

Celebrate Black History By Making More History

First it was a week. Now it's a month. For 28 days out of 365 the subject of Black history is finally taught in our schools, discussed in our museums and covered in a few safe TV specials. From Crispus Attucks to Harriet Tubman to (less often) Malcolm X, we suddenly hear of all those of African American descent whom we should have heard about, consistently, the other 337 days. Usually, however, the concentration is on those who are now dead or on our more notable national leaders. That's great. But, for a moment, let us also think about some of the folks—in our own backyards—who are still living and who, through their actions, are current makers of Black history.

In Washington, D.C., there's Mrs. Kimi Gray, who started the Kenilworth Courts Tenants Association because she was tired of the poor condition of the housing project in which she lived. The apartments were poorly maintained and nobody seemed to care.

Fed up, she began organizing the tenants. Now, in what has become a national model, Mrs. Gray and other residents of Kenilworth Courts are managing the housing facility themselves, and they are managing it well. As the mother of 5 children, she was also concerned with the future of the youth who grew up in Kenilworth Courts. Mrs. Gray spearheaded a program called "College Here I Come" and, as a result, the young people of Kenilworth Courts are now going to college. In fact, one young man, a former high school drop-out, recently graduated from Howard University School of Architecture and is directing the renovation work at the housing project. Mrs. Gray is making Black History.

In Alabama, the work of Atty's Hank and Rose Sanders is everywhere in evidence. Hank Sanders is the first Black state Senator to be elected from the western Alabama Black Belt since Reconstruction. He was born

and raised in the South and remembers well the civil rights struggles of the past. Throughout the state he is known as one of the best and most accountable politicians in Alabama.

Meanwhile his wife, Atty. Rose Sanders, in the midst of carrying on her daily law practice, has also begun MOMS, which stands for Mothers of Many. Among MOMS' many projects is a pre-school, after-school and cultural center where children learn not only the three R's, but also their history, their culture, and their responsibilities as African American youth. MOMS also organized a young adult theater troupe. In the play "Baby Cakes", for which Rose Sanders wrote both the script and a lively score, the young actors treat everything from teenage pregnancy to the legacy of the Civil Rights Movement. The Sanders family is also making Black history.

In Los Angeles, there is noted actress Sandra Sharpe. Though in business where taking a stand puts one's livelihood at risk, Ms. Sharpe has never yielded on her personal commitment to improve the image of the African American community in TV and film. She has been particularly outspoken against images that are psychologically damaging to Black children. She helped found the former Black Anti-Defamation Coalition. Now she works with the Western States Black Research Center and its Black American Cinema Society, both headed by Mayme Clayton. In this way she continues to organize support for films which more realistically depict the African American community.

In New York we have Attorneys C. Vernon Mason and Alton Maddox. In police brutality cases and in cases involving racist violence these African American attorneys have used their considerable talents in behalf of the African American community. Most recently they have represented the vic-

tims of the Howard Beach, Queens attack in which two Black men were brutally beaten and one was stalked to his death. The attorneys were viciously attacked for their refusal to cooperate with a corrupt District Attorney and for their demand for a Special Prosecutor in that case. Now they have been vindicated. A Special Prosecutor was finally appointed and his investigation has led to a grand jury investigation.

Mrs. Gray, the Sanders, Ms. Sharpe, and Attorneys Mason and Maddox are but a few of the many African Americans who are currently making history. Let us study them as well as the many great figures of the past, and let us study them not just for 28 days, but every day of the year. And remember, the best way to celebrate Black history is to make more history.



Rosa Parks

"Actually, no one can understand the action of Mrs. Parks unless he realizes that eventually the cup of endurance runs over, and the human personality cries out, 'I can take it no longer.' Mrs. Parks' refusal to move back was her intrepid affirmation that she had had enough. . . . She was anchored to that seat by the accumulated indignities of days gone by and the boundless aspirations of generations yet unknown."

—Martin Luther King

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RAY, GOODMAN & BROWN introducing NAJEE

OHRC to Hold Self-Sufficiency Day

The Oregon Human Rights Coalition has announced plans for a Self-Sufficiency Day to be held Monday, March 9, 1987, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the State Capitol Bldg. in Salem, Oregon.

The low-income group (mostly women and children) has worked since 1981, as welfare rights advocates and has been successful in lobbying for some welfare changes including getting the state to provide welfare for two-parent unemployed families; shortening the amount of time it takes to apply for and receive public assistance; and getting the state to issue welfare checks in a timely manner.

OHRC is asking interested low-income and welfare recipients to join them on March 9th for this important event.

Transportation and childcare is available by calling Liz at 641-4345 in Portland.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Leica proudly presents its Limited Edition Commemorative Collection to Celebrate The Golden Anniversary of Jesse Owens at The 1936 Olympic Games.

The United States sprinter Jesse Owens shocked Adolf Hitler and the NAZI regime at the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin. With four gold medals to his credit, he ridiculed the notion of Arian racial supremacy. A number of press articles and events on television recalled this notable achievement on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. The "Jesse Owens Foundation" was established in the United States in 1980 (he died in the meantime). The aim is to grant financial aid to students and young people who have distinguished themselves in some way.

Leitz sponsors foundation in memory of Jesse Owens

"He was a man of the world and, for so many who knew him personally or ever heard him speak, a model of inspiration, pride and determination. In the course of the 66 years of his life, many a human destiny was influenced by him. His death left a gap which the foundation attempts to fill with a multifarious aid programme." (From a speech by the foundation's president, Edward W. Frantell).

The bursaries enable promising young people to achieve a higher standard of education, obtain training as technicians or skilled workers or pursue artistic careers. Of course, amateur sport is also encouraged. Anybody can apply for assistance, irrespective of background or skin colour.

So far, the scope of the foundation was regionally limited. Now, however, a special programme inaugurated by E. Leitz, Inc., Rockleigh, will change matters: Leitz has produced 600 special models of the

The Special Commemorative Edition: It includes the commemorative Leitz R4 camera, and the Leitz R4 camera in black. The back of the camera is discreetly inscribed with the name Jesse Owens and the inscription "Golden Anniversary 1936-1986".

The Film: Photographs by Leitz Master Rubelt and his Leitz staff with other famous photo-journalists, capture forever the remarkable achievements of the man and the moment.

The Donation: With every set purchased, Leitz will donate \$500 to the Jesse Owens Foundation. The fund provides college scholarships to able students in the United States.

LEICA
R4

LEICA
Jesse Owens Foundation, Worldwide

Leica camera with a 70-200mm zoom lens in a jubilee set with a portfolio of pictures taken by Lothar Rubelt at the 1936 Olympic Games. The price of the set is \$4950-\$500 from this sum will be passed on to the foundation in each case. This will permit the foundation to operate at a federal level. The nominal capital is to be increased to \$300,000.

Leitz is interested in the foundation and the Jesse Owens legend, since the pictures of his achievements 50 years ago in Berlin were all recorded with Leica cameras. The most popular sports photographer at that time was Lothar Rubelt, now 85 years old and recipient of the "Golden Medal of Honour for Services to the Republic of Austria".

**Jesse Owens
1936 Olympic Gold**

The Leica R4 contained in the "set" bears the inscription "Jesse Owens Golden Anniversary 1936-1986 - Berlin Olympic Games". Commenting on the occasion, Leitz vice-president Lee W. Hill stated: "Jesse Owens always personified the notion of engagement in sports in the same way the Leica represents a similarly high standard of quality and reliability in photography. The very fact that sport and photography can be effectively united in the form of a jubilee camera demonstrates the parallel relationship. It provides, moreover, a wonderful opportunity of realizing Jesse Owens' ideals through the channels of the foundation which bears his name."

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