

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

History in the Making

continued from A7

see, an estimated 1.8 million people, shoulder to shoulder, making up the highest recorded attendance for any event ever held in Washington, D.C.

People spanned the distance of more than two miles, from the Capitol to the Lincoln Memorial where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his "I have a Dream" speech in 1963.

The atmosphere was festive. People were singing, posing for pictures, hugging strangers and joking despite the very, very cold weather. Even though I wasn't cold, someone gave me a hand warmer and it felt good to know perfect strangers, cared about me and wanted to share what they had.

There was a star studded cast of celebrities seated directly in front of the podium- the likes of Oprah Winfrey, Muhammad Ali, Usher, Don King, Denzel Washington, Beyonce, Jay-Z, Samuel L. Jackson, Diddy, Jamie Lee Curtis, Angela Bassett and numerous

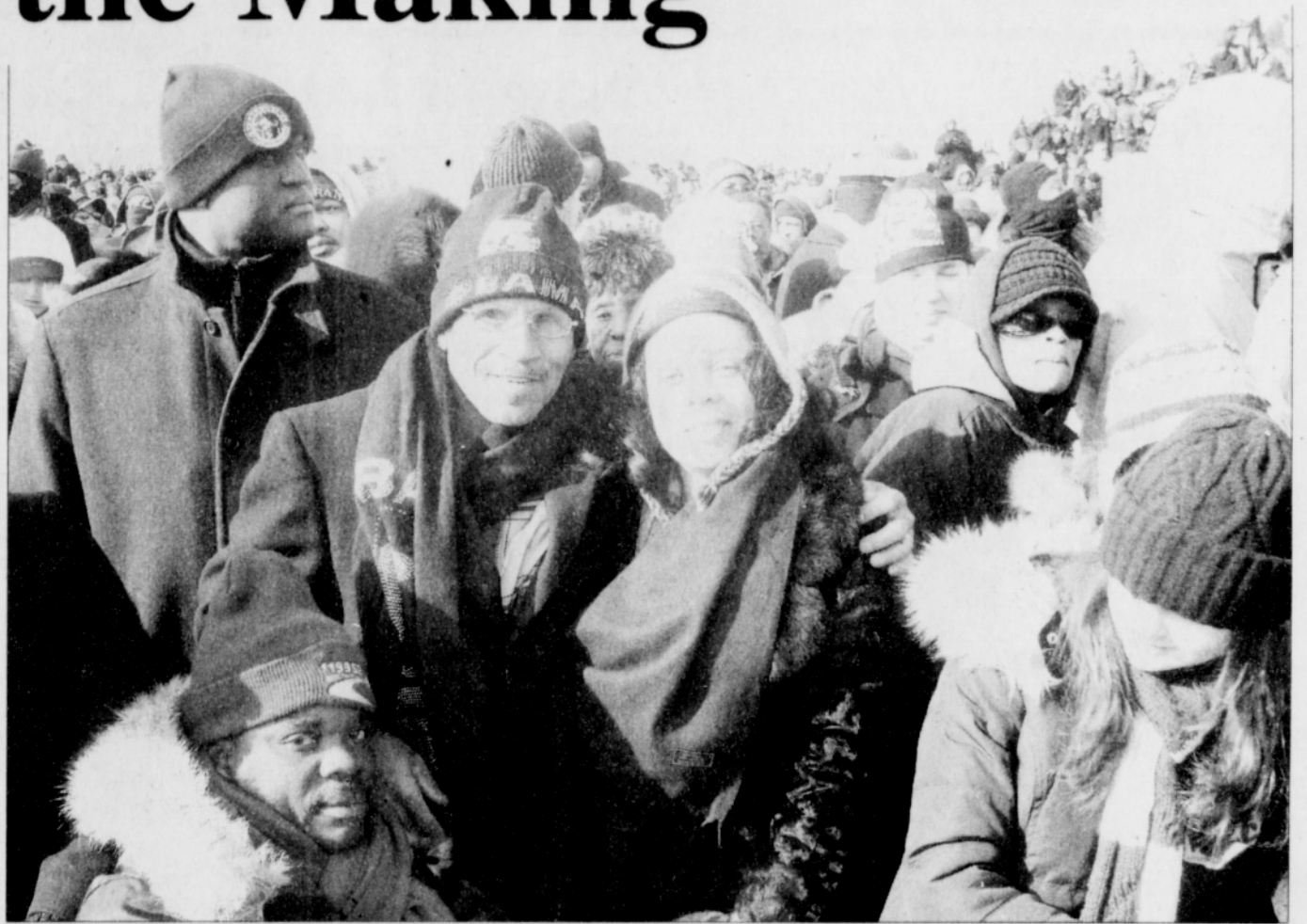
others.

The program "A New Birth of Freedom" included music by both the San Francisco Boys and Girls Chorus, the U. S. Marine and Navy Bands, Poetry readings, an instrumental composition of John Williams "Air and Simple Gifts," and the high light for me, being Aretha Franklin's rendition of "My Country 'Tis of Thee."

These were followed by the introduction of the Supreme Court, past Presidents, other dignitaries, the families of Vice President-elect Joe Biden and President-elect Obama, and the Obama Cabinet nominees.

Finally, Barack Hussein Obama took the oath of office as the 44th President of the United States of America.

President Obama, the son of an African from Kenya and a European-American from Kansas, whose family once depended on food stamps, but who graduated from Harvard Law School. How great is that? It's a promise fulfilled.



Former Portland NAACP Chapter president Skip Osborne and his wife (center), were among the nearly two million people who crowded into the nation's capitol for the inauguration of President Barack Obama, the first black president.

Coalition Leader Takes Reins

The Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods board has promoted Paige Coleman from its acting executive director to the job permanently.

Coleman, former volunteer chair of the Boise Neighborhood Association and a delegate to the NECN board, took on the paid position last July on a six-month contract, which was later extended.



Paige Coleman

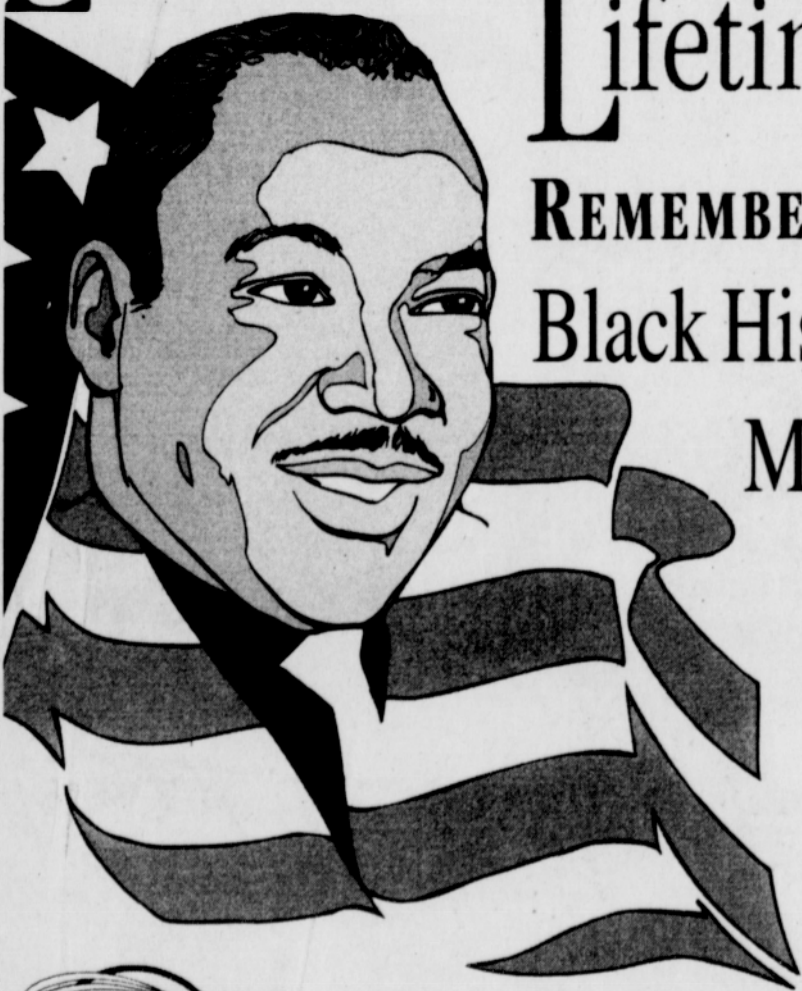
The board had originally intended to conduct an open hiring process, but withdrew the process last month. The matter was discussed at length in two executive sessions.

Coleman replaces Paul Lipscom who held the job as a temporary replacement after Joseph Santos-Lyons lost the job a no-confidence vote earlier in 2008.

Chase & Weil, LLP Salutes Black History Month

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