

Alain Locke

Q — Bryant Gumbel, the new host of the Today, is he a former athlete?

Los Angeles, CA

A — No. Former sportscaster

Gumbel did not follow the
playing field-to-microphone
route of many other sportscasters. Last time he played
ball, it was in school at Maine's
Bates College: football and
baseball.

The 33-year-old Gumbel, who is the first black to host a network talk show, moved from NBC's NFL '81 to the top Teday show spot on January 4. The bottom line on his contract will mean about \$2 million to him over the next three years.

Now if they could just find someone to replace Jane Pauley.

Q — Could you tell me when the Broadway musical, "The First," on the life of Jackie Robinson will play?

West Chester, PA

A — Unfortunately, the the musical based on the life of the first black man to play in the baseball's major leagues closed in October after a very short run.

Q — Laverne Baker, what a singer! What is she doing now? W. L. Boyd Baltimore, MD



Jackie Robinson

CELEBRITY

LOCKOUT

By JASON:

unable to get a recent lead on the singer, I can tell you that, in early 1980, the singer's former husband, comedian Slappy White, told me that Ms. Baker was living in Thailand and performing in various cities in the Orient as a nightclub singer.

If anyone out there has anything more recent or if Ms. Baker herself should see this, we'd love to hear from you.

Miles Davis

Q — After reading about the award of the Rhodes scholar-ships recently, I wondered if there have been any black winners?

M. Easly

A — There have been several black winners of the Rhodes scholarships, which were established in 1904 by a magnanimous gift to Oxford University from British statesman, Cecil John Rhodes.

The first black Rhodes scholar was the fastidious, and brilliant doyen of the Harlem Renaissance, Alain Locke. Locke, who was born in Philadelphia, graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Harvard in 1907.

A year later, Locke became the academic beneficiary of the racist little monster who forced the Matabele tribe to give up their land, called it Rhodesia and then consolidated his holdings (diamond mines that is) into the De Beers Consolidated Mines.

For his part, Alain Leroy Locke performed magnificently at Oxford in spite of the isolation of him by white Americans and the ignorance of the British. A close colleague of Locke said later, "All this seared, the social discrimination which he suffered at Oxford — but it did not scar."

Q — My son says that this rock and roll singer T. S. Monk is the son of the piano player Thelonius Monk who my husband and I used to listen to in the '50s. Is this true? Where is the father? And is

it true that there is a Miles Davis
Jr. who plays trumpet like his
father?

G. Gadson Brooklyn, NY

A — Yes, to your first question.
Thelonius S. Monk is the son of the great composer-piano player Thelonius. The elder Monk continues to live in seclusion in New York City and is said to be in poor health in recent years.

Gregory (known as Rahman) plays around with the trumpets that are gifts from his father. However, he has not declared himself a serious trumpet player, and is aware that his father's shadow would be an awesome one for the most dedicated.

Davis' youngest son by first wife, Irene, is called Little Miles by his family and, at 30, has shown no interest in playing the trumpet to date.

Q — What's this about Jayne Kennedy divorcing Leon to marry disc jockey Frankie Crocker? Has Crocker been married before?

A. McEachern
New York, NY
A — A nasty rumor and absolutely untrue, according to
Crocker, who says he and the
actress are "just good friends."
Crocker was formerly married to

All letters should be addressed to Jason, DAWN Magazine, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, Md. 21201. All questions are welcome, but while Jason cannot provide individual answers, questions of general interest will be used in this column.



Laverne Baker

Billie Mays, daughter of Marguerite and baseball hall-of-famer Willie Mays.

-First West Point

(Continued from Page 3)
Fetus Flipper, March 21, 1856 in
Thomasville, Ga. The family
moved to Atlanta, in 1859.

During his early years, Flipper and his brother, Joseph, were tutored by John F. Quarles, a mechanic. Quarles later graduated from Westminster College and served at the United States Consul at Malaga and Port Nahon, Spain.

The Flipper boys also were tutored, for a fee, by the wife of a former Confederate soldier after the war and attended schools of the American Missionary Association, including Atlanta University.

As a freshman at the university, Flipper received his appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY. He began his cadetship July 1, 1883.

was able to work steadily during the next 47 years. Apparently, his military training served him well in civilian life.

From 1883 until 1885, Flipper worked as a surveyor of the public lands in the Mexican state of Chihuahua, with A.O. Wingo, the representative of a company, whose members were former

(Continued on Page 18)

MOST BLACK ALL-STARS AREN'T IN THE RECORD BOOKS.

Long before black Americans made headlines on the playing field, they were making history. Lots of it. In fields like medicine, exploration, industry, and on the field of battle.

The names of these early "all-stars" probably aren't on the tip of your tongue.

That's because they aren't in most history books either.

A black man was the first to reach the North Pole. Matthew Henson, a member of Commodore Perry's expedition, raised the flag there in 1909.

Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, a black surgeon, performed the world's first successful heart operation almost one hundred years ago.

In 1761, Benjamin Banneker designed and built the first striking clock.

It was also the first clock made entirely in America.

And, on a September morning in 1864, thirteen black soldiers earned Congressional Medals of Honor. They led the Union Army's successful assault on Chaffin's Farm, a Confederate stronghold on the outskirts of Richmond, Virginia.

