

# BLACK HISTORY BLACK CULTURE

## Duke Ellington (1899-1974)

Edward Kennedy Ellington was born on April 29, 1899 in Washington, D.C. He had the typical American childhood life where he received the nickname "Duke" at the age of eight. Duke took his first piano lessons from a lady name Mrs. Klingscale between the ages of 4 and 8. After high school, Duke began playing at house rent parties which was common in Negro city life during this period. Duke Ellington's prime influence was the great James P. Johnson. Ellington's first composition was named "The Soda Fountain Rag" because he used to work as a 'soda jerker' at Poodle Dog Cafe in Washington, D.C. Duke played this composition as a blues, a foxtrot, as a waltz, straight, and as a fast tempo stomp. People didn't know that it was only one piece and that mase him unique from others.

Duke Ellington is respected throughout the world for his versatility and imagination in jazz.

His popularity in the jazz field is due to his remarkable abilities as a pianist, composer, and a band leader. He has extended the boundaries of jazz more than any other musician without abandoning the true essence of the music.

## Christopher J. Perry (1854 - deceased)

Christopher J. Perry was free-born in Baltimore in September 1854. He founded The Philadelphia Tribune in 1884, which in 1990 was the oldest continously published Black newspaper in the United States.

## Daniel Hale Williams (1856 - 1931)

Williams founded the Interracial Provident Hospital in Chicago in 1891.

## 9th & 10th Calvary Regiments

The 9th and 10th Calvary Regiments aided and protected workers who built the roads and railroads, strung telegraph lines

and escorted groups across hostile territory.

## Roberta Flack (1940 - )

Born in 1940 in North Carolina, she grew up in a family of keyboard players. At 15, she was awarded a scholarship to Howard University, where she majored in music education. She stopped teaching to pursue her singing career. She was discovered in a Washington night club by musician Les McCann, who introduced her to Atlantic Records. Among her hit singles are "The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face," "Killing Me Softly With His Song" and "Feel Like Makin' Love." She has received two Grammy Awards and has several Gold Records.

## Dinah Washington (1924 - 1963)

She was born in Alabama but was raised in Chicago, where she made her professional debut with the Lionel Hampton Band. She first

sang jazz, then expanded her repertoire to include pop, blues and country. Her soulful sound was recorded first by Keynote and later by Mercury. Washington won acclaim for hits like "What a Difference A Day Makes" and "Baby You Got What It Takes."

## Mahalia Jackson (1911 - 1972)

She was born in New Orleans and grew up in a religious household. She moved to Chicago at 16 and worked as a domestic until she had saved enough money to open a beauty shop. In her spare time, she soloed with the Greater Salem Baptist Church Choir. She later joined a gospel quartet. She cut her first record in 1934 but did not acjieve national fame until 1945 with the million selling song "Move On Up a Little Higher." Europeans, who hailed her as the Quen of Gospel, were among her biggest fans. Jackson appeared at Carnegie Hall, the White House and on numerous television shows.

## RAs Are Here To Serve Students

BY KEISHA BUTLER  
Staff Writer

If you think your Residence Advisor's (RA) job only includes dispensing toilet paper and unlocking doors, then you have the wrong perception about them.

A Residence Advisor is a student who has been carefully selected and trained to assist students with housing and personal needs. The Residence Advisor serves as an administrator, community builder, listener and friend.

Residence Advisors receive irreplaceable benefits by taking on this leadership position. These benefits include: developing better communication skills, learning organization skills, mastering human relations and leadership skills and meeting new exciting and different people.

Ericka Sneed, a junior, said that the leadership role is very important as a Residence Assistant. She also enjoys the benefits of a monthly stipend.

Kitchawa Roulac, a junior, Biology major, has been a RA for two years. This year she is a RA on the first floor of Atkins Hall.

"I didn't have RA support as a freshman and I didn't

want other freshmen to go through what I went through," she explained. She plans to return to Atkins Hall as a RA in the fall.

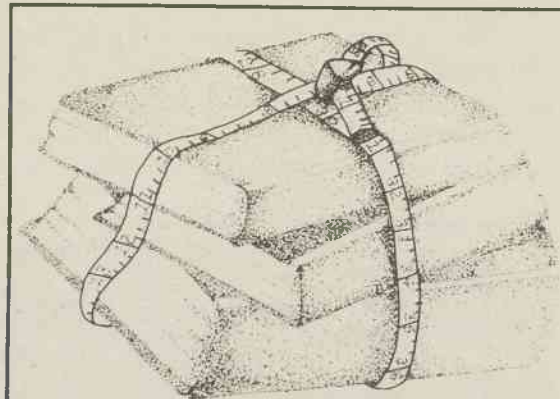
Mrs. Mary Young-Smith, a member of the Residence Life/Housing Staff, feels there is a greater need for residence advisors this year to work along with the residence supervisors.

"With supervisors and the RA staff, someone will always be available to fulfill the needs of the students", said Mrs. Young-Smith.

"I feel that a RA should be there for you when you have a problem, but shouldn't make you feel like you're in prison", states sophomore Atkins Hall resident, Latonya Goins.

Conversely, the life of a RA is not always as easy as it is perceived to be. Routinely they must help solve or resolve problems that deal with cleanliness, roommate confrontations/fights, quiet hours and personal problems.

Residence Advisors, who are people too, are here to render service to students who reside in the residence halls. Don't be afraid to share with your R.A. any questions or concerns that you may have.



## Book Buyback

April 21 - May 12

\*\*\*

## Secretary's Week

April 24-28

20% off

gifts and stationary