

the million man march

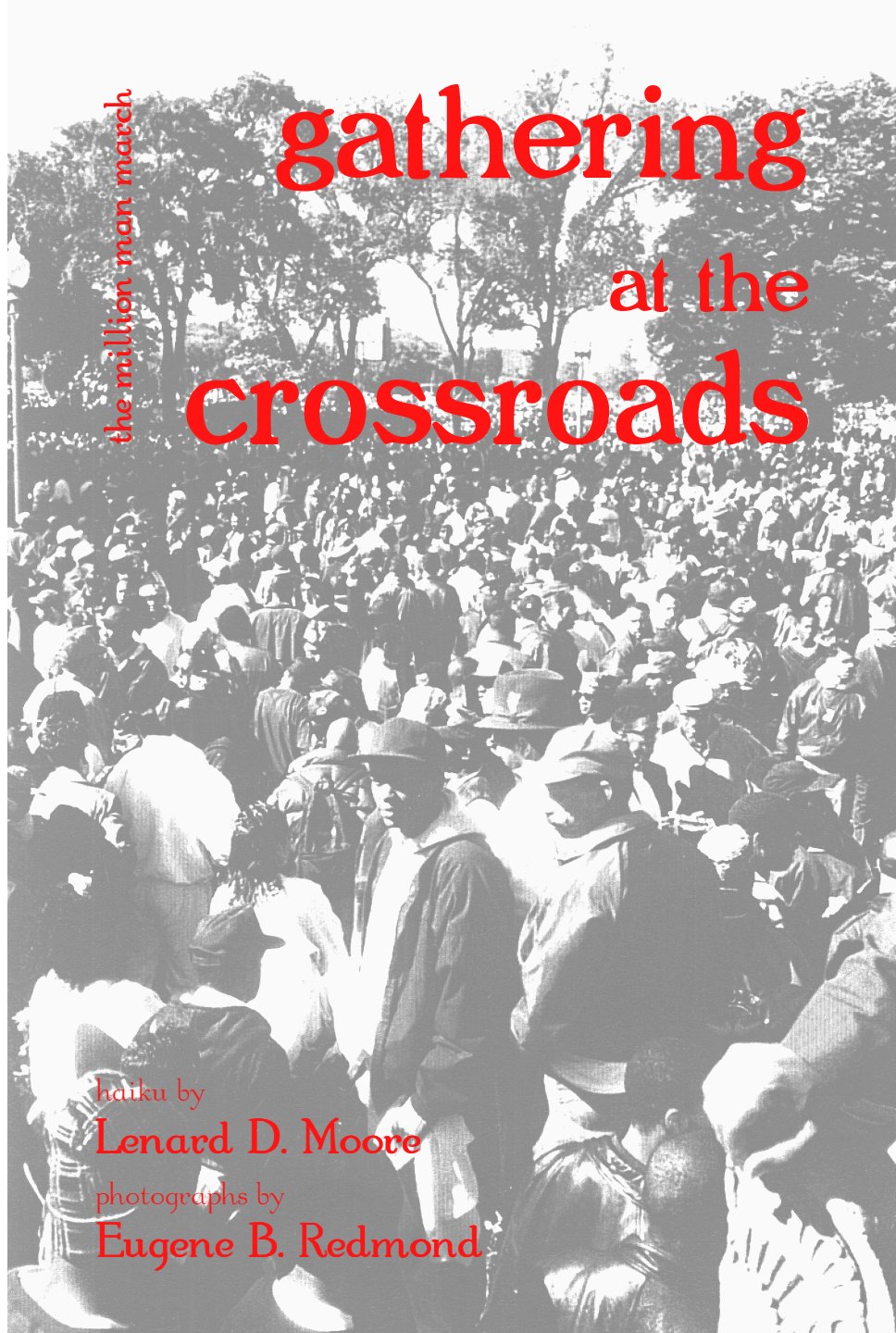
gathering at the crossroads

haiku by

Lenard D. Moore

photographs by

Eugene B. Redmond



gathering

at the crossroads

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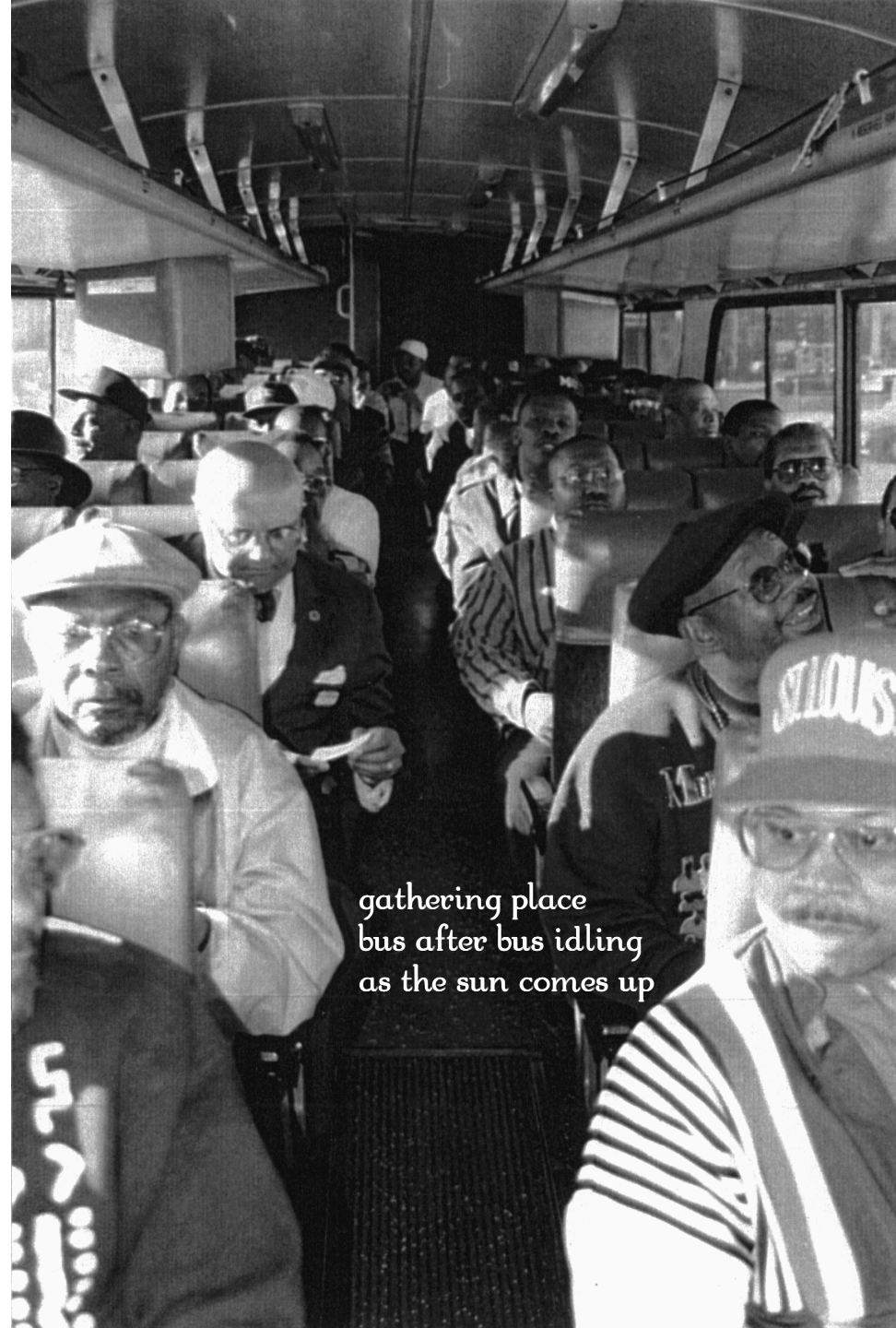
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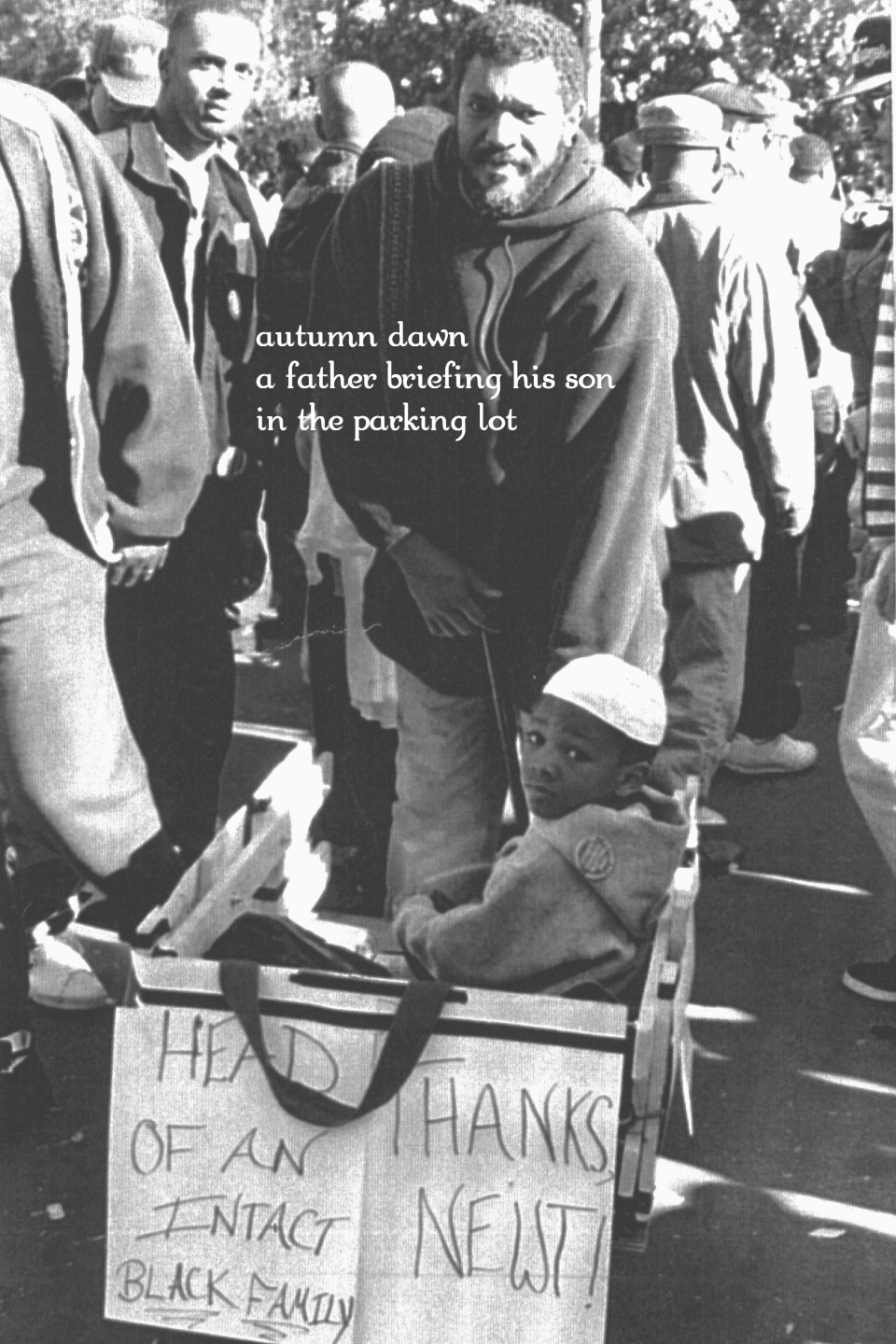
Some of the poems in this collection have
previously appeared in *Drumvoices* and *Papyrus*.

For Jerome Moore, Ron Moore, Rodney Moore, Marvin
Moore (my brothers) and especially for Angela Moore
and Wanda Moore Mulvaney (my sisters)

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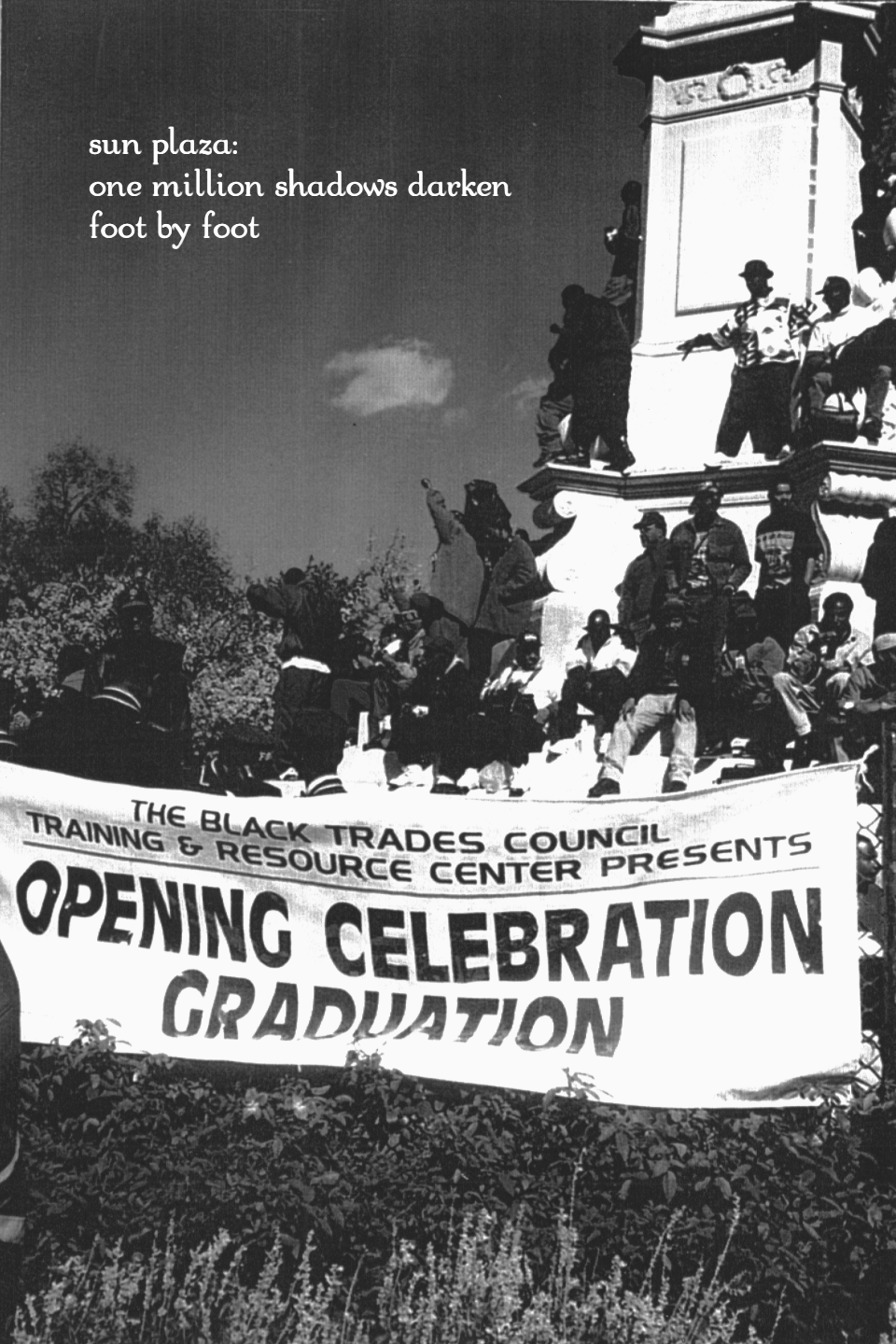


autumn dawn
a father briefing his son
in the parking lot

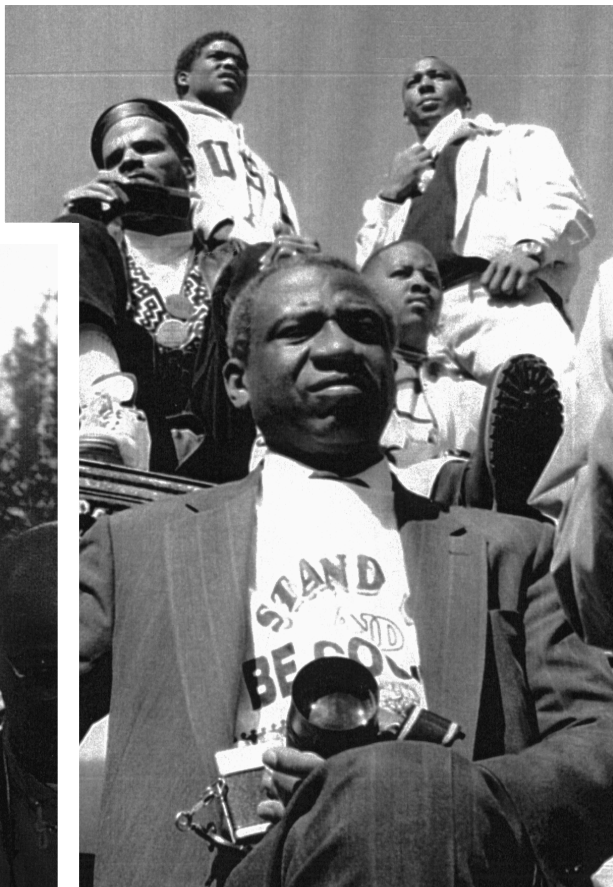
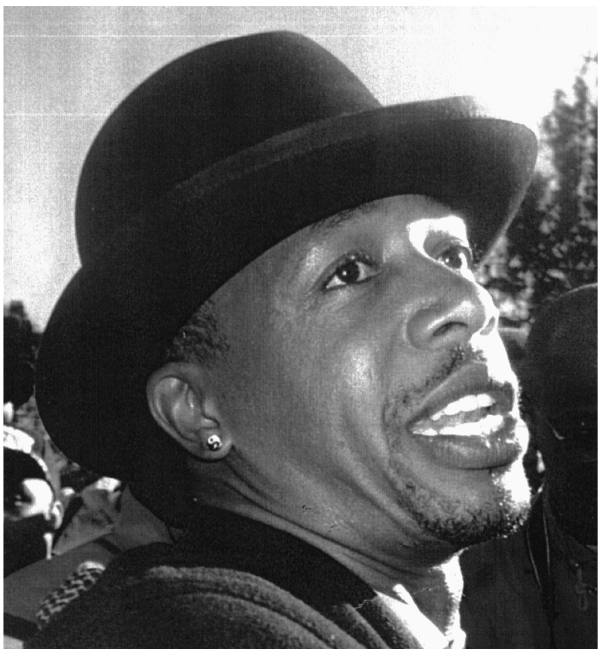
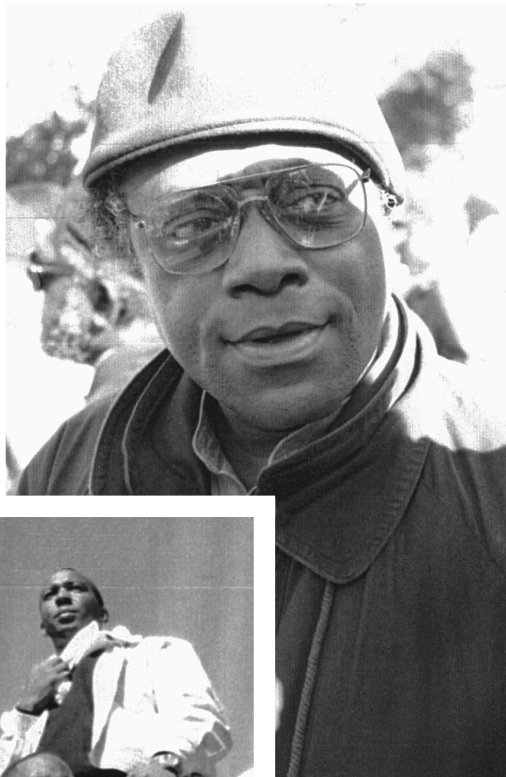
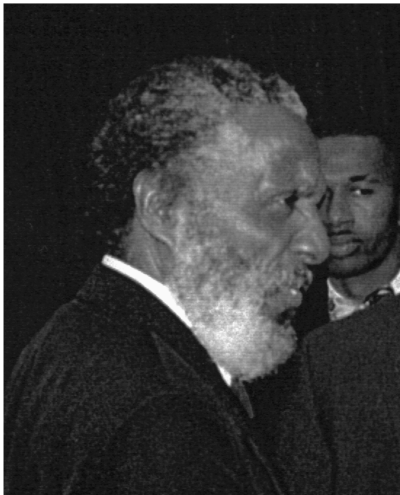


the cadenced footsteps
of one million black men
a warm fall day

sun plaza:
one million shadows darken
foot by foot



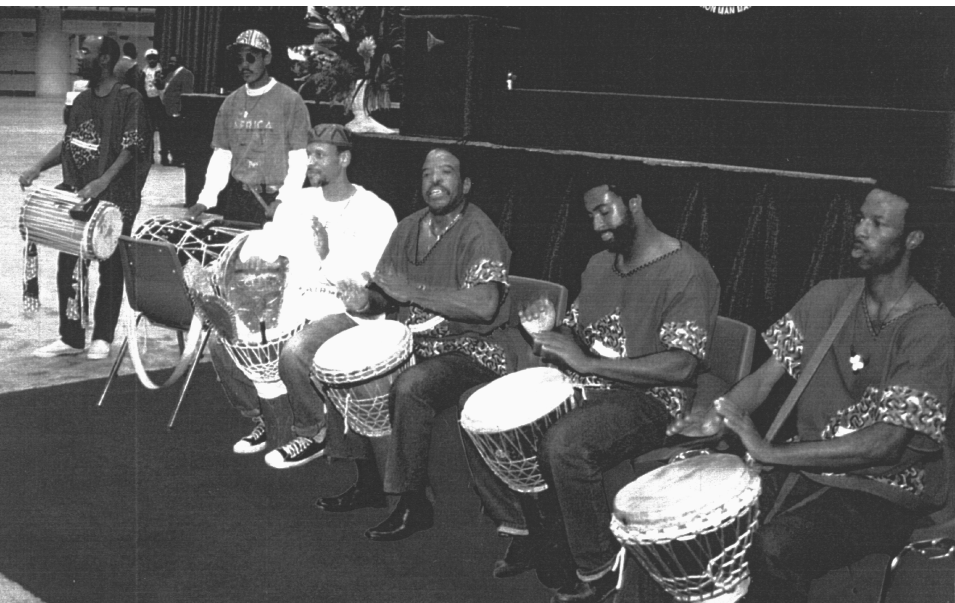
the speaker's hand
bends the microphone down
deepening autumn



on the stage
a line of brothers locks arms
autumn sunshine



on the marble bench
a zipped-up windbreaker
autumn wind



darkening day
a row of folding chairs
left in the plaza



lingering wind
the chant of black men goes on
this autumn day

night after the march
reading the million-man pledge
to my pregnant wife

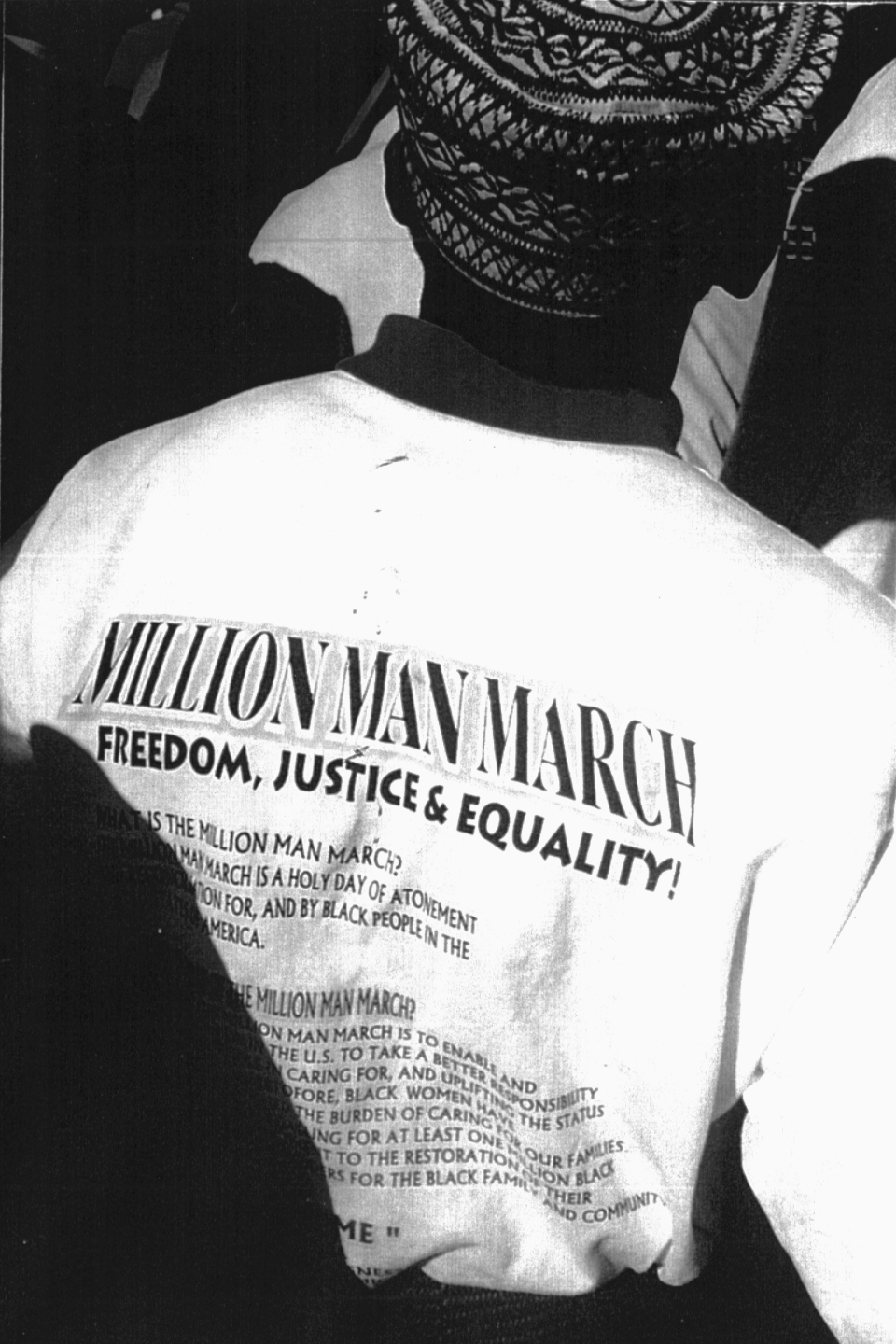
excerpts from the pledge

I pledge that from this day forward
I will strive to love my brother as I
love myself . . . to improve myself
spiritually, morally, mentally, socially,
politically and economically . . .

I pledge that from this day forward
I will never raise my hand with a knife
or a gun . . . will never abuse my wife
. . . will never engage in the abuse of
children . . . will not poison my body
with drugs . . .

I will do all of this so help me God.

Louis Farrakhan



Lenard D. Moore is Founder and Executive Director of the Carolina African American Writers Collective and Co-founder of the Washington Street Writers Group. His poems, essays and reviews have appeared in over 350 publications, and in over forty anthologies. He is recipient of the Haiku Museum of Tokyo Award (twice), and has won various prizes in contests sponsored by *The Mainichi Daily News*, The Haiku Society of America, the Indies Arts Award, and the Margaret Walker Creative Writing Award. He has taught at North Carolina State University, North Carolina A&T State University and Enloe High School. He currently lives in Raleigh where he teaches English and world literature at Shaw University. He is also Writer-in-Residence for the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County.

Eugene B. Redmond was named poet laureate of East St. Louis in 1976, the same year Doubleday published his *Drumvoices: The Mission of Afro-American Poetry*. Since then he has won a National Endowment for the Arts Creative Writing Fellowship, a Lifetime Achievement Award from Pan-African Movement USA, a Tribute to Elder Honor from the African Poetry Theater of NYC, and an American Book Award for *The Eye in the Ceiling: Selected Poems*. He is Professor of English and editor of *Drumvoices Revue* at SIUE. In 1986 a group of East St. Louis authors formed the Eugene B. Redmond Writers Club. In 1999 he joined Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison and Henry Dumas in being inducted into the National Literary Hall of Fame for Writers of African Descent.