

THE MBC WOLVERINE
OBSERVER
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Vol. 59, No. 3 Atlanta, GA February Telling It Like It Is!



THE REV. Morris Brown of Philadelphia
Second Bishop Of The African Methodist Episcopal Church
Of The United States.

MBC Designates Durham as New Development Officer

by Karon Ammons

In the midst of all the changes to decrease Morris Brown's deficit, a new fund raiser has been added to the school's staff.

Curtis Durham, a 29-year-old native of Chicago, was contacted in his hometown after submitting his resume for the new position of Development Officer (in charge of the organization and implementation of fundraising programs) in July of last year. After talking it over with his wife and 3-year-old son, Durham agreed to take the job in August.

Three weeks after arriving at his Atlanta office, Durham realized he would be faced with the

challenging task of completing the formation of a computer system for recording and storing donations made to the college.

"Because the college is in a state of change, so is the Development Office. The Vice President (of Developmental Services, Dr. Bernard Smith) had started some things, so I had to assume the responsibility of completing them," Durham said. "There were a lot of things happening that were new to the college. When I came, they began to put the computer system in place, so it needed to be finished."

But the job shouldn't be too

much to handle for a man viewed as well-organized, dedicated and understanding by the people who work closely with him.

"He's a pretty nice guy who seems to know all about his job. I thought I would never be able to work a computer. But I enjoy what I do now because he put it in such a way that I can understand what I'm doing and what is required of me," said Anthony Goodwin, a sophomore work study student.

Sitting behind a somewhat cluttered desk in front of a book shelf stuffed with books and papers, Durham said it is the

plight of black colleges that lured him to MBC.

"All black colleges are having financial problems. I wanted to get involved in fundraisers to see how I could get corporations, foundations and the alumni involved," he said.

Fundraising wasn't Durham's first choice, however. With a major in Radio and Television Production, he received a Bachelor of Science degree from the School of Communications at Southern Illinois University. He worked producing audio visuals that Human Services used as fundraising tools. Soon he was

writing government proposals and decided to do some soliciting of his own.

Durham eventually got a job with the Du Sable Museum of African-American history as Development Assistant. He worked there for 3½ years before coming to MBC, where he plans to remain until his job is finished and he has gained as much knowledge as he can.

Durham said, "I need to learn what is involved in this job to use it for my further career growth. In case I can't be here forever, I should have acquired some good experience."

On January 5, 1986
Morris Brown College
Celebrated Its
105th Birthday



AT LAST...



January 20 National Holiday

Pres. Smith has Unknown Plans for Vacant Campus Buildings

by Kathy Lightfoot

Jordan Hall and Gaines Hall, both have been vacant for about three years now. According to Mr. Jimmie Anderson, Director of Physical Plant, President Smith has some long-term ideals in mind for Jordan Hall that are inter-related with the Hotel/Restaurant Management Program. "But," said Anderson, "he has not privileged the administration with his ideals."

There are no plans as of yet for Gaines Hall.

Alumni Affairs Office Relocates

by Karon Ammons

The Alumni Affairs Office has relocated to increase productivity and have greater access to a new computerized system, Development Officer, Curtis Durham said.

According to Durham, the original location of Alumni Affairs did not provide accessibility to the Development Office's new IBM Personal Computer (IBM-PC).

Developmental Services and the new Alumni Affairs offices are located on the second floor of the Administration Building. The Alumni offices were originally on the first floor of the building.

The Development Office is responsible for the coordination, implementation and recording of the college's fundraising programs. It solicits grants from corporations, the government, alumni, friends, faculty and staff.

Alumni Affairs maintains contact with alumni and their

regional chapters, and is responsible for soliciting, collecting and recording donations received from the alumni.

To make these processes accurate, easy to employ and productive the Development Office purchased an IBM-PC — at the cost of about \$10,000 — that will store approximately 9,000 donors and their contributions, according to Durham.

"Work-study students are putting in all the alumni on the roster, then their donations. Hopefully, by the end of the semester, we will have a complete database," he said.

Durham says that the PC will enable Developmental Services and alumni affairs to press a button and call up records on any donors — a process that takes hours to do manually. He added that a phone-a-thon (where alumni are called and asked to give donations) can be initiated, after all donor information is stored.

Editorial Comments

Editor Speaks

by Kathy Lightfoot

On behalf of the Wolverine Observer staff I'd like to welcome all new and returning students. I wish you all a Happy New Year.

On January 20, 1986, we were blessed to see a tribute long overdue. The first National Holiday for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. finally came to a reality after much unnecessary contemplating by a few white supremacists, which shows us how far we've come. We are also blessed to see another Black History Month. This is a time of reflecting and giving thanks to those, other than God Almighty himself, who fought and died so that one day a black man could run for president, we could go to the college of our choice, go into any restaurant we so desire, have more job opportunities, and etc.

Even though we've come this far by faith, we still have a long way to go. Where do we go from here? But first, where are we now? Funds for our education are being cut to support military purposes, the black family is weakening, President Reagan

and others want to cut out Affirmative Action, which makes sure that a certain percentage of blacks are hired to certain jobs. We're most likely to drop out of school and soon the case will be that you can't get a job at all, for example, a poultry plant, unless you have a high school diploma.

We're even killing each other off and not only adults, but children and teenagers also. I'll give you evidence of such an event. A Rock County (Wisconsin) 11 year old girl was involved in the stabbing of a 9 year old boy, Anthony D. Wilson, after quarreling over his bicycle. A 14 year old boy also was charged in connection with the killing. (Jet, Jan. 13, 1986)

How bad can it get? Worse, if we don't come up with some solutions. But we don't have far to look because the solutions lie within each black individual. We need to stay in school and educate our minds and excel, learn about our heritage, and contribute to the economic power of the black business. It depends on us whether or not we make it.

Help.

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Is The Wolverine Observer Child's Play?

NOTE: This editorial was run in the 1985 January issue. It was written by Alumnus Hiram Andrades. As editor I felt compelled to let the students know what all goes into producing the Wolverine Observer.

by Hiram Andrades

Some people may feel that putting together the Wolverine Observer is child's play. Well, that's all well and good because everyone's entitled to their opinion. I would hope that anyone who feels this way would come out and work with us on an issue and develop your opinion on the basis of experience and not speculations. The Observer Staff Meetings are every Thursday at 7:00 p.m. (now Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.) in the Student Publications Office located in the Hickman Student Center.

In order that you may have a clearer picture of what goes on in the assembly of our college newspaper, I'll tell you about it. Let me begin by saying, I hold the office of Business Manager for the Wolverine Observer. I am also part-time reporter, part-time typist, and part-time layout consultant.

Because of the lack of participation on the part of students at Morris Brown, especially English majors and Mass Communication majors, most if not all of the Staff members carry 3 and 4 responsibilities. I hope that as a result of this editorial faculty members will encourage students and more will come out to help.

The process of putting the college newspaper together begins with a staff meeting. At this meeting the Editor will issue the stories that are relevant at the

time. Because we are a monthly publication, the lack of space does not permit all of the stories to be published. Writing the stories is the easy part of this process.

After the stories are written, the Staff begins editing the articles preparing them to be typed. This is rather easy too! It is interesting to see what angle your fellow staff member has chosen to write their story from. In the past, the English Department has aided the Observer Staff in this endeavor.

Following the editing of articles, the fun part begins. The Staff is forced to type these articles on re-conditioned typing machines. These machines constantly break down and need repairs.

In any case, following the typing of these articles, they are sent to be hot waxed. There was a time when the publisher would pick up and deliver the articles and the pressed copy. The hot pressing takes one to two days and is delivered to and from by Staff members, in order to cut cost.

After the wax copies come back, it's LAYOUT TIME!! This is the most tedious and time consuming process of assembling the newspaper. One must be willing to sacrifice an evening from 6:00 pm to 12:00 midnight or 1:00 am. If this does not demonstrate the type of dedication that not only the Staff, but the Editor has to oversee the entire process, I don't know what will. Some stories don't make it into the laid-out copy because there is not enough space. Maybe if we had more pages we could print more stories, if the budget allowed it.

It takes three days for the paper you see to come back. This is the most satisfying part of this process, at least for the Staff it is. To see the story you wrote and the page you helped layout gives you a good feeling of a job well done.

Along with the difficult task of assembling the college newspaper, the Observer Staff is faced with the inefficiency of the Business Office. At the time we went to press, the Wolverine Observer's last issue had not been paid. In the long run this stops us from printing anymore newspapers. Whether this is done intentionally, I really don't know. I do know that the Business Office takes one of the few things that is done for the students and by the students.

Last year around this same time we didn't have a newspaper! Will this be the case this year? As the song goes ... "Time will reveal." This Staff is ready to deal with this dilemma.

Now that you know what it is like to put a newspaper together and the problems that the Wolverine Observer Staff are up against, I hope that more intelligent statements are made when referring to the Wolverine Observer.

After all, the Wolverine Observer has brought prestige to MBC. We are an award winning newspaper. Some people might tend to think that this is not a serious achievement, but to the Staff that did all of the work, it is!!

Maybe this will make you think twice about throwing it in the garbage before you read it! After all, we, the students, pay for it!!



Billie Holiday

Opinions expressed in articles and letters are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect either the opinions or the policies of the college or the Wolverine Observer.

Cafeteria Crime

by Cheryl C. Holland

When I say cafeteria crime I mean crimes that are done with the food we eat. I'm saying that what is put out for us to eat isn't always good.

The cooks fix food we usually do not want or they have leftovers mixed with a new mixture of food. Now I say if you didn't like it in one form what will you do with it in another form. The food sometimes isn't cooked well enough or not hot enough or even warm.

The salad bar is a joke to me. It's a nice set up, but they mess up when they don't fix it up. You get a variety and that's good. I like that. But with stuff like

mustard, mayonnaise, ketchup or tarter sauce, they never have it when you need it or they just will not bring it out. It is possible that they might be out, but with the attitude of the people they act like they don't care if we have it or not.

Cafeteria games played with our money and food. Why? I don't know. They serve us good food when you come back at the beginning of each semester, but some weeks later the food we used to get is not there anymore. They need to stop playing games with our stomachs and put the real food on the trays. Hey, students, lets take a bite out of crime.

Templeton's 'Lest We Forget' Exhibit Held in AUC

Almost two decades of work by nationally-known artist Robert Templeton was on view at Emory University Schatten Gallery in the Robert W. Woodruff Library from February 1-28 in the exhibition, "Lest We Forget ... Images of the Black Civil Rights Movement."

After completing a Time magazine cover of the Detroit riots in 1967, Templeton began to record the people and events of the black civil rights movement.

observance of his birth. In addition, the exhibit is timed to coincide with the national observance of Black History Month.

Templeton hoped the exhibit would serve to move and to educate its audience on the turbulent struggle by both black and white leaders to achieve equality for all members of society. He feels this to be of particular importance since young people, including many college-age students, did not experience the embroiled civil rights movement of the 1960s or the deaths of Martin Luther King, Jr., Robert Kennedy and John F. Kennedy.

Many of Robert Templeton's



MALCOLM X

Included in this powerful exhibition are portraits of Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. DuBois, Malcolm X, Rosa Parks, Hubert Humphrey, Booker T. Washington and Atlanta Constitution editor Ralph McGill. The curator for the exhibit is Prof. Jontyle Theresa Robinson.

The exhibition is dominated by an enormous painting (84' x



LANGSTON HUGHES

94") of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The collection is a tribute to this great civil rights leader during the period of the first national paintings hang in such well-known places as the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery (portraits of Jimmy Carter and Hubert Humphrey), the Pentagon and the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library. Among his many credits, Templeton has received commissions for portraits and paintings from Time magazine, the National Portrait Gallery, Luciano Pavarotti and Joan Sutherland.

Hours for Schatten Gallery are: Mon.-Thurs. from 8-12 a.m., Fri. from 8 a.m.-10 p.m., Sat. from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sun. from 1 p.m.-12 a.m.



BOOKER T. WASHINGTON

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The Wolverine is designed to inform the students, faculty and administration of Morris Brown College, and to serve as a communication channel between the Morris Brown family and the community. The Wolverine Observer reserves the right to edit articles. Opinions expressed in articles and letters are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect either the opinions or policies of the college.

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Political Perspective

The Black Revolution is Green

by Kim (Sloan) Ashanti

It's time for a revolution Black America. No, I'm not talking about Prince and the Revolution or physical war but an economic revolution. Malcolm X predicted that Capitalism would die because it was a blood sucking system using weaker nations as its prey and one day these nations would become stronger and there wouldn't be any blood for America to suck which would bring catastrophe to Capitalism.

Brother Malcolm's prediction jumped into my mind the other day as I watched the news. America had a \$15.5 billion trade deficit. That means that America bought \$15.5 billion more than what she sold and any business major on

campus can tell you what happens to a business that buys more than it sells.

The dollar that we use today isn't what it used to be. It once was backed by gold and silver but now it's a mere federal reserve note with more sound value.

The dollar is backed by the gross national product of the country. Although dropping for the rest of the country, the unemployment rate went from 14 percent to 16 percent for blacks. So what does this mean to Black Americans?

Through my critical analytical thinking these statistics are saying that America's power is being narrowed and white folks will obey a law of nature, which

blacks have perpetually neglected called self preservation. This is forcing blacks to strive to do something for themselves. We can't go down town and picket for jobs anymore. We must produce jobs for ourselves.

Did you know that Black Americans have a purchasing power of over \$200 billion which makes us the ninth richest country on earth.

Even right here at Morris Brown where we have the best Business Department in the AUC that is ranked at the top of the list with the other colleges - we concentrate on getting jobs with I.B.M., learning job interviewing techniques so that we won't scratch where we don't itch

when we beg for a job. But there is no special class or seminar on entrepreneurship to teach us to become producers for our community needs and create jobs for other blacks.

As consumers we must support black businesses as much as possible. The fact that we don't do this has caused substantial loss to black economics. The money doesn't go around one time in the black community. Yet all other ethnic groups turn their money over 5 to 12 times before it leaves. Black Americans should check out what Louis Farrakhan and Tony Brown are saying when they talk about black economics. We can't afford to miss it.

Although African-Americans have a big investment in

America, for it was built on the blood, sweat, tears and exploitation of our people, white people will have no sympathy on us.

You see America has what can be called the new nigger. I know you're somewhat baffled by the term, and I'm not writing to confuse you but to help you grow. So let me explain.

The new niggers are Hispanics and computers. Latins are a minority group in America and are rapidly increasing and America is already highly computerized. This means by the year 2000 or sooner America will have no need to exploit blacks; so if we don't become self-reliant, we just might be like the Bald Eagle ... Extinct!

Black Identity: African Antiquity to America

by Kirby "Jasiri" Solomon

"A race of people is like an individual man; until it uses its own talent, takes pride in its own history, expresses its own culture, affirms its own self, it can never fulfill itself." Our history and our culture were completely destroyed when we were forcibly brought to America in chains. And now it is important for us to know that our history did not begin with slavery's scars.

We come from Africa, a great continent and a proud and varied people, a land which is the new world and was the cradle of civilization. Our culture and our history are as old as man himself and yet we know almost nothing of it. We must recapture our heritage and our identity if we are ever to liberate ourselves

from the bonds of white supremacy.

We must launch a cultural revolution to unbrainwash an entire people. Our cultural revolution must be the means of bringing us closer to our African brothers and sisters. It must begin in the community and be based on community participation. This cultural revolution will be the journey to the rediscovery of ourselves.

History is a people's memory, and without a memory, man is demoted to the lower animal. Armed with the knowledge of the past, we can with confidence charter a course for our future. Culture is an indispensable weapon in the freedom struggle. We must take hold of it and forge the future with the past.



Gramm-Rudman Miracle or Monster?

by Deloria Stewart
Clark Student

Why does the government always seem to cut programs that help others? The newly passed Gramm-Rudman-Hollings bill is no exception. Upon first examining the bill its purpose seems superb: cut the \$200 billion U.S. deficit. But after a close dissection of the bill and its planned course of action, it becomes apparent this is not an easy task.

The Gramm-Rudman-Hollings bill is supposed to lower the deficit yearly. But to do this it must cut some of our major government programs. There will be a 4.3 percent reduction in non-military programs and a 4.9 percent reduction in the defense program. The Medicare program will be cut by \$375 million and the guaranteed Student Loan Program will be cut by \$9.6 million. The Guaranteed Student Loan Program and the Medicare program do need changes in their budgeting but the change needed is an increase, not a decrease. The effect of cutting student loans, ultimately, means that students from low-income and middle-income families will lose financial assistance for college expenses.

The idea behind the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings bill is beautiful, but cutting the Guaranteed Student Loan Program and the Medicare program is creating a bigger monster than the \$200 billion deficit.

Has Movement of the 60's Been Forgotten in the 80's?

Someone said that we were supposed to be the strongest nation of people. Why aren't we?

We have been taught for years that the Civil Rights Movement is fighting for the rights of people. Why has it accomplished so little in the 1980s?

Blacks say that we have been down so low and so long that it has taught us to fight for what we want. It taught us that the white man is our enemy, and to beware. Did living through and living out slavery put irreversible hate in our hearts?

Black people give a lot of reasons for why we do not band together, and why we do not have any power. We blame it on the white man, the jew, and the other races ... when the truth is,

we don't like, respect, or support each other.

Get in trouble with the law and need an attorney; I bet your first thought is going to be to "get a white one; he's smart." Need a doctor? "You better get a white one; they know more." Our own doctors will go to a white doctor. Better still, go to your job and let a black person come in. See if you speak. Let a white person walk in and see don't you say "good morning."

Look around and see who is breaking into our homes; it's our own black brother. Drive down the street and get a traffic ticket. See won't the white policeman talk to you and the black one show you his gun. Let your son or daughter stand on the street and

get hurt. See won't the white person help you and the black one tell you, "it is not my business."

Look around you for the next few weeks at the brothers and sisters to see if you hear anything good from us. I assure you that in one hour you will be just as depressed as they are. If you don't believe this, walk into a black business tomorrow and test the waters. Do or say something positive. Ask for assistance. You will likely find a person who treats you badly, disrespects you, and then expects you to spend your money with a smile.

I say to you: let us reject this way of life and empower ourselves.

Right now there is little power among blacks because blacks don't support nor like each other.

The white man is not at fault because he really fears us and our power potential, but he also knows our lusts and can buy us off for a little money or a little fun. One of our biggest handicaps is this business of selling each other out. At this rate blacks will never make it. We are too against each other. We have done much to place ourselves in the position of being taken advantage of by whites. Our failures ultimately rest with us.

We are a great people that has gone astray, and there is no reward for those who can but won't. —A Black Worker in a Black Firm

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WE SHALL OVERCOME
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OH, DEEP IN MY HEART
I DO BELIEVE
WE SHALL OVERCOME SOMEDAY

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Features

Baldwin: From Teacher to Superintendent

by Kathy Lightfoot

Morris Brown College held its First Second Semester College Assembly on the 30th of January. It's guest speaker was Mrs. Beauty P. Baldwin, superintendent for the Buford City School System.

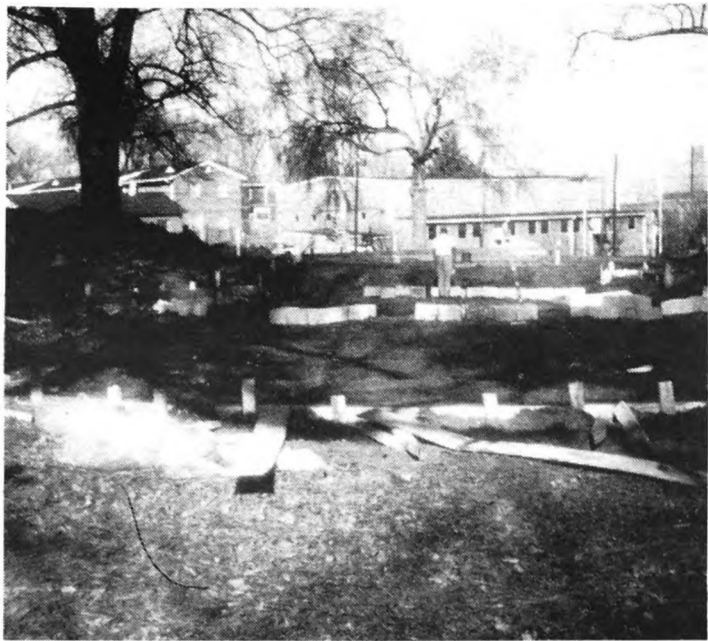
Mrs. Baldwin is a native of Baldwin County, Georgia. She now resides in Lawrenceville, Georgia. She is a college graduate of Savannah State College, Savannah, Georgia, with a B.S. Degree in Mathematics. She then attended the University of Georgia receiving a Masters Degree in Vocational Education, Vocational Administration, in Educational Administration, and received a Coordination Vocational Academic Education Certificate (CVAE).

Mrs. Baldwin has taught in several schools and has held many positions and has been a member of several different organizations and Advisory Boards.

Mrs. Baldwin's point throughout her speech was that even though the odds were against her, she made it anyway. She was an inspiration to the student, faculty, staff and administration.



Mrs. Beauty P. Baldwin



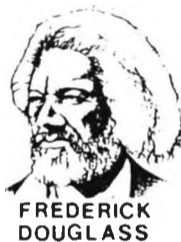
Construction of the new Founders Plaza is underway on the main yard of the campus. Founders Plaza will serve to beautify the campus and provide a platform for outdoor assemblies. Story next issue.

Important Dates in Black History

Feb. 8 - Three black students shot and killed during racial disturbance at South Carolina State College, 1968.

Feb. 12 - Black History Week founded by Carter G. Woodson, 1926.

Feb. 23 - W.E.B. Dubois, historian, born 1868.



FREDERICK DOUGLASS

Feb. 23 - Frederick Douglass, born 1917.

Student Spotlight

by Lisa Maria Hill

This issue's student spotlight is on Andrew Lockett. This North East Washingtonian is a junior majoring in Business Management and minoring in Political Science.

An active student of Morris Brown College, Andrew is the SGA's Student Congress Coordinator. His major responsibilities are to run the student congress meetings and report to the SGA President of MBC. He is also on the Board of Directors of the United States Student Association. He serves as a representative for the southeastern region. This area includes Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Alabama.

The United States Student Association is a national lobbying organization composed of and formed by college students from across the country. Its headquarters are based in Washington, D.C. Elections for

members are held in Chicago at a national conference. The present membership includes students from over four hundred colleges, but is predominately white.

One of Lockett's primary tasks is to recruit membership from the southeast region. His major concern is to increase black involvement. "There is not enough black participation," said Lockett. When asked if he attributed the problem to apathy, his reply was that he feels black students are interested, but not informed. Lockett stated that changes are being made.

Falling under the sign of Capricorn, Andrew appears to be a sports fan. Formerly the sports editor for the Wolverine Observer, he is also a member of the Tennis Team.

As you can see, Brownite Andrew Lockett is a busy man, but he is only following his personal motto: "Live each day, day to day, minute by minute."

POET'S CORNER

Afrikan People

The New Year is here
yet the old is still new
For what went on in the past
still goes on today.

We are deprived people
economically, politically, and mentally
We are this way because there are those of us
who do not wish to change their state
along with those who wish to assimilate
with the oppressor who chooses to welcome you
For the sole purpose of destruction and elimination
of our Afrikan people.

That is their aim while ours is unity
It is time to decide which position
of the ladder you wish to stand upon
The higher steps of unity should be your choice
if not, I along with others who share
in my beliefs wish to bid you a farewell.

The year goes on
without your assistance
in the struggle
For Afrikan people of the world.

-Peace-
Kirby "Jasiri" Solomon

True Black Love
Consists of These Rules

Reassure me when I'm afraid
Miss me when I'm away
Keep good the vows you made
Believe in what I say
Laugh with me when I'm happy
Cry with me when I'm blue
And when you say you love me
Really prove your love is true
Correct me when I'm wrong
Stand by me when I'm right
Think of me in the morning
Dream of me at night
Comfort me when I'm lonely
Have faith in what I do
Follow me to the end of the earth
As I would follow you.

By Linda R. Bond

Getting MBA, Good Business Sense for Minorities

(Los Angeles) - Blacks and Hispanics often do not consider getting graduate business degrees despite the fact that many opportunities exist for minorities in management careers. To address this problem, the Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC), a non-profit organization of 76 of the nation's leading graduate management schools, has launched a nationwide, two-year communications campaign that suggests minority undergraduate students and graduates already in the work force consider the Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree.

Judith Goodman, chair of the GMAC's Minority Projects Coordinating Committee and Director of Admissions and Student Services for the Graduate School of Business Administration at the University of Michigan, notes that the first phase of the outreach campaign focused on identifying the causes for the declining number of blacks and Hispanics who apply for admission and complete MBA programs.

"Interviews conducted with blacks and Hispanics in five cities across the country revealed that minority students were concerned about issues such as the decisiveness of test scores and

GPA's in the selection process, lack of information about what jobs are available with an MBA, and the availability of financial aid," Goodman said.

"Despite the misconceptions held by students, follow-up with alumni of graduate management programs indicates that more and more blacks and Hispanics are achieving their career goals in the corporate and public sectors, as entrepreneurs and in their communities," said Goodman.

Minority MBAs already in the work force support this view. For example, Leo Somerset, vice president and manager of commercial loans - Western Region, at Colwell Financial Corporation in Los Angeles said, "the MBA provided a competitive edge by opening doors which would probably not have been open otherwise."

Elizabeth Lopez, a financial associate at Mobil Corporation in New York, expressed similar satisfaction about her decision to pursue an MBA.

"As far as a corporate career is concerned," Lopez said, "no matter what your skill level, you can only get so far without an MBA. Now that I've earned an MBA, I'm not only motivated by higher earnings, but I especially enjoy the prospect of excellent advancement opportunities."

The disparity between the perceptions of students and those of successful minorities who have earned MBAs will be addressed in the GMAC campaign, according to Goodman.

Basketball Update



Next Issue



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Aid to Poor Families Increase

An investment of \$50 million in state funds to help poor families could result in a whopping \$348 million boost to the Georgia economy, says an expert on the state Aid to Families with Dependent Children program.

The proposal to increase funding to the program, the most important form of assistance to poor families, has the endorsement of churches, the state association of County Commissioners, the Medical Association of Georgia, and organizations that assist the poor, says Betsy Stone.

Economists estimate that the increase would result in the creation of at least 5,000 private-sector jobs, says Stone. "At the same time, the plan promises to greatly improve the quality of life of the 166,000 children whose parents provide for them with the help of Aid to Families with Dependent Children."

Stone, director of the Public Assistance Coalition, discussed the state's AFDC program in an article for the Georgia Forum, a non-profit organization that invites experts to comment on state issues.

Stone advocates an increase in AFDC benefits to raise benefits to 100 percent of the "standard of need," the amount of cash the state has determined a family requires — in addition to food

stamps and Medicaid benefits — for subsistence.

At present low-income children and their caretakers are allowed a maximum monthly payment of 61 percent of the standard of need. A family of three (the average size household receiving AFDC in Georgia), receives a maximum of \$223 in cash a month, although the state calculates that such a household needs \$366.

Poor families with children are unable to pay for clothing, transportation, housing and utilities with AFDC benefits at the current level, say advocates of the increase. They add that since 1969 inflation has robbed the payments of 20 percent of their purchasing power. "This has hurt poor children in Georgia," says Stone. "It has also hurt local businesses. The poverty of poor families 'trickles up' to storekeepers and landlords."

Supporters of increasing AFDC payments to 100 percent of the standard of need say the cost to the state would be \$50 million. For each dollar the state contributes under the program, the federal government matches it with about two. Thus, the boost would pump another \$147 million directly into the state economy.

Economists estimate that this expenditure would actually

result in an increase of at least 2.37 times that amount in buying power because of a multiplier effect. The actual benefit to local economies of the AFDC boost would be \$348 million, or nearly seven times the state's original investment.

The net cost to the state is even lower than the amount appropriated, said Stone, since there is a substantial return to the state treasury in tax dollars on this \$348 million.

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