

# The March On Washington Marred By Rejection Of Farrakhan

Jet Magazine's National Report characterized the 30th Anniversary of the historic March on Washington as a "Black-led" event. Between 75,000 and 100,000 people did converge on the nation's capital for the March and the majority of the participants were African Americans. The front lines of the March and the speakers platform looked like Who's Who in Black America in terms of the array of notable African American leaders from various walks of the life in Black Nation. But the March was not intended to be a totally Black thing. Therefore the "New Coalition of Conscience" which was assembled to spearhead the mobilization for the March included key leaders from the Native American, Latino, Asian American and Arab American communities as well as leaders from the environmental movement labor, and various religious faiths and denominations.

As the first of some fifty five speakers mounted to the podium to begin a long litany of reflections on the past and to utter pronouncements about the unfinished agenda of social and economic justice in America, word spread through the crowd that Minister Louis Farrakhan had been disinvited to the March. I recall word spreading through the crowd of the 1963 March on Washington that John Lewis, the Chairman of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) might not be allowed to speak because members of President Kennedy's inner circle did not like some of the remarks in the text of John Lewis' speech. The "Black leadership" of the March blocked John Lewis from speaking until he agreed to remove or modify those sections of his speech that were unacceptable to the White folks in the White House. Now thirty years later one of the most influential leaders in Black America was being blocked from joining other leaders of the Black Nation in voicing

the plight of Black people and other oppressed peoples because of the objections of some members of the coalition. In a confidential memorandum to Coretta King, Rev. Walter Fauntroy, Bill Lucy, Rev. Jesse Jackson, William Gibson, Rev. Ben Chavis and Lane Kirkland, Rabbi David Saperstein of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism threatened to withdraw Jewish support from the March unless an invitation to Minister Louis Farrakhan was rescinded. Reacting with obvious anger to the "Tentative decision" to involve Farrakhan as a speaker in the March activities, Rabbi Saperstein scolded the Black leadership in the following manner: "During the 20th and 25th Anniversary Marches, I was fully in the loop in the development of the platform and program. I am exceedingly disappointed, considering how closely I have worked with all of you over the years and how strongly you

must have known the Jewish community would react to these decisions, that these decisions were not only made without my participation and ability to share my community's concern, but without even the courtesy of prior consultation. This feels like a major breach of good faith." Though the word is that Rev. Ben Chavis, the Executive Director of the NAACP objected, Minister Farrakhan was not invited to participate in the March. In establishing the first Black newspaper in American, Freedom's Journal in 1827, Frederick Douglass proclaimed, "too long have others spoken for us." In elaborating the Seven Principles of the Black Value System, Dr. Maulana Karenga put forth the principle of Kujichagulia, Self-Determination to advance the notion that we as African people have right to define ourselves and speak for ourselves as opposed to being defined and spoken for by others. This principle of Self-Determination also ex-

tends to the right of Black people to select our own leaders and to make decisions about who can speak to and represent African interests. There is no question but that the Jewish community has every right to promote and defend its interests on matters which it deems of vital concern to Jewish people. The question is do Black people have the right to self-determination and will "black leaders" uphold and defend that right? The 30th Anniversary of the March on Washington was not a "Black-led" event. It was seriously marred by the capitulation of Black leadership to the demands of others that a Black leader of nationally and international standing not be permitted to participate in an event that essentially commemorated a high water mark in the "Black Freedom Struggle." This rejection of Farrakhan was even more reprehensible since most of these same Black leaders were in the company of Minister

Farrakhan a few weeks earlier at the African-African American Summit in Gabon, West Africa. Farrakhan was welcomed and accepted with open arms in Gabon. Why then was he not welcome to participate in the March on Washington here in the U.S? One does not have to agree with Minister Farrakhan on every issue to respect him as an important leader with a mass following in the Pan African World. No matter how eloquent and militant sounding the speeches and pronouncements flowing from the lips of the Black leadership on the stage at the Lincoln Memorial, it is hard to imagine a "leadership" that cannot determine who can speak for Black people free of the interference, intervention and veto of outside forces leading the Black masses anywhere. Too long have others determined the destiny of African people in this nation and the world. It's Kujichagulia time!

## Springfield Woman Wins \$100,000 KENO Prize

Springfield resident Kathi Paynter might consider September 13 to be a special day for her. It was 11 years ago that she began working for Fred Meyer. And it was September 13, that Kathi decided to buy an Oregon Lottery Keno ticket that turned out to be a \$100,000 winner. Because both of their cars recently broke down, Kathi and Eugene arrived at Lottery headquarters in a rented limousine to pick up her check for \$72,000 after 28 percent was withheld for federal taxes. Kathi, who works in the service deli at Fred Meyer-Santa Clara in Eugene, said she spends about \$1 each week playing Keno, usually the 6-spot game. "my dad always plays the 10-spot, so I decided to try that during my lunch hour," Kathi said. "I thought none of my numbers would match, and then I would win \$5," she laughed, referring to the prize for players who do not match any num-

bers in the 10-spot game. Incidentally, her Quick Pick ticket included "13" as one of the 10 numbers Kathi watched as the numbers appeared on the in-store monitor after the drawing. "I remembered several of the numbers," she said, "so I took my ticket out of my pocket and looked at the rest. My hands were shaking, and I think my heart almost stopped when I saw all 10 numbers. Kathi immediately called her husband, who works the night shift at Fred Meyer-Springfield and was at home sleeping. "No, you couldn't have won \$100,000," he told her. After thinking about it, he called her back just to make sure. Kathi said she managed to complete the final two hours of her shift, getting her job done in spite of taking congratulations from everyone who heard about her good luck. Kathi and Eugene have three children--Anna, nine; Christopher,

eight; and Grant, six. They plans to use their prizewinnings to buy new cars, pay bills, and purchase a home in the future. Some special things for the kids are also planned. Kathi said. Kathi won her prize on the second anniversary of the Keno game. She is the second player to win a \$100,000 prize. Since the game began on September 13, 1991, players have won \$130,008,118 playing Keno. Since April 1985, more than \$922 million in prizes has been awarded to Oregon Lottery players. Over the past eight years more than \$494 million has been earned for Oregon's economic development and job creation in Oregon. Fund recipients estimate that more than 39,000 jobs have been saved or created through these projects.

## At Journey's End: Life After The Oregon Trail

Celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Oregon Trail by spending an evening with KPTV-12 as At Journey's End: Life After the Oregon Trail airs on Sunday, October 3rd, at 9:00 p.m. It will be preceded at 8:00 p.m. by an encore presentation of Beyond Eden's Gate: The Legacy of the Oregon Trail, the special that first aired on KPTV in March of this year and has since been syndicated nationally. At Journey's End: Life After the Oregon Trail provides glimpses into the spartan daily lives of the homesteaders, the cultural diversity of their new surroundings and the issues they faced on organizing new communities once they reached the end of the trail. The documentary makes exten-

sive use of historic photographs and some early Oregon Historical Society archival film footage shot after the turn of the century. Dramatic recreations and traditional music by The Trail Band are woven throughout the documentary, along with diary excerpts read by character actress Joyce Hunsaker. Jack McGown, local television personality, hosts the special. Noted African American history professor Dr. Darrell Milner, of Portland State University, offers insights into the region's ethnically diverse history, and Chet Orloff, Northwest historian and executive director of the Oregon Historical Society, provides historical aspects of that era of Oregon history. Viewers journey along the trail

with the sesquicentennial wagon train, and also learn of Philip Foster's Farm, one of the last stops along the Oregon Trail, where it is believed some 10,000 emigrants rested before reaching their destination. At Journey's End tracks today's efforts to preserve the trail, as well as some of the commemorations of the 150th anniversary. Independent producer Trish Neiwirth researched, produced and wrote both Beyond Eden's Gate and At Journey's End in association with the KPTV-12 production department, the Oregon Historical Society and the Oregon Trail Coordinating Council. Larry Bollinger directed the special and Jeff Gustin was the photographer.

## On-Site Recycling Program For Apartments

The City of Portland is recruiting owners and managers of apartment buildings to receive on-site recycling systems. To do this, owners need to enroll their properties in the Portland Multifamily Recycling Program. The recycling program provides each multifamily site of five units or more located in Portland with: recycling collection containers, on-site planning assistance, owner/manager "how-to" workshops and tenant education flyers. These are all provided

at no cost to the owner. Since 1989 the City has set up over 750 multifamily sites with recycling systems, serving more than sixty percent of the multifamily units in Portland. The City's goal is to provide the opportunity to recycle on-site at all multifamily buildings by 1995. The Portland Bureau of Environmental Services and Metro provide funding for the program. The Portland energy Office and Portland State University Recycling Education

Project have teamed up to implement the program. Property owners of their on-site manager attend a 90 minute "how-to" workshop. This gives them an opportunity to learn how to make on-site recycling a success before they receive their recycling collection containers. The next workshops are: • October 19, 1993, Tuesday, 3:30 to 5pm • October 21, 1993, Thursday, 7 to

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## Smoke Detectors - Have You Got The Message?

If smoke detectors save lives why do the homes of almost half the state fire fatalities have no detectors or no working detectors? Smoke Detectors have been on the market for almost 20 years and have saved thousand of lives each year by alerting people to fires in time to escape. Statistics show that most people have smoke detectors but that they are not working because they have taken the batteries out. Most are taken out because the sound annoyed them and they didn't know how to stop it. Others take the batteries out and then they forget to replace them. The Portland Bureau of Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Services is trying to find out how to keep people from taking the batteries out and to keep their smoke detectors

working. Community members from six neighborhoods of Portland are helping the Bureau of Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Services create a "new & improved" educational message about smoke detectors. In the first part of the research, citizens from Lents, Buckman, Kerns, Eliot, Boise and Humboldt neighborhoods participated in citizen discussion groups and surveys given in front of stores and door-to-door. Questions were asked to discern what information was needed by the public, what messages about smoke detectors were remembered and what the citizens thought the Fire Bureau could do to educate people about their detectors. Although smoke detectors have

been available since the seventies, only 1/3 of residential fires have working smoke detectors. The Bureau of Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services has a goal of 100% working smoke detectors in Portland residences. The current efforts of the Bureau are built upon the successful 1986 campaign in NE Portland where community volunteers installed detectors for those in need. This campaign, facilitated by Lanita Duke of Grassroots, News, received national recognition for its outreach to the community and the success of cutting fire deaths in the area. The NE section used to have 27% of the fire deaths in Portland. Now fire deaths are not concentrated in any one area. Lanita Duke is on contract again with the Fire Bureau to

expand upon her 1986 program. In 1991, a mailer was sent to all Portlanders, announcing the opportunity to receive free smoke detectors for their homes. Thousands of people responded. The team working to collect the information and create a message is made up of Nancy Jerrick of Oman Jerrick and Associates, Scott Sakamoto of Ronin Studios and Lanita Duke of Grassroots News. The next steps are for the participants from the neighborhoods to approve the message and make sure that it is saying what they think will affect the people in their areas. The last step will be to set up partnerships and action plans to carry the message to the populous.

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## Despite Divorce, Kids Need Both Parents

Children of divorced parents need both their parents equally, says a social worker at the University of Illinois at Chicago and parents must be mature enough to make the shift from their own spousal relationship to a co-parenting relationship. Barbara Wickell, associate professor of social work at the Jane Adams College of Social Work, who teaches a course called "Families in Transition" says, "Fifty percent of all marriages in this country end in divorce. Many of these families have children." Wickell says that it is important for parents to understand that divorce represents a different phase in their relationship. They must help their children adjust to a number of changes

such as having two homes--one with mom and one with dad. They cannot be angry or hostile. Although loyalty conflicts will exist, adults must minimize competition and not to make children pawns. "Children must find their own places within new households," says Wickell, who also counsels families in her private practice. "In some situations, the youngest child may become the middle child or an older child may become the middle child." Wickell emphasizes communication as the key to solving most problems. "All children have feelings about what they are experiencing, but all children cannot verbalize them. It is the parents' job to help them," she

says. "Children often feel abandoned and rejected. Some are insecure and feel that the other parent will leave. Young children may feel guilty about the divorce and blame themselves. Adolescents tend to blame their parents for the divorce. All children need to be reassured that "it's not about you or anything you have done." They really need to know you can't divorce your children!" "Parents," says Wickell, "need to be mature enough to help their children make the transition, because research has shown that children who remain in contact with both parent tend to develop better peer group relationships and also do better in school."

## College Bound? Start Planning Early And Stick To Basics

It's not too early for students who will be part of the freshman class of the year 2000 to start planning for college, says an expert at the University of Illinois at Chicago. According to Marilyn Fiduccia, executive director of admissions and records at UIC, students who are entering seventh grade this fall should start checking into schools they might be interested in attending. "Even if they don't know what course of study they are going to follow in college, it's a good idea to get a sense of what colleges are asking for from incoming freshmen," she says. "Get catalogs. Find out how many course in English, math, sci-

ence and the social sciences are required by colleges." Fiduccia says colleges are looking for "measurable factors," such as a student's grade average, class ranking and performance on the Scholastic Aptitude Test and American College Test. Are colleges still looking for the "well-rounded student"? Fiduccia says, "In some specialized programs it may be important. However, what we're really interested in is a well-rounded course of study. Students shouldn't be afraid to tackle the hard courses. We've found a correlation between the type of courses students took and their performance on the

ACT and SAT. Students who did well in the more difficult courses tend to have higher test scores." Once students begin high school, Fiduccia says the role of the guidance counselor is critical to a student's success. "They are invaluable resources who know a lot about public and private colleges, their admission requirements and courses. They have contacts at several schools and can be pivotal in helping find right fit between student and college. They know what support programs are available that may help the student succeed once admitted." For more information, call Gwen Osborne at 312/996-2269.

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