

I have been on these grounds many times. Usually we are protesting. But we're not protesting today. We are facing our own problems and mobilizing our own people to build on the strengths of Black families to deal with them.... We are not denying the problems nor evading them. But we want people to know that we have traditional values. We have a cultural base. We have survived.... We have to develop a more caring community based on our own strengths.

To open Celebration Weekend, sponsors and patrons of the 1986 Black Family Reunion were treated to the gala reception and performance by African dancers hosted by Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc., and the Smithsonian Institution. Over 1,500 sponsors and patrons attended this special evening. For their generous support and encouragement, the NCNW presented replicas of the Bethune statue to Mayor Marion Barry and the government of the District of Columbia, to Secretary Adams of the Smithsonian Institution, to Robert Stanton of the National Parks Service, Dr. Vanessa Weaver of Procter and Gamble Company, and to Wayman Smith, for the Anheuser-Busch Company.

In the Health Pavilion, Dick Gregory delighted his audience with his humor on Black culture, but gave serious consideration to the issue of fitness and health. E.R.A.S.E., a Black version of Weight Watchers whose acronym stands for Eat Right and Slim Easily, presented a tailored diet and nutrition program for weight loss and control, along with a fashion show of former fatties who shed their big sizes down to their current slim size. Local centenarians told the audience about their lives and how they had lived the last one hundred years.

Young adults in leadership roles and in dramatic performances were the highlights at the Young Adults Pavilion. Dr. Johnnie Fairfax, Special Assistant to Mayor Barry, introduced topics such as "Black Men Do Care", and "Youth Speaks Out On Pregnancy", which encouraged teenagers to take a hard look at themselves and take responsibility for their lives. Local rap artists such as Number One Sound and the M1 Crew were all rapping on the theme "say no to drugs." The Charlin Jazz Society Rappers, a group in their early teens, performed humorous, but socially-relevant rap with messages of significance for the participants.

In the Work Ethic Pavilion, union bricklayers built a wall and talked about their trade. American Federation of Teachers members passed out advice for lessons at home. Discussions in the Work Ethic Pavilion centered around topics such as, "Black Entrepreneurs: Then and Now," "Blacks in the American Work Force," and "How To Plan For The Future."

Special exhibits at the Black Family Reunion included an exhibition of Famous Women in the Struggle presented by the Bethune Museum. The American Association for the Advancement of Science had a

display, "Youth in Science Careers." A unique photo exhibit depicting Cornrowing and Quilting was the work of distinguished photo documentarian, Roland Freeman. The Black Film Festival presented a series of films ex-

ploring images of the Black family in historical and contemporary life.

(Continued from Page 14)

# Bring Your Heroes Home.



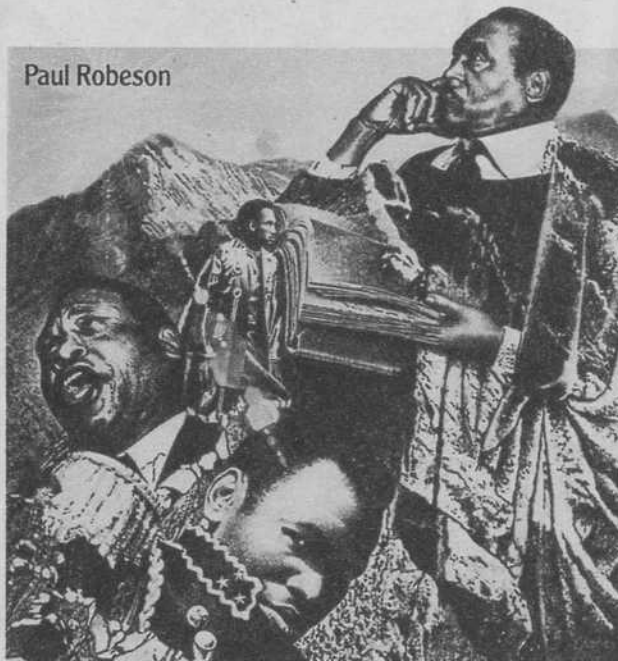
Jackie Robinson



Madame C. J. Walker

General  
Daniel "Chappie" James, Jr.

Charlie Christian



Paul Robeson



Harriet Tubman



John Henry



Garrett A. Morgan

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