

Service With a Global Perspective

Edited by Nyewusi Askari

Last weekend, State Representative Margaret Carter presented an arousing, timely and stimulating speech before the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority in Portland. History recognizes the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority as the first Sorority to be launched by African-American women in this country (1908).

We are honored to share excerpts from Representative Carter's speech with our readers. Also, to the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, we say, "Thanks for a job well done, and may your success continue forever."



Margaret Carter

Photo by Richard J. Brown

opportunities for employment, for use of public accomodation, for political participation, for education, has created both a blessing and a danger for the Black community. The blessing is that we are now closer than ever before to a situation in which an individual will go as far in this country as their skills, desires, and abilities can take them, with a little mixed in. But, the danger we face is that too often those skills and desires now take all too many of us away from the Black community; take us away from the roots of our struggle and commitment; take us away from the tradition of service to others less fortunate than we may be.

It is easy for many here to remember when that was not a problem: to remember earlier periods when we as individual and as a race had no choice in that matter. Then, regardless of our economic resources, our employment or position; regardless of our personal qualities, we were all "colored" or "negro" to our face and "nigger" behind our backs — sometime to our faces as well. Because of legal segregation, prior discrimination and on-going Jim Crow traditions, whether we liked it or not, we had to function within the context of the Black community.

Now our problem in the partial success of all our efforts over the years is that our progress endangers the future potential for progress we must still make. It is now possible for economically-abled Blacks to live and work and contribute in other places than the Black community, and many do. And, that's fine. It's what we have fought for. But, it is also a loss to those who have not yet been able to gain the privilege and comfort of that reality and who increasingly are being left behind to struggle without the benefit and talent of those who have gone on.

Dangers

The very success of those earlier efforts has created its own dilemma. Our success in winning

Solutions

What can correct this dilemma? I am confident the answer lies in a return to that concept of self-sacrifice and service that for so long was at the center of our social and personal behavior. We can work where we want, live where we want, and do all that we want, so long as we don't forget that we are here because of the sacrifices and efforts of those who sent before us. And because that is true, we have a responsibility to give some of it back to our community no matter how high on the corporate ladder we climb or how far into the suburbs we drive before we reach home.

We, as an organization and as individuals, need rejuvenation in the service tradition. What does that mean? The strict dictionary definition suggests a return to youth. Who can argue with that idea? We need rejuvenation in the sense of a simple need to periodically remind ourselves of what we are seeking in life and society — to renew our commitment to that quest for humanity and justice.

Developing a Global Perspective

But as we renew and recommit and rejuvenate our tradition of unselfish service, we must also know and acknowledge that the world we live in today is much smaller than ever before. Our systems of transportation, of communication, and, unfortunately, our vast capacity for near instant self-destruction as a species, have made the world of today truly a global community where the interests and the actions of each nation truly affect all others. Because of that, our notion of service now has to be a global concept of responsibility. The issue then is not whether we collectively and individually have a responsibility to provide moral and ethical service around the world — we clearly and certainly do — the question is how we must go about doing it.

Making Changes Happen

If we must seek to change the nature of our involvement in the global community, we first need to change the nature of our own society. That is always a difficult task, but this great opportunity is present in the form of a campaign for President that would have been unheard of as recently as 10 years ago. You should all know I mean the campaign of Rev. Jesse Jackson for President.

The old-fashioned politicians were laughing as recently as a month ago, declaring that Rev. Jackson had no chance to win; that the country, beyond his fanatical Black followers, was not ready to take seriously a Black candidate for President. Has their tone changed? They are now all quaking in their boots that not only does he look electable, he looks more electable than anybody else in sight. If you want to be of service to the global community, serve yourself first. Help elect Jesse Jackson to lead this country. He'll lead it in the right direction.

I had breakfast with a friend the other day who made an observation about our meals which can provide an appropriate conclusion to my remarks on our global responsibilities. We were having ham and eggs. She said, "You know, social action is kind of like this breakfast, both the chicken and the pig were involved in making it possible. The chicken made an important contribution, but the pig was entirely committed."

CALENDAR

Black Genealogy: Tracing Your Roots

North Portland Library Auditorium, 512 N. Killingsworth, Sat., March 26, 1988, 10:30-noon. Free.

Modern Dance Performance Workshop

IFCC, 5340 N. Interstate, 243-7930. Mondays, March 27-May 9, 6-9 pm. Taught by Oregon Dance Consort resident choreographer Judith Catterall. Tuition: \$40.

Home Security Class

University Park Community Center, 9009 N. Foss Ave., Mon., March 28, 7-9 pm.

Spring Tennis Lessons

Portland Parks and Recreation at Portland Tennis Center, 324 NE 12th. Adult and Youth. Lessons begin March 28th. Call PTC at 233-5959 for info.

Scientific Contributions of the Dogon People of Africa

A.S.K. OMSI 'Scientific Crew' club presents as historical presentation on the scientific contributions to astronomy by the Dogon people of Africa. March 29, Tues., 7-8 pm, Kendall Planetarium, OMSI, 4015 SW Canyon Rd. Free.

History of the Blues Course

PCC, Cascade Campus, 705 N. Killingsworth, Cascade Hall, Room B35, 7-9 p.m., Starting March 31. Tuition \$22.50.

Starting Business Workshop

PCC, Cascade Campus, 705 N. Killingsworth, Jackson Hall, Room 202, Sat., April 2, 9am to 4 pm. Tuition \$15. Info: 244-6111 ext. 5205.

NBA — Mall Tour in Portland

"NBA... America's Game on the Road", one of the most innovative and multi-faceted exhibits to hit the country, will be visiting Portland on Friday, March 25, through Sunday, March 27, at Clackamas Town Center Mall, 1200 SE 82nd Ave., Portland, Oregon. Throughout the nationwide tour, millions of fans will be able to share the excitement and skills of the NBA and its stars through a multitude of hands-on exhibits. These exhibits include a free throw shooting contest at the Jeep/Eagle Super Shot Challenge, a test of eye-hand coordination in the All-State Good Hands Booth, viewing past slam-dunk championships at the Gate-rade Slam-Dunk Theater, a race in lacing up Converse sneakers during the Converse Lace-Up Challenge and many more action-filled displays.

The exhibit, which is produced by Shopping Center Network, a Miami-based firm, will visit 40 different shopping malls on two concurrent tours from January through June. Each of the NBA's current 23 franchise markets as well as the expansion cities (Miami, Charlotte, Orlando, and Minneapolis) are included on the tour.

Special Note: Trailblazer Sam Bowie will be appearing at the Clackamas Town Center on Saturday, March 26 from 12-2 p.m.

El Mina — Cont. from Page 2
ting feature is the organized brutality of beast in human form. Their lot, poor caucasians and Blacks, from cradle to grave, in abject poverty, enforced illiteracy and social abuse. Blacks are the least unleashed in similar situations in Hitler Germany, is evident on all sides.

Poor Blacks died for something on Heartbreak Ridge, in Korea, that they couldn't vote for when they returned to "Nigger Hating" America. Despite the urgency of America's aspirations to promote peace... there is — on balance — little compelling evidence that so-called christian caucasoid America itself is able... to advance human understanding significantly within its own boundaries.

Sports

Na'im Hasan: "On the Yellow Brick Road to Seoul"



Ali Muhamad (L) proudly admires medals and awards won by Na'im Hasan. Hasan started in the martial arts under Muhamad.

Photo by Richard J. Brown

by Fred Hembray

This article will be one in a series on athletes in our city and community who excell on and off the field of competition in quest for the 1988 Summer Olympic games in Seoul, Korea, and other national and international contests in their respective sports.

My subject for this week is Na'im Hasan (Ni-eem Hau-saun).

Na'im is a martial artist who has accomplished many of the tasks required to seriously be considered for the 1988 United States Olympic Tae Kwon Do team.

Tae Kwon Do is a form of martial art which utilizes hand and arm block, punching and kicking. This style is Korean in origin; much parallel to the Japanese art of Karate.

Na'im has studied his art since his junior year in high school. He began training under coach Ali Muhamad and is now coached by Tae Hong Choi of Portland.

"I got started in martial arts out of boredom from the routine of three sports," he says. Na'im played football, basketball and ran track for Grant High School. As he progressed, Na'im naturally turned to the competition aspect of his sport.

Compete he has. In 1979, he began his upward spiral. That year he took a bronze medal at the National AAU Championships in Dayton, Ohio; in 1980, he placed 1st at the National Open Tae Kwon Do Championship; and in 1982 and 1983 he won the Northwest Regional Championships. Each year since, Hasan has seen nothing but bronze, silver, or gold in each national competition he has entered — from the U.S. Sports Festival

(1985-gold; 1986-silver; 1987-gold) to the National Championships (1984-gold; 1985-bronze; 1987-gold).

He attributes this amazing list of success to hours of diligence and hard work in the gym and on the road, running up to six miles a day.

In addition to his athletic talent over the years, he attained an Associate of Arts degree in Business Administration from Mt. Hood Community College. Three years later he received his Bachelor of Science degree in the same field from Portland State University. He is employed in his field by a Portland business firm.

Na'im has his sights dead set on an Olympic bid this season. He is ranked number one in his middle-weight division.

The road to gold will be tough; he will have nine fights this season to determine who will travel to Seoul. Transportation to these events will be difficult, as well. Tae Kwon Do will be the second martial art introduced since Judo. With it being a new event, sponsorship is difficult and funds for equipment and travel will have to be generated by Na'im. After he makes the U.S. squad, funding will then be provided by the U.S. Olympic Committee.

For those reasons, his achievements are quite impressive. It takes determination far beyond that of everyday people or the 'common sport' athletes to achieve the elite status that Hasan has.

We at The Portland Observer wish you the best fortune on your route to the number one place on the Olympic stand.

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Identity & Survival

by J.M. Gates, MBA

We must be building — building with positive bricks of life. There has to be on-going, constructive action, if progress is to prevail. This involves a responsible reach for ideals and values, a responsibility which lifts. We do not achieve good health or good building by a program of the bad; a perspective of the good is necessary. Therefore, for sources of strength or strengths of survival, there must be: something of merit to believe in; something of merit to hope for and a solid record of really trying with persistent follow-through.

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