

PUBLISHER Ernest H. Pitt

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THOMAS WILLIAMS, CAROL DANIEL, MIKE PITT**IN OUR SCHOOLS****In the Spirit of Rosa Parks**

This is an original piece by Tameka Jones adopting the persona of Mrs. Rosa Parks when she refused to give up her seat.

Rosa Parks: God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; Corinthians 1:27. You know, life has been a challenge for me since the day I was born. I believe it was a Thursday evening, December 1, 1955 when I decided not to be a victim of the black struggle. So, after I'd been shopping and working as a seamstress in a downtown department store all day, I had been some kind of tired. Well, on my way home, I boarded the bus and went back to the colored section where only Negro men and women were allowed to sit. Then, a white man boarded the bus. He came towards me and told me to get out of my seat! Well, I looked at him and stayed right where I was. You see, I was too tired to move and I was also tired of being pushed aside because of the color of my skin, tired of being a "nigga" and "darky," tired I tell ya! So, they arrested me and put me in jail, but I am here to tell ya, no Jim Crow laws could rob me of my dignity, or my essence as a human being. After I spent a few unfair hours in jail, I was released on a bond paid by local

civil right leaders and given a trial date of December 5, 1955. But, glory to God there was a man by the name of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. that helped form

**TAMEKA JONES**

Carver High School

the Montgomery Improvement Association. We marched on many long roads and boycotted the segregated busing and other segregated public facilities in Montgomery, Alabama.

After waiting with hope and eagerness to be treated equal, three hundred and eighty one days later, the boycott and the long walk to freedom brought the abolition of segregated busing and public facilities. I was the "common" black woman in tune with the struggle of my people and with the help of God we as a people have come a long way and still have a long way to go. But in this day we can scream and shout that we shall overcome!

Famous Black Quotes

That man over there says that women need to be helped into carriages, and lifted over ditches, and to have the best place everywhere. Nobody ever helps me into carriages, or over mud puddles, or gives me any best place! And ain't I a women?

Sojourner Truth

Black women are not here to compete or fight with you, brothers. If we have hang-ups about being male or female, we're not going to be able to use our talents to liberate all of our black people.

Shirley Chisholm

I am convinced that the black man will only reach his full potential when he learns to draw upon the strengths and insights of the black woman.

Manning Marable

America doesn't respect anything but money. . . What our people need is a few millionaires.

Madame C.J. Walker

Too many of us are hung up on what we don't have, we can't have, or won't ever have. We spend too much energy being down, when we could use that same energy — if not less of it — doing, or at least trying to do, some of the things we really want to do

Terry McMillan

Next to God we are indebted to women, first for life itself, and then for making it worth living.

Mary McLeod Bethune

On the Cover :(top left)The Mohotela Super Queens entertain at FESPACO '95 closing ceremony (below)Cheick Oumar Sissoko receives the Etalon from President Compaore (right)Roc Marc Christine Kabore Prime Minister of Faso delivering the opening address.

*(see related story page 6)***Our History: A Journey to the Motherland**

(Phi Omega Inc./Phi Omega Chapter Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority held a SAT/Tutorial Program Essay Contest students were asked to write an essay on the topic "Why it is Important to know Black History and African Heritage")

I believe African-Americans should be proud of our heritage. Being African is nothing to be ashamed of. My roots are in Africa, but I learned to identify with this part of my heritage when my mother and I visited the powerful continent of Africa.

Last summer, I had the opportunity to visit Benin

**SHARNELL COLLINS**

Atkins Middle School

City, Nigeria. My mother, Bobbie Collins, made this possible, and I am very grateful to her for this experience. I learned to be proud of my heritage through first-hand experience. When my feet touched that dark, rich soil where my ancestors walked, I felt at home. My body felt weightless. The feeling was so awesome, words cannot express it. I knew that I belonged here.

Being in Africa was the most blessed place the

Lord could have made possible for my mother and I to visit. The airline company that served us is African owned and operated. It was so fascinating to see so many African people in positions of authority. Also, the clothes the people wore were so beautiful. The colors and patterns in the cloth were strong like the sun.

I learned a great deal about Nigeria through hands-on experience. The official name of the country we visited is the republic of Nigeria, and the capital is Lagos. The spoken language is English along with the local languages. Nigerian exports are peanuts, peanut oil and agricultural products. Dancing and enjoying music are popular pastimes. Many of them perform in costumes.

Today more than 4,000,000 Nigerian children go to school. I met very wealthy Africans and those who were of low estate.

I am very grateful for the opportunity to cross the Middle Passage back to Africa as a free person. I was able to see what I have read about in books. Our United States have been fashioned by the contributions of African-Americans. I am proud to be named among this great heritage. In the armed forces, medicine, law, religion, sociology, philosophy, politics, agriculture, education and business, African-Americans have had a hand in making this nation what it is today.

Free School," operated in New York City.

•1830 — 3,777 Blacks owned slaves, according to a national census report.

•1930 — The New York Times began capitalizing "n" in the word Negro.

•1938 — The U.S. Supreme Court declared that all states must provide equal education facilities.

•1954 — Segregation in the public schools was ruled unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Did You Know. . .

•1540 — The Second settler in Alabama was Black. He accompanied De Soto's expedition.

•1758 — The first black college graduate in the Western Hemisphere was Frances Williams.

•1773 — The first black baptist church was organized by George Leile in Savannah, Georgia.

•1787 — The first free school, "The African