

# Inspired for Positive Change

continued ▲ from Front

Having traveled outside of Portland themselves, the trio is hoping to encourage other youth to broaden their horizons, physically and spiritually, by showing them what life is like in other cities. While the Million More March is the ultimate destination, it's the conversation and sights along the way that will help make the trip memorable.

"If you don't get a chance to leave here, you don't get a chance to change. When I came back to Portland, I was a completely different person," said De Groove, a former student at Howard University. "You'll get a chance to see the spectrum of our race. You're coming back with a story to tell."

By being part of the Million More Movement, the youth will have an opportunity to feel the powerful energies put forth by African American leaders such as Minister Louis Farrakhan, Rev. Al Sharpton, and Rev. Jesse Jackson, among many others.

The young Portland leaders want kids to see an environment where black people are making positive contributions. They say part of the problem is that when people have made a difference in their lives through education and activism they tend not to "return to the hood," where they could serve as encouraging examples to others.

"We were seeing a lot of youth in our community with no role models," Friday said.

Washington said the only dif-

ference between a college graduate and a high school dropout is having respectable associations with other people. But if those people have moved elsewhere, youth don't have the needed exposure.

Another issue, they said, is the prevailing inner-city problem of being raised in a broken home.

"We come from a generation of fatherless boys — they don't have fathers to look up to. It's our responsibility to take these brothers on the block and have them use their intelligence for more than fractions," Xavier said, making reference to drug use. The issue ties into one of the fundamental messages set for Million More Movement — to be a father who takes time for his children.

Through the Portland Inspiration Project, peer mentors can help youth at a level different than what is set by traditional community leaders.

"We try to be an example for our role models," Washington said. "With this whole project, we're trying to change our thinking about each other and ourselves."

After their cross-country trip, the group has plans for park functions and working with the Boys and Girls Club. A documentary will also be created during the trip so that those who couldn't make it can view the experience.

In order to make the trip accessible to disadvantaged youth, the group needs cash donations. To help out, call 650-799-7464 or visit [www.esface.com/tour](http://www.esface.com/tour) for more information.



Tim Washington Jr. (from left), Xavier Friday and Omari De Groove are taking a group of young men to Washington, D.C. for the Million More Movement. PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

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## Ask Deanna!



Real People. Real Advice  
An advice column known for its fearless approach to reality based subjects!

intimacy. I'm ready to end the relationship because I see him as a lazy, trifling man and I'm not supporting him anymore. What do I do? --Anonymous; Los Angeles

**Dear Anonymous:**  
It's too late to call him lazy and trifling because you've already had children with him and you weren't married. You should've had warning signs before now and there's no use complaining. He's not helping you financially, emotionally or spiritually so it won't matter if you're together or not. In order to save the relationship, simply demand that your freeloader get a job and pull his load or get out.

**Dear Deanna!**  
I've fallen victim to society's double standard that pertains to dating. I'm single and have no intentions of being in a relationship because it's not on my agenda. I feel I should be able to see as many people I want without being judged. Why can men go around the world and sample everything but when women do it, we're called out of our name and everything else? --Karla; Orlando, Fla.

**Dear Deanna!**  
My best friend wants me to be a bridesmaid in her wedding. I want to decline because her future husband is cheating. He's been seeing someone else the whole time he's dated my friend. I don't want to tell her because it would break her heart but I don't want her to marry him either. Do I need to go through with the wedding to make her happy or risk the friendship by telling her? --Shannon; Omaha, Neb.

**Dear Karla:**  
A man leaves his dirt in the street but a woman takes hers home. You need to be honest and see your lifestyle for what it is. You're footloose, fancy free and aren't responsible. Women are expected to behave with morals and values when it comes to dating and life in general. If you choose otherwise, as only a foolish woman will, then you deserve all the hard knocks that come your way.

**Dear Shannon:**  
You're a lousy friend because you should be able to tell your best friend anything. You would be as guilty as the future husband if you know he's cheating but won't tell it. They're going before God with adultery on the plate and you can prevent this by being mature and doing the right thing. Pray for strength and words of wisdom as you get the facts. Tell your friend about the situation and you'll be able to sleep better at night.

**Dear Deanna!**  
My boyfriend has been a stay-at-home dad for too long. When he lost his job I was a team player committed to keeping things together. He helps with the kids, but I still cook and clean. It's been over a year and I'm tired. We argue a lot and there's no

Ask Deanna is written by Deanna M. Write Ask Deanna! Email: [askdeanna@yahoo.com](mailto:askdeanna@yahoo.com) or 264 S. LaCienega Blvd. Suite 1283 Beverly Hills, CA 90211. Website: [www.askdeanna.com](http://www.askdeanna.com)

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