

This Week in History

OCTOBER 14

1834 - Henry Blair of Glen Ross, Md., receives a patent for a corn planting machine.

1864 - The first African-American daily newspaper, the *New Orleans Tribune*, is published in both French and English.

1916 - Sophomore tackle and guard Paul Robeson is excluded from the Rutgers football team when Washington and Lee University refuse to play against an African-American. The exclusion will be temporary and the young Robeson will go on to be named a two-time All-American.

1958 - The District of Columbia Bar Association votes to accept African-Americans as members.

1964 - Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. is named as the 1964 recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize for his civil rights activities. King is the second African-American to win the Peace Prize.

OCTOBER 15

1890 - The Alabama Penny Savings Bank is founded in Birmingham, Ala., by W.R. Pettiford with \$2,000 in capital. Although so strapped for funds in its initial months that its officers will not draw salaries, the bank will prosper so well that during the panic of 1893, it will remain open when larger, white banks in Birmingham fall.

1957 - The Sickle Cell Disease Research Foundation opens in Los Angeles, Calif. It is the forerunner to a national association and over 50 local chapters dedicated to providing education, screening, counseling, and research in the genetic disease that affects over 50,000 individuals, mostly African-Americans.

1964 - Bob Hayes wins a gold medal for the 100-meter dash in the 1964 Olympic Games in Tokyo with a time of ten seconds, equaling the world record.

1968 - Wyomia Tyus becomes the first person to win a gold medal in the 100-meter race in two consecutive Olympic games.

1969 - Abdi Rashid Ali Shermarke, President of Somalia, assassinated.

1991 - Judge Clarence Thomas is confirmed as the 106th associate justice of the US Supreme Court, its second African-American.

OCTOBER 16

1849 - George Washington Williams is born in Bedrod Springs, Pa. He will be an early African-American historian and founder of two African-American newspapers, *The Commoner* in Washington, DC, and Cincinnati's *The Southern Review*.

1859 - Osborne Perry Anderson, a freeman, is one of five African-Americans in John Brown's raid on the US Arsenal at Harper's Ferry, VA.

1932 - Chi Eta Phi sorority is founded in Washington, DC. Aliene Carrington Ewell and 11 other women establish the nursing society, which will grow to 72 chapters in 22 states, the District of Columbia, and Liberia and eventually admit men and women.

1940 - Benjamin O. Davis, Sr. becomes the first African-American brigadier general in the US Army.

1968 - Tommie Smith and John Carlos hold up their fists in a Black Power salute during the 1968 Summer Games in Mexico City. Their actions will come to symbolize the Black Power movement in sports and will result in their suspension from the games two days later.

OCTOBER 17

1806 - Jean Jacques Dessalines, revolutionist and emperor of Haiti, assassinated.

1817 - Samuel Ringgold Ward is born on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. After his death he was considered one of the finest abolitionist orators.

1956 - Dr. Mae C. Jemison is born in Decatur, Ala. She will grow up in Chicago and become a physician, serve in the Peace Corps in Africa, and practice medicine in Los Angeles, before being selected for the astronaut training program in 1987.

1985 - Legendary jazz and blues singer Alberta Hunter dies in New York City. She achieved fame in Chicago jazz clubs in the 1920's, toured Europe in the 1930's and, after over 20 years anonymity as a nurse, returned to performing in 1977.

1991 - The 100th episode of *A Different World* airs on NBC. The acclaimed show, a spin-off of *The Cosby Show* that stars Jasmine Guy, Kadeem Hardison, and a cast of young African-American actors, is directed by Debbie Allen.

OCTOBER 18

1903 - Felix Houphouet-Boigny, President of the Ivory coast, born.

1926 - Chuck Berry is born in San Jose, Calif. He will

(See History, Page 16)

Technology

(Continued from Page 6)

can be opened to enormous opportunity. Action on this critical issue will be like moving from darkness to light with the sun shining through where it has only been dimly lit. One thing is for sure, to not focus on this vital issue as a critical strategic question is to offer a foreboding picture of the future

Obesity

(Continued from Page 4)

this is true, and we need to figure out why."

Still, Stevens and Manson said the study probably understates the risks of obesity for black women.

They pointed out that slender, non-smoking black women have a higher risk of death to begin with than their white counterparts, probably

because they have less access to health care than white women and more undetected disease. That makes it appear that weight alone doesn't play a big role in death rates among black women.

"It would be really unfortunate if we became more complacent about obesity in blacks than in whites," Manson said.

Farmers

(Continued from Page 11)

power, political power, and is the only avenue that we really have to ensure our children a legacy."

Now, if you don't believe Gary Grant, dig out those old records and listen to James Brown when he says, "Let's get together and get some land; raise our food like the man."

James Clingman is the former editor of the Cincinnati *Herald* newspaper and the founder and President of the Greater Cincinnati African American Chamber of Commerce.

Busing

(Continued from Page 11)

Black Think Tank, a San Francisco-based family institute.

Now, 28 years after busing became in vogue, the courts are ending it. School systems such as those in Boston and St. Louis are stepping away from busing and quietly admitting it was a failure.

Providing educational excellence is the concept that education administrators, activists and parents are now focusing on. Options such as charter, magnet and neighborhood schools for children are being discussed instead of racial composition.

However, some worry about racial isolation in public schools. They point to a recent study by the Civil Rights Project at Harvard University that shows public schools moving close to 1970 levels of de-facto segregation.

While these concerns may be sincere, focus should remain on funding and resources for all schools. While integrating educational settings are a worthy goal, providing a strong solid education should always be the priority. Perhaps with the ending of busing, this will now take place.

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of our nation.

Morse is president and CEO of The Institute For Strategic Thinking and Technology Development. He is also an adjunct professor at National University where he teaches Leadership in a Global Environment and Strategic Technology Management at its Los Angeles Campus.

The researchers studied participants in the national Cancer Prevention Study II from 1982 through 1996. The average age at enrollment was 57. The researchers calculated each subject's body mass index, or BMI, a ratio of weight to height, and tracked them for age and cause of death. The results were adjusted for age, education, physical activity, alcohol use, marital status, use of aspirin as a blood-thinner, consumption of fats and vegetables, and use of estrogen supplements.

Among healthy, non-smoking white men and women and black men, the researchers found a gradually increasing risk of death

beginning with a BMI of 25, which is 150 pounds for a 5-foot-5 woman and 174 pounds for a 5-foot-10 man.

The fattest white men, with a BMI of 40 or more — 278 pounds on a 5-foot-10 frame — were 2.58 times more likely to die than their healthiest peers, men of the same height weighing 153 to 170 pounds. White women with a BMI of 40 or greater — 240 pounds for a 5-foot-5 woman — were twice as likely to die as their counterparts who weighed 132 to 148 pounds.

Thin men and women also had higher death rates, but it was not clear whether their low weight was a cause or an effect of disease.

Buchanan

(Continued from Page 10)

card remains a powerful card in American politics. Nonetheless, there is more to connect us than to divide us. Both need new coalition partners to advance their class interests. Neither can create such a coalition inside the Democratic and Republican parties. And neither can significantly impact on governmental policy making, absent the kind of sweeping political reform that opens up the process and transfers the power to develop and enact economic policy from the hands of the special interests to ordinary Americans. By leading a movement for political reform and self-governance, the Reform Party has the opportunity to bring working people of all races together. Insofar as Pat Buchanan helps to propel this kind of populist alliance, Black Americans will be better off for it.

Dr. Lenora B. Fulani is currently a leading activist in the Reform Party and chairs the Committee for a Unified Independent Party.

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 Scripture: "The Lord Is My Strength And My Song" Exodus 15:2

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