



Fatima Maxton
...Where you are



Melanie Ivey
...Learn about ancestors



Nathan Sutton
...Changed the world



David Ivester
...Know whom to thank



Sergio Miranda
...In the same boat



Yvondra Curry
...What they did

Opinions At CMS School

Middle School Students Tell Why Black History Should Be Studied

by Audrey C. Lodato
Post Staff Writer

Once again Black History Month is upon us. Various events will be taking place in the community to celebrate and commemorate black heritage. Awareness of black history should not, however, be confined to one 28-day period each year.

We decided to ask school children why they think it is important to study black history. Although, as sixth graders, these students have not attended classes in black history, Spauld Middle School does incorporate black history into other learning experiences and programs.

The question put to the students was, "Why is it important to study

black history?" Their answers were as follows:

●MELANIE IVEY, of Whitehall Drive, expressed the opinion that knowledge of the past is important. "I think it's important to study black history so you can learn about your ancestors and what they did for your country," she replied.

●FATIMA MAXTON lives on Capitol drive. She sees a connection between the past and the present. According to Fatima, the study of black history is important "because it tells you what your ancestors had to do in order for you to get where you are today. Also so you will know what they did and when they did it."

●NATHAN SUTTON of Scalebark Road sees the importance of studying black history in the effects of change in the world. "To learn about the people who changed the world that we live in and find out what it used to be like before they changed it," is how he expressed his opinion.

●DAVID IVESTER resides on Forestbrook Drive. Thankfulness was an element of importance to him. "I think it's important to study black history so you know whom to thank for being able to choose friends of whatever race we want and for everybody being equal," he declared.

●SERGIO MIRANDA is a resident of Whitehall Drive. His opinion had an added dimension to it. "I think studying black history - what they did and how they did it - is important because I'd probably be in the same boat, without good schools, a job, and things I have now," he commented.

●YVONDRA CURRY, of Columbus Circle, thinks motivation is an important factor to learn about.

"Learning about black history is important so you can learn why people did what they did a long time ago, what the problems were, and why they did it."

Threat Of Nuclear War Hovers Around Us Daily

By Jalyne Strong
Post Staff Writer

Apathy: the condition of being listless with lack of interest, concern or emotion. It is a word used often these days.

And into this atmosphere of apathy that has encompassed us comes the threat of nuclear war. Destruction of the world as we know it. The threat hovers around us every day. We hear about it on television, the radio, and read about it in newspapers. The information concerns MX missiles, the arms race, no-nukes protesters, and children writing letters to the President and Russia, pleading with the superpowers not to start the war.

Children, studies have revealed, list nuclear war among their top three worries. Their fear is there will be no future for them.

However, many adults remain apathetic. They contend, they must deal in the here and now. But it is now that President Reagan and Russia are adding to and expanding their nuclear warheads. It is here, in America, that the country is erecting defense systems. Presently, there is ongoing preparation for the nuclear war.

For example, reported in a Reader's Digest article titled, "Reducing the Risk of Nuclear War," U.S. intelligence satellites orbiting Russia spotted an enormous new radar, called a phased array, in south-central Siberia. This radar, the articles go on to say, "can manage a battle involving ballistic missiles, it can single out warheads, ascertain their destinations, calculate the (paths) the warheads must follow to reach them, and deliver all of this information to appropriate local battle-management systems." If that is not preparation, what is?

The article proceeds to go in depth and very technically into this fact. Interestingly the article reveals about the U.S., "In January, 1982, the Bendetsen panel urged a dramatic change in our existing strategic policy of mutual assured destruction or MAD. The policy has long bound us to the destruction of Soviet cities and the killing of millions of civilians in response to nuclear attack.

The article goes on and on about this dilemma, using phrases such as "nuclear blackmail," "awful offensive weapons," and "the security and safety of Americans."

While all these serious concerns

are being discussed by our government, military and defense people, we remain apathetic. The children are afraid but most adults are not. Adults feel assured that the U.S. can handle anything. "We are building defense units, right? No need to worry or be concerned," we conclude.

However, also reported in the Reader's Digest article, "...we can't build a perfect defense; no one will ever be able to build a perfect weapon system. If Moscow were to launch a full-scale attack against us, some missiles likely would get through."

The devastating effects of nuclear war are numerous and horrible. The initial impact of a nuclear missile will cause all-consuming fires that are capable of destroying everything within approximately a 25 mile radius. The death toll will immediately be in the millions. Following the blast, radiation dust will cause any survivors to suffer radiation burns. It will also cause hair to fall out, leukemia, and cancers among those who are still left alive. Radiation will contaminate food supplies and water supplies. People who do not die from disease will die from starvation. The death toll will further increase. The effects of nuclear war will also affect the atmosphere resulting in what is termed as nuclear winter. Temperatures will plummet to subzero. People will die from exposure. The death toll will seem unending.

With extensive preparation going on in both the U.S. and Russia, these nations appear to be promising a nuclear war. How can we still remain apathetic to such a mean fate?

Possibly because we are only interested in getting bread and butter for today. Or, maybe we feel safe that somehow we will escape the devastation. Still, we may think that the nuclear war will not occur in our lifetime.

We may even excuse ourselves by saying we are reflecting the attitude of the U.S. and Russia. They certainly appear to be apathetic towards the destruction of the world. And just as they are preparing for the nuclear war, our being unconcerned, emotionless and uninterested is a sort of preparation for the war also.

For after the war, we definitely will not have to care about anything.

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