



The Falcon Review

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Extra! Extra! Read All About It! Black History Month

Tony Williams

By Hunter McCoy

Tony Williams is a name that was once a household name, but has died down over the years. On April 5, 1928 in Elizabeth, New Jersey, Tony Williams was born. He started out as a parking-lot attendant. Soon, he discovered he had talent as a singer. At age 25, he started his band known as the Platters (1953 - 1960). Over the years they became very well known, selling over 50 million records, having four number one hits and earning sixteen gold records. Some of their hits include,

"Smoke Gets In Your Eyes", "The Great Pretender", and "Only You".

In 1957, Williams met his wife, Helen, one of America's first black models. Together they had a total of two children. On August 14, 1992 Williams passed away due to diabetes and emphysema.



Beyoncé

By Morgan Durant

Beyoncé was born on September 4, 1981. She was born in Houston, Texas, and was raised by her parents Tina and Mathew Knowles. Beyoncé's mother is Creole, French, African and Native American. Beyoncé's father is African American. Beyoncé did not attend college, but she finished high school at Alief Elsik High School.

She first became famous in 1997. Beyoncé is married to Shawn "Jay-Z" Carter and they have three children: two girls and one boy. Her children's names are Blue Ivy, Rumi, and Sir Carter. Rumi and Sir are twins. Beyoncé is

most famous for her musical career. She is worth 350 million dollars. Beyoncé's favorite number is four because her birthday is on September 4th, her mom's birthday is on January 4th, her husband's birthday is on December 4th and she got married on April 4th. Beyoncé's favorite food is hot sauce. A fun fact about her is that she is allergic to perfume, but came out with four fragrances in 2011.



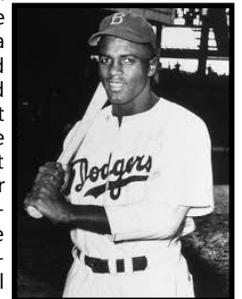
Jackie Robinson

By BJ Warehime

Jackie Robinson was born on January 31, 1919 in Cairo, Georgia. Robinson became the first African American to play in the MLB, and he was a second baseman for the Brooklyn Dodgers. Although Jackie was an outstanding baseball player, that is not the most valuable asset that he brought to the MLB. When he signed with the Dodgers, Robinson took the first step to ending racial segregation in professional baseball. Through all the hate and abuse, Robinson took with signing with the Dodgers, he still had an incredible MLB career, winning the MLB Rookie of the Year award in 1947, and was an All-Star for six consecutive years.

Robinson's character made all the abuse and hate that he took through his career a whole lot easier on him. With belief in non-

violence and his amazing talent in the game of baseball, he showed the nation a new kind of respect and view towards racial segregation in professional baseball. Jackie finished his MLB career in 1956 and was inducted to the MLB Hall of Fame. Even though Jackie was obviously an incredible baseball player, that is not the impact he had on the MLB. He brought so much more than a good glove and a great bat; he brought honor and acceptance into professional baseball.

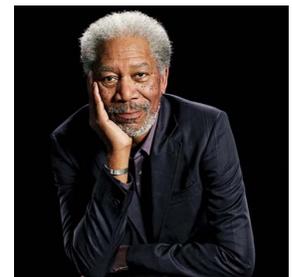


Morgan Freeman

By Caleb Kelly

Morgan Freeman was born on June 1, 1937 and is still living today. He was born in Memphis, Tennessee. His mother was a teacher and his father was a barber. He is not currently married, but he has been married twice before. He has been married to Jeanette Adair Bradshaw and Myrna Colley Lee. Freeman has four children. His favorite food is cornbread and fried chicken. He also enjoys collard greens. He served in the Air Force for three years. At age 39, he became famous for his acting career. He is worth about 200 million dollars. He attended two different colleges, Jackson

State University and Los Angeles City College. He is one of the most famous American actors. A fun fact about Freeman is that he turned down a drama scholarship to join the military.



Kevin Hart

By Mason Degler

Kevin Hart was born on July 6, 1979 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and is still alive today. While he was a kid, his mother was single and had to raise him and his brother by herself in Pennsylvania. In 2011, after being divorced once, Hart got married again to Eniko Parrish. Hart has three kids; two sons and one daughter. The children's names are Hendrix, Kenzo Kash, and Heaven Hart.

When Hart was 23, he had one of his first stand up comedy acts and a small part in a movie. Hart is worth \$62 million. He attended Community College in Philadelphia for only a short time. He made

most of his money from stand up comedy and movies. Fun fact: he is currently starring in the new movie "Jumanji".



Drake

By Jared Ady

The Canadian born rapper known as Drake, or Aubrey Drake Graham, was born on October 24, 1986 in Toronto, Canada. He comes from African American and Jewish descent, with his father being African American and his mother a white Canadian Jew. His fame started off early; at only 15, he starred as a cast member of *Degrassi: The Next Generation* in the role of Jimmy Brooks, a wheelchair-bound character that he played for seven years. After leaving the show, he became one of the biggest rappers on the planet. He signed a deal with Lil Wayne's label Young Money Entertain-

ment. He is currently worth over 90 million dollars from hit songs such as "Take Care", "One Dance", and "Hotline Bling". He grew up around music, which helped him with his career and where he is at today. Some interesting facts about Drake are that his favorite food is McDonald's and he not married.



Marsha P. Johnson

By Cora Owen

Marsha P. Johnson was born on August 24, 1945 in Elizabeth, New Jersey. She was brought up in the Roman Catholic Church with her older sister by a single mother. Her body was found floating in the Hudson River on July 6, 1992. It was ruled a suicide, but the case has since been reopened. She never married and never had kids. She did not serve in the military and did not attend college. Johnson was most famous for being an advocate for gay rights.

She is credited for being one of the first people to fight back during the Stonewall riots, which was an event where police stormed a gay bar looking to arrest people just for being gay. It was a huge step in the direction of equality for the LGBT community. Additionally, she was a co founder of

S.T.A.R. (Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries) which was an organization that provided food and shelter for homeless homosexual youth. She was also heavily involved as an activist for the AIDS epidemic and worked with ACT UP, an organization that pushed for medical research and better treatment for AIDS, especially for LGBT people when they were being persecuted for having AIDS. It used to be thought that only gays had AIDS and were spreading them around. The organization was working to disprove that. One fun fact about her is that Johnson has said the "P" in her name stands for "Pay it no mind."



Earl Sweatshirt

By Andrew Zimmer

Thebe Neruda Kgositsile, better known as Earl Sweatshirt, was born February 24, 1994. He was raised by his poetic father Keorapetse Kgositsile. He was born in Chicago, Illinois, but later moved to California once he started his rap career. Early in Earl Sweatshirt's career, his mother sent him to Coral Reef Academy in Somalia for eighteen months because of behavioral issues. While Earl Sweatshirt was away, the rap group he was in, called Odd Future, started to gain fame. The group started a "Free Earl" campaign. When the young artist came home to perform at the group's next show, his

career officially took off. Earl Sweatshirt was sixteen when he started to gain fame. He is most popular for his song "Earl" that blew up while he was away, along with recent songs such as "Chum", "Grief", and being associated with Tyler, the Creator. His net worth is estimated to be 4.5 million dollars to this day.



Ray Charles

By Christian Pernel

Ray Charles was born blind on September 23, 1930. He died of liver disease on June 10, 2004. His father abandoned the family in his early childhood. Charles was married twice, first to Eileen Williams in 1955. In the same year, he married Della Beatrice Howard Robinson, stayed married for 22 years and had twelve children. His favorite food was rice and fried chicken. He was about nineteen years old when he first started to

become recognized from the influential song "Unchain My Heart". He never attended college, he chose to focus on and pursue music. He was an inspiration to many from his singing songwriting and proving that you can do anything no matter the obstacle, in his case blindness.



Kodak Black

By Thorne Silvius

Kodak Black, also known as Dieuson Octave, was born on June 11, 1997 in Pompano Beach, Florida. He is known for rapping; some of his popular songs are "Tunnel Vision" and "Hungry." In elementary school he started rapping and going to a local trap house to record. He got in trouble frequently, including breaking and entering with friends multiple times. He was charged with grand theft auto in middle school. He

has been in jail multiple times for gun possession, drug possession, and evading law enforcement. His favorite food is jail food and favorite drink is Fanta. His net worth is \$5 million. He is currently getting sued for skipping scheduled concerts that he did not show up to.



Will Smith

By Meeya Parker

West Philadelphia, born and raised, in the state of Pennsylvania; the actor Will Smith began his career in 1985 with the popular show *"The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air"*, where Will played himself. His character starts out in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, before moving to Bel-Air of Los Angeles, California, due to his mother not wanting him to be roughed up in the neighborhood in which they lived. In real life, Smith was raised Baptist, however he went to a Catholic school, later going on to not be religious, though he does favor some ideas of the Church of Scientology. He also supported same sex marriage and Barack Obama's presidency.

Smith did not plan on attending

college; he stated in the past that he intended to become a rapper. His rap career beginning in 1997 with *"Gettin Jiggy Wit It"*. In 2017, Will Smith released the studio version of a new song *"Get Lit"* with DJ Jazzy Jeff. Mr. Smith has starred in many things since *"The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air"*, such as *"The Wild Wild West"*, *"I Am Legend"*, *"Men in Black"*, and the series *"Bad Boys"*. Most recently he starred in *"Concussion"* and *"Focus"* in 2015. 2016 brought Smith in *"Suicide Squad"* as Deadshot and *"Collateral Beauty"*; and in 2017 *"Bright"* as Officer Ward. In 2018 Smith will be starring in *"Bad Boys For Life"* and in 2019 is meant to be in the movie *"Spies in Disguise"*. He is also meant to be in *"Suicide Squad 2"*, *"Gemini*

Man" as an assassin and *"Aladdin"* as the genie; along with rumors of *"Bad Boys 4."*

For those who would like to know more about his personal life, Smith has been married twice, both with children. His first marriage to Sheree Zampino lasted from 1992 to 1995 with whom he had his first child, Trey Smith. His next marriage was to Jada Pinkett-Smith in 1997 in which Willow and Jaden Smith were born. Not much is known of Trey; however Jaden and Willow are making music and acting careers for themselves. Both Willow and Jaden have acted alongside their father. Jaden played Will's son in the movie *"After Earth"* as well as *"The Pur-*

suit of Happiness", while Willow played his daughter in *"I Am Legend"*. Both have musical careers as well. Jaden even had a song with his father. Jada Pinkett-Smith is also an actress and musician, with a role as Fish Mooney in the DC Comics show *"Gotham"*. Jada has been an actress since 1990 and has been in the metal band *Wicked Wisdom* since 2002. Will and Jada met on the set of *"The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air"* where Jada was auditioning to play Will's girlfriend. They have made quite the power couple and family.



Stevie Wonder

By Alex Hummel

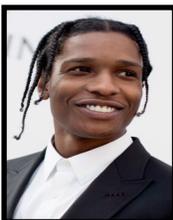
Stevie Wonder was a blind boy born in Michigan on May 13, 1950. Stevie got into music at a young age. By the time he was eleven, he was already becoming famous. Wonder was married three times. His current wife is Tomeeka Bracy and with these three women he had eight children. Wonder attended college at Michigan School for the Blind. Through the 80's and 90's Wonder sold many albums and had multiple television appearances. Today Wonder has won 25 grammys and is now worth 110 million dollars. Wonder is still alive today at the age of 67.



A\$AP Rocky

By Kaylee Miller

Rakim Mayers, better known as A\$AP Rocky, was born on October 3, 1988. Mayers was born in Harlem City, New York. After his father went to jail and his brother got shot, A\$AP lived with his single mother. He is not married, and does not have any kids. He did not go to college; instead, he signed a record deal at the age of 23, and later became famous. He is most well known for his music, and is now worth six million dollars. Rakim does not have a specific favorite food, however is partial to fruits and vegetables. He also



Martin Luther King Jr.

By Noah Gill

Martin Luther King Jr. was actually given the name Michael when he was born January 15, 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia. Both his father and grandfather were preachers in a small Baptist church. King was a very ambitious student who skipped both ninth and eleventh grade and entered college at age 15. His junior year of college, he took a Bible class and began his career in ministry. In 1953, he married Coretta Parks Scott and in 1954, he became the pastor of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church of Montgomery, Alabama. He rose to the spotlight in the Civil Rights Movement when he was elected to lead the bus boycott after Rosa Parks refused to give her seat up to a white man. He believed in standing up for equality, but doing so in a nonviolent way. His

civil rights campaign included many speeches like his famous "I Have A Dream" speech given in Washington DC in 1963. This speech impacted the life of every African-American in the United States of America. Just five years later, King was standing on the balcony outside of his room at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis and was struck by a sniper's bullet. The killing of Martin Luther King Jr. caused riots in hundreds of cities across the country. Even after his death, he is considered one of the most important leaders of his era. He is honored with a national holiday, a memorial in Washington DC, and his name on schools, buildings and streets in cities all across America.

He is honored with a national holiday on January 15!

Ben Carson

By Sarah Hartong

Ben Carson was born on September 18, 1951 and lived in Michigan. Carson is also known as Benjamin Solomon Carson Sr. but considering how long his name is, he just goes by Ben. As a kid he came from a poor family but had loving parents that taught him how to love his classes. He graduated high school the top of his class. Carson accomplished a

lot throughout his early life, such as attending Yale University and working at John Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. He is now a retired neurosurgeon and acclaimed author. One of his greatest accomplishments was giving the world a new innovation in surgery when he was the first man to successfully separate twins conjoined at the head. Carson is married to Lacena Rustin and together they

have three children. Carson did work a lot everywhere; he even for a short time worked in Australia before returning to John Hopkins Hospital. Like for any surgeon, some surgeries are really challenging and do not always go your way; Carson had some setbacks but was an overall amazing surgeon. He received many awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom. After losing

against President Trump in the Republican primaries and is currently the 17th United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, under the Trump Administration.

