

Angelou: Work of America Unfinished

Poet says young people have a charge to keep

(AP) — Author and activist Maya Angelou hopes for a time when Black History Month will no longer be needed to explain the contributions of African-Americans.

"We want to reach a time when there won't be Black History Month, when black history will be so integrated into American history that we study it along with every other history," she said in an interview last week from her home in Winston-Salem, N.C. "That's the hope, and we have to continue to work until that is true, until that becomes a fact."

In the meantime, she said, she will continue to put the history out there.

Angelou is hosting an hour-long syndicated radio special on the civil rights era that will air throughout this month on about 200 public radio stations across the country.

Angelou, 83, said she hopes the program sends a message that "the work of making our country more than it is today" is unfinished.

"Our work still remains and we have to do the best we can do," she said. "The young people have a charge to keep, they have responsibility and some don't know that, or maybe some have heard it but don't recognize it."

The program details Rep. John Lewis' work as a Freedom Rider, author Nikky Finney's tribute to late civil rights activist Rosa Parks, Andrew Young's rise from small-town pastor to ambassador and Julianne Malveaux's involvement with the Black Panther movement in her youth.

Mary J. Blige, younger than Angelou's other guests, speaks of how she was inspired by female civil rights figures Coretta Scott King, Ruby Dee and Angelou herself.

"She's just as charming as I would wish for a daughter of mine to be and just as dedicated to her field, and to be the best she



Maya Angelou at the BET Honors ceremony on Jan. 14 in Washington, D.C.

can be," Angelou said of the singer. "Young people fascinate me, so I try to stay in current with what they're doing and what they're saying."

Angelou, who has authored more than 30 books and earned three Grammys for the spoken word, recently was presented with the BET Honors Literary

Arts Award by first lady Michelle Obama and entertainers Cicely Tyson, Queen Latifah, Jill Scott and Willow Smith. The awards show will air on Black Entertainment Television on Monday, Feb. 13.

"My heart almost burst when Mrs. Obama came out and spoke so highly of my work and what it had meant to her and President Obama over the years," Angelou said.

The famed poet also quelled controversy after she expressed her disappointment in rapper Common using profanity, namely the n-word, and the b-word in reference to women, on his current album released in December, which features Angelou on the intro "The Dreamer."

Angelou says she doesn't support use of those words, but she still respects the rapper.

"I said I'm disappointed, but on the other hand, he's a fine artist and a good man as far as I can see," she said.

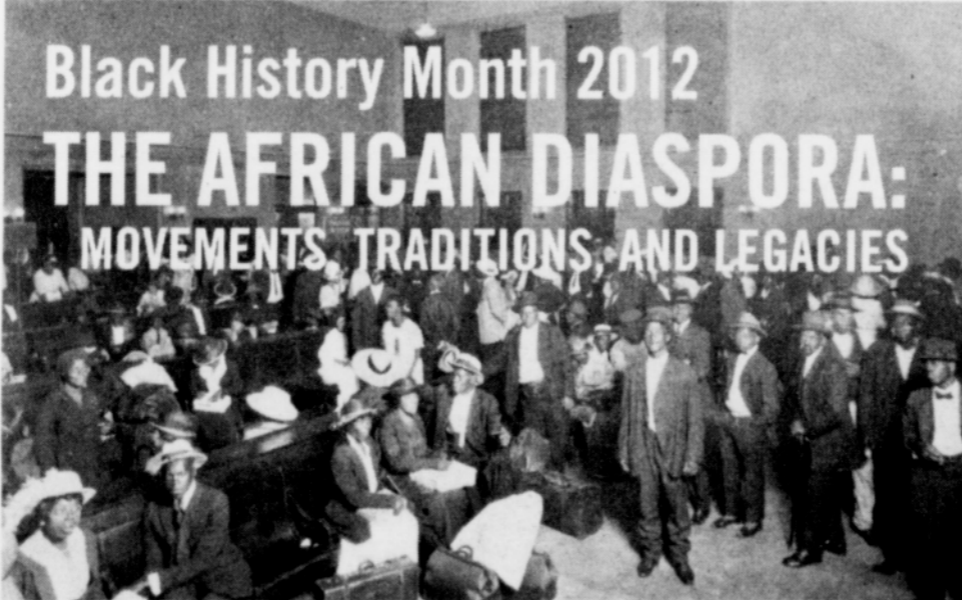
"So he uses the word this week. Maybe next week he won't, and I'll be smiling widely."



Black History Month programming at Reed is developed and cosponsored by the Multicultural Enrichment Committee and the Office for Institutional Diversity.

All events are free and open to the public.

www.reed.edu/bhm/



Segregated waiting room at railroad depot, Jacksonville, Florida, 1921, from State Archives of Florida.



JAZZ PERFORMANCE: "Double Legacy Project"
DARRELL GRANT

The internationally recognized jazz pianist and composer with drummer Brian Blade, saxophonist Steve Wilson, and vibraphonist Joe Locke, in an exploration of the legacies we inherit and those we leave behind.
February 11, 8 p.m., Kaul Auditorium



LECTURE: "Race, Racism, and Discrimination in America"
CHARLES J. OGLETREE JR.

Harvard Law School's Jesse Climenko Professor of Law and author of *The Presumption of Guilt: The Arrest of Henry Louis Gates Jr. and Race, Class, and Crime in America*.
February 18, 7:30 p.m., Vollum lecture hall



LECTURE: "Obama is No King: Reflections on Presidential Politics and the Black Prophet Tradition"
GLENN C. LOURY

Brown University's Merton P. Stoltz Professor of Social Sciences and professor of economics. Cosponsored by the Walter Krause Economics Lectures fund.
February 20, 4:30 p.m., Vollum lecture hall



LECTURE: "The Warmth of Other Suns"
ISABEL WILKERSON

Professor of journalism and director of narrative nonfiction at Boston University and author of *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration*.
February 25, 7:30 p.m., Kaul Auditorium

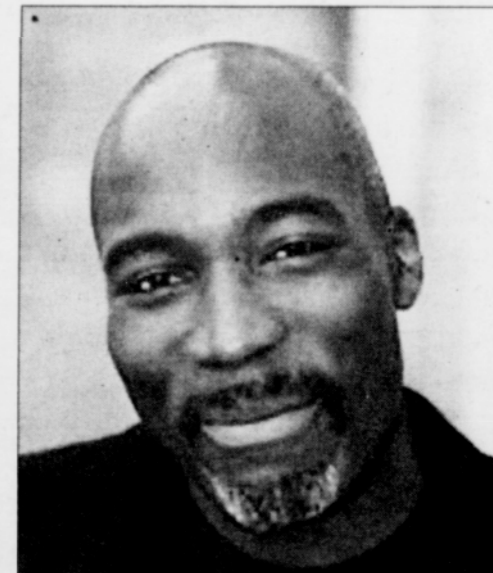
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Isabel Wilkerson



Darrell Grant

Black History Events at Reed Music, Speakers fill calendar

In honor of Black History Month, saxophonists, lawyers, award-winning authors and journalists will be part of an extraordinary line up of presentations open to the public on the campus of Reed College throughout the month of February.

Hear musician Darrell Grant and the Double Legacy Project, featuring drummer Brian Blade, New York saxophonist Steve Wilson, and vibraphonist Joe Locke when they take the stage on Saturday, Feb. 11, at 8 p.m., in Kaul Auditorium on the southeast Portland campus.

A lecture given by Charles J. Ogletree Jr., a Harvard Law School professor and author on race issues,

will draw area residents into a discussion of race, racism, and discrimination in America on Saturday, Feb. 18, at 7:30 p.m., in Vollum Lecture Hall.

Glenn C. Loury, a professor of social sciences and economics at Brown University, will lead a talk titled "Obama is No King: Reflections on Presidential Politics and the Black Prophet Tradition," on Monday, Feb. 20, at 4:30 p.m. in Vollum Lecture Hall.

To conclude the month's events, Pulitzer Prize-winning professor of journalism and director of narrative nonfiction at Boston University Isabel Wilkerson will discuss her award-winning book, *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration*. The event will be held on Saturday, Feb. 25, at 7:30 p.m., in Kaul Auditorium.