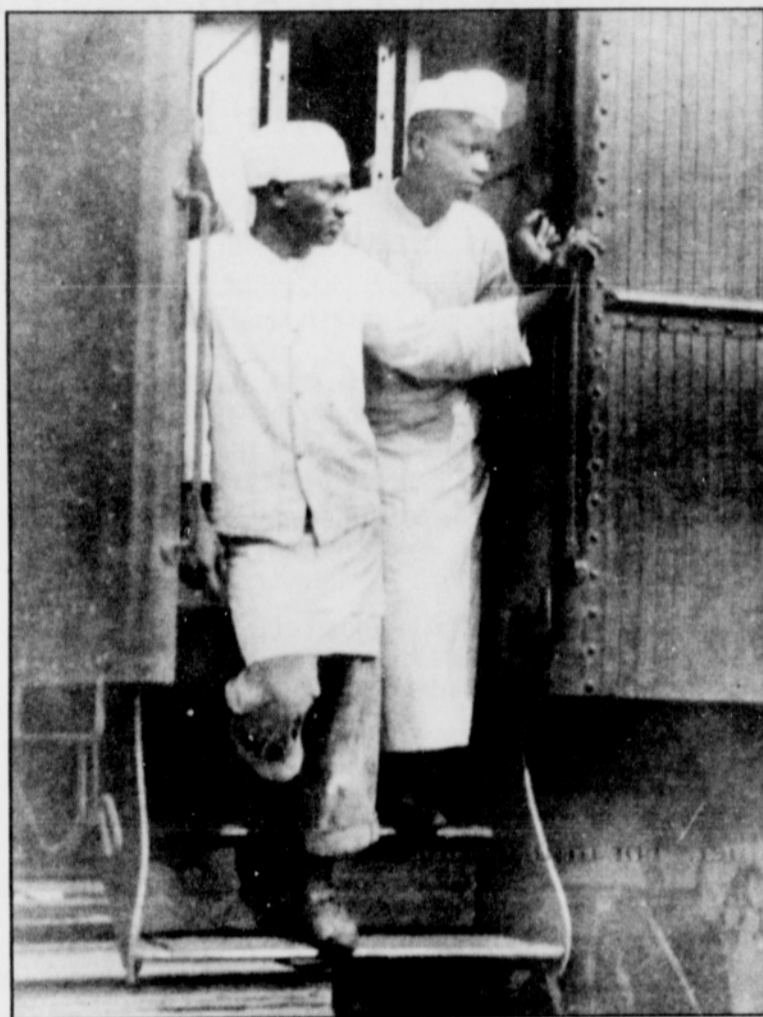




Vanport flood evacuees staying temporarily at the Trinity Episcopal Church. 1948. For the many left homeless, they were taken in by families in the metropolitan area.

Courtesy of the Oregon Historical Society.



Dining car cooks of the S&P Railroad in 1919. Railroad jobs in Portland was stable work for Black men. Although, they were denied any career advancement. Honoring the Black Man was our special feature for the second week of Black History Month.

Courtesy of the Oregon Historical Society.



Albina Neighborhood Cleanup. By the mid-1960's, The Albina Neighborhood Improvement Program succeeded in rehabilitating houses in a 35 square block area. By 1972, nearly 300 homes had been rehabilitated. This proved a better alternative to Urban Renewal. Courtesy of the Oregon Historical Society.

ORNITHOLOGY

it is so hard to be earth bound
when yr wings are aching to challenge the high-tide
of a revolutionary wind.
so hard to remain terrestrial when the skin remembers
being bird. and the heart soars back and forth in its
ribbed cage...
the song of the crow gives rebirth to a loneliness that
manifests itself in the flight-time of the life-time.
it is so hard to be earthbound
wings dragging beside u on the ground
u cld lift them if folks wld just get off of 'em.
they kno u're dependable so they lean on u
hopin to be included on yr next flight.
and not being able to take off gives u the woes
occasionally u claw at what loves u the most
and everything u sing after that is beyond even the blues.

the unsurpassed splendor of our united plumage makes
them plot to slaughter the bird in us. their media tells us
to hate the sky.
they make us think stagnation is better than flight of any
kind,
motion of any sort. they trick us into turning in our
wings. and they burn
the wings that are not turned in.

but sometimes, the way we can feel about each otha is
totally
regenerating to the most scorched wings.

the right look, an opening smile that never closes,
sometimes, the way we dare to feel about each otha, is
all the flight-times of the most magnificent birds in all
the worlds where luv and freedom are a way of being.
sometimes, we do that to each otha.

wanna fly?
Poem by Laini Mataka

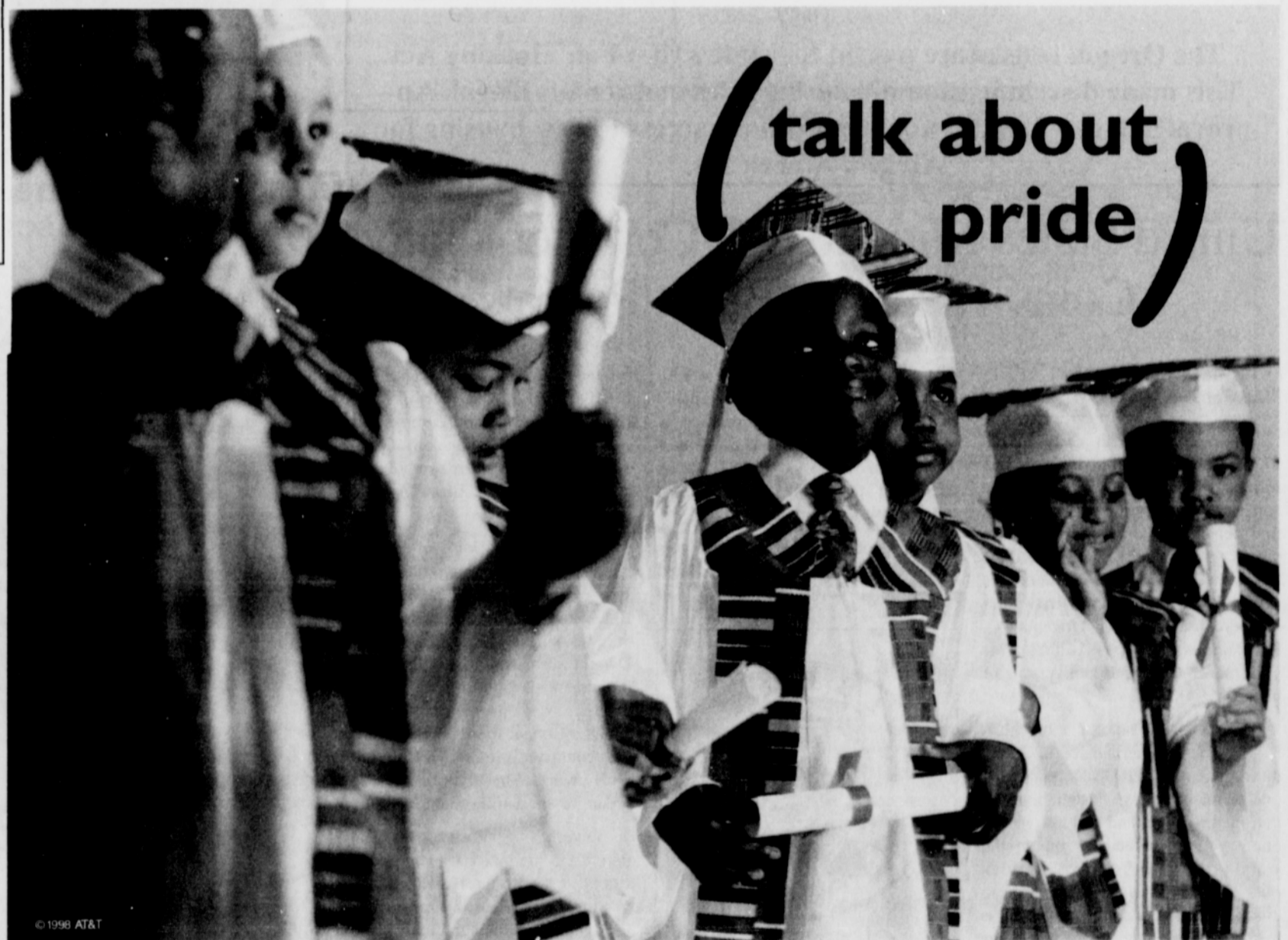
Quote from the community:

"We (African Americans) feel we have to rely on each other. Economically, it isn't instilled in us to support each other's business."

(Zakiya Zuri, N. Portland resident)



"Aunt Lavinia" Wright was the first Black woman settler in Halfway, Oregon. The Exclusion Laws restricted Blacks from voting, testifying in court, demanded Blacks carry proof of freedom and excluded them from living in these territories. Honoring the Black Woman was our special feature for the first week of Black History Month. Courtesy of the Oregon Historical Society.



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