

## Great Blacks In History

BY MISS ELLA L. JACKSON

**NATHANIEL ADAMS COLES**  
Nat "King" Cole  
1919-1965

Nathaniel Adams Coles, better known as Nat "King" Cole, was born in Montgomery, Alabama to Rev. Edward James and Mrs. Perlina Adams Coles. His father was an impoverished Baptist minister who formed on the side to help bring income to his growing family.

person, Nat was seen on network television on a program of his own but due mainly to partiality toward blacks during that time, no sponsor would pick up the tab for him, because of the segregationist, because Nat "King" Cole was of pure vintage. He was a black, glistening, emperor of entertainment. Although no one would sponsor the "Great One" the sound of his beautiful voice was welcomed throughout the homes of Americans and the world. And for the sound of his voice, he would gladly shelled out the money.



As a Negro, he was not an activist in civil rights movements "but he gave large financial contributions to such causes and preferred to prove himself in this field by actions rather than words."

He died of lung cancer at the age of 45 in 1965.

Nat was one of the world's highest paid and best-loved entertainers, making \$500,000 a year before his death. He was a frequent visitor to the White House as the guest of President John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson.

His former wife is named Maria, the niece of the late great lady, Dr. Charlotte Hawkins, founder of Palmer Memorial Institute, a finishing school in Sedalia, N.C. They have five children, two of which are twins.

During his illness, Nat received over 500,000 cards.

Many of the well-known and influential personalities from all over the world too numerous to name paid tribute to him.

These remarks by famous society orchestra leader, Noble Sissle sums up the tremendous impact that Mr. Cole left on the human race: "Nat singlehandedly emancipated the Negro singer and gave the lie to the vicious and bigoted belief, once commonly held throughout the recording and music business that the white American public would not accept a Negro romantic and ballad singer. He proved that the impact of sheer talent can destroy ignorance and conquer prejudice."

He received many awards and citations.

His records have sold more than 50 million copies.

Nat received an honorary degree from Morgan State College so people began calling him Dr. "King" Cole.

For a brief period in the fall of 1957-58 as the first for a Black

get him' and all that kind of nonsense," related the YOBU organizer who has been working with the students at Southern since before the student murders.

"We're using the time now to come to better terms with the administration on a number of issues," Picard said.

# Democrats Plan Major Roles In Party

## Determination And Strength Are Proved

National Black News Service  
WASHINGTON, D.C. - Black members of the Democratic National Committee intend to play a major role in Democratic Party affairs in the next four years.

They proved their determination - and strength - when the Committee held its first full meeting here following the Democratic defeat at the polls in November.

Organized as a "Caucus of Concern," the 25 black Committee members set themselves limited, specific objectives - and went to work.

They have good reason to be pleased with the results. The caucus wanted Basil Patterson, black National Committeeman from New York kept on as DNC Vice Chairman - no matter who was elected Chairman.

They won. Patterson was re-elected and is now the highest-ranking black in a political post in either party.

They wanted a guarantee of increased black representation on the Democratic National Committee.

They won. DNC's new Chairman, Texas Robert Strauss, has indicated his support for including at least eight black members among the 25 additions to be made when the present 278 members meet early in 1973.

They wanted a commitment to strengthen the role of the Committee's Minorities Division, which was sharply curtailed during the recent Presidential campaign.

They won. Strauss has promised to double the budget of the Minorities Division within a year.

The black DNC Caucus was convened and chaired by Aaron Henry of Mississippi, who expressed his satisfaction with the results.

"The Caucus of Concern," said Henry, is a significant step forward in our fight to achieve effective black involvement in Democratic Party affairs."

Henry, a founder of the Mississippi Freedom Party, was unanimously seated as a convention delegate this year, after an eight-year fight to open up the Democratic Party in Mississippi.

DNC Vice Chairman Patterson called the Caucus "the most sophisticated political operation" in his experience. He gave the Caucus most of the credit for his being kept on as DNC Vice Chairman even after Chairman Jean Westwood resigned.

Actually, the caucus - including those who favored Strauss - voted overwhelmingly not to dump Chairman Westwood but, in Aaron Henry's words, to permit her to "resign with dignity."

As C. Delores Tucker, Pennsylvania's Secretary of State, put it, involuntarily, "removing Westwood would have been interpreted as a slap at reform movement efforts to increase representation of women and minorities in the Democratic Party."

After the decision to fight any Westwood ouster, the Caucus began deliberations on whom to support as Chairman. In a session that lasted from 7 p.m. to 5 a.m., the three candidates - California Democratic Chairman Charles Manatt, Maine, National Committeeman Mitchell, and Strauss - were brought in to discuss their views on the Caucus demands.

Substantial agreement for the Caucus positions was voiced by all three candidates, and the Caucus voted not to support any candidate as a group.

As it turned out, there were 10 black votes for Mitchell, and four each for Manatt and Strauss. Another five votes switched during the voting from Manatt to Mitchell. And Henry cast Charles Evers' vote, by proxy, for Hubert Humphrey.

Henry, a Strauss supporter, describes the new Chairman as "cautious, but concerned, and definitely committed to keeping the Party reforms."

Henry worked closely with former Democratic Treasurer Strauss on developing the constitution and by-laws which made Mississippi the first State Democratic organization to comply with the McGovern reform rules.

Vice-Chairman Patterson, who voted for Mitchell, as did Chairman Westwood, has expressed great optimism about what blacks can do in the DNC.

"The role of blacks in the Democratic Party," says Patterson, "is to keep the Democratic Party true to the principles it has always voiced."

"The Democratic Party became the majority party because it was for the little people," Patterson continued, "and blacks know better than anyone what the problems of these people really are."



ROYALTY MEETS THE JACKSON 5 - Her Royal Highness, The Queen Mother, greets the Jackson 5 at reception following Royal Command Performance at London's Palladium (l-r) The Queen Mother, Elton John, Jackie Jackson, Marlon Jackson and Michael Jackson.

## Nixon Makes Nomination Of Mayor

WASHINGTON - President Nixon has nominated Walter E. Washington for a third term as mayor of the nation's capital.

Mayor Washington is the only man to hold the post of mayor-commissioner since it was created under a reorgan-

ization plan for the District of Columbia government instituted by President Lyndon Johnson in 1967.

The 57-year-old Washington was reappointed by President Nixon following his election in 1968. His reappointment is for the full four-year term ending Feb. 1, 1977.

There had been speculation that the Mayor might be named to replace George Romney as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. The choice HUD fell, however, upon Undersecretary of Commerce James Lynn, in accordance with President Nixon's pattern of filling his second term cabinet positions with relatively unknown figures who can be expected to follow White House direction without question.

Mayor Washington's background was in housing before he became mayor. He served as executive director of the National Capital Housing Authority here from 1961 to 1966 and was chairman of the New York City Housing Authority when he was picked to be mayor. His reputation for being his own man, however, apparently precluded his selection for a Cabinet post.



"SHAFT IN AFRICA" STAR - Vonetta McGee has been signed to star with Richard Roundtree in MGM's "Shaft In Africa." It was announced by producer Roger Lewis. Miss McGee was most recently featured in "Blacula," "Hammer" and MGM's "Melinda." "Shaft In Africa," from a screenplay by Stirling Silliphant, will be directed by John Guillermin on locations in Ethiopia, Spain and New York.

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## Assault On Southern Dean Denied

National Black News Service  
NEW ORLEANS - A student leader at the New Orleans branch of Southern University attacked and beat the acting dean, Dr. Asa Sims.

Earl Picard charged university officials, the New Orleans press and the national wire services with "sensationalism" and "gross exaggeration" in their reports that Picard, the student body president and other students had beaten Sims with their fists and books when he refused to meet with them to discuss grievances.

The New Orleans campus has been stirred by protest similar to that which led to the slaying of two black students by law officers at the main Baton Rouge campus Nov. 13.

Picard maintains that no students attacked or even threatened to attack Sims. He said the students were concerned about the administration's announced decision to hold final examinations while a majority of students were boycotting classes. The boycott was organized as a protest of the student murders in an attempt to force some restructuring of the institution to make it more educationally relevant to black students.

Students who did not take the exams would have to withdraw, the administration announced.

"At no time did we hit or attack Dr. Sims," Picard stated. "What happened is that he attempted to shove some of us out of his office and we pushed back. A brief scuffle occurred but nothing at all that could be called an 'attack' by the student leader stressed."

Tim Thomas, a field organizer for the Youth Organization for Black Unity, was present throughout the meeting and the scuffling match.

Thomas reported that not only did the students not attack Sims, but that throughout the meeting there was an armed guard present who repeatedly attempted to provoke the students.

"This dude stood between the students and Sims and laid his pistol on the desk and challenged the students to 'come get him if you want him,'" said Thomas.

"He kept talking about 'killing' and 'over my dead body' and 'shooting you if you

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## What's Your Bag?

BY REV. JEROME LEDOUX

DON'T FRONT OFF

I breathed a sigh of relief when the radio studio hand opened the door. "I'm glad to see you," I told him. "I used the hot line, but no one answered it. I'm almost due on the talk show."

"You're not missing much," he shot back. Then he hesitated. "You mean - you don't mean you're going to be on the program?"

His clumsy hesitation, his sudden embarrassment spelled out more than any words ever could. Had I or the other members of the panel needed anything to deflate an overdone ego, that was more than sufficient.

People are very tolerant of some shortcomings, highly intolerant of others. Above and beyond all faults, it seems to be vanity in its motley disguises that irritates and sometimes infuriates most people.

Actually, there aren't too many things, if any, that we should be tempted to rave about. Upon analysis, it's hard to see why we engage even in quiet bragging and boasting.

Too many things happen accidentally, through sheer coincidence or by force of circumstances. True, we often make our breaks through foresight, initiative and effort, but just as often we reap whereof we know not.

Sometimes, this truth has a dramatic way of impacting on our awareness, as one good priest discovered he had just eased into his sacristy after Mass when an excited parishioner barged in and gushed about the gospel message: "That was the best sermon I have ever heard! I had never been touched by a talk before, but this time I was."

Visibly heartened by the warm compliment, the pastor glowed contentedly as the man went on. "The thing that touched me most of all was that pause. Do you remember that pause you made in the middle of the sermon?"

It our silence, our pauses, our periodic breathers and our little time-outs between efforts are more impressive than the efforts themselves on occasion, surely we have little or nothing to be vain about. Without doubt, that priest is in full agreement with St. Paul: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord. For he is not approved who commends himself, but he whom the Lord commends" (2 Cor. 10, 17 & 18.)

Yet, so many insist on commending themselves, blowing their own trumpet and promoting their own public relations. Name-dropping is one of their favorite plays. Laboring under the illusion that big people, rich people or so-called beautiful people are more of an asset than the small, the poor and the plain, they speak casually of their notorious friends. Politically, economically and socially they are on target, since whom you know swings more weight than what you know. However, from the Christian point of view, they are myopic, selfish and pitiable.

A big car or house, pull of position or prestige, symbols of status or grandeur, physical or intellectual talents - all are invoked to show superiority of every kind.

Fronting off is not merely stupid. It is usually neurotic as well. By and large, the name dropper, the boaster and the conceited succeed only in exposing their weaknesses, their fears, their insecurities and their numerous defensive mechanisms. They feel threatened or suppressed when unable to bask in the light, power and security of others or in the glut of their own material goods.

True values were bared for the first time in the year zero when a cave, a manger and swaddling clothes amid cattle and shepherds expressed God emptying Himself that men might be full.

CENSUS MISCOUNTS N.Y. WELFARE LOAD BY 40 PERCENT

NEW YORK - City officials and Rand Corp. researchers charged last week that the 1970 Federal census miscounted the number of welfare cases in New York City by 40 percent.

Consequently, said the study by the N.Y. Rand Institute, a nonprofit group funded by the city and Rand in 1969 to study city problems, the Government could shortchange the city on antipoverity funds totaling between \$10 million and \$40 million each year.

Veterans are advised by the VA to keep their families informed on the location of birth and marriage certificates, military discharge papers and other vital documents required in filing for VA benefits.