

# BUSINESS

## NATIVE SON...MORE THAN A BOOKSTORE

By Linda Porter

"...Americans as a group are illiterate, that means we can read...but don't"

I've been in Native Son bookstore a few times since its opening, but never long enough to really observe my surroundings or take time to indulge in the extensive book collection. (Native Son is an Afrocentric bookstore, located at 1301 D Street).

On this particular Sunday, not only did I have a chance to look at some hot new titles but I had a chance to mingle with some wonderful individuals. The clientele alone is quite impressive. Everyone from a fireman to an entrepreneur that owned a elevator company passed through this store. In one corner there was a conversation on education, the other talked of Malcolm X, and in the back of the room an intense game of chess was being played. The male bonding that was taking place in this room was absolutely wonderful-considering the negative image media paints African men to be-the scene that

I witnessed didn't include any loud, ignorant, hopeless lazy men. No, in this room I saw strong African men. I heard laughter and thought provoking conversations...but most of all brotherly love. The owner, Sam Smith, was floating around the room playing devils advocate in every conversation. Between answering a question here and asking one there-he took a few minutes and talked to us about his store and some very important issues.

LINDA: Sam, your store looks like its generating a lot of business...is there always this much traffic coming through your business?

SAM: Yes, I'm sure you've noticed the number of people that have come through just in the few minutes you've been here. Africans from every background and every phase of life come to my store. And as you can see-there's no fussing or cussing...just people having a good time.

LINDA: So, is it a place for social gathering?

SAM: People to come and

socialize, but mostly for information, to get tutoring or to take part in deep discussions on world issues.

LINDA: Speaking of deep discussions-I am told that on Sundays you hold rap sessions at your bookstore... Is this true? If so, what topics are discussed?

SAM: Yes, we do have rap sessions on Sundays from 4-5p.m. We discuss the issues that are affecting us on a local as well as a national level. Recently, our topic was the verdict of the Rodney King trial. Now we're trying to predict the future of the four Black males accused of beating the white motorist. Also, what are we going to do now that the gangs have developed a sense of consciousness? So, if you have an argument or a view that you would like to express or have dissected...come on by.

LINDA: I can't help but notice the number of men in your store-are men your biggest clientele?

SAM: Actually women and students are my biggest clients or people like yourself who have a full agenda.

LINDA: I had a chance to look at some of your titles here-you have books that I thought were out of print.

SAM: I have the most extensive collection of African-American literature in the city. I also carry non-traditional titles. I subscribe to nine magazines, the Los Angeles Sentinel, The Final Call, and have been saving the Sentinel Voice for over 10 years. I also have used books.

LINDA: I see you have my favorite author Terry McMillian. What are some of your best sellers.

SAM: Malcolm X-I have eve-



Sam Smith, owner of Native Son Bookstore

rything on Malcolm X and if its not in at the time someone asks for it, I can get it. Others include Superman to Man, Miseducation of the Negro and Isis Papers. For those who are interested in non-traditional religious titles, I have the Niggers Bible, The Blackman's Bible and Troubling Biblical Waters. That's not to take away business from those brothers and sisters that are in the religious realm of the business.

LINDA: Do you carry non-black literature?

SAM: Although the majority of my books are of the Afrocentric nature-I will purchase and sell non-black titles.

LINDA: Sam, lets talk about the high illiteracy rate that is sweeping this country; primarily concerning our African-American men.

SAM: The biggest sin is knowing how to read and not reading. We like to see and hear. Reading is a passive type process and we don't do it enough...especially our Black men. During their creative years and hyperactive years they spend too much time in the streets instead of reading and

(See Native Son, Page 17)

## TRAVEL with Bates

By Sandi Bate



Explore the enchanting Greek Islands, intriguing cities and a fascinating culture.

Imagine yourself on a deserted white sand beach. Above is a cloudless sky. The sun radiates health over your body. A glittering perfectly clear sea washes the beach smooth. Utopia? You are in Greece, it's summer and you are on a holiday, an adventure into a land of wonder.

You will visit places of breathless beauty, discover new traditions and meet diverse and hospitable people.

You will experience extraordinary events that will increase your awareness and understanding of the Greeks, enriching your life with a wealth of new knowledge.

Language is no problem. The Greeks have a history of welcoming visitors. The people are really alive and well, living it up in a style that can rarely be matched anywhere else in the world.

Discover the characteristic corner of Greece to the most historical sites, from local color to any activity that stimulates your curiosity. No destination comes close to matching the exciting enchantment of Greece.

Whatever you desire, interest or entertainment will come together in an atmosphere that is both magical and rewarding.

Greece is an ideal location for an exhilarating, carefree, and relaxing vacation. Unspoiled scenery, delicious food, captivating music, lively dancing, vibrant colorful people, bright skies, and endless uncrowded beaches.

The prestigious areas for

touring include the mainland Greece with its classical splendor, the fabled Greek islands, and a wide range of options in visiting this land of antiquity.

Visit the magnificent city of Athens including the historical house of Parliament, the remarkable tomb of the unknown soldier, the famed Acropolis and its museum.

View the theater of Dionysus, the extraordinary temple of Olympian Zeus, the tremendous stadium, the ex-royal palace, the academy and the university.

Explore Heraklion, located on Crete, the largest of the Greek Islands. Famous for its immense archaeological finds, Crete offers the ancient site of the splendid palace of Knossos from the kingdom of King Minos. You will be enthralled by the underground corridors of the Labyrinth and the Mineon Relics displayed at Heraklion Museum.

Enjoy Mykonos, this "jet-set" island offers beaches, boutiques and giant winding streets. You will delight in the serenity of the white buildings, churches and windmills which abound there. Enjoy a drink of Ouzo at an outdoor waterfront tavern at sunset.

Savor Patmos, this charming island is famous as the sight of Apocalyptic Revelations of the famous St. John the Divine, written here while he was exiled by the Roman Empire from the small port of Skala, you can drive to the monastery of St. John and the white hillside chapel of St. John. This island offers spectacular scenery.

Relax at Rhodes, the most famous of the Greek Islands. Rhodes is known as "The Island of the Roses." It boasts of the magnificent display of exotic flowers which grow in profusion throughout the entire island. It is also the legendary home of the sun god Apollo. You will also want to visit the charming coastal town of Lindos.

Discover the island of Santorini, thought by many to be the lost continent of Atlantis. You may choose to ascend its steep cliffs by donkey or cable car. White washed buildings line the narrow streets. Sip a glass of wine in an outdoor cafe as you

(See Travel, Page 17)

ArmStrong's  
**TRAVEL**

300 W. OWENS AVENUE  
(702) 739-1777

**ALWAYS LOWEST  
AVAILABLE FARE!**

☆ Airline Tickets ☆ Cruises ☆ Tours  
☆ Amtrak ☆ Hotels ☆ Car Rentals

NEVER A CHARGE TO USE OUR SERVICE

AM 970

**Knews**

YOUR **TOTAL** NEWS &  
INFORMATION STATION

**FREE  
NEWS  
EVERY DAY ... ALL DAY**