

Dr. Dawkins Believes

Black People Have Not Been Properly Recognized

By Karen Parker
Post Staff Writer

When Dr. Rosamuel Dawkins wrote his term paper in medical school, he steered from the traditional topics such as the latest discovery in medicine or one of the most popular physicians ever to exist.

He wrote about blacks in medicine who were never known by anything but Simon and Cezar. "The earliest practices of medicine began in Africa, and people like Simon and Cezar prepared a rich feast of ideas and practices in medicine," Dawkins claimed.

As he pointed out in his research paper, it's unfortunate while Simon and Cezar were significant in the preparation of the medical feast, they were never "allowed to eat at the table and benefit from their contributions."

Dawkins has been selected as an achiever for The Charlotte Post black history issue. Not only in medicine, but in every profession, Dawkins believes blacks have not been properly recognized for their contributions to society.

"In spite of the way we (blacks) came to America and in spite of our suppression inherent by slavery, we have contributed to music, science, literature, politics and more," Dawkins insisted. "This needs to be written in the history books and taught to people, so if for no other reason, it will serve as a point of inspiration to our present generation."

Since black history can't be found in the average reference materials, Dawkins believes "the whole gamut—everything in black achievement—should be taught in the home."

"I don't blame the public school system entirely," Dawkins admitted. "Blame begins in the home. As John Hope Franklin once stated, 'I put blame for children's lack of knowledge of black history in the home. Don't leave it up to the school system.'"

"All indications reveal black men discovered the American continent long before Columbus sailed the ocean blue in 1492," Dawkins pointed out. He added, "Columbus just left his family here."

These are the kinds of facts which Dawkins believes no one should grow up not knowing, even if they're not taught in school.

Dawkins, a medical doctor and surgeon, completed his fellowship training at



Dr. Rosamuel Dawkins
Medical doctor and surgeon

Howard University. He received his bachelor of science degree at North Carolina Central University, and was an intern at Harlem Hospital Center. He also attended Bowman Gray School of Medicine and Kalamazoo Medical School.

Dawkins and his wife, Hazel, spend hours of their time in their home reading from their collection of black history books. Reading about black history is leisure reading for him. He is a member of the Book of the Month Club and the Barnes-Noble Book Club. "The rare black history books, I get from the Afro-Caribbean Book Club located in Charlotte."

"One day I'd like to own the largest collection of black history books," Dawkins revealed. His favorite book is "Before the Mayflower," by Lerone Bennett, and his favorite story is about Harriet Tubman, also written by Bennett.

The Dawkins' have one son, Rosamuel, III, and they have already pledged to teach him history with no deletion of blacks' participation.

Dawkins' personal role in black history, especially in Charlotte, is already taking hold. He has moved his medical practice to the heart of the Charlotte black community on Beatties Ford Road. The new site is the Northwest Medical Surgical Associates Building.

Other doctors housed in the new medical center are

Francis Ozim and Victor Olowofuyeku, both of Nigeria. According to Dawkins, the medical center will eventually include a pharmacy and other medically oriented services.

When Dawkins first decided to open his business closer to the community which he serves, he re-

ceived support from black doctors already established in the area. "Drs. E. L. Rann and Spence Durante have practices on Beatties Ford Road, but they supported my efforts," Dawkins stressed.

From the onset, he knew he wanted to solve as many problems as possible in the development. "I made a concerted effort to get as many blacks involved as I could," Dawkins remarked. He named them one by one: Arch Architects; Sterling Chavis (General contractor); Sam Jones Electrical Contractor; Sylvester Lee (sheet-rock finishers); David Colbert (painter); Michael Cuthbertson (marble and tile); Charlie Caldwell (brickmason); Green Brothers Flooring Co.; Howie Asphalt & Paving and Contractors Mechanical Heating and Air Conditioning.

Dawkins said he is pleased to be located in an area which blacks work in and control. These are the kind of active efforts which Dawkins described as significant in noting history.

Black history needs to be taught in the homes on a daily basis, in the churches on a weekly basis, and certainly on a national scale. He feels that history books need to be rewritten "with the proper perspective."

So, while Dawkins ap-

preciates the awareness which Black History Month sparks, he is hopeful more attention will be devoted to the topic as an everyday lesson.

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