

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

I for Inventions

The following inventions and innovations were by African Americans from 1900 to 1950:

- *Contribution to mathematical probability and decision theory* by David H. Blackwell
- *Asphalt emulsion, puncture-sealing composition, stable dry papain ingredient used in meat tenderizer* by Lloyd A. Hall
- *Electric hair treatment* by Solomon Harper
- *Ticket dispensing machine, air conditioning unit, and thermostat* by Frederick M. Jones
- *Gas mask and helmet, traffic signal* by Garrett A. Morgan
- *Airship* by J.F. Pickering
- *Automatic gear shift, multiple-barrel machine gun* by R.B. Spikes

K for King of Jazz

By TONYA BOLDEN

Duke Ellington (1899-1974), born in Washington, D.C., and named

Edward Kennedy, came into the nickname Duke when he was young because of his penchant for carrying himself as if he were royalty. He became a musical monarch—"King of Swing," "The King of Jazz"—because of his genius as a pianist, as a composer, and as a manager of awesome talents, among them bassist Jimmy Blanton, saxophonist Harry Carney, trumpeter William "Cat" Anderson, drummer Sonny Greer, and composer and arranger Billy Strayhorn, whose most memorable composition for the Duke Ellington Orchestra is "Take the 'A' Train." Ellington, who wrote scores for several films and musicals, composed roughly one thousand songs. His greatest hits include "Black and Tan Fantasy," "Mood Indigo," "Satin Doll," "It Don't Mean a Thing If It Ain't Got That Swing" and the fifty-minute tribute to the African American will to triumph over tragedy, *Black, Brown and Beige*, the work his orchestra played at the 1943 debut of the annual concerts Ellington held at New York City's Carnegie Hall until the mid-1950s. Ellington's numerous awards include the Presidential Medal of Freedom, awarded by Richard Nixon in 1970.

L for Lynching

By JANUS ADAMS

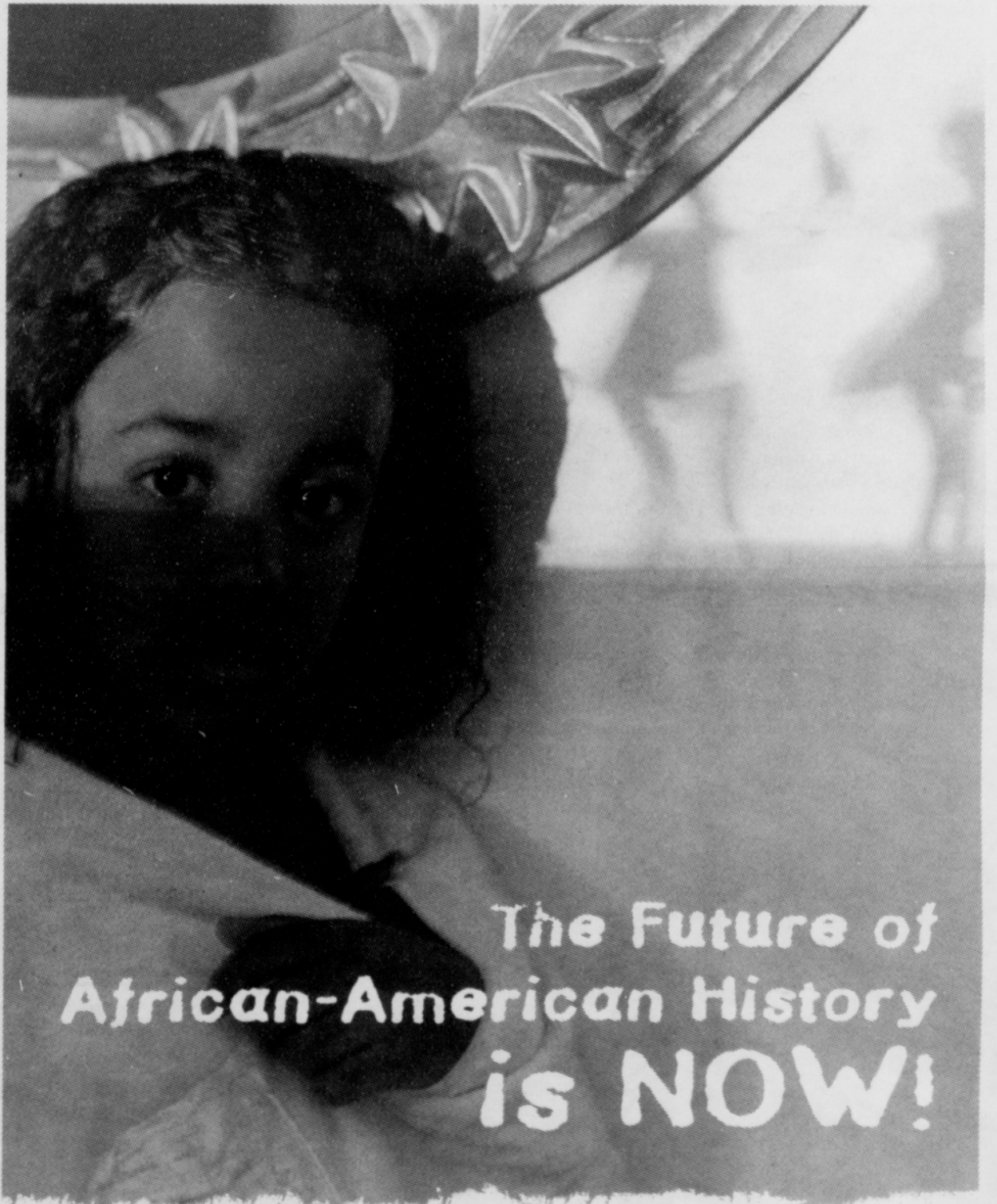
Lynching was no isolated act of a few lawless men, it was the shame of the nation. Between the years 1878 and 1898, no fewer than ten thousand had been lynched. Presidents Rutherford B. Hayes to

Woodrow Wilson had turned a blind eye to the problem. On July 28, 1917, people took to the streets of New York City for the Negro Silent Protest Parade. An estimated twenty thousand stood stunned on the sidelines as ten thousand African American men, women, and children walked to the beat of muffled drums down historic Fifth Avenue. Unwilling to wait for the favor of notice in a

semisymphathetic press, the event was organized by James Weldon Johnson, then executive secretary of the NAACP, and promoted and funded, in large part, through the network established by Madam C.J. Walker and her agents. Maximizing our networks, foreshadowing the Civil Rights era, a powerful image was telegraphed worldwide. *What power is in our midst.*



A composer and big-band leader equally at home in the Cotton Club and Carnegie Hall, "Duke" Ellington ranks as one of America's musical giants. Within his lifetime, he had created over 2,000 compositions.



The Future of African-American History is NOW!

