

BOOKS IN BRIEF

The Agitator's Daughter: A Memoir of Four Generations of One Extraordinary African-American Family by Sheryll Cashin (PublicAffairs, \$26). The author, a professor of law at Georgetown University, is best known for *The Failures of Integration*, a study of the impact of racial separatism on communities, schools and other critical institutions in American life. Here she takes a personal approach, recalling and paying tribute to her family's legacy of political activism, a pattern stretching at least as far back as Reconstruction.

Black Women In The Ivory Tower, 1850-1954: An Intellectual History by Stephanie Y. Evans (Univ. Press of Florida, \$24.95). Evans, a professor of African American Studies and Women's Studies at the University of Florida, traces the Black female intellectual tradition, detailing its richness and depth. Her research includes close examination of autobiographies by significant Black women scholars and a pointed look at how studies such as hers can be used to eliminate persistent inequalities in higher education.

Planet Walker: 17 Years of Silence. 22 Years of Walking by John Francis (National Geographic, \$26). Francis was so affected by a 1971 oil spill in San Francisco Bay that he took up a life of work on behalf of the environment. His activism first included completely abandoning motorized transportation, then expanded into a vow of silence that lasted nearly two decades. Now director of Planetwalk, a nonprofit environmental education group, he still travels across the globe on a mission to improve our respect for natural resources. He shares his thoughts and experiences in this booklength blend of memoir and practical suggestions.

The Skull Cage Key by Michel Marriott (Bolden, \$15). Now a journalism professor at Baruch College, The City University of New York, Marriott builds on his long career as a technology writer to produce a science-fiction thriller set in 21st-century Harlem. Against a backdrop of sex, murder and designer distractions, a young Black professional named Armstrong Black evades the authorities after being accused of a heinous crime that he didn't commit.

