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African College Students and Minister Farrakhan's Planned March On Washington



KEITH O. HILTON

I think it can now be officially stated that Minister Louis Farrakhan has entered into that special category and select circle of Elders of the African community (or village or world). Not that age is the only factor. Even as a spokesman for the Nation of Islam while in his thirties, he was wise beyond his years and very graceful.

But today in his sixties, he continues to spread the teach-

ings of the Most Honorable Elijah Muhammad. At the same time, he has grown to understand the wisdom of other African leaders who have taken somewhat different routes to African empowerment. Some are moderates, some are nationalists, some are womanists.

At this junction in time, he deserves a seat beside other giants such as Dr. John Henrik Clarke, Queen Mother Moore,

Dr. John Hope Franklin, Dr. Ben, Dr. Michael Manley, Dr. Nelson Mandela, Dr. Dorothy Height and several others.

And aside — as great as these individuals are, it has been primarily through their organizations that qualitative change most often occurs for people of African descent.

African Elders understand that it is not about sitting "high on some Black throne" and "making Black thing decisions," but rather about maintaining a direct connection with the African spirit or African personality as Nkrumah called it. It is also about remaining humble, yet firm.

We have heard and/or read on numerous occasions Minister Farrakhan say that "if he lives a thousand years, his knee will never bend when it comes to standing by what is right for Black people."

However, some people are now trying to make the argument that Minister Farrakhan has mellowed (weakened) in his later years. That he is more eager to be accepted by the traditional civil rights circle and to position the Nation of Islam to be eligible

for various federal and state contracts.

It appears from where I sit and write that an African Elder understand that not all of the older members of the traditional civil rights circle are African Elders. Many have the years, but not the direction.

But most are still solidly committed to African American empowerment. And some will even be greater appreciated after they have moved off the national stage. But a few will right out (or covertly) do whatever they can to counter the affirmative efforts of a Farrakhan or others within the "traditional human rights" circle.

In March, Minister Farrakhan announced his plan to organize one million African men by next spring to participate in one of the

UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND - CAMPAIGN 2000 RECEIVES A \$10,000 COMMITMENT FROM UNOCAL

The United Negro College Fund will take another vital stride forward in opening the doors to educational opportunity, thanks to a \$10,000 grant from Unocal Foundation. This grant will support "UNCF-Campaign 2000: Ladders of Hope Program." The "Ladders of Hope Program" is a \$5-million special effort initiated by the United Negro College Fund to help rebuild Los Angeles through education. Already this program has paved the way for 39 students from Los Angeles to attend UNCF institutions by offering financial, academic and other necessary support services.

Unocal is the 11th largest US petroleum company and the

largest marches ever in Washington, D.C. Already many college students are making plans to be there.

"One million Black men will not be ignored," he said. "We must rise up in this time and seize the hour, seize the moment, because this moment can never be again."

He has also said that the march would also serve as a warning to African American leaders "who do not serve us," and other politicians whose margins of victory were African votes.

Will the planned march be successful? What is the plan after the plan? Will this be the beginning of the end of Farrakhan or has he now elevated the African liberation movement to such a height that only a counter

world's largest producer of geothermal energy. It is an integrated energy company with interests in chemical production, mining of specialty minerals, production of fertilizer and carbon products, and electrical power generation.

"We hope that this gift will broaden the educational opportunities of the scholarship recipi-

FIRST INTERSTATE SUPPORTS CHOIR FOR AT-RISK SCHOOLS

A First Interstate Bank of Nevada grant is funding the first year's activities of the Las Vegas Children's Choir, which is comprised of 50 students from at-risk schools.

agent or enemy of humanity would not see the benefits? Has Farrakhan bitten off more than he can chew?

There are many in the African community who remember what happened to Dr. King when he spoke out against the Vietnam War. Many remember what happened to Minister Malcolm X when he began plans to take the African American plight before the United Nations.

One million African men marching on Washington, D.C.? This is the worst nightmare for some. It cannot be allowed to happen, some are already whispering.

However, if, no, WHEN the Nation of Islam's March on Washington, D.C. occurs, it will rank as perhaps one of the top

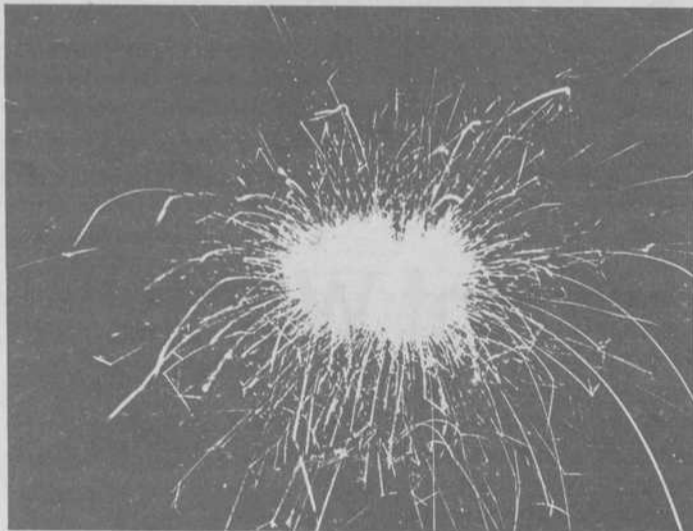
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ents and help UNCF attain the goal of rebuilding Los Angeles through education," said Judith A. Barker, president of Unocal Foundation.

CAMPAIGN 2000 is UNCF's most ambitious capital campaign to date with a goal of \$250 million. Its purpose is to help strengthen the role of UNCF

(See Campaign 2000, Page 21)

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"A MIND IS A MARVELOUS
THING TO DEVELOP"

The Las Vegas Children's Choir, a Nevada School of the Arts project, began practicing in March, after getting a \$7,000 grant from the First Interstate Foundation. The group has already performed two concerts.

The choir consists of students who had no prior formal music training and is directed by Elizabeth Kamerin. Her husband, Kim, is the group's pianist accompanist.

Paul Hesselink, dean of the Nevada School of the Arts, said the choir members were drawn from 13 schools. "The students joined the choir in order to be involved in a first-rate choral experience that they might not otherwise be able to have," Hesselink said.

Clint Arnoldus, chairman and chief executive officer for First Interstate Bank, said, "We are dedicated to supporting the communities we serve and helping establish the Las Vegas Children's Choir has been especially rewarding."

Hesselink said that students in grades four through six who are interested in joining the choir in the fall should call the Nevada School of the Arts, 739-3502, for registration information and an audition.