

ECHOES OF THE PAST



Every February, Black History Month celebrates the contributions of Black figures in modern society. Black culture can be seen currently and historically through pop culture, language, science and more, truly proving to be the present of the past.

Infinity...

By Miya Liu

After graduating from Morgan Park High School at 16 years old, Mae Jemison attended Stanford University, earning two bachelor's degrees, one in chemical engineering and one in African and African American studies, according to WomensHistory.org.



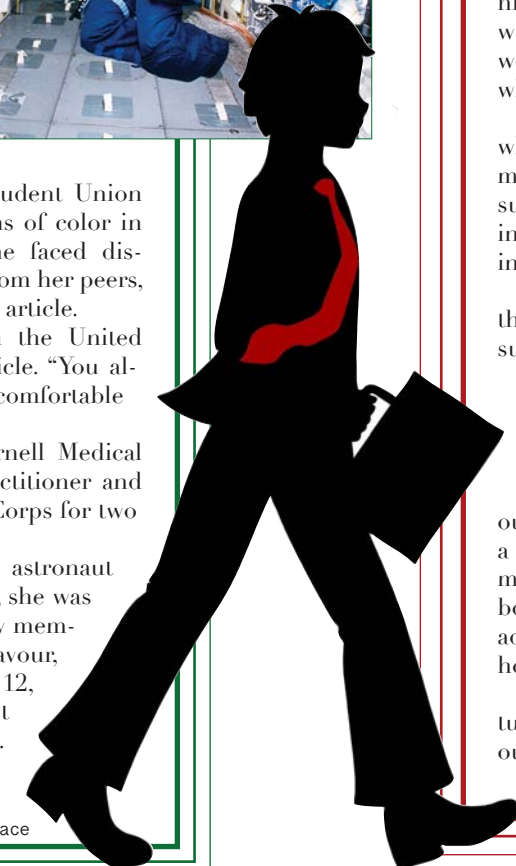
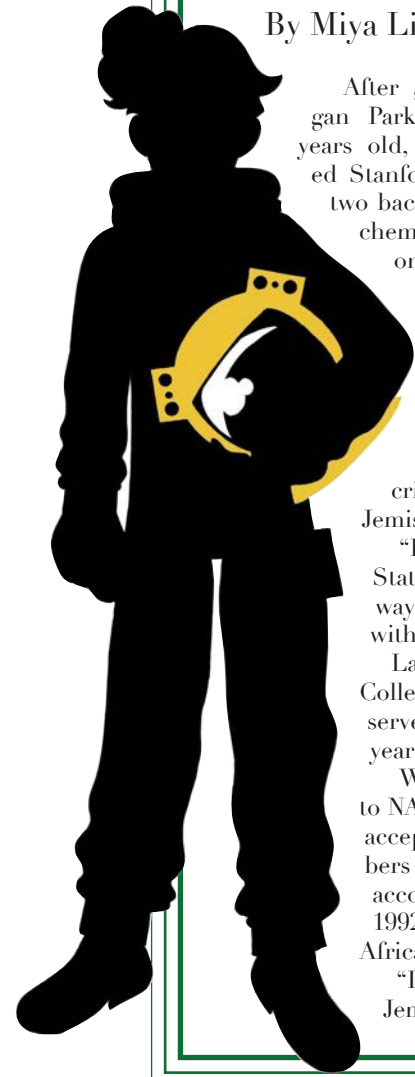
She was the president of the Black Student Union and one of the few persons of color in her class. Unfortunately, she faced discrimination in the classroom from her peers, Jemison said in a New York Times article.

"Race is always an issue in the United States," Jemison said in the article. "You always run into people who aren't comfortable with you."

Later, she attended Weill Cornell Medical College, worked as a general practitioner and served in the West Africa Peace Corps for two years.

When Jemison applied as an astronaut to NASA's space program in 1987, she was accepted to be one of the 15 crew members on the space shuttle Endeavour, according to Britannica. On Sep. 12, 1992, Jemison became the first African American woman in space. "I felt connected with infinity," Jemison said.

Photo courtesy of NASA Marshall Space



Unprofessional to fashion trend

Black culture has influenced today's society

By Xochitl Neely

The origin of Black culture has rarely been credited to the Black community. Many things that are trendy now weren't trendy when African Americans wore them, but soon became trendy once white people started wearing them.

African Americans are seen as "hood" when wearing something that is just meant to keep their hair looking nice, such as durags, which are head caps originally used in Black culture to help hold in place braids or dreadlocks.

Once white people started wearing them, they became more popular; and suddenly, durags were the new craze.

Meanwhile, in the Black community our hair is seen as unprofessional and wild because white people don't understand it.

In the Black community, our hair is our history. For example, box braids are a type of braiding style that consists of multiple small or large square-shaped boxes that are then braided down with additional braiding hair and dipped in hot water to seal the ends.

Their popularity in mainstream culture became a problem because people outside the Black community were wearing them. Box braids are a form of

protection for African Americans' hair as they keep our hair growing strong without us continuously manipulating it too much, causing damage and breakage.

When white people started wearing box braids, they were seen as "unique trendsetters." They didn't do enough research to understand that certain hair isn't made for box braids. White people's hair is thinner. Thinner hair doesn't hold the braid as well, and wearing box braids could cause people with thin hair to lose hair if they keep them in too long.

An even worse example of a stolen hairstyle that has occurred is cornrows, a style in which your hair is braided close to the scalp in a straight or curved line from the front of your head all the way to the back.

The popularity of cornrows outside of Black culture is an issue because white people -- in particular, white celebrities -- took over the hairstyle and changed the name like it was theirs to change.

Instead of calling the braids cornrows, the proper name for the style, they chose to call them

"boxer braids."

This issue is major because it takes the spotlight away from the Black community, which tends to never get the spotlight, especially when it comes to things we were doing long before they became popular in mainstream culture.

Fashion choices, such as acrylic nails, are also an issue. According to Vice.com African Americans were called derogatory terms for having the long colorful nails that are so popular today.

If it weren't for celebrities making colorful, acrylic nails a trend, African Americans would still be getting called derogatory names for their cultural choice.

Black culture is so much more than this. By learning the history behind our cultural "trends," you can avoid being offensive or disrespectful. You can learn to be more respectful by knowing the proper names for these things and showing appreciation for the Black culture that brought them to you.



Spot the difference

By Madhavi Karthik and Erin Loh



Past:

The Civil Rights Movement spurred in the late 1950s due to the discrimination African Americans experienced decades after slavery was abolished, according to History.com.

Segregation was common in public accommodations such as schools. This was because the "Jim Crow Laws," which were discriminatory against Black people, were implemented in the late 19th century in the South.

Rosa Parks sat at the front of a bus in Montgomery, Alabama, where only white people were allowed to sit, on Dec. 1, 1955. When Parks refused to give up her seat for a white male, she was arrested.

The Montgomery Improvement Association, an organization consisting of Black people looking for change, then boycotted the Montgomery bus system for 381 days. The Supreme Court deemed segregated seating as unconstitutional on Nov. 14, 1956.

Present:

An estimated 15 to 26 million people participated in the Black Lives Matter protests in the summer of 2020, making it the largest movement in the U.S. according to The New York Times.

Sparked by the deaths of George Floyd and others, the BLM organization fights against police brutality and racism.

In contrast to the 1960 racial protests, a much



larger white population has participated in BLM protests, social movement expert Douglas McAdam said.

Additionally, a Monmouth University poll found that 76% of Americans consider racial and ethnic discrimination a big problem in the U.S. as opposed to 51% in 2015.

Photo courtesy of BlackPast and Getty Images

The etymology of Ebonics

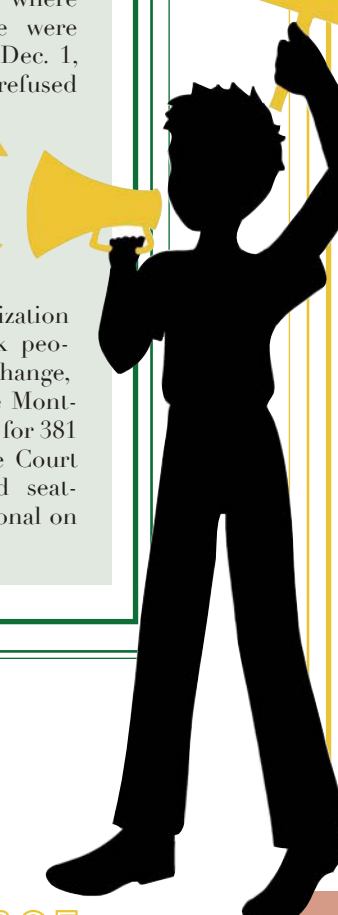
By Miya Liu

About 80% of English words are taken from over 350 languages, according to Dictionary.com.

This makes the language difficult to standardize and even harder to enforce its correct usage. African American Vernacular English (AAVE), also known as Ebonics, has roots in the American South as a dialect used by enslaved people to communicate with their captors. AAVE has been classified as a second language, when it is simply part of the diverse English language.

These text bubbles above are vocabulary that mainstream groups have popularized into slang.

YEET
WOKE
QUEEN
SNATCH



Supporting Black businesses

By Madhavi Karthik



Photos courtesy of The Cookout and LeYou Ethiopian

"I [hope to] create a family environment [with our food]," Co-owner Rod McGee said in a phone interview.

Visit The Cookout at 1350 Pear Avenue, Mountain View



Owner Aida Taya said her mission is "to showcase Ethiopian culture and cuisine" through her cooking.

Visit LeYou Ethiopian at 1100 N. First Suite, San Jose

A chronology of Black history

By Erin Loh

1865 **15TH AMENDMENT**
Feb. 3: The 15th Amendment is ratified, giving Black men the right to vote. However, due to the implementation of Jim Crow laws like literacy tests and poll taxes, which were meant to discriminate against African Americans, many African Americans were prevented from voting.
Photo courtesy of Harper's Weekly

1865 **JUNETEENTH**
June 19: The 1st Juneteenth is celebrated in Texas when General Gordon Granger issues the order that all slaves are free under the Emancipation Proclamation. Today, Juneteenth is a widely recognized holiday to commemorate the end of slavery.
Photo courtesy of Austin History Center

1873 **COLFAX MASSACRE**
April 13: The Colfax massacre erupts at a Louisiana courthouse fueled by racial and political tensions over the 1872 governor election. A group of 300 white Democratic men attacks the Black Republicans, leaving 150 African Americans and three white men dead.

1876 **BLACK HISTORY**
Feb 1976: Black History Month is first celebrated. President Gerald Ford, in his Message of Observance, writes, "We can seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."

1965 **MALCOLM X**
Feb. 21: Malcolm X is assassinated. A prominent civil rights leader, Malcolm X argued that African Americans should defend themselves against racial violence, challenging the views of Martin Luther King Jr., who urged his followers to protest peacefully.
Photo courtesy of Bettmann Archive

1965 **GEORGE FLOYD**
May 25: George Floyd is killed after his neck was pinned underneath white police officer Derek Chauvin's knee for at least 8 minutes and 15 seconds. His death gives way to a rise of Black Lives Matter protests across the nation.
Photo courtesy of Katy Tsao

2020 **RAPHAEL WARNOCK**
Jan. 5: Raphael Warnock becomes the first Black person to be elected to the Senate from Georgia. His and Sen. Jon Ossoff's victory give Democrats a majority in the Senate.

2021