



# Wolverine OBSERVER

March 1999

- THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY - MAKING THE CONNECTION! -

## Wolverine OBSERVER Takes First Place... Again!

The staff of the *Wolverine Observer* has every reason to be proud...the publication was awarded "First Place, Outstanding College Newspaper" in the Senior College Division at the recently concluded 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Southern Regional Press Institute convention and competition at Savannah State University. The publication also won first and second place "Outstanding Senior College Feature Writing." This is the third award since the reintroduction of the publication in the fall of 1996.

Morris Brown's other usually successful publication at this annual competition, *The Brownite Yearbook*, received "Honorable Mention" as it was the lone entry

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## L.A.W DAY

Morris Brown Student Bar Association in the Legal Studies Department organized its first annual "Law Day" held on March 9, 1999. Our theme this year was "Blacks And The Law." Our purpose is to spread the word in the Atlanta University Center, and throughout the Atlanta community about the many ways that the law affects black people. We presented a student symposium on Blacks And The Law which was held in the Legal Studies Department.



Charles Hamilton Houston (1895-1950). Courtesy of Charles H. Houston, Jr., and Moorland-Spangarn Research Center, Howard University, Washington, D.C. (see historical spotlight)

## More Black Lawyers Needed

By William H. De Sousa Sheppard, J.D., LL.M.  
CHAIRPERSON, MBC LEGAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

As we reflect on some of the written expressions of Morris Brown students regarding legal matters of the *Wolverine Observer*, it is important to note that there is a widespread misconception that the percentage of black lawyers in American has significantly increased since the Civil Rights Movement. This perception exists because of the expansion of various educational opportunities; the greater visibility of black judges; increased visibility of black lawyers in movies and on television; and more recently, the high visibility of lawyers like Johnnie Cochran, and Cheryl Miller, a member of President Clinton's impeachment defense legal team.

Prior to the Civil Rights Movement, the percentage of black lawyers was less than one percent. Today, the percentage of all minority lawyers in America is less than two percent. Among paralegals and legal assistants, the percentages are believed to be the same. Raw numbers may have changed, but the percentages of black legal professionals in this country has remained constant.

Misconceptions about the actual number of black lawyers are present in the larger

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## FEATURES

- ▼ Benton's Corner
- ▼ Campus News
- ▼ City News
- ▼ Campus Organizations Classifieds
- ▼ Editorials
- ▼ Entertainment
- ▼ In My Opinion
- ▼ Open Letter
- ▼ Politics
- ▼ Religion News
- ▼ Sports
- ▼ Views & Expressions
- ▼ Wholistically Speaking

## Founders Day March 25<sup>th</sup> 1999



By Karon A. Daniel  
MBC - COLLEGE RELATIONS

*Founded on Service, Grounded in Excellence, and Anchored in Tradition.*

Founders Day gives us pause to honor the legacy of the men and women whose collective vision became the Morris Brown College we know today. Pictured are founders Stewart Wiley (top), John Wesley Gaines (middle), and the first president of the board of trustees, Bishop William F. Dickerson.

## Important Dates to Remember

- See Page 12 -



Mrs. Priscilla Jenkins, Director for the Center For A Global Workforce and Community Service (second from left) enjoying conversation of memories with senior residents of Friendship Towers, Southeast Atlanta during the "Intergenerational Valentine's" celebration day with Morris Brown.

## Valentine's Day is...

(See story on page 5)

# Legal Studies Historical Spotlight

## Blacks and the Death Penalty

By Juanita B. Hodges  
MBC LEGAL STUDIES MAJOR

According to Stephen B. Bright, visiting lecture in Law at Harvard and Yale Law Schools, and director of the Southern Center for Human rights in Atlanta, the death penalty is a "direct descendant of lynching and other forms of racial violence and oppression in America." The death penalty is part of a criminal justice system which can be used to eliminate those society feels are useless, or who are seen as a threat to its social, economic and political existence...the majority of these people, however, are poor and black.

The excuse used to justify the lynching of black men in the south up until the mid-1900's was the accusation that black men were rapists of white women. Walter White, author of "Rope and

Faggot" explains however, that this "alleged propensity" for sex crimes by African Americans was unheard of in the United States during slavery or prior to 1830. Ida B. Wells, a contemporary of Frederick Douglass, and leading 19th century black anti-lynching advocate demonstrated in her writings and lectures that the real reason for lynching was white fear and resentment of black educational and economic advancement.

The next phase of lynching of blacks began after the Civil War, and the formal abolition of slavery as a result of the enactment of the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1865. The removal of slavery as a forced labor system forced many white southerners fearful of blacks' advancement to find ways to control skilled, free black labor in the marketplace. Stewart Tolnay's "Festival of Violence" details how waves of black lynching peaked in periods of economic depression due to southern whites fears of competing with free black workers for jobs.

To make matters worse, it was just one year after the 13th Amendment was ratified, that white terrorist organizations such as the Knights of the White Camelia and the Ku Klux Klan came into existence. These groups also used lynching to instill fear in free African-Americans. These blatant public killings of blacks coupled with a lack of legal protection resulted in more that "two million" African-Americans migrating north beginning in the 1890's where northern whites greeted them with further mob lynching." Following the 1908 riot in Spring, Illinois, the NAACP and other anti-lynching proponents began to lobby Congress in 1921, 1935 and 1940 for an anti-lynching bill. This growing "debate and outcry led southern states to abandon the lynching rope"...and to replace lynching with another method

of killing blacks who "despite the handicaps of ignorance, poverty and oppression were steadily adding to their wealth and education." The new method of control was the "judgement and imposition of capital (death) sentences on black defendants by all white juries."

Beginning in the 1920's, the number of African-Americans killed as a result of court imposed death penalties exceeded the number killed annually by lynching. In the 1930's, all white juries convicted and sentenced more people to death than at any other time in American history. More than two-thirds of those condemned to death were poor, black defendants often represented by ill-prepared court appointed attorneys.

Whether or not an African-American is put to death in this country is heavily influenced by the race of the victim. After an analysis of 28 studies of death penalty sentencing, the U.S. General Accounting Office reported in 1990 that the "race of the victim was found to influence the likelihood of being charged with capital murder or receiving the death penalty." Those who murdered whites were found to be more likely to be sentenced to death than those who murdered blacks. "African-Americans who are accused of killing whites are 19 times more likely to be executed than whites who kill African-Americans. This report came after the U.S. Supreme Court's 1971 decision in Furman v. Georgia, where the Court acknowledged that the death penalty was "unconstitutionally" applied to blacks. Afterwards, the Court reinstated the death penalty in 1976. In 1987 the Court concluded in McCleskey v. Kemp that the victims of race and the imposition of the death penalty was "statistically" significant in the whole (criminal justice) system.

Despite dramatic racial disparities in death penalty cases, Congress in 1994 refused to include the Racial Justice Act in the 1994 crime bill (which provides the death penalty for at least 60 offenses). This Act would have

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

## Lawyers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

community, and in the black community as well. In fact, some of my well-intentioned colleagues here at Morris Brown, and at other institutions of higher education have sometimes advised students not to go to law school... "because there are too many lawyers."

The state of Georgia is an example of the dearth of black lawyers throughout the nation. There are 159 counties in Georgia, however, outside of a five-county Atlanta metropolitan area, the approximate number of black lawyers in other locations in the state include: 20 in Savannah; 6 in Columbus; 3 in Griffin; 3 in Augusta, and 5 in Macon. A similar pattern exists in every state in the union.

It is important, therefore, to carefully examine the facts regarding the presence of blacks in the legal profession before making important career decisions. In this way we avoid many of the pitfalls and misconceptions of popular beliefs.

MORRIS BROWN COLLEGE WAS FOUNDED IN 1881 BY LEADERS OF THE NORTH GEORGIA CONFERENCE OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH. IT IS THE ONLY INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA FOUNDED BY AFRICAN AMERICANS. IT IS A PRIVATE, COEDUCATIONAL LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE ENGAGED IN TEACHING AND RESEARCH IN THE ARTS, HUMANITIES, AND SOCIAL AND NATURAL SCIENCES. THE COLLEGE IS A MEMBER OF THE ATLANTA UNIVERSITY CENTER (AUC), THE WORLD'S LARGEST CONSORTIUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS.



## First Place

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in the Senior College Division of the yearbook competition.

The two-day event, February 25-26, featured a host of workshops, seminars and networking activities for future journalists. The opening remarks were made by Cable News Networks' co-anchor, Leon Harris, who was also awarded the Louis R. Lautier Award for Career Achievement. Students from over 20

high schools, two-year and four-year colleges and universities participated in the event. Milton Coleman, Deputy Managing Editor of *The Washington Post*, gave the keynote address at the awards luncheon. Both Harris and Coleman gave tips on how to succeed in the field of journalism and urged students to consider journalism careers.

Congratulations are extended to all participants who contributed to our success.

The MBC Wolverine OBSERVER Newspaper needs more advertising support from the business sector of metro Atlanta.

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# Charles H. Houston: A Tribute

By **Tonya McAlpine**  
MBC LEGAL STUDIES MAJOR

Charles Hamilton Houston is someone to whom we owe a great tribute. He was a unique black pioneer who fought hard for African-Americans to enjoy the same constitutional rights as whites.

Born in the late 1890's, during the period in which the Supreme Court in "Plessy v. Ferguson" established the "separate but equal" doctrine. Houston chose not to become a victim of segregation, but committed his life to tearing down laws that justified it.

Though born into a deeply segregated America, Houston was blessed with talent, vision and determination. He

was encouraged and inspired by his parents who saw to it that he attended the best schools available. He excelled at the prestigious Amherst College and Harvard Law School, always graduating at the top of his class. After a tour of duty in America's segregated Army, Houston be-



Charles H. Houston

## Death Penalty

required courts to hold a disparity hearing to determine if race was a factor before a death penalty could be imposed. Bright observes that today, "African-Americans and other minorities continue to be excluded as judges, jurors, prosecutors, lawyers and law enforcement officials in the criminal justice system.

Although African-Americans make up only 12% of the population, they make up nearly 80% of the U.S. jail and prison inmates. With the growing black prison population---as a result of mandatory "three strikes" sentencing programs---convicted felons also lose their right to vote. This in turn makes them ineligible to serve on juries, as most jurors are chosen from lists of registered voters. (See Marc Mauer's article on "disenfranchisement"). The American death penalty system is the "least affected by the Civil Rights Movement that brought changes to many other institutions in the last 40 years. The U.S. Supreme Court's decision in McCleskey "upheld racial disparities in death penalty cases that would not be allowed in any other area of American life such as housing, employment and education."

As politicians continue to rally around "get tough on crime" programs, as the American job market continues to be reduced by downsizing, as skilled workers are replaced by electronic technology, and as America builds more and more prisons and jails, what fate will befall African-Americans as a disproportionate number of them are sentenced to death?

**Juanita B. Hodges is a MBC senior from Florida.**

came convinced that the task of securing constitutional rights for black Americans and "fighting for men who could not strike back" should not be left up to white lawyers. He took on the major task of developing Howard University Law School as a laboratory for black lawyers trained in civil rights litigation. One of the students he recruited and trained there was Thurgood Marshall. Marshall later followed Houston as General Counsel of the NAACP and after Houston's death he successfully argued the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* before the U.S. Supreme Court in 1954. This case overturned the "separate but equal" doctrine of "Plessy" which had been the law of the land for 50 years. Marshall went on to become the first African-American justice of the U. S. Supreme Court.

According to the late Judge A. Leon Higginbotham, one of Houston's proteges, and former Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, "without "Brown" there would have been no civil rights movement, no civil rights act, and no voting rights act. Without Houston, there would have been no "Brown." **Tonya McAlpine is a senior at MBC from St. Louis. She is the External Vice President of MBC's SGA, Chair of MBC's Student Senate, and Captain of the Legal Studies Department Mock Trial Team.**

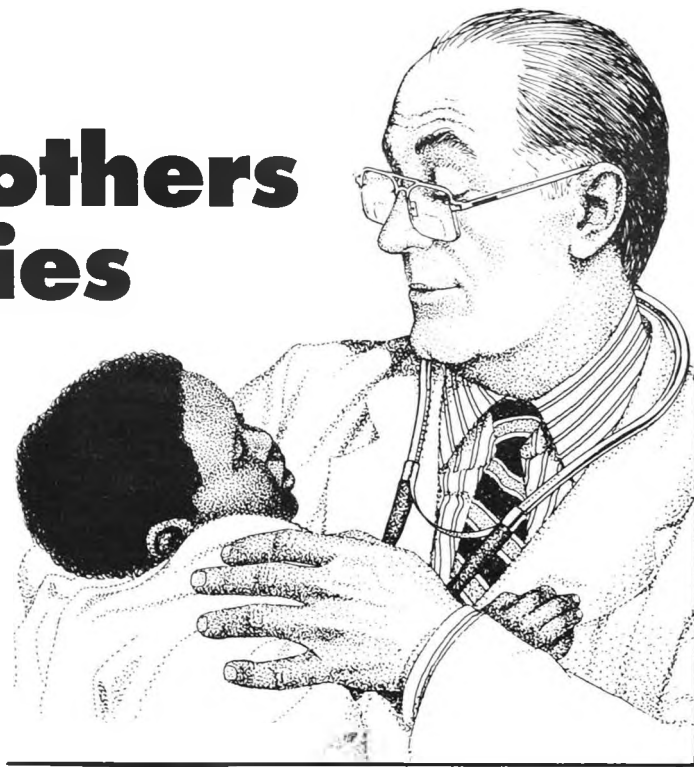
**BLACK HISTORY CONTINUED**

# Fate of Crack Mothers and Babies

By **Terri L. McCoy**  
MBC LEGAL STUDIES MAJOR

According to Dorothy Roberts' article "Punishing Drug Addicts Who Have Babies: Women of Color, Equality and the Right of Privacy," in the May 1991 issue of the "Harvard Law Review," said "women increasingly face criminal charges for giving birth to infants who test positive for drugs. Most of the women prosecuted are poor, black and addicted to crack cocaine." Is this matter a family issue? A public policy issue? Or a criminal offense? Should crack addicted pregnant women's parental rights be terminated, or should rehabilitation services be provided? And who is deciding the fate of African-American children and their mothers who are eight times more likely than white women to go to prison for their conditions, even though a greater percentage of white women are arrested for the same reasons but not incarcerated?

Studies have shown that African-American women in particular, are, when compared with white women "over-arrested, over-indicted, under-defended and over-sentenced." When crack addicted pregnant women are arrested there are no vocational or rehabilitative services in jails and prisons to help mothers do better when they are released. Each state has jurisdiction over matters related to family and criminal law, and the issue of how to handle crack addicted pregnant women who pass crack on to unborn children through their umbilical cord has been addressed in the courts of Florida, Texas and South Carolina. The criminalization of substance abuse, and the advent of mandatory sentences for non-violent drug related offenses is one of the reasons for an escalating growth in the African-American female prison population. During the past ten years, the number of women incarcerated in America has increased 300%; 80 percent of these women are mothers of two or three minor children, and sole custodian of their children at the time of arrest. The overwhelming majority of these women are African-American who were unemployed or underemployed at the time of arrest. Offenses that used to get probation are now drawing prison time, and sentences are harsher. Many mothers do not know



what their rights are regarding the custody of their children while they are incarcerated. Courts may conclude that a mother's lack of contact with her minor children while she is incarcerated be interpreted as abandonment. If considered abandoned, children of crack addicted mothers are placed in foster care or put up for adoption and a natural mother's parental rights are forever terminated. In "Santosky v. Kramer, the United States Supreme Court discusses the serious consequences of termination of parental rights. "Termination denies the natural parents physical custody as well as the rights ever to visit, communicate with, or regain custody of the child."

The courts of Florida (see Jennifer Clarice Johnson v. State of Florida, and the courts of South Carolina, Cornelia Whitner v. State of South Carolina) have addressed these issues. This critical issue has also been examined by courts in at least 30 states. Except for South Carolina, courts have ruled consistently that criminal prosecutions of predominately black, crack addicted, pregnant women was unconstitutional as a violation of the equal protection clause of the Constitution. The unconstitutionality argument was successful because it has been determined that pregnant white women who are drug and alcohol users, or who are addicted to medically prescribed recreational or pre-

scription drugs are not similarly criminalized.

Since 1989, law enforcement officials in South Carolina have targeted a particular class of pregnant women at public hospitals who test positive for illegal drug use, mostly crack cocaine. African-American women who went to public hospitals for prenatal care or to deliver babies have been arrested for passing drugs to their babies through the umbilical cord. Some have been taken away in chains and shackles, while still bleeding from delivery. As a consequence, women who must rely on public health care while pregnant are shying away from seeking prenatal care for fear of arrest.

The Supreme Court in "Santosky" goes to say that "the fundamental liberty interest of natural parents in the care, custody and management of their child does not evaporate simply because they have not been model parents, or have lost temporary custody of their child to the state...even when blood relationships are strained, parents retain a vital interest in preventing the irretrievable destruction of their family life." We are left to wonder whether the situation of crack addicted pregnant women who give birth to crack addicted children will be treated as a public health problem or as a problem for the police.

**Terri L. McCoy is a senior from Augusta, GA.**

*Good Luck to the following MBC team*

*the Model United Nations Team competing in Cambridge, England.*

# Hospitality Law: A Growing Industry Overlooked

By **Korin Tanksley**  
LEGAL STUDIES MAJOR

If you have ever had a flight or car reservation cancelled, then you are probably familiar with some of the inconveniences that can occur when traveling. At times, you may have wondered if any one was held accountable when you were affected by flight cancellations, overbooking, or delayed performances causing you to miss important plans. In all of these situations whom should you blame? And, how would you gain compensation? The legal profession has an area of law specifically designed to address these issues. It is referred to

as "hospitality law."

Hospitality law, although an old area of the law, is also in some ways relatively new. It has been an important area in the legal profession since the beginning of the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries of England. The need for a set of laws specific to the travel industry became evident with the deregulation of the travel industry that occurred in the U.S. in the 70's. When the federally ordered deregulation process was complete, the travel industry needed specialized legal guidance to resolve travel issues. Unknown to many of us, every day there are lawsuits filed because of mistreatment by someone representing the travel industry. Most of the time these situations are unfore-

seeable, and require the use of legal professionals.

Within the last decade, there has been a drastic increase in the amount of public traveling. People no longer travel just for an occasional family vacation or gathering. They travel on a regular basis for business and pleasure.

Whether you are travelling locally or internationally, it is important that you have a general understanding of your rights as a traveler, and that is exactly why hospitality laws were created. Hospitality laws involve the liability of airlines, cruise lines, railroads, bus and rental car companies, hotel and travel agents as well as recreational establishments for failure to deliver travel services

promised and paid for. It involves elements of contract law, employment issues, tourism, hospitality procedures, and regulatory rules to ensure that customers have a safe and comfortable experience.

A knowledge of hospitality law has proven to be a useful resource for the public. By setting guidelines for the industry to follow, these laws promote public confidence and ensure that the public receives adequate treatment. Whether commuting to your place of employment, home or retreating on a family vacation, the ability to understand hospitality laws are a necessity.

*Korin Tanksley is a Junior from Florida.*

# Are Athletes who use drugs above the law?

By **Paxton Baety**  
LEGAL STUDIES MAJOR

Athletes are special individuals. They compete in front of crowds sometimes numbering in the millions, doing so under enormous pressure to win. They are under tremendous pressure to be the best, the fastest or the strongest. To win is to be the king of the world; to lose is to be an unmentioned competitor. Unrelenting pressure drives these people, therefore, many of them may decide to do whatever is necessary to win. Sometimes this means gaining their competitive advantage through the use of drugs.

Why do athletes use drugs? There are a number of factors, the most common may be an athletes dissatisfaction with their athletic progress. In the opinion of professional sports agent and attorney Robert Byce, "If the difference between an athlete making a million dollars a year, or \$300,000 a year is the use of drugs, 90% of the time the athlete may feel the tradeoff is worth the risk." Another reason for the use of drugs by athletes may be unrealistic qualifying standards of performance.

Contrary to popular belief, drug use

in sports is not new. The use of drugs in sports dates back to 800 B.C. in Greek societies. Writings from the time of Plato reveal that the value of a victory in the ancient Olympics was the equivalent of nearly half a million dollars. The first reported athlete death due to drugs was in 1886 when a cyclist, Linton, died from an overdose of Trimethyl. In the 1960 Olympics, Danish cyclist Kurt Jensen collapsed and died from an amphetamine overdose. Drug use was reportedly rife at the 1952 Helsinki Games, and to a lesser extent at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics.

The international sports community began to speak out against the harm that drugs were causing. The first significant international anti-doping development occurred in 1960 when the Council of Europe, a group of 21 western European nations tabled a resolution against the use of doping substances in sports. Governments, national, and international sporting organizations continued to implement anti-doping initiatives throughout the late 1960's and 1970's. Drug testing became a more common feature of high-level sporting competition. Drug testing programs, however, did not guarantee their effectiveness. Accurate drug

tests were limited because of inadequate technology, and athletes quickly learned how to beat the system.

In 1983, drug testing strategies took an important step forward when analytical procedures were significantly refined. The introduction of gas chromatography and mass spectrometry allowed accurate results to be consistently obtained. This new technology resulted in the now famous scandal of the Pan American Games in Caracas where numerous athletes tested positive for prohibited drugs, and many others left the games without competing rather than be caught.

What happens to athletes when they get caught? In 1988 at the Seoul Olympics, Ben Johnson tested positive for a banned anabolic steroid and was stripped of his gold medal and suspended for two years. This might sound like a suitable punishment for an athlete caught up in this situation, but what would happen to a regular citizen if they got caught with drugs. My extensive research on this subject has not turned up any evidence of an athlete being prosecuted, or having to answer charges that were drug related after they tested positive for a drug that is illegal. The irony of it all is that some

athletic professions don't test for some illegal drugs. The NBA, for example, does not test for marijuana.

Why aren't athletes prosecuted for drug use in the same way regular citizens would be for violating the law? In a recent NFL draft, Warren Sapp, then a defensive lineman at the University of Miami, tested positive for marijuana. The result? He dropped from a top five pick in the first round draft to a mid-round draft pick in the first round. No jail time, no sanctions. Also, Michael Irvin was slapped on the wrist for his ordeal with cocaine. If these were ordinary citizens who were caught using these same drugs, they would be subjected to very harsh federal and state criminal penalties set up by the lawmaking bodies of this country.

Credit, however, must be given where it is due. When athletes violate drug policies they are punished by their respective leagues. Irvin was suspended for four games, and Sapp had to do drug rehab and counseling. The question is was this enough? Are our athletes truly above the law?

*Paxton Baety is a MBC junior living in Atlanta.*

# Aviation Law: What You Need to Know

By **Bryant Hill and Julius Jigget**  
MBC LEGAL STUDIES MAJORS

As Morris Brown College students from all across the nation, we travel back and forth to school and home several times a year. Some of us travel by car, bus or train, but for the most part we tend to travel by air. When we travel by air we put our property, our trust and even our lives in the hands of those responsible for piloting the plane. Generally, as consumers we don't know much about this industry and the law that governs it. In fact, we are probably unaware of our rights when it comes to

traveling by air. In this article, we hope to tell you a little of what you need to know about aviation law.

Before beginning our discussion, we must first define "aviation law" and look at its history. Aviation law is the law that governs or regulates the activities of aircraft and those associated with it. The laws of aviation are based on an ancient legal system; yet, much that is new has been added. From the early mail flights in 1911 to the Department of Transportation Act in 1966, the law of aviation was developed. From then on, aviation law in the U.S. has evolved over the years from basic legal systems to ac-

commodate the needs of the air traveler and aircraft operators.

Today, there are many agencies and corporations (public and private) including the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) that are involved in aviation activities. These agencies use aviation law to regulate airline employees and the rights and obligations of consumers who utilize airline services. Actually, when we purchase an airline ticket, we are signing a contract that affects the value of our lives and our property. Such a contract provides us with a fixed amount for loss of baggage un-

less that baggage was insured. Airline liability for accidental death is also limited, especially in international flights.

Several agreements regulate international aviation activities. The Warsaw Agreement set forth a uniform code regarding liability to passengers for loss of goods. This agreement was amended by the Montreal Agreement that addressed liability for loss of life. The United States is a signatory to these agreement, and must adhere to them.

The next time you purchase an airline ticket, please read the terms of this contract carefully.

*Morris Brown College is the only Historically Black College or University in the nation where you can earn a Bachelor's degree in law and legal assistance. For more information call Kim Thomas, President, Morris Brown Student Bar Association at 404-766-5314, or Professor Lemoine Pierce, Faculty Advisor at 404-220-0297.*



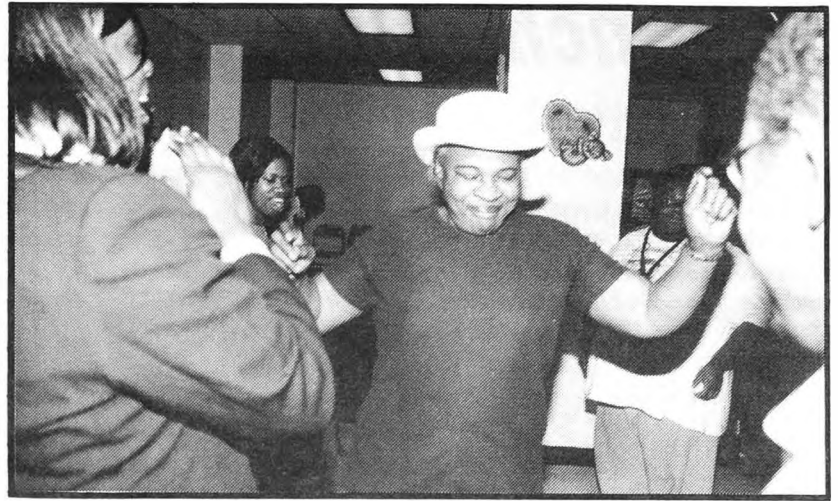
# ...Not Just for the Young at Heart

By Eddie L. Buggs

CENTER FOR A GLOBAL WORKFORCE AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Who says Valentine's Day is just for young lovers? Residents at Friendship Towers proved Valentine's Day is for the "young at heart." Morris Brown College's Community Service Department provided an evening of entertainment, fun, and dancing for the seniors at Friendship Towers in Southwest Atlanta. With music melodies from the 50's through the 90's, the seasoned seniors at Friendship Towers showed Morris Brown College students and staff they still have pep in their step. While most college students were preparing for a weekend of romantic Valentine's tradition, members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Golden Key National Honor Society, and Phi Mu Alpha Music Fraternity were dancing the night away while having fun with the seniors at Friendship Towers. The seniors gave the college students and staff members a brief lesson in "Dance 101, with their rendition of the cha-cha-cha and the Soul Train line" giving everyone an opportunity to celebrate a "Intergenerational Valentine's" evening. Ms. Jessie Benton, President of Friendship Towers Residents said, "We enjoy events that bring the younger generations around, it allows us to share our years of wisdom and feel appreciated."

This is the second year the college sponsored this event for the residents of Friendship Towers. Karlston Washington said these pearls of wisdom. "Events such as this causes one to realize that youth is not only physical but instead a mental application."





# POLITICS:

## Disenfranchisement, Race and Democracy

Too Many Citizens, Especially Black Men, Have Lost the Right to Vote

By Marc Mauer

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE SENTENCING PROJECT IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Jamie Fellner is associate counsel of Human Rights Watch in New York City. Fulton County Daily Report - October 1998. Provided by American Lawyer News Service.

Millions of Americans will be going to the polls in next weeks' elections, but Lawrence Tyrone Hill is a 51-year-old computer programmer in New Mexico who once served time in prison. He has the unfortunate distinction of living in one of 14 states where ex-felons lose their voting rights for life. So even though he has had an unblemished record since his release from prison in 1986, Hill will not have a voice in the election.

Hill's disenfranchisement results from a complex set of state laws that govern whether felons can vote in state and federal elections. Georgia and all but four states deny prisoners the right to vote, and 32 states, including Georgia, also prohibit felons on probation and/or parole from voting. Most remarkably, in 14 states, felony convictions can lead to life-time disenfranchisement.



of conviction and incarceration, we can expect that 30 to 40 percent of the next generation of black men will be disenfranchised for some or all of their adult lives.

The racial impact of disenfranchisement laws is a function not just of criminal convictions, but of public policy choices as well. While crime rates today are not dramatically different than they were 25 years ago, harsh sentencing and drug policies have vastly expanded the criminal justice system. The inmate population of

ment have sometimes suggested that these laws guard against voter fraud and protect the "purity" of the ballot box. Perhaps this might be relevant for offenders convicted of electoral fraud. But it seems rather unlikely that a car thief who has completed his sentence would present any threat to the voting process. Furthermore, the restrictions on voting by ex-felons clash with long-standing notions of justice—that once offenders have paid their debt to society, they are free to resume normal lives in the community.

Even denying the right to vote to prisoners is problematic. Since the vast majority of prisoners will be returning to the community someday, it is clearly in the public interest that they develop strong ties to the com-

community. Surely participation in the electoral process—a cornerstone of democracy—can only enhance prisoners' sense of commitment and responsibility to society.

Contrary to the arguments of some proponents, losing the vote is not an inherent aspect of punishment. Imprisonment itself is a profound pen-

alty, as it imposes a basic loss of liberty. But offenders do not forfeit all other rights, except where the exercise of those rights interferes with the safe and orderly functioning of a prison. Inmates do not, for example, lose the right to communicate with their loved ones outside prison or to read newspapers. It is hard to imagine that permitting inmates to vote by absentee ballot once a year would pose an undue burden on prison operations.

Voting disenfranchisement violates any sense of proportionality of punishment. In those states that disenfranchise offenders for life, a person whose crime requires one year's probation is disenfranchised just the same as a person whose crime mandates life without parole. In addition to the seriousness of the crime, the broad na-

**Given current rates of conviction and incarceration, we can expect that 30 to 40 percent of the next generation of black men will be disenfranchised for some or all of their adult lives.**

**Today, for Americans, voting is right, not a privilege, and one possessed by all. As with any right, it should not be restricted unreasonably. We should be particularly wary when the harm to basic democratic rights is compounded by severe racial disparities.**

In Georgia, a felon's voting rights are restored upon completion of his or her sentence, according to a spokesperson in the Secretary of State's Office. But in Virginia, for example, an 18-year-old who makes a one-time drug sale to an undercover police officer and is placed on probation will be barred from voting forever.

In a new study by The Sentencing Project and Human Rights Watch, we estimate that 3.9 million Americans, or one in 50 adults, is either currently or permanently disenfranchised as a result of these laws. That number includes 134,800 felons in Georgia, or about 2.5 percent of the state's adult population.

Among the disenfranchised, 1.4 million are ex-offenders who have completed their sentences. In most states, only gubernatorial action can restore the voting rights of ex-felons. In Virginia, out of an estimated 200,000 ex-offenders, only 400 have regained the right to vote in the last two years.

The racial impact of these policies is even more dramatic. Lawrence Tyrone Hill is one of nearly 1.5 million African-American men who are disenfranchised, representing 13 percent of the black male population of the United States. In Georgia, 66,400 black men are disenfranchised, or 10.5 percent of the adult black male population.

In seven states, we estimated that one in four black men is now permanently disenfranchised as a result of a felony conviction. Given current rates

200,000 in 1972 has swelled to 1.2 million today, giving the United States an overall rate of incarceration that is second only to that of Russia. Drug policies and practices have disproportionately affected African-Americans, thus contributing to their higher rates of felony convictions and incarceration and, hence, their higher rates of disenfranchisement.

### Disturbing Implications

The loss of African-American votes is particularly disturbing given the historical context of disenfranchisement laws. While these laws have antecedents in earlier conceptions of "civil death" as the appropriate punishment for certain crimes, they took on new significance in the South in the post-Reconstruction period when many states tailored disenfranchisement laws to increase their impact on African-Americans. Legislators of the day were quit blatant in their efforts to thwart black voter participation through felony disenfranchisement laws and other ostensibly race-neutral restrictions such as poll taxes and literacy requirements.

With the exception of the felony disenfranchisement laws, all vestiges of those racially motivated restrictions have been eliminated. But now, whether through indifference or intent, current policies are resulting in more minorities' losing their voting rights every day.

Any modern rationale for barring felons from voting is difficult to defend. Supporters of disenfranchise-

ment have sometimes suggested that these laws guard against voter fraud and protect the "purity" of the ballot box. Perhaps this might be relevant for offenders convicted of electoral fraud. But it seems rather unlikely that a car thief who has completed his sentence would present any threat to the voting process. Furthermore, the restrictions on voting by ex-felons clash with long-standing notions of justice—that once offenders have paid their debt to society, they are free to resume normal lives in the community.

Even denying the right to vote to prisoners is problematic. Since the vast majority of prisoners will be returning to the community someday, it is clearly in the public interest that they develop strong ties to the com-

community. Surely participation in the electoral process—a cornerstone of democracy—can only enhance prisoners' sense of commitment and responsibility to society.

Contrary to the arguments of some proponents, losing the vote is not an inherent aspect of punishment. Imprisonment itself is a profound pen-

alty, as it imposes a basic loss of liberty. But offenders do not forfeit all other rights, except where the exercise of those rights interferes with the safe and orderly functioning of a prison. Inmates do not, for example, lose the right to communicate with their loved ones outside prison or to read newspapers. It is hard to imagine that permitting inmates to vote by absentee ballot once a year would pose an undue burden on prison operations.

Voting disenfranchisement violates any sense of proportionality of punishment. In those states that disenfranchise offenders for life, a person whose crime requires one year's probation is disenfranchised just the same as a person whose crime mandates life without parole. In addition to the seriousness of the crime, the broad na-

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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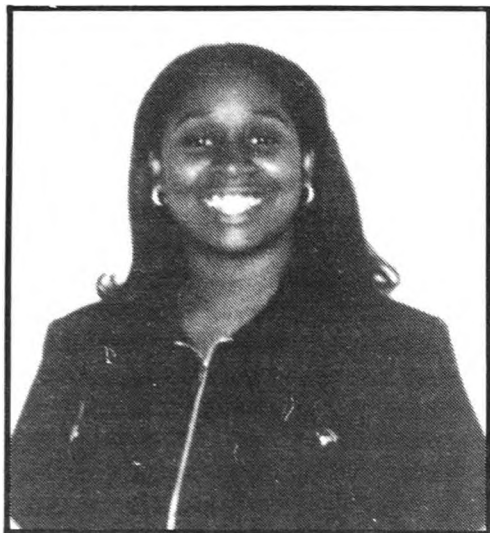
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# CAMPUS NEWS



Racquel Watson

By Tejan Muata

Racquel Watson, junior art student at MBC, received a once in a lifetime opportunity to study abroad in Cortona, Italy for the summer of 1998. An honors student, Ms. Watson is the first student ever to be chosen from MBC and one of only a few students in the entire Atlanta University Center to be a part of this extraordinary program.

She said, "From the moment I arrived in Italy until my departure I

felt like it was a big, beautiful dream. In this experience I learned so much more than art. I learned about me, and how to appreciate the rich culture of other countries."

Ms. Watson received numerous financial gifts from MBC, CAU, and many members of the Atlanta and Las Vegas communities. Ms. Watson said, "Thank you, thank you, thank you. Without the help of so many generous people my trip would have

never occurred. May God bless you all."

Using her newly acquired skills and knowledge, she plans to proceed with many new creations. "The influence of Italian art will forever influence my work. I plan to be an advocate of study abroad programs for the remainder of my life," Ms. Watson said. After her graduation from MBC Ms. Watson plans to study abroad for two or more years.

## First MBC Student Goes to Italy Study PROGRAM

**disenfranchised** CONTINUED  
those affected come from demographic groups with low rates of voting participation in any case. This may or may not be true, but in a nation that produces one of the lowest rates of voter participation in the industrialized world, it seems rather senseless to perpetuate policies that contribute to the weakening of democracy.

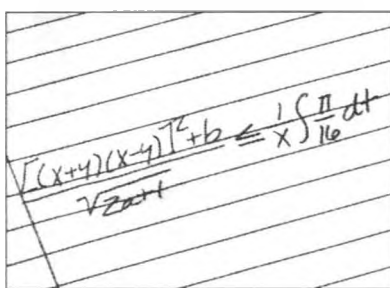
### These Are Alternatives

Alternatives to disenfranchisement laws would not be difficult to implement. There is clearly no rationale for depriving felons of the vote after they have completed their sentences. To the extent that legislatures wish to disenfranchise those currently incarcerated, they should identify the crimes for which such a penalty is reasonable and proportionate, and require that such a penalty be imposed by a judge as part of a criminal sentence. At the national level, Congress could require that states permit those convicted of felonies to vote in federal elections. This would remedy the bizarre situation whereby an ex-offender can vote for president in West Virginia but not in Virginia.

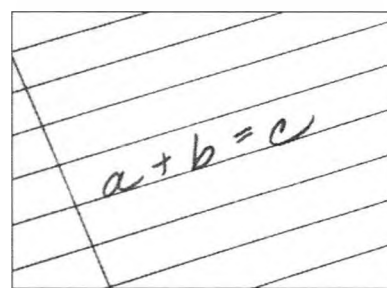
When our nation was founded, the franchise was restricted to a self-selected group of wealthy white men. The United States prides itself, and rightfully so, on the extension of the vote to those originally relegated to the political sidelines—the poor, blacks, women, illiterates. But we continue to pursue an extreme policy when it comes to ex-offenders—a policy that is far out of line with those of other nations. No other country bars ex-offenders from voting for life or has such a significant percentage of its citizens who cannot vote as a result of felony convictions.

Today, for Americans, voting is a right, not a privilege, and one possessed by all. As with any right, it should not be restricted unreasonably. We should be particularly wary when the harm to basic democratic rights is compounded by severe racial disparities. Do we really want to function as a democracy—when we maintain laws and practices that virtually guarantee the exclusion of a significant portion of African-Americans from participation in democratic life?

Permission to reprint article granted by Marc Mauer and Fulton County Legal Reporter



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## FREE TAX HELP

### Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

Morris Brown College, in collaboration with the Internal Revenue Services (VITA Program), served as the Tax Preparation site for the third

year. VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program) provides FREE tax help in the community. Atlanta University Center Accounting students at Morris Brown, Morehouse and Spelman College helped people in the community with basic tax returns, particularly those with low and limited income, individuals with disabilities, non-English speaking and elderly taxpayers. There was no charge for the service.

## Trees Give Life



By **Eddie L. Buggs**  
CENTER FOR A GLOBAL WORKFORCE AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

'Trees Give Life' was the rallying cry that was heralded on Saturday, February 20, 1999 as The Center for a Global Workforce and Community

Service amalgamated with *Trees Atlanta* to celebrate Arbor Day. The morning proved brisk and bright as students, staff, faculty and volunteers gathered to plant over fifty trees throughout the new beautified campus of Morris Brown College and Interdenominational Theological Center.

"This project enlightened me on the importance of tree, which are rich in heritage and also enhance the beauty of our campus." Said Jamilla Lawson, freshman at MBC.

These two sites were chosen through a continuation celebration of 1998's Arbor Day Project. Erskine Alexander, senior MBC, stated "Serving on this project allowed us to not only gain skills and knowledge about what gives us life, but also learn about communing with nature. I will always keep a watchful eye on the trees I planted and will help nurture, just as God has planted me at Morris Brown, which in turn nurtured me."

If you didn't have a chance to participate in Arbor Day Celebration 1999 don't worry, Arbor Day Celebration 2000 will be next year February so look for our announcements and come help us 'Give Life' to the world!!

## "The Dawn of a New Era at Morris Brown"



Dr. Dolores E. Cross

By **Dr. Joe Brown Jr.**  
CHAIR OF HPER AND PRESIDENT OF THE AAUP CHAPTER AT MORRIS BROWN COLLEGE

**D**r. Dolores E. Cross was recently named the fifteenth President of Morris Brown College in the city of Atlanta, Georgia. In her role as the first female President of the 118 year old Historically Black College, she is expected to utilize her broad range of ex-

periences to positively impact the culture on campus by increasing student success rates; improving the quality of life throughout the entire campus for students, faculty, staff, and other administrators. It is generally felt that her presence alone will positively impact the academic community within the Atlanta University Center campuses as well as the greater Atlanta Metropolitan community at large.

While serving as the President of

Chicago State University, Dr. Cross caused that institution to grow faster than any other college or university in the Midwest as evidenced by the sharp increase in the number of degrees they offered. Additionally, she was directly responsible for the completion of more than \$33 million dollars worth of new construction throughout the entire campus. Needless to say, we are extremely honored to have an individual of her stature serve as the new president of our college.

In addition to naming Dr. Cross as the new President of the College, the Faculty Council voted in the Fall of 1998, to install a Chapter of the American Association of University Professor (AAUP). We felt that the timing was right for us to proceed in that direction because of the rich background and strong résumé of experiences our new President would bring to the table. During its first meeting in January of 1999, the Council voted to approve the following slate of officers for the Chapter. These officers are Dr. Joe B. Brown Jr., President; Mr. Robert Adams, Vice President (membership); Dr. Edward Hunter Jr., Treasurer; Ms. Patrice Prince, Secretary; and Dr. Robert Lee, Parliamentarian.

As the inaugural Chapter of the AAUP with forty-three new members out of a faculty of one-hundred, we are looking forward to developing a strong working relationship with the new administrative team of the College. We will do everything in our power to help Dr. Cross foster a more harmonious environment throughout the campus community for the constituents we serve.

There are several goals or issues the Chapter plans to address for our cam-

pus over the next few months as we prepare for the new millennium. These are Promotion and Tenure; Faculty Governance; Gender Equity; Professional Development; Academic Freedom; Trends and Issues in Higher Education; and The Place for Historically Black Colleges and Universities in Higher Education. We also look forward to the opportunity of sharing ideas and technology with our colleagues throughout the city of Atlanta, the state of Georgia, and the Southeastern region of the United States.

**Wolverine OBSERVER**

ESTABLISHED 1935

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Carvel Bennett  
(Director of Student Activities & Student Publications)

**CONSULTANT**

Johnnie B Bates, Jr.  
(Bates & Bates Identity Development & Graphics)

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

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**SPORTS EDITOR**

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS**

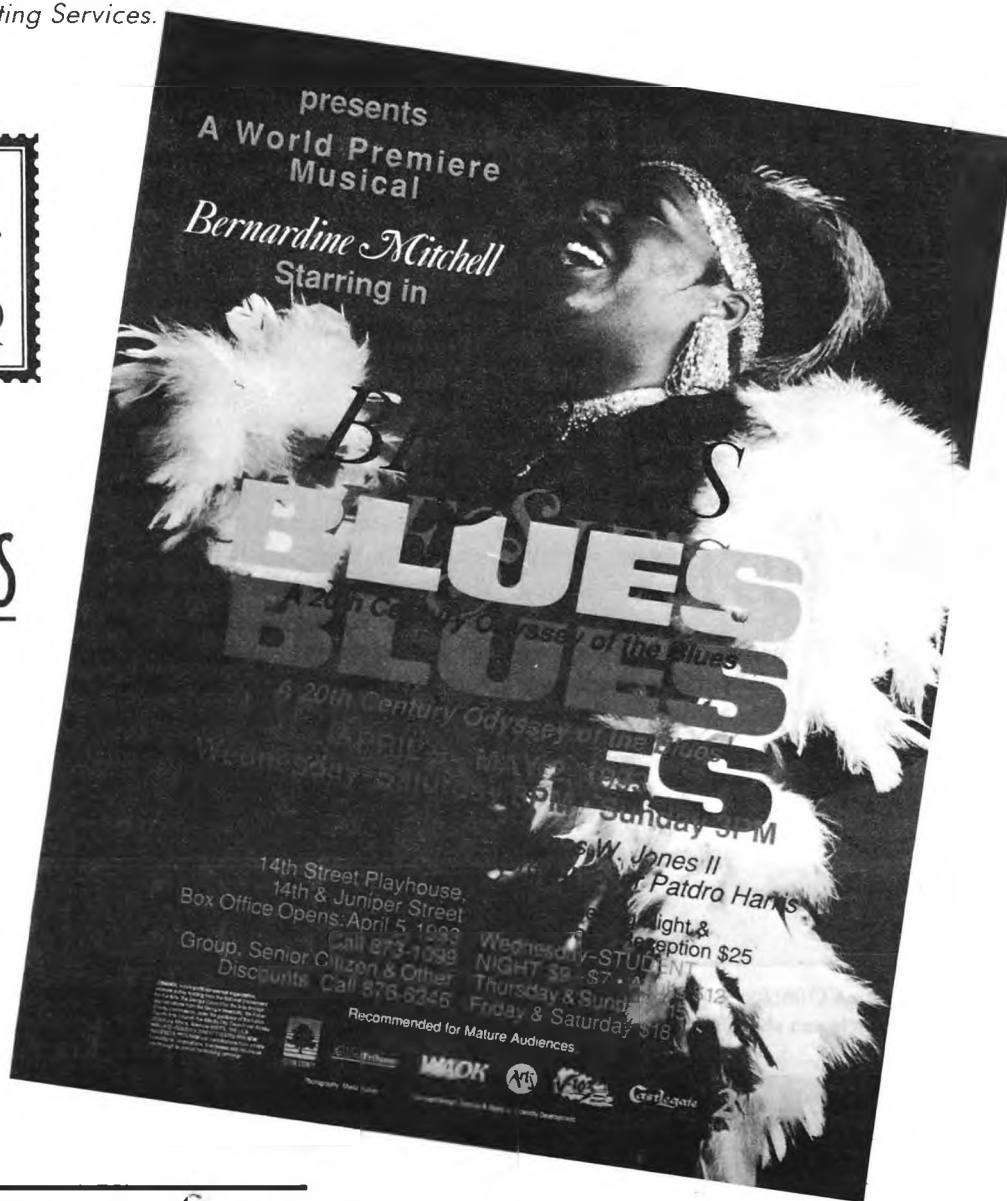
Karon Daniels  
Michael Ralph  
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**PHOTOGRAPHER**

Spurgeon Dennis, Jr



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# Cultural Art Works

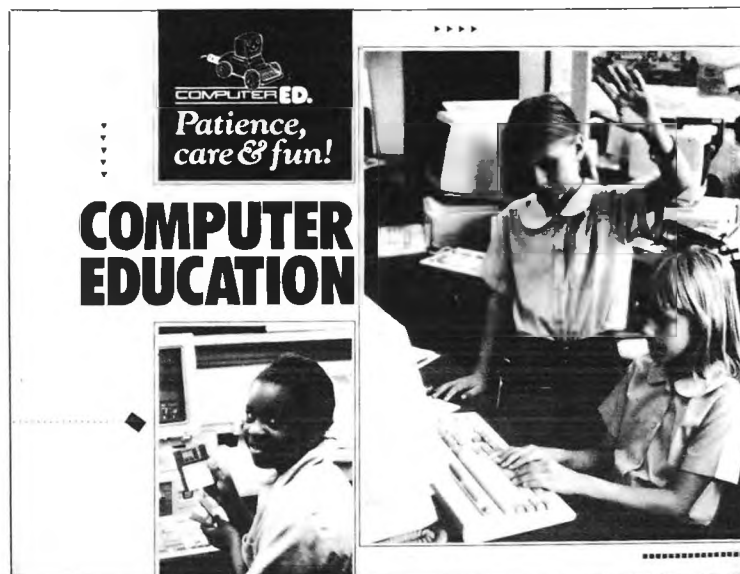
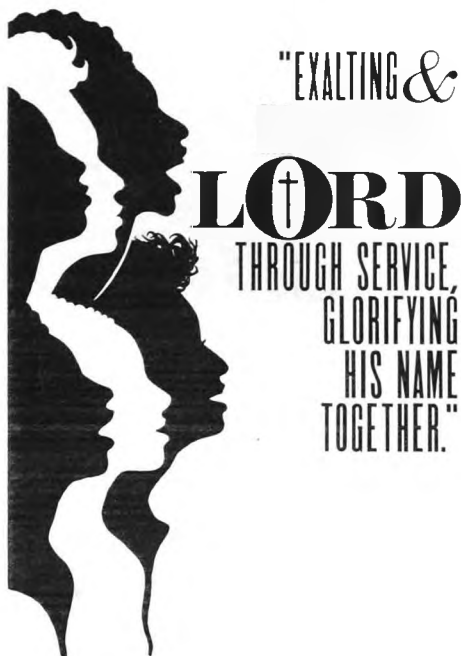


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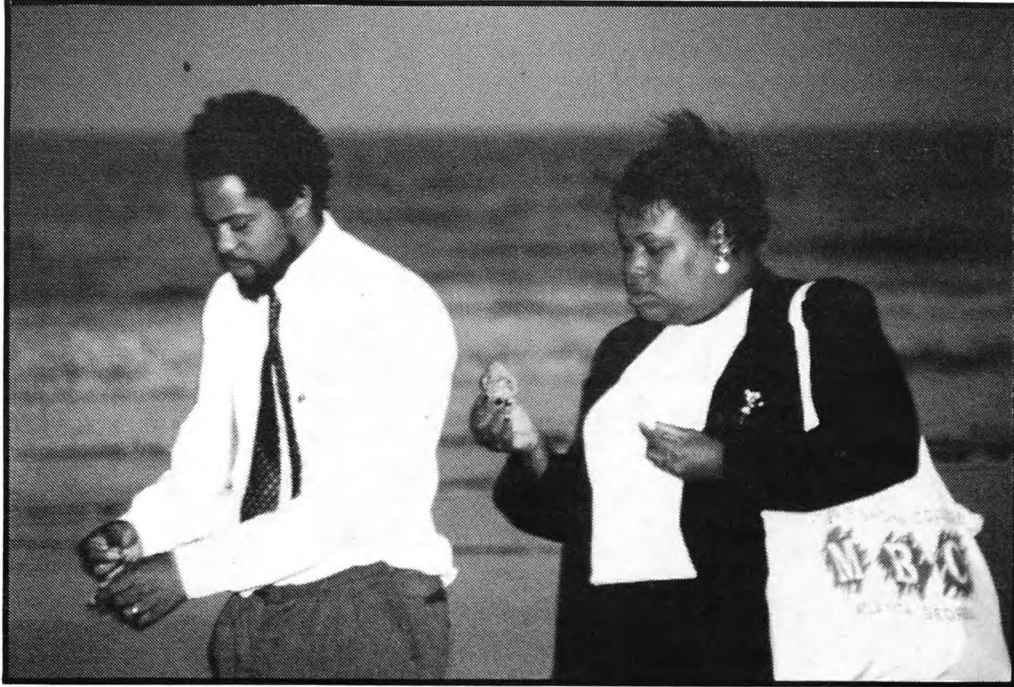
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# A walk to reflect on being a winning contender

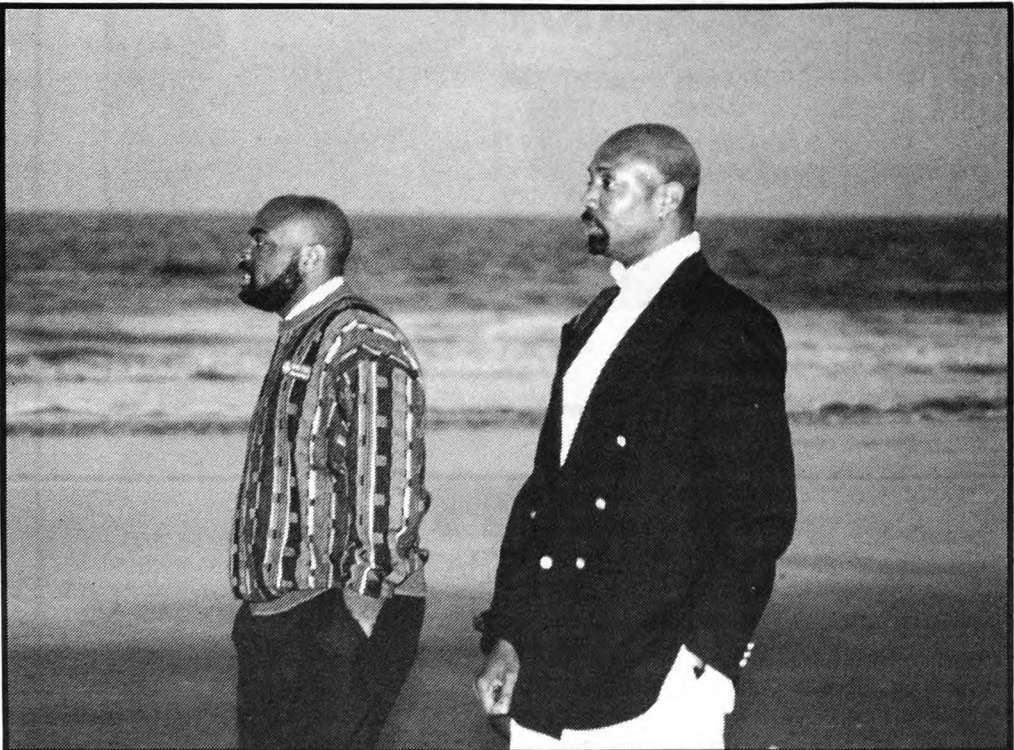
*Like so many great writers before them... THE SEA provides inspiration.* The Morris Brown delegation to the 1999, 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Southern Regional Press Institute of Savannah State University, take a break at Tybee Island.



Wolverine OBSERVER newspaper advertising Manager, Essex Agee (l.) collects sea shells with *Brownite Yearbook* Editor, Monica Spann.



MBC Campus Photographer, Spurgeon Dennis Jr. like a true artist, caught in a pensive mood.



Miquiel Banks, Editor for the Wolverine OBSERVER (l.) discusses the beauty of the Atlantic ocean with Advisor, Carvel Bennett.

# Hickman Student Center - just a walk

For those of you who think Hickman Student Center is not worth walking to, here's "What's New in the Recreation Room For You." Every Wednesday night is **Movie Night** in the Student Lounge/TV Room. We show the *hottest new video releases* for your entertainment. This event is **FREE** to all MBC students with proper ID.

Be on the lookout for the **Pool Tournament, March 22-24**. If you feel like you have the skills, then put your pool stick where your mouth is.

Enter by signing up in the Student Activities Department.

**Spades Tournament, April 12-16** - calling all "real" card players.

If you have any ideas for new activities or questions, please call Mr. **Darrien Simmons**, the new **Recreation Coordinator** at 404-220-0312/0153. Visit our Student Activities Department.

All of this and more to come...and all you have to do is just walk down to **Hickman Student Center**.

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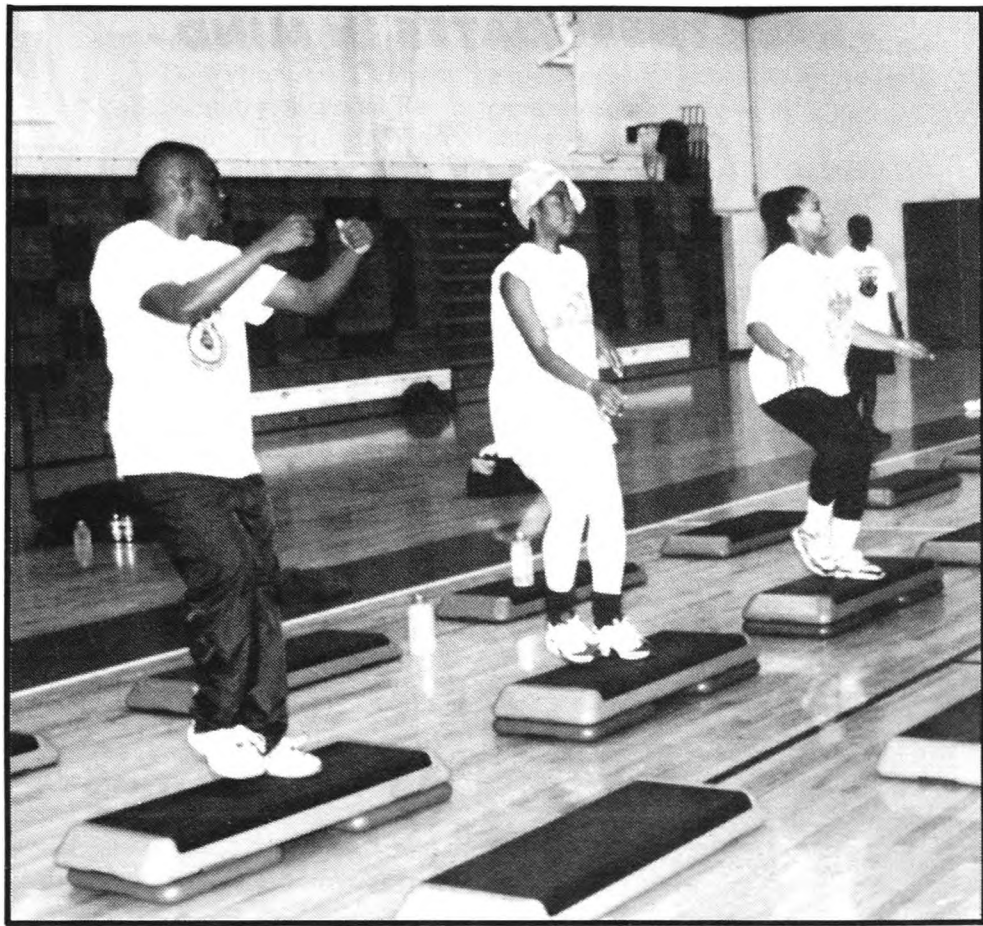


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## First Annual D.A.L.E. Fund AEROBATHON



### COMMUNITY NEWS

Morris Brown students...participating in the first annual D.A.L.E. Fund AEROBATHON. The Aerobathon is one of the activities the D.A.L.E. Fund used to raise money in

order to promote and educate the public about leukemia and bone marrow transplant.

The event was sponsored by WSB-TV Channel 2, Jazz Flavors 104.1 FM, Life South Community Blood Centers and Morris Brown College.



## READING IN LEGAL STUDIES

**By Lemoine D. Pierce, M.Ed.**  
MBC ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF  
LEGAL STUDIES

The following readings in legal studies and legal history are available in the Legal Studies Department at Morris Brown College, and at the Robert W. Woodruff Library at Clark Atlanta University:

**J.N.D. Anderson, Islamic Law In The Modern.** Greenwood Press Publishers, Westport, Connecticut . 1959. (ISBN 0-8371-8451-7)

**Mary Frances Berry, Black Resistance/White Law: A History of Constitutional Racism In America.** Allen Lane/Penguin Press, New York, 1994. (ISBN 0-7139-9102-x)

**Robert D. Bullard, Dumping In Dixie: Race, Class & Environmental Quality.** Westview Press, Boulder 1990. (ISBN 0-8133-7954-7)

**James E. Falkowski, Indian Law/Race: A Five-Hundred Year History.** Praeger, New York, 1992. (ISBN 0-275-94318-6)

**Lois Forer, A Rage To Punish: The Unintended Consequences of Mandatory Sentencing.** W.W. Norton & Co., New York, 1994 (ISBN 0-393-03641-3)

**Lawrence M. Friedman, A History of American Law. (Second Edition)** Touchstone/Simon & Schuster N.Y. 1985. (ISBN 0-671-52807-6)

**A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr., Race & The American Legal Process: Vol. I: In The Matter of Color: The Colonial Period.** Oxford University Press, N.Y. 1978. Vol. II.: Shades of

**Freedom: Racial Politics & Presumptions of the American Legal Process.** Oxford University Press, N.Y. 1996. (ISBN 0-19-503822-3)

**Anthony Lewis, Gideon's Trumpet.** Vintage/Random house N.Y. 1964. (ISBN 0-679-72312-9)

**Genna Rae McNeil, Groundwork: Charles Hamilton Houston & The Struggle For Civil Rights.** (Foreword by Judge A. Leon Higginbotham) University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia 1983. (ISBN 0-8122-1179-0)

**Ralph Nader, No Contest: Corporate Lawyers & The Perversion of Justice In America.** Random House, N.Y. 1995. (ISBN 0679-429727)

**Huey P. Newton, War Against The Panthers: A Study Of Repression In America.** Harlem River, N.Y. 1996. (ISBN 0-86316-246-0)

**Jeremy Rifkin, The End of Work: The Decline of The Global Labor Force.** G.P. Putnam, New York 1995. (ISBN 0-87477-824-7)

**Dorothy Roberts, Killing The Black Body: Race, Reproduction & The Meaning of Liberty.** Pantheon Books, N.Y. 1997. (ISBN 0-87477-824-7)

**Dorothy Roberts, Killing The Black Body: Race, Reproduction & The Meaning of Liberty.** Pantheon Books, N.Y. 1997. (ISBN 0-679-44226-x)

**J. Clay Smith, Jr., Emancipation: The Making Of The Black Lawyer - 1844-1944.** (Foreword by Justice Thurgood Marshall.) University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia 1993. (ISBN 0-8122-3181-3)

## MORRIS BROWN COLLEGE WOMEN'S WEEK 1999

# MBC Women of Power-

# Power, Opportunity, Wellness, Enlightenment and Reaffirmation

**Sunday, March 21, 1999**

### Event/Description

Opening Ceremony in Art Gallery  
Women of Morris Brown -  
Pauline Morgan White

### Time

3:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, March 22, 1999**

### Event/Description

Women's Forum  
"Celebrating Women Of POWER"

### Time

11:00 a.m.

Speaker: *Honorable Judge Hatcher /*  
Vender's from Women's Businesses

**Wednesday, March 23, 1999**

### Event/Description

MBC Women of POWER - 5K  
walk/run

### Time

5:30 p.m.

Wellness Day culminating with  
"Lock-in at the stadium"

8:00 p.m.

**Friday, March 25, 1999**

### Event/Description

"Reaffirmation"  
Picnic on the Green

### Time

5:30 p.m.

**MORRIS  
BROWN  
COLLEGE**



# Campus ORGANIZATIONS

## Student Support Services Is Doing It!

By Shawna Hayes-Tavares

For those of you who don't know, Student Support Services, a federally-funded program housed in Jordan Hall is doing it for the students! The month of February was exciting. Counselors Crystal Davis and Brian Clemmons conducted workshops on time management for freshmen and study skills for sophomores. Ollie Wood and Shawna Hayes-Tavares provided individual tutoring and clinics in our Basic Skills Lab.

For cultural enrichment in celebration of Black History Month: a "Night of History" was held; the Africa Sogaye dancers performed; students displayed their talents with singing and poetry reading; Tomell Brown sang his original composition; Gwangi Dorsey performed a poetry reading; Dmetria Coakley led us in our national anthem; Sahar Coleman sent chills through our bones with a

modern ballet dance from the soundtrack of *Rosewood*. These students are talented beyond belief and are representative of the next generation of African-American excellence.

The students also attended Jomandi's production of *'Sisters'* at the 14<sup>th</sup> Street Playhouse. The play was an excellent depiction of the trials and tribulations of Black women in a racist, sexist society. It was performed with humor and sensitivity.

Don't miss out on next month's exciting activities including: A civil rights tour for TRIO Programs participants in Birmingham, Alabama and a tour of slave quarters in South Carolina. Imagine standing where our ancestors stood when they were being auctioned into the horrible state of slavery; also mingle with brothers and sisters from the Gullah culture.

Good luck on your mid-terms March 11-12! We'll see you at the "I survived the mid-terms party!"

## TRIO Programs Welcome Mrs. Joyce Lewis

Mrs. Joyce Lewis recently joined Trio Programs as the Assistant Director of Upward Bound Math-Science. Mrs. Lewis is a native-born Atlantan who earned a Bachelors degree in Biology from Clark college and a Masters degree in Public Health from Yale Uni-

versity. Mrs. Lewis is the wife of Marcellus Lewis, Sr., alumni of Clark College, and mother of three offspring, Marcellus, Jr., Drew, and Quiana. Mrs. Lewis previously worked 12 years as an Instructional Coordinator for the Health Professions Magnet Program in Atlanta Public Schools to promote career awareness for students who wanted to pursue careers in health science. Moving from the high school level to college level provides a wider base of students to serve as a resource to share information. Opportunities will be provided for students to interact with career professionals in science and math. Students will be better academically prepared for college while learning is made interesting and fun.

## Ministering to Others Through Song

By Thomas Williams

It was the first Thursday in November. Viola Hill Auditorium in Fountain Hall. The group known as Passion for Christ (PFC) met to have their first rehearsal. There was much enthusiasm, anticipation, and excitement in the atmosphere. Under the direction of Jon-Michael McKinney, a MBC Sophomore, Education Major, and member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Professional Music Fraternity of America, Inc., Kappa Beta Chapter, the first rehearsal was a success.

God gave him the vision of a dynamic ministry of young people back in the Fall of 1997. And it wasn't until then that he decided to act upon that vision. Even though many have

decided to act upon that vision.

Even though many have decided to terminate their membership, the choir consisted of about 120. Now, the choir is at about 35. However, these 35 are elite, talented, and most of all spiritual people - there are only 13 of the original members who were a part of Passion for Christ Choir since November remaining. The other 22 are the new energy group. And, the choir continues to gain the interest of many college students.

Passion for Christ Choir is predominantly Morris Brown College students, with the exception of a Clark Atlanta University student. There are plans to add people from Georgia Tech, Georgia State, and various high schools in the near future.

The group was recognized during its dynamic performance on Thursday, February 11, 1999 at a Joy Night revival Service held in Cochran Lounge during Religious Emphasis Week. That was PFC's "debut" on the campus of Morris Brown College. The group meets twice a week for rehearsals at the John H. Lewis Gym, downstairs in the Multipurpose Room. Passion for Christ has one sole purpose: To praise God and to minister to others through song.

Recently, the St. Mark AME Church family presented the Debut Concert of Passion for Christ on Sunday March 7, 1999, which turned out to be a success. Not only will PFC perform here in Atlanta and possibly on campus again, but the choir has plans to travel to other cities such as

Phoenix City, AL; Columbus, GA; Spartanburg, SC and Covington, GA.

The group is highly acclaimed for its performance in the contemporary gospel area and it has a variety of songs which include traditional gospel and a cappella - with emphasis on contemporary gospel which includes song from Kirk Franklin & The Family, The NU Nation, John P. Kee and New Life Community Choir, Hezekiah Walker & The Love fellowship Crusade Choir and many more.

Don't be shy come by and sit in on a rehearsal one day. No audition is required. To gain membership or to have the Passion for Christ Choir perform, you should contact Kandace Paige at 770-593-0358.

- KEEP THESE DATES IN MIND -

## Going the Distance for Morris Brown College



### 118<sup>TH</sup> FOUNDERS DAY Convocation

Thursday, March 25, 1999

John H. Lewis Gymnasium

11 a.m.

### Morris Brown GALA

Friday, May 14, 1999

HYATT Regency Hotel

(Time to be announced)

### National ALUMNI Luncheon

Saturday, May 15, 1999

HYATT Regency Hotel

11:00 a.m.

### MBC BAND Spring Concert

*"Tribute to Dr. G. Johnson Hubert"*

Sunday, May 16, 1999

Rialto Center for Performing Arts

7:00 p.m.

### COMMENCEMENT Exercises

Monday, May 17, 1999

Morris Brown College Campus

(Location and time to be announced)



# Religious Emphasis WEEK

By Mark B. Cisco  
MBC College Chaplin

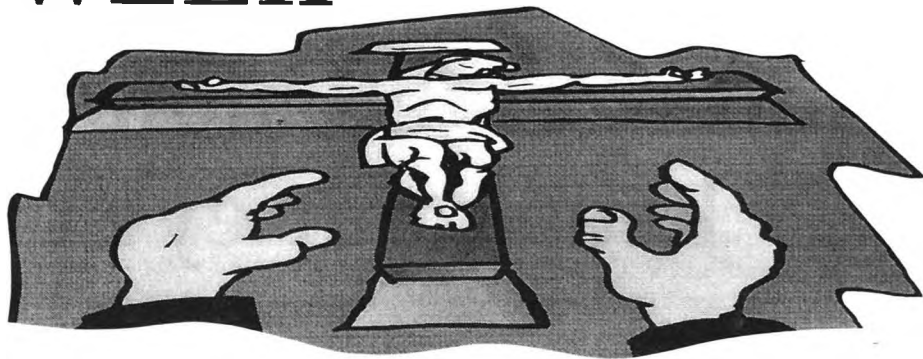
**M**orris Brown College, Department of Campus Ministry observed Religious Emphasis Week from February 7-12, 1999. The theme for the week was "The Church, College, and Community: Working Together to Meet The Challenges of the New Millennium." The events and activities for the week included Morning Prayers coordinated by Maiciah Young; Kick-off Vespers Service led by Pastor Ellis Washington of St. John AME Church Columbus, GA, and Bishop Donald G. K. Ming, Chairman, Board of Trustees; Health and Healing Workshop conducted by Dr. and Mrs. Marvin Crawford of Morehouse School of Medicine; Interfaith Community Workshop conducted by a panel composed of the United Nations of Islam. Hodari Hamilton (MBC student), Mr. Chekibe Holeman of Wilkes Hall, and Mark Cisco, College Chaplain.

A prayer luncheon was held on Wednesday, February 10 from 12:00 p.m. until 1:30 p.m. in Cunningham Auditorium. The keynote speaker for the prayer luncheon was the pastor of

and senior high school students to our campus during religious week. We intend to nurture this relationship by providing enriched learning experiences for students of the faith community prior to coming to college.

I wish to personally thank the following organizations for supporting Religious Emphasis Week: the Queens of Morris Brown College, Edmonds Leadership, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, and Student Government Association.

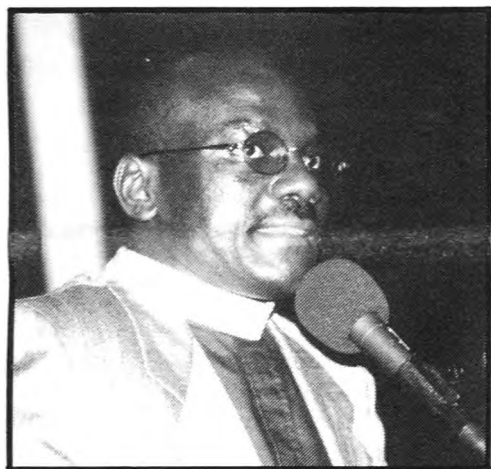
We rejoice for the blessings of God.



Dr. Dolores E. Cross, President, MBC.



Campus Ministry Staff.



Mark B. Cisco, College Chaplain.

Allen Temple AME Church and candidate for the office of Bishop, Dr. Preston W. Williams.

On Thursday, February 11, a campus-wide convocation was held in Cunningham Auditorium. The Rev. Robert Eckert, Pastor, Coppin Memorial AME Church, Chicago, IL, challenged his audience to embrace diversity. And later that evening in Cochran Lounge, a spirit-filled revival was led by Evangelist Delores Westmoreland. Evangelist Westmoreland, in her sermon, challenged the students to "press on" even in the midst of problems and difficulties.

The week's events and activities concluded on Friday, February 12 at 7:00 p.m. with a gospel concert. Over seven choirs and groups participated in the concert. Some of the choirs were Clark Atlanta University Inspirational Voices of Faith, Georgia State University Voices of Praise, State University of West Georgia Gospel Choir, New Life Inspirational Gospel Choir of the Atlanta University Center, Charles Westmoreland Chorale, and the Morris Brown Gospel Choir, among others.

President Cross' vision of the "Learning Tree" - Pre-college, In College and After College were reflected in most of the Religious Emphasis Week events. We invited young people including secondary



Dr. LaVeta Small, Dean of Students.



Robert Eckert, Convocation Speaker presenting check to Ms. Carolyn Cramer.



Dr. Dolores E. Cross Ms. Morris Brown College, President Cross, Dr. Small, Dr. Eckert, Chaplain Cisco.

# VIEWS & EXPRESSIONS

## Gotta get the money, gotta get the power, keep your eye on, the Final Hour!

By **Michael Ralph**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

**a**s we struggle to put ourselves in a better position as a people, it seems like there is not enough money to initiate the projects that we can imagine. However, there are more significant factors influencing our condition that are related to money but not actually dependent upon it. What stifles projects is not usually finance but a lack of education and economic organization.

I am amazed that most people do not realize the difference between money and economics, but I guess

people use the two terms interchangeably so much that we forgot the difference. Well, for the purpose of clarification, allow me to use this example. If a person is homeless and hungry, most people would immediately say, "He's homeless because he is broke and if he had some money he would be alright." But the truth is that a homeless person does not actually need money, he needs to be in a better position. If he had some land and knew how to farm or hunt, he would already have his own food. If he knew how to sew, he could create his own wardrobe. If he knew a thing or two about carpentry, he could cut down trees and build his own house. So what he really needs

is skills and resources, education and training. If someone were to give him \$200,000.00, it could be gone in three minutes because he may buy a luxury car and have to walk home the first time it breaks down.

In order for us to empower ourselves we must be clear on what we need. We need land in order for us to determine the way that we want to live. In addition, we need some type of training and education that is preparing us to serve ourselves. We cannot afford to waste time buying everything that we need; instead, we can begin to create.

In addition to proper education, we need greater economic organization. Not finance but economics and there

is a difference. Money can be spent or lost. Or, the value of the dollar can even depreciate. The monetary value of currency in each country is very different. But economics is simply the way that people relate to each other to share resources and that can remain the same throughout time. Too often we are led astray by stressing money over economics. You can either buy a shirt or know somebody who designs clothes and someone else who makes them and have your wardrobe custom made. We can either buy groceries or know someone who farms and receive their produce directly. Parents can either spend money on hiring private tutors for their children or contact a college campus where students need community service hours and develop a partnership.

Economic organization stems from the drive to satisfy mutual needs. If we really believed that we are family, we would treat each other that way and less money would exchange hands while we still satisfied our needs. Morris Brown College attracts thousands of students from all over the world. If you plan to travel somewhere, there should be no reason why you have to waste money on a hotel if we understood the value of economics. You could lounge for free and get a home cooked meal out of your next vacation.

Only we can save ourselves. It is time that we really begin working together. In the "Final Hour" it will not matter how much money you have, but what kinds of relationships we have created with each other. There is not enough money in the world to solve all of our problems but there are enough people in enough different areas for us to help each other.

## Close One Eye

Submitted by **Tonya Lynch**



An African proverb states, "Before you get married keep both eyes open and after you marry close one eye." Before you get involved and make a commitment to someone don't let lust, physical beauty, desperation, immaturity, ignorance, pressure from others or a low self-esteem make you blind to warning signs. Keep your eyes open and don't fool yourself that you can change someone or that what you see as faults aren't really that important.

Once you decide to commit to someone, over time their flaws, vulnerabilities, pet peeves and differences will become more obvious. If you love your mate and want the relationship

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



### GOLDEN KEY NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

#### BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

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Top 15% of All Juniors and Seniors  
More than 250 Chapters in the United States, Australia and Canada  
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##### PUBLICATIONS

CONCEPTS Annual Magazine  
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Best of America  
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If you have any questions about your lifetime membership, please contact the headquarters at 1-800-377-2401 or visit our Worldwide Web page at <http://gknhs.gsu.edu>. Golden Key representatives will be happy to provide information about your member benefits.



# African American Newspapers Must Survive

**By Tiffini Barnes**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Most African American newspapers of the period were concerned mainly with antislavery crusade. The best known newspaper was the first one, *Freedom's Journal*, started by Samuel Cornish and John Russwurm in 1827. It was short lived, but 24 newspapers emerged during Pre-Civil war.

African American newspapers of the twentieth century became the medium through which the yearning of the race were expressed. During World War I, African Americans newspapers encouraged African

Americans to move to industrial centers in search of work. It urged support of the war and it also led in the flight for integration of African American into the American life.

Editors, notably John Murphy of the *Afro-American*, Robert S. Abbott of the *Chicago Defender*, Robert L. Vann of the *Pittsburgh Courier* and P. B. Young of the *Norfolk Journal and Guide*, seemed to have had the capacity to combine an effective editorial policy with a shrewd business sense to make their newspapers an important institutions in the African American world. By 1920, several of them had reached a weekly circulation of more than 100,000, while

twenty years later several reported circulation above 200,000.

In the decades following World War I, the number of African American newspapers increased steadily. Every African American community felt the need for its own newspaper to perform the services that few white newspapers could perform. Such as, *The Informer* in Houston, *The Eagle* and *The Sentinel* in Los Angeles and *The Call* in Kansas City. Therefore, several news gathering agencies were established, the most important was Claude Barnett's Associated Negro Press. The editors organized the Negro Newspaper Publisher's Association and together they sought to es-

tablish uniform policies and views that affected African Americans.

By 1979, there were more than 350 African American newspapers, magazines and bulletins that were issued on a regular weekly, monthly, or quarterly basis. Only two newspapers, *Atlanta World* and *The Chicago Defender*, were published daily. The African American world produced a journalistic business that represented, an investment of more than \$35 million and provided employment for more than 10,000.

There is a need for the African American Press. They must continue the message of hope and pride for African Americans.

**As early as the 70's African American newspapers** have been on a decline - subscriptions and single sales are lacking. Why? Their consumer interest stories aren't attracting the younger generation and many times older (24 and up) generation either, lack of advertising, poor editing, graphic design of the newspaper needs updating (masthead and layout).

It is time for a change and it's a challenge. Competing with TV, radio and the W.W.W. in this computer age is a challenge within itself, not to mention the big daily newspapers.

African American newspapers must redefine their niche in the communities they serve - get out and ask the readers/consumers what they like. Well prepared research material is the key starting point for answers. Marketing the newspaper to the community and advertisers in an upbeat, professional manner.

African Americans are very sophisticated people, treat them that way in presentation - educated, blue and white collar jobs, business owners, world travelers, and consumers of a vast number of products - networking within the community and promoting the importance of receiving and reading a REVISED, highly educational and informing newspaper. In this day and time being multi-cultural wouldn't hurt. The tips above are just a few brief things for thought.

To the African American consumer in the city or suburbs, don't wait until its gone and ask what happen to my community paper (college newspapers included) - it's 1999 you have to do your part - support your favorite African American newspaper by subscribing to one today or at least buy one and then write the editor and tell them what you think.

Johnnie B Bates Jr.  
Consultant/Graphic Designer

## One Eye

CONTINUED

to grow and evolve, you've got to learn how to close one eye and not let every little thing bother you. You and your mate have many different expectations, emotional needs, values, dreams, weaknesses and strengths. You are two unique individual children of God who have decided to share a life together. Neither one of you are perfect, but are you perfect for each other? Do you bring out the best in each other? Do you compliment and compromise with each other or do you compete, compare and control? What do you bring to the relationship? Do you bring past relationships, past hurts, past mistrust, past pain? You can't take someone to the altar to alter them. You can't make someone love you or make someone stay. If you develop self-esteem, spiritual discernment and "a life" you won't find yourself making someone else responsible for your happiness or responsible for your pain. Manipulation, control, jealousy, neediness and selfishness are not the ingredients of a thriving, healthy, loving and lasting relationship. Seeking status, sex and security are the wrong reasons to be in a relationship.

What keeps a relationship strong? Communication, intimacy, a sense of humor, sharing household tasks, some getaway time without business or children, daily exchanges (a meal, shared activity, a hug, a call, a touch, a note), sharing common goals and interests, giving each other space to grow without feeling insecure.

# WHOLISTICALLY speaking

**By Essex Igyan**  
STAFF WRITER

## Y2Kaos

Imagine life without the luxury of electricity, safe drinking water, telecommunication, ATM, credit cards, heat, or transportation (air/rail/bus). At the turn of the century - January 1, 2000 - life may proceed without the previously mentioned conveniences. When the millennium bug bites, civilization as we know may come to a screeching halt.

About 50 years ago computers were in their infant stage. To save time and money, computer programmers made a reckless mistake. They decided to drop the first two digits of the year, 1 and 9. Hence, 1957 became 57, 1958 became 58 and so forth. The digits 19 were understood by mainframe computer systems. On January 1, 2000 these and other computer turnover to "00" or 1900. This problem is referred to as the Millennium bug or Y2K.

Since 1996, programmers have been working day and night to fix this accident waiting to happen. If on Friday, your boss gave you a box of marbles, polish, and a rag, with instructions to polish the marbles by Monday, you could easily complete the task - right? How about if he took you to the Grand Canyon, filled it with marbles, and demanded that

you polish every marble, could you complete the task in a weekend, a month - a year? Well, computer programmers are being asked the second question, with a few exceptions, instead of marbles they must sort through billions of lines of computer code, there are no jobs sat stake - civilization is the prize.

The Clinton scandal has gotten more press than Y2K ever will. In fact, in the midst of the single-most damaging threat to our society, our government has adopted a "hands-off" approach to solving this problem. In laymen's terms this deliberate carelessness means "every man for himself." DO THE WORDS MARTIAL LAW RING ANY BELLS? Log on the internet, locate a search engine, type Y2K or millennium bug in the "search" box and read.

Have we become so accustomed to "our way of life" that we reject the reality of global disaster the millennium may bring. Many of us believe in the biblical prophecy known as "THE RAPTURE" but close our eyes to the potential of the millennium bug. Right now you may be thinking "I'm about to graduate in two years, I can't waste my time worrying about this Y2K thing." This thing doesn't care about our plans - it doesn't care about how it will effect our lives. It has no feelings. We can either get

prepared or remain scared. One way to get prepared is to use the law and science of "unity." You know, together we stand, divided we fall. The following is a list of quotes, facts and information about Y2K:

--Citicorp, the largest bank in America, *will not* be Y2K ready until 2051.  
--"The threat is...now inescapable. The world's banks are dependent on computers that cannot be fixed in the brief time remaining before the crash. But any bureaucrat who admits this publicly could trigger a panic bank run. *NO ONE WITH ENOUGH INFLUENCE TO CREATE A WORLD WIDE BANK RUN CAN AFFORD TO TELL THE TRUTH...!*"

Gary North, *Remnant Review* 1997.

--This problem is global; any repaired system that interacts with an old system may become contaminated.  
--"And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads; and that no man might buy or sell save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of a man; and his number is six hundred threescore and six. (666)"

*Revelation 13:16-18*

--"Out of Chaos...Order -- The New World Order"

## cityNews

# Daewoo Motor America Making The Grade On College Campuses Across America

By Barry Landon  
EDLEMAN WORLDWIDE

ATLANTA, GA—Sixteen U.S. college newspaper editors and reporters—representing universities including Yale, DePaul, UCLA and Clark Atlanta University—were recently in South Korea at the invitation of Daewoo Group. They were there to find out firsthand why the company's unprecedented automotive marketing program has motivated thousands of students on hundreds of campuses to market and/or purchase one of the first new car models manufactured by Daewoo for American consumers.

Daewoo Motor America, Inc. (DMA),

the automobile distribution arm of Daewoo Group in the U.S., launched its three-car line of stylish, well-built and economical models—the Leganza, Nubira and Lanos.

DMA has already invested over \$10 million on its colleg marketing program. The 16 college journalists, who embarked on their crusade in December, were the second such group to visit Daewoo's corporate hometown in recent months. But that's just the tip of the iceberg—since last summer Daewoo has provided all-expense-paid, week-long trips to almost 2,000 college students on some 400 U.S. campuses who signed up for positions as independent Daewoo Campus Advisors

(DCAs) and went to South Korea for orientation and training. While there, the DCAs learned about the company and its diversified product line and toured Daewoo's state-of-the-art automobile manufacturing facilities.

Daewoo further invested in its college marketing program by making its line of U.S. car models available for purchase by DCAs at up to 50% off the retail price. Approximately 800 DCAs took advantage of this special offer.

But its not just DCAs who are finding Daewoo to be college oriented. The company has introduced special financing programs and an insurance referral service specifically geared to the needs of college students purchasers.

Why is Daewoo investing so much to "woo" and educate college kids about their cars? The company is investing in the college market with the goals of developing a positive, lifelong relationship with today's young adults—both as potential purchasers and as potential employees, starting in its DCA program.

Daewoo Motor America, Inc. is the subsidiary of Korea's Daewoo Group. Founded in 1967 by Mr. Kim Woo-Choong as a small textile exporter, Daewoo has grown to become a global company with 1997 sales of \$71.5 billion placing Daewoo 18<sup>th</sup> in a recent Fortune 500 ranking of global companies.

— Korean automaker investing heavily on unique car marketing program —

## Dangerous Seducer

Reprinted from **Christopher News Notes**

Some Americans spend nearly as much on gambling as they do on groceries. And not only at gaming tables and racetracks, but on state sanctioned lotteries as well. After four years, Joyce B., a 45-year-old housewife, had won \$30 and owed about \$50,000. "The ads said all you need is a dollar and a dream. It was more like a dollar and a nightmare."

Gambling is the fastest growing major addiction, especially among teens. Debt is the hallmark of the compulsive gambler. A study of 400 Gamblers Anonymous members showed that they owed an average of \$10,000 each. More than half admitted to stealing to finance their gambling. Two-thirds had considered suicide.

For years, bingo nights and raffles have been a fund-raising mainstay for houses of worship faced with steadily rising costs. The Catholic Church, for example, views gambling as a morally neutral activity—until it interferes with providing for the real needs of those gambling or the people who depend on them.

Recently, many church leaders have reduced or eliminated their dependence on gambling income, believing that they may have contributed unintentionally to addictive behavior. As one churchgoer said, "Perhaps the real problem is that gambling has become a habit for parishioners."

For help or information call: Gamblers Anonymous ([www.gamblersanonymous.org](http://www.gamblersanonymous.org)) at 213.386.8789, or check your local phone directory for a local chapter or, the National Council on Problem Gambling ([www.ncp-gambling.org](http://www.ncp-gambling.org)) at 800.522.4700.

## Web Site targeted at African Americans

By Tiffini Barrens

The African American Web surfer belongs to one of the fastest growing user groups on the Web. By 2003, it's expected more than 14 million African Americans will be online. Launching on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, blackfamilies.com is the newest Web site hoping to tap into the growing user group. The site comes from Cox Interactive Media, part of Cox Enterprise, which owns The Atlanta Journal Constitution. Based in Atlanta, the site is part of a grass-roots electronic community springing up across the country.

A quick Yahoo! search shows 140 sites targeted at the African American community, but only two which are based in Atlanta aim to provide a variety of resources.

One year ago, Richard Kenyada an electrical engineer in Decatur, who, along with a group of friends ran an

electrical discussions area called 'Society of Voices' on a radio station's Web site.

Participants talked about problems facing Atlanta's Black community and possible solutions. "We started to think we had so many talents and since we're all local, maybe we should do something," Mr. Kenyada says. "So I started a column called 'Mr. Kenyada's Neighborhood' on the radio station's site."

Later Kenyada decided to build his own Web site, one aimed at the African American community that would provide phone numbers, Web links and other types of support. The site (<http://www.kenyada.com>) narrowed its focus to South DeKalb County and two basic issues; computer literacy and teen pregnancy prevention. Mr. Kenyada says the focus has recently narrowed to computer literacy.

There are many statistics demonstrating the black community lags behind its white counterparts in

computer ownership use, but the numbers that captured Kenyada's attention was the fact that 64 percent of African American with household incomes of \$75,000 and above had computers in their homes.

"A lot of people just think the Web is a lot of high-tech geek talk. They don't see any connection to their history, music, or poetry from the old days," said Mr. Kenyada. "As we tell people what exists, more people will log-on."

The new Cox Interactive site (<http://www.blackfamilies.com>) is designed and filled with information, entertainment, health and parenting tips. Brand manager for the site, John Pembroke, says it is designed to be a resource for African American adults. However, Pembroke says not solely for black parents, if you are a single adult, you are still part of a family and we address a variety of issues that would be of concern to single adults as well.

## Health Briefs

By George Kovacic  
BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

### HEART DISEASE is a big problem for women.

ATLANTA—Heart disease, not breast cancer, is the leading killer of women in the United States.

"Most women do not experience heart disease until after menopause because the hormone estrogen protects them up until that point," said Dr. Re-

becca Reeves at The DeBakey Heart Center at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. "Following menopause, estrogen levels change. This is why many doctors encourage women to go on hormone replacement therapy".

Some of the risk factors for heart

disease in women include obesity, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, smoking, a lack of exercise, and poor diet. Eating a balanced diet where less than 30 percent of the calories come from fat is very important.

*Good Luck  
to the following  
MBC team*

HONDA Campus Allstar Challenge  
Quiz Team competing in Washington, D.C.



# ENTERTAINMENT

## The Alliance BURNING PATIENCE

By **Stephanie Lee**  
ALLIANCE THEATRE COMPANY

ATLANTA—History and poetry meet passion love in the Alliance Theatre Company's sensual production of **BURNING PATIENCE**, written by Antonio Skarmeta. Alliance Associate Artist Peggy Shannon directs this tribute to the famous poet Pablo Neruda.

**BURNING PATIENCE** will be presented from March 4 to April 4, 1999. Performances are Tuesday-Friday at 8:00 p.m., Saturday at 2:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. There is a special audio described matinee on Saturday, March 13 at 2:30 p.m.

**Burning Patience** take place in the small fishing village of Isla Negra, Chile, from 1969-1973. Mario, the village postman, enlists his only client, revered poet and national hero Pablo Neruda, to tutor him in love and metaphors to win the heart of a beautiful young woman, Beatriz. In addition, Mario must gain the trust and respect of Beatriz's disapproving mother, Rosa. Amid the passion and friendship, attempts to get Neruda elected as the President of Chile flames dangerous fires.

**Burning Patience** features a bilingual cast of talented actors. Playing the love sick postman Mario Jimenez is Atlanta actor **Michael Schneider**. **Denise Casano** (Beatriz) comes to Atlanta from New York. **Frank Corrado** (Pablo Neruda) is an accomplished stage actor. Actress **VIVIS** will reprise her role as Rosa which she performed in the Sacramento Theatre Company's production. Performing guitar for the show is **Moises Rodriguez** — a graduate of the New York School of Music. Rounding out the cast as the Policeman is Atlanta actor **Peter Ganim**.

Tickets to **Burning Patience** may be purchased at the Woodruff Arts Center Box Office or by calling 404-733-5000. Tickets may also be ordered online at [www.alliancetheatre.org](http://www.alliancetheatre.org). Discount rates for groups of 10 or more are available by calling 404-733-4690. A limited number of \$15 RUSH tickets may be purchased, in person only, at the Woodruff Arts Center Box Office on the day of performance.

## Virgin Urban -1999 Releases

By **Jasmine/Aimee/Mel**

**C-BO** - The Final Chapter- Get ready for the real - 3/9

**BET** - Best of Planet Groove- 1st in a series of "Best Of..." compilations with BET - 3/23

**Gang Starr** - Full Clip: A Decade Of Gang Starr - 3/23

**Road Dawgs** - Don't Be Saprize- Strictly catered to all the west coast riders - 3/23

**Maxi Priest** - So What If It Rains - 4/20

**IDEAL** - Ideal - Debut album from Houston, TX's finest. R&B in its purest form. - 5/10

## HIGH MUSEUM OF ART

(Downtown)  
EXHIBITIONS

## High Museum of Art Opening 1999

### Ted Gordon

Now thru May 29, 1999

This exhibition will be comprised of approximately 40 works from the local collections of Charles Locke and Carl Mullis, as well as our own permanent collection. Known for his compulsive style and singular theme of the human face in infinite variety, Gordon began drawing in 1954, creating compulsive "doodles" or line drawings which were mostly caricatures of the human visage and figure. Later works include images of styl-

ized cats, birds, fish, flowers, mandalas, and designs. Gordon draws his intricate and vividly colored line drawings with felt markers, colored pencils, and pens on pieces of cardboard, fabric, backs of posters, and paper. He considers all of his images to be varied self-portraits. Gordon's work has been exhibited on both coasts and is in both European and American collections, including the Collection Annexe at the Brut Art Museum in Lausanne Switzerland, the Smithsonian's National Museum of American Art, and the Museum of American Folk Art. Gordon currently resides in Laguna Hills, California.

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# HIGH MUSEUM

(Downtown)

CONTINUED

## BLACK HISTORY

### "I Made This Jar..."

*The Life and Works of the Enslaved African-American Potter, Dave*

May 16-July 31, 1999

Dave is one of a small number of identified African-American craftsmen who worked in the Edgefield District of South Carolina during the antebellum period. "I made this jar..." features 25-30 pots turned by Dave and includes a few vessels by other potters from the Edgefield District in order to document further Dave's historical and aesthetic place among his peers. Highlights of the show come from the collection of the McKissick Museum, as well as additional public and private collections.

The exhibition interprets Dave's works within the context of the religious, political and cultural climate of the period, 1810-1870 and addresses issues of identity, literacy and creativity. Dave was both a potter and a poet, inscribing verse onto his enormous vessels.

This show explores the implications of his poetry in addition to his pottery, asking and answering questions in an attempt to give the artist pro-per recognition for his important contribution to American ceramic history. "I made this jar..." *The life and works of the enslaved African-American potter, Dave* was organized by the McKissick Museum of the University of South Carolina.

## Benton's Corner

### ABSURDITY

By Michael Ralph

Question: Would a political system built on our exploitation really want us to control our destination?

Would a people who prosper from making us poor ever really turn their lives around and what for?

Why would someone who gets up by holding you down ever try to turn the world around?

Should a people who separate church and state ever control our fate?

Even though I pose the question, should there even be a debate?

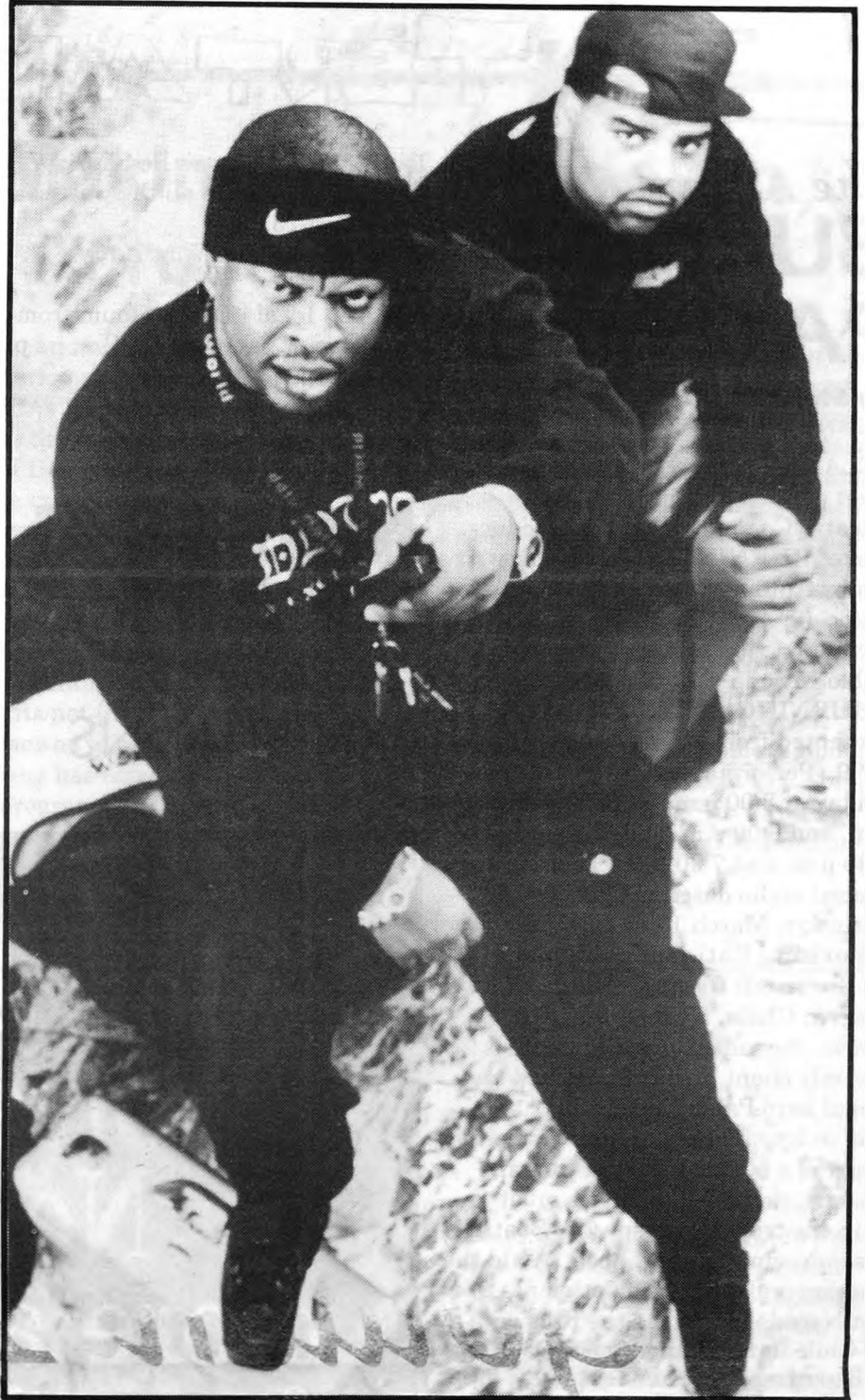
If we party together, why can't we build organizations?

Are we scared to build ties with Black people in other nations?

## Washington, DC-based label, Dark City Records, inks major distribution deal with Tommy Boy Music

ATLANTA, GA - Dark City Records, a Washington, DC-based record label, has secured a major distribution deal through Tommy Boy Music. The label's premiere act, rap trio Section 8 Mob, will be the first group to release an album on Dark City Records.

L-to-R: Po, Montana



## Section 8 Mob

NOTICE: Due to an obscene jester which was not acceptable and very disrespectful to his African American brothers and sisters - Midnight (a group member) - was deleted from the photograph. Dark City/Tommy Boy wake up it's 1999 - no more.

## Racial divide in TV Viewership

*Steve Harvey Show - Touched by an Angel - Monday Night Football - The Jamie Foxx Show - ER - 60 Minutes*

By Tiffini Barrrens

The racial divide between TV viewers appears to be slowly narrowing, but there is still a sizable chasm between blacks and non-blacks regarding program tastes and viewing patterns, a new survey shows.

Overall African Americans watch more TV than non-blacks, but there, too, the margin of difference is smaller than a year ago. The study by TN Media, a media buying firm, said in the fourth quarter of 1998, black households watched 40 percent more TV than non black homes every week, 70.4 hours compared with 50.2 hours. Whites make up 96 percent of non-black TV households. The year before, blacks watched 43 percent more TV a week than non blacks. In 1994, that figure was 51 percent.

The difference in viewing habits is

most apparent in show rankings for each group. The common ground has expanded in the last two years.

From October to December, six shows "ER," "60 Minutes," "Monday Night Football," "Touched by an Angel," "NYPD Blue" and the "CBS Sunday Movie" ranked among the Top 20 shows for blacks and whites. In fall 1997, only four shows overlapped. In 1996, only one show, ABC's "Monday Night Football," fell into both Top 20's.

Still, the popularity of shows in black and white homes is wildly different. In black homes, WB's "Steve Harvey Show" was the top-ranked series, but was No. 127 with white viewers. No. 2, "The Jamie Foxx Show" on WB, was No. 120 in white homes, "ER" was NO. 1, but No. 15 in black homes, and "Friends" was No. 2, but No. 88 with black viewers.

Some of these differences are strongly linked to programming strategies at the various networks. For example, when UPN and the WB began, they targeted urban audiences by offering several series with mostly black casts, creating ready-made TV enclaves. "That's certainly is the case," said TN Media's Stacey Lynn. "Both the WB and UPN have been programming full steam ahead for that audience...there are many more options than there used to be. Audiences go where they feel they can connect."

Indeed, seven of the Top 10 and 12 of the Top 20 shows among black viewers last fall had black casts or black leading characters. However, that was fewer than the previous fall, when 17 of 20 favorite black shows had black casts or leads.



# HARLEM Renaissance

**By Michael Ralph**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In the early 1900's, Black people around the world were inspired by the Pan African vision of Marcus Mosiah Garvey who worked to see all of his displace brothers and sisters return "Back to Africa." Taking steps to secure his dream Garvey purchased a ship and dubbed it the "Black Star Line." Though Garvey's objectives were never fully accomplished, two brothers have recently emerged in late September 1998 to regain control of the ship and direct this voyage on a metaphysical plane.

Spreading wisdom with every second of song, Black Star is at the forefront of hip hop's resurrection Under-

ground lyrical superstar, Mos Def, collaborates with prophetic lyricist Talib Kweli to shape a vision for the future of Black edutainment. Blending the political analysis of two street soldiers with the understanding gained by years of serious study, this

"At exactly what point do you start to realize that life without knowledge is death in disguise."

- Talib Kweli (Black Star)

duo proves that music does not have to choose between being hype or educational, true emcees do both. Running through the darkness like thieves in the night, these brothers carry the truth to light our path, "Give me the fortune keep the fame said my man Louis I agreed know

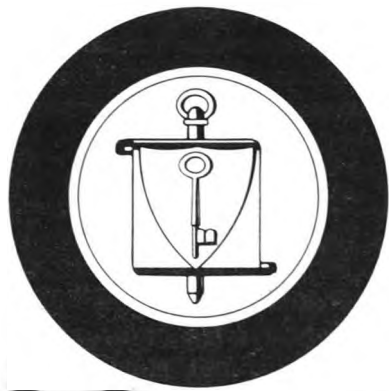
what we mean because we live the truest lie / I asked him why we follow the law of the Bluest Eye / He looked at me and thought about it and was like, "I'm clueless, why?" / My question was rhetorical, the answer was horrible / Our morals are out of

place, it's got our lives full of sorrow / So tomorrow's comin' later than usual waitin' for someone to pity us / While we find the beauty in the hideous / They say money's the root of all evil but I can't tell / You know how many pesos, francs and cowrie shells / Dollar bills? Or is it the mindstate that's

ill? / Creatin' crime rates to fill the new prisons they build / Over money and religion there's more blood that spills / The wounds of slaves in cotton fields will never heal / What's the deal? / A lot of cats who buy records are straight broke but my language universal they be recitin' my quotes / While R&B singers hit bad notes we rock the boat of thought / That my man Louis' statements just provoked / Caught up in conversations of a personal worth / Brought up through endangered species status on the planet earth / Survival tactics means bustin' gats to prove you're hard / Your firearms are too short to box with God / Without faith all of that is illusionary / Raise my son no vindication of manhood necessary."

Even beyond the activism embedded in every verse, Black Star helps us to transform the way we currently view ourselves as Black people. On the sixth track they kick a genuine tribute to the original mother of all humanity with "Brown Skin Lady." The first verse provides an overview of the inner beauty that makes African women so extraordinary and in the second verse Talib Kweli encounters a sister so magnetic that he is forced to share what's on his mind and in his heart, "I don't give many compliments but I am confident / I used to have a complex about getting too complex / You got me willin' to try, look me in the eye / My head is still in the sky since you walked on by / I can't lie, got my imagination flickerin' like hot flames in shower scenes / You make me want to ride a Coltrane to a Love Supreme / My brown lady, create environments for having brown babies / I know it sounds crazy but your skin's the inspiration for cocoa butter / You provoke a brother / We should get to know one another / I discover when I bring you through my people say, "True!" / All I can say is all praise due I thank God for a beauty like you."

With these warriors on the scene, keep your chin up and head to the sky for that Black Star on the horizon, illuminating a path towards the new Black Nation. In the words of Marcus Garvey's great granddaughter, Makeda Garvey, "It warms my heart to know that we share a vision for peace, prosperity, and mental liberation."



## Golden Key National Honor Society

- Academic Recognition
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### Information Tables

March 24, 1999

### Induction Ceremony

April 9, 1999

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possessed  
by all.**

# SPORTS

## Inner City Youth, M&M Products and Morris Brown

By Norma F. Stanley

Atlanta-based M&M Products Company, the makers of Bump Patrol—the razor bump solution, partnered with Atlanta University's Morris Brown College this basketball season, and offered a chance for inner city youth from throughout metro-Atlanta to witness the talent, teamwork and tenacity it takes to play collegiate sports.

The company invited adult mentors and their charges from Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Atlanta Boys Club, East Point Youth Association and various elementary, middle and high school students to come out and enjoy the home games of the Morris Brown Wolverines during the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC). The team's head coach is former Harlem Globetrotter Coach Russell Ellington.

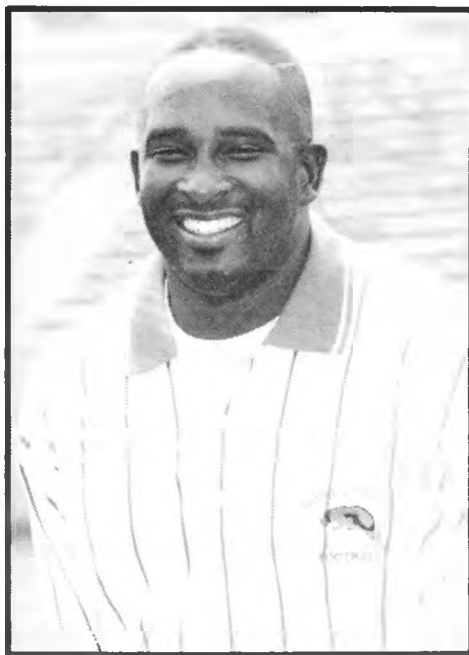


L-to-R: Members of the Morris Brown Wolverines and their coaches, Second Assistant Coach Derek Thompson, Head Coach Russell Ellington and First Assistant Coach Wally West.

## Baseball at MBC?

By Addison M. Ford  
CONTRIBUTING SPORTS WRITER

Yes it is true, baseball is back at Morris Brown College. After having a not so good season in 1997 and not even having enough players to have a season in 1998. Head Coach Earl Bryant and the 1999 baseball team will try to put Morris Brown Baseball back on track in the SIAC. With a number of players returning from his 1997 team and some dedicated players he picked up at practice secessions in 1998, Bryant has a nucleus for building a good team. Bryant, known for his high motivation and disciplinary actions looks forward to putting a high quality team on the field for the 1999 season. The team this year will be competing at the club level for filling it's one year probationary period before becoming a sanctioned team in 2000.



Coach Earl Bryant, Baseball Coach and Football Coaching Staff

## Losing A Friend and Coach !!!

By Addison M. Ford  
CONTRIBUTING SPORTS WRITER

Three years ago, Coach George Ragsdale was hired along with other coaches to rebuild the football program here at Morris Brown College. Being assigned to coach the running backs his first two years and offensive coordinator his last year, Ragsdale put his all into his job.

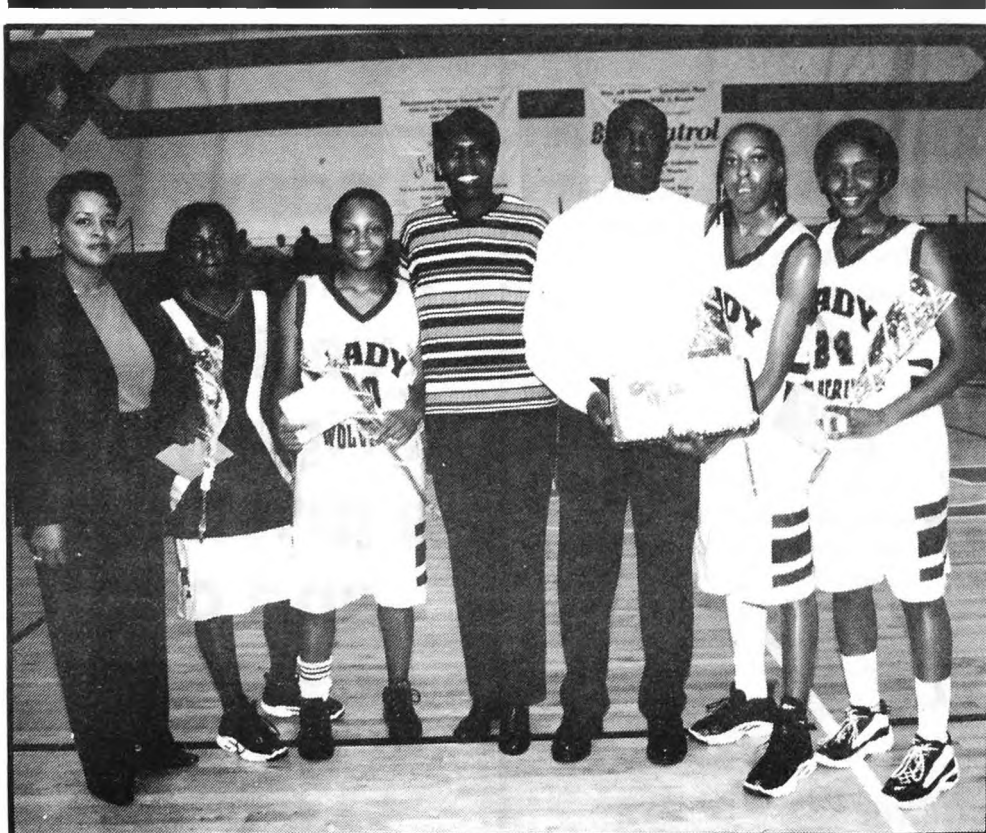
After enduring two losing seasons at 3-8 and one winning season at 6-5, Ragsdale is now leaving MBC to become the running back coach and possible offensive coordinator at Norfolk State University. The move for Ragsdale was a financial move and it gives him a chance to coach against his alma mater, North Carolina A&T. After being at MBC for three years, Ragsdale built a great relationship among his players like no other coach at MBC. Players of



Coach George Ragsdale, Residence Hall Director and Football Coaching Staff

Ragsdale's were stunned to hear about his departure.

Known for being more of a friend than a coach, Ragsdale will be greatly missed not only on the football field but in the campus life of his players as well. Best wishes to Coach Ragsdale and his new team !!!



## Seniors Last Home Game

L-to-R: Beverly Amaud, Darlene Hadden, Shantel Reddick, Kasha Doomes, Shawanda Harrison, Asst. Coach Rovetta Edwards and Coach Phillip Wallace.



*The MBC  
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community and metro-  
Atlanta community  
for their readership  
& support.*



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\*The MBC Wolverine Observer is not published June, July, August. The months of April/May will be a combined issue for 1999.



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# Benton's Corner

## BLACK GLANCE

Submitted by Tonya Lynch

I saw a man today.  
He greeted me with that  
knowing look.  
The one that says  
I am surprised but  
so happy to see you.  
To know that I am  
not the only one  
Struggling out here.  
I tried to respond in kind  
But he didn't look back  
to see my

Black Glance.

I wanted to tell him.  
I wanted him to know.  
I share in his  
loneliness  
frustration & rage.  
At a society that  
doesn't know us,  
doesn't see us,  
doesn't hear us.  
So we acknowledge  
each other  
with the

Black Glance.

That reassuring expression  
of love and acceptance  
that says though we  
may never meet again  
our souls shall always be  
connected.  
But he didn't see me.  
That's how it usually works.  
We must often retreat into  
our expected roles  
too quickly to see the

Black Glance.

So eager to please others  
that we miss the

Black Glance.

Too ashamed to acknowledge  
our need for each other  
that we overlook the

Black Glance.

But we know.  
We know it's there  
because the

Black Glance

has a life of its own.  
An existence outside of  
ignorance  
self hate  
racism

denial  
that will always  
be there  
even if we don't

Glance Back.

How Far Have We Really Come?

By Antonio McDaniel

From the dirt roads, to the paved streets.  
From the back of the bus, to the front seat.

From being a maid, to having a maid.  
From having no money, to being well paid.  
From the rub board, to the washing  
machine.

From the nasty ghetto, to spotless  
and clean, but How far have we  
really come?

We've come from being good, to being  
better.

We use to have pride and stuck together.  
Now it is nothing to kill your brother, slap  
your dad, and cus your mother.

We find popularity in pimping a girl.

Without them there would be nothing,  
not even a world.

We've grown bitter inside and hate our  
friends,

Whereas we used to love everyone when  
life began. I say to you again, How far  
have we really come?

From singing old songs and fighting for  
rights,

Now bragging to friends and just fighting  
to fight.

We spend our lives dealing drugs for  
wealth,

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# 3RD ANNUAL JOB FAIR

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### 10:00am – 2:30pm

## Hickman Student Center

## Cunningham Auditorium

✱ **Business Dress Attire Is Recommended**

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Hurting our fellow man, destroying their health.  
 We've come from old strapped sandals to the Nike Shoe,  
 We don't care about each other, but it's all about you.  
 We use to not have a quarter, not even a dime,  
 We had to earn what we got and bust our behinds.  
 Today we think we're "The Man", telling people to check their self.  
 Where we'll give anything in life for money's wealth,  
 We have not morals great nor small,  
 We care nothing about nothing, not anything at all.  
 Is life for us ending or has it ever begun?  
 I ask this one more time.  
 How far have we really come?

A Poem for Thought

By RuNell Ni Ebo

Lord, Lord  
 Why did You make me Black?  
 Why did You make someone the world wants to hold back?  
 Black is the color of dirty clothes, the color of grimy hands and feet.  
 Black is the color of darkness, the color of tire-beaten streets.

Why did You give me thick lips, a broad nose and kinky hair?  
 Why did You make someone who receives the hatred stare?

Black is the color of the bruised eye when someone gets hurt.  
 Black is the color of darkness,  
 Black is the color of dirt.

How come my bone structure 's so thick, my hips and cheeks high?  
 How come my eyes are brown and not the color of daylight sky?

Why do people think I'm useless?  
 How come I feel so used?  
 Why do some people see my skin and think I should be abused?

Lord just don't understand.  
 What is it about my skin?  
 Why do some people want to hate me and not know the person within?

Black is what people are "listed" when others want to keep them away.  
 Black is the color of shadows cast.  
 Black is the end of the day.

Lord you know my own people mistreat me and I know this just ain't right.  
 They don't like my hair.  
 They say I'm too dark or too light.  
 Lord don't You think it's time for You to make a change?  
 Why don't You re-do creation and make everyone the same?

GOD ANSWERED:

Why did I make you black?  
 Why did I make you black?  
 Get off your knees and look around.  
 Tell me, what do you see?  
 I didn't make you in the image of darkness,  
 I made you in likeness of ME!

I made you the color of coal from which beautiful diamonds are formed.  
 I made you the color of oil, the black gold that keeps people warm.

I made you from the rich, dark earth that can grow the food you need.

Your color's the same as the black stallion, a majestic animal is he.  
 I didn't make you in the image of darkness.  
 I made you in likeness of ME!

All the colors of the heavenly rainbow can be found throughout every nation.  
 But when all of those colors were blended, you became my greatest creation.

Your hair is the texture of lamb's wool.  
 Such a humble little creature is he.  
 I am the shepherd who watches them.  
 I am the One who will watch over thee.

You are the color of midnight sky.  
 I put the stars' glitter in your eyes.  
 There is a smile hidden behind your pain.  
 That's why your cheeks are so high.

You are the color of dark clouds formed, when I send My strongest weather.  
 I made your lips full so when you kiss the one that you love, they will remember.

Your stature is strong, your bone structure thick to withstand the burdens of time.

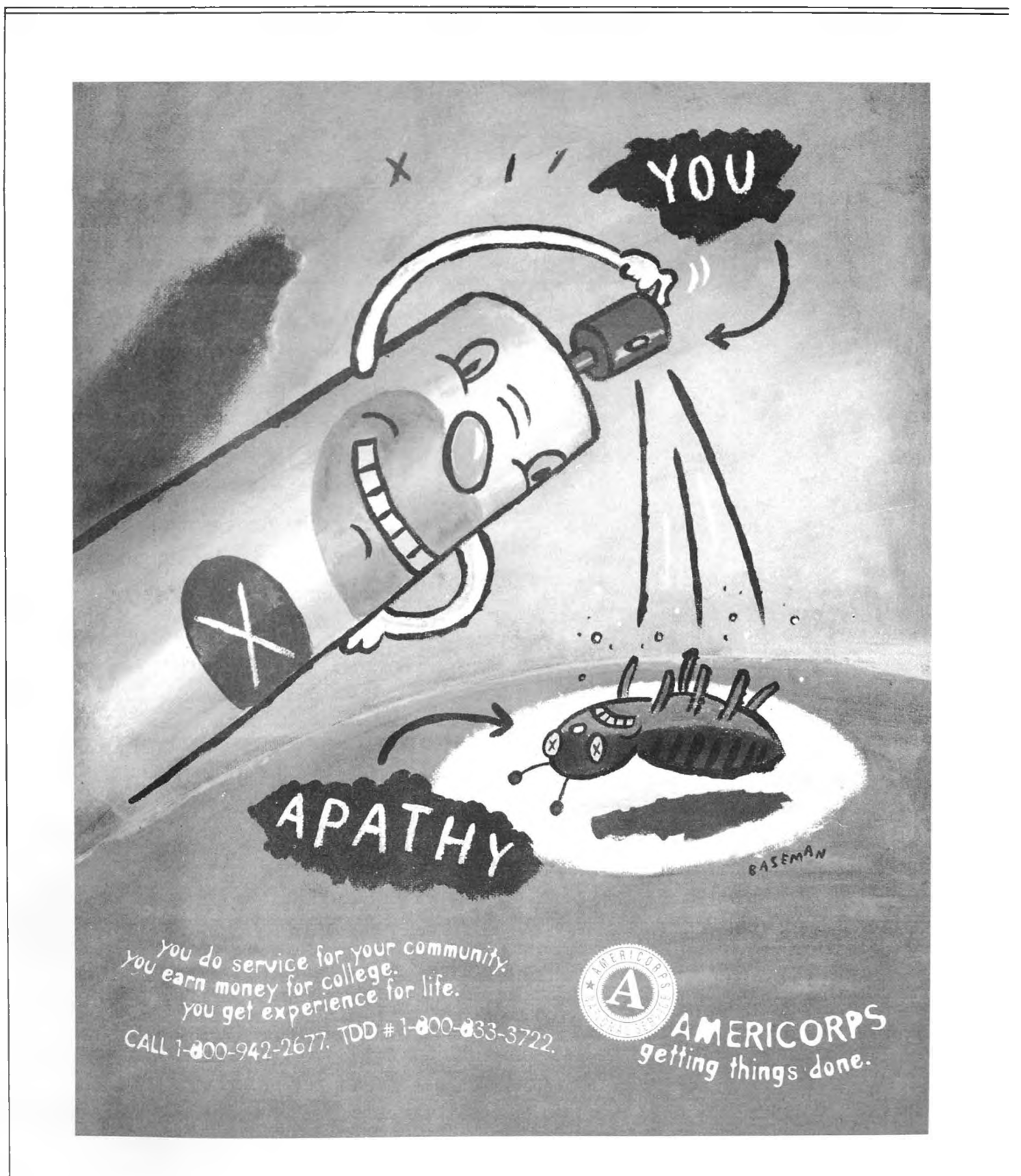
The reflection you see in the mirror...  
 The image that looks back is MINE.

Up Until Then

By Da KID

Perhaps the next man won't understand because he's not in my shoes/ Plenty nig-

gas out here talking about their gun rules/ But still afraid to use the most powerful tool of them all/ The brain is often trained to hate through the use of cocaine/ Things aren't the same/ Nor will they ever be/ I'm a grown man ain't nobody gone take care of me/ While the reasons behind my actions may never make sense/ The almighty God is constantly throwing hints/ I just have to be wise enough to understand what he is saying/ That's why I keep praying/ To keep myself from decaying/ Sometimes I may do devilish things/ But I have to for the time being/ Until the fat lady sings/ The end is near and some don't even know it/ You had your opportunity only to blow it/ I hope I get my chance to evolve into a better man/ That seems to be the only way to see my grandmother again/ I wonder to myself/ Why don't good things happen to "Da KID"?/ Is it because I'm always doing a bid/ Sometimes I want to close the lid on the jar of life/ But deep down inside I know that would be trife.



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**Religious Emphasis Week**  
MBC Gospel Choir (Story on page 8)

**Features**

- Open Letter
- Pre-Abolition Council
- Religious News
- Campus
- Student Profile
- News of Expression

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**COLD SEASON PART II: Disability Awareness Week**

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**Renowned motivational speaker, philanthropist Les Brown and will address the 117th commencement class of Morris Brown College 2 p.m., Monday, May 18, 1998, at the Atlanta Civic Center. Graduating this year are an expected 250 students.**

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