

# Black History Month

## *28 Days* -continued from p. 1

the heart and soul of a culture that is grandfather to all others; the irony is not that these feelings exist, but that many African-Americans feel impotent in the face of their occurring... not. There is not doubt that today African-Americans face perilous times, but dilemma has long been the case in America. That African-Americans have survived this trial by fire at all is a testament to our strength, courage, and ability to adapt to change. Frankly, African-Americans can rightfully lay claim to all the greatness this nation has to offer because it was acquired by the strength of our enslaved hand, furrowed brow, and whip-scarred back. Be that as it may, I would only argue that what has changed is not the African-American social/cultural circumstance, but our reaction to that circumstance.

For those who would criticize African-American History Month, know now and understand that the African-American experience is an expansive, enigmatic, ever-evolving experience that could never be relegated to a few cultural facts neatly wrapped into a tidy 28-day month. African-American History Month emphasizes this point, celebrating the greatness and true spirit of a culture that has survived the horrific genocide of the Middle Passage and social segregation of slavery to now stand strong and firm in our resolve to face the haunting realities of today's current social/cultural condition. And it is in this light that African-American History Month should be viewed.

Use this month as a starting point to reestablish the spiritual, communal, and family traditions and values that will bring closer the hand of our Brother, closer the heart of our Motherland, closer still the bosom of God. Person by person, minute by minute, day by day... 28 days and counting.

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cally represent the birthplace of Man is mindless. Further, that the African-American has been purposely and systematically targeted by the social, political, media, and economic systems of this nation to be presented and represented in a negative light is tragic. From slavery to Jim Crow to police state to Fayetteville State... need I go on? Yes."

I wrote the above passage for a reason. You see, these statements, though factual, just as quickly and easily oversimplify (as did The Observer-Times November 14, 93 article on racism at FSU) a much more complicated and involved issue; human

dynamics, my term for the interplay of Man to Man. We must understand that where there are people there will be differences, misunderstandings, confusion, hate -- human dynamics.

To say that no Euro-American has helped the African-American struggle is as asinine as saying no African-American has impeded that same struggle (ask any drug dealer); as asinine as any blatantly biased attempt to obscure FSU's rising star. It's just as easy to concentrate on the positive aspects of life; to write good and just stories about things that happen to everyday people as it is to write tabloid-style hype. Unfortunately, these stories don't make for interesting reading and do not sell papers... except at Christmas.

We've all heard the line, "Why, some of my best friends are . . ." and I suspect this statement is more fact than fancy. A good friend told me "in spite of all we try to make of our differences, we have more in common than not"; I tend to believe his assertion. "America" has created an environment where African-Americans have been forced to be cautious, defensive, and protective of any perceived or real attempts to usurp their

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