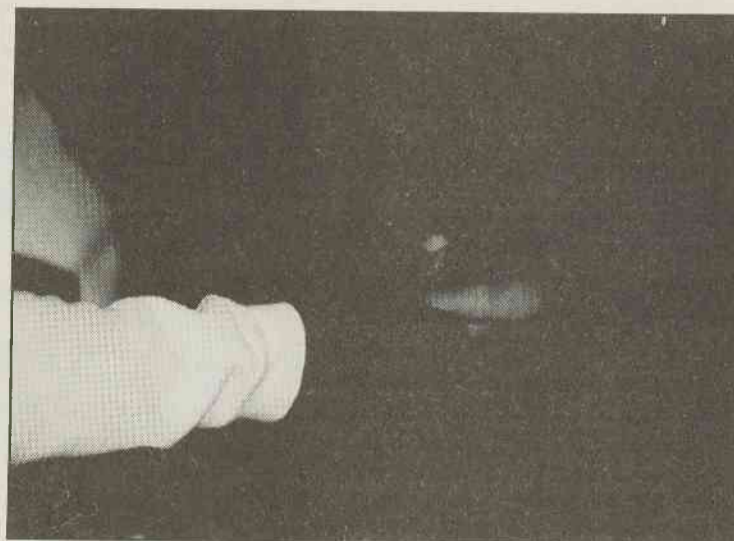
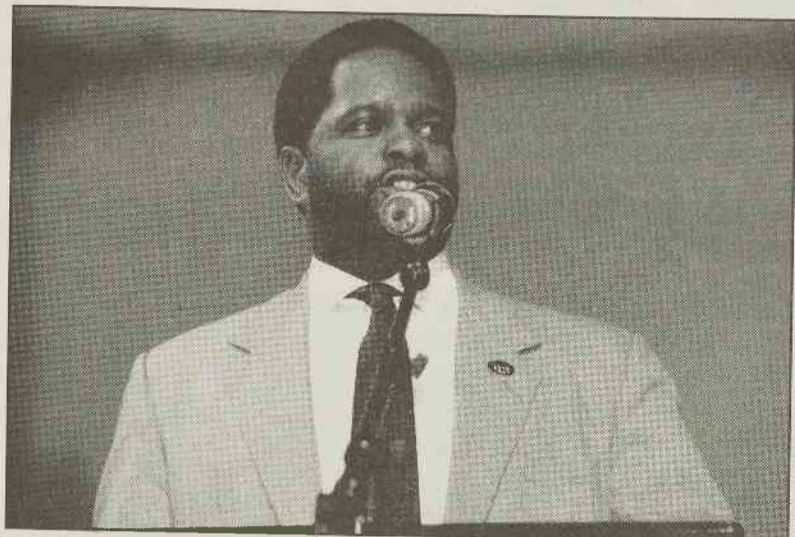


## A Celebration of Life

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Opinion Editor



Gospel music was a part of African American culture before afros, black panthers, and "Tims". Before our ancestors could read and write they were out there in the fields singing hymns.

But how did Gospel music get to be as big as it is now? Who had the vision to take the slave hymns and turn them into songs that are sung in churches today? This visionary was Charles Albert Tindley, who is the father of Gospel music.

On Monday January 21, 2008, Dr.

Martin Luther King Jr. day, FSU paid tribute to Charles Albert Tindley. The celebration concert held in the Seabrook Auditorium was sponsored by the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and the Department of Performing and Fine Arts. The event opened up with a riveting oratory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by Stephon Ferguson. The oratory was a compilation of many of Dr. King's speeches including his famous "I Have a Dream Speech".

Following the oratory, Stan R. Waring, a professor of Speech and Theater here at the

university, started narrating the life of Charles Albert Tindley.

Charles Tindley was born in the 1850's to a slave father and a free mother who died before he reached the age of two. While working beside slaves and farm hands, Charles was introduced to Bible stories through their spirituals. Tindley learned the alphabet and spelling by collecting newspaper scraps. After learning the alphabet and spelling, Tindley received lessons from a school teacher, seven miles away. By age seventeen, Charles, was able to read and write.

The turn out for the event was commendable and many FSU students enjoyed themselves. Jasmine Hammond, a freshman, said "I enjoyed the oratory performance because good points were made.

Also, the vocals of the choir were excellent. All in all the program brought me closer to my heritage". The 11th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration concert was a complete success. This program served as a great prelude to Black History Month and the events that will take place during that month.



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### Dates in Black History To Remember

February 1-	(2001) President George W. Bush proclaimed February as National African American History month. Bush called upon legislators officials, educators, librarians, and all people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.
February 2-	(1995) Dr. Bernard A. Harris became the first African American to walk in space. This was Dr. Harris' second mission in space and he bore the rank of Payload Commander. Total, Dr. Harris logged over 198 hours in space, and traveled 2.9 million miles. Dr. Harris is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.
February 3-	(1870) The Fifteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution was ratified. This document provides that all governments in the United States may not prevent a citizen from voting based on race, color, or gender.
February 4-	(1913) Rosa Parks, the American Civil Rights Activist is born in Tuskegee, Alabama. Parks became famous for refusing to obey a bus driver and make room for a white passenger, which sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1955.
February 5-	(1984) Charles "Chuck" Cooper, the NBA legend dies. Chuck was the first black to be drafted by an NBA team in 1950 with the the Boston Celtics after college. During his NBA career, Cooper played for the Milwaukee Hawks, and Ft. Wayne Pistons.
February 6-	(1820) 86 Free African Americans sail from New York City to Sierra Leone, which welcomed free blacks.
February 7-	(1984) Walt Bergman, an 84-year old freedom rider, who was beaten by the Ku Klux Klanman at an Alabama bus station in 1961, was awarded a \$50,000 judgement by a United States District court.
February 8-	(1968) The Orangeburg Massacre occurred. A crowd of protesters were gathered on the campus of South Carolina State University, and police fired into the crowd, killing three students and injuring twenty-seven. The people were protesting segregation.
February 9-	(1971) Leroy "Satchel" Paige was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame. Paige was the first player from the Negro League to ever receive this honor.
February 10-	(1989) Ronald H. Brown, former Secretary of Commerce during the Clinton Administration, was first African American to be elected chairman of the Democratic National Convention.
February 11-	(1990) Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, the 11th President of South Africa, after 27 years is released from prison. Nelson was originally incarcerated on convictions for crimes while he spearheaded the struggle against apartheid.
February 12-	(1909) The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was founded. With W. E. B. Dubois as one of its primary founders, the organization fought to abolish forced segregation and enforce the 14th and 15th Amendments.
February 13-	(1913) Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is founded on the campus of Howard University. Delta Sigma Theta is currently the largest African American sorority in the world with more than 950 chapters.

The Voice has compiled a synopsis of dates that are significant in African American history. On these dates are specific events that occurred, some good and some bad. The Staff at The Voice encourages everyone to be mindful of African American Heritage during the month of February. This is part one of a two issue series of dates in Black History: Important to Remember. In the next issue, the remainder of February's dates in black history will be present.

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