

Black **H**istory **M**onth

B continued

ghettos began to form, blacks began to feel their economic and political strength amass. Group cohesiveness and group capital spells power. During the early 1930's, in the urban areas where blacks now lived, they began to advocate group economics and group politics, especially where they spent their hard-to-come-by dollars. They had clear goals for their group activities. Blacks began a "Consumer Buying Power" movement in Chicago. They used pickets and boycotts to force white business owners, especially those that had large black clientele and customer bases, to employ blacks in their businesses. In New York, Adam Clayton Powell, a young black community activist, minister and future Congressman, led a four-year employment effort that added ten thousand black workers to the telephone company, the electric company, the bus line, and department stores. In black communities throughout America, organizations began to use the same tactics to get blacks jobs.

C for College

BY JANUS ADAMS

As the 19th Century drew to an end, the U.S. Supreme Court's May 18, 1896, *Plessy v. Ferguson* decision to legalize "separate but equal" segregation validated a racist reign of terror, undermined human rights, and fired the spirit of the indomitable Mrs. Mary McLeod, one of the Century's noblest warrior women. In 1904, she founded Florida's first school to educate blacks beyond the elementary grades, Daytona

Educational and Industrial Institute, now Bethune-Cookman College. In 1935 she founded the National Council of Negro Women, her "organization of organizations" to represent the combined clout of over one million women.

By the time Death called her name on May 18, 1955, she had served as adviser to presidents Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman, and helped draft the United Nations charter.

Bethune's was a life well lived educating, challenging, and inspiring others. Never one to leave a job unfinished, as death neared in her eightieth year, she prepared a final legacy for generations to come.



In 1904, Mary McLeod founded the Daytona Normal and Industrial School, which later became Bethune-Cookman College. Beginning in 1914, she began to participate in health and child-welfare conferences, where she exchanged ideas with prominent social reformers.

D for Du Bois, W.E.B.

BY MAX RODRIGUEZ, ANGELI RASBURY AND CAROL TAYLOR

Born in Massachusetts in 1868, William Edward Burghardt Du Bois was the foremost black intellectual of his time – and mind you, his time stretched all the way from Reconstruction to the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. A man of staggering intellect and drive, he was the first black to hold a doctorate from Harvard University. Du Bois wrote three historical works, two novels, two autobiographies, and sixteen pioneering books on sociology, history, politics, and race relations. He was a founder of the NAACP, pioneering Pan-Africanist, spirited advocate for world peace, and tireless fighter for civil rights during the darkest days of Jim Crow.

D for Domestic Worker

BY JANUS ADAMS

In 1935, *The Crisis* published "The Bronx Slave Market," a landmark exposé on the plight of domestic workers during the Depression. As Ella Baker and Marvel Cooke observed: "Paradoxically, the crash of 1929 brought to the domestic labor market...the lower middle-class housewife, who, having dreamed on the luxury of a maid, found opportunity staring her in the face in the form of the Negro woman pressed to the wall by poverty, starvation, and discrimination." Isolated to work and in society, most domestics could only resort to their own wits for help or hope, as Naomi Ward wrote in "I Am a Domestic," published in *New Masses* on June 25, 1940.

AFRICAN AMERICANS IN THE NORTHWEST

Saturday, February 12, at 2pm

Dr. Darrell M. Millner, Professor of Black Studies at Portland State University, offers a broad-based perspective on African Americans working and living in the Northwest during the past two centuries.

Admission is free



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