

McDONALD'S HONORS BLACK LITERARY ACHIEVEMENT IN FICTION WRITING, POETRY AND PLAYWRIGHTING

NEW YORK—Three up-and-coming black writers were in good creative company when Phylicia Rashad of "The Cosby Show," Denzel Washington of the Broadway comedy, "Checkmates," renown author Maya Angelou and Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Charles Fuller joined them in celebrating their first-place wins at the 1988 McDonald's Literary Achievement Awards held recently in New York City.

Now in its 11th year, the McDonald's Literary Achievement Awards program is a national competition which recognizes excellence for writing about the black experience in America.

For her collection of poems, Doris Harris, of Seattle, received the Nikki Giovanni poetry award; Frank B. Wilderson, III, of Minneapolis, received the Maya Angelou fiction writing award for "The Ramadan Wars"; and John Henry Redwood, of East Orange, N.J., received the Charles Fuller playwrighting award for "A Sunbeam." Redwood was a runner-up in the 1986 literary competition.

"The McDonald's Literary Achievement Awards winners are continuing a great tradition of black writers chronicling the black experience in America," said Mike Gordon, director of public relations for McDonald's Cor-

poration. "Through their work, these writers are making an important and enriching contribution to American culture," he said.

The winners, selected from more than 700 entrants, were the guests of honor at the awards program which featured a celebrity reading of their works. Following the program, there was a reception for the winners at the Vivian Beaumont Theatre at Lincoln Center.

This year's competition was presented in conjunction with the Negro Ensemble Company (NEC), a New York-based theatre organization known for developing some of the country's lead-

ing black talent. NEC alumni Rashad and Washington returned to their theatrical alma mater, the company's Theatre Four, to host the program, which was a fundraiser for the organization this year.

McDonald's Corporation is the world's leading food-service organization, serving 22 million people each day in more than 10,000 restaurants in 50 countries. Seventy-five percent of McDonald's restaurant businesses are locally owned and operated by independent entrepreneurs. McDonald's is one of 30 companies which comprise the Dow Jones Industrial Average.



NEW YORK—Three black writers recently received national prominence when they were announced 1988 McDonald's Literary Achievement Awards winners at an awards program, which featured a celebrity reading of their works. The program was hosted by Phylicia Rashad, of "The Cosby Show," and Denzel Washington, current star of the Broadway comedy, "Checkmates." Seated above (left to right) are John Henry Redwood of East Orange, NJ, Doris Harris of Seattle, and Frank B. Wilderson II, of Minneapolis, the

winner in playwrighting, poetry and fiction writing, respectively. Standing (left to right) are Mike Gordon, director of public relations for McDonald's Corporation, Washington, Rashad, writer Maya Angelou, for whom the fiction award was named, and Douglas Turner Ward, president and co-founder of the Negro Ensemble Company (NEC). The awards are presented in conjunction with the NEC, a New York-based organization known for developing black talent.

The American Forestry Association Urges Recognition of Hoosier National Forest Cultural Site

The American Forestry Association is urging that the cultural heritage unit, known as Little Africa or Lick Creek, of the Hoosier National Forest in Indiana receive special recognition as a significant historical area. The Association also feels that the name of the area should be changed to reflect a statement of pride for its heritage.

Settled by free blacks, the Little Africa unit is "unique for several reasons," according to Forest Service Staff Archaeologist Mary Wilson. The community was only 20 miles from the Ohio River that was crossed by slave hunters with impunity. The Quakers of Orange County, IN, were active in the Underground Railroad, and Little Africa may have been a stopping point along the route to freedom in the North.

There were no black residents in Orange County by the turn of the Century. Some present-day white residents believe that the settlers were victims of an epidemic disease that swept through the small community towards the end of the nineteenth Century.

The American Forestry As-

sociation feels that further research into Little Africa, a derogatory name given to the settlement by the rural white community during the 1800s, would reveal much about its historical significance, and that two additional archaeologists should be hired to protect cultural resources on the Hoosier. "An interpretative area explaining the historical importance of black township settlements should be established at Little Africa," said Garry Petersen, American Forestry Association Field Representative in Indiana.

The Association's "Friends of the Hoosier Forest" have begun work with midwest civic and black leaders to establish an educational trust to promote and support this interpretive effort. Steve Radford, of Moore-Smith-Bryant law firm in Indianapolis, who will lead the effort for the Association, said that the area can "leave a future legacy for Hoosiers to understand the importance of what happened here."

For further information, contact The American Forestry Association, P.O. Box 2000, Washington, DC 20013.

WCBPA's Fifth Convention Emphasizes Relevance of Black Press

LOS ANGELES, CA.—Successful utilization of the talent and resources of black elected officials, corporate America, community organizations, along with the West Coast Black Publishers Association (WCBPA) membership will be essential to finding new ways to keep the black press relevant. This was one conclusion reached at the fifth annual WCBPA convention held October 19-22 at the Souffers Concourse Hotel in Los Angeles.

The four-day conference placed special emphasis on broadening the bases of

black newspapers and on trying to get young people involved in the industry.

One of the highlights of the convention was the announcement by the West Coast Black Publishers Association of its minority scholarship and internship program, a three-year \$90,000 fund established with support from Philip Morris U.S.A. The program will provide ten \$2,000 scholarship grants to students majoring in journalism or fields related to other aspects of the newspaper industry, and 17 six-

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