

"No Man Is An Island Unto Himself": Neither Is An Island (Continued from Front Page)

White property owners were able to secure bank financing to develop their lands and the taxed value of all lands shot up to \$100,000 per acre. Denied similar loans to



Patricia Jones-Jackson, Researcher set up development corporations, most Blacks lost their land to the sheriff for taxes. Today, some developed beach properties sell for as much as one thousand dollars per front inch. Jets fly in weekend guests from New York—if they are rich, white and famous (one day soon, they may jet into the high-rise helicopter pads in northeast Portland). See "Sea Islands," National Geographic Magazine, Dec. 1987.

Gullah People: Many of the Black people of the Sea Islands are described as Gullahs, and have a distinct language and culture. As in the case of the talented slave ironworkers whose contribution to colonial industry is usually omitted from American history, these Blacks, kidnapped from Sierra, Leone, Africa, have not been assigned their key role in the creation of American wealth. It was their expertise in the growing of rice that made them especially prized as slaves by the island plantation owners—along with a resistance to lowland fevers that was developed in a similar ecosystem in Africa. Medicines came with them from Africa as well, from their new environs came herbal teas for asthma, mullein tea for colds, tinctures of woodchips and turpentine for purging the system, poke leaves for sprains, lily bushes for fevers, and special roots to ease childbirth.

Many escaped from the greedy slave owners and fled to join the Seminole Indians in the mangrove and cypress swamps of Florida. Ultimately defeated in battles with the U.S. Army, these brave people, now "unreliable as slaves," were shipped off to

the unsettled western frontier territory of Oklahoma. Many settled down, homesteading and farming; others went on to become the most fabled cowboys, sheriffs (and outlaws) in American history. From Oklahoma many branched off to Texas and Mexico where many still speak their native tongue. Professor William Stewart says of these former Sea Island people (1987, 250,000 Gullah speakers live in the U.S., including some 10,000 in New York City. Patricia Jones Jackson, Black doctoral candidate in linguistics (1986, U. of Mich.), said a number of Gullahs in the South and Mexico "speak no other tongue." One linguistic appraisal describes Gullah as "a headlong Sea Island's Creole, yielding a tongue that is sometimes called Geechee."

Bibliography For Island Series (May be ordered through Looking Glass Bookstore or B. Dalton Bookstores)
 * Kon Tiki, or Kon Tiki For Children, Thor Heyerdahl.
 * The Polynesians: Prehistory of an Island People, Peter Bellwood, Thomas & Hudson, 1987.
 * The Last Navigator, Stephen D. Thomas, Hutchinson, London, 1987.

* Islands and Empires: Western Impact, Vol. VIII, Ernest S. Dodge, Univ. of Minn., 1976.
 * The Fatal Impact (On Tahiti and South Pacific) Alan Moorhead, (Distributed by 'Common Reader' Inc., No. 3601, \$25.00).
 * Margaret Mead and Samoa: The Making and Unmaking of an Anthropological Myth, Derek Freeman (Australia?).
 * Sweetness and Power: The Place of Sugar in Modern History, Sidney W. Mintz, Viking Press, 1985.
 * When Roots Die, Patricia Jones Jackson, unfinished Doctoral Thesis, University of Georgia Press, (But see article below to which this Black researcher was a major contributor).
 * Nowhere to Lay My Weary Head: Sea Islands, National Geographic Magazine, December, 1987 (In-depth essay).
 * Sea Island Plantations Being Reborn, Emery S. Campbell, Vol. 2, No. 4 of the "Front Page," quarterly publication of the Black United Front, Portland, Oregon (Excellent, Contemporary).
 * Various 'Gullah Group' Anthropological Studies, see Serial Literature by Joseph Opala, others.



A HISTORY LESSON--A high school editor, (right), and her teacher-advisor, stop at the photograph of Frederick Douglass, abolitionist and publisher of "The North Star," newspaper during a visit by 30 high school editors to the exhibition, FREEDOM'S JOURNALS: A History of the Black Press in New York State at The Gallery at Continental Insurance, 180 Maiden Lane, New York City. The exhibition was created by the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. Officials of four current Black New York City newspapers later talked to the students during lunch during the event sponsored by the New York City Board of Education's Office of Business Collaboratives and the Continental Corporation Foundation.



(From left to right), Dr. Lenora Fulani, chairperson of the independent New Alliance Party; civil rights attorney Alton Maddox; Moses Stewart, father of Yusuf Hawkins, the young Black man who was brutally murdered in the Bensonhurst section of Brooklyn last August; Yonkers activist Stonewall Odom; Rev. Al Sharpton of the United African Movement; and Rev. Darryl George, pastor of Yonkers' Messiah Baptist Church, led nearly 1,000 people at a march last Saturday in the largest civil rights protest ever held in the city of Yonkers. Saturday's protest was held to mobilize a grassroots challenge to the long entrenched pattern of racial segregation in Yonkers. The civil rights demonstrators are demanding that the mayor and city council act in good faith to carry out a housing desegregation order issued five years ago by the U.S. Department of Justice.

Why I Do Not Date Women With Children

by Ulysses Tucker, Jr.

Recently, I was asked by a female friend of mine why I preferred not to date women with children. She suggested that certain Black men, because of their social and economic status, think that they are beyond this social phenomenon and ultimately raise expectations or standards in the mate selection process.

I love children. Someday, I hope to have my own. It has nothing to do with the children or their mother. It's the father that I have, problems with and regardless of their level of participation with the children he fathered, many men do not like the idea of another man filling the role they should be taking care of. Some men do not mind another man playing father to their children. Others take it personally and attempt to reinforce to the children, negatively, who their father is and make great attempts to poison the relationship with the non-father. I guess you could say that I have had more negative experiences with ladies with kids than ones without. Have you ever heard the screaming words of a child saying, "... you're not my father!?" It hurts. In that case, I knew that I wasn't the father, but I was there for hugs, support, at soccer games, etc. ... where was the real dad? I (don't get me wrong), know some wonderful women with children.

Another example: This past weekend, a very good friend called me early Saturday morning and wanted to talk. He said that I wouldn't believe what had just happened to him.

He was visiting a lady friend overnight when her ex-husband (divorced two years +) drove by and saw another car parked in front of her house. It was about 7 a.m. The ex-husband parked his truck and started banging on the windows, kicking on the doors, and screaming nasty words as he circled the house. My friend got out of bed and asked what was going on. She explained that he was abusive, insecure, and a recovering cocaine addict. He was supposed to be at home with her three young children. Though he had weekend custody, it was one of the first times in a long time in which he decided to spend some time with his children. Why he would leave them alone, my friend's lady did not know...

My friend had wanted to leave the house, but he'd feared for his safety and life. The ex-husband might have had a weapon. She then called the police. At that point, my friend learned that he was currently under a restraining order and had consistently been a disruptive force in her life. Since the

divorce, the ex-husband had done everything within his power to hurt her and make life unhappy for my friend's lady. He even vowed to bring her down economically by not paying child support the last six months. Having great esteem and a strong sense of self, she survived without his help and this made his attitude worst. He then resorted to threats of violence and intimidation of any man who attempted to be in her life. Whether he, the ex-husband, won with my friend by scaring him away, I don't know yet. He's still trying to sort out the madness. Sadly, the legal system does not offer any help to a woman in this predicament.

As my friend talked more about the incident, I learned that he had attended a basketball game of his lady's friend son during the week and found out at the game that the ex-husband was the coach. My friend said that had he known before the game, he would not have attended and definitely stayed away. Was she dishonest for not telling him? My friend had also given the kid a few autographed basketball cards and a couple of other basketball-related gifts to be supportive. He felt totally uncomfortable as he sat with his lady friend during the game and all his worst fears came into reality early that morning.

Eventually, the police came and my friend left her house. The ex-husband cursed my friend as she tried to explain what happened to the police. He even threatened my friend's life. The ex-husband also told my friend to stay away from his children, who by the way have developed a liking for him, even though he's doing nothing as a father for them. The police said that verbal threats are not against the law. The ex-husband even repeated my friend's license plate number and suggested that he had a score to settle. He said that he would kill his ex-wife and my friend. The situation got so ugly and verbally abusive that the police arrested the ex-husband. My friend got into his car and drove away. Why me? he thought to himself... all he wanted was a mellow evening with his new lady friend.

Should my friend decide not to see her again, the ex-husband wins because he has made her life unhappy again. Is it worth the relationship, risking his life and safety for? Will the ex-husband always be a problem, regardless of who she dates? Is it fair to the children if my friend drifts away? Should she have explained her ex-husband to my friend before they really got involved? Questions, questions, questions.

When my friend stopped talking, I told

him that I really felt sorry for him and that I understood what he had on his mind. I also knew what he felt like when he said that his life flashed before his eyes as the husband circled the house. I know the feelings well. Not all encounters are as bad as this one. However, you eliminate these types of situations by just not dealing with women with children at all. Some people don't have a choice. I do.

Before closing, there's one more reason why I choose not to date women with children, it's because of my father. You see, my father was killed in a domestic squabble. He was shot, six times, by his girlfriend's-boyfriend two blocks from our house when I was thirteen years old.

I do not need the drama in my life. I would much rather start a relationship from scratch.

Union Station Task Force to Hold Public Hearing

The Union Station Task Force will hold a public hearing to discuss the proposed trackage modifications and improvements at the Union Station property. The hearing will be held Friday, March 2, from 3:30-5:30 p.m. in Room A, second floor of The Portland Building, 1120 S.W. Fifth Avenue.

The task force, appointed by Mayor J.E. Clark, is chaired by Donald W. Magnusen, Executive Vice President, U.S. Bancorp.

The purpose of the meeting will be to hear comments from interested organizations or individuals regarding the proposed trackage changes and other planned uses of the property. The public is invited to attend.

Newsroom 6 Wins Award

KOIN-TV's Newsroom 6 has won an Ohio State Achievement of Merit Award for its documentary Wildforest Wars. The program, which aired in June of 1989, focused on the struggle between the timber industry and environmentalists over old growth timber in Oregon's forests. Wildforest Wars was produced and written by Eric Mason and photographed by Gary Kahne. Executive producer was Tauna Lange.

KOIN-TV is a division of Lee Enterprises, Inc. Lee publishes directly or through its affiliate daily newspapers in 18 cities and owns 5 television stations. The company is also involved in graphic art systems through its affiliate company, NAPP Systems (USA), Inc.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Portland Observer newspaper is owned and operated solely by the Exie Publishing Company of Portland, Oregon. Exie Publishing Company has no affiliation with any other publication in Oregon and the public should be aware that any notices or statements by parties or individuals claiming such affiliation is unauthorized.

Questions pertaining to the aforementioned should be directed to the business office of the Observer at 4747 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Portland, Oregon, 97211. Telephone (503) 288-0033 or FAX (503) 288-0015.

All you need to know about our home equity loans is right under our no's.

No fees. No points. No closing costs.*

Right now, when you open a checking account, we'll waive all points, fees, and closing costs on our low fixed-rate Home Equity Loans or Equity Lines of Credit with a variable rate.**

And when your payments are automatically deducted from your checking account, you get an additional 1/2% off the quoted rate.

Of course, with an offer this good, we can't guarantee it will be around forever, so apply today.

Call now for our current rate and monthly payments. Or visit any of our convenient banking offices.

And if you're wondering how we can offer great savings like these, it's easy. When we say we want to be your bank for life, we mean it.



SECURITY PACIFIC BANK
We want to be your bank for life.™

Call 1-800-551-FAST. In Portland call 222-FAST.

*Except legal holidays. **1990 Security Pacific Bank Corporate Membership, Member FDIC. The APR on the Equity Line of Credit is 12.75%. The maximum APR is 17.75%. Rate subject to change beginning 1991. The Equity Line of Credit annual membership fee is \$50.00.