

1972 Beverly Harrell defended her decision not to admit an African American man to her brothel at Lida Junction—"a bordello should have a choice of who they entertain"—but Nevada Equal Rights Commission director Tony McCormick said a formal complaint would be filed against her.

1972 Four years after Orangeburg, two years after Kent State and Jackson State, African American students Leonard Brown and Denver Smith were shot and killed at a Southern University protest in Baton Rouge, with law enforcement officers suspected but never charged or prosecuted.

1975 Daniel James became the first African American four star general.

1980 Lt. Col. Arnaldo Tamayo Méndez of Cuba became the first African American in space when he was launched by the Soviet Union in Soyuz 38 on an eight day mission.

1981 Nineteen-year-old African American Michael Donald of Mobile, Alabama, was lynched by four Klansman who chose him at random and beat him to death in anger over the mistrial of an unrelated black man.

1984 The Center for the Study of Social Policy reported that while African Americans had made political gains in the previous

quarter century, they made no economic gains at all.

1988 Las Vegas hanger-on Jimmy "the Greek" Snyder was fired by CBS for comments that African Americans could push whites out of sports management and blacks had been bred during slavery to produce stronger children: "The slave owner would breed his big black to his big woman so that he could have a big black kid ... If they take over coaching jobs like everybody wants them to, there's not going to be anything left for white people."

1989 Douglas Wilder was elected Virginia governor and David Dinkins was elected mayor of New York City, the first African Americans elected to both posts and, in Wilder's case, the first elected black governor in U.S. history.

1993 Carol Moseley-Braun was sworn in as the first female African American U.S. senator.

1993 The African Burial Ground, a colonial era cemetery for blacks unearthed at 290 Broadway in 1991 during excavation for a planned federal building in New York City, was declared a historical landmark.

1996 During competing Ann Arbor rallies and after a liberal leader urged protesters to "look

for people who may be identifying themselves with the other side and deal with them appropriately," protestors began chasing Confederate flag-wearing Albert McKeel, Jr., knocked him to the ground, and kicked him, whereupon African American teen Keisha Thomas threw herself over him to protect him from the angry liberals, producing a memorable newspaper photo.

1997 Census Bureau figures reported an estimated 34 million African Americans living in the United States, comprising 12.7 percent of the total population.

2000 After blocking confirmation for five months, Republicans finally allowed the U.S. Senate to approve Johnnie Rawlinson of Nevada for a seat on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, the first African American woman on the court.

2004 A marker was dedicated in Virginia City commemorating African Americans on the Comstock near the site of the Boston Saloon, a black-owned business of the 1860s that was the subject of a 1999 dig by archaeologist Kelly Dixon.

2008 Barack Obama was elected president of the United States, the first African American to hold the post.



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