

# Ebony Traces "200 Years Of Black Trials And Triumphs"



In 1770, a young Virginia lawyer named Thomas Jefferson, represented a slave who was seeking his freedom through the courts. History records that Jefferson lost the case, which many say has yet to be won. Slavery is gone, but racial discrimination remains as a part of the schizophrenic social fabric of American life.

The "founding father" who preached freedom and practices slavery personifies the 200-year unresolved contradictions in America. The man who abhorred race-mixing, yet reportedly fathered at least 5 children by one of his 204 slaves, reveals the psychosexual dilemma present at the birth of this nation. Ebony's August Bicentennial Special issue describes Thomas Jefferson as the "definitive white American male."

The playing with freedom is America's original sin," writes noted historian and Ebony senior editor Lerno Bennett, Jr., in this all - important Special Issue. "Since Thomas Jefferson said goodbye to his slaves and went off to Philadelphia to write the Declaration of Independence, playing with freedom has become a national pastime in America. Two hundred years of evasion of the central mandate of our revolutionary birth ..has brought us to the brink of national disaster."

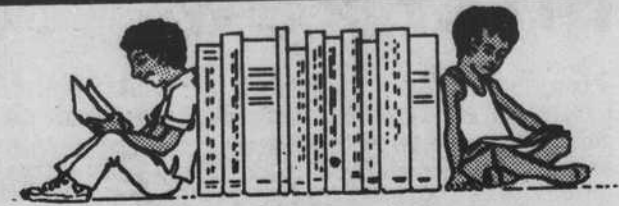
Writing in the same Special Issue, Vernon Jordan, executive director of the National Urban League, says "The current Bicentennial celebration mirrors to some degree the hypocrisy that was not absent from the Revolution itself, a revolution of slaveholders proclaiming universal equality and the rights of all men." Jordan exhorts us not to down-grade the ideals of the American Revolution Bicentennial and the meaning of those 200 years.

"The ideas that found expression in those historic documents have to be revived," says Jordan. "And it is black people who are best equipped to call this to the attention of a nation consumed by anti-privatism and decaying morality."

The American Revolution promised liberty and justice for all. But the promise rang hollow to those in human bondage. The hands that signed the Declaration of Independence also cracked the whip on the plantations. The words of the revolution were heard around the world, and August Ebony documents that these words reached the ears of millions enslaved by what Thomas Jefferson called that "peculiar institution" -- the institution being Jeffersonian democracy itself.

Contrary to the assumptions of many uninformed and misinformed Americans, blacks have played a great role in the building of America. Long before the great wave of European immigration, black labor was the backbone of American economic predominance. It was black muscle power that built the roads, split the rails, cleared the land, planted and harvested the tobacco and cotton.

It was black brainpower in the face of obstacles unknown to other people, that was the first to refine sugar. It was black genius that invented the shoe-lasting machine, the first automatic traffic light, performed open heart surgery on a human being, developed blood plasma and played an important role in our westward expansion.



## THE BOOKSHELF

### BLACK RAGE

by Butch Holmes, Holloway House Book  
BH473 -- \$1.50 (paperback)

Black Rage by Butch Holmes, just released by Holloway House Publishing Company, should be of special interest to you.

The similarity between Selma Robinson in Black Rage and Joan Little, the 21-year-old Black woman being tried for murder in Raleigh, North Carolina is purely intentional. This ice pick killing of a white jailer will make newspaper headlines for months to come with volatile side issues growing larger than the murder trial itself. Black Rage, through Selma Robinson's life experiences, is the Black point of view, told bluntly, revealing the bigotry and injustice leading the the victimizing of this young Black sister in what may become "the trial of the century." Black Rage should be read before, during and after the trial, because sold reporting of the events taking place can never reveal the truth of what is in the soul of Joan Little.

## EOB YOUTH TO PRESENT PLAY


On Aug. 11th and 12th, done in white faces by an all Black cast. The tryouts will be held in the EOB Building at 900 West Owens, on the 11th and 12th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The only stipulation is that all volunteers must be of high school age or older. For further information contact the EOB's Youth Program or ESAA at 648-3280, ext. 27/81.

The performance will be a reverse minstrel show


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SCHOOL CALENDAR 1975-1976	
August 28, 29	Registration Days
September 1	Labor Day (no school)
September 2	Classes begin
October 13	Columbus Day (no school)
October 31	Admission Day (no school)
November 7	End of first nine weeks (48 days)
November 11	Veteran's Day (no school)
November 27, 28	Thanksgiving Day vacation
December 19 (end of day)	Christmas vacation begins (Dec. 20-Jan. 4 incl.)
January 5	Classes resume after Christmas vacation
January 23	End of second nine weeks (42 days) End of first semester (90 days)
January 26	Second semester begins
February 16	Washington's Birthday (no school)
March 26	End of Third nine weeks (44 days)
April 14 (end of day)	Spring vacation begins (April 15-April 19 incl.)
April 18	Easter Sunday
April 20	Classes resume after Spring vacation
May 31	Memorial Day (no school)
June 4	End of fourth nine weeks (46 days) End of second semester (90 days) End of school-year (180 days)