Black Facts to Remember

JANUARY

FREDERICK DOUGLASS escaped from slavery and later founded the North Star, a black abolitionist newspaper. He once said, "(The slave's) going out into the world is like a living man going into the tomb, who, with open eyes, sees himself buried out of sight and hearing of wife, children and friends of kindred tie."

The CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS which lobbies for black interests,was founded with 13 members. It now has 23 members and there are 6,700 elected black officials nationwide.

JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN, Professor Emeritus of history at Duke University, received the Black History Makers Award from the Associated Black Charities at Carnegie Hall in 1988. He is the author of "From Slavery to Freedom: A History of Negro Americans," which, since its appearance 40 years ago, has gone through six printings.

FEBRUARY

ROGERIEE THOMPSON became the first black woman appointed to a state judgeship in Rhode Island in 1968. She was a 1973 graduate of Brown University.

In 1964 CASSIUS CLAY defeated Sonny Liston to capture the world heavyweight boxing championship. Two days after he had won the title, Clay announced that he was joining the Black Muslims. He then changed his name to MUHAMMED ALI.

In 1868 the nation's first black medical school was founded at HOWARD UNIVERSITY. Eight students were in the first entering class. Over a century later, there were 89 members of the Class of '88.

MARCH

In 1972, 17-year-old CHERYL WHITE became the first black female jockey. In the same year, Juan Arias trained Canonero II to victory at the 97th Kentucky Derby — thus becoming the first black to have trained a Derby winner.

In 1981, MICHAEL DONALD of Mobile, Ala. was murdered by Ku Klux Klanners. His mother, BEULAH MAE DONALD, initiated a lawsuit which lasted five years and resulted in a $7 million judgment in her favor. It was a landmark decision against the Klan nationwide.

ADAM CLAYTON POWELL, III is the head of news for National Public Radio in Washington. His father was the late minister and congressman from New York, Adam Clayton Powell, Sr., and his mother was jazz pianist Hazel Scott.

APRIL

On April 4, 1968, DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. was assassinated in Memphis at age 39.

On April 8, 1974, HANK AARON hit a 385 foot blast off Al Downing of the Los Angeles Dodgers. The ball sailed over Atlanta Stadium's left field fence as the crowd rose to its feet and cheered. Babe Ruth's record of 714 career home runs had been broken.

Popular TRACY CHAPMAN, 24 was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. She attended Tufts University, where she studied anthropology. In 1988, she released her first album, self titled, which features the hit song, "Fast Car."

The stereotypical, negative portrayal of blacks, as seen above, are completely dispelled with the stellar achievements of African-Americans.

WILLIAM E.B. DUBOIS, who wrote about the "Talented 10th", was one of the founders of the Niagara Movement in 1905. This led to the establishment of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

MAY

ANDREW YOUNG was born in New Orleans in 1932. In 1972, he was elected to Congress from a Washington District; in 1977 he was appointed by President Carter as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. Since 1982, he has been Mayor of Atlanta, Ga.

HAMPTON UNIVERSITY, founded in 1868, had an $87 million endowment in 1987, the largest of any black college. For its 1981 freshman class, the university received 6,000 applications for only 800 places. WILLIAM HARVEY, president, hopes to expand Hampton's influence as a major learning center.

HENRY O. FLIPPER was the first black to graduate from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point (1877). JOHN H. ALEXANDER became the second. In the classes of 1989 to '92, out of 4,381 cadets enrolled, 319 are black Americans.

JUNE

ANNA JULIA COOPER, an educator, wrote a remarkable series of feminist essays in 1892, entitled "A Voice From the South." She wrote that "to be a woman of the Negro race in America...is to have a heritage, it seems to me, unique in the ages."

One of the last slave ships to bring captive Africans to the United States was the WANDERER, which sailed from West Africa in 1859.

In 1967, the REV. ANDREW BROWN founded the Indiana Black Expo, a music festival. It attracted 75,000 people to 70 booths. By 1987, the Expo, which opened June 25 and lasted to Oct. 13, had grown to 500 booths and grossed over $1 million.

JULY

In 1955, AUTHERINE LUCY, represented by NAACP lawyer THURGOOD MARSHALL, (who later became the first black member of the U.S. Supreme Court) finally gained entry to the University of Alabama after a protracted court battle. She was later forced to withdraw by local whites.

LEWIS LATTIMER aided Alexander Graham Bell in drawing up plans for the telephone, and Thomas Edison in his plans for the electric lamp, where Lattimer designed a new light bulb filament. He arranged for the installation of electric lights in major cities, including New York, Philadelphia and London, and in 1890, published a clasic textbook, "Incandescent Electric Lighting: A Practical Description of the Edison System."

In 1965, soul singer OTIS REDDING wrote and recorded "Respect", which won a gold record for ARETHA FRANKLIN in 1967. That year, Redding made a spectacular appearance at the Monterey Pop Festival, then recorded his greatest hit in December — "Sittin on the Dock of the Bay". But three days later, Redding, 26, was killed in a plane crash.

AUGUST

On Aug. 5, 1864 Admiral Farragut steamed 18 Federal warships into Mobile Bay, closing off the Confederate pot to blockade runners. JOHN LAWSON fought bravely with the victorious fleet, and was awarded the U.S. Naval Medal for heroism.

JOHN H. MURPHY, SR. founded the AFRO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS in 1892. This is one of the oldest black newspaper chains in the country. The company has papers in Baltimore, Washington and Richmond, Va.and also publishes EVERY WEDNESDAY and DAWN Magazine.

MARION BARRY, the son of a Mississippi sharecroppper, was a steady participant in the Civil Rights Movement. For over 10 years, he has served as mayor of Washington, DC, where he oversees a $3.4 million budget.

The first black woman ever to head an American bank was MARGARET L. "MAGGIE" WALKER, born in 1867.

SEPTEMBER

In 1967, DR. BENJAMIN CARSON, director of Pediatric Neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, separated Siamese twins who were joined at the head. It was a 22 hour operation that Carson called "perhaps the most complex surgical feat in the history of mankind."

DR. CARTER G. WOODSON founded the Association of Negro Life and History in Chicago in 1915. He was publisher of The Journal of Negro History.

BERNARD SHAW has been with Cable News Network (CNN) since its inception in 1980. In 1987, the Atlanta-based network was in a position to reach 41 households and realized $200 million in revenues. Last year, Shaw was the moderator for the second debate between President George Bush and Democratic contender Michael Dukakis.

OCTOBER

In 1871, nine black singers — eight of them emancipated slaves — left Nashville to try and raise $20,000 for Fisk University. By late October, they called themselves the JUBILEE SINGERS. They toured Europe a year later, where they sang spirituals for Queen Victoria. By 1978, they had raised $150,000.

Inventor, professor and Renaissance man GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER received an award for painting at the Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. He was famous for the many products he got out of the peanut.

The AFRICAN COMPANY OF NEW YORK CITY began performing Shakespeare in 1821.

NOVEMBER

The only successful slave revolt in American history occurred in 1841. A Virginia slave, MADISON WASHINGTON, led a revolt on the slave ship "Creole". Along with 118 other slaves, he sailed to British Nassau, where they were given their freedom.

ROBERT TALIAFERRO, an inmate at Minnesota's correctional facility in Stillwater, is the editor of the nation's oldest and finest prison journal, The Prison Mirror. Founded 101 years ago, the Mirror 's original staff members rode with Jesse James. Taliferro teaches convicts to be reporters.

In 1939, sculptor AUGUSTA SAVAGE created a special work for the New York World's Fair, "Lift Every Voice and Sing", a 16-foot harp whose strings were Black children, standing erect and singing. Also in the 1930s, she became the first Black member of the National Association of Women Painters and Sculptors.

DECEMBER

RICHARD WRIGHT, author of the best-sellers "Native Son" and the autobiographical "Black Boy", died in Paris in 1960. His novel "Native Son" became a landmark study on Black poverty in urban areas.

In 1863, COL. ROBERT G. SHAW, a white officer and a Harvard graduate, led the 54th Massachusetts (colored) Infantry in a charge against a Charleston battery. He and 44 percent of his soldiers were killed. Jeering Confederates stripped Shaw's mutilated body and threw him and his men into a mass grave.

Every Christmas Day, Copeland's Restaurant, on 145th Street in Harlem, opens its doors to the needy. Food and entertainment is provided to the children of the incarcerated, and also to welfare and foster-home children. The event is organized by actress CLARICE TAYLOR.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH CALENDAR

Towson State University Celebrates

Distinguished Black Marylanders Awards Ceremony, Sunday, February 12 at 3 p.m., in the Potomac Lounge of the University Union.

Black Memorabilia Show and Sale, Thursday, February 23 from 1 to 9 p.m., Friday, February 24 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Saturday, February 25 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., in the Potomac Lounge of the University Union.

For more information, call the African-American Cultural Center, (301) 321-2641.

CCC Black Student Union

Black Student Union Film Series at noon on the following dates:

February 13: "Bloods," a documentary highlighting the experiences of Black Viet Nam veterans. Barn Theatre.

February 20: "Hollywood Shuffle," a spoof exposing the problems encountered by Black actors/actresses in Hollywood. Barn Theatre.

February 27: "The Hate That Hate Produced," a documentary focusing on the lives of Black Civil Rights figures such as Malcolm X, Adam Clayton Powell, Roy Wilkins, and others. Barn Theatre.

"African-American Storytelling." A presentation of the fascinating art of storytelling and how it has been instrumental in passing on the African-American heritage from generation to generation. February 15, at 1 p.m., in the Barn Theatre.

"Soul In Motion." A celebration of the rich African-America heritage through music and drama. February 17, at noon, in the Barn Theatre.

"The First Black President of the United States." This one-man show by Dennis Rahim Watson is a powerful, timely dramatic performance dealing with the social, foreign, and domestic policies of the 80's. February 22, at 1 p.m., in the Barn.

Singer Brenda Alford Presents A History of Jazz Through Song. The multi-talented artist along with her band traces the development of African-American music from Africa to the present. February 28, at 12:30 p.m., in the Barn.

For further information call April Warwick, 455-4194.

Herbert M. Frisby Historical Society

The Herbert M. Frisby Historical Society, Inc. will sponsor the Arena Players in "In Splendid Error," on Friday, February 10, 1989, at the Arena Playhouse, located at 801 McCulloh Street. A special reception will be held at 7:30 p.m., and curtain time is 8:30 p.m.

"In Splendid Error" is a historical drama about the life of Frederick Douglass, his escape to New York and his meeting of John Brown. The author of the play is expected to appear.

The artwork of Reva Lewie, one of Baltimore's renowned artists, will be displayed in the lobby. Further information 448-0051 or 243-4231.

Black Memorabilia Show and Sale

Towson State University's Office of Minority Affairs and Ethnic Treasures, Inc. will host a Black Memorabilia and Black Collectibles Show and Sale Thursday, February 23 through Saturday, February 25, in the Potomac Lounge of the University Union on the TSU campus. Admission is free.

Hours for the show and sale will be 1 to 9 p.m on Thursday, February 23; 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday, February 24; and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, February 25.

Featured will be old and new black collectibles, books, historical papers, toys, jewelry, African artifacts, coins, art and more. Seminars on black memorabilia collecting, music, and ethnic cuisine will also be available.

Make the Weekend Work for You!

Interested in earning a college degree, but having problems arranging classes to fit your schedule? Morgan State's Weekend University features classes conveniently scheduled on weekends for working adults and others who are unable to attend weekday classes. Beginning in September, 1989, Morgan State will begin enrolling potential Bachelor of Science graduates to the Degree Weekend University in Accounting, Business Administration, Telecommunications and Social Work. Schedules have been arranged to insure that all courses needed to complete degree requirements will be available.

By taking courses offered on Friday evenings and Saturdays, students enrolled in the Weekend University can earn a degree in approximately five to six years. Financial aid is available to students in the program including loans, scholarships, grants and job opportunities. Upon enrolling and filing required financial aid information, you will automatically be considered for all categories of aid for which you qualify. Plan now to register for next semester. For more information please contact: Office of Continuing Studies, Morgan State University, 444-3155.

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