

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The Portland Observer

Not Just Black History, But American History:



Dedication of Mr. Mayfield Stamp: Pat Mayfield WRA TV Whashington anchor, seated third from the left. During the dedication of the Mayfield stamp of which her father is featured

Nigerian-Born Seeks Cooperation Among Blacks

American Communities must form cooperative alliances in order to move on progressively and should put the bitter past away and let it stay in history where it belongs.

This was the contention of Nigerian born, Efosa Odighizu Wa, who was the guest speaker at the celebration of black history month by the Albina Cultural Awareness Group.

He observed that the society has deliberately deleted most of the contributions made by African-Americans.

"There is a deliberate attempt to erase the contributions of Afro-Americans. In spite these contributors and contributions stay", Mr. Odighizu Wa said.

"As we celebrate black history we must ask ourselves questions. Question on how this nation was built.

What was the contributions of Africans? Then we will begin to answer the legality of celebrating our history."

Mr. Odighizu Wa, who is specialist with Oregon Human and Health Services called on all blacks to emulate the actions of Martin Luther King and most of the other pioneers in our history."

"We must confront constantly racism, injustice in all that we do", Efosa told a gathering of social workers.

The highlight of the celebration, was a fashion show in African attire.

The chairperson of the Cultural Awareness group Majoire Arigbon, said the group was founded to foster unity, and encourage diversity in work places.

The Group Committee members are Gail Larkin, Dorothy Keyes,



Efosa Odighizu Wa

Donna Hibdon, Ed Freiner, Gloria Tamayo, Cathy Lawrence. Others are Joe Lopec, Paul Halposk, Floyd Cruiser and Hai La.

Knowledge Of Self

Theme for Black History Month Celebration

The Minority Affairs program at the MacLaren School for Boys presented it's 5th Annual Black History Month assembly on February 25, 1994.

It was an exciting and emotional program, as students celebrated Black History, through oral presentations, songs, skits, and anti-drug/gang rap music.

Anthony Washington welcomed everyone to the program and delivered a powerful message in his speech. Washington said "We must focus on us as a people", I'm a firm believer that knowledge of self is extremely important for the young Black man and woman to grasp the process of human growth.

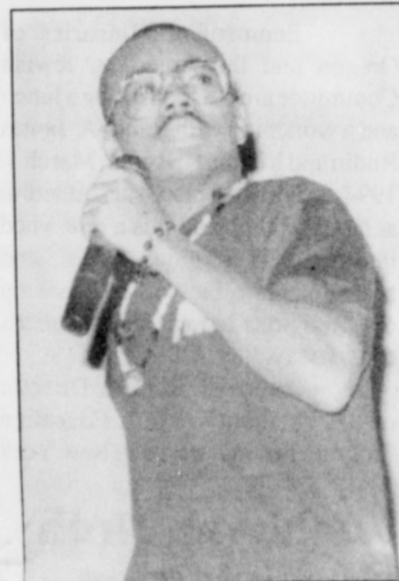
Knowledge of Self gives us the true power and wisdom to develop progressively in our goals that we set for ourselves. What is essential is that we maintain a positive thought of mind and focus our energy into the understanding of Knowledge of Self.

The results of Knowledge of Self is very powerful and can help you stand against all toxic things that stand for evil.

It was Elijah Muhammad that turned Malcolm X from a life of crime and gave him a discipline and will to learn.

For me it was the honorable Lonnie Jackson and Roger Wilder that gave me much love, wisdom, discipline, and later on taught me the power of knowledge of self.

Virgil Douglas said in his speech entitled "Bright Future", "We must stop clowning and jiving, if we do not begin preparing ourselves, many of us will not have a bright future". Douglas cited the increasing number



Anthony Washington

of Black males in adult prisons.

Another student said in his speech, "We must take responsibility for our lives. Our beautiful Black sisters should be treated as the queens they are, instead of disrespected through the usage of foul language and negative behavior towards them".

The majority of students in the assembly are members of PMB (Peace My Brother) a positive peer support group at MacLaren.

Lonnie Jackson, Minority Affairs Director at MacLaren and Co-Founder Of MYCAP, a gang intervention program in NE Portland, said, "The assembly not only honors Black History, but also allows students to positively express themselves and showcase their intelligence, creativity, and talents.

The program also featured an awards ceremony. John A. Gage, Executive Director of the House of

Umoja; Robert Richardson, Program Director for Youth Re-Directions and Lonnie Nettles, Transitional Coordinator of the Juvenile Justice Division were recognized for their outstanding work with at-risk/gang involved youth.

Harold Williams, President of CH2 Associates; Richard Brown, Coordinator of the Black United Front; and Gina Wood, Manager of Juvenile Justice Programs State Commission on Youth and Families were honored for their leadership, service, and advocacy in the community.

A highlight of the program was Mike Watkins, Askia Geigle, Michael Frison, Fred Knight, and Richard Howard all former participants in the Minority Affairs program receiving awards for their efforts in turning their lives around. Askia who will graduate from Marshall High School this year said, "It's hard, but you have to make a commitment to yourself that you can do it".

A special award was presented to William L. Carey who will retire this year as Administrator of the State Children's Services Division for a distinguished career in social service and his strong support of the Minority Affairs program at MacLaren.

Bruce Smith, Affirmative Action Specialist with the Governor's Office was the program's guest speaker.

Jerry Anderson concluded the program with a powerful and stirring vocal performance of the spiritual song "Amazing Grace" as students and alumni who participated in the program came on stage and held hands in a symbol of unity and hope for the future.

The Buffalo Soldier Legacy



THE BUFFALO SOLDIER

Black Veterans have a rich legacy of courage, valor, bravery, patriotism, achievements, and contributions; and this proud legacy must be properly and accurately detailed, documented, preserved, and told.

"Blacks have been present in every American conflict and war since 1637; however this country has not fully recognized or properly shown its appreciation."

(From left to right) Mark Mathew Sr, John M. Craig, William Harrington ; members of the Buffalo Soldiers Committee

War And Peace In Black History

BY PROFESSOR MCKINLEY BURT

The role of blacks in the American military is coming under new scrutiny these days, especially from younger African Americans (as well as some whites). It seems that everyone is not satisfied with the story of patient 'Negroes' who endured every form of cruelty, indignity and discrimination imaginable, but then turned around and without exception fought bravely at the side of his oppressor against all enemies.

Increasingly, I have had this question put to me; "It is not natural...unreal...that's why 'you people' don't get any respect, white men will avenge themselves at the drop of a hat..." and so it has been going as long as I can remember. In the early grades our parents and grandparents were told of Crispus Attucks, a black man who was first to die fighting the British in the Revolutionary War. He was said to have been drinking ale with his white companions in a tavern adjacent to Boston Commons when a regiment of British soldiers marched by.

The strong spirits inspired them to rush out and challenge the troops. The results were quite predictable as when any unarmed mob decides to attack well-armed and disciplined minions of the establishment. Many died on the spot, including the luckless Attucks, hailed as hero ever since by many who have not fully examined the circumstances. Keep in mind though that Attucks must have been aware that slavery was in full swing in

the American Colonies (1775)--while in England in 1762 Lord Chancellor Henley had declared that "as soon as a man sets foot on English ground he is free." (Reports of Cases Argued in the High Court of Chancery; 1790).

To make the future of a black man in America seem more disheartening, almost without exception the prime movers in the revolt of the Colonies against Britain were slave owners despite their poignant pleas and rhetoric for liberty. "John Locke", the alleged great liberal English philosopher (Essay concerning Human Understanding; 1690) had been employed to write the constitution of the Carolinas. He promptly made slavery the law of the colony for all time; so much for the "inalienable rights of man". Of course, we must realize that philosopher Locke was a heavy investor in the Royal African Company, a major slave trader (see John Locke ed. Peter H. Midditch, Oxford Clarendon Press, 19075).

It does seem that there were any number of black men in the American Colonies who were as rational and freedom-loving as any other human beings--as Anglo Saxon law puts it, as went to "act as a normal person would under the same or similar circumstances." Consequently, we have it that in 1775 about 15 months before the Declaration of Independence, Virginia's Royal Governor Lord Dunmore horrified the rebel colonists by "arming my own Negroes and receive all others who come to me who also shall be set free."

In a few American history books (very few, in fact) we are told of the several thousand black soldiers who kept the revolution alive at Valley Forge after most whites deserted the bitterly cold encampment. But on the other side tens of thousands of freedom-loving blacks fought on the side of the British under Dunmore and General Cornwallis. They served as Calvary, shock troops, pilots of coastal and river boats, seamen, canoeists, miners, wood cutters, carpenters, blacksmiths, tailors, cooks, waiters and recruiters.

When the war ended and the British withdrew, at least 14,000 black men went with them, evacuated from the ports of Savannah, Charleston and New York. Thousands more escaped overland to Canada, and many from there to London. The British made good on their promises of pensions for all who could reach Canada or England. How cruel and bitter are the lies and omissions put upon us by the American education establishment (see Wilson, 138; Stephen J. Braidwood." Initiatives and Organization of the Black Poor" 1786-1787 [Paper presented to the International Conference on the History of Blacks in Britain, London, 28-30 September 1981])

(See Herbert Aptheker, The Negro in the American Revolution, N.Y., International Publisher 1940 & see Benjamin Quarles same title 1961 & Mary Beth Norton, The Fate of Some Black Loyalist of the American Revolution, Journal of Negro History, LVIII, 1973).

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Pacific Power Celebrates Black History Month



George Bush, Early Settler

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Among the steady stream of immigrants to the area were a number of black men and their families, including George Bush. Born in Pennsylvania a free man, Bush moved to Missouri and married Isabell, a white women. In 1844, at the age of fifty, Bush, his wife and five children left Missouri with 800 others.