

Impact Statement

Donald Jordan, Grade 8

***Have You Seen the News*, 2024.**

Acrylic on paper, 16 x 16 inches.

Ida B. Wells Academic and Performing Arts Complex, Jackson, MS

Unsung Hero: Dion Diamond

Have you ever wondered how many people fought for our rights but still weren't known by many? My unsung hero is Dion Diamond who did a lot to further the civil rights of black students like me. He was a civil activist who was not well known in the community. I found out about him by researching unknown civil rights activists, then I researched some until I found one I liked. Dion Diamond has a rather unique story. He was born in Petersburg, Virginia in 1941. He did a lot of sit-ins usually by himself and he became a founding member of a nonviolent group. I find it inspirational that he started out by himself but still persevered and even joined own group. He was also well educated. Also, he expressed many different traits with his actions while being unknown.

After doing some research on Dion Diamond I found out a lot of interesting information about him. He grew up in the segregated town named Petersburg. He started to conduct sit-ins as a teenager. He also participated in a Freedom ride from Montgomery, Alabama to Jackson, Mississippi. He was apparently a physics major. I found out that he enrolled in Howard University in 1959. He was a founding member of Nonviolent Action Group. They staged protests at Glen Echo, Maryland, and Arlington. I wanted to express how he fought for civil rights even though he was unknown. I admire his bravery and his will to fight for civil rights even though he was by himself sometimes. He believed in his philosophy of nonviolence and showed some people how nonviolence can make a difference in the world too while being unknown in the world.

He showed a lot of traits and did a lot of heroic actions in his story. It showed his independence and how even when no one wanted to work with him he still kept going no matter what the other people thought. It shows how he was calm and collected even though he was arrested. It also shows his bravery by facing that situation head on. My piece also showed how his actions were broadcasted to the world through his mugshot from when he got arrested. My vision is to show how he affected the world even though he was unknown. He still wasn't known after that though but at least he got his point across.

This helped me realize that not everything you do has to be noticed for it to affect people. It was cool learning about him and how he fought while being unknown or by himself. I can share my artwork by posting about it on different social media. I will add some photos of me while I work on my art. I will be teaching about Dion Diamond and

exhibiting my artwork in multiple ways. There will also be a Special ARTEFFECT display at the end of the year art show at the Mississippi Art Center. I will also be presenting Dion Diamond's story and my artwork to each of the elementary classes at my school. Then I will also have an online display. That's how I plan to share my artwork and experience with the community.