

# A history of Black History Month

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The Clackamas Print

In honor of Black History Month, *The Clackamas Print* has compiled a timeline outlining key events in black history, and when Black History Month was founded.



TURNER

**1619** African slaves arrive in Virginia.

**1787** In the Northwest Territory, slavery is made illegal. However, according to the Constitution, Congress couldn't ban the slave trade until 1808.

**1793** The cotton gin is invented by Eli Whitney, largely increasing the demand for slave labor.

**1800** In Richmond, Va., Gabriel Prosser, an enslaved blacksmith, plans a march in the streets of Richmond. Prosser gets caught trying to stage the revolt and is hanged.

**1808** Congress bans the slave trade.

**1820** Slavery is banned north of the southern boundary of Missouri (Missouri Compromise).

**1831** An enslaved preacher, Nat Turner, and his followers, launch a rebellion in Southampton County, Va. Turner is later hanged. Also, abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison begins publishing the abolitionist newspaper, *The Liberator*.

**1849** Harriet Tubman escapes slavery and starts the Underground Railroad.



**1852** *Uncle Tom's Cabin* is published, causing the debate over slavery to increase even more.

**1861** The Civil War begins.

**1863** The Emancipation Proclamation is put into effect by President Lincoln.

**1865** The Civil War is over, and blacks are freed from slavery after the 13th Amendment is ratified. Lincoln is assassinated, and the KKK forms in the South.

**1867** Reconstruction acts are passed, guaranteeing the civil rights of freed slaves in the South.



REVELS

Blacks are given the right to vote. Hiram Revels becomes the first black senator.

**1896** The Supreme Court case Plessy v. Ferguson concludes that racial segregation is constitutional.

**1909** The NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) is founded, and led, by W.E.B. Du Bois.

**1920s** Black literature, art, poetry, etc. start appearing in Harlem. Thus, the Harlem Renaissance is born.

**1926** Negro History Week is founded by Carter G. Woodson, due to his disapproval of the lack of black history in textbooks.



Jackie Robinson becomes the first black Major League Baseball player.

**1954** Brown v. The Board of Education declares that segregation is unconstitutional.

**1965** Black Nationalist leader Malcolm X is assassinated by three black Muslims.



KING

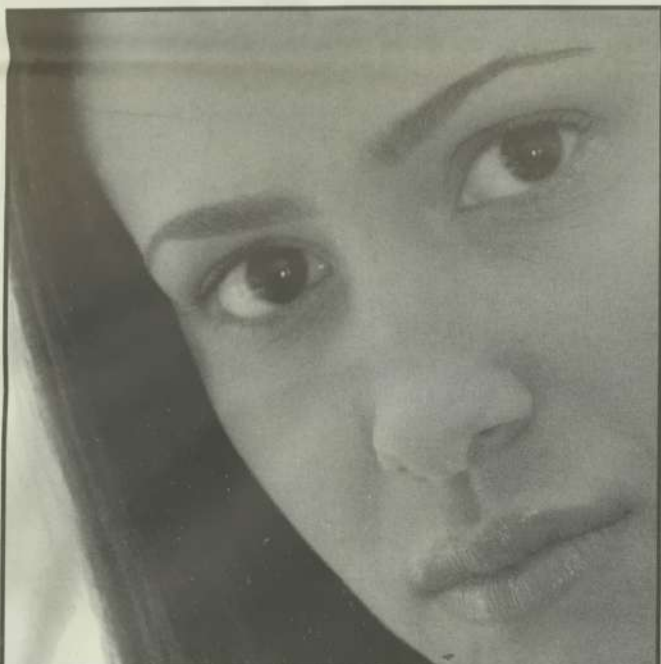
MALCOM X

**1968** Martin Luther King, Jr. is assassinated, and President Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act, which prohibits housing discrimination.

**1976** Negro History Week is changed to Black History Month by The Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History.



ROSA PARKS



## Rock Climbing class on the way up

### Elizabeth Hitz

The Clackamas Print

René Daumal, a French writer and philosopher, summed up the sport of rock climbing.

"You cannot stay on the summit forever; you have to come down again," wrote Daumal. "So, why bother in the first place? Just this: What is above knows what is below, but what is below does not know what is above. One climbs; one sees. One descends; one sees no longer, but one has seen."

Clackamas offers on-campus rock climbing courses, beginning through advanced. The rock wall hides around a closed-in stairwell located in Randall Hall. Most people never even realize it is there.

A lot of people, like student Meredith Anderson, hear about the class through word-of-mouth.

"My sister took the class about three years ago," said Anderson. "She enjoyed it, so I figured I would, too. I like outdoor sports ... [and climbing] has always appealed."

The classes teach the basics of rock climbing, from climbing knots and repelling to safety tips and the history of the sport.

"[Rock climbing] is open to everyone; it's one of the nice things about the sport," said Instructor Don Gonthier, as he tested students' safety lines and tugged at climbing harnesses. "There're no barriers. You can always find a partner with roughly the

same abilities as you."

And for those who have issues with climbing up walls without the benefit of Spiderman's webbing or anti-gravity boots, it's not as bad as it looks.

"At first, I thought [climbing] was really dangerous and scary," said student Melinda Eisele, "but now, it's the second term and I feel more comfortable, and it's fun. I've even gotten my husband to climb."

The class only meets once a week, and climbing outside of class is encouraged.

In past years, the class has gone on climbing trips to nearby areas like Smith Rocks, in Bend, and Horseshief Butte, near The Dalles.

According to Gonthier, "Being self-motivated helps because it is an individual sport. There aren't any

teams pushing you on."

Local places to look for a good climb?

"Oregon is full of very small places," said Gonthier. "I prefer places that don't necessarily have a lot of people around."

Or for the time-challenged, there are several rock gyms in Portland that offer a variety of climbs.

Classes for Spring Term are scheduled with beginning rock climbing on Tuesdays, and intermediate and advanced on Thursdays. Classes run from 6 p.m. to 8:50 p.m.

So, why take rock climbing?

"There are only three real sports: bullfighting, car racing and mountain climbing. All the others are mere games" - or at least that's what Hemingway thought.



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Teaching assistant Jeff Pinkerton belays student Adam Derkson as he repels down the rock wall in Randall.

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