

HISTORY MEANS



A PLACE IN THE SUN

By Karl Holifield

Lux sit. Let us begin our salute to Black History Month with this invocation (whatever our creed). Lux sit— let there be light.

It seems that the light of learning is puncturing the eclipse which has overhung Blacks—excluding their past and present from Mankind's story—History.

This is benchmarked by several happenings—the rise of Black African nations as

independent countries, the Black Revolution in the United States and recent scientific acknowledgements that Africa has been the Mother to Mankind. Who can hate his cradle?

The famous British scientist, Dr. Louis Leakey, contended that the ancestor of modern man's ancestor (homo habilis from whom homo sapiens is descended) originated in the northern gamelands of Tanzania. Of course that was over two mil-

lion years ago.

Meantime, Mankind spread all over.

Were we to consider only the past 2,000 years of history we would find that Blacks are judged only by the last 400 years starting when Europeans found economic advantage in Black slavery. But this is a story too well known to all.

What is often not realized is that no ethnic group has a monopoly on technology. As the wheel of oppor-

tunity turns, we can see different views of the same peoples.

Imagine the disdain of ancient Egyptians to learn of white savages painting themselves blue in Europe's caves when Egypt used the chariot, the iron-tipped hoe and spears, wrote on papyrus reed and fostered mathematics.

It could compare today to the amazement of those who see Pygmies in their rain forest habitat hunting elephant with spears.

As the world becomes smaller due to speed of travel and communications, cultural difference diminishes. People of diverse inheritance and background tend to advance together, not always in tandem nor at the same pace, but at least the old ignorance comes under scrutiny. And like many viruses, it can't endure the light, the light of learning. Lux sit. Let there be light. Emancipate our share of History as we take our place in the sun.

TODAY YOU ARE MAKING HISTORY

Will Black history record that the United States, with whatever faults and virtues the extreme left and right have attributed to it, seems to have reached a decline in social and economic barriers for its native-born Afro-Saxons?

Could it be that the success of the civil rights movement has curtailed the rise of present and future leaders?

Perhaps it is mere tokenism that Black elected officials have suddenly flowered all over the nation, that corporate America now has accepted a significant brigade of Black managers, that increasingly Black athletes saturate the professional sports fields commanding superlative salaries.

But what about the millions who still writhe under the lack of opportunity and

injustice of generations past?

They have been called the Black underclass.

Does the success of the few forecast hope for the many? Will American business take up the gauntlet of this current challenge of how to stem the worsened conditions for the Black masses so as to stabilize the conditions for all Americans irrespective of color? We think there is cause for hope, especially when we view the rise of achievers like these.

Terence

Terence said over two thousand years ago, "I bid him look into the lives of men as though into a mirror, and from others to take an example for himself."



Prominent Roman citizen Terentius Lucanus was so impressed with his African slave, he gave the youth his name. Thus Publius Terentius Afer, for African, was destined to become one of Rome's greatest Latin stylists and writers.

His works are known mainly for the purity of his language and the exceptionally flawless verse. He is still studied throughout the world twenty-two hundred years later.



One from the Past

To paraphrase the famous ranging from Black Terence to English Lord Chesterton to others, if the lessons of history aren't learned they are

likely to be repeated. This is probably one significant reason why history is important to us. It has an application to our ever living present. It can affect our future.

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