

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

R for Roots

By THE SCHOMBURG CENTER

Alex Haley's book, combining historical research with fictional narrative techniques, was as much a cultural as a literary phenomenon. By tracing his family history back through seven generations to an African ancestor named Kunta Kinte, Haley re-established a link that had been violently broken by the onslaught of the slave trade. Its message was amplified by a 12-hour, record-breaking TV miniseries that aired to millions in 1977. *Roots* inspired African Americans, educated whites about slavery, and spurred members of all ethnic groups to investigate their own genealogies. Touted for both creativity and its scholarship, *Roots* met with some negative criticism from book reviewers who claimed that Haley blurred the line between fiction and nonfiction in his work in order to enhance its narrative.

Motown Records

Motown Records, combining gospel and rhythm and blues. In addition to founder Berry Gordy, the main architects of the Motown sound were the Holland-Dozier-Holland songwriting team (Eddie and Brian Holland, Lamont Dozier), who penned 28 top 10 hits between 1963 and 1966.

Nobel Peace Prize

By JANUS ADAMS

On June 19, 1997, we did just that. Oprah Winfrey had bought the screen rights to Toni Morrison's novel *Beloved* and had taken on a new role as executive producer as well as actor in the film adaptation. It was a dream come true. As chief executive, Winfrey was guardian to the dream. As actor, giving flesh to the role of Sethe meant uttering a praise-song to the ancestors. On this day, she joined her fellow actors for the first read through of the first novel to reach the screen written by the first African American woman awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature. In her journal, she wrote: "One incredible day... We realized what an incredible journey this is we're undertaking" - a journey of which she would later write, "I never felt so free and so joyful as when I was working on *Beloved*."

Supreme Court

By CLAUD ANDERSON, Ed.D.

On July 2, 1991, when President George Bush nominated Clarence Thomas to fill Thurgood Marshall's seat on the United States Supreme Court, it became the most politically contentious, hypocritical, disturbing and yet comical spectacles in the history of Senate confirmations. Thomas was overwhelmingly opposed by black America because

of his insensitivity to race matters. His nomination split the nation racially. If his nomination was not designed to insult and divide the nation, why wasn't a person more acceptable to blacks nominated to fill a "so-called" black seat? The insult to black America began to backfire in an unprecedented series of events from October 11 to 14 after professor Anita Hill, a black woman, testified at the hearing. As the entire nation sat glued to their television sets, Anita Hill in calm, measured tones, charged Thomas with sexual harassment and told her version of Clarence Thomas' sexual habits, his appetite for X-rated adult movies, favorite porno stars, unwanted sexual advances he made on female employees, and ribald language about "pubic hairs on Coke cans."




Vietnam Conflict

By THE SCHOMBURG CENTER
Whereas African Americans had

A national poll had shown that 35 percent of African Americans in the United States opposed the war in 1966.

Hot Lips Pizza
Recognizes
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YOU ARE INVITED TO

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A Black History Education and Tribute to
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
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Dr. John W. Garlington, Jr.
1937-1986
"The Bridge Builder" in our community
and
other Black Leaders

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. John W. Garlington, Jr.

MONTH
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2000
4:00 p.m.

Program includes:
Spirituals, Gospel Music, Drama and Readings
at
Maranatha Church
4222 NE 12th Avenue
Portland, OR 97211
Dr. T. Allen Bethel, Senior Pastor
For more information, contact
John Parker at 288-7241 or 284-7563