



VOL. 1, NO. 4



THE LINKS AND YOU

By Michelle Carr



NOVEMBER 1992

"... The biggest step Negroes can take is the direction of the voting booths."
Martin Luther King, Jr.

"... You know, people tells you, don't talk politics, but the air you breathe is polluted air, it's political polluted air. The air you breathe is politics. So you have to be involved. You have to be involved in trying to elect people that's going to help do something about the liberation of all people." Fannie Lou Hamer

"... The power of the ballot we need in sheer self-defense,—else what shall save us from a second slavery?" W. E. B. DuBois

VOTING, a link in the chain that is often taken for granted. I am overwhelmed with emotion. I can not write. I have been made aware . . . to vote is not a right, but an honor.

African-American would-be voters and civil rights workers were subjected to harassment, physical abuse, imprisonment, intimidation daily, and even death for trying to register and to attain the right to vote. There were events such as the Freedom rides, the sit-ins, the Birmingham police dog attacks, the March on Washington, the Selma march, all of which led to the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Rev. George Lee, Lamar Smith, Jonathan Daniels, James Cheney, Michael Schwerner, Andrew Goodman, James Reeb, Viola Liuzzo, Louis Allen, Jimmie Lee Jackson, Medgar Evers, Martin Luther King, Jr., and others will never have the opportunity to exercise the right to vote again. They were killed for a cause that African-Americans take for granted today. Fannie Lou Hamer was fired from her job for trying to register to vote and was arrested and brutally beaten in jail. Why did these people give their lives for enfranchisement (the privilege of voting)?

What is the vote? Voting allows you to choose people to represent you locally, nationally, and internationally. When you vote, you speak for yourself about situations concerning your own welfare.

Why vote? If you do not vote, you let other people decide what is going to happen to you, your community, the government, and to your children. Your voice never gets heard if you do not vote.

Although these events happened in the 1960s, the struggle for first-class citizenship and voting rights began one hundred years earlier. In 1865, the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery in the United States. In 1868, the Fourteenth Amendment granted American citizenship to all blacks. In 1870, the Fifteenth Amendment granted voting rights to African American men throughout the United States. In 1920, the Nineteenth Amendment granted equal voting rights for all men and women, allowing black women to vote for the first time. In 1992, the struggle continues to make African-Americans aware of the importance of the vote. Black South Africans are still fighting for the right to vote.

Through this publication, it is our intent to make you aware of the struggles and contributions made by our forefathers from our early arrival in North America, through the Reconstruction years, until today, to achieve equality for all. We challenge you to learn something and to look closer at the importance of black history. Do not let voting become the missing link. This issue is dedicated to those who died and fought for our voting privileges. This vote is for you!

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

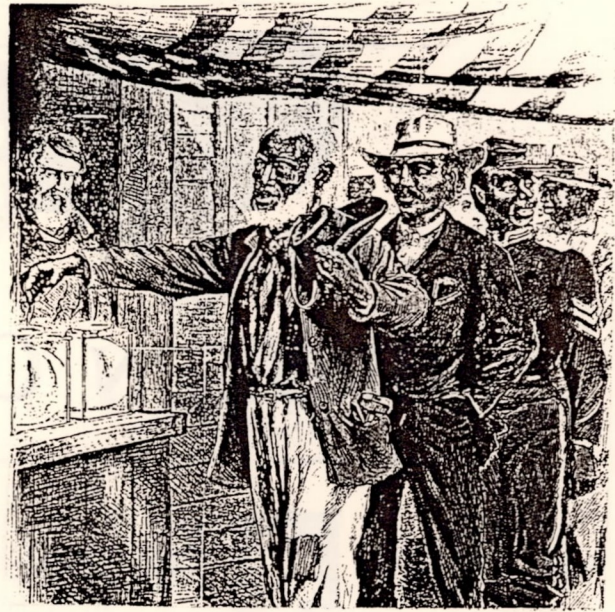
Robert C. Watson

A HISTORICAL NOTE



A black politician delivers an election speech during the first days of balloting by blacks in the South.

Several states whose constitutions were written during the revolutionary period did not exclude free African-Americans from voting. As a matter of fact, free blacks in the immediate American Revolutionary era voted. Free blacks living in Maryland, North Carolina, New York, and Pennsylvania, voted from the late eighteenth-century well into the nineteenth-century. However, all southern states entering the union after 1789, except Tennessee, excluded blacks from enfranchisement. As early as 1802, President Thomas Jefferson signed a bill that excluded blacks from voting in the nation's capitol, Washington, D.C. Jefferson's actions paved a way for what occurred later in other states (i.e. Maryland's free blacks were denied the opportunity to vote in 1810.) Tennessee took the ballot away from



blacks in 1834, and North Carolina followed one year later. In 1838, Pennsylvania decided that voting privileges should be granted to white males only. Indiana passed a law in 1851 giving the right to vote to white males only.

The denial of blacks' right to vote was not restricted only to the south and the mid-west. The New York constitution of 1832, set up a property qualification of \$250 and a residence requirement of three years for free African-American suffrage. By 1840, African-American voting rights had been effectively reduced to little or no political impact.

It was not until 1870 with the ratification of the Fifteenth amendment to the United States constitution, that suffrage would be restored to blacks and then it was confined to black males only.

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Suggestions, comments, questions, articles are welcomed.

Send to Franklin Street Annex, Room 106.

Editor Michelle Carr

Department Director Robert C. Watson

ECHOES FROM THE PAST . . .

Important Dates in Black History

November 3, 1868	First African-American elected to Congress, John W. Menard, defeated a White candidate, 5,107 to 2,833.	November 7, 1989	L. Douglas Wilder becomes the first African-American elected Governor of Virginia.
November 5, 1968	A record number of African-American congressmen and the first African-American woman representative (Shirley Chisholm) were elected to Congress.	November 11, 1831	Nat Turner hanged in Jerusalem, Virginia.
November 7, 1775	Lord Dunmore, deposed royal governor of Virginia, issued proclamation which promised freedom to male slaves who joined the British army. This was called the Dunmore Proclamation.	November 18, 1978	More than nine hundred persons most of them African-Americans, did in mass murder and suicide pact in Jonestown, Guyana.
		November 22, 1963	John F. Kennedy (46), thirty-fifth President of the United States, assassinated in Dallas, Texas.



WE'VE GOT A VISITOR

Guest Writer

Larry D. Watson, Ph.D.
Benedict College
Department of History
Columbia, South Carolina

BLACK VOTE—BLACK POWER

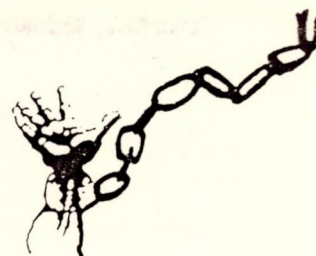
The immediate impact of the Fifteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution was the enfranchisement of 700,000 African American male voters. This electorate was the deciding difference in the elections of 1868 and 1872. Additionally, these African American voters helped to put in office on the local and state levels public officials who would introduce such reforms as state supported schools and colleges, public safety and sanitation departments and other governmental services, as well as democratize our political institutions.

Between 1877 and the turn of the century, African American voters were systematically disenfranchised through the use of literacy testing, understanding clauses, poll taxes, grandfather clauses, and intimidation. The African American electorate

was reduced by eighty percent. This remained a political reality until after World War II. The net effect of disenfranchisement was the total disregard of African Americans by elected officials.

After a massive post World War II struggle, African Americans are once again a significant electoral factor. The thousands of African American elected officials are a testimony to the importance of political participation. There is no doubt that the election of 1992, just as the elections of 1868 and 1872, will be determined largely by the ballots of millions of African Americans.

(Dr. Watson is a graduate of the University of South Carolina, 1980. His unpublished doctoral dissertation is on slave revolts in colonial, South Carolina).



IF WALLS COULD TALK

On-Site Report by Michelle Carr

"Shh. . ."

"Who you telling shh?!"

Oops, you caught me in action. Child, I'm in the middle of getting some juicy gossip. Now you've got to have good ears if you gonna get some info from here, most important, getting it right. I bet you can't guess where I'm snooping now? I'm in the Library, the Dewey Decimal section.

Huhmp, I know you're probably saying, "Lord, the girl is losing it!" But let me tell you what I've heard. Of course, by the way, you **DIDN'T** get it from me.

Well you know **SYLVIA TABB-LEE?** Tells me she's been celebrating getting a year younger. Happy Birthday Sylvia, and many more!

"Shh. . ."

Now me and this man are going to become unbenefitted if he tells me to be quiet one more time! Excuse me. Anyway, where were we before I was so rudely interrupted?

THE BOOKSHELF

The Autobiography of Malcolm X

With the assistance of Alex Haley

If there was any one man who articulated the anger, the struggle, and the beliefs of African-Americans in the sixties, that was Malcolm X.

The absorbing personal story of the man who rose from hoodlum, thief, dope peddler, and pimp to become the most dynamic leader of the Black Revolution. It is, too, a testament of great emotional power from which every American can learn much. But, above all, this book shows the Malcolm X that very few people knew, the man behind the stereotyped image of the hate-preacher—a sensitive, proud, highly intelligent man whose plan to move into the mainstream of the Black Revolution was cut short by a hail of assassins' bullets, a man who felt certain he would not live long enough to see this book appear.

The New York Review of Books states, "In the agony of [his] self-creation [is] the agony of an entire people in their search for identity. No man has better expressed his people's trapped anguish."

This eye-opening book should be read by all. If you do not get a chance to read *The Autobiography*

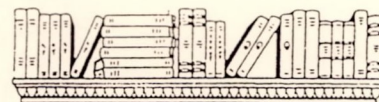
Did you hear about **MARK RECZKIEWICZ?** He had to get away from the Slave Quarters, so he took a train ride home—Chicago that is. Welcome back **Mark**, we missed you. Where's my postcard? I collect them by the way.

And guess who's hanging out in the African American Programs Department now? **CHRISTY COLEMAN!** She transferred from the Character Interpretation area. Welcome aboard **Christy**.

"Shh. . ."

That did it! He's worked on my one **LAST** nerve. I've got-ta-go! I didn't even have time to tell you about the . . . Naw, I'll tell you later, and remember, you didn't hear it from me.

"Shh. . ."



of Malcolm X, the movie, directed by Spike Lee, will be opening at theaters near you on November 18th. Don't miss it!

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AFRICAN PROVERB: (Senegal) "He may say that he loves you. Wait and see what he does for you!"

THE BALLOT BOX

TIPS ON VOTERS-REGISTRATION

The voters-registration deadline is thirty days before each election. In order to register, the following questions on the sample application form must be answered.

Sample Registration Form VIRGINIA VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION																			
PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE MARRIED WOMEN MUST USE MARRIAGE NAME AS MIDDLE NAME																			
Date of Application			Name of Applicant										Age		Marital Status				
Month	Day	Year	Last Name				First Name				Middle or Maiden Name								
Date of Residence																			
Social Security No.		Sex	Date of Birth			In Virginia			In Precinct			Requires one only			Last Code Prec. Code Prec. Name				
Month	Day	Year	Month	Day	Year	Month	Day	Year	Month	Day	Year	Month	Day	Year	Month	Day	Year		
Present Address and Place of Abode																			
House No. or Route No. and Street Name or Rural Box										Apartment No. or Additional Address				City or Town				Zip	
Previous Registration Information																			
Place of Birth						Occupation						Place Registered						Date Registered	
City or County		State				City or County		State				City or County		State		Month Day Year			
Adjudication Information																			
Have You Ever Been Convicted of a Felony or Adjudged as Mentally Incompetent?						If Yes, Have the Disabilities Been Removed?						If Disabilities Have Been Removed Give Date of Certificate						Month Day Year	
Registration Note: I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I am a citizen of the United States and am entitled to register and otherwise qualified to vote under the Constitution and Laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia.																			
Submitted and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____, 19____																			
Signature of Registrar _____ Signature of Applicant _____																			

The applicant is also required to present, as means of identification, his or her Social Security card or drivers licenses. This will be all.

No person may register as a voter who has been convicted of a crime (felony). The Governor must grant a pardon to such persons before they may qualify to vote.

Name Changing on the Voters List:

Call the registration office and notify the registrar of the change; follow the notice by sending a letter documenting the change. This must be done on or before the registration deadline.

Ballot Casting:

1. Each person is required to cast his or her ballot individually.
2. Sick persons may vote by mail; or in an automobile at the voting place, assisted by election officials.
3. A Blind person may select anyone to assist him in casting his ballot.
4. A voter must vote at least once in four years in order to remain on the voters list; otherwise, his name is dropped from the qualified list of voters. In order to vote again, he must re-register on or before the registration deadline.

Transfers:

- A. From one precinct in the city to another may be treated same as in item one.
- B. From one jurisdiction to another in the State of Virginia: A Transfer from the city or county from which the applicant came must be filed with the registration officer of county in order to be listed as a qualified voter.

Absentee Voting:

1. The voter must make application to the registration officer by mail a minimum of five days before election day.
2. The ballot must be in the hands of the registration officer on or before the election day in order to be counted.
3. Persons who plan to be out of town on election day may appear at the registrar's office three days before the election and vote.

TALK THAT TALK

The Candidates for the 1992 Presidential election are:

Republican: **George Bush**, our nation's forty-first president

President Bush was born June 12, 1924, in Milton, Massachusetts. He grew up in a politically influential family in Greenwich, Connecticut.

Bush graduated during World War II from Phillips Academy in Massachusetts. On his eighteenth birthday he enlisted in the U. S. Navy Reserve.

When the war ended, Bush entered Yale University, where he graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a degree in economics.

After graduation, Bush and his wife, Barbara, settled in Texas, where he successfully ventured into the oil business.

Bush turned to politics in the 1960s. Although he lost his first race for the U. S. Senate, he won a seat in the U. S. House of Representatives in 1966. He was re-elected two years later without opposition.

Bush lost another bid for the U. S. Senate but was appointed by President Richard Nixon in 1971 to serve as U. S. ambassador to the United Nations. He also served as special envoy to China.

After a short time as CIA director, Bush was selected by Ronald Reagan to be his running mate in 1980. The Reagan-Bush team was elected that year and re-elected four years later.

In 1988, Bush became the first sitting vice president since Martin Van Buren in 1836 to be elected to the presidency.

He and his wife, Barbara, have five children: George, Jeb, Neil, Marvin, and Dorothy. They have twelve grandchildren.

Democratic: **Bill Clinton**, the nation's longest serving governor and only the second person in Arkansas history to be elected to five terms as governor — is a fifth-generation Arkansan.

He was born William Jefferson Blythe IV in Hope, Arkansas, in 1946, two months after his father died in a traffic accident. When Clinton was four years old, his mother, Virginia, married Roger Clinton.

In 1968, Clinton graduated from Georgetown University. He then spent two years at Oxford University in London as a Rhodes Scholar. Clinton earned his law degree from Yale University in 1973.

Clinton returned to Arkansas and joined the staff of the University of Arkansas School of Law. He also practiced law in Fayetteville.

Clinton began his political career in 1974 with an unsuccessful campaign for Congress. Two years later, he was elected attorney general—a post he held for one term before being elected governor in 1978. Clinton lost his re-election bid in 1980, but was returned to office in 1982.

Throughout his years in politics, Clinton has also been chairman of the Democratic Leadership Council, the National Governor's Association, the Education Commission of the States and the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Commission. He co-chaired the NGA Task Force on Healthcare, as well.

Clinton and his wife, Hillary, have one daughter, Chelsea.

Independent: Ross Perot

Ross Perot, a Texas billionaire, was born June 27, 1930 in Texarkana, Texas. There he attended public schools and Texarkana Junior College. He graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1953.

In 1956, he married Margot Birmingham from Greensburg, Pennsylvania whom he met while a midshipman at the Academy.

In 1962, Perot started his own one-man data processing company, Electronic Data Systems. Today, it is a multi-billion dollar firm.

Perot received the Medal for Distinguished Public Service, for his involvement with POW's in Southeast Asia.

Ross and his wife have five children and four grandchildren.

(Source: *Daily Press*)



THE ISSUES:

RACISM



To help African-Americans gain a greater insight into the views of each candidate, the editors of *Ebony*, the sister magazine of *Jet*, asked President Bush and Governor Clinton to respond to the issue of vital importance to the African-American community—RACISM.

Both candidates were given the same question, and both responded with the below answer that is printed in full:

Ebony: It is generally agreed that there has been a sharp rise in racism and an alarming increase in ethnic tensions within recent years. How will you deal with this problem?

Bush: My administration has vigorously prosecuted hate crimes, and will continue to do so in the future. If America is to continue to be a good place for any of us to live, it must be a good place for all of us. During the last two years, the federal government had convictions in almost every one of the 65 hate crime cases that were tried.

Clinton: Perhaps the greatest responsibility of the next president is to bring our country together and to make our nation's rich diversity a source of strength, not weakness. When Americans have been united, we have been unstoppable. In recent years we have been divided by race, region, income and gender, with leaders who too often fail to recognize that we're all in this together.

The president has the responsibility for setting the example of racial understanding and tolerance through his appointments to his staff and cabinet, by speaking out against racism and by taking affirmative steps to encourage communities to establish means for communicating on a regular basis across racial, ethnic and income lines.

As president, I will work to implement policies that reward hard work and expand economic opportunity, empowering all Americans. The challenges we face as a nation are great, and we don't have a moment to lose or a person to waste. But I can't change this country unless the American people are willing to be Americans again, and give up the prejudices that divide our nation. We have to come together around values and across racial lines. If we're going to revitalize this country, every American has to look beyond the prejudices that divide us so we can come together as a nation.

Almost 130 years after President Abraham Lincoln's challenge to America for renewal and rededication at the dedication of the Civil War cemetery at Gettysburg, PA, and almost 30 years after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., stood in the shadow of the Lincoln Memorial at Washington, D.C., and told the 250,000 who gathered about his dream for America, we have much to do to continue to make real America's promise of democracy, individual liberty and equality. That is what I am committed to do as president.

(Source: *Jet Magazine*, 10/16/92)

ECONOMY

JOBS

Bush: Proposals include having the capital gains tax, creating urban enterprise zones, increasing deductions for new equipment, and enacting a \$10 billion worker-training package. Bush says the North American Free Trade Agreement he negotiated with Mexico and Canada will be a job boon and has proposed similar agreements with other trading partners.

Clinton: Proposes a \$20 billion-a-year Rebuild America fund; and apprenticeship program for noncollege-bound youth; an investment tax credit for new plants and equipment; and a 50 percent tax exclusion for long-term investors in new businesses. He would end tax breaks for companies that ship jobs overseas and require firms to devote 1.5 percent of their payrolls to job training. He also would create urban enterprise zones and set up 100 community banks for small-business people. He supports NAFTA but would negotiate additional safeguards for U.S. workers and industries.

Perot: Would eliminate capital gains taxes for investment in new small businesses and reduce the tax rate for long-term investments; create urban enterprise zones; and offer investment tax credits for equipment and machinery purchases. He has criticized NAFTA and says he wants to look at it more closely.

TAXATION

Bush: Would cut income taxes for all Americans if Congress agrees to offsetting spending cuts. He has floated a 1 percentage point rate-cut as a possibility. He said in January he would increase by \$500 the personal income tax exemption, now set at \$2,300.

Clinton: Would raise marginal rates from 31 percent to 36 percent on individuals with adjusted gross incomes above \$150,000 and joint filers with incomes of \$200,000 or more. For households with adjusted gross income under about \$80,000, he proposes a \$300-per-child tax credit or, for childless couples, a tax reduction worth \$300.

Perot: Would raise marginal income tax rates on individuals making more than \$55,550 and households making more than \$89,250 from 31 percent to 33 percent. He would raise the tobacco tax by an unspecified amount and increase the federal gas tax, now 14.1 cents a gallon, by 10 cents a gallon every year for five years. He would cut some mortgage deductions and trim business-lunch deductions.

(Source: *Daily Press*, 10/25/92)

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

SITES AND BUILDINGS that interpret or exhibit the black experience.

SPECIAL TOURS

The Other Half — Half of the population in Williamsburg during the eighteenth century was black. This ninety-minute walking tour gives an in-depth look at the black experience from the arrival of the first blacks in Virginia in 1619 through the abolition of the slave trade by the English in 1807. Tour given daily at 10:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M. Patriot's Pass holders can participate in this special tour at no extra charge. Each tour limited to 25 participants.

SPECIAL EVENTS

History Forum — November 5 – 7, 1992
"Slavery and Freedom: An American Paradox."

Guest faculty and Colonial Williamsburg staff members will examine the origins and development of one strand of America's cultural fabric — the African-American. Origins and evolution of slavery in North America; the formation of distinctive African-American culture and its impact on language, government, music, and religion are a few discussion topics.



SITES AND BUILDINGS that interpret or exhibit the black experience.

Brush-Everard Site — Tours of this property and original house feature the lives of Thomas Everard, immigrant and public official, and his family. Learn more about the African-Americans who lived and worked on the property. Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays 10, 11 A.M., 1, 3, and 4 P.M.

Carter's Grove Slave Quarter — Interpreters will welcome you to the slave quarter, rebuilt on its original location, and direct you through buildings and outdoor spaces that reveal much about the lives of the Africans and African-Virginians whose labors supported the eighteenth-century plantation. Open Tuesdays through Sundays.

George Wythe House and Domestic Activities — A large number of "black" artifacts are housed on this site. Inside the main house, on the second floor, is the southwest bedchamber, a room possibly used by one of Wythe's female slaves. Visit the laundry and kitchen as well as the stable.

Benjamin Powell House — Benjamin Powell was a carpenter and builder who lived next to Christiana Campbell's Tavern. Scenes of daily life are portrayed by people of the past representing family members, friends, and African-Americans who lived on the property.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lord Dunmore's Proclamation — November 27–29, 1992 — Witness programs surrounding Lord Dunmore's Proclamation.

EACH ONE, TEACH ONE

THE THINK TANK

1. Q: Who was the Kenyan president and leader, nicknamed "The Old Man," who led his East African nation to freedom from British Colonialism?
2. Q: This post Civil War Act of Congress in 1867, ratified the Fourteenth Amendment and guaranteed African-Americans the right to vote giving African-Americans the majority voice in most southern states.
3. Q: What was the controversial statement made by Malcolm X in 1963 concerning the Kennedy assassination that caused Malcolm's suspension from the Nation of Islam by Elijah Muhammad?
4. Q: Who was the free-born inventor, mathematician, astronomer and essayist, called the "sable genius"? He made, completely of wood, the first clock wholly made in America. This clock kept accurate time for over twenty years. He is best known for taking part in laying out the plans for the city of Washington, DC.
5. Q: Name the African-American poetess, who, in 1950, became the first African-American to win a Pulitzer Prize for poetry.
6. Q: Who was the New Orleans-born gospel singer who became known as the "Queen of Gospel Music?"
7. Q: What is the name of the publication founded, researched, compiled, edited, and distributed by Michelle Carr, an African-American, in 1992, at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, in an effort to educate, make employees aware of the importance of black history, and to link Africa to America?
8. Q: This politician was the son of an eminent Harlem minister who pastored the largest African-American congregation in America. First elected to the House of Representatives in 1944, he offset his reputation for absenteeism by using civil rights and other legislation favorable to blacks through Congress.



COUNTRIES OF AFRICA (Unscramble)

- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| 1. AOGNAL | 2. EELNSGA |
| 3. PTYGE | 4. ANGHA |
| 5. MOCRANOE | 6. AKYNE |
| 7. GARINIE | 8. AIZER |



AFRICAN PROVERB: (Cameroon) "He who asks questions, can not avoid the answer."

THE VOICE

A HISTORICAL NOTE

By Marcel Riddick,

African-American Interpreter

Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

"A VOTELESS PEOPLE, IS A VOICELESS PEOPLE"



Are we a people who are willing to join the gigantic struggle to make the system work on our behalf? Are we mindful that ours is a vital and essential role in developing and providing aggressive leadership on behalf of all our citizens to make our communities a better place to live? The time has come when every African-American must become a first class citizen and vote. Make no mistake about it, Mr. and Mrs. Non-Voter, not one of us can afford to be left off the voting list in 1992.

Every African-American, regardless of his classification and circumstances in life must, without reservations, assume his voting obligation in the coming election. Freedom is not really free; it involves great responsibilities. Our African-American forefather went to great lengths to make our dreams realities. As "high priced" immigrants brought to the colonies and sold to build what has become America, African-Americans were finally given freedom in 1865 with the Thirteenth Amendment; citizenship with the Fourteenth Amendment; and the African male counted as 3/5th of a person to vote with the Fifteenth Amendment in a tactical move by President Abe Lincoln in the context of the civil war. Since that time, African-American political activity had been (and still is to a certain extent) faced by a wall of racism and prejudice.

Soon after the end of slavery, many former slaves were given help to make the transition into freedom through land grants, technical assistance and education through the Freedmen's Bureau. But this was soon halted as African-Americans were used as political pawns in the Hayes-Tilden presidential campaign in 1876. As payment for winning the presidency, Hayes pulled the union military personnel from the southern states.

This compromise to reunify a nation meant that the new African-American citizens now had to deal with their former master. It also meant that African-Americans were considered a southern problem. A rigid system of discrimination, supported by the Ku Klux Klan terrorism and white supremacist attitudes called "Jim Crow" was the new law of the South. Literacy test, poll taxes, and threat of death were now the road block to the ballot box.

Not until the migration to the north by African-Americans in the twentieth century did political action become a tool for African-American use. Because of the results of the practices in the south to exclude African-Americans, there had to be few opportunities to develop a political tradition in the north.

Schools in the post-civil war era to the twentieth century were used to Americanize African-Americans and instill loyalty but rarely (if at all) taught African-Americans to become participants in the political process. The schools did teach economics in farming, cultivating patience, high morals, and perseverance as introduced by Booker T. Washington.

The church during this period was a home away from home for the African-Americans. It was a community center but seldom involved itself in political affairs due to the dangers of physical punishment. Leaders used African-American ministers as liaisons to the African-American community as needed, but the church in later years became a major player in political liberation of African-Americans.

After World War I, African-Americans flocked to the industrialized north, but politically fell to the political organization or political machines. African-Americans made little gains in this system. African-Americans who had political success often had to report to the heads of these political machines. This type of politics soon fell to new civil service procedures for city employment. Out of this system grew the African-American elite, who often times gave large sums of money to African-American groups, thusly avoiding controversy and clear partisan politics. The middle class, however, would make great contributions to move toward political equality.

After World War II, there seems to have been a turning point in African-American political activities. African-Americans became more assertive and aggressive in their struggle for political equality. Brown vs. Board of Education 1954 outlawed racial segregation in public schools, but the Birmingham bus boycott in 1957 caused a dramatic change in politics making African-American rights a national political issue.

The African-American political tactics changed from relying on the private and legal practices of the Urban League and NAACP to the tactic of direct confrontation of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), led by Martin Luther King, Jr. 1957; the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), founded by James Farmer 1942; and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), founded after an African-American student sit-in in North Carolina.

The major problem among politically active African-Americans was the lack of unity. These three groups clearly gave a sense of unity along class and economic lines. Initially, the practices of non-violence were kept by these groups but the instances of white terrorism through the bombing of a black church in Birmingham, Alabama during Sunday service causing the death of four children kept the African-Americans' political protest in the public eye domestically and internationally.

Out of these demonstrations came consequently the death of two African-American leaders, Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1968 and Malcolm X in 1963, but progress was also made in the introduction of several pieces of legislation, namely the creation of the "war on poverty" for the urban poor and the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Results saw many African-Americans being elected to public office in the late 1960s and into the present.

It appears that we became apathetic until 1976 when African-Americans help to elect Jimmy Carter to the presidency. I have since seen the political fire in our eye dim in recent years.

If African-Americans don't maintain high levels of political participation, the gains that those who worked so diligently before us may be lost. Yes, Mr. and Mrs. Non-Voter, YOUR VOTE DOES COUNT! Remember, "a voteless people, is a voiceless people!!"

(Sources: *Black Americans and the Political System* by Lucius Barker and Jesse McCorey, Jr.; *Citizens Voters Directory of Suffolk, VA, Vol. 2* by Moses Riddick, Jr.)

◀ BLACK POLITICAL FIRSTS ▶

DID YOU KNOW?

- ◀ The **first** blacks to confer with an American president on a matter of public policy met with Abraham Lincoln on August 14, 1862. The meeting ended in controversy after the president urged black Americans to emigrate to Africa or Central America.
- ◀ The **first** black elected to public office was Alexander Lucius Twilight, who was sent to the Vermont legislature in 1836 by the voters of Orleans County.
- ◀ The **first** black to receive a major government appointment in the United States was Frederick Douglass, who was named U. S. marshal of the District of Columbia on March 18, 1877. After a bitter fight he was confirmed by the Senate, 30—12.
- ◀ The **first** black cabinet member was Robert C. Weaver, who was named secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development by President Johnson. He was sworn in on January 18, 1966.

- ◀ The **first** black accredited to an African country was J. Milton Turner of Missouri, who was named minister to Liberia on March 1, 1871.
 - ◀ The **first** black Democrat elected to Congress was Arthur Mitchell, who defeated DePriest on November 7, 1934.
 - ◀ The **first** black United Nations Ambassador was Andrew Young, who was named to the post by President Carter. Ambassador Young was confirmed on January 26, 1977.
 - ◀ The **youngest** black congressman was John R. Lynch of Mississippi, who entered the House of Representatives in 1873 at the age of twenty-six.
 - ◀ The **first** black keynoter of a national political convention was Rep. Barbara Jordan of Texas, who made the main address on July 12 at the Democratic convention of 1976.
- (Source: *Before the Mayflower*, Lerone Bennett, Jr.)

QUICK QUIZ ON POLITICS

Politics is one of the best words in the English language. It affects ones' life before the cradle and long after the grave. Politics has been debased only because good people have neglected it. Our communities, our states, our nations, our world will be improved in ratio to the number of responsible and

1. Are you registered to vote? **Yes**

Did you vote:

2. In the most recent general election? **Yes**

3. Have you ever helped in a political (partisan or nonpartisan) campaign by doing at least two of the following **Yes**
Telephoning?
Ringing doorbells?
Volunteering for clerical work?
Making a voluntary financial contribution?
Using a car or other facility to get out the voters on election day?
Participate in a voters registration campaign?

4. Have you ever written a letter on some political issue to any three of the following **Yes**
Your senior United States Senator?
Your junior United States Senator?
Your United States Congressman?
Your Governor?
Your State Senator?
Your State member House of Delegates?
Your Mayor?
Your city councilman?
A TV or radio news commentator?

5. Have you listened to or read carefully a speech by any political figure with whom you are in strong disagreement? **Yes**

6. Have you spoken out within the last six months either in a private discussion, or public meeting, in defense of your point of view on a political issue? **Yes**

7. Have you ever attended a political party meeting on the local, state, or national level? **Yes**

8. Do you belong to at least one political group, either a political party, club, or independent voters' league or civil group? **Yes**

9. Have you ever run for political office or would you be willing to run if you were urged to do so? **Yes**

unselfish people who become "versed or experienced in the art of government" — hence, politicians.

Are you a good politician? Try these questions as a possible gauge of your political competency. Circle the **Yes** if that is your answer.

10. Have you ever urged a person to run for public office? **Yes**

11. Have you ever served on a jury without trying to get out of it? Or, if you have never been asked to serve, would you serve if asked to do so in the next session? **Yes**

12. Have you ever visited any three of the following? **Yes**
The United States Congress?
Your state legislature?
A United State Congressional committee hearing?
A state legislative committee hearing?
A court session (juvenile, police, criminal, etc.)?
A meeting of your schoolboard?
A City planning commission meeting?
A meeting of your city council?

13. Have you made it a point to meet any two of the following? **Yes**
Your senior United States Senator?
Your junior United States Senator?
Your United States Congressman?
Your state senator?
Your member of House of Delegates?
Your Mayor?
Your councilman?

Can you give the first and last names of

14. Your senior United States Senator? **Yes**
15. Your junior United States Senator? **Yes**
16. Your United States Congressman? **Yes**
17. Your Governor? **Yes**
18. Your state senator? **Yes**
19. Your state member of house of delegates? **Yes**
20. Your Mayor? **Yes**
21. Your councilman? **Yes**

To Score

Count three points for each circled yes. Add one point to total. Score _____

A 90—100 Excellent

B 80—90 Good

C 70—80 Fair

Below 70 — Politically unsatisfactory!

(Source: *Citizen's Voters Directory, Suffolk, VA* by Moses A. Riddick, Jr.)

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Junior Think Tank

EVENTS IN POLITICS

The
CONSTITUTION
of the United States

We the People
We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do hereby adopt this Constitution of the United States.

Amendment Freedmen
Arrival Nineteenth
Ballot Politics
Black Codes Proclamation
Candidate Term
Civil Rights Thirteenth
Emancipation Vote
Fourteenth Voting Rights

Z V O T E L M I A L A F P O L I T I C S C O V
E A Y E K E L T E O P R M S L A H E R Y I E O
M N J R F A F O A N O O L A A I I M I C V E T
K U A M V R F A L C T U V K C N R B I F I P I
Q M P I E T N Y L R M I K E K O T I O R L O N
U I R H I S C A N D I D A T E P E T I E R T G
B R D R A E M I N C A K E T X E E E L E I J R
A S P B L A C K C O D E S E E E E N S M D G O I
L I T N T E M A N C I P A T C I T A R M H N G
L O W I L L T F O U R T E E N T H C O E T X H
O N O I T A R U E M A N C I P A T I O N S R T
T N E M D N E M A H T N E E T E N I N U R G S

YEAR EVENT

- 1619 **ARRIVAL** of Africans to English America.
- 1827 **BLACK CODES 1827**
So-called black codes regulated the everyday lives of African Americans before the Civil War.
- 1863 **EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION**
President Abraham Lincoln signed Emancipation Proclamation which freed slaves in rebel states with exception of thirteen parishes (including New Orleans) in Louisiana, forty-eight counties in West Virginia, seven counties (including Norfolk) in eastern Virginia. Proclamation did not apply to slaves in Border States.
- 1865 **THIRTEENTH AMENDMENT**
Abolished slavery in the United States.
- FREEDMEN'S BUREAU** created to aid refugees and freed slaves.
- 1868 **FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT**
Granted American citizenship to all blacks, including former slaves.

YEAR EVENT

- 1870 **FIFTEENTH AMENDMENT**
Granted voting rights to African American men throughout the United States.
- 1875 **CIVIL RIGHTS BILL** enacted by Congress. Bill gave blacks the right to equal treatment in inns, public conveyances, theaters, and other places of public amusement.
- 1920 **NINETEENTH AMENDMENT**
Granted equal voting rights for all men and women, allowing black women to vote for the first time.
- 1964 **CIVIL RIGHTS BILL** signed by President Lyndon Johnson with public accommodation and fair employment sections.
- 1965 **VOTING RIGHTS BILL** signed by President Johnson, authorized the suspension of literacy tests and the sending of federal examiners into South.

POLITICAL WORDS

Here are the definitions of some terms that will help you understand elections:

Ballot: A sheet of paper used to make a vote.
Candidate: A person who seeks a certain position.
Politics: All about elections and how we govern ourselves.
Politicians: People who try to win elections.

Political party: A group that tries to control the government by winning elections.
Term: The number of years that a president serves (four). We elect our presidents in even years, every four years.
Vote: The way by which a choice is made known.

AFRICAN PROVERB: (Congo) "Children are the reward of life."

EMPLOYEES' CORNER

Behind The Scenes

Spotlight

Sylvia Tabb-Lee, the second of three children, was born in the Williamsburg area. Upon graduating from Williamsburg public schools, she attended the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York.

Sylvia has been with the Department of African-American Interpretation and Presentation since 1989. Sylvia is a great interpreter and an

outstanding performer. She loves to sing and we invite you to come to of the programs that she is in and listen to her beautiful tenor voice.

(Spotlight is a brief profile of a member of the Department of African-American Interpretation and Presentations.)



AFRICAN PROVERB: (Buganda) "He who hunts two rats, catches none."

SOLUTIONS TO PUZZLES:

Each One, Teach One

1. Jomo Kenyatta
2. The Reconstruction Act
3. "Chickens coming home to roost."
4. Benjamin Banneker
5. Gwendolyn Brooks
6. Mahalia Jackson
7. Broken Chains
8. Adam Clayton Powell, Jr.

Countries of Africa

1. Angola
2. Senegal
3. Egypt
4. Ghana
5. Cameroon
6. Kenya
7. Nigeria
8. Zaire

Word Find:

Z V O T E L M I A L A F P O L I T I C S C O V
E A Y E K E L T E O P R M S L A H E R Y I E O
M N J R F A F O A N O O L A A I I M I C V E T
K U A M V R F A L C T U V K C N R B I F I P I
Q M P I E T N Y L R M I K E K O T I O R L O N
U I R H I S C A N D I D A T E P E T I E R T G
B R D R A E M I N C A K E T X E E L E I J R
A S P B L A C K C O D E S E E E N S M D G O I
L I T N T E M A N C I P A T C I T A R M H N G
L O W I L L T F O U R T E E N T H C O E T X H
O N O I T A R U E M A N C I P A T I O N S R T
T N E M D N E M A H T N E E T E N I N U R G S

IN THE NEWS . . . YESTERDAY

1965

Voting rights bill is signed into law

Aug 6. President Johnson has signed the Voting Rights Act of 1965, saying, "Today we strike away the last major shackle of those fierce and ancient bonds." The legislation, rigorously debated before congressional passage, prohibits states from using poll taxes, literacy tests or other impediments which deny minorities their right to vote. It also grants Congress the

power to send federal examiners to those areas where voting discrimination is believed to exist. Tomorrow, in an effort to enforce the new statute, the Justice Department will specify which regions have discriminated against voters.

It is expected that Southern politicians will challenge the law on constitutional grounds that it unlawfully limits states' rights. It is also believed the large influx of Negro voters will alter the complexion of traditionally conservative Southern politics.

IT CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE !!

(THE POWER OF THE VOTE)

Some say it doesn't matter.
Others tell you they don't care.
It's just a waste of time.
Why should I vote anyway?

It can make a difference.
Your vote does really count.
Decide, you have a civic duty.
Let's throw the rascals out!

But there's not much to chose from.
The lesser of two evils.
They won't be representing me.
Voting is just not worth the time.

You are sadly mistaken.
We all must do our part.
You can make a difference!
If you let them hear your voice.

I don't know the candidates.
Or how they stand on the issues.
Why are you hassling me?
What does my voting have to do with you?

It can make a difference.
If you'd only give it a try.
You have an unharness power.
It would be ashame not to use it.

Well, I don't know what to tell you.
I just can't see my way clear.
I can't become part of the system.
A system that doesn't recognize me.

You can make a difference.
You will have every right to complain.
When you vote you make a statement.
You're not going to take it anymore!

I think I see your point now.
It's not all up to me.
But I can make a difference.
And I will, just wait and see.

It can make a difference.
Voting is worth the time.
Think of all those who can't vote.
Because they committed a crime.

It can make a difference.
But it's up to me and you.
An unused vote is a wasted vote.
I think we know what to do!

GET OUT AND VOTE!!

Jerrold W. Roy

ON MYNE OWN TYME

The Department of African-American Interpretation and Presentations offers the following programs at various times. All programs are meant to provide unique glimpses into the lives of eighteenth-century African-Americans.

History Forum November 5 - 7, 1992

"Slavery and Freedom: An American Paradox."

Guest faculty and Colonial Williamsburg staff members will examine the origins and development of one strand of America's cultural fabric — the African-American. Origins and evolution of slavery in North America; the formation of distinctive African-American culture and its impact on language, government, music, and religion are a few discussion topics. Lectures will be presented by:

Professor Sheila Walker, University of Texas, Austin, "Africans in the New World,"

Professor Molefi Asante, Temple University, "African Diaspora,"

Professor Mechal Sobel, University of Haifa, Israel, "Culture and Slavery in Colonial Virginia,"

Professor Michael Nicholls, Utah State University, "Free Blacks and the Conflict of Identity," and

Barbara Reynolds, columnist and editorial board member, *USA Today*, "Race and Freedom in the United States Today".



Other Half Tour

Half of the population in Williamsburg during the eighteenth century was black. This ninety-minute walking tour gives an in-depth look at the black experience from the arrival of the first blacks in Virginia in 1619 through the abolition of the slave trade by the English in 1807. Tour given daily at 10:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M. Patriot's Pass holders can participate in this special tour at no extra charge. Each tour limited to 25 participants.

For further information about programs and cost, please telephone 1-800-HISTORY.

AFRICAN PROVERB: (Ashanti) "There is no medicine to cure hatred."

*The
Colonial Williamsburg
Foundation*

African-American Interpretation and Presentations
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