

- 1 F** 1940: Dr. Charles Drew named supervisor of the "Plasma for Great Britain" project.
- 2 S** 1986: President Ronald Reagan appoints Edward J. Perkins ambassador to South Africa.
2000: James Perkins Jr. sworn in as Selma, Alabama's, first African American mayor.
- 3 S** 1956: Nat "King" Cole becomes first black performer to host his own TV show.
- 4 M** 1864: First black daily newspaper, *The New Orleans Tribune*, founded.
- 5 T** 1872: Booker T. Washington enters Hampton Institute, Virginia.
- 6 W** 1917: Political activist Fannie Lou Hamer born.
- 7 T** 1934: Playwright-poet Amiri Baraka (LeRoi Jones) born.
1993: Toni Morrison becomes the first African American to win the Nobel Prize in literature.
- 8 F** 1941: Rev. Jesse Jackson born in Greenville, South Carolina.
- 9 S** 1888: O.B. Clare patents trestle.
2001: Dr. Ruth Simmons, first African American leader of an Ivy League institution, elected 18th president of Brown University.
- 10 S** 1899: Isaac R. Johnson patents bicycle frame.
- 11 M** **Columbus Day Observed**
1887: Granville T. Woods patents telephone system and apparatus.
1887: Alexander Miles patents elevator.
- 12 T** 1904: Physician and scholar W. Montague Cobb born.
- 13 W** 1579: Martin de Porres, first black saint in the Roman Catholic church, born.
1876: Meharry Medical College founded, established as the Meharry Medical Department of Central Tennessee College.
- 14 T** 1964: At age 35, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. becomes youngest man to win Nobel Peace Prize.
- 15 F** 1991: Clarence Thomas confirmed as an associate justice of U.S. Supreme Court.
- 16 S** 1984: Bishop Desmond Tutu wins Nobel Peace Prize.
- 17 S** 1888: Capital Savings Bank of Washington, D.C., first bank for blacks, organized.
- 18 M** 1948: Playwright Ntozake Shange, author of *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When The Rainbow Is Enuf*, born.
- 19 T** 1943: Paul Robeson opens in *Othello* at the Shubert Theater in New York City.
- 20 W** 1898: The first black-owned insurance company, North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Co., founded.
- 21 T** 1917: Trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie, pioneer of bebop, born.
- 22 F** 1953: Clarence S. Green becomes first black certified in neurological surgery.
- 23 S** 1947: NAACP petitions United Nations on racial conditions in the U.S.
- 24 S** **United Nations Day**
1980: Judge Patrick Higginbotham finds Republic National guilty in discrimination case.
- 25 M** 1992: Toronto Blue Jays manager Cito Gaston becomes first African American to manage a team to a World Series title.
- 26 T** 1911: Mahalia Jackson, gospel singer, born.
- 27 W** 1954: Benjamin O. Davis Jr. becomes first black general in U.S. Air Force.
- 28 T** 1981: Edward M. McIntyre elected first African American mayor of Augusta, Georgia.
1998: President Bill Clinton declares HIV/AIDS a health crisis in racial minority communities.
- 29 F** 1949: Alonzo G. Moron becomes first black president of Hampton Institute, Virginia.
- 30 S** 1979: Richard Arrington elected first African American mayor of Birmingham, Alabama.
- 31 S** **Halloween**
Daylight Saving Time Ends
1896: Actress, singer Ethel Waters born.
1899: William F. Burr patents switching device for railways.



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Katie Dawson, R.H.D., B.S.



DENTAL HYGIENIST

Katie Dawson

R.H.D., B.S. Oakland, CA

While her lifelong dream is to one day be a backup singer for Luther Vandross, dental hygienist Katie Dawson appreciates the work she currently does each day with patients of all ages. "I like being in an atmosphere where you can make a positive difference. Most people are afraid of the dentist, but if you can put them at ease, the benefits of prevention and oral health are endless," she said.

She especially enjoys introducing young children to the dental chair. "We try to get them to want to do what their parents are doing. We count teeth with them and shine the light in their mouths. When it's time to have their teeth really checked, they can't wait for the appointment," she said.

For elderly patients, Ms. Dawson said, her focus is on cleaning teeth so food is appetizing. Recalling an elderly man in a wheelchair, she said, "After I finished cleaning his teeth and handed him a mirror, a big smile appeared on his face. That was a pleasant experience for me. No one wants to eat when there is pain in the mouth. I hope to be able to provide relief from pain and discomfort."

Her career in dentistry began when her brother, Dr. Robert Flennaugh, a general dentist in Seattle, Washington, who also practices dentistry for the Seattle

Seahawks football team, suggested she consider the benefits of a flexible and independent profession. "I went back to school and graduated when I was 30, when everyone else in the class was 20 or 21," she said, adding that at that time she was recently divorced and caring for her young son, Tony.

Now Ms. Dawson is vice president of the American Dental Hygienists' Association, which is 38,000 members strong. She's also past president of the National Dental Hygienists' Association and served as the hygienist representative on the Dental Board of California, a governor-appointed position. "I love volunteering in my professional associations. It satisfies the lawyer in me. I like to debate and challenge issues adversely affecting consumers," she said.

She's also chair of the planning committee for her 40th high school class reunion. "Our class was unique because we experienced the Kennedy assassination together in 1963. I remember how everyone in the school just fell apart," said Ms. Dawson, who expects to become a grandmother in March 2004.



Postcard

From the "Comic" series, published by Julius Bien and Company, New York, circa 1907.

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