

February 22, 1988

Debi Thomas, figure skater, won an Olympic bronze medal during the Winter Games held in Alberta, Canada, on this day. She also was the first Black skater to win both the U.S. and the World Figure Skating Championships in 1986. Thomas retired from skating in 1992 to enter medical school. She graduated from Northwestern Medical School in 1997. She earned a bachelor of science degree from Stanford University. Thomas recently was inducted into the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame.

February 23, 1868

W.E.B. DuBois, teacher, editor, poet and scholar, was born on this day in Great Barrington, MA. William Edward Burghardt DuBois was one of the most prominent and influential Black leaders of the 20th century. He earned a bachelor's degree from Fisk University in Nashville, TN, in 1885. He later earned another bachelors degree as well as a doctorate from Harvard University. He was one of the founding fathers of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). DuBois also served as the organization's director of publications and the editor of Crisis magazine until 1934. He wrote numerous books and literary works that supported his belief that Blacks as a whole had to cultivate their own aesthetic and cultural values even as they made strides through social emancipation. Some of his works include The Souls of Black Folk, The Negro, Darkwater, Dusk of Dawn and The World and Africa. He died at the age of 95 in 1963.