Black History: More Folderol

by Earl P. Holt III

As part of multiculturalism's never-ending efforts to disseminate the propaganda of black multiculturalists and other fantasists, sources such as the **Black Inventions Museum** and the **Traveling Museum of Black Inventions** claim to chronicle the genius of African-American inventors.

It is claimed that the world would find itself without air-brakes, the typewriter, the printing press, the cell phone, blood banks, elevators, or even traffic signals were it not for black inventors. Unfortunately, all of these claims are pure FOLDEROL! For example, there's delicious irony in the claim that a race that habitually refuses to obey traffic signals somehow *invented* them!

Traffic Signals: A black man named **Garrett Morgan** is often credited by multiculturalists with inventing the traffic signal in 1923. However, the first known traffic signal was installed near the House of Parliament in London in 1868. It was designed by a white man named **J.P. Knight** and featured two semaphore arms combined with two gas lamps.

The earliest *electric* traffic signals include Lester Wire's two-color version set up in Salt Lake City around 1912, James Hoge's system installed in Cleveland by the *American Traffic Signal Company* in 1914 (Patent # 1,251,666,) and **William Potts'** 4-way **red**-**yellow**-**green** signal first introduced in Detroit beginning in 1920. New York City traffic towers also began flashing three-color signals in 1920. Each of these traffic signals were invented by white men, and pre-dated the efforts of Garrett Morgan.

Garrett Morgan's cross-shaped, crank-operated semaphore was not among the first 50 patented traffic signals, nor was it "*automatic*" as it is sometimes alleged, nor did it play any part in the evolution of the

modern traffic light. (See *Inventing History: Garrett Morgan and the Traffic Signal.*)

William Potts and Garrett Morgan

Air Brakes: The invention of this valuable piece of technology is falsely attributed to a black man named **Granville Woods**, who is given credit by multicultural mythologists with having invented it in 1904. In fact, the first braking device based on compressed air was invented by a white man named **George Westinghouse** in 1869, and awarded U.S. Patent # 88929.

In 1869, Westinghouse founded the *Westinghouse Air Brake Company*. Many of the 361 patents he was awarded during his career were for air brake variations and improvements on their design, including the first "*automatic*" air-brake system in 1872, awarded U.S. Patent # 124404.

George Westinghouse and Granville Woods

Typewriter: For some bizarre reason, two men wrongly assumed to be black -- Lee S. Burridge & Newman R. Marshman -- are falsely celebrated as black men who invented the typewriter in 1885. Ironically, neither Burridge nor Marshman appear to be black based in their photographs.

Lee S. Burridge & Newman R. Marshman

In truth, a white, English engineer named Henry Mill was the first person to patent the basic design of a mechanical typewriter in 1714. The first working typewriter -- known to have actually been built -- was the work of Pellegrino Turri of Italy in 1808. Later, Americans **Cristopher Latham Sholes** and **Carlos Glidden** -- both white men -- patented the familiar QWERTYUIOP keyboard in 1868 and brought it to market in 1873.

Printing Press: A black man named **W. A. Lavalette** is alleged to have invented the printing press in 1878. This myth has been promoted by phony black "*educators*" -- including one sponsored by *Penn State University* named Dr. Leroy Vaughn -- whose "*scholarship*" is laughable even by the standards of the average white adolescent.

Around 1455 in Germany, a white man named **Johannes Gutenberg** adapted the "*screw press*" technique from other trades and combined it with moveable, metal-alloy characters and oil-based printing ink. Major advances by white inventors followed Gutenberg, including the cylinder printing press around 1811 by Frederick Koenig and Andreas Bauer, the rotary press in 1846 by Richard M. Hoe, and the web press (1865) by William Bullock. All these predate Lavalette's design patent, which was merely one of approximately 3,300 printing patents issued by 1888.

Johannes Gutenberg and W. A. Lavalette

Cellular Phone: A black man named **Henry T. Sampson** is wrongly credited by black propagandists with inventing the cell telephone in 1971. Sampson and co-inventor George Miley *DID* receive a patent on a "*gamma electric cell*" that converted gamma radiation into an electrical impulse. (Among the first to do so was Bernhard Gross, U.S. patent #3122640 in 1964).

However, gamma radiation has nothing to do with cell telephone communications technology. Apparently, some phony multiculturalist "*historian*" saw the words "*electric*" and "*cell*" and concluded "**CELL PHONE**!" The true inventor of the cell phone was a white man named **Martin Cooper**, who first demonstrated the technology in 1973.
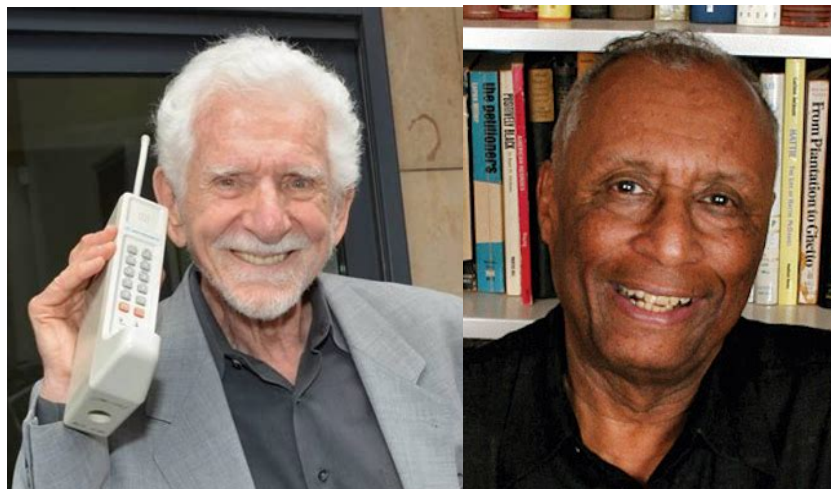
Martin Cooper and Henry T. Sampson

Blood Bank: A black man named **Dr. Charles Drew** is credited by black propagandists with establishing the first blood bank in 1940. However, during World War I, a white man named **Dr. Oswald H. Robertson** of the U.S. Army preserved and stored blood in a citrate-glucose solution for later transfusion. This was the first use of "*banked*" blood.

By the mid-1930s, Russian medical professionals had established a national system for collecting, typing, and storing blood. Another white man, **Dr. Bernard Fantus** copied the Russian system by establishing the first American blood bank at Chicago's **Cook County Hospita**l in 1937. It was Fantus who coined the term "*blood bank*."


Dr. Oswald Robertson and Dr. Charles Drew

Elevator: A black man named **Alexander Miles** is often credited by diversity enthusiasts with inventing the elevator in 1887. This is a figment of some black "*scholar's*" imagination. For example, steam-powered hoisting devices were used in England as early as 1800.

A white man named **Elisha Graves Otis**, founder of the **Otis Elevator Company** -- still in business today under a similar name -- invented a "*safety elevator*" in 1852 that prevented the passenger compartment from falling if the cable were to break. This technology paved the way for the first commercial passenger elevator, installed by Otis in New York City's **Haughwout Department Store** in 1857.

The first electric-powered elevator appeared in Mannheim, Germany in 1880, built by the German engineering firm of *Siemens and Halske*. Later, J.W. Meaker invented the self-closing shaft door in 1874, which was a significant improvement and awarded US Patent # 147,853. All these technologies predate the efforts of Alexander Miles and all were a product of white inventors.
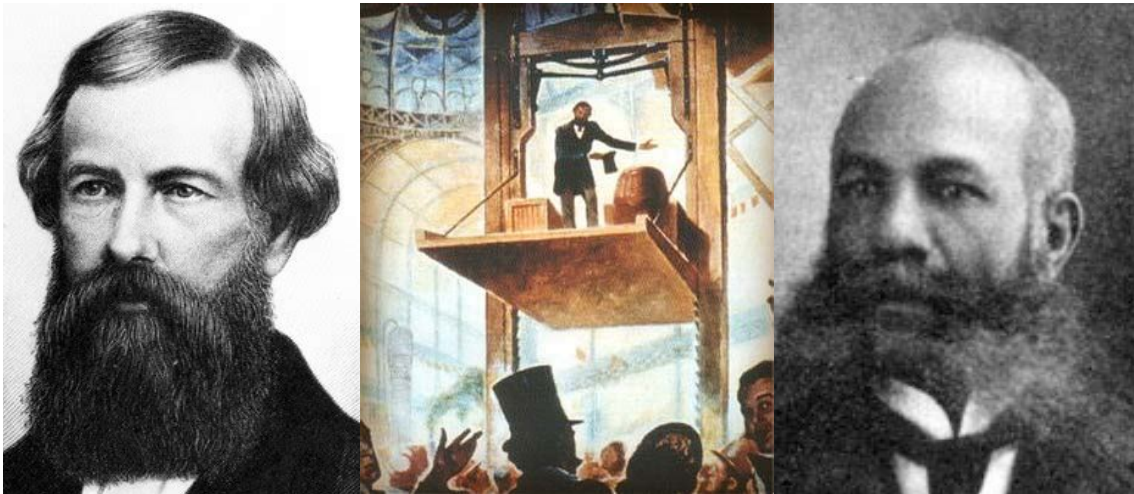
Elisha Graves Otis, His Invention, and Alexander Miles

First American Clock: A black man named **Benjamin Banneker** is alleged by fantasists to have created the first American timepiece in 1753. Yet, **Abel Cottey**, a Quaker clockmaker from Philadelphia built a clock that is dated 1709. Ironically, Banneker's own biographer, Silvio Bedini refutes the Banneker myth because several watch and clockmakers were already established in the colony of Maryland prior to the time that Banneker first built his clock.

In Annapolis alone there were at least four such craftsmen prior to 1750: These include John Batterson, a watchmaker who moved to Annapolis in 1723; James Newberry, a watch and clockmaker who advertised in the

Maryland Gazette on July 20, 1748; John Powell, a watch and clockmaker believed to have been indentured and to have been working in 1745; and Powell's master, William Roberts.

Much of the confusion that stubbornly persists over the true identities of the inventors of certain revolutionary technologies occurs for two basic reasons: First, is the inability of multiculturalists to distinguish between U.S. Patents issued for an ***ORIGINAL*** technological innovation, as opposed to the many so-called **"*Design Patents*"** that are issued for often subtle variations on the original design.

However, the greatest source of confusion clearly stems from the dishonesty and dubious *"scholarship"* characteristic of the VAST majority of so-called black *"academics"* in the U.S. Most are the beneficiaries of *affirmative-action*, who have misused their *"credentials"* to help perpetuate the undeniable catastrophe laughingly referred to as *"higher education"* in America. There, the pursuit of truth has been jettisoned as surely as academic standards.