

Howard University

## Digital Howard @ Howard University

---

The Hilltop: 2000 - 2010

The Hilltop Digital Archive

---

2-10-2004

### The Hilltop 2-10-2004 Black History Issue

Hilltop Staff

Follow this and additional works at: [https://dh.howard.edu/hilltop\\_0010](https://dh.howard.edu/hilltop_0010)

---

#### Recommended Citation

Staff, Hilltop, "The Hilltop 2-10-2004 Black History Issue" (2004). *The Hilltop: 2000 - 2010*. 159.  
[https://dh.howard.edu/hilltop\\_0010/159](https://dh.howard.edu/hilltop_0010/159)

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the The Hilltop Digital Archive at Digital Howard @ Howard University. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Hilltop: 2000 - 2010 by an authorized administrator of Digital Howard @ Howard University. For more information, please contact [digitalservices@howard.edu](mailto:digitalservices@howard.edu).



In Celebration of Black History Month

February 2004



# BLACK

# HISTORY

*...the magazine*



# the Hilltop

*the student voice of howard university since 1924*

## contents...

---



Malcom X, Harriet Tubman and Martin Luther King Jr.

**3.** The World Without Blacks

**4.** Black History Perspective

**5.** Howard's First Black President



**6.** History of Black History

**7.** Tuskegee Airmen

**8.** U. Street Race Riot

**9.** Womanism

**12.** Blacks In Sports



# A World Without Blacks...

A very humorous and revealing story is told about a group of white people who, fed up with African Americans, joined together and wished themselves away. They passed through a dark tunnel and emerged in sort of a twilight zone where there is an America without black people.

At first, these white people breathed a sigh of relief. At last, they say, no more crime, drugs, violence and welfare. All of the blacks have gone!!

Then suddenly, reality sets in. The "NEW AMERICA" is not America at all; only a barren land! There are very few crops that have flourished because the nation was built on a slave-supported system.

There are no cities with tall skyscrapers because Alexander Mils, a black man, invented the Elevator, and without it one finds great difficulty reaching high floors.

There are few, if any, cars because Richard Spikes, a black man, invented the Automatic Gear Shift. Joseph Gammell, also black, invented the Super Charge System for Internal Combustion Engines, and Garrett A. Morgan invented the traffic signals. Furthermore, one could not use the Rapid Transit System because its precursor was the electric trolley, which was invented by another black man by the name of Elbert R. Robinson.

Even if there were streets on which cars and a rapid transit system could operate, they were cluttered with paper because an African American, Charles Brooks, invented the street sweeper.

There were few if any newspapers, magazines and books because John Love invented the pencil sharpener, William Purvis invented the fountain pen, Lee Burridge invented the typewriting machine and W. A. Lovette invented the Advanced Printing Press. They were all

Even if Americans could write their letters, articles and books, they would not have been transported by mail because William Barry invented the postmarking and canceling Machine, William Purvis invented the hand stamp and Phillip Downing invented the Letter Drop.

The lawns were brown and wilted because Joseph Smith invented the lawn sprinkler and John Burr the lawn mower.

When they entered their homes, they found them to be poorly ventilated and

poorly heated. You see, Frederick Jones invented the air conditioner and Alice Parker the heating furnace.

Their homes were also dim. But of course, Lewis Latimer invented the electric lamp; Michael Harvey invented the lantern and Granville T. Woods invented the automatic cut-off switch. Their homes were also filthy because Thomas W. Steward invented the mop and Lloyd P. Ray, the dust Pan.

Their children met them at the door barefooted, shabby, motley and unkempt. But what could one expect? Jan E. Matzlinger invented the shoe lasting machine, Walter Sammons invented the comb, Sarah Boone invented the ironing board and George T. Samon invented the clothes dryer.

Finally, they were resigned to at least have dinner amidst all of this turmoil. But here again, the food had spoiled because another black man, John Standard, invented the refrigerator.

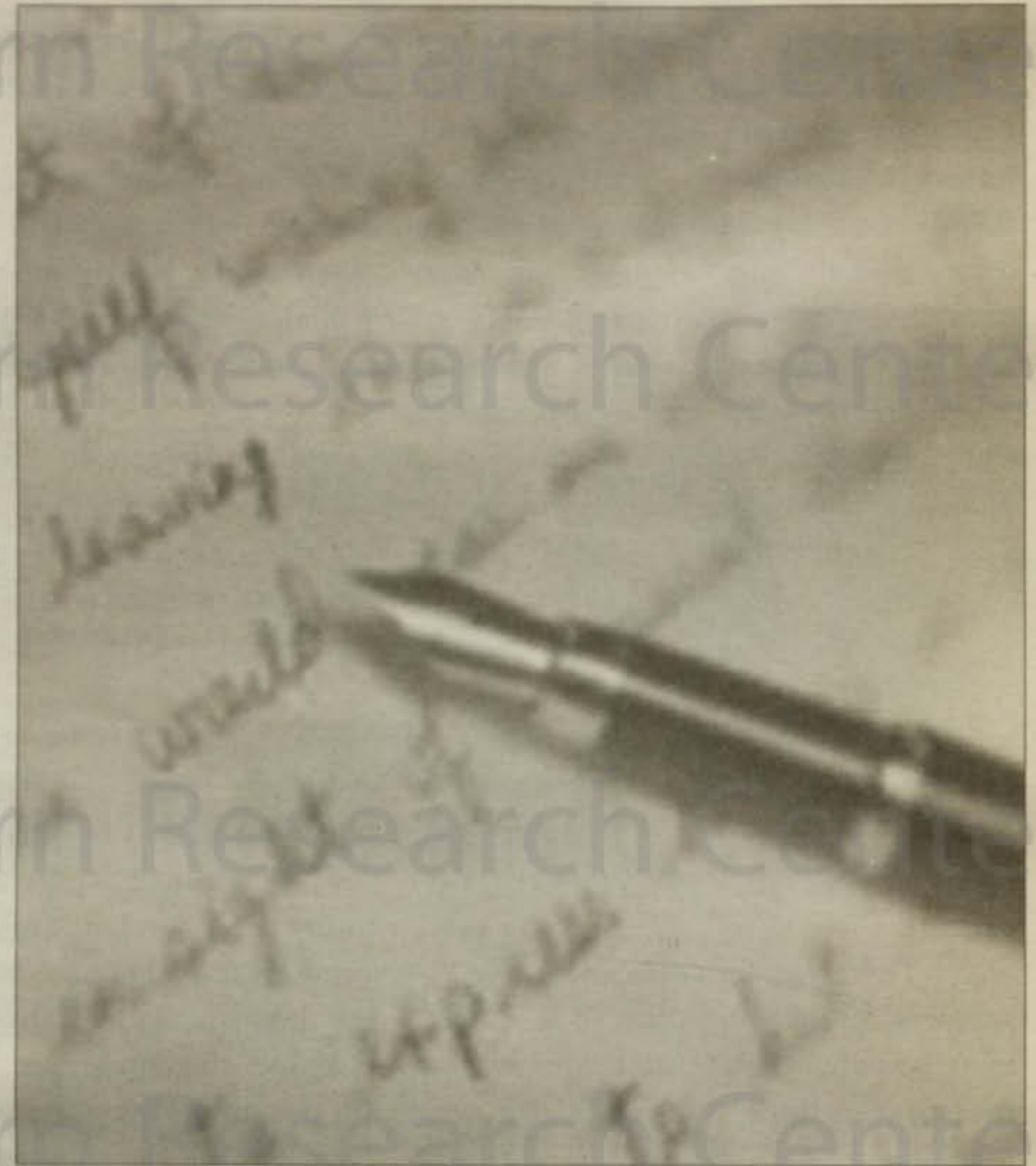
Now, isn't that something? What would this world be like without the contributions of Black people?

Black history includes more than just slavery, Frederick Douglass, Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, Marcus Garvey and W.E.B. Dubois.

Black history includes more than just slavery,  
Frederick Douglass, Martin  
Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, Marcus Garvey and  
W.E.B. DuBois.



## Dr. Gregory Carr



In 1925, Carter G. Woodson sent out promotional materials for the February 1926 celebration of Negro History Week. This annual event to popularize the study of and interest in Africana was also designed to generate financial resources for his Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. The second week in February was chosen to commemorate Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass's birthdays.

The lived commitment of these men to the potential of the American national experiment imbued Woodson's larger quest for institutional stability and enhanced historical consciousness with an iconic legitimacy. An army of Black schoolteachers in the U.S. apartheid educational system quickly seized upon the ritual in their own time-honored role as keepers of Black national memory, effectively spreading it as they would Kwanzaa and multicultural curricula generations later.

Integration and the Civil Rights/Black Power-era Pan-Africanism of the 1960s and 70s attended the extension of the virtual classroom to the entire month of February and the entire U.S. population.

As we dutifully re-enter this hybrid ritual moment, we echo the uniquely American circumstances that attended its birth and flavor its annual themes. However, we must also seize the improvisational opportunity such cyclically observed moments offer to listen for other, deeper rhythms.

There is a beat of human possibilities drummed across time and space by the children of Africa wherever we find them. This beat is recognizable to her living extensions, an ancestral collage flung by force and circumstance across the globe and congealed into a transnational network of re-blended and re-settled clans, separated by distinct but negotiable state boundaries.

There is no more rewarding place to engage in this improvisation than Howard, where Stokely Carmichael observes that you can find "everything in the African World—and its opposite." The daily United Nations that convenes in our classrooms, dormitories, offices and recreational spaces gives living testament to Carmichael's famous assertion that "our people will survive America."

The United States, like all nation-states, is an imagined community, a modern fiction fed by a patchwork of narratives, shrines, icons, totems and rituals and leavened with an understood cultural and social hierarchy which privileges the multi-authored tale of human progress which emerges out of the "East" and finds epochal fulfillment in the "West."

Here, in what Hegel called "the land of the future," Americans need this fiction to give order to their lives. In that regard, African-American History Month serves an essential purpose: it binds the U.S.'s African citizenry to the narrative in a way that does not undermine their essential presence as the black polar extreme on a racial continuum which posits whiteness—and by extension, "true" Americanness—at the other end.

The price of negotiating true American identity is steep, but manageable when understood as a choice between the poles. Blackness will never recede, though those occupying its status may shift over time. The state system in which coded appeals to racial fears will determine the winner of the 2004 presidential election requires someone to be Black.

So does the exploding "clean industry" prison/industrial complex built on the criminalization of Blackness. As does any system in which whiteness, from its position of invisible cultural default,

throws into sharp relief the "human stain" of a blackness, which at once evokes latent desire [Janet] and overt revulsion [Michael], often in the same dissonant moment. Blackness purges, embraces and retains its power to mask old sicknesses and renew old fictions of national innocence and self-aggrandizement. If Woodson had not provided a space for ritual sitting of Black American identity, one would likely have had to be invented.

As we repeat African American History month, aware of self even as we are called upon to explain self to other selves, we hear other rhythms. The rhythm of an Africana global historical narrative that eschews the barriers erected by language and geography in favor of the deeper ties of long-view historical memory. The rhythm of a rising human drumbeat, echoing from the raised voices of what Jonathan Schell has called "the other world superpower," those around the globe who aspire to the best of the human mind and spirit.

The race-based global arrangement of the Age of Europe is being sorely tested now. State borders grow porous, not only for the multinational corporations, but for the transnational citizens of global constituencies. Fear feeds those who cling desperately to the old order, old narratives and old rationales which ring hollow in the hearts and heads of those whose memories have been enhanced to

include more than only one set of facts ordered in one particular way.

We have our ancestors to thank for preserving, recovering and sharing these traces of memory. We pause in this season to lift the name of Woodson and, in so doing, the names of all who offered their life force to one basic principle: it is always better to know than not to know.

Writing in his recently published book *Leaving America*, Randall Robinson recognizes that the obligations of U.S. citizenship do not [or, more accurately, should and must not] require African-Americans [or anyone else] to abandon ancient and unbroken commitments to do justice, love mercy and require lived commitment to the best selves.

We would do well to remember this as we undertake our annual February pause to gather our particular memories and make sense of the identity tapestry we perpetually re-weave. We did not start this journey in enslavement, though it is a condition we have long endured in one form or another. As such, our leadership, for America and the global community, emanates from the special truths we have spoken and continue to speak, from a store of experiences much too large to fit in a single nation, a single era, or a single month.



When General Howard took a leave of absence in 1873, leaving John Mercer Langston as acting President, troubles arose over his position. Some members of the Board of Trustees were unwilling to give him full authority of office when Howard officially resigned in 1874.

Walter Dyson, author of *Howard University: The Capstone of Negro Education*, asserts that Howard's intentions were clear.

"John Mercer Langston was his [General Howard's] choice for the presidency. Langston was the choice of all negroes on the Board, and of the students, and of the Negroes in general in the United States," wrote Dyson.

Upset and insulted by the Board's actions, Langston resigned from the office of Vice President and Dean of the Law Department, but was still in the running to be elected president.

After being convinced that he should withdraw his resignation, George Whipple, who Langston met during his tenure at Oberlin, was elected Howard University's new president.

Many people, including Dr. Gregory Carr believe Langston's race may have played a major role in the Board's actions.

"Race probably played a role because it wasn't an issue of qualifications. He was well regarded by the leading intellectuals, such as Ralph Waldo Emerson," says Carr.

Although the

University did not give Langston the position that he very well deserved, the university eventually conferred him an honorary law degree.

After leaving Howard, Langston pursued higher goals. He worked for seven years as the law officer of the Board of Health in DC. From 1877-1885 he acted as U.S. minister to Haiti and in 1885 was elected president of the Virginia Normal and Collegiate Institute.

Three years later, Langston beat his Democratic opponent in what became known as the most memorable campaign in history. He then served in Congress from 1890 to 1891 as the Representative in Congress for the 4th District of Virginia.

Some find it interesting that the Moorland Spingarn Research Center does not have John Mercer Langston's autobiography in their possession. Others are intrigued to learn that students are not even aware of his legacy.

Carr speaks about the caste minority perspective among students. "It sees itself only in terms of placement in society. It has no long term connection to anything else."

Lawson agrees that students should respect the hard work and dedication of their professors.

"A significant proportion of faculty are committed to Howard as a historic institution and to their students. There is no difference between teachers in 60s and 70s and the teachers here today."

# John Mercer Langston

## Howard University's 1st Black President





**W**ith the intention of instilling pride in the black race, a weeklong observance of Black History was developed and has since grown to a national observance each February.

Renowned educator, historian, and former Howard dean Carter G. Woodson established Negro History Week in 1926, with the original dates encompassing the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, February 12, 1809 and February 14, 1818, respectively. In its original structure, Negro History Week featured meetings, forums, and lectures dedicated to study the growth of Black people throughout the year.

Truly a disciple to the advancement of black people, Woodson dedicated his life and his career to preserving African American history. Woodson went to Berea College in Kentucky, the University of Chicago, the Sorbonne in Paris, and Harvard University's Graduate School, where he received his doctorate in 1912.

Woodson established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in Chicago on September 9, 1915. This organization was the first of its kind, as Woodson stated, "to treat the records of the race scientifically, and to publish the findings to the world."

Popularly known as the "Father of Negro History," Carter G. Woodson worked tirelessly to educate people on the contributions of blacks to America. Woodson initiated Negro History to accurately convey Negro history- a history that is most often inadequately told in textbooks and in the media. Negro History Week purpose was to build an understanding and an appreciation for the achievements of African American people- a worthy civilization, nationally and internationally.

To popularize Negro History Week, Woodson sent circulars to presidents of colleges,

Principles, teachers, boards of education, the press, public libraries, and fraternal organizations. The circulars gave summaries of the achievements of men of color and most importantly, served to dispel inaccurate truths about African Americans' place in American and World history.

In 1972, the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History changed the name of Negro History Week to Afro-American History Week and in 1976, America celebrated its Black History Month in February. Carter G. Woodson's Association for the Study of Negro Life and History is now the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, and it operates out of its office at Howard University.

For the past two decades, Black History Month has become more widely recognized, yet those who were once proponents for the observance of Black History make up the growing number of those contenders. Arguments from opponents of Black History Month include the feeling that it has lost its relevance, or the more widely argued, the belief that it should be more inclusive of other cultures.



Carter G. woodson

Other critics of Black History Month cite the commercialization and a neglect of Black history in other months as a reason for their dissent. Pacific News Service commentator Akilah Monifa said, "Black History Month has turned into a mundane, meaningless and commercialized farce. So, Monifa said, she will boycott it and will instead "have a yearlong effort of recognizing African Americans who made and continue to make a contribution."

Woodson was pleasantly amazed at the immediate success of Negro History Week. Once Woodson said, "By far the greatest stimulus to the educational work of the Association in recent years has been the observance of Negro History Week." Another time, Woodson said, "No other single thing has done so much to dramatize the achievements of persons of African blood."

Negro History, Woodson said is, "one of the most significant movements ever started in the interest of the Negro race."

Black History is about more than the treasured contributions of the greats such as Martin Luther King, Jr., W.E.B. DuBois, Benjamin E. Mays, Booker T. Washington, Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, Marcus Garvey, and Sojourner Truth. Black History is about the work of all those who contributed to the advancement of people of African descent

## A Moment in History

By Stacey Gates



# TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

By Cassandra Cumbess

In the pre-War World II United States, racism reared its ugly head in every facet of American life, including the armed forces. Though black men valiantly stood on the front lines during World War I and the Civil War, the greatest battle to be fought was against the country they called home.

Blacks were denied skilled training and leadership roles in the military because of the racist ideology that deemed African-Americans unqualified for combat duty. After immense pressure from the black press, civil rights groups and first lady Eleanor Roosevelt, things began to change for black folks in the armed forces. Besides the push for equal rights, the military was challenged with expanding the air corps.

On July 9, 1941, the American Aviation Federation (AAF) began a program to train black Americans as military pilots. In its beginning stages, it is likely that no one would even begin to imagine the historical impact that the airmen of the Tuskegee Institute would have on the black race, the nation and the world.

The historical Tuskegee Institute was chosen as the training locale for the all African-American pursuit squadron. Booker T. Washington founded Tuskegee Institute in 1881.

Though relatively small, the school had a fast-developing aeronautics program and was located in an area ideal for year-around flying. Tuskegee Institute and the nearby Tuskegee Army Air Field would become the breeding ground for black pilots, navigators, bombardiers, mechanics, armorers, engineering and technical instructors and maintenance and support staff. The first class of the Tuskegee Institute was comprised of five cadets who completed their training on March 7, 1942. The first classes became the 99th Pursuit Squadron.

As discrimination persisted and military leaders still doubted the capability of an all-black squadron, the 99th Squadron found itself equipped with training, yet without

combat orders. Their solo flights garnered them the nickname "The Lone Eagles." When the 99th Squadron finally received assignment in Morocco in April 1943, they made history and made liars out of those who said they couldn't do it.

The original Tuskegee Airmen caused the surrender of the island of Pantelleria, marking the first time in history that air power alone destroyed enemy resistance. They were soon integrated with the 79th Squadron where they fought alongside white pilots.

In September 1943, the Tuskegee Institute pushed the envelope even farther with a twin-engine training program to provide bomber pilots. By the end of World War II, 996 black men had graduated as pilots from Tuskegee and 450 went overseas for combat assignment; 150 of the pilots were awarded the distinguished "Flying Cross."

The Tuskegee Airmen have truly left their mark on the Second War World. Their famous P-51 Mustangs made history, as their "red tail" planes were overwhelmingly requested by allied bomber crews to be their escorts. Of the 200 bomber flights that the Tuskegee Airmen flew, not one heavy bomber was lost to enemy flights.

The IR unit was honored with the Presidential Unit Citation on March 24, 1945 for "outstanding courage, aggressiveness, and combat technique." These men paved the way for full integration in the military, mandated by Congressional action in 1949. They soared in the face of hatred to become one of the most respected and revered fighter groups of all time. They spoke for the entire race in proving the capability of blacks to fly and maintain sophisticated aircraft.

The Tuskegee Airmen will be forever remembered for their heroism, not just in physical combat, but the heroism they displayed in the face of age-old racial stigmas that said they could not do it.





# '68 Riots BRINGS D.C. TO ITS KNEES

By Danielle Scruggs

Smoke filled the air, fires lit up the sky, screams filled with 400 years of oppression, frustration and confusion, tore through the days and nights as Washington, D.C. was looted and burned in the three days following the assassination of civil rights icon Martin Luther King Jr. on April 4, 1968.

Riots broke out in 120 cities that year, including Detroit, Chicago and San Francisco, but no city was hit harder than D.C., when buildings a mere ten blocks from the White House were burned to the ground, in what had been previously known as the "riot proof city."

Although King's murder was the immediate cause of the riots, tensions had been simmering just beneath the city's surface for years. To the public eye, black people had it made in the District of Columbia, a city where a quarter of all federal employees were black and Howard alumni. Thurgood Marshall sat on the Supreme Court and the late Walter E. Washington was mayor.

However, many people belonged to the other side of Washington. The side of Washington with crumbling public schools, a 33 percent high school graduation rate, an infant mortality rate second only to Mississippi, overcrowded hospitals, a police force that was 80 percent white in a city where about 60 percent of the population was black and 25 percent of all families lived below the poverty level. Behind the gleaming granite monuments in downtown D.C., the perfectly manicured White House lawn and the hustle and bustle on Capitol Hill lay crime-infested slums that many chose to ignore until that fateful April night.

After hearing of King's death on the radio, Howard alum Carmichael gathered his friends, away from the now-defunct Howard Black Nationalist group Ujamaa and led a

processional down U Street, asking storeowners to close their shops out of respect for King. Several stores including Wings 'N' Things, People's Drug Store, Zangibar, Moy Hon Toon, Eaton's Barborshop and Yankee Restaurant complied. After two hours, the processional grew unruly and someone threw a trashcan through the window of People's Drug store. Carmichael urged the crowd not to get violent but to no avail. By this time, several others from the community had joined the processional and began smashing store windows and looting.

By midnight, approximately 2,500 police officers were asked to report for duty to quell the riot brewing on the U Street corridor. The Justice Department sent all 10,000 active federal troops to the city with defensive riot control training and the National Guard were called in as well. Many key decisions makers in the Pentagon did not feel compelled to send them in earlier, since they assumed disturbances like the one on U Street would not occur during the daytime. D.C., however, would prove to be the exception to the rule.

The next morning, several adults refused to go to work and children were sent home from school. Soon after, youths and adults alike proceeded to continue the previous night's activities, vandalizing stores and setting fires. The crowd on the streets grew bigger and the violence escalated. By 11 a.m. after about fires on 14th and E Street, 7th St. NW, and H St. SE by the Capitol building were gone, whole blocks of buildings. By noon, all of Washington was in a state of pandemonium. F and G streets were clogged with cars full of shop owners and federal employees desperate to get home and away from the line of fire.

The National Guard and supply-aided troops were called in from nearby military bases in Virginia and

Maryland to control the rampages. Mayor Washington imposed a curfew that was to last from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 a.m., in which everyone except news media and medical personnel were ordered off the streets, in an effort to gain some control over a city under siege. Overnight, 5,000 more troops moved toward Washington.

By dawn, the capital of the United States was occupied by its own military forces.

By Saturday, much of the rioting had stopped but smoke could still be seen lingering over the ashes of storefronts and other once-thriving businesses. By the end of it all, 13 people were dead, thousands injured, 711 fires had been started, the U Street corridor, once labeled the "Black Broadway" was gutted and 7th St. NW was obliterated. The only business that stayed open during that tumultuous period was Ben's Chili Bowl on U Street, which had "Soul Brother" painted on its window to alert arsonists and looters it was a black-owned establishment. Several other businesses shut down and moved after the three-day riot; many have not come back.

The ghosts of the past still haunt this area and this city. Seventh St., once a bustling commercial area of town is now filled with abandoned, dilapidated buildings. H Street NE by the Capitol still does not enjoy the commercial success it did before the riots. However, there are signs of change.

In 1984, the Development Corporation of Columbia Heights was started to revive the U Street Corridor and other areas severely affected by the riots. U Street is slowly but surely becoming more developed as industry and housing units return to the area. It has been 36 years since those fateful three days brought the nation's capital to its knees, and its effects still reverberate to this day.

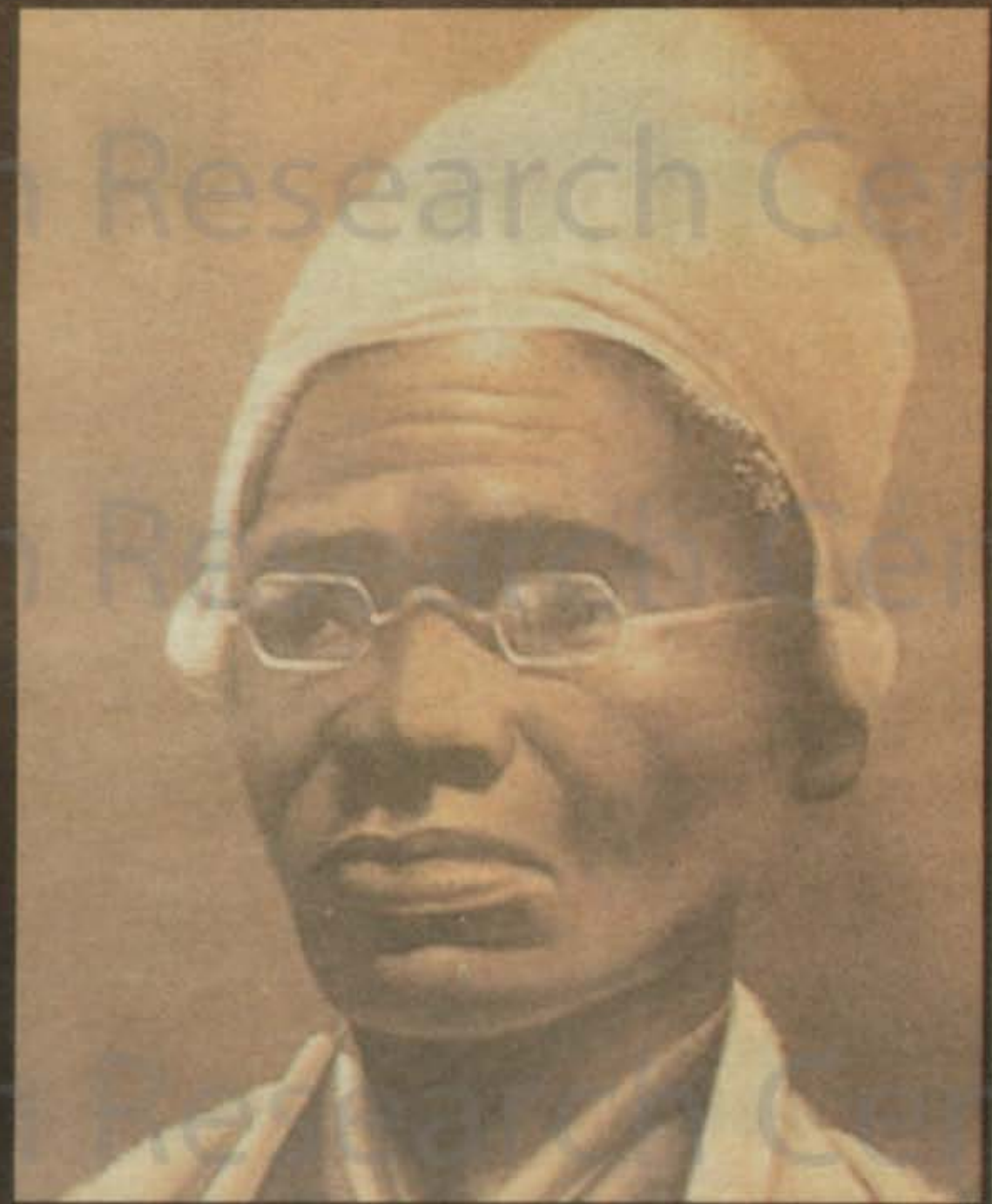




Harriet Tubman

# Womanism

By Asha French



Sojourner Truth

Janet Jackson was not the first black woman to bare her breasts to a largely racist American crowd. In 1852 in Akron, Ohio, Sojourner Truth ripped her shirtfront, defiantly met eyes with a white audience and asked, "Ain't I a woman?" Truth's denudation was much more than a desperate attempt to salvage a musical career; it was a shameless insistence on inclusion. Her breasts, though brown, were a physical characteristic that she shared with the very people who denied her access into arguments on women's rights in America. Facing a mob of angry white men and women who demanded her silence, Sojourner Truth laid the foundation for the womanist movement.

In "In Search of Our Mother's Gardens," Alice Walker coined this term that represents the black feminist movement. The womanist movement is only the latest effort to secure social equality for black women. African American women have long followed the footsteps of Sojourner Truth.

Anna Cooper was one such woman who advocated women's rights as early as the nineteenth century. "The colored woman of today occupies a unique position in this country," Cooper said. "She is confronted by the woman question and the race problem, and is yet an unknown or unacknowledged factor in both."

Black women have historically been "unknown or unacknowledged" in any movement that sought social equality for women.

According to bell hooks, black women grew to regret their involvement in the suffrage movement. "They found as they worked for suffrage that many whites saw granting women the right to vote as yet another way to maintain the oppressive system of white racial imperialism. Southern white suffragists rallied around a platform that argued that woman suffrage in the South would strengthen white supremacy. In the south white women outnumbered [black women] by two to one."

The tactics of southern suffragists laid the foundation for black distrust of white women's movements in America. After all women won their vote in 1920, black women saw their own conditions deteriorate. Not only did white women largely vote with their husbands, brothers and sons, but they completely disregarded the agendas of black suffragists. In fact, the rise of Jim Crow quickly eroded what little rights black women already had in America.

The black women who fought for gender equality had never given up on the fight for African American social equality. Again, however, black women's agendas as a marginalized group were tabled for the good of the whole race. Black men sought equal status with their ruling counterpart, the white man. Hence, black movements critiqued racism, but left the evils of patriarchy and capitalism untouched. Black women were urged to take the status of their white counterparts, to sub-

mit to their husbands and build the black family.

The feminist movement of the '70s offered alternatives to these lifestyles, but black women's historical distrust of exclusionary feminism limited their activism. Furthermore, struggles for racial equality required the unity of the black race. Amy Jacques Garvey, wife of Marcus Garvey, urged black women to focus their attention on Black Nationalism and participate equally in the Black Nationalism struggle. Garvey's urgings were only part of the black community's campaign for solidarity. Unfortunately, this solidarity often required black women's silence instead of black men's support of feminist issues.

This contradiction loosed the tongues of contemporary black feminists. Among them were Audre Lorde, Alice Walker, Michelle Wallace, bell hooks, Pearl Cleage, June Jordan and many others. They are women who, like Sojourner Truth, lay bare their desire for unity, equality and recognition. In one of the first published books on black feminism, "Ain't I a Woman," bell hooks says, "We, black women who advocate feminist ideology, are pioneers. We are clearing a path for ourselves and our sisters. We hope that as they see us reach our goal—no longer victimized, no longer unrecognized, no longer afraid—they will take courage and follow."



**Muhammad Ali**

*"I am America. I am the part you won't recognize, but get used to me. Black, confident, cocky; my name, not yours; my religion, not yours; my goals, my own; get used to me."*

**Arthur Ashe**

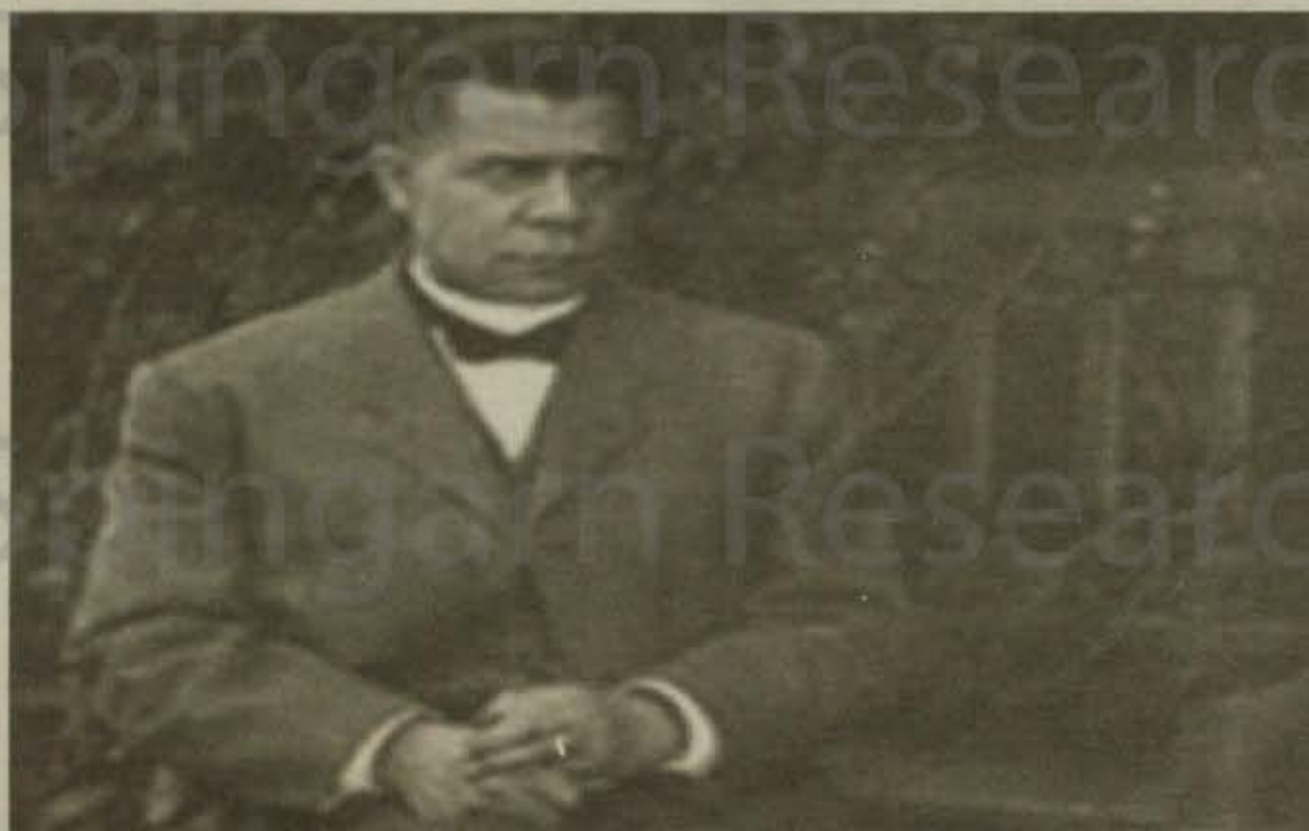
*"Racism is not an excuse to not do the best you can."*

**Charles W. Chesnutt**

*"The workings of the human heart are the profoundest mystery of the universe. One moment they make us despair of our kind and the next we see in them the reflection of the divine image."*

**(Leroy) Eldridge Cleaver**

*"You're either part of the solution or part of the problem."*



**Frederick Douglass**

*"You have seen how a man was made a slave; you shall see how a slave was made a man."*

**Ernest J. Gaines**

*"There will always be men struggling to change, and there will always be those who are controlled by the past."*

**Audre Lorde**

*"Anger, used, does not destroy. Hatred does."*

**Toni Morrison**

*"American means white and Africanist people struggle to make the term applicable to themselves with ethnicity and hyphen after hyphen after hyphen."*

**Words...**



### Carol Moseley-Braun

*"Defining myself, as opposed to being defined by others, is one of the most difficult challenges I face."*

### Jesse Owens

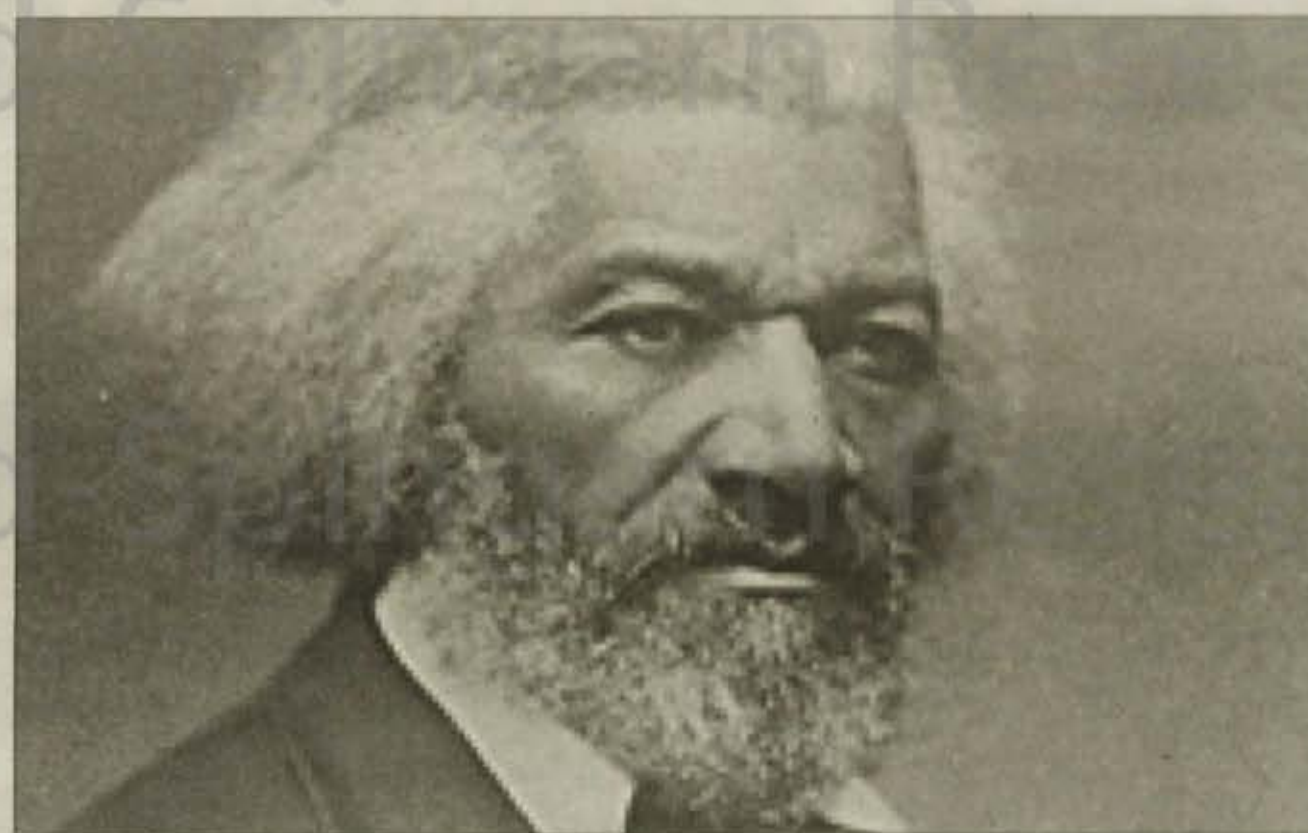
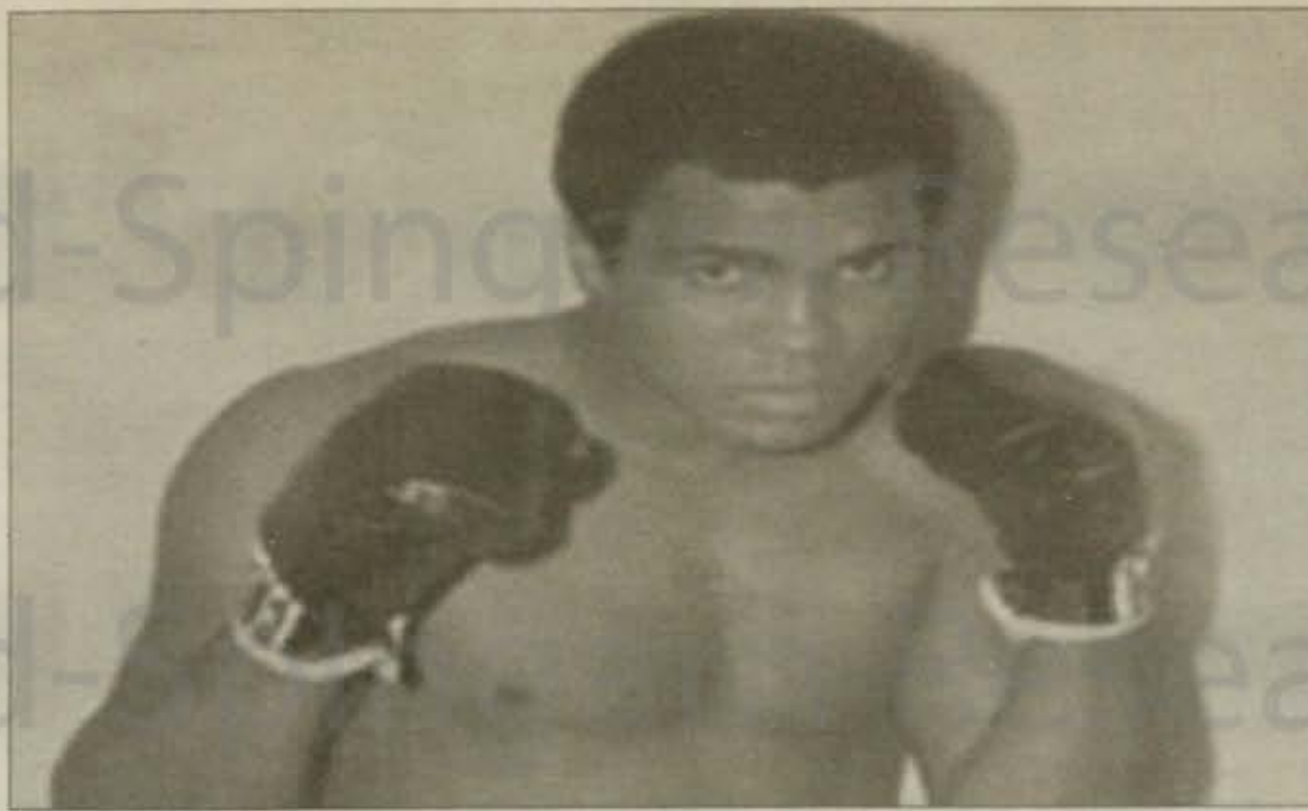
*"The battles that count aren't the ones for gold medals. The struggles within yourself—the invisible, inevitable battles inside all of us—that's where it's at."*

### Mary McLeod Bethune

*"The true worth of a race must be measured by the character of its womanhood."*

### Booker T. Washington

*"Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed."*



### August Wilson, Jr.

*"As long as the colored man looks to white folks to put the crown on what he say . . . as long as he looks to white folks for approval . . . then he ain't never gonna find out who he is and what he's about."*

### Maya Angelou

*"For Africa to me . . . is more than a glamorous fact. It is a historical truth. No man can know where he is going unless he knows exactly where he has been and exactly how he arrived at his present place."*

### James Baldwin

*"It is certain, in any case, that ignorance, allied with power, is the most ferocious enemy justice can have."*

### A. Philip Randolph

*"Freedom is never given; it is won."*

*...Of  
Wisdom*



# Most Influential

# 15

# Blacks In Sports

By L. Michael Flanagan

We dream of attaining their fortune and fame, admire them for their talent and will and try to mimic their style and expression. For more than 100 years, black athletes have dominated sports.

They have shown courage and heart and, by doing so, have become leaders and icons of our people. From Olympians John Carlos and Tommie Carlos who pointedly and passionately raised their black gloved fists in the air as the national anthem played in the 1968 games to LeBron James whose hype is the culmination of all those before him, black athletes in America have represented who we are and who we aspire to be.

Joe Louis and Jesse Owens' historical victories against German supremacists, Dr. J's huge afro and MJ's shoes all are important to black history and culture. Sports have helped America accept black people for who we are. Black athletes have erased negative stereotypes and have united people of all races, religions and creeds. Yes, no matter what people say, athletics has been the best thing to happen to black people since the civil rights movement.

Who are the most important black athletes? Which athletes have made the most positive impact? On April 23-24 Sports Perspectives International will salute the 15 most influential African-Americans in Sports during their annual Black Athletes in America Forum held this year, at Howard University's Blackburn Center.

Here are my top 15 most influential African-Americans in sports:

15. Bill Russell- basketball; black activist who led the Boston Celtics to 10 NBA titles and along with Jim Brown and Muhammad Ali, helped to promote change in the turbulent 1960's.

14. John Thompson- basketball coach; turned Georgetown into perennial basketball powerhouse. First black coach to lead his team to a NCAA title and first black head coach of an Olympic team.

Thompson is still fighting for change and making positive impact in sports.

13. Jack Johnson- boxing; he was the first African-American heavyweight boxing champion and by defeating a white man for the heavyweight title. Johnson served as inspiration to black folk of his generation.

12. Curt Flood- baseball; the father of free agency and thus multi-million dollar contracts, this Cincinnati Red challenged baseball's restrictive reserve clause. The case made it all the way to the Supreme Court, where he lost. The following year, the ruling was struck down and a new era of sports was ushered into America. Free agency.

11. Althea Gibson-tennis/golf; first black (male or female) to win a Grand Slam tennis title. She won the French Open in 1956 followed by Wimbledon and the U.S. Open in 1957 and 1958. She then retired from tennis to become the first black woman to play professional golf.

10. Tiger Woods- golf; Woods is the first and only black to win golf's treasured Masters. He's established golf as a sport that African-Americans ought to be included in.

9. Jesse Owens- Olympian; won four gold medals at the 1936 Games. His athletic exploits disproved Hitler and Nazi Germany's master race theory.

8. Hank Aaron- baseball; known as Hammerin' Hank he is the all-time home run king, breaking Babe Ruth's unreachable and treasured record of 714 in 1974. Amid death threats and insults, Aaron continued to persevere and ended his career with 755.

7. Michael Jordan- basketball; Jordan transformed the NBA into what it is today. He is the definition of a winner, both on the court and in the boardroom.

6. Arthur Ashe- tennis; he not

only was the first black male to win Wimbledon but was also a well-spoken activist and influential author.

5. Magic Johnson- basketball; the scope of his impact is still being measured. His team-oriented style helped lead the Lakers to five championships and his epic battles with Larry Bird transcended sports and race. His admission of the HIV virus has helped fund research and helped millions cope with the disease and his business savvy has reinvigorated urban renewal.

4. Jim Brown- football; the greatest running back who ever lived. Brown retired from the NFL at the age of 31 and began a successful career as an actor and activist. Brown understood economic empowerment and organized athletes and business people to unite and create their own

economic base in the age of segregation.

3. Joe Louis- boxing; the "Brown Bomber" was an African-American cultural icon. Louis inspired his generation, black and white, to fight Hitler's Master Race theory when he defeated German Max Schmeling. Louis held the heavyweight crown and unprecedented 11 years. Every Louis win resulted in untold celebration through out Black America in a time of Jim Crow activism.

2. Jackie Robinson- baseball; Robinson swallowed his tremendous pride and absorbed untold mental and verbal abuse in successfully breaking the color barrier in professional baseball in 1945. One of the greatest all-around athletes ever, he led the nation in rushing

one year and was the leading conference basketball scorer, all while attending UCLA. Robinson changed the face of American sports forever and proved that blacks did have the necessities to compete at any level of sports and in life.

1. Muhammad Ali- boxing; "The Greatest" Ali was a boxer, activist and author that transcended sports to become the most recognizable athlete ever. Ali stood up to the U.S. government when he refused induction to the military. Although his social stands became legendary, his athletic exploits were just as noteworthy. Ali won the heavyweight title an unprecedented three times and was the most colorful and graceful big man ever to engage in the sweet science.





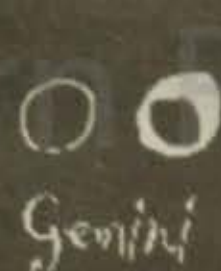
# horoscopes



MAR 21 - APR 20



APR 21 - MAY 21



MAY 22 - JUN 21



JUN 22 - JUL 23



JUL 24 - AUG 23



AUG 24 - SEP 23



SEP 24 - OCT 23



OCT 24 - NOV 22



NOV 23 - DEC 22



DEC 23 - JAN 20



JAN 21 - FEB 19



FEB 20 - MAR 20

**Aries-** Saying what you truly feel in your heart is relatively easy for you, but you get tongue-tied when you try to express your feelings on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Perhaps a handwritten note or an email would help you express what's on your mind better than trying to say out loud. Your creativity is appreciated when you use it to impress someone special with a handmade gift on Friday and Saturday, and if your handicraft is useful besides being beautiful, you get extra thanks. Love means fulfilling your responsibilities on Sunday, so don't try to hand them off to someone else.

**Cancer-** Having more than one person interested in you is overwhelming, but because it's also flattering, you don't mind the bit of turbulence it causes in your life. You're much more assertive than usual on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and if you've had your eye on someone, these are the days to stop beating around the bush and finally ask them out. An extravagant night out on Friday or Saturday may set you back financially, but making sure your sweetheart is pampered is worth breaking the bank. Going to great lengths to get your point across on Sunday helps you connect with someone new.

**Libra-** Everything's better when it's shared with someone you love, so open up and let someone else enjoy whatever you have to offer. You may be ready to move things along before your partner is on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and if that's the case, your patience will be required. Mismatched energy is the cause

of most of your romantic problems mid-week, but the balance is restored on Friday and Saturday, which means you can enjoy each other's company without trying too hard. You're perceptive when meeting new people on Sunday, which should help you see through the guise of a corny pickup line.

**Capricorn-** You arrive on time, but your date or mate is slightly less punctual. Forgive and forget unless you want to ruin the rest of the evening by continually chiding them. When problems arise on Tuesday through Thursday, your first instinct is to flee, but you can learn a lot more about yourself if you stick around to face the challenge. There's room for experimentation on Friday and Saturday, but don't push the envelope. 'No,' is a complete sentence no matter how teasingly the other person says it. Plans you made a long time ago begin to materialize on Sunday. You may not think you're ready for this stage of your life, but you are.

**Taurus-** Moving too quickly puts you in an uncomfortable situation, so slow down and think before you make your big move. Unless the person you have a secret crush on can read minds on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, you're going to have to leave them a couple of clues regarding your true identity. Subtlety is an art, and you're well versed in its virtues. You walk a dangerous line between confidence and arrogance on Friday and Saturday, and too much of a good thing can be a turnoff to the person you're with. A touch says what words can't on Sunday.

**Leo-** Letting a friend play matchmaker is a good idea, especially if they know your type. You don't like to feel as though you aren't in control of the situation on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. You prefer to manage your own social calendar on these days, especially if you're having a hard time controlling other areas of your life. Your bold, confident attitude on Friday and Saturday may win you the attention of someone you always considered to be out of your league, but you may end up canceling a tentative date with them after you have a chance to examine your motivations on Sunday.

**Scorpio-** Love and business don't mix, so don't sign any contracts, borrow or lend money to people you're in a relationship with. Ordering food you can feed to each other at an exotic restaurant helps set the mood for an exciting night on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and if you're unsure of what to order, ask your server for some suggestions on the sly. Your ego is bruised when you get rejected on Friday or Saturday, but when you think about it later, you'll realize your heart was never really in it to begin with. Sunday is a good day to keep secrets, especially if revealing them will hurt someone's feelings.

**Aquarius-** You can't contain your passion, not that anyone's asking you to. The recipient of your advances is more than happy to be in the position they're in. An ex pulls a stunt that truly tests your patience on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, but it's up to you to be the bet-

ter person by not stooping to their level in order to win the fight. Compromise is part of a romantic relationship on Friday and Saturday, but that doesn't mean you give and they take. If you can't reach a fair agreement, keep negotiating. Don't take anything for granted on Sunday. If you'd feel more comfortable having it in writing, start drawing up the papers.

**Gemini-** You don't have to finish what you start. The anticipation of 'Will they call or won't they?' makes for an interesting rest of the week. Money is tight on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, so if you're trying to impress someone via materialistic means, it's time to reevaluate your priorities. Do you really want someone who's impressed by a lot of materialistic show? Being in love doesn't mean you have to agree with everything your partner says on Friday and Saturday, and once you realize this, playing the devil's advocate can be quite fun. Your love life is the topic of some hot gossip on Sunday, which only helps to further your sizzling reputation.

**Virgo-** You're the logical one in a heated argument, and although it's tempting to be swayed by emotion, you're smart to remain rooted firmly in reality. Single Virgos have a chance to meet a potential love interest at an organized professional or hobby-related gathering on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. If you're already attached, use these events to network for your single friends. It's important to remain flexible on Friday and Saturday, because your original plan isn't necessarily the best one. Celebrate a major accomplishment with

the person you feel closest to on Sunday, even if they had nothing to do with your success.

**Sagittarius-** You talk a good game, but when pressed, you probably won't follow up your double entendres or innuendo with any action. You like the idea of being in love on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, but dealing with the reality of it may be a bit much. Sit on the sidelines until your head is a little more in the game. Friday and Saturday are good days to test your own personal limitations, so don't be afraid to do something that feels out of character. You don't like being told what to do on Sunday, so you'll probably want to spend time alone rather than with an overbearing mate.

**Pisces-** Whatever your romantic status is, leave it be. You aren't good with change in the beginning of the week, so don't let yourself be pressured to make any major love-related decisions. Being in love is much more fun than it is work on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, especially if you and your lover are both in a playful mood. You'd like nothing more than to share your political opinions with a date or mate on Friday and Saturday, but you have to respect their right to privacy if they don't feel like sharing theirs with you in return. You're a very loving and helpful partner on Sunday, which should be appreciated by someone who is having troubling coping with things on their own.



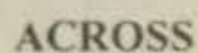
# The Hilltop

*Celebrating 80 Years of Excellence*



**TRUTH BE TOLD... TRUTH BE FORCED**





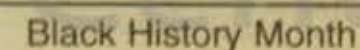
40. German river
41. Branch
42. Fledged
43. Fiendish
45. Stephen King novel
46. Imitated absurdly
47. Cry
48. Comprehend
51. Loathsome
57. Present occasion
58. Feminine undergarment
59. Eagle's nest
60. First woman in House of Commons
61. Rule
62. Affixes
63. Serves
64. Unagi
65. Elms

## DOWN

- |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  |    | 6  | 7  | 8  |    | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 |    |    |    |    |    | 15 |    |    |    | 16 |    |    |    |    |
| 17 |    |    |    |    |    | 18 |    |    |    | 19 |    |    |    |    |
| 20 |    |    |    |    |    | 21 |    |    |    | 22 |    |    |    |    |
|    |    |    |    | 23 |    |    |    | 24 | 25 |    |    |    |    |    |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |    |    |    | 30 |    |    |    |    | 31 | 32 | 33 |
| 34 |    |    |    |    |    | 35 |    |    |    |    |    | 36 |    |    |
| 37 |    |    |    |    |    | 38 |    |    |    |    | 39 |    |    |    |
| 40 |    |    |    |    | 41 |    |    |    |    | 42 |    |    |    |    |
| 43 |    |    |    | 44 |    |    |    |    | 45 |    |    |    |    |    |
|    |    |    | 46 |    |    |    |    | 47 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 48 | 49 | 50 |    |    |    |    | 51 | 52 |    |    | 53 | 54 | 55 | 56 |
| 57 |    |    |    |    |    |    | 58 |    |    |    | 59 |    |    |    |
| 60 |    |    |    |    |    |    | 61 |    |    |    | 62 |    |    |    |
| 63 |    |    |    |    |    |    | 64 |    |    |    | 65 |    |    |    |

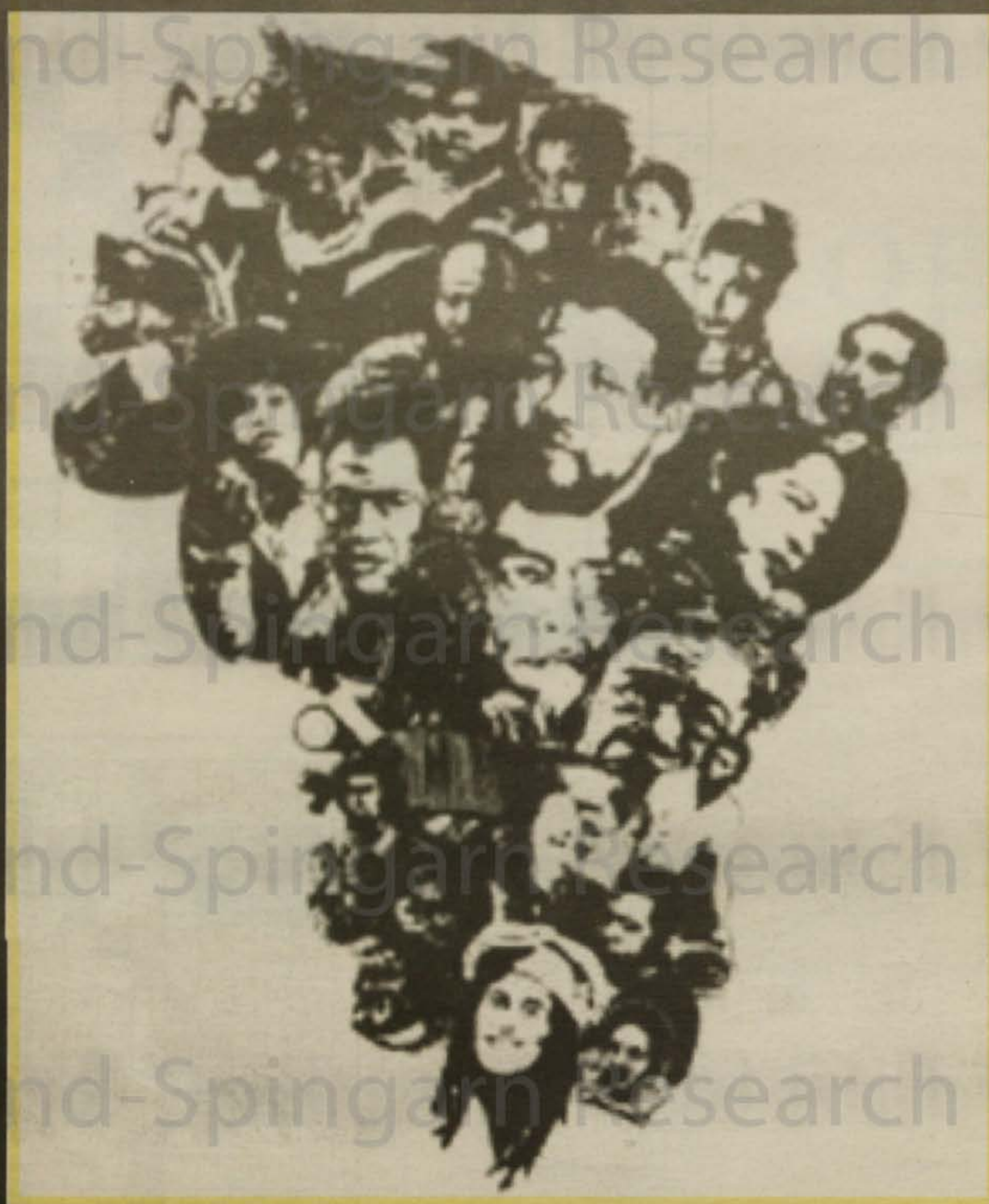
(C) 2004 Collegiate Presswire Features Syndicate  
<http://www.cpwire.com>

12. Austen novel
13. Scandinavian rugs
21. Tonic companion
25. Snake sound
26. Wished
27. Clyster
28. Cleanse
29. Eternity
30. French money
31. Vacant
32. Desirous
33. Prepared
35. Able to evade
38. Sea eagle
39. Fuel
41. Jalapeno followers
42. Colorful
44. Cheerleader in costume
45. Cow talk
47. Shoulder blanket
48. Chew
49. Activist Parks
50. Against
52. Hillside
53. Back
54. Great Lake
55. Egyptian river
56. Roberts in *Ocean's Eleven*





# BLACK



# HISTORY MONTH