

BLACK JOURNAL CONTENTS JUNE 1968 – APRIL 1970

BLACK JOURNAL 1 JUNE 1968

- The first episode of **Black Journal** focuses on the end of a tumultuous year on college campuses in America and around the world.
- Coretta Scott King addresses the Harvard graduating class after her husband's assassination that April and calls for an end to U.S. bombing in Vietnam.
- Members of Harvard's Afro-American Society discuss their commitment to the advancement of racial justice for African Americans.
- Students at historically-Black Morehouse and Spelman Colleges debate how they can most effectively "give back" to their communities.
- Ernest N. Morial, the first African American member of the Louisiana State Legislature since Reconstruction speaks at the commencement of Southern University. (He was subsequently elected the first African American mayor of New Orleans in 1977.)
- C. Gerald Fraser of *The New York Times* reports on the Poor Peoples' Campaign in the wake of Dr. King's death.
- Huey P. Newton, co-founder of the Black Panther Party, is interviewed from an Oakland jail on the future of that organization.
- The New Breed, a Harlem manufacturer of Africa-inspired clothing, is showcased.
- The episode concludes with "It's in to be Black", a satirical sketch by comedian Godfrey Cambridge.

BLACK JOURNAL 2 JULY 1968

- This episode reports on the changing face of African American leadership.
- It includes coverage of the tumultuous CORE (Congress of Racial Equality) convention in Columbus, Ohio, July 5-8, which fractured the organization. John Wilson of SNCC (Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee) and Roy Innis of CORE are interviewed.
- A segment on education reports on school integration and white backlash in the Boston schools, contrasting bussing to suburbia with progressive schools in African American neighborhoods.
- The Black Teachers Association in Atlanta protests the phasing out of Black principals as a result of school integration.
- Folksinger, Leon Bibb, looks at regional differences in African American children's games.
- A report is presented on recent research on sickle cell anemia, a genetic blood disorder largely afflicting populations of African descent.
- The state of Black theatre is reviewed by actor, William Marshall, and playwright, Ed Bullins, and an excerpt from Bullins' recent play, *A Son Come Home*, is performed.

BLACK JOURNAL 3 AUGUST 1968

- This episode includes reactions by the African American press to the recently nominated Republican ticket of Richard Nixon and Spiro T. Agnew.
- Claude Lewis of the *Philadelphia Bulletin* comments on the Republican Nominating Convention in Miami.
- Thurman Dodson, Chairman of the Concerned Afro-American Republicans, is interviewed.

- **Black Journal** reports on the Loyal Democrats of Mississippi, a coalition of African American groups planning to challenge that state's segregated delegation at the upcoming Democratic Nominating Convention in Chicago.
- Charles Evers of the NAACP, brother of assassinated Civil Rights activist and head of the Mississippi NAACP, Medgar Evers, is interviewed.
- Melvin Van Peebles, the first African American director of a major international motion picture, *The Story of a Three-Day Pass*, is profiled. (He later gained fame for his groundbreaking, 1971, independent feature, *Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song*.)
- A segment reports on community political and economic self-determination in an all-African American town, Roosevelt City, Alabama, near Birmingham.
- The civil war then raging in Biafra, a secessionist region of eastern Nigeria, is covered with a commentary by co-host, Lou House, on how Western powers are using the situation to sow division in the country. Representatives from the Nigerian government and Biafra are interviewed separately and a letter by concerned African Africans about the Nigerian civil war is read.

BLACK JOURNAL 4 SEPTEMBER 1968

NOTE: This was the first episode following a walk-out by Black staffers of the series demanding that more Black people be placed in leadership and executive positions. William Greaves was made the series Executive Producer and Co-host.

- Claude Lewis of the *Philadelphia Bulletin* reports on the Democratic Nominating Convention in Chicago, noting that he was hospitalized for two days following police attacks on protestors.
- Dr. Nathan Wright, chairman of the Third National Conference on Black Power in Philadelphia, is interviewed on the future of that movement.
- A case study of a cooperative in Lafayette, Louisiana, originally organized as a farming enterprise by an African American parish priest, is featured. It has become vertically integrated, adding badly-needed manufacturing jobs to that community.
- Gender relations within Black communities since the advent of the Black Power Movement are examined.
- Arthur Ashe is interviewed immediately after winning the Men's Singles title at the U.S. Open Tennis Championship in Forest Hills, the first African American to do so.
- **Black Journal** investigates the role of major universities located in African American, inner city neighborhoods, including Columbia University (Harlem), the University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia), and the University of Chicago (Southside Chicago).
- African American youth describe how karate has helped structure a new way of life for them.
- Musicians Billy Taylor and John Blair, as well as writer Betty Lomax, discuss how African American jazz artists are organizing to insure their economic survival and independence, to fight cultural appropriation, and to end economic exploitation by the music industry.

BLACK JOURNAL 5 OCTOBER 1968

- This episode includes a segment on decentralization and community control of public schools in the Ocean Hill-Brownsville district of Brooklyn which led to tensions between predominantly Black and Puerto Rican parents, and the overwhelming white, largely Jewish, United Federation of Teachers Union.
- A history of Black voting rights in the South under Reconstruction and their elimination under Jim Crow is followed by a report on Julian Bond, the first African American to be nominated for Vice President, at the 1968 Democratic Convention. It also examines Bond's role in the Georgia State Legislature which refused to seat him after his election in 1965 because of his opposition to the

Vietnam War until the Supreme Court ruled in his favor. (He served in the body until 1975 and later became Chairman of the NAACP from 1998 to 2008.)

- Dr. Charles Hamilton, Chairman of the Political Science Department at Roosevelt University in Chicago and author with Stokely Carmichael (Kwame Turé) of *Black Power: The Politics of Liberation* (1967), discusses the influence of the African American vote in the upcoming 1968 presidential election between Richard Nixon and Hubert Humphrey.
- Cultural retention between African and African American arts is examined.
- **Black Journal** reports on the struggle of FRELIMO for the liberation of Mozambique from Portugal (which succeeded in winning that country's independence in 1975.)

BLACK JOURNAL 6 NOVEMBER 1968

- This program's primary focus is on African American police officers, the tense relations between the police and African American communities, and thoughts on how to resolve these problems.
- It features comments by a New York police officer who feels his allegiances questioned and interviews with Los Angeles residents about their experiences with the police.
- Murals of artist Earl Sweeting tracing the stages of ancient African history are shown with commentary by historian Dr. John Henrik Clarke.
- The relationship between the Black Church and Black Liberation Movement is explored at a conference in Cleveland featuring historian, Vincent Harding, and theologian, Rev. Albert Cleage, of Detroit's Shrine of the Black Madonna.
- African American dance is performed by members of the New York-based Eleo Pomare Dance Company whose groundbreaking choreography combines racial justice politics, innovative modern dance, and its founder's roots in the Caribbean region of Colombia.

BLACK JOURNAL 7 DECEMBER 1968

- **Black Journal** reviews the momentous events in Black America during the past year, with commentary by leaders including the Hon. Elijah Muhammad of the Nation of Islam, and Ron Karenga of the U.S. organization and founder of the Kwanza holiday, in addition to interviews with African Americans on the street.
- Panels discuss the impact of the past year's events on African Americans. Featuring Kathleen Cleaver, Communications Secretary of the Black Panther Party, poet, playwright and Newark political activist Amiri Baraka (LeRoi Jones), Claude Brown, author of *Manchild in the Promised Land*, Robert Johnson, editor of *Jet* and *Ebony* magazines, Bill Strickland, former Executive Director of the Northern Student Movement, Alexander Allen of the Urban League, author and playwright Julian Mayfield, Andrew Young (later Congressman, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations and Mayor of Atlanta), Hosea Williams of the SCLC (Southern Christian Leadership Conference), Afro-Caribbean socialist activist Richard B. Moore, and Dan Watts, editor of *Liberator* magazine.

BLACK JOURNAL 8 JANUARY 1969

- This episode examines the prospects for African Americans in 1969 with regard to economic opportunity, political power, and community control, and the likely consequences of the election of Richard Nixon as President. Participants include the panelists from the year-end-review in episode 7, as well as filmed interviews with Ron Karenga of the U.S. organization, former football star and actor Jim Brown, political scientist Dr. Charles Hamilton, religious leaders Rev. Albert Cleage and Rev. Jesse Jackson, psychiatrist Dr. Alvin Poussaint, New York City Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Los Angeles politician Tom Bradley (later that city's first African American mayor from

1973-1993), the Hon. Elijah Muhammad of the Nation of Islam, and San Francisco publisher Dr. Carlton Goodlett.

- Professor Nathan Hare discusses the current strike at San Francisco State University calling for the creation of a College of Ethnic Studies.
- Rebroadcast of the segment on Julian Bond from episode 5.
- Judge William Booth, former Chairman of the Human Rights Commission of the City of New York, is interviewed about government accountability to the needs of its African American citizens.

BLACK JOURNAL 9 FEBRUARY 1969

- Harlem's Apollo Theatre who's Amateur Night launched the careers of so many African American performers is featured.
- Singer Sarah Vaughn, who won the Apollo Amateur Night contest in 1942, is interviewed.
- Jean Hudson, long-time curator of the Schomburg Library of the City of New York in Harlem, recounts the history of that institution, the largest collection at the time of memorabilia and documents for the study of African American life and letters, and discusses the notable visitors and contributors to its collection. (**Black Journal** Producer and Co-host William Greaves' archives have been deposited there as well.)
- **Black Journal** presents a filmed tribute to Malcolm X, including archival footage of his speeches and travels, and an exclusive interview with his widow, Betty Shabazz.
- Judge William Booth, former Chairman of the Human Rights Commission of the New York City, is interviewed.
- The dearth of African American doctors, higher African American mortality rates, other health disparities, and the crisis in African American medical care and ways to address them, are detailed in an in-depth segment by Co-host Lou House.

BLACK JOURNAL 10 MARCH 1969

- This episode focuses on the changing South and the rise of African American political activism there, as well as community-based health and welfare initiatives.
- Nutritional deficiencies, the importance of food stamps, the lack of pre-natal and perinatal maternal care, and the need for doctors in rural areas are discussed.
- The continuing struggle for voting rights and educational opportunity in the South, as well as the increase in the number of Black elected officials there, are discussed.
- Fannie Lou Hamer of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party and John Hewlett, a founder of the Lowndes County Alabama Freedom Organization, are interviewed.
- The interview with curator Jean Hudson of the Schomburg Library of the City of New York in episode 9 is concluded.
- **Black Journal** presents a filmed tribute to the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. one year after his assassination.

BLACK JOURNAL 11 APRIL 1969

- This episode continues the investigation of the South begun in episode 10, focusing on the growth of African American cultural institutions including a modern dance troupe at North Carolina Central College, New Orleans' Dashiki Theatre Company, a class in Black Arts taught by Dr. John Biggers at Texas Southern University, and the musical compositions of New Orleans composers Roger Dickerson and Professor Longhair.
- This month's **Black Journal** tribute is dedicated to actor, singer, athlete, scholar, and activist Paul Robeson.

- This episode continues the examination of African American business activity in the South, both in Atlanta and New Orleans, as well as rural areas such as the Crawfordville Enterprises in Georgia, and East Georgia Farmer's Co-operatives.

BLACK JOURNAL 12 MAY 1969

- Rebroadcast of the tribute to Malcolm X from episode 9.
- This episode focuses on African American student activism, including the occupation of buildings at Cornell and Duke Universities and demands for an autonomous Black cultural center, more inclusive curriculum, and an Africana Studies Program.
- Students at two historically Black institutions, St. Augustine College and Shaw College, describe their efforts to have their schools better serve their local communities.
- Clifford Alexander, the former chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and father of poet Elizabeth Alexander, is interviewed by reporters James Booker and Robert Maynard, (later the editor and owner of the *Oakland Tribune*, the first African American to own a major metropolitan newspaper.)
- "Just Like You", an original poem and video by Osborne Smith, is screened.

BLACK JOURNAL 13 JUNE 1969

- This anniversary episode reviews highlights from **Black Journal's** first year on the air.
- Rebroadcast of the interview with Huey P. Newton of the Black Panther Party from episode 1, folksinger Leon Bibb on children's games from episode 2, and the situation of African American policemen from episode 6.

BLACK JOURNAL 14 JULY 1969

- This episode continues the review of **Black Journal's** first year on the air from the previous month's program. It also focuses on the current state of the African American cultural scene, as reviewed by Percival Borde.
- Rebroadcast of the segment on the Eleo Pomare Dance Company from episode 6
- The history of early African American interpreters of Shakespeare's Othello, including Ira Aldridge and Paul Robeson, is recounted.
- Rebroadcast of the interviews with actor, William Marshall, and playwright, Ed Bullins, from episode 2.
- Van Whitfield of the Performing Arts Society of Los Angeles (PASLA) is interviewed. (He later influenced independent Black filmmakers studying at UCLA, including Larry Clark and Haile Gerima.)

BLACK JOURNAL 15 AUGUST 1969

- This entire episode is devoted to reports on recent developments in the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa (which culminated with majority rule in 1994.)
- The apartheid system and its "Bantustan" policy are explained and the reluctance of the U.S. government to push for boycotts and sanctions against the apartheid regime discussed.
- Raymond Kunene of the African National Congress and Z. B. Molete of the Pan-Africanist Congress, both headquartered in London, are interviewed about the situation in South Africa.
- A panel discusses developments in the anti-apartheid movement, including Prof. Charles Hamilton, Peter Molotsi of the Pan-Africanist Congress, Blyden Jackson of the American Committee on Africa,

writer Wally Kgotsitsile, and South West Africa People's Organization activist Hage Geingob of Namibia (which gained independence from South Africa in 1990; Geingob was elected the country's president in 2014.)

- The episode also highlights the work of South African photographer, Ernest Cole.

BLACK JOURNAL 16 SEPTEMBER 1969

- In this episode, **Black Journal** travels to the Pan-African Cultural Festival in Algiers, sponsored by the Organization of African Unity (now the African Union.) It features rarely seen film and audio recordings of this historic gathering of cultural activists from across the African continent and the Diaspora, including representatives of the liberation movements as well as leading Leftist cultural figures from around the world.
- The Afro-American Center established by the Black Panther Party is spotlighted as playing a central role at the Festival, with speeches by its Minister of Information-in-exile Eldridge Cleaver, as well as Stokely Carmichael (Kwame Turé.)
- Black Panther Party Minister of Culture, Emory Douglas, exhibits his artwork, and poets Vinie Burrows and Don L. Lee (Haki Madhubuti) give readings of their work.

BLACK JOURNAL 17 OCTOBER 1969

- This episode opens with a comedy skit spoofing white liberals in which a white man frantically attempts to use a pay phone to report a fire in a poor Black neighborhood, but a Black man using the phone, played by Antonio Fargas, refuses to hang up.
- In Los Angeles, an innovative project, "Operation Bootstrap," assists Black businesses to promote autonomous economic development in Black communities without accepting government or foundation funding.
- **Black Journal** reports from a conference of the Institute for Black Elected Officials examining the challenges facing Black officeholders. Julian Bond is the featured speaker and it is also attended by Rep. John Conyers of Detroit, as well as Rep. Shirley Chisholm of New York City, the first Black woman elected to the U.S. Congress in 1968 (and in 1972, the first Black woman to campaign in a presidential primary.)
- During a nation-wide tour, Nina Simone talks about being an artist committed to social change and sings at Morehouse College.

BLACK JOURNAL 18 NOVEMBER 1969

- This episode begins with a report from the newly-opened Malcolm X Liberation University in Durham, North Carolina, an institution formed by students from Duke University when their demands for an Africana Studies Center were not met, (a story covered in episode 12). Howard Fuller (Owusu Sadauki), a leader of the university, is interviewed.
- Betty Shabazz, widow of Malcolm X, and Courtland Cox of the Center for Black Education in Washington DC, formerly of the SNCC, speak at the rally launching the university while the Harambee Singers perform, led by Bernice Johnson Reagon, formerly of the SNCC Freedom Singers (and later founder of Sweet Honey in the Rock.)
- The second half of this episode is devoted to the music industry, this time specifically African American record producers and companies such as the Motown and Stax labels. Producers Tom Wilson, Walter Bishop, and Del Shields discuss the history of exploitation of African American artists in the industry.

- **Black Journal** then tours Motown Records in Detroit interviewing Smokey Robinson during a recording session and filming Gladys Knight and the Pips as they perform. Motown's Vice President, Ewart Abner, discusses Motown's "political label," Black Forum.
- The program then visits Stax Records and meets with Vice President, Al Bell, and producer, Isaac Hayes, who also performs.

BLACK JOURNAL 19 DECEMBER 1969

- Poet Nikki Giovanni reads and discusses her revolutionary poetry.
- Roberta Flack performs several songs including *Angelitos Negros*.
- *And Still We Survive*, a film documenting the Black Freedom Struggle during the 1960s, is reviewed and a clip is screened.
- A panel discusses the police slaying of Black Panther Party leaders in Chicago, including an interview with Masai Hewitt, Minister of Education of the Black Panther Party.

BLACK JOURNAL 20 JANUARY 1970

- In the midst of a city-wide transit strike, **Black Journal** reports on the Committee for a Democratic Union in the New York Transit Workers Union, whose workers are 70% Black or Puerto Rican, but whose leadership is predominantly white.
- In this episode's major segment, Black athletes, including Jackie Robinson, Bill Russell, Arthur Ashe, Johnny Sample, and Harry Edwards are interviewed concerning racism in sports. Ashe discusses his efforts to have South Africa banned from International Tennis Federation tournaments and Robinson expresses admiration for John Carlos and Tommie Smith who gave the Black Power salute on international television when receiving their trophies at the Mexico City Olympics. Edwards protests the absence of Black managers or coaches.
- The episode concludes with a performance by Blues singer John Lee Hooker.

BLACK JOURNAL 21 FEBRUARY 1970

- This episode begins with a report on the regime of Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia (who was overthrown in a coup in 1974.)
- **Black Journal** visits the newly opened Martin Luther King Memorial Center and Institute of the Black World in Atlanta. Among those participating in the opening ceremonies are Coretta Scott King, historian Vincent Harding, and musician Bernice Johnson Reagon.
- The growing influence of the work of pioneering African American sociologist and activist W.E.B. Du Bois in the years since his death in 1963 is discussed.
- Rebroadcast of the tribute to Malcolm X from episode 9.

BLACK JOURNAL 22 MARCH 1970

- The focus of this episode is the African American soldier, including a brief history of their participation in the U.S. Armed Forces. The bulk of the episode is devoted to the role of African Americans then serving in the Vietnam and Southeast Asia as part of the escalation of U.S. troops deployed there between 1965 and 1969. The percentage of African American soldiers serving in the war zone was higher than their percentage in the U.S. population and accounted for 21% of U.S. combat.

- The film crew follows soldiers on actual patrol who candidly offer their opinion of the war and question why they are fighting in Southeast Asia when their struggle for freedom is on the U.S. mainland. They detail the disrespect shown towards them by white officers, the tension within units, and their experiences of institutional, as well as individual, acts of racism.
- Another segment is set in Okinawa where soldiers are stationed and sent on leave for “rest and relaxation.” African American soldiers discuss wearing clothes and playing music which proclaim their pride in their culture, despite suspicion from the authorities and frequent crackdowns by the military police.

BLACK JOURNAL 23 APRIL 1970

- Amiri Baraka (LeRoi Jones) and Kenneth Gibson (who served as Newark’s mayor from 1970-1986) discuss the Committee for a Unified Newark and their efforts to elect that city’s first African American mayor.
- Musicians Max Roach and Abbey Lincoln perform at Norfolk State College and discuss their role as socially engaged artists. During their concert in Norfolk, they improvise from their path-breaking *Freedom Now Suite*.
- **Black Journal** travels to Chicago to report on the Nation of Islam’s current role in African American communities, interviewing both its leadership and its members.