

FOR THE LADIES

BLACK WOMEN STILL ANGRY OVER IGNORING OF BLACK WOMEN AT THE REPUBLICAN CONVENTION

Washington, D.C. — CNS— Although the summer political season is over and the presidential campaign has moved into the Fall home stretch, blacks, black women in particular, are still talking about the "anti-civil rights tone and ultra-conservative direction" of the Republican Convention and President George Bush's re-election campaign.

Here are just a few of the comments in and around Washington: Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-District of Columbia)—

"I am not surprised that the man who took such delight in quota demagoguery, in initially opposing the civil rights bill, would have omitted civil rights and African Americans from his acceptance speech and subsequent campaign speeches. The fact is he doesn't accept us.

"The Republican convention proved that black men are not only invisible but so are black women. What they did was worse than writing off black women. They completely ignored them." Dr. C. Delores Tucker, civil rights and political activist:

"It was depressing and painful for me to see the President of the United States and leaders of his party being so negative, so anti-human rights, so anti-civil rights, so anti-women's rights. At a time when millions of American lives have been disrupted and devastated by the prolonged economic recession, the nation needs hope, a vision of

better times, responsive and positive leadership.

"I found particularly deplorable the distorted attacks on Hillary Clinton, a woman who has spent years working with the Children's Defense fund, headed by one of our most highly respected sisters, Marian Wright Edelman. As a matter of fact, Mrs. Clinton served as chairperson of the Children Defense Fund, a mainstream American organization concerned about health and welfare of our young children. Even white conservatives, including columnist George Will, have described such attacks of Mrs. Clinton's writings as unfair and low-level campaign antics."

Mrs. Mary E. Ivey, President, National Association of Minority Political Women, USA, Inc.:

"The position taken by the speakers at the Republican Convention on family values was shallow and not in touch with the 1990's. I spoke with members of local chapters in North Carolina, in particular, and they were teed off by how the Republicans diminished the role of women and were myopic and self serving in defining family values," Mrs. Ivey said. "I found it offensive having Marilyn and Dan Quayle telling me what my family values should be. If it had not been for Alan Keyes, the Republican candidate for U.S. Senate in Maryland, openly accusing the grand old party of racial bias, he would not have had a speaking role at the convention."

African-American Women Make History

by Bonnie Freeman
PM Editorial Services

Sixty-five years have passed since historian Carter G. Woodson started Negro History Week to heighten cultural awareness among blacks at a time when segregation and racial unrest were a way of life around the nation. That week has since evolved into Black History Month celebrated in February. It continues to showcase excellence among individuals in the fields of science and technology, politics, literature, arts and entertainment, and athletics.

Martin Luther King Jr.—leader of the civil rights movement—is perhaps the most recognizable individual associated with Black History Month. Others include Frederick Douglass, who was born into slavery and devoted his life to abolition; George Washington Carver, the scientist who developed hundreds of products from the peanut, revolutionizing Southern agriculture; Thurgood Marshall, who remains the only African-American to be appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court, the highest court in the nation; and Douglas Wilder, who made history in 1990 when he took the oath as governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia—becoming the first African-American governor in modern history.

The accomplishments of these exceptional men are equaled by the pioneering efforts of countless African-American women. Rosa Parks, Barbara Jordan, Shirley Chisholm, Maxine Waters and, most recently, Sharon Pratt Dixon, along with Marian Anderson and Leontyne Price, are just a few examples of women who defied the odds to direct the course of history.

Rosa Parks gained notoriety in 1955 when she was arrested for refusing to



Leontyne Price, the first international opera "prima donna assoluta."

give up her seat on a Montgomery, Ala., bus. Parks' arrest ignited the historic Montgomery bus boycott, and her arrest was a catalyst in the civil rights movement. She challenged the system and helped dismantle the laws of segregation on public transportation in Alabama.

The political arena was taken by storm in 1966 when Barbara Jordan was elected to the Texas Senate. She became the first black senator to serve in the Texas Senate since 1883 and the first black female senator ever in Texas. In 1972, Jordan was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives where she served three terms.

Meanwhile, Shirley Chisholm shaped history by serving the state of New York in the U.S. Congress from 1968 to 1982. Chisholm was the first black woman elected to the U.S. Congress. In 1972, she launched an unprecedented bid for the presidential nomination of the Democratic Party.

Another accomplished politician, Maxine Waters is considered the most

powerful woman in California politics today, as well as the most influential black woman in the Democratic Party. Elected to the California State Assembly in 1976, Waters was instrumental in passing a wide range of legislation. Waters maintained her political momentum by being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1990.

Politically, 1990 proved to be a stellar year for African-American women. Another landmark accomplishment was recorded when Sharon Pratt Dixon became the first female, African-American mayor of Washington, D.C.

Accomplishments of black women in other areas have been equally outstanding. One of the most compelling events in the world of arts and entertainment took place on Easter 1939, when Marian Anderson—considered to be the greatest contralto of her generation—performed outdoors before a crowd of 75,000 in Washington, D.C., after being denied permission to sing at Constitution Hall. In 1955, Anderson made history by becoming the first black soloist to sing at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City. Anderson demolished racial barriers in classical music.

Vestiges of Anderson's efforts remained in place, and in 1961, when Leontyne Price debuted at the Metropolitan Opera House, she received a 42-minute ovation for her performance in the opera "Il Trovatore." Price was the first to achieve international status as a "prima donna assoluta."

All these women faced daunting obstacles, yet they waged battle against incredible odds using their courage and perseverance to eliminate inequities in this country—not only among the races, but among the sexes—further enriching life for us all. **ll**

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MINORITY/WOMEN COUNCIL OFFERS FREE WORKSHOP

The Clark County Minority/Women Business Council is sponsoring a free workshop on "The Reality of Bonding," an insider's look at what it takes to

actually obtain financial bonding.

This event will take place on September 28, 1992, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, in the Clark County

Commission Chambers, 225 Bridger Avenue. For more information contact Wayne Wedlow, Minority Business Recruiter at 455-4425.

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SHOWING THEIR PRIDE—Kennedy Space Center, FL. Among those on hand to witness the launch of the first black women - Dr. Mae Jemison - into space September 12, were members of her sorority:

L-R: Mrs. Bettiann Gardner, Chicago, IL; Dr. Earnestine G. McNealey, Setauket, NY; Ms. Connie Cole, Detroit, MI.; Mrs. Agnes Fisher, Opelousas, LA; and Mrs. Elnora Flewelling, Houston, TX. More than 25 AKAs journeyed to Florida for the historic Endeavour flight which returned to earth September 20. AKA international president Dr. Mary Shy Scott of Atlanta was to have led the delegation, but was forced to cancel after the flight date was changed.

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