

# Black American Women

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demonstrations, and running for public office.

The schools prepared blacks to listen to people like Dr. King. According to Mrs. Clark, many blacks in the '50s and '60s thought everything white was right. After they attended the schools, they learned differently.

Mrs. Clark's grassroots approach to education has been so successful that it has been used by other countries in Europe and in Mexico. But most of all, the efforts of Mrs. Clark paved the way for the strong black electorate evident today. Recently the city of Charleston, S.C., paid homage to Mrs. Clark by naming a street "Septima Poinsette Clark Drive."

## Diane Nash-Bevel

Diane Nash, a Chicago native, arrived at Fisk University in Nashville, Tenn., in the fall of 1959.

At first she was excited about attending the historic black university. However, the walls of Southern racial segregation quickly vanquished her excitement.

In a very short time she grew tired of being able to go to only three restaurants and one movie theater.

According to her, "I started feeling boxed in and limited."

Within months Ms. Nash began attending workshops on how to conduct nonviolent demonstrations against Jim Crow. In the spring of 1960 the student sit-in protests against segregated lunch counters began in Nashville. Ms. Nash found herself deeply involved in protest activities, despite her earlier claims that she would not go to jail because she was afraid.

Soon, Ms. Nash became a major leader of the student protest movement in Nashville. In fact, she became the chairman of the Central Committee, which was the leadership organ of the movement. In this capacity Nash led demonstrations and spent time in jail as a result.

During this era Fisk administrators were opposed to students participating in sit-ins. They believed it was not the proper thing for a Fisk woman to do. Yet, Fisk administrators were not

straightforward because earlier they had taken a pro-sit-in position in an interview with *Jet Magazine*.

Nevertheless, a Fisk dean approached Nash, informing her that if she did not desist from her protest activities, she was going to be expelled from school.

Ms. Nash responded, "I said, you go right ahead, and I'll go straight to *Jet Magazine*, and tell them what you did." The Nashville sit-in movement continued its protest and was able to desegregate Nashville's lunch counters. Ms. Nash remained in the forefront of that struggle.

Ms. Nash went on to become one of the founders of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. She was also the guiding force behind the continuation of the 1961 freedom rides after the initial riders had been severely beaten in Birmingham, Ala.

Her courage and leadership ability set an example for those in the movement. Howard Zinn wrote, "When students were being cross-examined at the trials that followed the Nashville

demonstrations, one of the standard questions was: 'Do you know Diane Nash?' Friendship with her was apparently full of perils."

Ms. Nash was a groundbreaker and a pacesetter.

## Today's Challenge

Black women activists of the civil rights movement served as role models for blacks and whites alike. The assertiveness, determination and leadership stance of black women shattered the image that women were supposed to be passive and fragile.

Many of the white women who organized the modern women's movement had been exposed to these strong, multi-faceted black women and the possibilities they represented.

Today we can learn from the legacy provided by black women during the civil rights movement. By looking back, black women today can learn lessons, and they can continue to provide the creative leadership so desperately needed in our communities at this juncture in history.

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Feb. 5, Wed.	3 Hours	DOS Hard Disk	9 am-12 pm	\$50
Feb. 6, Thu.	3 Hours	Introduction to dBase III	2 pm-5 pm	\$50
Feb. 10, Mon.	3 Hours	Intermediate dBase III	2 pm-5 pm	\$50
Feb. 11, Tue.	3 Hours	Introduction to Lotus 1-2-3	9 am-11 pm	\$50
Feb. 11, Tue.	3 Hours	Symphony for 1-2-3 Users	2 pm-5 pm	\$50
Feb. 13, Thu.	3 Hours	Introduction to Lotus 1-2-3	2 pm-5 pm	\$50
Feb. 18, Tue.	3 Hours	Intermediate Lotus 1-2-3	9 am-12 pm	\$50
Feb. 18, Tue.	3 Hours	Lotus Report Writer	2 pm-5 pm	\$50
Feb. 20, Thu.	3 Hours	Intermediate Lotus 1-2-3	2 pm-5 pm	\$50

\* Custom Classes tailored to your specifications are available. To register for any of the above classes, and for future class date schedules, contact



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## \$10,000 raised

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pleasing because it represents a corporate effort. People of good will, black and white, from all over the city contributed to it."

The Rev. Carlton A.G. Eversley, a member of the Conference and the Hunt Defense Committee, said the success of the program and the fund-raising effort is far-reaching.

"I'd say it was an overwhelming success," Eversley said. "It was unprecedented. Jesse Jackson had 1,000 more people and raised about the same amount of money or less when he came here in 1984 (during his presidential campaign). Dr. Drayton (pastor of New Bethel Baptist Church) said the only rallies to compare with it were a 1955 rally in support of the Mon-

tgomery Bus Boycott and a rally during the 60s when Dr. King came here.

"But I think it was more than that," he said. "I believe it was a reassertion of black church leadership in this city. It was unprecedented and portends great things in the future."

Eversley said the money will all but retire a \$14,000 debt in lawyers' fees. He added, however, that the Defense Fund will sponsor ongoing fundraising efforts.

Stennis said the Ministers' Conference will continue to sponsor the program each year in the memory of Dr. King. "We're looking forward to next year, and hope we can do something just as meaningful," he said.

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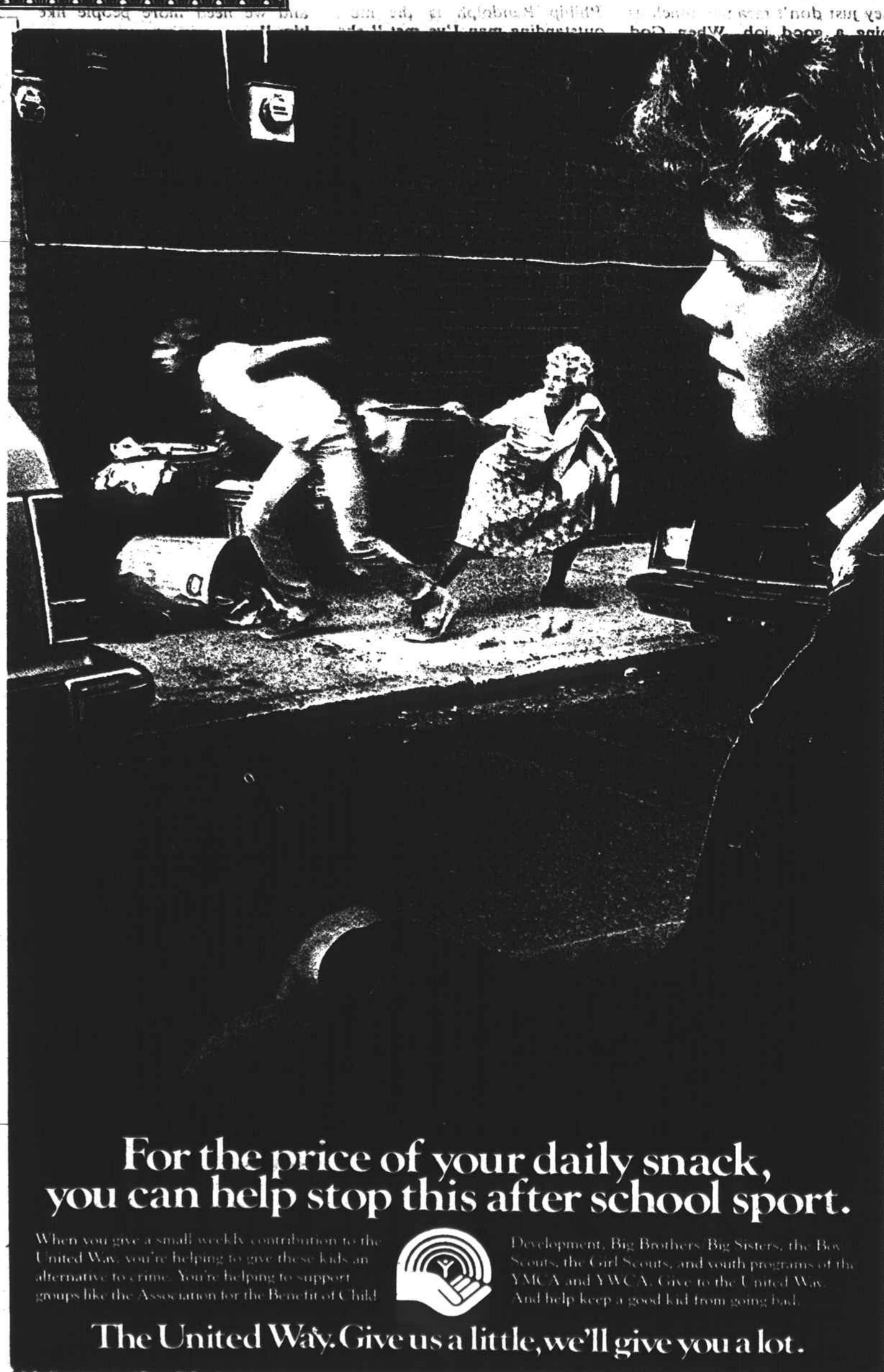
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