

Black Heritage Committee

Northeastern ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

What Manner of Men Are We...

Who move fluidly and swiftly along the football fields and basketball courts of the world
Constantly pounding or being pounded in the boxing rings, Of Atlantic City and the
inner city robbed from the bosom of Mother Africa
The richness of South Africa having journeyed from the mountain top
To the selling block withstanding over 300 years of castration and degradation
Experiencing every indignity and humiliation
Yet continuing to grow tall and strong creating a history rich with achievement
We've invented blood plasma and the cotton gin
Gas masks and harpoons baby carriages and traffic lights
Machines to plant seeds and machines to stretch shoes
We were the first to die in the struggle for this country's independence
And the first to successfully perform open heart surgery
We are Martin and Marcus, Malcolm and Benjamin
Frederick and W.E.B. Jesse, Jackie and Joe The big E and the Big O
Clyde and Glide and Earl the Pearl
We are the Watusi and the Mandingo
There are none bigger, None stronger, None taller
Than we, when we have it all together
That's what manner of men we are.

~Mycal Wynn~