
THE COALITION OF UNITED PROGRESSIVES CHARMECK CHRONICLE



Greetings!

We truly appreciate everyone's involvement.
This War on Oppression will only be won as one mass
movement.

Sections

- **Spotlight - by DonnaMarie Woodson**
- **Editorial - by Tarik Kiley**
- **Announcements**
- **Happenings Gallery!**

Our Mission Statement

The continual unification of as many organizations as possible, starting at the local level and branching out to both the state of North Carolina and then the entire nation.

In Memoriam

Jala Mckenzie Burns (aka Jade X. Jackson)

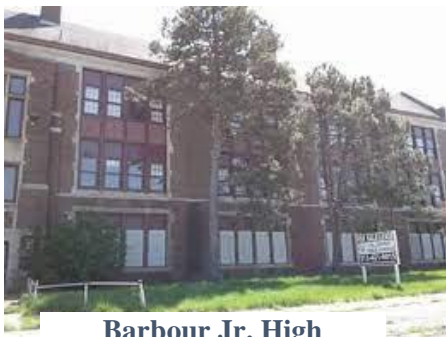


You are invited to attend the Homegoing Celebration for Jala Mckenzie Burns (aka Jade X. Jackson) on March 24 at 1 PM at Statesville Avenue Presbyterian Church, 3435 Nevin Rd, Charlotte, NC. - With Love, The Burns Family.

Spotlight

Celebrating Black History Month

By **DonnaMarie Woodson**



Barbour Jr. High

My first remembrance of Black History was at Barbour Junior High School, which we called Middle School in Detroit in the 1960s. I also remember participating in a "Walk Out" at school to express my and my peers' feelings that we SHOULD have Black History taught, especially in a primarily Black School.

The School Administration agreed, and as a student, I felt empowered that our Black History IS American History! The truth of it all. History's good, bad, and ugly deserves to be taught to young Black and White children to help us understand that our history is more than just slavery.

But, before our Black History Class win in 1968, we celebrated Black History Week. I loved the presentations by the students of Black artists' works and the contests to identify who invented well-known devices like the Stop Light.



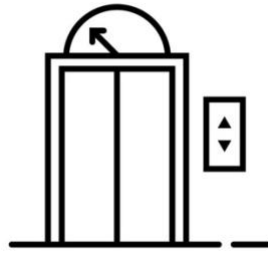
Garrett Morgan



The Three-Light Traffic Signal, Invented by Garrett Morgan in 1923



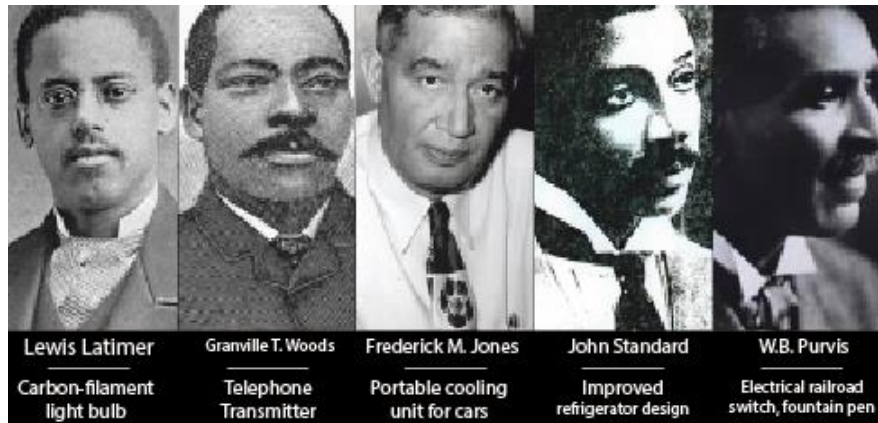
Alexander Miles



**Automatic Elevator Doors,
Invented by Alexander Miles
in 1887**

I also remember being excited about going to the library to research my ancestors to discover how Black contributions to America helped shape and build the United States.

The beginnings of Black History Week were celebrated as far back as the 1920s. Even today, I'm continuing to learn about our contributions to society. And there are many!! This collage is just a sample of our Black Excellence.



When did the celebration of Black History Month begin?
Black History Month initially began as a 7-day celebration in 1926. That year, the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History proclaimed that the second week of February become known as "Negro History Week." This provision would finally celebrate what Black Americans contributed to the history of the US.

The esteemed historian Carter G. Woodson, whose parents were enslaved, worked with other leaders and activists to start the Association. It is now known as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, which publishes the works of Black researchers and scholars.



Carter G. Woodson

Woodson selected February to celebrate Negro History Week because two men he believed represented freedom for Black folks, Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, were born during that month. Though it began in the 1920s, it would take decades for Black History Month to become nationally observed.

It wasn't until the 1960s that college students and teachers encouraged a Negro History Week celebration all month long. Soon after, schools and various institutions across the country began to celebrate Black History Month.

Finally, in 1976, President Gerald Ford recognized Black History Month:

"In the Bicentennial year of our Independence, we can review with admiration the impressive contributions of Black Americans to our national life and culture. One hundred years ago, to help highlight these achievements, Dr. Carter G. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History. We are grateful to him today for his initiative, and we are richer for the work of his

organization. In celebrating Black History Month, we can take satisfaction from this recent progress in the realization of the ideals envisioned by our Founding Fathers.

But, even more than this, we can seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history. I urge my fellow citizens to join me in tribute to Black History Month and the message of courage and perseverance it brings to all of us." President Gerald Ford

Other countries that also recognize Black History Month include the United Kingdom as well as Canada.

We are a multicultural Nation, and we should celebrate contributions from us all 365 days of the year!

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carter_G._Woodson

Editorial

The Use of Mental Coercion in Far-Right American Politics

**By
Tarik Kiley
1/26/2023**



Governor Ron DeSantis (Republican) of Florida has rejected teaching Advanced Placement African American studies in Florida state schools. More specifically, according to abcnews.go.com. "Last year,

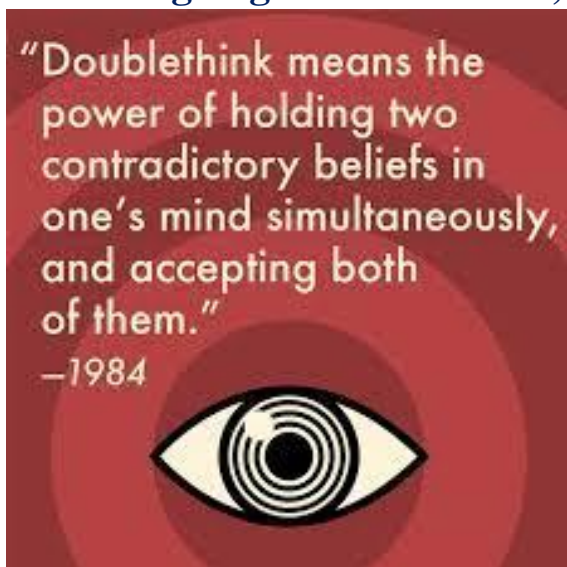
DeSantis signed the 'Stop WOKE' Act into law, restricting race-related conversations and instruction in workplaces, schools, and colleges. The law includes a ban on teaching or business practices that contend members of one ethnic group is inherently racist and should feel guilt for past actions committed by others.

A federal judge in Florida issued a temporary injunction in November against the act's implementation in higher education, which is still being battled in court." Of course, this has led to a concerted reaction from African American Honors students, where several have resolved to sue the state over the issue.

Civil rights attorney Ben Crump and Craig Whisenhunt will potentially lead this suit. The students assert an idea all too familiar, where African American history is neglected and considered to be of little academic merit by the powers that be.

The compelling idea is how political language and coded speech are used to bring about mental coercion. George Orwell spoke about this type of speech in his iconic book, "1984." Orwell said of Doublethink in his dystopian novel, derived from that idea is the term doublespeak.

According to grammarist.com, "Doublethink is the ability to



simultaneously accept two conflicting beliefs, opinions, or facts as valid and correct. This acceptance might be deliberate or unconscious and is often a result of political indoctrination.

Doublethink may happen because of someone being willfully perverse or faulty logic.

Doublethink is a word coined by George Orwell for the novel 1984." This applies here in that being awake is usually a good thing. It suggests that you are aware of your environment. But Gov. DeSantis uses it in a contradictory way to indicate that being "woke" means being in a state of unawareness, promoting the very racism, which those who are "woke" oppose. He is essentially saying that anti-racism is racism. This is Doublethink at its finest.

Also, according to grammarist.com, "Doublespeak is the use of euphemistic or ambiguous language to disguise what one is actually saying. Some examples of doublespeak are the term "put to sleep" used in place of the word euthanize, and the phrase "ethnic cleansing" instead of the word genocide.



Doublespeak was not coined by George Orwell, though his novel 1984 was most probably an influence.

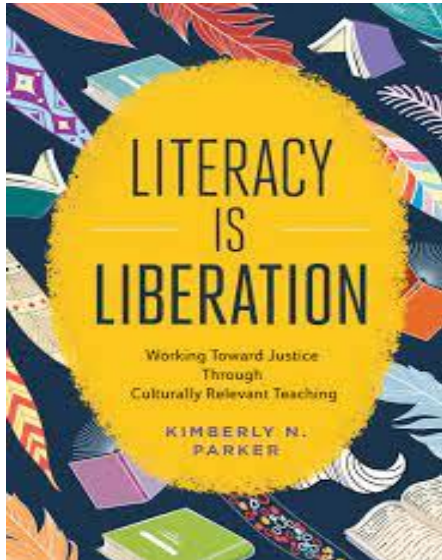
Doublespeak was first used in the 1950s, probably as a derivation of the term double-talk." So, Gov. DeSantis is also using the

term "woke" to mask the fact that he is attempting to institute a racist and inequitable policy on the entire Florida state school system. So, now you understand how Gov. DeSantis uses deceptive language.

But why is the teaching of Advanced Placement African American studies so important?

It is crucial because the United States has a history of miseducating or simply not educating African Americans. It is important to remember that under slavery, enslaved people were not allowed to read. They suffered from enforced illiteracy. This fact is significant because knowing oneself and the ability to explore ideas through reading, including understanding one's history, leads to independent thinking.

The last thing that enslavers wanted from enslaved people was independent thinking. If slaves could think independently, they would most certainly rebel against the slave system en masse. So, if you can fool an entire group of people into thinking they have no history worthy of merit or study, you can enforce their dependency.



Also, literacy leads to communication, and communication leads to assembly. And, of course, the slave owners didn't want their slaves communicating and assembling because that would lead to the dreaded state of unity. If the slaves all unified politically and economically or were able to assemble, that would mean the end of the slave system through rebellion.

To this day, large gatherings of African Americans are still viewed through suspicious eyes, and the fear of a united Black people still exists. So, someone attempting to enforce a condition of servitude on an entire ethnic group of African Americans would not want African American children to learn about their true history.

We should also understand that there exists an entire class of African Americans who have desired education and, in each subsequent generation, have sought knowledge. Knowledge has become synonymous with social advancement for many and was written extensively about in history, most notably by the authors W. E. B. Du Bois, and Booker T. Washington.

The idea of education came most notably with the emancipation of the slaves and was primarily on the minds of the abolitionists. At the turn of the 20th century, W.E.B. Du Bois spoke of the need for liberal

studies in education of the leading "talented tenth," and Booker T. Washington advocated for learning trade skills and industrial education.



Still, both agreed that some instruction was needed to make African Americans independent and have the skills necessary to succeed economically. It is commonly accepted today that advanced education leads to adopting the necessary skills to succeed in a capitalist economy.

So, all this is to say that Gov. DeSantis' political ideology is a racist one, which, if left unchecked, will undoubtedly keep bright, young minds ignorant of the truth of history. And those who do not learn from their history are doomed to repeat it. DeSantis' policy is simply one in a long legacy of keeping African Americans in a socioeconomically disadvantaged position in our society.

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Announcements



Democrats of North Mecklenburg:

Monthly Meeting

Thursday, February 2nd at 6:30 PM

North County Regional Library

16500 Holly Crest Lane, Huntersville

Democratic Women of North Mecklenburg County

February Membership Meeting

Wednesday, February 8th

Caldwell Presbyterian Church

6:30 PM – Meet and Great

7:00 pm Program

N. Meck Progressives

Monday, February 13th at 6 pm

Admirals Quarters clubhouse in Cornelius

Announcements

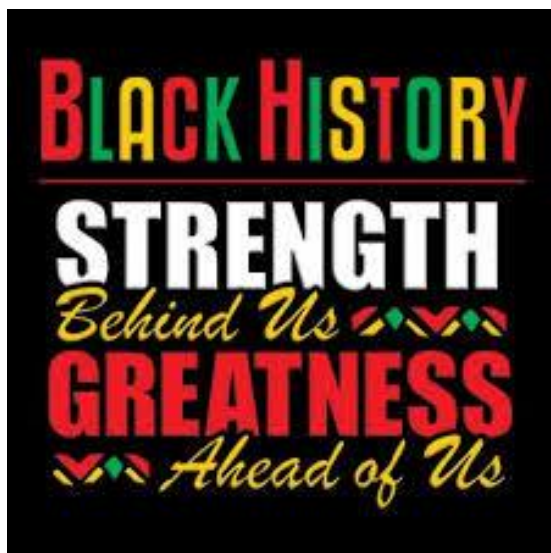


LGBTQ Democrats of Mecklenburg County
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2023, AT 6:30 PM
2023 Chapter Officer Elections
Advent Coworking
933 Louise Ave. Ste 101, Charlotte 28204



**Please submit your group events to donnamarie93@gmail.com
by the 15th of the month for inclusion in the Announcements.**

Happenings Gallery



The Executive Corner:

Executive Director - Jade X. Jackson

Rev Rodney Sadler, Joel Segal, DonnaMarie Woodson

Rev Glencie Rhedrick

Coalition of United Progressives-CharMeck Chronicle

Editor: DonnaMarie Woodson

Contributor: Tarik Kiley