Today is a very special day — the day the Great Leader in South Africa is freed from prison after being a political prisoner for 27 years. We rejoice over his release and Thank God for being "free at last!"

This is a great step for all people who believe in freedom in the world. There is a lot still to be done, but this is a sign of the beginning of the Peace Era which God has in store for the nations of the world. In the morning I will be leaving for Northwest Africa, Senegal, where I visited a few years ago. The group in Dakar is preparing TV and radio appearances for me. I will try to enlighten them regarding our racial problems here in the Good 'Ole U.S.A. I am traveling again with Dr. Carl Frederick Jefferson of the University of Rochester, accompanied by twenty other people from the Rochester area. (Editor's note: Mildred's departure was on February 13th.)

Spike Lee was speaker at the University to an overwhelming crowd who enjoyed his remarks regarding film-making. He was bombarded with several questions regarding racism, which he answered eloquently. Yours truly presented Spike with a Frederick Douglass pin, to remember he had been in the City of Frederick Douglass. He was happy over receiving the pin and gave me a hug and a kiss.

The Virginia Wilson Interracial Helping Hand Center was organized in the City of Rochester in the year 1963 in the home of its director and founder, Mildred W. Johnson, then of 136 Baden Street. The original name was the Negro Information and Helping Hand Center. After the 1964 Riot, the name was changed to the Virginia Wilson Interracial Helping Hand Center. The Center was named after the founder's mother, Virginia Wilson, who was a missionary in the Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, whose mission was to visit inmates in jail or prison, to help the unfortunate people get a foothold here in Rochester (especially the newcomers), and feeding those who would come to her house asking for food.

The Center does not receive funds from any source and all helpers are people who volunteer their time and energy free of charge. Some of our activities are as follows:

1. Visiting inmates who are in jail or prison (to advise and help with family contacts).
2. Delivering surplus food to people who are home-bound.
3. Delivering surplus food to members-only of the Virginia Wilson Helping hand Center.
4. Helping welfare clients with their welfare problems.
5. Helping welfare clients with their welfare problems.

The Center is a non-funded agency that depends on donations, which are very few.

Bronze Sculpture of Civil Rights Heroine Debuts in Nation's Capital

ST. LOUIS — A two-feet tall cast bronze statue of renowned civil rights figure Rosa L. Parks was slated to make its national debut at a celebration in Washington, D.C., commemorating Mrs. Park's 77th birthday.

Created by Artis Lane, acclaimed portrait artist and sculptress, the bronze of the statue was commissioned by St. Louis-based Anheuser-Busch Companies in time for the black-tie birthday gala held February 4th at the Kennedy Center. The lifelike sculpture captures both the dignity and quiet courage of its subject, who is referred to affectionately as the "Mother of the Civil Rights Movement."

In 1955, Mrs. Parks' refusal to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama bus to a white passenger led to a yearlong boycott that sparked a national movement for racial justice.

Commenting on the serene strength and determination of the sculpture, Wayman F. Smith III, vice president of corporate affairs at Anheuser-Busch Companies, said, "This is a captivating work of art that reflects Mrs. Parks' dignity and commitment." He added, "Anheuser-Busch is very pleased to make the presentation of this sculpture possible in time for Mrs. Parks' 77th birthday."

Artis lane, creator of the sculpture, is nationally known for her portraits and bronzes of famous people, including many Hollywood celebrities. A recent exhibit of her bronze works at the M. Hanks Gallery in Santa Monica, California drew critical acclaim for their sensitivity and spirituality.

Lane has exhibited her works all over the world and has pieces included in the collections of President and Mrs. Bush, Oprah Winfrey, Quincy Jones, Bill Cosby and Sidney Portier.

According to Anheuser-Busch's Smith, efforts are under way to have the Rosa Parks sculpture permanently displayed in a prominent museum for the general public to see and enjoy.
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REVEREND SAMUEL CURNISH, co-founder and pastor of the First African Presbyterian Church in N.Y.C.

The first black newspapers in the nation stand as a vivid and passionate chronicle of the black struggle for freedom, equality, and a place in American life. Since its beginnings in 1827, the black press has addressed issues from improved education to separatism, from political activism to militance, while the goal has remained the same — to fight for freedom.
The Strong Museum

One Manhattan Square
Rochester, New York 14607
Telephone: 716-263-2700

Mr. Howard W. Coles
The Frederick Douglass Voice
P.O. Box 14033
Rochester, New York 14614

Dear Mr. Coles:

Thank you for agreeing to permit the Strong Museum to honor the Frederick Douglass Voice as part of our upcoming exhibition Freedom's Journals. We are pleased to be able to pay tribute to three important black media in Rochester; WDKX radio, about ...time magazine, and the Frederick Douglass Voice. Enclosed is the information you requested about the exhibition.

The show will be at the Strong Museum from February 3 to March 5, 1990. Dr. G. Rollie Adams, president and CEO of the museum, or someone from our exhibition staff, will be in contact soon to discuss the details. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely yours,

Deborah A. Smith
Curator of Paper
Your Imagination Can Change Your Life

“When I started my own dance troupe in 1970, I could imagine what I wanted,” says Garth Fagan. “To create dances that did not look like any others, and to train dancers who did not perform like any others.”

Today, the Bucket Dance Theatre—and Garth Fagan—are world-renowned. “Your imagination is a powerful force,” says Fagan, “because if you can’t imagine it, you can’t do it.”

The breakthrough comes, he says, when you learn to trust yourself—and your imagination. “With the power of your imagination, you can change ‘what is’ into ‘what will be.’ You can make the future happen.”

Breakthroughs start with imagination.

Garth Fagan, founder and artistic director of the Bucket Dance Theatre, Rochester, N.Y.
February 27, 1990

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Black Youth Speak Out

For some time now I have been interested in discovering if there really is a resurgence of black pride among black youth.

I used a quick 'n dirty survey instrument. Implementing the survey was fascinating. The respondents' answers brought more questions than I had intended to ask.

**PLEASE take the survey yourself and send in your responses to:**

**FREDERICK DOUGLASS VOICE**

P.O. Box 14614

Rochester, New York 14614

This article only brushes the surface of this topic. When a sufficient sample of survey responses have been received, a future article will cover this topic in greater detail.

The survey, undertaken in Midtown Plaza, asks seven questions:

1) I see you are wearing red, black and green. What does that mean to you?
2) Is this a self-identified reflection of black pride?
3) What role do you think young black people will play in the media of the near future?
4) Do you think Rochester needs more representation in the media?
5) How do you get your news?
6) Which of these news vehicles do you believe is the most truthful?
7) What did you do on MLK Day?

Survey Population:

Two males declined to be interviewed. Ten people accepted the request, and fit in the demographic pool as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEX</th>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>RESPONDENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>under 19</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>under 25</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>under 25</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Although age and education levels varied, all respondents were black.

I found two answers to be most interesting and revealing. They are both from the male respondent (aged less than 20).

**Question 3. Answer:** Black people need more real people. Like Spike Lee. (I noticed he was wearing a "Do The Right Thing" T-Shirt.)

**Question 4. Answer:** Black people watch too much television (already). (I have heard this reply more than once lately.)

Naturally this survey cannot, nor does it claim to, represent young black people everywhere. Nor will it be used to extrapolate the answers to some greater data utilization study.

I do, however, have two hopes: Hope One: I hope young black readers will complete the survey and mail it to our paper. Hope Two: I hope it will, when completed, serve as a measuring tool for better understanding what young people are thinking. This by itself, in my estimation, would be useful for all black people; be they young; old, married with children; single or simply interested in the future of all our tomorrows.

J. Kelso Langkans

16 February 1990

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MINORITY MUSEUM PROFESSIONALS' AWARD

Andrew Williams has won a Smithsonan Institution Award for his Minority Museum Professionals Program for 1990.

Andrew Williams of the Rochester Museum & Science Center has been selected to participate in the Smithsonian Institution Awards for his Minority Professionals Program for 1990. Williams is one of just 30 recipients of the national award, which includes a stipend to attend a Smithsonian-sponsored Training Congress on museum practices in June, plus a one-week individual or group study opportunity with full access to Smithsonian collections, archives, libraries and staff.

Williams, a staff assistant to RMSC president Richard C. Shultz, intends to pursue research for a proposed 1991 exhibition on Memorials to Frederick Douglass. Recalling Rochester's community-wide observance of Douglass' funeral in 1885 and the campaign to establish a Douglass monument here, the exhibit is to explore the abolitionist leader's significance to turn-of-the-century life in Rochester.

Established in 1983, the Awards for Minority Museum Professionals Program is administered by the Smithsonian's Office of Museum Professional Programs in cooperation with the National Conference of State Historical Society.

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