

# Black History Acknowledges Several Achievements

By Percy Johnson

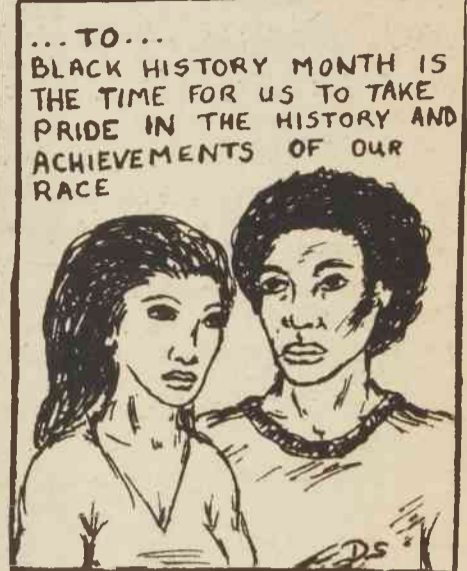
February is a very important month because it is designated as Black History Month. Normally, when one thinks of black history, immediately the mind refers to such names as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Harriet Tubman, Malcolm X, Nat Turner, George Washington Carver, Booker T. Washington, Mary McLeod Bethune, W.E.B. DuBois and a few other greatly recognized blacks. The contributions of these people are very valuable to not only blacks, but to all mankind.

Unfortunately, there are many great blacks that go unnoticed by blacks, whites, and in some cases, historians.

Blacks should not be unaware of their heritage and the contributions the black man has given to the world.

Black History Month is a month for all the contributions to be recognized, not just a select few. All black college students should definitely know black history in great detail. Many whites would be surprised if they were told all the contributions of the black man.

Many people don't know how Black History Month began. **Carter G. Woodson (1875-1950)** launched the observance of Negro History Week in 1926. This eventually led to Black History Month.



Did you know that a black man invented the traffic light? **Garrett A.**

**Morgan (1875-1963)** sold his rights to the traffic light to General Electric in 1923. Morgan also invented the gas mask, which was first used in World War I. The telegraph system was invented by a black man named **Granville T. Woods (1856-1910)**. The manner in which sugar industries refine sugar was invented by a black man, **Norbert Rillieux**.

In 1939, **Dr. Charles Drew** discovered how to save blood plasma and founded the first two blood banks in the world. Ironically, he died because he would not be admitted to a

white hospital to receive blood when he was badly wounded in an automobile accident.

In 1907, **Alain Locke** became the first black Rhodes Scholar. Not until 1962 was there another black Rhodes Scholar.

The author of *The Invisible Man* was black. **Ralph W. Ellison** wrote many great novels.

Chicago was founded by a black man, **Jean De Sable (1745-1818)**. Chicago is currently America's second largest city.

**Benjamin Banneker** constructed the first clock in America, and surveyed the plans for Washington, D.C.

**Thurgood Marshall** became the first and still is the only black to ever serve as a Supreme Court Justice.

A black man became the first jockey

## Team Shows Unity

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that they are even closer now as a team because, "they don't depend on them, but rather each other as a team," Coach Conley commented.

The lowest amount of points scored for the team was 51 points, and that was higher than any major college girls team. He also feels that if the team had

more support and publicity from the community, the WSSU Ramettes could build up a better basketball program.

to win the Kentucky Derby three times. This man also has the highest winning percentage of any jockey ever. His name was **Isaac Murphy (1856-1966)**.

On July 9, 1893, **Dr. Daniel Hale Williams** performed the world's first successful heart surgery. Dr. Williams was a black man.

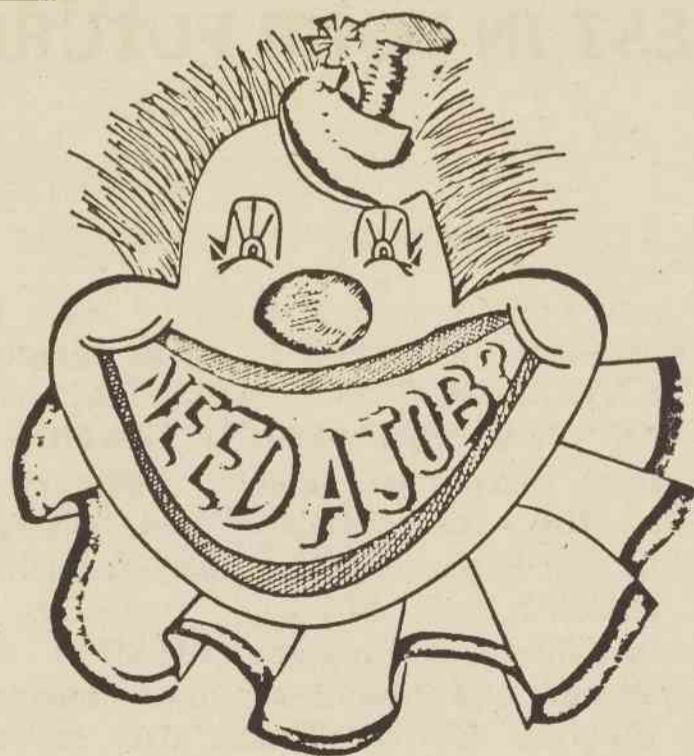
In 1908 **Jack Johnson** became the first black heavyweight boxing champion of the world. He is considered as the greatest boxer ever.

Did you know there exists a Negro National Anthem? It was written in 1900 by **James Weldon Johnson**, a black man. "Lift Every Voice and Sing" is an anthem that all blacks should recognize.

The list of contributions goes on and on. I must reiterate the fact that blacks must place more emphasis on the importance of Black History Month. The black man has done so much to make America what it is today. Black History Month should not be regarded lightly because it is indeed important.

**Note: Information was compiled with the assistance of the book, "A Biographical History of Blacks in America Since 1528." The author is Edgar A. Toppin.**

*Percy Johnson is Editor-in-Chief of The News Argus. He is a freshman history major from Charlottesville, Va.*



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