Attica prison revolt leader to speak Friday at University as part of Black Week activities

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations

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MISSOULA--

Richard X. Clark, a leader of the Attica Prison revolt of September 1971, will present a free public lecture Friday (May 25) at 8 p.m. in the University Center Ballroom at the University of Montana. His topic will be "Prisons and Prison Reform."

The lecture is sponsored by the UM Black Studies Program and the Program Council of the Associated Students of UM.

Clark will be in Missoula Thursday and Friday in conjunction with Black Week at UM.

Clark became the inmates' principal spokesman during the Attica rebellion and he was the inmate most frequently quoted by major new sources.

Inside the prison Clark helped set up the government that operated throughout the revolt. When he was released on parole in the spring of 1972, Clark became the only leader of the revolt who was not dead or still in prison.

Clark, a Muslim minister, will discuss his ideas on creating prisons that rehabilitate prisoners instead of further alienating them from society. Implicit in his message is his belief that other Atticas are inevitable if drastic changes are not made in our prison system.

Other highlights of Black Week include two movies, "Time of the Horn" by Johnna Jones and "Soul to Soul," a celebration of Ghana liberation featuring such stars as Wilson Pickett and Ike and Tina Turner, to be shown at 8:30 p.m. Wednesday (May 23) in the UC Ballroom. The movies are open to the public without charge.
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Activities for Friday (May 25) include a Soul Food Dinner in the UC Gold Oak Room from 5 to 6:30 at regular University Center buffet dinner prices; the Clark speech at 8 p.m. in the UC Ballroom, and a performance by Maiaira, formerly Black Arts West from Seattle, Wash., at 9:15 p.m. in the UCI Music Recital Hall. There will be no admission charge for the Maiaira performance.

A dance featuring Cameo at 9 p.m. Saturday (May 26) in the U.C. Ballroom will conclude Black Week activities. There will be $1.50-per-couple and $1-per-single cover charge for the dance.

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