

Malcolm X commemoration May 17

▲ After 21 years, National Malcolm X Day still urges youth to learn meaning of X

In the year before the premiere of his latest movie, Spike Lee did a laudable job in sparking new and renewed interest in the life and legacy of Malcolm X, especially among the youth. In light of that, May 17, 1992 will mark a significant commemoration in Washington, D.C.: the twenty-first Annual National Malcolm X Day Celebration.

Malcolm X Week begins May 8, 1992 and ends on May 17 in Anacostia Park in Washington, D.C. with the National Commemoration of Malcolm X Day Celebration. Begun in 1971 to honor and celebrate the life and legacy of El Hajj Malik El Shabazz, the celebration was

first established in the nation's capitol as a pre-rally to the first African Liberation Day Celebration.

The celebration is geared toward young people and the African-American community, in an effort to share important information regarding the plight of minorities in this country. Malcolm X Day continues after twenty-one years to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Malcolm X.

From the beginning, the event has featured speakers, seminars and entertainment. More recently the committee has worked closely with gogo bands and rappers as a means of incorporating and capturing the atten-

tion of our youth.

African-American leaders such as Dr. Betty Shabazz, Malcolm's wife and his daughter, Attallah Shabazz, in addition to his brothers Robert and Wilford Little, and Bobby Seale, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sonia Sanchez, Kwame Toure, Dr. Calvin W. Rolark, and more have participated in this event.

Despite the increasing costs of yearly production, the committee has always received funding from the United Black Fund, the first agency to support Malcolm X Day.

"(The purpose of Malcolm X Day) is rather significant," said Dr. Rolark, president and founder of the United Black

Fund, "with the proliferation of young blacks killing blacks, and young blacks being incarcerated but not understanding what Malcolm did. He went to jail, but he used his incarceration as an education . . . and education, not incarceration, is the key." United Black Fund's steadfast support for the past twenty years has made it possible for us to get funding from the D.C. Commission on the Arts, and the Mayor's Committee to promote Washington, D.C. without whose support it would be impossible to promote this national celebration.

For more information on the 21st Annual National Malcolm X Day Celebration call (202) 543-3939.

Yahweh defends teachings against racism

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — A religious sect leader charged with murder conspiracy in the deaths of 14 people testified Wednesday that his teachings are not intended to inspire hatred — especially racial hatred of "white devils."

The white-robed Yahweh Ben Yahweh, who says he is the son of God, is on trial in federal court in Fort Lauderdale with 15 members of his group for murders prosecutors say were intended to further his religious empire.

The defendants are charged in the deaths of both whites and blacks during a five-year period in the early 1980s, former sect members and others who had run afoul of the Yahweh sect.

Yahweh, 51, said he never intended his teachings to inspire violence. He has repeatedly denied involvement in any of the killings and the 1986 firebombing of a Delray Beach neighborhood.

"I feel remorseful about anyone who has lost his life," Yahweh testified Wednesday. "I feel

especially sorry for the families. When I entered the military, I chose to go into the Air Force so I wouldn't have to kill anyone. As a prince of peace, I look for peace on this earth for all people."

The testimony came in the fourth month of the murder conspiracy and racketeering trial of Yahweh, born Hulon Mitchell Jr., and his followers.

One murder Yahweh was questioned about was the 1986 death of a man who allegedly harassed one of his followers.

Prosecutors questioned him about the death of Cecil Branch, a black man who allegedly harassed a female member of the sect and later was found dead with an ear missing.

Yahweh said the woman had told him she was harassed, but he has gotten used to such complaints.

"It happens all the time," he said.

Under cross-examination, Yahweh defended his teachings, including literature about the evils of "white devils" and warn-

ings about natural disasters that will fall upon non-believers.

He said he doesn't advocate hatred of whites, but noted that blacks have to be aware of history.

"We have a peculiar history in America," he said. "One hundred million of us were captured for slavery, 96 million were killed."

"After being in America, we were hung on trees, roasted on a fire like a hot dog, pregnant women were hung upside down, their bellies cut open and their heads bashed against trees."

He said when Jews talk about the Holocaust, their anger is not called racial hatred.

On Tuesday, Yahweh reminded jurors that he is the son of God.

Yahweh's attorney, Alcee Hastings, said whatever he calls himself should have no bearing on the case.

"The fact that he is calling himself the celestial and imperial potentate — a lot of people have called themselves a lot of things," Hastings said.

"I think the jury is going to want to know: did he conspire to commit murder? They aren't going to give one whit about who he claims he is," Hastings said.

Yahweh said he has followers across the country and in Africa and the Caribbean and noted they were a peace-loving people.

Earlier in the week, a defense witness calling Yahweh's main accuser, former follower Robert Rozier, a liar and manipulator.

Ralph DeLoach, who played football with Rozier at the University of California at Berkeley, said Rozier often boasted of taking advantage of people.

Rozier testified in February that Yahweh directed him and others to kill "white devils" to avenge perceived wrongs by whites against blacks.

Hastings said he may call up to 53 potential witnesses and the trial is expected to last several more weeks.

Black students form statewide coalition to fight against racism

DETROIT (AP) — A group of black college students who formed a statewide coalition to battle race problems say they'll seek help from Gov. John Engler.

The Michigan African Student Coalition will ask for a state investigation on race-related practices and responses to racial incidents, organizers told reporters at Wayne State University on Monday.

"Since we have the same concerns, if we unify to address these problems, I think it will be more effective," said Chaunci Wyche, a senior at Oakland University.

The group also will ask schools to boost their numbers

of black teachers and administrators and to strengthen policies against racial violence. The students want more programs that focus on black students' needs.

Engler will examine the group's proposal when it arrives, a gubernatorial spokesman said.

The coalition includes students from the University of Detroit Mercy, the University of Michigan, Olivet College, Oakland University and Wayne State University. It will help students at schools with racial tensions, such as Olivet College, Oakland University and Detroit Mercy, students said.

At Olivet earlier this month, a brawl between about 70 black

and white students prompted most of the 50 black students to leave campus, saying they feared for their safety.

"The Michigan African Student Coalition plans to be alert, aware and swift to action in dealing with the problems of African students," said coalition spokesman Henry Henderson, a senior at Olivet College. "We plan to actively go to any campus or university to rectify an unjust situation."

At Wayne State, there haven't been recent instances of racial unrest, but sophomore Eddie Allen Jr. said black unity was important.

"It could happen tomorrow," he said.

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Week of April 26, 1992

ARIES (3/21 - 4/19):
Someone will see your boyish enthusiasm as an inspiration, not a deterrent. You may find that new regulations will cramp your style. Adhere or escape.

TAURUS (4/20 - 5/20):
Put troubling thoughts aside by seeking humorous entertainment, perhaps a comedienne or a no-brainer movie. Manage affairs with careful eye toward detail.

GEMINI (5/21 - 6/20):
Your work and efforts will not only be noticed but will make significant impact. People will wonder what they ever did without you!

CANCER (6/21 - 7/22):
Someone will put a stop sign in your path. Take your time, know your direction, and proceed with caution. You will find great satisfaction in relationship. Mate will seem ideal.

LEO (7/23 - 8/22):
Look at all available detail before making important decision. You have an accurate notion of your worth and talents. Don't exceed them, but use them to their fullest potential.

VIRGO (8/23 - 9/22):
Realize that you would not have gotten to where you are now without help. Recognize those who influenced your career, personal achievements, and future.

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LIBRA (9/23 - 10/22):
Don't let your intentions become blurred. Pay particular attention to your own appearance before making proposal. Controversial opinion may meet with approval.

SCORPIO (10/23 - 11/21):
Exceed know limits. Be outrageous. The genuinely interesting person whom you have met may be wearing a mask. Careful questioning and delving can slowly reveal the true person.

SAGITTARIUS (11/22 - 12/21):
If you have been showing a poor head for business, let others handle the finances and plans. Concentrate on what you do best. Taurus person is watching you.

CAPRICORN (12/22 - 1/19):
The more you extend a hand, the tighter it will be grabbed. The more you do, the more you will be needed. Your potential is incalculable. Explore it, utilize it.

AQUARIUS (1/20 - 2/18):
Be careful not to overact about situation regarding clashing personalities. It may dawn on you that you have more than just professional regard for an associate.

PISCES (2/19 - 3/20):
You will have an attraction for someone with a taste for the exotic. Beware of sibling rivalry that has followed you through childhood. Act like grown-ups.