The History behind Black History Month

It is Black History Month! Have you ever wondered why Black History Month is celebrated in the month of February? According to Biography.com, "Every February, Americans celebrate Black History Month. This tribute dates back to 1926 and is credited to a Harvard scholar named Carter G. Woodson. Carter was the son of former slaves and decided to dedicate his life to ensuring that black history was accurately documented and disseminated."

In an effort to bring national attention to the contributions of Black Americans, Woodson organized the first annual Negro History Week in 1926. He chose the second week of February, in honor of the birthdays of pivotal black supporters Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. He felt that it was necessary to show appreciation and to have something to give the next generation.

What is Black History Month? Black History Month is observed in remembrance of important people and events in the history of the African Diaspora. The goal of Black History Week was to educate blacks about their cultural background, and instill in them a sense of pride in their race.
In the U.S., Black History Month is also referred to as African-American History Month. Regardless, Woodson was determined to make a change. Who would've thought the change would've come to pass?

African-American author Carter Woodson stated, "We should emphasize not Negro History, but the Negro in history. What we need is not a history of selected races or nations, but the history of the world void of national bias, race hate, and religious prejudice."

What does Black History Month mean to you?

The Pi Mu Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. has been holding Black History Wednesdays since the early 2000s. According to President Nicole Haskins, "It is an opportunity for us to recognize how our ancestors paved the way". Nicole believes it is important to "never forget history and its" significance. In addition, she believes, "Black History Wednesdays make it evident that black people are still making a difference." She wants this month to be an opportunity for not only African-Americans to be recognized, so she stresses the importance of people "uplifting other minorities as well."

Today, February 2, in Chichester Auditorium at 5:13 p.m., the Pi Mu Chapter will be hosting a forum on modern-day racism. On February 9 in the Student Union Café at 7:13 p.m., the Pi Mu Chapter will have an Open Mic night. On February 16 in Willet Gymnasium at 7 p.m., the chapter will not be doing a program in lieu of the Greek Basketball game on campus. On February 23, the chapter will be taking 15 students to the Holocaust Museum in Richmond Virginia.

For more information on these events, contact a member of the Pi Mu chapter or go to the Black History Wednesday’s event on Facebook.

If you have any ideas or comments that you would like to see in The Black Column, please e-mail us at theblackcolumn@gmail.com.

Thanks,
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Editors of The Black Column