

**Black Men (always in progress)**

i. pianists

The nasty little creole negro, Jelly Roll Morton,  
'Ferdinand.'

The derby-topped mustachioed minstrel, Fats Wal-  
ler, 'Thomas.'

The wheel Fats Domino 'Antoine,' (before and  
after Katrina).

And 'King' Cole (or the "king of coal" as one Dixie deejay joned),  
Nat, colluded in the suppression of the drum  
in North American culture.

ii. the (only) athlete

Jack  
Roosevelt  
Robinson, 'Jackie,'  
1947, integrated white  
baseball a portion of the game  
devoted to controlling himself:  
grandson of a slave the Negro Leagues

overqualified Branch an experiment: insults,  
loneliness, and abuse 'hey boy, come pick  
my cotton.' tensions high and  
Rachel

in the stands rooting. (Rachel al-  
ways rooting) Pee Wee 29 stolen  
bases the death of the Ne-  
gro Leagues. Star of his  
own bio flick

Jack

ie.

C a m p a i g n i n g  
for Nixon in 1960.  
Derided by Malcolm  
X as a 'Tom.' The death of  
J a c k i e J r.  
Did he really do  
more for the Negro

than Martin Luther  
King Jr.? Did Malcolm X  
really read 'Uncle Tom's Cabin'?

iii.  
(charismatic) leaders

Attach those 'Jr.s,' Daddy King.  
Martin Luther King, 'Mike.' Silk pajamas. Did he benefit the  
negro? did he hate women?

or just Ella Baker?<sup>1</sup> (Izola Curry King'd come into  
Birmingham or Albany or Selma in 2 ways. First  
way: During the day and with him come front  
page Pulitzer winners and other paparazzis. And  
then in three days he'd leave—and leave the clean-  
up to the foot soldiers. Second : by night with his  
crowd of preachers and such. After a plate of  
smothered short ribs, mac and cheese, collards,  
candied sweets, wanting pussy, King'd say to his  
confreres, "Time to go souling."  
Lived a thrice charmed life, King did—long as he  
lived it.

Malcolm Little, Malcolm X, 'El Hajj Malik El  
Shabazz.' (Spike's spooky X?)  
Made a lot of claims. Had character. Feared  
women.

His mother was a light skinned woman driven mad  
by disembodied members on rail lines.

Sister Betty, 'Bahiyah'—that firebombed house in  
East Elmhurst, a  
twisted prophecy for you. (He impregnated you  
between lectures, meetings, hajjes. But you let him  
and the nation know you never came.)

Feared women  
or felt culpable over the women he claimed he  
pimped?  
'Detroit Red