

Bob Marley on famous Baltimore Mural

IF YOU HAPPEN TO VISIT Maryland in the United States, you might want to hop down to the Safe and Smart Community Resource Centre, downtown Baltimore, to see the new 67 feet by 25 feet mural titled "A Little Help From Our Friends."

Why? The mural, designed by Dr. Robert Hieronimus, features an imposing bust shot of the late Jamaican music megastar Bob Marley, in red, green and gold cap crowning flowing locks, in the midst of a highly auspicious crowd of luminaries, including Harriet Tubman, Martin Luther King, Jr., Bob Dylan, Jackie Joyner-Kersey, Mahatma Gandhi and Leon Day.

Tubman, you might recall was the Maryland-born slave who escaped the oppression, then created the Underground Railroad which took nearly 300 American black slaves to freedom.

King needs no introduction, being the famous, late American Civil Right leader who is remembered by a public holiday in January.

Dylan is remembered for encouraging social change in the United States with his music. Dylan used to raise money in the early days for the civil rights movement in the US South. He confronted the Klu Klux Klan and racial injustices, including the death of Maryland-born Hattie Carroll and the false imprisonment of "Hurricane" Jones. He is regarded as one of the great influences of folk, rock and country music in the USA over the past 30 years.

Joyner-Kersey is regarded as one of the greatest all-around female athletes in the world today. Gandhi is the father of the Indian nation; the prophet of non-violent civil disobedience who was

Explains Dr. Hieronimus: "Reggae music is a unifier of all peoples. Its beat is not unlike that of the heart and it produces a warm feeling that transcends race, religion, gender and nationality. Bob Marley is the world's most important reggae musician of all time and is, indisputably, the greatest. Although he died 15 years ago, his records still sell millions."

Although Marley's presence on the mural is outstanding, the fact is that he is really representing our country's music, as its greatest promoter.

Therefore, his presence is



■ Dr. Robert Hieronimus

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and this is the third mural he has done for the university not just a tremendous honour

■ "A Little From Our Friends."

sonal, community and world problems through mediation. Through hard work and great sacrifice, they have helped transform our world to make it a better place for generations to come."

Hieronimus was recently described by art critic and author Alan Barnet Ph.D., as having "a talent for winning the co-operation of the establishment while he lives and works within the counter-culture."

He has been referred to by *Forecast* magazine as one of the US's best muralists. His life and work were part of an MPT documentary, "The Artist of Savitria", which was

carried by the public network, PBS, for several years.

Dynamics

Hieronimus designed the mural and was assisted in the research and production by Laura Cortner and Anna and Marie Hieronimus.

He said that the mural was named "A Little Help From Our Friends" because, "it depicts some of our planet's finest examples of self and world transformation."

Mrs. Rita Marley, widow of Bob, attended the dedication ceremony in Baltimore on October 12.

She commented: "What is important about "A Little Help From Our Friends" is

the dynamics of the people it pulls together. It demands from the onlooker that they must, for at least a moment, recognise, if not accept, the importance of the struggle, as well as the way in which each one contributed in his field. Bob Marley's work has always highlighted the power of the mind to overcome."

Also attending the ceremony were Liu Gang, chief organiser of the 1989 Tianamen pro-democracy movement, who is also included on the mural; Leon Day's widow; Gandhi's son; and a great-grandniece of Tubman.

■ BALFORD HENRY

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