians had a chance to re-assess Malcolm and the struggle after his death. T'Shaka puts this in perspective by implying that no one can define us, but us.

He not only proves that Malcolm did no change—the world changed as his predictions of an African Revolution came true—but he reconnects Malcolm the leader to other leaders in the historical Black liberation movement; a struggle that has been waged since Blacks arrived in chains in 1619.

With chapters like "Malcolm's Long Range Program and its Historical Roots", T'Shaka contends that Malcolm, Martin Delany and Marcus Garvey were all moved by the same awareness that led each of them to embrace nationalism—rather than socialism or integration.

He said, "Malcolm's long-range program arose out of a rich history born out of oppression... not a unique idea. Malcolm knew the unemployed Black person today was just as willing to support separation to our African homeland as he was yesterday."

T'Shaka qualifies this statement by saying the physical separation of the mass of Black people is unlikely, "But Malcolm's African strategy hooked us up psychologically with Africa."

Malcolm was giving us a new image to look up to and pattern our lives and struggle after. He pointed us down the path of Pan-Africanism psychologically, politically and culturally."

The cultural impact of what Malcolm said twenty-three years ago is evident in 1984: Afro-Americans are naming their children traditional African names; they wear and accept cornrowing and bleed when the Motherland (Africa) bleeds.

"The Political Legacy of Malcolm X" is required reading for anyone who claims he or she is knowledgeable on Malcolm X or the Black liberation struggle. T'Shaka does not put a halo on Malcolm, but he balances out his strengths and weaknesses. Malcolm X left Afro-Americans with pride and courage. Oba T'Shaka tells how and why.



OBA T'SHAKA (Photo: Richard Brown)

## Obituary

### John H. Nellor

John H. Nellor, former public information officer for the Portland School District, died March 18th of a heart attack. He was 60. Many times the only friendly and smiling face at otherwise grueling and hostile School Board meetings, Nellor served as a liaison between the Superintendent and Board and the press and public until the end of the Blanchard administration in 1980. Nellor was then named special assistant to Acting Superintendent, James Fenwick and to Superintendent Matthew Prophet.

to the Superintendent. From 1966 to 1980, he was director of public information. Prior to joining the School District, he was director of government relations for the Oregon Education Association. He had been a news editor for the Astorian-Budget newspaper, station manager for KAST in Astoria, and a school teacher. He earned his bachelors and masters degrees from Lewis and Clark College.

Nellor's wife, Maxine, two sons and two daughters live in Vancouver. The family suggests that remembrances be contributions to a scholarship fund, in care of the Deputy Clerk, Portland School District, Box 3107, Portland, Oregon 97208.

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Friday: "The Pastor Speaks" 7:30 pm  
Saturday: Morning Prayer 9 am  
"Showers of Blessings" 9 am  
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### Gospel service honors Zackery

On Sunday, March 25th, 3:30 p.m., memorial services will be held for Bro. Homer Zackery, one of Portland's former outstanding gospel singers. The service is sponsored by the New United Gospel Singers Association, Inc., at Smith Chapel C.M.E. Church, located at 8920 N. Woolsey (Housing Authority Building), Rev. Ira D. Mumford, Pastor.

Special guest will be the Gospel Trumpets and the fabulous New United Gospel Singers. Refreshments will be served.

President of the New United Gospel Singers Association, Inc. (UNGSA) is Deacon Richard E. Jones; Joe L. Lewis is program chairman.

## Advertisements For Bids

### More bids on page 9

#### Advertisement for Bids

Notice is hereby given that the Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District of Oregon (Tri-Met) will receive sealed bids at the following times on Friday, April 6, 1984, at 4012 S.E. 17th Avenue in the Contracts and Legal Services Section, Third Floor, Portland, Oregon 97202, Attention: John R. Post, Director, Engineering and Contracts. Bids will be opened in Conference Room "D" at the following times for:

Printing of Tri-Met Book Tickets. Bid No. 84-772A - Time: 2:00 p.m.

Printing of Tri-Met Bus Transfers. Bid No. 84-773A - Time: 3:00 p.m.

The successful bidder shall be required to comply with all applicable Equal Opportunity and MBE/FBE laws and regulations.

All bidders shall be required to certify that they are not on the Comptroller general's list of ineligible contractors.

The Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District of Oregon does not discriminate with regard to race, color, creed, sex or national origin.

The bid documents may be obtained from the Contracts and Legal Services Section, Phone: (503) 239-6466, by referencing the appropriate bid number listed above.

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