

Roosevelt High School Students Embrace Freedom

By Faye Powell
Special To *The Skanner News*

Fifty years ago on May 4, 1961, thirteen black and white, mostly young activists boarded buses in Washington, D.C., bound for New Orleans. Their mission was to challenge the segregated seating on interstate transportation that existed throughout the Deep South. They were well schooled in the philosophy and techniques of nonviolent protest and keenly aware that they risked injury, even loss of life, by their actions.

Before the end of the Freedom Rides that year, 436 individuals from all across the United States had joined the movement. The resulting scale of violence against the activists that occurred, particularly in Alabama, shocked the nation and ultimately helped break the back of racial segregation not only in public transportation but also in other areas of public accommodations.

During the month of January, a "Freedom Riders, Fighters & Writers Exhibit" created by Roosevelt High School stu-



To be a Freedom Fighter does not mean to be something extremely big or perfect... Becoming a Freedom Fighter will change lives for a better future

dents in partnership with University of Portland students and in collaboration with the traveling PBS "Freedom Riders" exhibit, will be installed for public viewing at many Portland locations, including:

North Portland Library Jan. 9-11;

Portland Community College-Cascade Campus Jan. 12-

13;
Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, 8725 N. Chautauqua Boulevard Jan. 15;

Highland Christian Center, 7600 NE Glisan Street for the Martin Luther King Day Celebration Jan. 16;

University of Portland Jan. 17-20; and

Roosevelt High School Jan. 21-24.

A formal gathering and reception honoring the participants will be held at Roosevelt High School at 7 p.m., Jan. 23.

The PBS exhibit is based on the documentary, "Freedom Riders," by filmmaker Stanley Nelson that premiered on PBS's "American Experience" May 2011.

Raymond Arsenault's book, "Freedom Riders: 1961 and the Struggle for Racial Justice," on which the film is based, is considered the definitive history of the Freedom Rides.

Roosevelt Principal Charlene Williams says, "Roosevelt High School is building a college-going culture, fueled by a dose of moral indignation. Students of color and those in

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-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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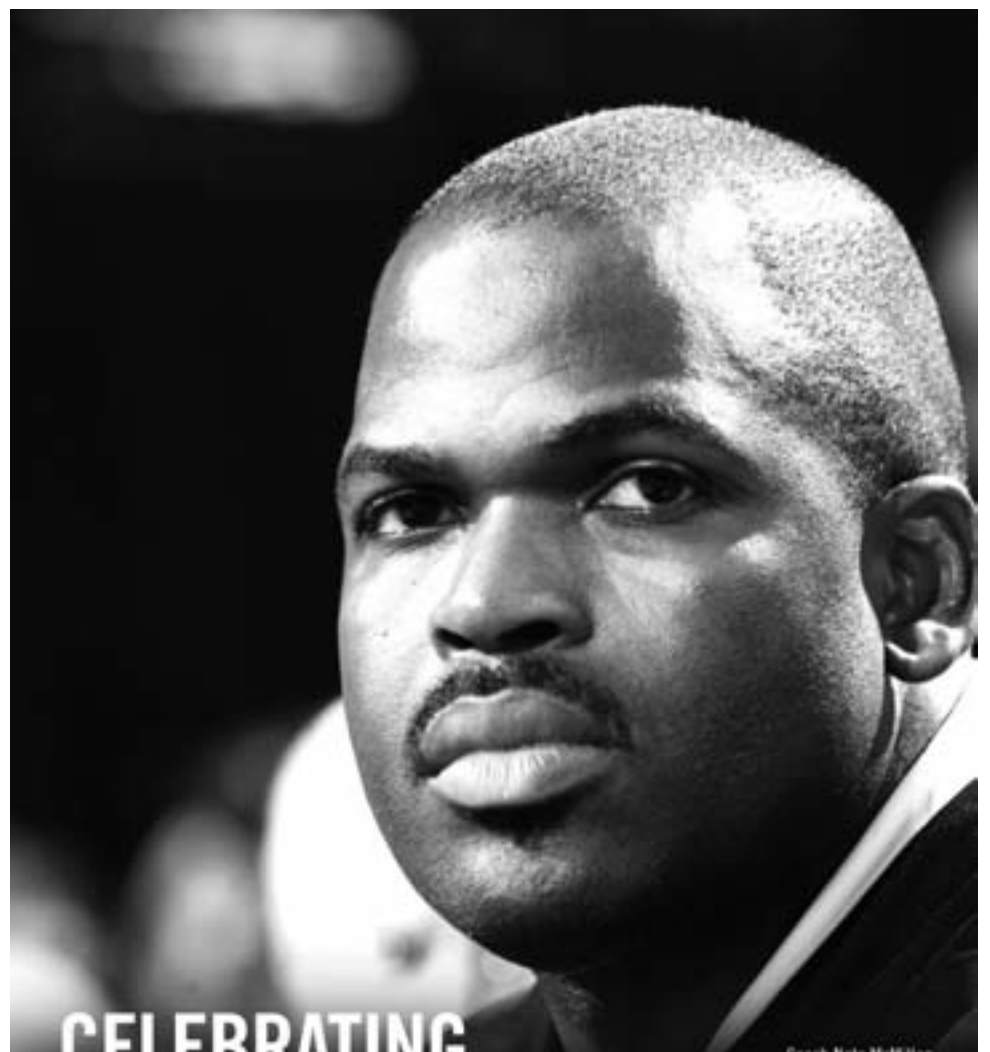
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- TRAIL BLAZERS COACH NATE McMILLAN

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