



*"It is time that we learn about and celebrate the thousands of years of contributions that African people have made to human civilization."*

By Michael Caldwell  
Contributor

Several months ago I was watching a late night comedy show featuring comedian Paul Rodriguez. Describing life as a boy in Compton, a very poor area in Los Angeles, he quipped, "The only white people we saw in my neighborhood were the police and Jesus Christ." At about the same time last year I attended a fascinating lecture by Dr. Jawanza Kunjufu, who spent the afternoon shattering myths and showing the inadequacies and injustices of our educational system, especially in the education of African-Americans. One topic he brought up was the racial identity of Jesus Christ. After establishing the fact that Egypt is indeed an African country inhabited by Africans, (and I hope I didn't startle too many of you), he noted that Joseph and Mary hid Jesus from Herod in Egypt. In the words of Dr. Kunjufu, "You can't hide a white boy in Egypt." He also noted that the Semetic peoples were direct descendants from the Hametic peoples, who were black. The Bible states that Moses had skin the color of bronze and hair the texture of wool. Basically, he didn't look a thing like Charlton Heston. Furthermore, if you go to the Middle East today, you won't

see white people, (unless they are European Jews, and there were no Europeans in this area 2000 years ago.) My point is that Jesus was in all likelihood a black man.

I love peanut butter. There's a big jar beside me as I type this article. When I was a young boy, I learned that George Washington Carver invented peanut butter. And I probably learned that during Black History Month. From that point on, I would forever know that black people invented peanut

totally ignorant. American society on the whole is totally ignorant. For most Americans, these accomplishments never happened. And when a race hasn't accomplished anything, it's easy to consider them inferior.

But then there's an accomplishment of a very different sort. Is it possible that Jesus Christ, the Lord and Savior for millions of people, is black? I wonder how all the racists in this country, most of whom consider themselves Chris-

## Endsights

butter. And for all I knew, that was the only significant contribution that black people had ever made to human society in thousands of years. Now, I'll admit, I'm not being totally truthful. I knew about Eli Whitney. I had also heard of this slave woman named Harriet Tubman. But I only learned about these people in February. Only in February. I knew nothing of the great African kings and queens. I thought Cleopatra looked like Elizabeth Taylor. I didn't learn of Dr. King until much later. As for all the great African-American scientists, educators, human rights leaders, musicians, poets, authors and government leaders, I was

tian, would react to the realization of the fact that they worship a black man. So next time you have the opportunity to talk to, for example, a Southern Baptist minister, ask him or her about the color of Jesus' skin. But please do so in February.

All sarcasm aside, it is time that we all learn about and celebrate the thousands of years of contributions that African people have made to human civilization. However, this can only be done if we incorporate this knowledge into our education *365 days of the year*. For now, please make the most of Black History Month. For now, that's all we have.

Express yourself about issues that concern *Black Ink* readers. Feel free to contribute. Drop articles by Suite 108-D Student Union, or mail to *Black Ink*, CB# 5210, Student Union, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27514.

## Think Black Ink!

Black Ink invites all interested students and faculty to an informational meeting tonight at 6:30 p.m. in Rm. 226 of the Student Union

**TODAY!!**

## A Tribute To Little Known African-Americans

As African-Americans we are all too familiar with the fact that quite often our contributions to American history have gone unnoticed. These "oversights," however, have not been made solely by the majority community — unfortunately, many of our people's accomplishments are also unheard of in our own communities. So, in honor of Black History Month, one of the ways in which Delta Sigma Theta Sorority will do its part to educate the campus community about African-American heroes and heroines will be by showcasing in each February issue of *Black Ink* individuals who are not so well-known as Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr., but whose accomplishments are unquestionably significant.



Patricia Roberts Harris (1924-1985)  
Lawyer, Educator, United Nations Delegate

Patricia Roberts Harris' career was distinguished by many "firsts" for black women, including U.S. ambassador, presidential cabinet member, law school dean and director of a major U.S. company.

Born in Mattoon, Ill., Harris received her early education in Chicago, and later studied government and economics at Howard University in Washington D.C.— one of five schools that offered her a full scholarship. At Howard, Harris was vice-chairwoman of an NAACP student chapter. She excelled at a number of prestigious graduate schools and received her J.D. degree from George Washington Law School in 1960.

After a brief stay at the Department of Justice, she began a teaching career at Howard University's Law School and became dean in less than 10 years.

Harris' career took an international turn when President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed her to a congressional committee studying the status of Puerto Rico in 1964, and one year named her U.S. ambassador to Luxembourg, making her this nation's first black woman ambassador. She later served as an alternate delegate to the United Nations General Assembly. Harris reached another career milestone when she was named director of IBM, one of the world's largest corporations, in 1971.

While serving President Jimmy Carter in two cabinet posts— first as secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and later as secretary of Health, Education and Welfare— she was a staunch supporter of social programs, and increased government funding for both areas. She also started the successful Urban Development Action Grant Program, which assisted decaying cities. More than half of Harris' departmental appointees were women and minorities.

A confident and determined woman, Harris never tired of challenging opportunities. In 1982 she campaigned vigorously, but unsuccessfully for mayor, before returning to law full-time.