

BLACK HISTORY

The Portland Observer

Black America: Facing the Millennium



Glenn Loury

On Tuesday, February 25, at 10:00 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time), PBS will broadcast **Black America: Facing the Millennium**, a 60-minute public affairs special that explores the challenges and priorities of Black Americans on the brink of the 21st century.

In celebration of Black History, **Black America: Facing the Millennium** is presented by public television station WQED Pittsburgh and the National Black Programming Consortium (NBPC), a nonprofit media arts organization established in 1979 to distribute quality Black programming to public broadcasting stations nationally.

The program features three prominent African-American analysts who critique the state of Black America from the vantage points of history, socio-economy and culture:

• **Glenn Loury**, professor of economics at Boston University, chairman and co-founder of the Center for New Black Leadership and author of *One By One From the Inside Out, Essays and Reviews on Race and Responsibility in America*, addresses the socio-economic issues of Black America and concerns relating to personal and public responsibility. His topic: *Socio-economic Vantage Point*.

• **Manning Marable**, professor of history and director of the Institute for Research in African-American Studies at Columbia Univer-



Manning Marable

sity and author of *Speaking Truth to Power: Essays on Race, Resistance and Radicalism* and the internationally syndicated column "Along the Color Line," presents the state of Black America from a historical perspective. His topic: *Historical Vantage Point*.

• **Greg Tate**, cultural critic and columnist for the *Village Voice*, co-founder of the Black Rock Coalition and author of *Flyboy in the Buttermilk: Essays on Contemporary America*, looks at the culture of Black America from what he terms a "black body/white space" perspective. His topic: *Cultural Vantage Point*.

In addition to the video essays, an ongoing dialogue among a group of people who represent diverse experiences and political outlooks is interwoven throughout **Black America: Facing the Millennium**. Brought together by one common aim—the advancement of liberty and justice for all in the 21st century—Democrats, Republicans, Independents, youth elders, various religious backgrounds, grassroots activists and scholars provide a conversational framework for the essays as well as an avenue for more in-depth examination of issues.

Key issues addressed include the political process and whether it works, racism and the economy as well as the role and responsibility of the Black middle class, the Black church and the hip-hop culture.



Greg Tate

Facilitating the round table discussions will be Oliver Mitchell, Jr., criminal attorney and former Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Massachusetts and First Assistant District Attorney for Hampden County, Massachusetts. Topics will be: politics/democracy; community/economics; culture/institutions; and future/change.

Black America: Facing the Millennium also features a segment on the state of rural Black America, where in Issaquena County, Mississippi (one of the poorest counties in America), a new correctional facility is being built and will become the county's largest employer. Unita Blackwell, the first Black woman mayor in Mississippi, offers her thoughts on what is happening in her town, Mayersville, where the prison is scheduled to open in February.

Underwriters of the special are the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, PBS and public television viewers.

Black America: Facing the Millennium is one of three national PBS specials presented by the National Black Programming Consortium in February. **W.E.B. Du Bois—A Biography in Four Voices**, produced by Louis Massiah, will air February 7 at 9 p.m. on PBS, and **Conjure Women**, directed by Demetria Royals and produced by Louise Diamond, will air February 13 at 10 p.m. on PBS.

Civil rights, then and now

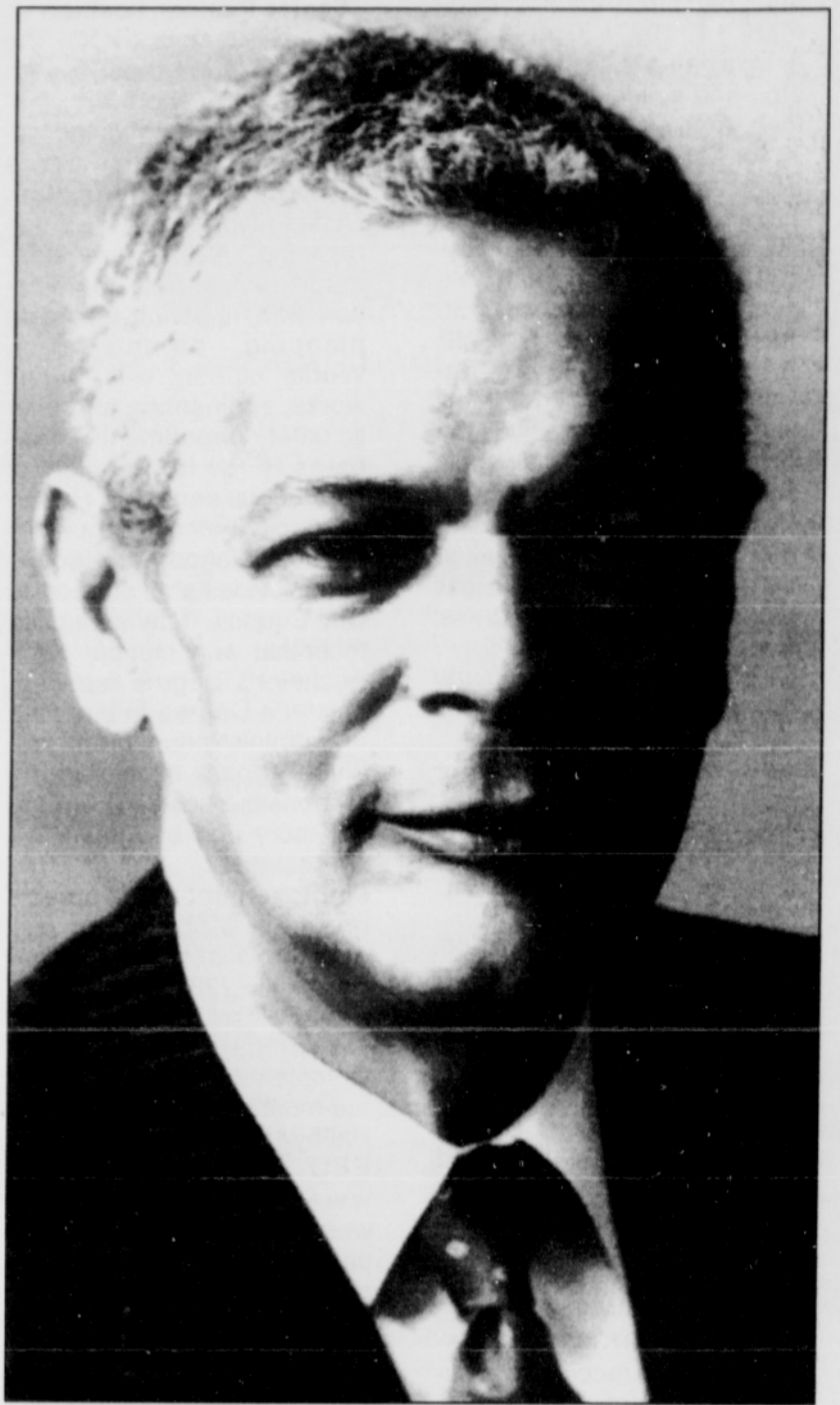
Julian Bond, an active participant in the movement for civil rights, will be the featured speaker at Willamette University on Friday, January 31, when the Multi-Cultural Law Student Association of the College of Law presents their annual celebration for the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. Bond will speak on the topic, *Civil Rights, Then and Now. Where Do We Go From Here?*

Bond is a Distinguished Scholar in Residence at American University in Washington, D.C., and faculty member at the University of Virginia in the Department of History.

Bond is the host of "America's Black Forum", the oldest black-owned show in television syndication, and was a commentator for radio's "Byline", syndicated to more than 200 stations. He has been a commentator on the "Today" show and was the author of a nationally syndicated newspaper column called "Viewpoint". Bond is currently on the advisory boards of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Non-Violent Social Change, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Corporation for Maintaining Editorial Diversity in America and the Human Rights Defense Fund.

Time magazine named Bond to its 200 leaders list and he received the Bill of Rights Award from the American Civil Liberties Union and the Legislative Service Award from Georgia Municipal Association.

Bond is remembered for his days as a student activist. While a student at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Bond founded the Committee of Appeal for Human Rights, where he led the organization in three years of non-violent, anti-segregation protests that won integration of Atlanta's movie theaters, lunch counters and parks. He was one of several hundreds of students from across the



South who helped form the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee in 1960. As an activist who faced jail for his convictions, Bond is a veteran of more than 20 years of service in the Georgia General As-

sembly. The lecture will be at 7 p.m. in Smith Auditorium and is free and open to the public. It is sponsored by Willamette's Minority Affairs and Student Bar Association.

Portland African-American History Symposium

PCC's Cascade Campus is presenting a symposium on the history and contributions of Portland African Americans on Friday, February 14, from noon until 5:00 p.m. in the Terrell Hall, Room 122.

The Cascade Campus is located at 705 N. Killingsworth. Events are free and open to the public and free parking is also available in campus parking lots.

Following the symposium, a reception and unveiling of a memorial honoring the late Rev. John Jackson will be held in the foyer of Jackson Hall, for whom the building was

named in 1995.

Five papers, prepared for the event, will be presented. Participating scholars include Elizabeth McLagan, a Ph.D. history candidate from the University of Oregon who will present a paper on school integration in Portland in the 1960s and 1970s; Rudy Pearson of American River College in Sacramento, California and author of "African Americans in Portland During the 1940s"; Cathy Galbraith of the Bosco Milligan Foundation, who is author of "Cornerstones of community: Buildings of Portland's African

American History"; and Kimberly Moreland, author of "History of Portland's African American Community, 1805 to the Present". Copies of these papers will be available at the symposium.

Following the presentation, Dian Jackson, widow of Rev. Jackson, Ben Priestly and Ron Herndon and others will present remembrances of Rev. Jackson.

The Symposium and reception are sponsored by the newly established Community History Center at Cascade Campus in celebration of Black History Month.

movements have historically been pitted against each other, the efforts of activists like Barnett to overcome these divisions, and the relationship between autonomy and multi-racial organizing today. The showing takes place Wednesday, February 12 at 7:00 pm at the Northwest Service

Center Community Room, 1819 NW Everett, Portland. The meeting is free and open to everyone. A Southern Supper will be offered at 6:30 pm for a \$5.00 donation. For more information or childcare, call (503) 2283090 two days in advance. Wheelchair accessible.

A Passion for Justice: Ida B. Wells

In honor of Black History Month, join Radical Women's video showing on the life of Ida B. Wells Barnett, outspoken journalist, pioneer of the anti-lynching movement and founder of the first Black women's club in the U.S. join in discussion about how the Black and women's

Miss Evers' Boys

Saturday, February 22—
Only on HBO

In celebration of Black History Month, HBO continues to explore important chapters in African-American history with its HBO NYC presentation of *Miss Evers' Boys*.

The film features Alfre Woodard, Laurence Fishburne, Craig Sheffer, Joe Morton, Obba Babatundé, E.G. Marshall and Ossie Davis. Fishburne and Robert Benedetti are executive producers; the producers are Kip Konwiser and Derek Kavanaugh; and the director is Joe Sargent.

The film debuts on February 22, so we wanted to be sure you had advance information in order to include *Miss Evers' Boys* in your Black History Month round-ups.

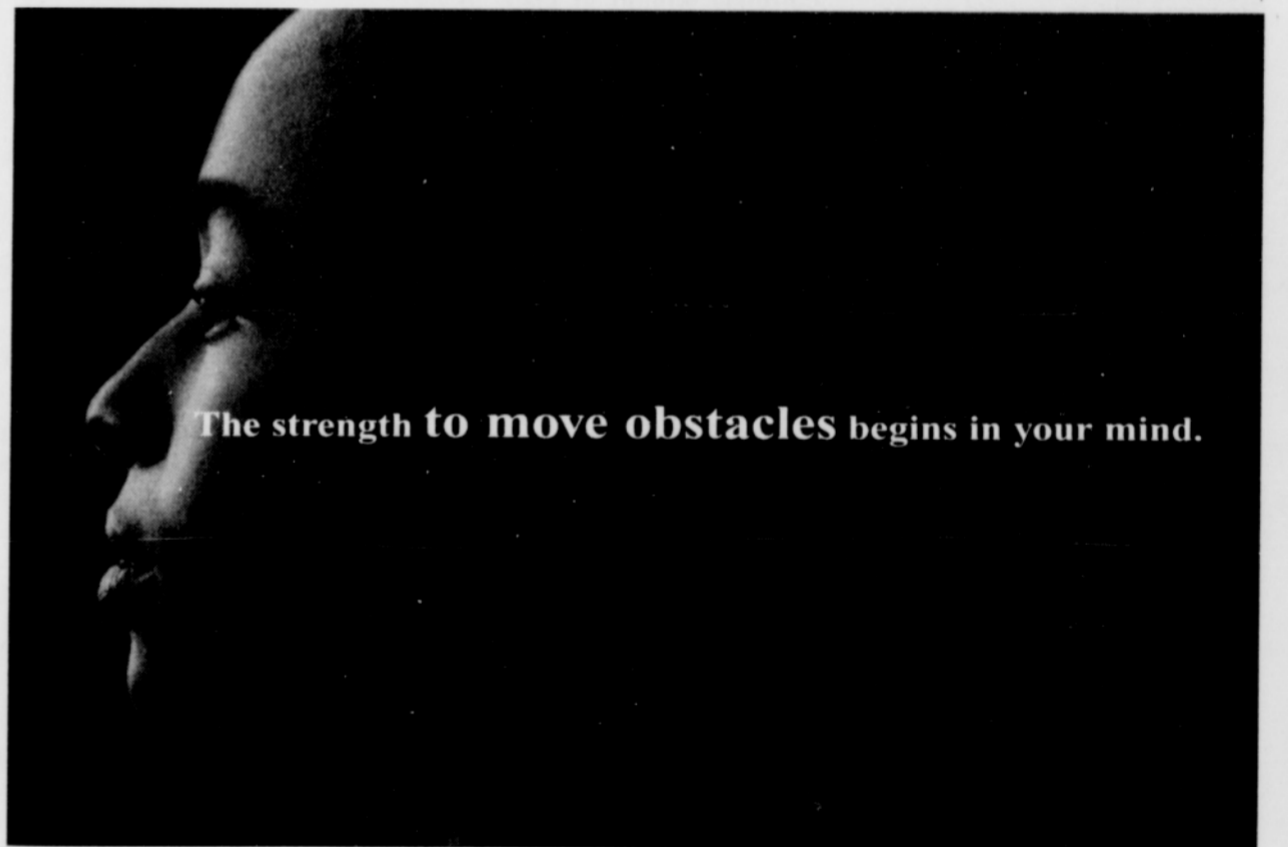
Miss Evers' Boys, adapted from the Pulitzer Prize-nominated play of the same name, is inspired by the true story of a controversial government medical experiment.

As We Celebrate Our 35th Year Of Service
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Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
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The strength to move obstacles begins in your mind.

This is the spirit of Black History Month. Its significance is well-rooted in the belief that no obstacle is impossible to overcome through hard work and perseverance. In celebration of that spirit, Bank of America is proud to salute our great heroes and heroines who have conquered infinite odds; and helped to turn stumbling blocks into stepping stones. It's these people who have taught us all that there are no obstacles too large to overcome as long as our heart is willing and our spirit remains strong.



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