

# Kutania People & Black Athletes Hall of Fame



- **Kutania People** founded in 1972 by Wilbur Brown and 18 young college graduates to give back to local Black youth.
- **Sponsored an intern program, Black History Pageants and the first Sickle Cell Anemia testing program in the city.**

B-2—THE SUN (Metro Final) Fri., Feb. 5, 1982

Carol Smith      Darcus Conners      Janice Williams      Roberta Jones      Jackie Hilliard      Veronica Petty

*They're just people who're helping people*

By LARRY HICKS  
Sun Staff Writer

**inland empire**  
metro final edition

Tjuana Johnson      Jeanetta Hill      Pamela Thomas      Simone Simmons

**bulletin board**

**Job's Daughters** expected to draw approximately 200 secretaries from 59 associations throughout California. Registration will begin at noon Feb. 5 and all local area secretaries and at- torneys are invited to a

**Frazee Mini-Mart** SAN BERNARDINO — A Mini-Mart will be held at Frazee Community Center, 1140 W. Mill St. from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Feb. 8.

**Women's Division** SAN BERNARDINO — The monthly meeting of the Women's Division of the Chamber of Commerce will be at noon Feb. 10 in the chamber con-

lives on the city's heavily black West Side. Because the emphasis was on youth, the organization originally set an age limit for its members at 35 years. "We were all young then and we thought we'd never see 35," said the 37-year-old Brown with a smile. The age limit requirement was dropped. Said Brown: "We wanted to keep the organization young in character and philosophy." The organization's most successful program is its intern program, which encourages teenagers to get involved with community volunteer efforts and pursue higher academic and vocational skills. Each year Kutania People's intern program counsels about 18 teenagers from local high schools. The students have varied backgrounds. Some achieve outstanding grades while others are receive poor grades. Some come from broken homes and are on the verge of dropping out of school; others come from stable, middle-class families. But despite these differences the youths care about each other and help each other out, Brown said. Most of the 140 students who have completed the intern program since 1974 have gone on to colleges and vocational schools. The organization helps ease the financial burden of school by offering modest scholarships to some of the students. Many of the students keep in touch with Kutania members to tell of success and problems. When people need help the group is there.

**Black History Pageant tonight**  
Who are some of the people helped by Kutania People? The group sponsors several programs designed to help black youths and recognize other people who have contributed to the betterment of their community. It sponsors the Black History Queen Pageant, which is a prelude to the annual Black History Parade. This year, 11 contestants will vie for the title of Miss Black History at 7:30 p.m. tonight at the Kola Shanah restaurant. The winner will receive 1981 Queen Rachelle Wilcoxon's crown and reign over the parade. The contestants are: Carol Smith, Pamela Thomas, Jackie Hilliard, Jeanetta Hill, Darcus Conners, Evelyn McDaniels, Veronica Petty, Janice Williams, Simone Simmons, Tjuana Johnson and Roberta Jones. Admission to the pageant is \$3. The organization, in conjunction with the Sportsmen Athletic Club, also sponsors the Black Athletes Hall of Fame dinner, which recognizes the accomplishments of former area sports stars and sponsors "People Who Make a Difference," a tribute to unsung heroes who quietly contribute their time to help improve the black community. Kutania People helped establish the first Sickle Cell Anemia testing site in the city. The group is involved in a 4-H garden project to raise vegetables for senior citizens in the south Waterman Avenue area and has an intern program for 11th- and 12th-grade teenagers.

## Top black athlete to be named

The Black Athletes Hall of Fame Dinner, one of the big social events during the year in San Bernardino, promises to even out-do last year's glittering affair, when it's held Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in the City Hall's Convention Center.

Pro stars Marv Fleming and Wayne Embree headed the 1974 honored guest list when USC's Shelton Diggs received the coveted Tom Hester Memorial Award as top athlete in the city schools for the 1972-73 term.

Famed boxer Ken Norton, 26-foot long jumper Randy Williams, the San Diego Chargers' Bob Howard and the Trojans' Rose Bowl starters Ron Bush and Diggs will attend for sure. There's still hope that All-American Anthony Davis and the Rams' James Harris and Isaih Robertson can make it.

The high point of the evening will be naming the 1974 winner of the Hester Award, with such ex-prep stars as Willie Beamon (SBHS and now at UCLA), Greg Bunch (Pacific and Cal State Fullerton) and Leon Jordan (San Geronio and Oregon State) in hot contention.

### Hall of Fame

In addition, there may be a name or two added to the Black Hall of Fame, which takes in athletes who excelled in two or more sports and have been out of high school at least five years.

The select group has only seven honorees now, including Hester who was killed in an auto accident just when he was embarking on a great football-track career at Arizona State.

The others are Horace (Junior) Howard, Andy Brown, Atwood (Sonny) Grandberry and Earnist McMurray of SBHS, and Pacific's Homer Robertson and Charles Tribble. The selection committee consists of Art Davis, George Hunn, Al Jury, Chuck Lewis, Ludie Taylor and Eddie Wilson.

The dinner, which has the theme "Spotlight on Champions," is presented by the Kutania People and the Sportsmen Athletic Club, with Wilbur Brown and Leonard Jacks serving as respective chairmen. George Hughley will be the keynote speaker, and tickets are available from members of the two clubs.

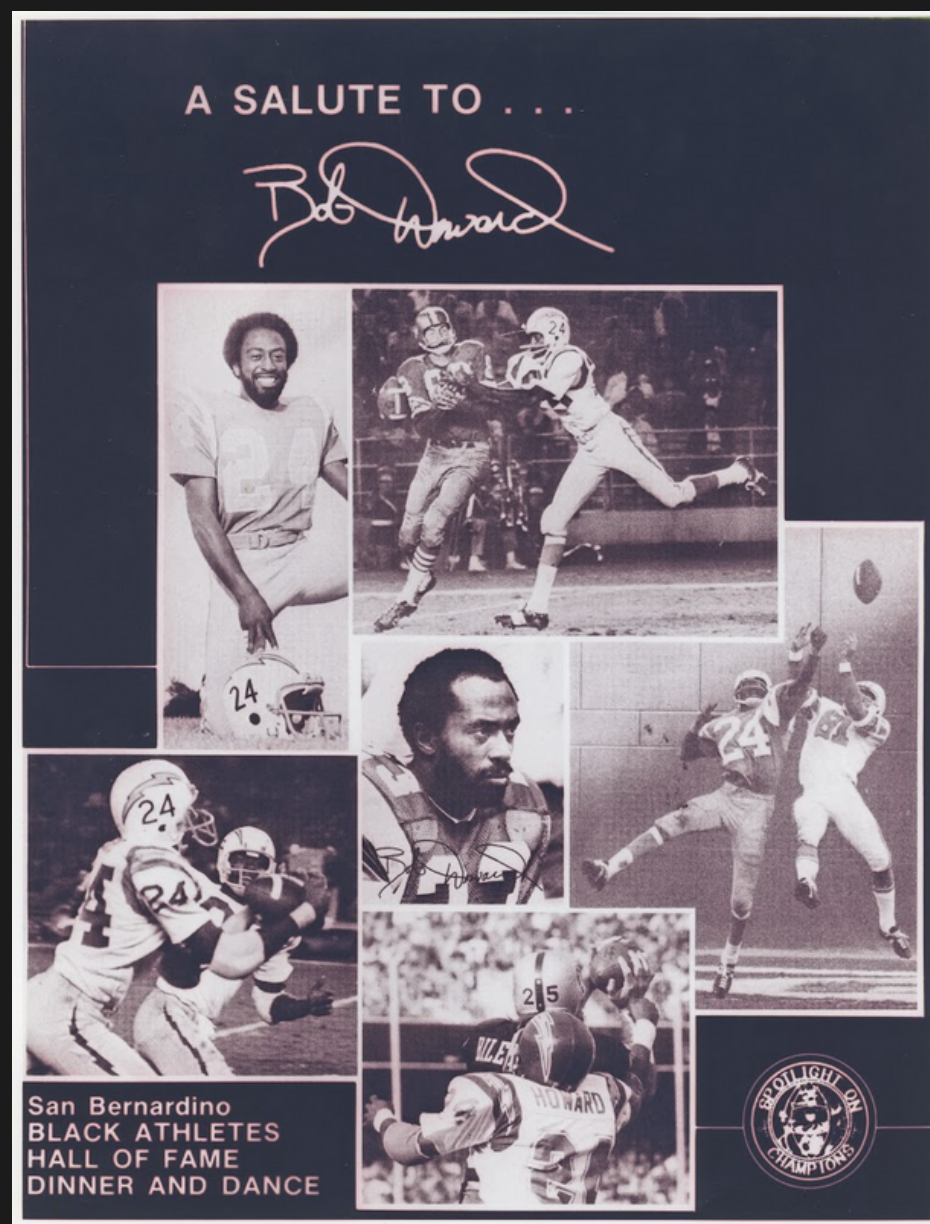
# Black Athlete Hall of Fame



- *Kutania People also collaborated with the Sportsmen Athletic Club to host the Black Athlete Hall of Fame, an event founded by Loonie Taylor and Leonard Jacks.*
- *This event brought Black sports icons, celebrities and business leaders together to celebrate the accomplishments of former local high school athletes with the goal of inspiring and supporting Black youth.*



*Here is San Bernardino  
native Robert Howard  
when he was honored at  
the Black Athlete Hall of  
Fame.*



# *Kutania People are helping black community keep its roots*

By LARRY HICKS  
Sun Staff Writer

SAN BERNARDINO — Kutania People.

In Swahili it roughly translates to people helping people.

And since 1972 the 16 men and women have done just that. Their targets have been mostly black teenagers, helping youths to a better education, to a better understanding of the world beyond San Bernardino and to a better life.

"We try to expose them to things they normally would not see," said Wilbur Brown, Kutania president and one of the group's founders.

Kutania People is an all-volunteer organization located in a small, blue wood-frame house at 1117 Lincoln Ave. The group receives no federal aid.

With the organization, teenagers attend plays in Los Angeles, meet and talk to local and state politicians and volunteer to help other community-based organizations.

Kutania People was started here in 1972 by eight young, college-educated black professionals who wanted to contribute to their community.

"One of the things that we noticed at that time was the lack of participation by young adults in community affairs," Brown recalled.

Many young blacks who went away to college did not return to live in the area and those who did found there was little for them in the way of jobs, housing and social activities, Brown said.

Because of this there was a short-

age of role models for black youths. And to Brown that meant the community was losing its roots.

"We wanted to keep those roots. We figured if you couldn't live there, you couldn't work there, you could at least spend some time there (and share your skill and experiences)," said Brown who lives on the city's heavily black West Side.

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## **2 men held in burglary of church**

FONTANA — Two young men were arrested for investigation of burglary after police said they were found inside the Four Square Gospel Church, 16725 Valencia St.

Arrested were Todd Perdue, 18, of Rialto, and Frank Morales, 18, of Fontana. They were taken to San Bernardino County Jail after their arrest at 11:53 p.m. Wednesday.

Morales was being held on \$2,500 bail Thursday afternoon. Perdue was no longer in custody.

Police said burglars broke a basement window in the church to gain entry, and then used candles to find their way around.

Damage was estimated at \$50 to the window and \$106.50 for a stolen microphone.

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Each year Kutania People's intern program counsels about 18 teenagers from local high schools.

The students have varied backgrounds. Some achieve outstanding grades while others are receiving poor grades. Some come from broken homes and are on the verge of dropping out of school; others come from stable, middle-class families.

But despite these differences the youths care about each other and help one another out, Brown said.

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Many of the students keep in touch with Kutania members to tell of success and problems.

When people need help the group is there.



*Thanks for the decades of great work by the volunteers of Kutania People, the Sportsmen Athletic Club and for wonderful memories of the Hall of Fame celebrations.*

# Credits

*SB Sun Feb 27 1981, p. 27;  
Leonard Jacks Oral History,  
SB Sun Feb 5 1982, p. 26*

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