

Black History Month: A Brief Background

"Find out just what people will quietly submit to, and you have found out the exact amount of injustice and wrong which will be imposed upon them. The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppress." These words are taken from the philosophy of reform by the great 19th-century abolitionist, Frederick Douglass. Douglass, who experienced both slavery and freedom, was attuned to enslavement through the practice of mind control.

This knowledge was passed down to future generations through Douglass' writings and speeches. And the idea was forcefully articulated at the turn of the century by another Black American, Dr. Carter G. Woodson. Wood-

son is the founder of Afro-American (Black) History Month, which America observes for the 57th time this February.

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."

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 also 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-educated Woodson knew that the facts of American history dispelled this assumption. 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.

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 collections of sociological and historical data on the Negro, the study of peoples 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 established 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.



MELBA MOORE

—Accomplished performer

Singer Michael McDonald

Returns To "Solid Gold"

"Solid Gold" stars Marilyn McCoo and Rex Smith welcome Sheena Easton, The Go-Go's, Michael McDonald, Crystal Gayle, Tom Jones, the Busboys and Rough Trade to this week's edition of the top music series on television airing Sunday, February 6, at 7 p.m. on WSOC-TV, Channel 9.

Making their "Solid Gold" debut, The Busboys open the show with "(The Boys Are) Back In Town," their single from the hit film, "48 Hours;" superstar Tom Jones performs "Dukes Of Hazzard"

Coy's romance with a lady stunt driver leads to a fight between the two cousins when Vance suspects the lady is not what she seems, on "The Dukes of Hazzard," Friday, February 4, at 8 p.m. on WBTB, Channel 3.

Coy's meeting with half of a pair of stunt motorcycle riders at the local fair has him seeing hearts and flowers. The emotion is returned by Billie Ann, but her partner sees the romance as a stumbling block in their true careers, robbery.

"Touch Me (I'll Be Your Fool Once More);" and the all-girl band the Go-Go's keeps things rocking with its Solid Gold hit, "Vacation."

Former Doobie Brother Michael McDonald returns to "Solid Gold" with his latest song, "I Gotta Try," Number Eight this week; Crystal Gayle provides Country Gold with "Til I Gain Control Again;" Sheena Easton sings the latest single from her hot new LP, "Are You Man Enough;" and Rough Trade combines the upbeat sounds of both R&B and New Wave in "All Touch."

The musical countdown continues as the Solid Gold Dancers complete this week's Top Ten Countdown with: "Goody Two Shoes," "The Girl Is Mine," "Heart To Heart," "The Other Guy," "Down Under," "Sexual Healing," and the Number One song, "Africa," by Toto.

Smith sings this week's Number Four single, "You Can't Hurry Love," while McCoo duets with Tom Jones on "Up Where We Belong," the latest chart-maker from Joe Cocker and Jennifer Warnes.

Melba Moore Prescribes To Her "Own Medicine"

By Loretta Manago
Post Staff Writer

On one of Melba Moore's latest songs, "The Other Side of The Rainbow," she sings, "don't let nobody tell you what you cannot do."

Certainly she prescribes to her own medicine. Not only is Melba Moore a successful recording artist, but she is an accomplished actress, singer, TV entertainer, nightclub and concert performer as well.

Contrary to most performers who spent most of their childhood grooming for a career as a singer, Ms. Moore was a school teacher before she decided to try her wings in entertainment.

Her first most noted and memorable role in the Broadway musical "Hair" led to her co-starring role with Cleve Little in the musical, "Purlie." What the critics saw they loved. To her they bestowed the Tony Award, New York Drama Critics' Awards and Drama Desk Award for her dazzling performance.

Conquering one medium

after another Ms. Moore left the theater "to establish herself as a unique actress with her portrayal of Harriet Tubman on the television special, "The American Woman: Portraits of Courage." Her television and movie credits include: her own CBS summer series; "Cotton Comes to Harlem," guest appearances on "All My Children," "Love Boat" and "Flamingo Road."

It is probably Ms. Moore's singing ability that is her most rewarding facet of her career. Possessing an amazing four octave range voice Ms. Moore can reach an intimate audience as well as the larger capacity crowd.

But it's not only her range that enables her to accomplish such a feat; it is also her sensitivity and involvement with her music that aid as accessories.

To improve the quality of her work Ms. Moore can safely include her talents as a songwriter. That way she does not have to limit

herself to other songwriters' material and offers her fans the full extent of her ability as a performer.

"A lithe, strikingly graceful woman who delights audiences with her infectious sense of joy, contagious warmth and spontaneous sense of humor Ms. Moore appears regularly in premier concert halls and nightclubs throughout the country. Milestones in her career

include the distinction of performing with the Detroit, Pittsburgh, Richmond and Syracuse Symphony Orchestra, gala performances at the Olympia Theatre in Paris and her prestigious one-woman show at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York.

"Dallas"

Bobby is forced to emulate his brother, J.R., in dirty dealings, which turns his stomach and disgusts

Pamela, on "Dallas," Friday, February 4, at 9 p.m. on WBTB, Channel 3.