**BLACK HISTORY**

**Reviewed and Praised**

Mr. Howard W. Coles
90 Atkinson Street
Rochester, New York 14608

Dear Mr. Coles:

Please allow me to introduce myself. I am a teacher at the Allen Creek Elementary School. This is one of the elementary schools in the Pittsford School District.

Last month, my fourth grade students and I studied Black History. We followed closely the series that noted Black personalities in the Times Union. Then, as part of this social studies unit and part of a Language Arts unit on letter writing, the children chose to write to you and Dr. Charles T. Lunsford.

Enclosed, please find the letters that some of my students wrote to you. I hope that you will enjoy them and that you do not feel that this is an invasion of your privacy.

Please do not feel obligated to respond to these letters. The children realize that this would be too much of a time-consuming task. If, on the other hand, you would care to write one letter to the class, I would read it to the children and put it on the bulletin board. That is, if this would meet with your approval.

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**Mildred Johnson Speaks**

The month of March was one of those months that brought grief to many of our families in our community. We lost many fine people who were all victims of the dread disease cancer. We are deeply grieved over their passing and extend to these families our deepest sympathy.

Adelbert Thompson was a native Rochesterian and a beloved member of our community. He was an active member of the Flower City Lodge No. 1 for most of his adult life. In the lodge he held various offices. He was a businessman and dealt honestly with the people he served. Delbert was a gentleman at all times and will be missed by all of us who knew him. He departed this life on Sunday, March 13, 1983. He was survived by his wife of nearly fifty years, Laberta Thompson, a loving mother, Mrs. Minnie Thompson; five sons, Raymond, James, Melvin, Vernon and Leonard; thirteen grandchildren, four great grandchildren; sisters-in-law, Pearl Coleman and Mary Thompson; first cousins, Robert and Donald Johnson, William Thompson, and several other relatives and friends. Funeral services were held at the Mount Olivet Baptist Church on Friday, March 18th.

The seventh annual Mordecai Wyatt Johnson Institute of Religion was held March 16th thru 18th at the Memorial AMEZ Church on Clarissa St.

We also wish to extend our sympathy to the members of the George Anderson Sr. family, a long time businessman, barber and friend, who passed away recently.

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**“It's nice to see them go out- not happy all the time, but understanding.”**

“Every person is a special individual with a special problem... and you treat them accordingly.” With inflation eating into everyone’s income, a lot of customers come to Dennis to try to work out special bill paying arrangements. Or cut their energy waste. It’s his job to listen. And help.

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**“We really feel good being able to say ‘We’ll be able to work something out, Mrs. Burke.’” When a customer is sincerely trying to pay his bills but is having a hard time, we knock ourselves out to make it easier for him or her to pay their bills.**

“ ‘It’s nice to see them go out - not happy all the time, but understanding.’ High bills don’t make anyone happy. Not even RG&E employees like Dennis who pay full undiscounted energy bills, just like you. With hard times upon us, you may want to know more about bill paying programs and efficient energy use. If you do, Dennis and RG&E can help.

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**Dennis Rose**
Customer Service Representative

**RG&E**

*Your neighbors on the job.*

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Dear Mr. Coles,

I would like to know what it was like to be a black person. I saw a movie about slavery. I did not like the way Whites treated Blacks. I am white but I think we are all the same so does my mom. My mom had lots of Black friends in high school. We are learning about slavery.

Love,
Deniz Akman

Dear Mr. Coles,

I think you’re very interesting. I mean the way you kept running in the hard times. Did you ever have a real good way of keeping friends? I didn’t know but my teacher said you might be interested in knowing what color I am. I am black. I am nine years old. I go to Allen Creek School. I have a sister who is 4 years old. My birth day is November 17th. At home I saw a movie. It was called “Fight Against Slavery.” It was about slaves how they were treated. And how they were thrown down to live in the hold of the ship. Have you ever been on a boat? Please answer my questions.

Your friend,
Lorna Juan

Dear Mr. Coles,

The reason I’m writing to you because I love to write. I might be a publisher when I grow up. I am ten years old. I’m in 4th grade. I go to Allen Creek School. I have a sister named Whitney and she is 4 years old. My birth day is November 17th. At home I write some books about Snowball and her friends. She is a white dog, white as snow. I showed them to my mother, she said they are good.

Love,
Tuffani Welder

In the article I read, I
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The Edgerton neighborhood near downtown Rochester had seen better days. Or so it seemed when the Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) moved in a few years back. Since mid-1979, NHS has been helping Edgerton/Brown Square residents help themselves—making home repairs, reoccupying once-abandoned properties, adding energy-saving insulation, planning capital improvements ... upgrading the appearance of whole blocks, structure by structure. NHS is a private, nonprofit organization. It brings together residents, city government, lenders, insurance companies, utilities, area churches and corporations—to revitalize city neighborhoods and foster home ownership. The results of this partnership are obvious when you drive down Edgerton's streets. Scores of structures, ranging from elaborate Victorian-style to simple frame houses, are being rehabilitated to stand with renewed pride.

Downtown is everybody's neighborhood. Kodak's support of NHS is part of our overall concern for the quality of life in the community. After all, this city's been home to us for more than 100 years.

Doing more than meets the eye.
ISN'T IT A GREAT DRESS SEASON? THIS SPRING YOU HAVE SO MANY OPTIONS

White and brights! By Act I and Act II Petites. A fabulous mix of white poplin and bright multicolor ribbon detailing. Capsleeved, for now and on into summer In Celanese®Fortrel® polyester Misses sizes 6-14; petites 4-14. $70.

Dear Mr. Coles,
I chose you for the Black History letter we had to write. I thought it would be fun to write to a writer since I am a reader of good books, like The Little Princess, Heidi and Gulliver’s Travels (though I am only ten). I also dance, act and run.

Did you always want to be a writer and publisher? How did you decide to be one? When I am older I will look up your books in the library. I hope I enjoy them.

Your new friend,
Julia Eisinger

Dear Mr. Coles,
I would like to learn a lot about you. But first, I am going to tell you about me. I am black. I am nine (9). I have a dog named Charlie. He is five (5). In people life he is thirty-five (35). I have a mother named Alfreda. But our friends call her Bessie. Our great, great grandmother lives in the same house because it is a double house. Now I want to ask you some questions. How did you feel being black when you were a kid and went somewhere and were the only black person? In school, we are studying Black History. That's why I want to know more about you. I think you are a nice person. Were you ever a slave? How did you or would you feel if you were looking for a job and you were turned down because you were black? I would be very hurt. How does it feel to be a publisher? Do you know a man named Charles I. Lunsford? He is a physician. When I grow up I want to be an artist. Hope you’re living a good life.

Yours truly,
Melissa O. Green

Dear Mr. Coles,
That is very good you ran for all those offices. It is good that you made Black History and a publisher. That is very good you pushed for fair treatment. That is very good you felt you could plant a seed of idea.

Your new friend,
Todd Schauber

Mr. Alvin Hamilton, a member of the First Genesis Mass Choir was chairman of last Sunday’s evening program of many groups and choirs of the Christian community. Sister Vivian Colston of Cleveland, Ohio rendered two beautiful gospel selections. Brother Marvin Duvall of Akron Baptist Church also participated. The Julius Decks Singers, Church of Love Choir, Holy Trinity Choir, St. Paul Choir and the host choir of First Genesis Choir, rendered great gospel selections. We congratulate Mr. Hamilton for coordinating this fund-raising program for their choir. Rev. Clarence Gavin is Pastor of this fine church, First Genesis, located at Hudson and Wilson Streets.

The Usher Board of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church held their annual Tea last Sunday, March 20th at the church. About three hundred persons attended. The theme this year for the Tea was “service with love and dedication.” Mrs. Odessa Lybrand was the main speaker and delivered a fine speech on love and dedication.

Mrs. Frances Barnes was chairperson and Fayre Green co-chairperson.

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Pa. Many attended the workshops led by these great Ministers. Rev. Drew Marshall was host chairman of the Mordecai Wyatt Johnson Institute. Mr. Alvin Hamilton, a member of the First Genesis Mass Choir was chairman of last Sunday’s evening program of many groups and choirs of the Christian community. Sister Vivian Colston of Cleveland, Ohio rendered two beautiful gospel selections. Brother Marvin Duvall of Akron Baptist Church also participated. The Julius Decks Singers, Church of Love Choir, Holy Trinity Choir, St. Paul Choir and the host choir of First Genesis Choir, rendered great gospel selections. We congratulate Mr. Hamilton for coordinating this fund-raising program for their choir. Rev. Clarence Gavin is Pastor of this fine church, First Genesis, located at Hudson and Wilson Streets.

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