

Black History Month: A Brief Background

"The struggle of man against power is the struggle of memory against forgetting."
—Milan Kundera
The Book of Laughter And Forgetting

To Milan Kundera, an author and dissident exiled from his native Czechoslovakia, the real war against tyranny is a private one, with the human mind as battleground. Confronted by forces that seek to subjugate

him, each man must preserve the memory of his own freedom and dignity. To forget means accepting the diminished world planned for him by his oppressors: the world of the slave.

Kundera's view of tyranny is not new. It was forcefully articulated at the beginning of this century by a black American, Dr. Carter G. Woodson. Woodson is the founder of Afro-American (Black) History Month, which America observes for the 56th time this February.

American history told otherwise, and he saw education, particularly in Afro-American history and culture, as the key to ending the mental enslavement of black and white Americans. He reasoned that if people could be shown the significance of black culture in America's history, if the achievements of Afro-Americans could be brought to light, then the attitudes of blacks toward themselves, and the attitudes of whites toward blacks, would change.

Carter Woodson believed that the most complete form of enslavement was mind control. "When you control a man's thinking," he wrote, "you do not have to worry about his actions. You do not have to tell him not to stand here or go yonder. He will find his 'proper place' and will stay in it. You do not need to send him to the back door. He will go without being told. In fact, if there is no back door he will cut one for his special benefit. HIS EDUCATION MAKES IT NECESSARY."

In 1915, Woodson took the first steps to promote this goal when he and several colleagues founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, an organization whose purposes were "the collection of sociological and historical data on the Negro, the study of people of African blood, the publishing of books in this field, and the promotion of harmony between the races by acquainting the one with the other." In 1916, he founded the *Journal of Negro History*. Eleven years later, he and the Association founded Black History Month, then called the Negro History Week Celebration. It was a national success in its first year, and since then the annual celebration has provided a time for Americans to reflect upon the achievements of blacks in American history, and has given educators like Woodson an opportunity to dispel the racial myths that he knew to be so crippling.

The son of slave parents, Woodson believed that though emancipation had been officially proclaimed generations earlier, the minds of black Americans — and whites as well — were still enslaved by the dogma of white superiority. Not only were such notions accepted as commonplace truths; they were part of the humanities education given at the nation's colleges, where their presence, according to Woodson, fostered an "educational process which inspires and stimulates the oppressor with the thought that he is everything and has accomplished everything worthwhile. . . ."

The Harvard-trained Woodson knew the facts of

Monday-Friday Daytime

February 1 - 5, 1982

	WFMY CH. 2 Cable 2	WPTF CH. 28 Cable 3	WTVD CH. 11 Cable 6	WUNC CH. 4 Cable 9	WTTG CH. 5 Cable 10	WRAL CH. 5 Cable 12	WTBS CH. 17 Cable 13	WGHP CH. 8
7:00	Good Morning	Today	Captain Kangaroo Morning	AMWeather	New Zoo Review Great Space Coaster	Good Morning America	Fun Time	Good Morning America
7:15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7:30	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7:45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
8:00	Captain Kangaroo Morning	..	..	Over Easy	Porky Pig	..	I Dream Of Jeannie My Three Sons	..
8:15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
8:30	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
8:45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
9:00	..	Richard Simmons Leave It To Woman	Donahue	Sesame Street	I Love Lucy Chico &	Hour Magazine	Movie	Richard Simmons Charlie Rose
9:15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
9:30	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
9:45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10:00	Alice	Regis Philbin Blockbuster	One Day At A Time Alice	Varied Programs	Rhoda	Uncle Paul	..	John Davidson
10:15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10:30	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10:45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
11:00	Price Is Right	Wheel Of Fortune Battlestars	Price Is Right	..	Medical Center	Three's Company	Movie	Three's Company
11:15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
11:30	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
11:45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
12:00	Mary Tyler Moore Young & The Restless	Password Plus The Doctors	News Young & The Restless	..	Panorama	News Ryan's Hope	..	Family Feud Ryan's Hope
12:15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
12:30	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
12:45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1:00	..	Days Of Our Lives	..	Readalong Varied Programs Readalong	..	All My Children	Movie	All My Children
1:15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1:30	As The World Turns	..	As The World Turns	..	..	..	..	..
1:45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2:00	..	Another World	..	Electric Company	..	One Life To Live	..	One Life To Live
2:15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2:30	Search For Tomorrow	..	Search For Tomorrow	..	..	..	..	..
2:45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3:00	Guiding Light	ScoobyDoo Woody Woodpecker	Guiding Light	Sesame Street	Tom & Jerry Superman	General Hospital	Fun Time Flintstones	General Hospital
3:15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3:30	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3:45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4:00	Jeffersons Gomer Pyle	Laverne & Shirley Star Trek	Incredible Hulk	Sesame Street	Incredible Hulk	Good Times Happy Days Again	Munsters Leave It To Beaver	Good Times Carter Country
4:15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4:30	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4:45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5:00	Jeffersons Andy Griffith	News	Carter Country Jeffersons	Mister Rogers' 3-2-1 Contact	I Love Lucy Andy Griffith	Good Times Andy Griffith	Brady Bunch Beverly Hillbillies	M.A.S.H. M.A.S.H.
5:15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5:30	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5:45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
6:00	News CBS News	Muppet Show NBC News	News CBS News	Dr. Who Wildlife Adventure	Carol Burnett Happy Days Again	News ABC News	Andy Griffith Gomer Pyle	News ABC News
6:15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
6:30	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
6:45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Monday Evening

February 1, 1981

	WFMY CH. 2 Cable 2	WPTF CH. 28 Cable 3	WTVD CH. 11 Cable 6	WUNC CH. 4 Cable 9	WTTG CH. 5 Cable 10	WRAL CH. 5 Cable 12	WTBS CH. 17 Cable 13	WGHP CH. 8
7:00	CBS News	Family Feud	Jeffersons	MacNeil/Lehrer N.C. People	Welcomeback Kotter M.A.S.H.	Good Times P. M. Magazine	Carol Burnett Sanford & Son	Entertain Tonight Tic Tac Dough
7:15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7:30	P. M. Magazine	Muppet Show	M.A.S.H.	N.C. People	M.A.S.H.	P. M. Magazine	..	..
7:45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
8:00	Mr. Merlin	Little House	Mr. Merlin	Fen Who Dared	Conn. vs. Providence	That's Incredible	TBS Movie: "The Greatest Show On Earth"	That's Incredible
8:15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
8:30	Pvt. Benjamin	..	Pvt. Benjamin	..	..	..	..	..
8:45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
9:00	M.A.S.H.	Movie: "World War III"	M.A.S.H.	Great Performances	..	Theatre: "Pray TV"	Earth	Theatre: "Pray TV"
9:15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
9:30	House Calls	..	House Calls	..	..	..	..	..
9:45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10:00	Lou Grant	..	Lou Grant	Bernstein/Beethoven	News	..	..	..
10:15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10:30	..	..	..	..	..	..	TBS News	..
10:45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
11:00	News 2	News	News	Twilight Zone Dick Cavett	M.A.S.H.	News	..	News
11:15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
11:30	Quincy/Banacek	Tonight	Charlie's Angels	..	..	..	TBS Theatre: "Tender"	Nightline
11:45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
12:00	..	..	..	..	Perry Mason	Late Movie: "Rebel Of The Road"	Is The Night	TV8 Movie
12:15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
12:30	..	Tomorrow	Rockford	..	..	..	..	..
12:45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Calendar

SEARCHING FOR FINANCIAL AID — Start with EOC (Educational Opportunity Center), 208 S. Main St., Roxboro. They have the latest information on federal, campus-based and independent aid funds.

Financial Aid Forms (FAF), Family Financial Statements (FFS) and Basic Educational Opportunity Grant (BEOG) applications are available at EOC. They can help complete the forms quickly and accurately. Call EOC today (599-0257).

LEADERSHIP TRAINING WORKSHOP — sponsored by the Durham District United Methodist Women's executive committee at Duke's Chapel United Methodist Church located on the Old Oxford Highway, Saturday, January 30, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Officers of all local units and interested members of the United Methodist Women in the Durham District are invited to attend. Bring a bag lunch, beverages will be provided.

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