

Biographies Open Pages of History

Black Americans restored to rightful place

(AP) — History has not been good to Onesimus.

As smallpox raged across Boston in 1721, the prominent Boston minister Cotton Mather suggested "ye Method of Inoculation" that he had learned from Onesimus, his former slave: Deliberately infect healthy people to boost their immunity.

Although the first mass inoculation in America probably saved thousands of lives, a white Englishman, Edward Jenner, is remembered today as the pioneer of

phy project's first volume, "African American Lives," was published last month. The massive compendium, which contains biographies of what Gates calls the "all-time greatest hits" of black American history, will be dwarfed by the expected 10 volumes that are planned to follow it.

The series will contain about 10,000 biographies in all, in what Gates says is the largest African-American research project to date.

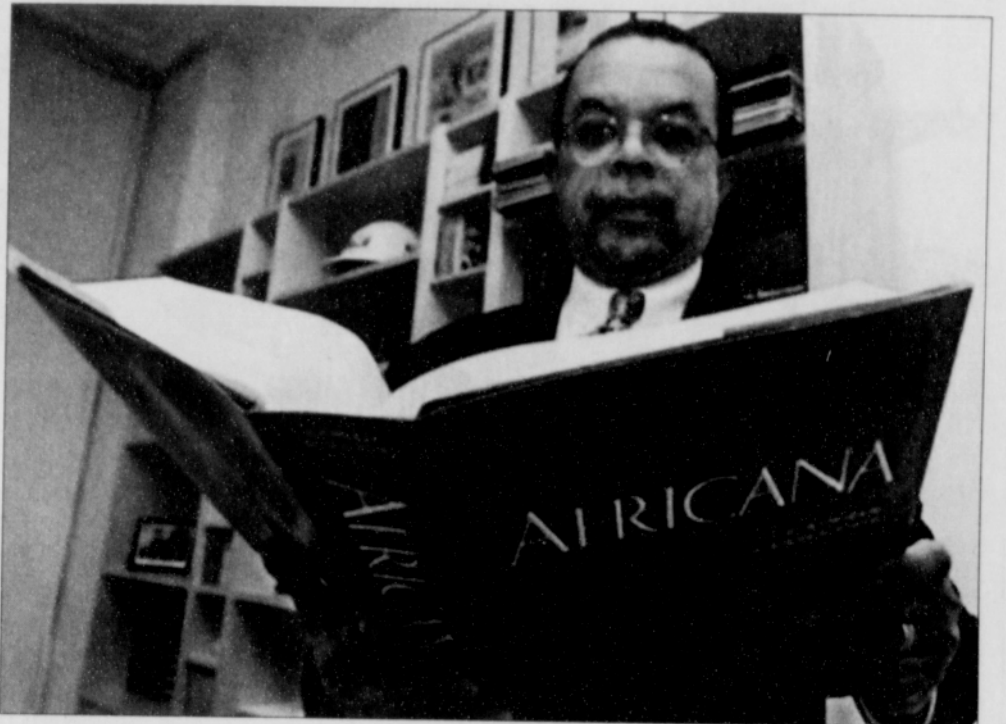
"African American Lives" begins with slugger Hank Aaron and ends with civil

Gates, 53, chairman of Harvard's Department of African and African American Studies, and director of the W.E.B. DuBois Institute for African and African American Research. "It's our attempt to reverse centuries of neglect—sometimes advertent, sometimes inadvertent."

Among the lesser-known figures in the book is Mary Elizabeth Bowser. A slave in the home of Jefferson Davis, the Confederate president during the Civil War, she spied on top rebel leaders and sent the information North to the Union Army.

Another is Cesar, a former slave whose treatments for snakebite and other poisons garnered him widespread praise in the 17th century, 150 years before medical schools began accepting black students. Another is Nat Love, a cowboy in Texas and Arizona who claimed to be the model for the legendary "Deadwood Dick" of dime novel fame.

There's Toni Stone, a female baseball player who played for the Negro Leagues.



Harvard University professor Henry Louis Gates Jr.

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— Henry Louis Gates Jr.

mass vaccination.

Many black historical figures such as Onesimus cling to the margins of history, or have disappeared altogether. Now, two Harvard University scholars, Henry Louis Gates Jr. and Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, have begun an ambitious undertaking: restoring forgotten or little-known black Americans to their place in history.

The African American National Biogra-

phy project's first volume, "African American Lives," was published last month. The massive compendium, which contains biographies of what Gates calls the "all-time greatest hits" of black American history, will be dwarfed by the expected 10 volumes that are planned to follow it.

"You can't restore what has been truly lost. You have to find it first, preserve it and then put it in the mainstream," said

Dear Deanna!

I'm one of those men being blasted with the undercover brother stuff going around. I enjoy sex with my wife and with other men on the side. Nobody says anything when people cheat with the opposite sex but they go off when people cheat with the same sex. Just because a few men who do this have sexually transmitted diseases doesn't mean we all are infected. There's nothing wrong with this and we need justice.

— Big John; St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Big John:

You're a selfish, immature and nasty person. You should be ashamed of yourself because your wife doesn't deserve this kind of betrayal. If you wanted to

play Russian Roulette with HIV and your sex life, you should have stayed single. It's wrong because you're committing adultery, secretly setting your wife up for diseases and severely insulting God's plan for marriage. Want justice? You've just bought yourself a ticket to Hell with gasoline pants on.

Dear Deanna!

Why does everybody bash reality television shows? I love them and think they're very entertaining and reflect real life. If I could, I would definitely go on one and come out with fame, money and a good experience. The people that play hater on these shows are only mad because they aren't on television.

— Shannon; Greensboro, N.C.

Dear Shannon:

Wake up and smell the year 2004. Some of these reality programs prosper by making people look like fools, thus, William Hung and Omarosa. No matter how many phone votes or scripted episodes, the networks already know the winners. If anyone gets upset, it's probably because of the stupidity of the show. Go get your 15 minutes of fame. You'll make a great guest on a soap opera which I'm sure you also think is real.

Dear Deanna:

I read the advice you gave Paul whose wife was partying with her friends. I feel your advice was misguided and you suggested he needed to change to accommodate his wife's problems. Per-

haps they have different agendas in the relationship. Why should he satisfy her unhappiness when he's handling his business as a husband? I've experienced this situation before with 3 of my friends and it seems that Paul deserves better.

Dear Shadston:

Hallelujah! Now that's a response from a real man that I take my hat off to. You're absolutely right and I understand that sometimes a more objective perspective may need to be taken. Now that you think about it, Paul does deserve better. If his club hopping wife isn't happy then they need to communicate and decide to either work out the problem or someone has to "get to stepping!"

Ask

Deanna!



Real People, Real Advice

An advice column known for its fearless approach to reality based subjects!

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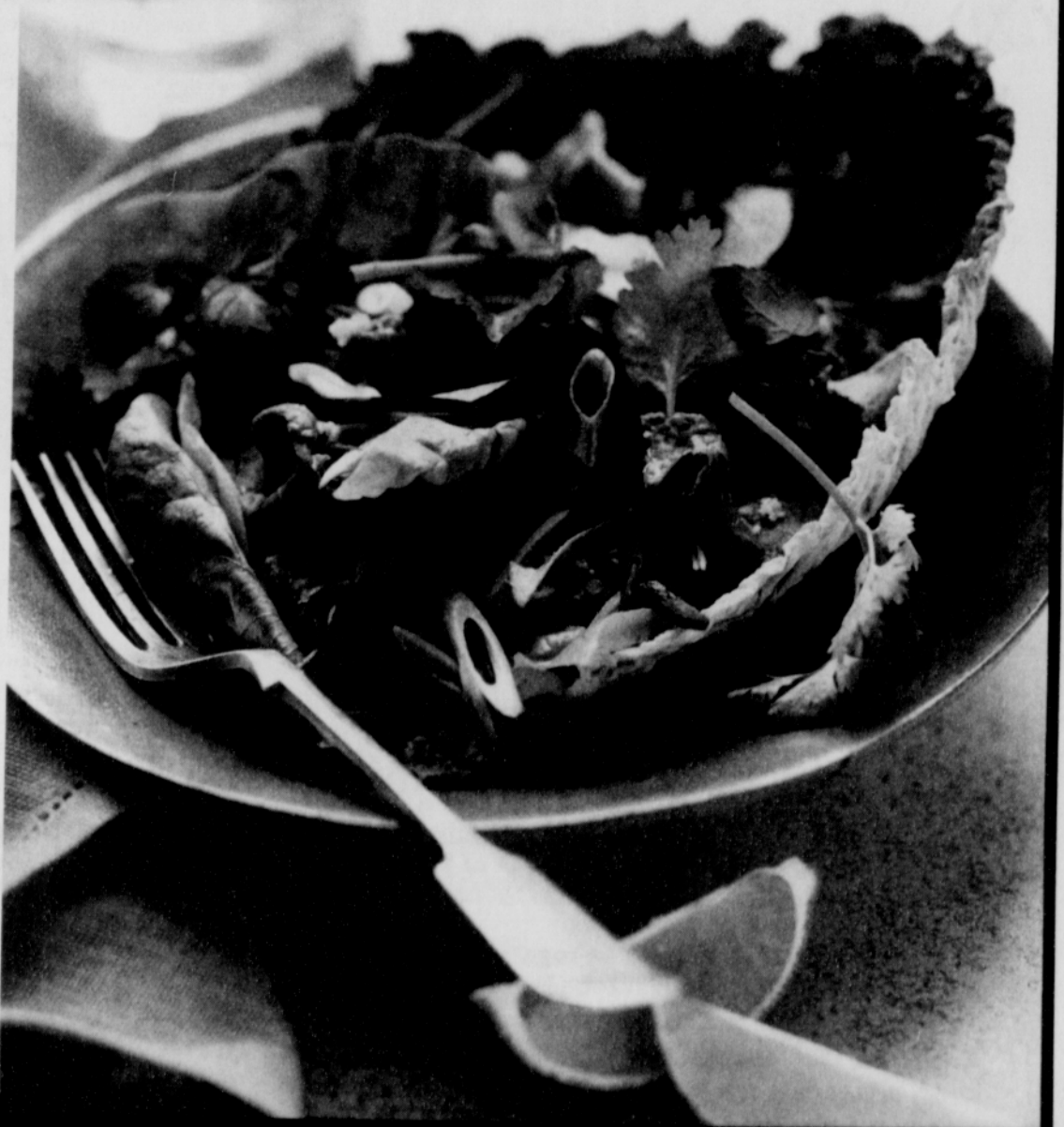
Dress it up!

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If that shelf in your refrigerator only has one lonely bottle of generic Italian dressing, you need to visit us this weekend. Add excitement to your salads by experimenting with different flavors. Check out the Smoked Tomato or Kalamata Olive & Caper dressings. Go Asian with Sea Veggie & Sesame Vinaigrette. Get a taste of Hawaii with Mango Madness. Take a chance with Cranberry Ginger. From organic fat-free toasted sesame to full-flavored blue cheese, our shelves are stocked with over 100 different choices. We'll be opening them all for you to taste on Earthbound salad greens.

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