



LEARNING IS FUN



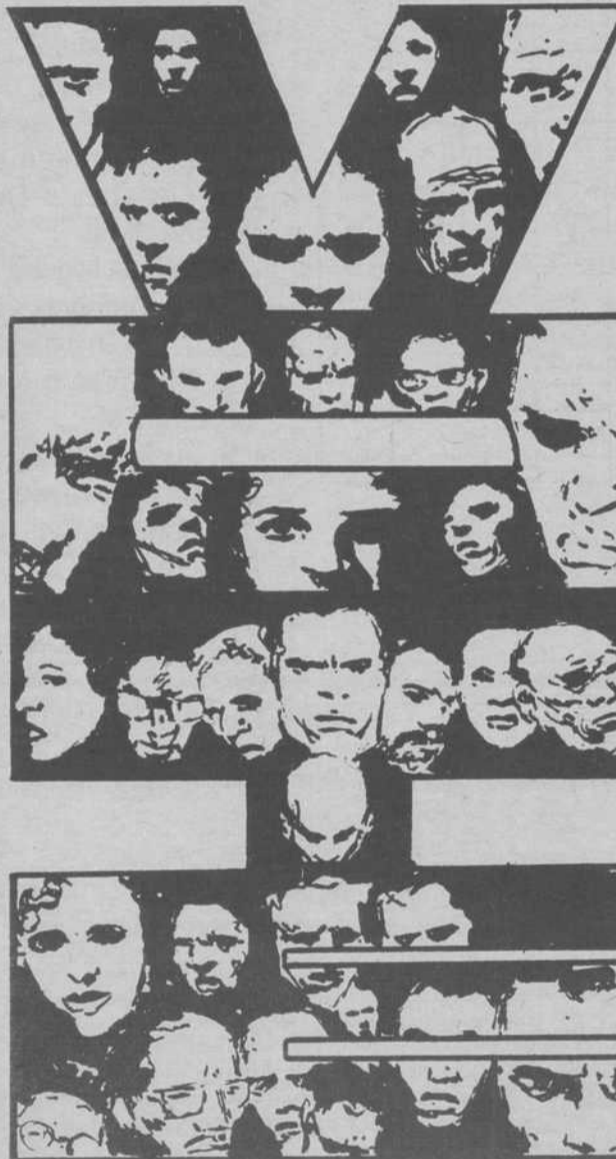
BLACK HISTORY LESSON The Story of American Civil Rights Laws

The story of federal laws to protect the rights of citizens (civil rights) began in the period after the Civil War. This period is known as Reconstruction. Three amendments were added to the United States Constitution during Reconstruction. Two Civil Rights Acts were passed, too.

We have learned that the Civil Rights Act of 1957 was the first civil rights act passed by the U.S. Congress since Reconstruction. This act and each of the other civil rights acts protected the right of Black to vote in federal elections. Some people in the South did not want Blacks to vote. They used terrorist acts to try to keep Black people from voting.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965

In 1965, Congress passed a special law to protect the right of citizens to vote. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 placed voter registration under the supervision of the federal government. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 said that local registrars (the people who sign up people to vote) could not use literacy



tests and other tricks to prevent Black from voting.

Before the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was passed, only 27% of the Black people in Georgia were registered to vote; 19% were registered in Alabama; and less than 7% were registered in Mississippi.

In less than two years after the Voting Rights Act of 1965 became a law, the percentage of registered Black voters in Georgia increased to 53%; the percentage in Alabama increased to 52%; and the percentage in Mississippi increased to 60%. By 1968, more than 50% of Black people 21 years old and older in every southern state had registered to vote.

Black people began to have some say in which candidates were elected to office. Black people began to run for office. By the end of 1969, 1,200 Blacks were elected to public office. More than 400 of these Black elected officials were in the South. In Georgia, 14 Blacks won election to the state assembly.

SCIENCE The Most Famous Comet of All

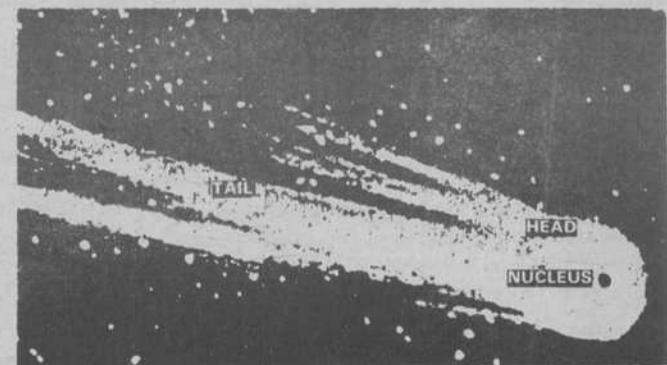
Do you know what a comet is? A comet is a bright body in the heavens. It is made up of ice, frozen gases and bits of dust. A comet has three parts—a head, a nucleus and a tail.

A comet travels around the sun. It leaves a trail of gas and dust each time it passes the sun. A comet does not make a small circle around the sun as the Earth does. A comet makes a long, narrow path.

Halley's comet is the most famous comet of all. It has an orbit that is about 7 billion miles long. It takes the comet about 75 years to make a complete circle around the sun.

Halley's comet was named for Edmund Halley, a young English astronomer. An astronomer studies the stars and planets by looking at them through a telescope.

Halley found that the comets that were



seen in 1066, 1456, 1531, 1607 and 1682 were not five different comets. They were the same comet that came back five times.

(More to come.)