

Omaha Welcomes Malcolm X Visitors



NOTABLE NATIVES
From The Midlands

MALCOLM X
1925-1965
BLACK NATIONALIST AND BLACK MUSLIM LEADER, WHO WAS ASSASSINATED IN 1965. MALCOLM X WAS BORN IN OMAHA, NEBRASKA.

Malcolm X visited Omaha, Nebraska in 1964, he was interviewed by Omaha Star reporter Charles Washington and although his views were not widely expressed or known during that time, his image and presence is being felt even more today than in 1964. Malcolm X was born in Omaha, Nebraska on May 19th, 1925. If he were alive today, there is no doubt that he would be facing the same problems he faced in his youth, and as we look at the statistics in Omaha, Nebraska and across the country, we realize that conditions that fostered his imprisonment at an early age still exist. While Malcolm X was serving time in prison, he made a radical reformation. He became acquainted with another Black man who led him to understand the importance of developing one's mind, and helped in the utilization and development of his articulate and masterful use of words.

Brother Malcolm spent much time while in prison in the exercise of self-education through reading and a study of history, philosophy, politics, government and religion. His way of life and his concept of himself and life

around him led him to reject the use of drugs, alcoholic beverages and profanity, and emphasize that each person had value.

This information was shared by readers of the Omaha Star, along with this historic photograph of Charles Washington as he interviewed Malcolm X in Omaha.

The audience was small, and not too many people interested in what Malcolm X had to say, but the few who heard him that evening were dedicated to the belief that Malcolm could bring about the change needed to make our community and our young people more aware of what we as a community would have to do to combat racism, drugs and the other problems that even today are plaguing the Black communities across the country.

In 1964 the late Charles Washington said, "Malcolm looks upon each of us today to give evidence that all Black people should be free. The question is whether relatively sane white people refuse to remain captive to their insanity and recognize the conscientious of Black determination or reap the madness of an endless nightmare."

As Malcolm X visitors come to Omaha, we hope our community and other Black communities throughout the land will, and that the words printed in the Omaha Star by the late Charles Washington will reflect the mood and feeling of Black people throughout the world, his life and transformation has a symbolic correlation to the future of the world.

"If we can duplicate the example of his life by coming from degradation of racism, slums, bad housing, inferior education, poor delivery of health and welfare services, and absence of justice for Blacks, the lack of full participation by Blacks in the power and decision making process and rise, as Malcolm did, to the height of human dignity, and carrying so much for one's fellow man, then Omaha can, in action and in deed, be the city which she so proudly and so falsely purports to be."

For more information about the life of Malcolm X, the public is invited to stop by the Great Plains Black Museum at 2213 Lake St. in Omaha, and also participate in all activities taking place in the city of Omaha.

CITATION (APA STYLE)

(1990, May 17). *Omaha Star*, p. 1. Available from NewsBank: America's News – Historical and Current: <https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=image/v2%3A1469E7D6123E0888%40EANX-NB-146FCB87B2C08EB9%402448029-146FCB87B2D7715B%400-146FCB87B2D7715B%40>.