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THE BLACK PERSPECTIVE

THE UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDENT SERVICES

VOL 17 NO. 4 JANUARY 1996

"IT TAKES A VILLAGE"

by Joy Stephens

On January 4, 1996 a meeting was held in O'Reilly Hall to discuss an issue that has been seemingly absent on campus in recent months - community! "It Takes A Village" was a time for African-American students and administrators to come together to make solid plans in regards to the activities and events planned for African-Americans.

The meeting began with a brief introduction by African-American Student Services Director, Timothy Spraggins. Next, Assistant Director Kathleen Henderson explained in depth the results of an African-American student survey that was conducted during the summer of 1995. Although there was only a 21% response rate, Henderson believed the survey results shed an interesting light and a pretty accurate gage on student's viewpoints. It touched upon topics as basic as student activities and interests, to more in depth questions about academic life, classes, and the like.

After hearing these written results those in attendance were asked for their own interpretations and opinions. Eventually students were broken up into three groups in order to brainstorm on programming and forward thinking. The Martin Luther King Day of Service, Black History Month, and future events and speakers were the main topics of discussion. Students from each of the organizations represented were able to share their ideas and express exactly how their organizations were planning to contribute.

After a brief wrap-up, students were able to relax and reflect upon the events over a pizza party held in the DSP Lounge.

Continued on page 5

THE LATEST CONTROVERSY

by Glen Forest

Affirmative Action is one of the most controversial subjects on American college campuses and workplaces. It is also one of the most misunderstood issues, because to many it is seen as mere handouts. Yet, Affirmative Action is more complex than charity. It has two meanings; the first is to affirm equal individual opportunity for all. Thus, in the early 1960's, the first affirmative action programs, such as Head Start and Aid to Families with Dependent Children, were started. These programs were designed to help poor (and predominantly minority) families gain better education and skills. The Fair Employment and Fair Housing Acts were also added to help end discrimination against minorities. It was hoped that these steps, along with the rights enforced by the Voting Rights Acts of this time, would put the disadvantaged in a position to compete economically, socially, and politically with the advantaged.

It has been proven that people tend

to hire those who share similar backgrounds and lifestyles with themselves. So with the change not happening as rapidly as expected, a second type of Affirmative Action came into effect. This version emphasized group preferential solutions, rather than individual advancements. In the late 1960's, numerical quotas were established for preferential treatment of minorities and women.

The idea of preferential treatment was not novel, however. Black leader, Martin Delany advocated preferential treatment for blacks as early as 1871. Many others argued that blacks, perhaps more than any other ethnic or social group (not counting Native Americans), deserved to be compensated for the leisure, education, and wealth amassed by whites and deprived to blacks during 200 years of slavery and 100 years of Jim Crow laws in America. White preferential treat-

Continued on page 6



"Waiting to Exhale" showcases the talents of African-Americans. See page four to get reactions from two points of view.

LIVING IN AMERICA

by Ebony Odoms

I have often wondered how it would feel to experience Apartheid in South Africa. How it would feel to experience the Jim Crow Laws of the South. I am fortunate enough to live in a time in which we have overcome much of the racism of the past. But have we really overcome racism all together?

Sometimes being an African American in this day and age is not exactly easy. Although we might be better off than our ancestors, African Americans still get punished and blamed for things because of the mere color of their skin.

For example, just weeks ago a friend of mine, who happens to be African American, was stopped by a police officer for going through a yellow light. Unfortunately for him, he did not have his driver's license, thus he was taken to

jail. This escapade began at 7pm and was not over until 1am, hours after his \$133.00 bond had been paid. But the story does not end with his release. To much dismay, his car was towed.

When he went to retrieve it he discovered his car had a hold on it and in order for it to be released he had to speak with an officer. After another three hour wait he was able to retrieve his car, only to find that the back seat had been pulled out of place. Did they expect to find drugs in his car? Are these common procedures? Did my friend go through all of this turmoil because he went through a yellow light, or because he was an African American male?

Another example can be found in my own life. Upon leaving my job to head for school I was also faced with an eerie feeling of racism. As I rode down the elevator with my book bag on my arm, a fellow employee noticed it and asked if I was a student at Sinclair. I politely replied, "No, I go to the University of Dayton." Why was Sinclair the assumed answer?

Did I not look like I could attend a prestigious Catholic University? As I walked across the street and entered a department store I was instantly hounded by a store clerk. Being an African American with a book bag on my arm I was labeled as suspicious. Ironically, as I approached the jewelry counter I went unnoticed.

Does any of this sound familiar? Do you sometimes get fed up with these same or similar situations? As I share with you some examples of it may be like to live as an African American, I leave you with these words...."Be not discouraged. There is future for you... The resistance encountered now predicates hope... Only as we rise... Do we encounter opposition (Frederick Douglass, 1892)."

Contrary to what many may think, African Americans have made most of the difference in America. So I say to you fellow students...be not discouraged, for when you are making that difference, they will applaud! Be safe and have a good semester.

BLACK PERSPECTIVE

The *Black Perspective* is a University of Dayton student-run and operated publication. This paper aims to be the eyes, ears, and voice of the UD African-American community. The general editors urge the student body to use this paper to publicize their upcoming events and to express their thoughts on issues/events (national, state, local etc.) that affect the African-American community. This paper reflects the intelligence and determination that exist within the African-American community on this campus. The paper solicits student writings in all forms: editorials, feature articles, commentaries, poetry, or any other forms that address relevant issues. The editors do reserve the right to edit material and to choose material that will be published; however, only material that is presented in a derogatory manner will be rejected. The paper accepts writings from all UD students.

Submissions may be sent to
Black Perspective
c/o Diverse Student Population
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LIFT YOUR BROTHER UP

by Junelle Yvete Roberts

They say all black men are dogs
more filthier than the mud that host smelling hogs
Hey man teach that little brother what to say and do
lead him the right way, show him the truth
firing guns, dirty bloodied hands
All the while you see him you know that God has a better plan
Man stop acting scared, did you hear what I said.
Closing your mind, silence your thoughts, tuning out the pain
when he's beating on a sister's head
Hey aren't you going to say something, huh I could make a
zillion dollars.
If i was paid a penny for every profanity he hollers
Cleaner brother man i've got news for you
Haven't you realized that god is watching you too
Get yourselves together, you don't have to stand all alone
Pick your brother up, dust him off, turn him around, lift your heads up to God
and together to the father come back home

MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

BREAKFAST COMMEMORATES HOLIDAY

by Joy Stephens

On Tuesday, January 16, 1996, the annual Martin Luther King Prayer Breakfast was held in Kennedy Union Ballroom.

The program began with a musical prelude by guitarist Jim McCutchen. Next there was a reading from first year student Phillip Moore. The audience was then presented with the melodic voices of the MLK Ensemble under the direction of Sam Winston and Joseph Salley - who served as an interlude to the speakers on hand.

After an introduction by Brother Fitz, Keynote speaker Greer G. Gordon took the stage. Gordon is the former director of the office for Black Catholics in the Archdiocese of Boston. She is currently a faculty member at Regis College, Weston, MA. Gordon addressed the challenge and legacy of King and how it relates today.

The speaker developed ideas from her own life and intertwined them with the message that African-Americans as well as whites, must utilize their talents to fully encompass Martin Luther King's legacy. Like King, we must realize our commonalities to wage the battle against injustice. We cannot be satisfied with our own success alone, but realize the pathways that have allowed for our triumphs and continue to be trailblazers for the future.

Once again the MLK prayer Breakfast highlighted a wonderful man in American history and brought to light new ways in which his dream can be reflected upon today. After comments by Associate Dean of Students, Debra Moore, and a closing prayer, the program was fittingly ended with the resounding sounds of the African-American National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

CITY OF DAYTON CELEBRATES MLK

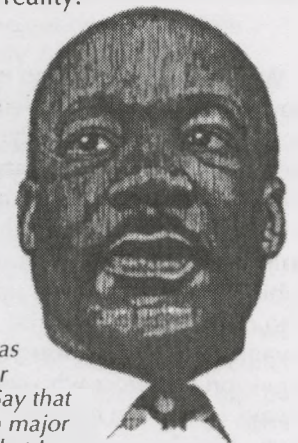
by Joy Stephens

One way in which the city of Dayton culminated the celebration of the Martin Luther King Holiday was the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's annual Presidential Banquet. The "Empowering the Community to Stop the Violence Through Peace, Love, and Unity" dinner was held on January 15, 1996, at the Dayton Convention Center.

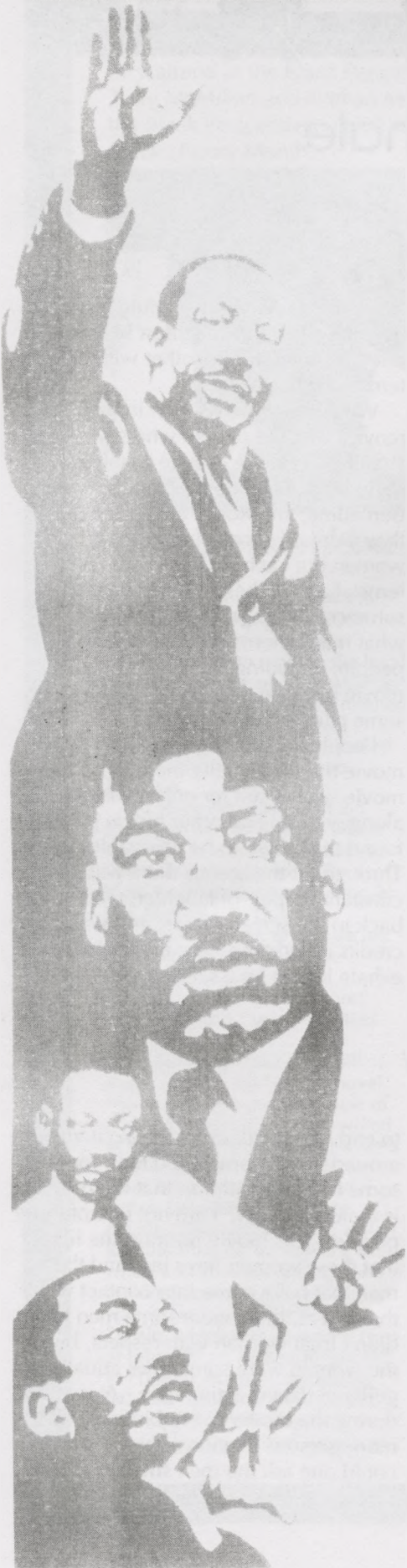
The banquet began with an introduction by Mistress of Ceremonies, Natasha King Williams of WHIO TV, channel 7. After the presentation of the national anthems the program continued with the SCLC Disciples Drill Team. Throughout the evening the patrons heard several musical offerings for their listening pleasure.

But it was keynote speaker, Dr. Henry J. Lyons, president of the National Baptist Convention, that delivered the most powerful message. Dr. Lyons paid a special tribute to Dr. King, and honored his ability to move the nation with his beliefs. Lyons suggested ways in which people can further King's dream - via voting, education, and most especially getting back to the values of peace, love, and unity.

The SCLC banquet helped the city of Dayton celebrate a great American hero. But in order to fully celebrate Dr. King the nation must continue to make his dream a reality.



"Say that I was a drum major for justice. Say that I was a drum major for peace. That I was a drum major for righteousness. And all of the other shallow things will not matter."





Waiting to Exhale

A SISTER'S POINT OF VIEW

by Natanya Pritchett

After months of anticipation, on December 22nd "Waiting to Exhale," the movie based on the novel written by Terry McMillan, was finally released. I was finally able to exhale! But as I soon found out I was not the only one. "Waiting to Exhale" focused on the trials and tribulations of four African American women in Phoenix Arizona; Savannah Jackson (Whitney Houston), Bernadine Harris (Angela Bassett), Robin Stokes (Lela Rochon) and Gloria Matthews (Loretta Devine). This was a movie about relationships: the relationships that the women have with the men in their lives, their children, their parents, and most especially each other.

Savannah has recently moved from Colorado to Phoenix to explore a new career opportunity. While furthering her career Savannah must also support her mother. Robin is a successful professional who is traveling down the road in search of "Mr. Right," but encounters "a whole lot" of "Mr. Wrongs" along the way. Gloria owns one of the few beauty salons in Phoenix for African Americans. She is also a

single mother who must deal with the rigors of raising her son Tarik. Finally, there is Bernadine, my personal favorite. She finds that after 11 years of marriage, her husband has left her and their two children for his 24 year old white bookkeeper. Bernadine must undergo numerous changes in order to except her new life.

The release of this movie has caused quite a few heated discussions to occur among females and males of all backgrounds, many centered around the depiction of the men in the movie. Is the movie male bashing? I would say no. Although the movie did include men who were cheating on their wives, jobless, and doing drugs. However, this movie also included men like Marvin (Gregory Hines) and James (Wesley Snipes). Marvin was a well established widower, who maintained a friendship with Gloria before developing a romantic relationship. James may have been married but I do not recall he and Bernadine doing anything other than consoling each other. The relationship being developed was a

friendship between two adults who may have been the slightest bit lonely, one divorced and the other with a terminally ill spouse.

What about the women in this movie? Are the people who say Waiting to Exhale is male bashing saying that Savannah, Gloria, Bernadine, and Robin are perfect? Yes they were all successful business women but each had their own problems. Each of these characters did some crazy things, but I think that is what made them loveable. Many people, including myself, enjoyed this movie because they could identify with some part of each character.

People are reading more into this movie than is actually there. The movie was meant for entertainment. I, along with several other movie patrons, found the movie to be enjoyable. Throughout the scenes there was a constant uproar of laughter, talking back to the screen, tears, and when the credits rolled there was a simultaneous exhale let out by a satisfied audience.

A BROTHER'S POINT OF VIEW

by Joseph Salley

Waiting to Exhale is an excellent movie for all mature audiences. The movie begins with a background on each of its' four central characters. Gloria (Loretta Devine) a single parent; is struggling with her weight as well as maintaining her own beauty salon. Robin (Lela Rochon) is a single woman who can't seem to find the right man. Savannah (Whitney Houston) is a television producer who seems to always fall for the man she can not have. Last, but certainly not least, there is Bernadine (Angela Bassett). Bernadine is the character that many fans leave the theater applauding. Her

husband is leaving her for another woman, that just happens to be white.

Within the first few moments of the movie we witness Bernadine's husband telling her that he wants a divorce. In turn, Bernadine begins to gather all of her soon to be ex-husband's clothes and burns them along with his prize BMW in front of their home. Bernadine is understandably upset; she has two children (that she now has to take care of alone) and is without a career, since she placed her husband career above her own.

The movie is exciting from beginning

to end. Yet, with all of the excitement around these women and their men, some have the opinion that the movie is male bashing... I am not one of those people. This movie portrays the lives that these women have led, and the men that have come into contact with them. Yes, there were some men that didn't treat women with respect, but the women were sometimes equally guilty of disrespecting men. At no time during the movie did Robin have a monogamous relationship, so how could one ask the men she was dating

Continued on page 6

A Message from the Editors

Welcome to the African American Showcase, each month two prominent African Americans (male and female) will be featured in the Black Perspective. This month's issue features Terry McMillan and Nathan McCall. Watch for the next edition of the Black Perspective, which will include a special section for Black History Month.



Terry McMillan

Terry McMillan was born in Port Huron, Michigan in 1951. McMillan, the eldest of five children, went to work in the local library at the age of 13 in order to help her recently divorced mother. This position led her to the revelation that there were indeed Black authors, namely James Baldwin.

At seventeen McMillan left Michigan for Los Angeles where she went to work as a secretary. Eventually she signed up for a class on Black literary classics, at Los Angeles City College. McMillan went on to receive her B.A. in Journalism from the University of California at Berkeley, where her first short story "The End," was published in 1976.

In the early 1980's McMillan began to work on her first novel *Mama*, the "moving chronicle of Mildred Peacock, a strong-willed woman modeled after McMillan's mother and her family." Since then this critically acclaimed author has written two more novels; *Disappearing Acts*, which tells the story of "an aspiring song writer and an often unemployed building contractor," and the widely acclaimed *Waiting to Exhale*, which was about the lives of four African American women in Phoenix Arizona. McMillan has also compiled and edited, *Breaking Ice: Anthology of Contemporary African American Fiction*.



Nathan McCall

Nathan McCall was born in Portsmouth Virginia, in 1955. Although McCall grew up comfortably in a middle class neighborhood he soon began to resent his "status in a racist society." Thus the renowned author felt his success would be limited and gradually lost interest in school. Despite some "criminal activity" McCall did manage to graduate from Manor High school in 1973, and briefly attend Norfolk State.

But shortly after leaving Norfolk State in 1974, the author was sentenced to 12 years in prison for armed robbery. While in prison he began to educate himself studying literature and philosophy. He also learned printing and design layout, which helped develop his interest in Journalism. McCall eventually obtained a scholarship to Norfolk State (where he returned upon his release from prison) where he graduated with honors from the school of Journalism.

After several years working on various newspapers McCall was hired by the Washington Post. McCall, no longer haunted by his tainted past, wrote his first book, "Makes Me Wanna Holler: A Young Black Man in America." The book created a sensation among the literary world. It is a graphic memoir about Nathan McCall's life and the trials and tribulations he has undergone. This African-American author's work is one that displays "how if a people are constantly oppressed, even the brightest and strongest among them will begin to doubt themselves and believe it" (Newsmakers 1994).

After the November issue of *The Black Perspective*, there was some resentment expressed in relation to the Shoutout Page. As to maintain the privacy of the persons involved we will not cite the particulars of the shoutout. But we, the editors of *Black Perspective*, hope that in the future readers will put their emphasis on the topics within the issue, and not the "light" additions. The contents of the paper are the end result of those who contribute, and everyone is welcome to do just that. Those who don't contribute, have made the decision not to, and in essence have nothing to say about what's presented.

In every issue there is a disclosure box, that states that the ideas presented in the paper are not necessarily the ideas of the editors or the University. That is a true statement. We [the editors] don't censor, to a point, the submissions we receive. Practically everything we receive, which is very little these days, is duplicated in the paper.

Our point.... Please do not hold the paper responsible for your unhappiness with the thoughts presented in it. The *Black Perspective* is just that, the perspectives of all the wonderful persons who submit to it.

Thank You,
Joseph Salley
Joy Stephens

VILLAGE (cont. from page 1)

As an active participant in many African-American activities, I was very pleased with the opportunity for a community meeting. When there are events being canceled at the VERY last minute, organizations losing their predominantly African-American membership, and organization meetings with very few of their members in regular attendance, a meeting of this nature was a definite necessity. I commend all of those in attendance and most especially those who organized the event. In the words of Dr. Gwendolyn Goldsby Grant, "By keeping our relationships together we celebrate the African-American collective, which has our strength in age past and will be our hope in years to come. Separated from our village, we're individuals, coming together makes us whole again."



First year student Daniel Stinson, prepares for the Ebony Heritage Singers Winter Concert. Congratulations on another wonderful performance!

THE LATEST CONTROVERSEY

(cont. from page 1)

ment has been advocated since the founding of the colonies.

But handouts are not what we desire or receive from Affirmative Action. Affirmative Action just makes sure that businesses select applicants from a large pool that includes minorities. So instead of AT&T seeking graduates from only Harvard (a predominately white-male university), under Affirmative Action laws, they must also recruit from Spelman (a predominantly black-female university). In turn, Harvard University must accept applications from qualified students of Dayton Public Schools, rather than just from private or parochial high schools.

However, since cries of "reverse racism" are increasingly shrieked, we must prepare for the possible death of more or all of the country's Affirmative Action regulations. These programs are used by national & local companies to ensure the fair hiring of minorities, women, and handicapped. After a little success for these groups, our xenophobic W.A.S.P. countrymen are scared and ready to stagger the paying field again. The key for continued success, with or without Affirmative Action, is education. A foot is in the door now. Education of ourselves and our children, which leads to social-political awareness and action, is the major way to push completely open the door to upward mobility for the disadvantaged of this country.

Waiting to Exhale

A BROTHER'S POINT OF VIEW

(Continued from page 4)

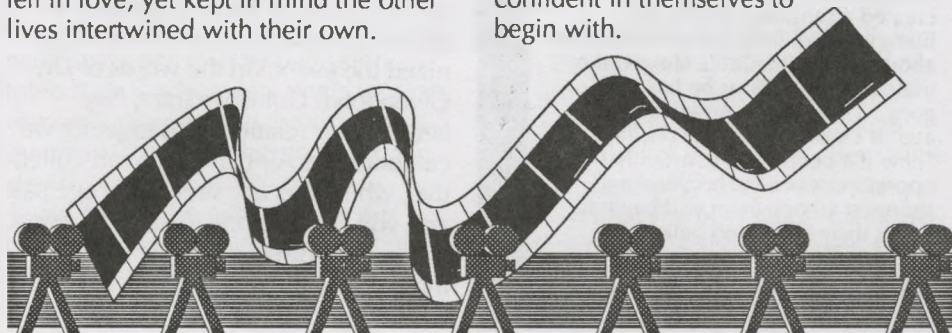
to do the same. Savannah was involved with a married man, and she knew that he was married. That was the key to her disappointment. If she knew he was married then she was equally as wrong.

But all the characters were not so misleading. Marvin (Gregory Hines), James (Wesley Snipes), Bernadine and Gloria all show tremendous strength. I really like the way that Terry McMillan portrayed them. Despite the problems they faced, they still have morals and values that they live by.

James and Bernadine met in a hotel bar while thinking about the problems they were facing. They spent the night together consoling one another in a purely platonic way. In that night they fell in love, yet kept in mind the other lives intertwined with their own.

Gloria and Marvin were also everyday people. Both were single and beginning to live their lives anew. Marvin opened Gloria's eyes to the strong a hold she was keeping on her son. Gloria felt alone and thought that her son was the only life that she was capable of having. But, once her and Marvin became close, she was able to let go of her son and grab a hold of her man.

Waiting to Exhale is a must see for all mature audiences!!! Despite the controversy surrounding it, with a black director, author and cast, the movie is an outstanding showcase of African American talent. When I left the movie theater I was just as confident in myself as a man as I was when I entered. Anyone who felt otherwise wasn't confident in themselves to begin with.



WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

The *Black Perspective* can't continue unless we have your help. Please, if you'd like to see your name in print, drop your articles, poems, or drawings off in the *Black Perspective* box in D.S.P. or e-mail

salleyJL@saber.udayton.edu
Deadline February 5, 1996

BLACK ACTION THRU UNITY WEEK



FEBRUARY 4th-10th, 1996

Sunday—February 4th

Day of Worship

Where: Mt. Enon Baptist Church

Come and support fellow student Lakisha Woods in the Celebration of her Baptism and dedication of her life to God.

Time: Meet in Marycrest lobby at 9:45 a.m. The van will leave promptly at 10:00 a.m.

Monday—February 5th

Day of Service

Where: St. Joseph Children's Treatment Center

Time: Meet in Marycrest lobby at 6:00 p.m. The van will leave promptly at 6:15 p.m.

Tuesday—February 6th

Mens Basketball Game

Where: The University of Dayton Arena

BATU has not scheduled an event on this day so that students may go and support the Mens Basketball team.

Wednesday—February 7th

Black History Bowl

The University of Dayton vs. Wright State University

Where: O'Leary Auditorium

Time: 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Thursday—February 8th

The Oprah Winfrey Show

Topic: Relationships

Where: O'Leary Auditorium

Time: 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Friday—February 9th

Movie Night

Showing: Panther

Where: O'Leary Auditorium

Time: 9:00 p.m.

Saturday—February 10th

BATU Party

Where: Kettering Hall

Time: 9:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m.

Cost: \$2.00 b4 11:00 p.m., \$3.00 after, members \$1.00

COMING EVENTS

National Afro-American Museum

Poster Exhibit Featuring:

Black Women

November 5 - May 12, 1996

Black Inventors

November 12 - May 12, 1996

(located @ 1350 Brush Row Road
in Wilberforce, Ohio)
call (513) 376-4944 for info.

Scholarships Available

The Rotary Foundation:

Students studying abroad. Deadlines
March - July.

(Sheelah Moyer x3526)

TAYLOR MADE

A talented R&B band comes to the PUB

Jan 26th 9pm-1am.

\$2.00 ADMISSION!!

Sponsored by CAB and
THE BLACK PERSPECTIVE.

Howard Watkins & Xiang Giao

in Concert

Sears Recital Hall, 8 p.m.

February 2

(tickets available in DSP \$5.00)

African American Liturgy

Fr. Freddy Washington

Main Chapel, 5 p.m.

February 4

Tales from Two Authors

U.D. Black ALumni


Margaret Peters

& Tyrone Parnell


Barrett Dining Room, 7 p.m.

February 8





Shoutouts



What's up to all my peeps? Welcome back! And much love to my girl Amaris for comin' back and stickin' it out here at UD. One love. I'm Out.

Danni

I'd like to give a shoutout to my dogs on the yard — Goldie & Disdain, and my missing dog Hear No Evil.

From The Smooth Criminal

Dee and Danielle want to send this out to everyone who thinks we're shady... Don't judge us cause you don't know us.

This is to all ya'll graduating in May — 'Kemi, Delisha, Joe, Cleo & Kemba. This is it!!!

I loves ya — N'Kechia

Here's a big "Whatz Up" to my girlz: A-Dawg, Eb, and Fo 9. Good luck this semester. I'm out!

K-Dawg

Happy Birthday to all of those smooth cats born in January: Ms. Henderson, Danni, Mona, Erica, Donita, Patrick, and the smoothest of all Ebony. Have a good one!

To the lov eof my life (Yusef). You mo" debinatly put a move on my heart. Let's make '96 as exciting and revealing as last year!

N'Kechia

To my girlz in P-phi-P: Psycho B, LoCo, T Baby & E-Bony. Don't hurt 'em!!!

K Bone

Shortie and Daniegirl want to give a shoutout to our original crew — the stupikidz · we miss our all nighters!

Amaris,

If there is no struggle, there is no progress (Frederick DOuglass). Keep your head up!

Ebony!

To my girlz in the Cool Candy Crew — LoCo, Psyco B, K-Bone & E-Bony. Keepin' it real in '96!

T-Baby

To all of those Black men in Kettering Hall — Wuz Up! And a special shoutout to Mr. Rick Gougis! I'll holla!

Congratulations are in order to Ms. N'Kechia Abney who received a 4.0 last semester. You go girl!

Ebony

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO GIVE A SHOUTOUT TO SOMEONE SPECIAL FOR VALENTINE'S DAY DROP IT IN THE BLACK PERSPECTIVE'S BOX BEHIND THE COMPUTER IN DSP.

EBONY

TAYLOR MADE!!
JANUARY 26, 9 P.M.-1 A.M.
K.U. PUB
\$2.00 ADMISSION