

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

American Federation of Teachers: Stellar Integration Record

Special To The Post
By Libby Clark

If a report card was demanded today, The American Federation of Teachers would get an "E" for Excellence. It's far and away the most integrated union in organized labor from top to bottom. The union has seven vice presidents. They are Sandra Irons, Jacquelyn Vaughn, Lorretta Johnson, Nathaniel LeCour, John Elliott, Carol Graves and George Springer.

Since its founding in 1916, the AFT has been in the forefront of organized labor's battles to gain civil rights, economic parity and security for blacks.

In the first half of the 20th century, when segregation and discrimination was widespread and many trade unions excluded blacks from membership, the AFT was among the first unions to break down racial barriers and open its membership to blacks and other minorities.

In southern states, black teachers in segregated school districts organized their own unions locally and readily affiliated with the AFT. Local 9, an all-black Washington, D.C., un-

ion, was chartered in 1916.

Black teachers elsewhere joined on equal footing with their white counterparts to organize integrated AFT locals in their respective school districts in other parts of the country.

In 1918, the AFT demanded equal pay for black teachers and years later backed up its plea with a generous contribution to the NAACP fund earmarked for equal pay activities.

Also in 1918, AFT called for the election of blacks to local school boards, and it lobbied for compulsory school attendance by black children, and equal educational opportunity for said students.

In 1928, AFT demanded that the historical contributions of Black Americans be taught in the public schools.

The union has not been without racial strife within its own ranks. As late as 1950, it was necessary for AFT to expel a number of locals who steadfastly refused to admit blacks to their membership. This action resulted in a loss of nearly 10,000 members. The results -- a fully integrated union.



The American Federation of Teachers receives a grade of 'E' for excellence.

The 60s found the AFT in the vanguard of the civil rights movement alongside such venerable fighters as A. Philip Randolph, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Whitney Young, Roy Wilkins, James Farmer and oth-

er civil rights stalwarts. Indeed, AFT members helped to organize the 1963 "March on Washington" for Justice and Jobs, and over the next five years AFT staffers and members traveled South to register new, black voters and to teach in the "freedom" schools.

Along with other unions and civil rights organizations, AFT also lobbied for passage of key civil rights legislation, re: the Equal Employment Opportunity Act, the Fair Housing Act and the Voting Rights Act.

Further involvement of AFT, along with civil rights groups and the AFL-CIO includes lobbying efforts on behalf of a decent minimum wage, for which legislation was favorably passed last year; school integration, adequate integrated housing, Medicare, full employment and aid to education. The battle to keep these programs and to expand them continue, and AFT remains in the thick of the battle.

Headquartered in Washington, D.C., the 680,000-member American Federation of Teachers is an international AFL-CIO union, whose membership is made up of primarily elementary and secondary school teachers, college and university professors and other non-

supervisory teachers in urban, suburban and rural school districts throughout the United

States, its strongest concentration is in the large cities across the country.

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JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE **February 1989** BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			THEME: Black Experience: Are Our Dreams Deferred?	Convocation Speaker: Rev. Dr. Joseph Lowery 10:00am- University Chapel	JCSU Jazz/Pop Band plays for the Charlotte Hornets	Leadership Conference at Univ. of South Carolina- 9:30am
			"Campus Rap Session" 1	Basketball vs. FSU 2	3	Basketball vs. Benedict (Away) 4
Film Festival: Sidney Poitier 5	Basketball vs. Shaw Univ. 6 Film Festival: Roots Revisited	Convocation Speaker: Rev. Calvin Hood 10:00am- University Chapel	Basketball vs. NCCU 8	Speaker: Ronald Harrell 7:00pm- University Chapel Film Festival: Roots Revisited 9	Shaki Dance/Modeling Troupe 8:00pm- Grimes Lounge \$1 w/d and \$2 w/out ID SCA- Gospel Extravaganza, 7 pm 10	Basketball vs. WSSU 11
R.W. JOHNSON SPIRITUAL DANCE PROGRAM TIME: TBA PLACE: CHAPEL	SOUL DINNER in the cafeteria (Dinner music will be provided) Film Festival: Blacks in Sports 13	Valentine Cabaret/Dinner Theater	Basketball vs. St. Augustine Drama Guild Presents: "THE WIZ" 14	Drama Guild Presents: "THE WIZ" 15 Film Festival: Blacks in Sports 16	Drama Guild Presents: "THE WIZ" Leadership Conference with Mr. Charles Wright in Grimes Lounge Time: TBA 17	Drama Guild Presents: "THE WIZ" Leadership Conference with Mr. Charles Wright Time: TBA 18
Drama Guild Presents: "THE WIZ" Leadership Conference with Mr. Charles Wright Time: TBA 19	CIAA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT- NORFOLK, VA. 20 Film Festival: Civil Rights 20	CIAA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT- NORFOLK, VA. 21	CIAA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT- NORFOLK, VA. 22	Speaker: Kelly Alexander Biddle Hall- 7:00pm 23	CIAA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT- NORFOLK, VA. 24	Chuck Davis Dance Group at Spirit Square Tickets: \$12.00 Film Festival: Civil Rights 25
Oratorical Contest: Biddle Hall- 8:00 pm. 26	Billards Championship Student Union- 7:00pm. 27	Speaker: Mr. Stanley Graham Topic: "Black Sexuality" Grimes Lounge- 7:00pm 28				

For more information on JCSU's Black History Month Calendar of Events
CALL: 378-1046 or 378-1025.

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