THE PORTLAND OBSERVER • FEBRUARY 28, 1996

PAGE A7

BLACK HISTORY

The Negro Is Your Brother

ham at this time, but I would say in more emphatic terms that it is even more unfortunate that the white power structure of this city left the Negro community with no other alternative. In any nonviolent campaign there are four basic steps: collection of the facts to determine whether injustices are alive, negotiation, self-purification, and direct action. We have gone through all of these steps in Birmingham. There can be no gainsaying of the fact that racial injustice engulfs this community. Birmingham is probably the most thoroughly segregated city in the United States. Its ugly record of police brutality is known in every section of this country. Its unjust treatment of Negroes in the courts is a notorious reality.

There have been more unsolved bombings of Negro homes and churches in Birmingham than in any other city in this nation. These are the hard, brutal, and unbelievable facts. On the basis of them, Negro leaders sought to negotiate with the city fathers. But the political leaders consistently refused to engage in goodfaith negotiation. Then came the opportunity last September to talk with some of the leaders of the economic community. In these negotiating sessions certain promises were made by the merchants, such as the promise to remove the humiliating racial signs from the stores. On the basis of these promises, Rev. Shuttlesworth and the leaders of the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights agreed to call a moratorium on any type of demonstration.

As the weeks and months unfolded, we realized that we were the victims of a broken promise. The signs remained. As in so many experiences of the past, we were confronted with blasted hopes, and the dark shadow of a deep disappointment settled upon

So we had no alternative except that of preparing for direct action, whereby we would present our very bodies as a means of laying our case before the conscience of the local and national community. We were not unmindful of the difficulties involved. So we decided to go through a process of self-purification. We started having workshops on

we started having workshops on nonviolence and repeatedly asked ourselves the questions, "Are you able to accept blows without retaliating?" and "Are you able to endure the ordeals of jail?" We decided to

Continued to page A6

The African American Women

I am a woman, not just any woman but a African American woman. I come in many different shapes, forms, and fashions. I am tall, short, large, and small. I am elegant, sophisticated, full of richness and Grace. I am black, I am beautiful, I'm a African American woman. I am a Doctor, a Lawyer, a Teacher, a Preacher, I am a Dentist, a Dancer, a Writer, a Fighter, but most of all I am a survivor. I have paid my dues, now I demand my respect, I demand to be acknowledged, I will be desired, I will be admired. I will not be ridiculed, nor will I be criticized, I'm black, I'm beautiful and I must be recognized! I am a African American woman, I will never go away. I am a African American woman, I am here to stay.

--Kelly Hollins



Waiting for the paddy wagon, Birmingham demonstrators - some praying, some singing.

Because you're in good company... Your individuality is valued.

At SAFECO, we celebrate the uniqueness of each individual and encourage that individual to thrive. The only characteristics we insist our employees share is a willingness to treat each other with respect, honosty and decency, and to work in a team atmosphere to accomplish common goals. It is this philosophy that has made us a leader in the financial services industry.





A colorge education is vitally important in today's fast-moving world, preparing individuats with tools that will help them succeed in an information-based society. That's why earning a degree is the **Ultimate Achievement**.

Future leaders, today more than ever, often need additional encouragement to guide them to their Ultimate Achievement ... completing their education.

Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corporation helps to provide the foundation for achievement with contributions to organizations like the United Negro College Fund and the National Hispanic Scholarship Fund. The company also supports many other institutions of higher learning with direct contributions and by matching gifts from our employees.

Brown & Williamson is committed to providing an opportunity to help our future leaders achieve excellence. Self esteem and determination are the basis for this achievement. Opportunity is the means. Brown & Williamson pledges its support to help tomorrow's leaders obtain the Ultimate Achievement.

At last, a home equity line that pays you back.

BANKING ON AMERICA

It never fails. You set out to buy that new gas oven and the matching refrigerator when suddenly, you realize that the old microwave just has to go. Well,

it's not a problem with Bank of America's home equity line that pays you back. Now, for a limited time, you can get a bonus up to \$500, plus a great interest rate without paying points or fees.

Get a bonus up to \$500. And, it's Loan By to do to phone, gi

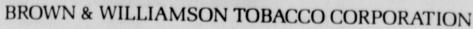
And, it's as easy as calling Loan By Phone.[™] All you have to do to apply is pick up the phone, give us a little information and you'll have your

answer before you know it. Simply stop by any branch or call 1-800-THE BOFA. After all, with a bonus like this, we're pretty sure you can think of a thing or two you'd like to have. On us, of course.





Bava



Our Continuing Commitment to Community Service.