

NIGHTSTAND

WALIDAH IMARISHA

Walidah is the assistant to the development director at Western States Center, as well as being a full-time student at Portland State University, and a member of the Portland Free Mumia Coalition.

I just finished reading *25 Years on the MOVE*, a book-pamphlet by the MOVE organization in Philadelphia. I found it truly enlightening and inspiring. I personally did not have much knowledge about MOVE, so this book helped to educate me. The chronological explanation of MOVE history, especially its encounters with the police and the (in)justice system were detailed. In addition, seeing the strength and determination of these people in the face of extreme oppression and brutality was moving, and I can honestly say I feel like a better person for having read it.

PETE SUAZO

Utah State Senator

I'm halfway through *The Taos Trappers: the Fur Trade from New Mexico, 1540-1846*, by David J. Weber. I love reading about the history of the West, particularly the Southwest. It puts things in perspective for me. This book shows how before colonialism, Native Americans hunted, but lived in harmony and balance with the animals around them, but the Spanish conquistadores brought incredible exploitation. The animal trade, particularly in beaver pelt, was so lucrative that it spurred the settlement of the West. It reminds me of the situation with urban sprawl today, where people think growth and settlement are nothing but good, and don't see what's lost.

I also find this book interesting because my father was Pueblo Indian, and this book describes a revolt by the Pueblo and Comanche people during Spanish colonialism. Together these Indian people were able to push the Spaniards back, burning missions they'd been forced to build, all the way from Taos to El Paso. For 18 years they kept the Europeans at bay, in one of the great but untold victories by Native Americans on this continent.

A book I read recently that I also liked was

Roberto Clemente: Baseball Hall of Famer, by Maritza Romero. Clemente led the Pittsburgh Pirates to win the World Series in 1971, and he was a very interesting person. As a Puerto Rican, he broke a lot of racial barriers at a time when light skinned Latinos were fairly accepted in baseball, but darker-skinned men like him weren't. He never forgot his roots: he played with the Puerto Rican or Mexican Leagues in the off season. He was also very generous. He was killed right after the World Series, taking food and medicine to people in need in Nicaragua in 1971.

KEVIN HARRIS

People of Color Against AIDS Network,
Seattle, WA (see staff profile, page 14)

I'm reading *PoemCrazy* by Susan Woldridge. About a year ago, I discovered I could write poetry. It allows me to be who I am without constraint. This book is about how to create poetry. I like it for being both inspirational and practical.

I'm also reading *Die Nigger Die*, written by H.Rap Brown in 1969. I picked it up in a used book store years ago, but I just recently opened it up. It's non-fiction, a long angry essay, often personal, about racism from the perspective of a person freeing himself from the effects. It gives a strong sense of that era. I think forms of racism have just gotten more sophisticated since then, but they haven't fundamentally changed. The book appeals to the part of me that doesn't want to compromise. I think it's useful to read now, if you can handle its strong perspective.

