

Perspective

VOL. 4 NO.1

THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

OCTOBER, 1992

The Demands of the Black Students of JHU

Preface

To create a better and more equitable environment in which all students may live and study.

To combat the curse of racism and bigotry.

To educate all facets of the university about Black culture, and subsequently all cultures.

To effect understanding and respect for Black peoples, Black cultures, and the Black struggle worldwide.

To stimulate active change and bring the necessary improvements to this institution and society at large.

For these reasons and those listed below this list of demands is presented by the Black Students of The Johns Hopkins University with the support of the Black organizations of the aforementioned institution.

The demands presented here are the

culmination of a long struggle for equality and justice on this campus. Black students on this campus are forced to legitimize themselves at every turn.

First as human beings with civil rights. Second as students with adequate credentials.

Black people are systematically excluded from this campus and no attempts to redress their grievances are effectively made by the administration.

Since the inception of the Black Student Union and other Black organizations these concerns have been raised and systematically ignored.

These same demands with suggestions have been presented to the administration since the inauguration of President William C. Richardson.

All of our attempts have fallen

upon virtually deaf ears. With the state of society today this can no longer be tolerated. Johns Hopkins is considered as a premier institution, yet in comparison to universities of comparable standing, it is lagging far behind in the areas addressed in this list.

All of this promotes a difficult, hostile, and racist environment for Black students and further divides the future leaders of society.

With such division at the head, the general state of society is sure to worsen. Clearly we as students and members of society cannot tolerate inaction on the part of this school.

The demands of the Black students are to bring justice, equality, and enlightenment, and to begin to redress past and present social wrongs.

In the memory of those who have come before us we shall strive to bring change to this university and all of society, in order to make this a better world

for those who shall follow us

Henry A. Boateng
President, BSU 1992

To all administrators, faculty, employees, and students of The Johns Hopkins University.

The following are the demands of the Black students of the Homewood Campus of The Johns Hopkins University:

1) A substantial increase in the amount of Black faculty at Homewood campus.

Faculty at any university should adequately reflect and represent the student population, this is most important at the undergraduate level. Faculty not only reflect the student population but they should also support and provide role models for students. These are essentials for undergraduates as they need the most guidance. Black faculty is noticeably absent at this university. There are only

two full Black professors at Homewood campus. At an institution where the credentials of Black students are questioned and the perceptions of Black people are based on negative images, Black faculty are an essential step forward in combatting the ignorance and negative stereotypes that run rampant on this campus.

2) The creation of a Black studies department in the school of Arts & Sciences.

While this school has; Latin American studies, Women Studies, Near Eastern Studies, Hispanic & Italian Studies, Russian, French, and various other culturally based departments, these are programs and studies that begin to educate students about different facets of humanity, yet the Black experience is virtually ignored. The paltry representation of African culture is not nearly comprehensive or consistent enough to provide a full education to the students. The total lack of any course that deals with African

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Minority Student Affairs Committee's First Meeting of the Year a Success

By Craig F. Warren

On October 16 the Minority Student Affairs committee of the Student Council held it's first meeting of the year in the Homewood Student Services conference room.

In attendance were representatives from Baishak, Ole, JSI, SASH, HOMES, CSA, KSA, BSU, PSA, the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs, Clan D'Aire, and other concerned students.

"I want to promote the interaction of students from different backgrounds," said committee chair Maaza Abdi, "Not only with each other, but with the Hopkins community, which includes faculty and administrators. Abdi added that she

wants to provide, "education for student groups on people and cultures, which is not limited to race, but which also includes religion and sexual orientation."

She is presently working on a shuttle to Morgan State University, soliciting questions for Dean of Homewood Student Services Larry Benedict's Quality of Life Survey, implementing diversity training for all faculty, administrators, and employees, and a lecture series.

Dr. Janet Moore, Director of Multicultural Student Affairs, stated that she had called the meeting because she wanted student input into her office, and because she wanted

to see more coordination between the different ethnic and cultural groups on campus.

During the course of the meeting representatives told the group about various activities which their organizations had planned. The following are some of the events which are coming up soon.

On Mondays and Tuesdays the JSI holds language education classes. The Monday class is held in Gilman 22 and the Tuesday class in Gilman 12.

On Sundays HOMES sponsors a studyathon from 9am-5pm in Schaffer 300. HOMES also sponsors "HOMES at the HUT" on Wednesdays from 8-12 pm in the HUT. On October 31 the BSU is holding a Family Weekend Event

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PLUS MUCH, MUCH, MORE!

The Sixteen Demands

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American culture and contributions to society heightens ignorance and entrenches racism in society.

A comprehensive Black Studies department would include all facets of African cultures and experiences in the world, from African History (not the history of European colonization of Africa) and culture, languages and art, to African American Literature and history.

The entire Black experience must be covered by this department in order to educate the leaders of tomorrow and give them an opportunity to appreciate and understand Black peoples worldwide. Without this department this opportunity does not exist.

3) The employment of a Black academic advisor in both the G.W.C. Whiting School of Engineering and the School of Arts & Sciences.

Black Academic advisors will not only provide sound academic advice to all students, but will also provide a supportive base that Black students can relate to in this hostile environment.

The need for a Black academic advisor is highlighted by the departure of many brilliant Black students following the first two years at JHU.

Black academic advisors are essential in providing Black students with guidance and role models throughout their academic years.

4) Black Student representation on all committees concerning important appointments and hiring that affect student life at Homewood campus.

This will ensure different perspectives on decisions affecting student life. All too often the concerns of Black and other minority student groups are left out of these decisions that affect them directly.

Student council involvement has not been adequate in this area. The concerns of Black students that should be

taken into consideration for these decisions always seem to slip through the cracks.

Black representation on committees will ensure that decisions of significance are made with fair consideration for all who will be affected.

5) The employment of a Counselor, Advisor, and a Programmer for Black Student Activities.

These are three separate positions each geared to facilitate Black student life at this institution.

A counselor will fill a role as a personal guide to each Black student. An advisor is different from #3 in that this role will advise each student group and allow them to be most effective. This position will also serve as an administrative voice for Black student concerns.

A programmer will coordinate all Black student activities and functions with each other and other minority groups.

6) An increase in Black Graduate Student recruitment, and the establishment of functional support systems.

The present level of Black graduate students is unacceptable. The number of Black graduate students here does not reflect the aptitude of Black students in general.

This university needs to expand its recruitment practices and extend its resources to Black graduate students.

Black graduate students are the future backbones of Black community and society. Without adequate support systems the students are totally dependent upon departments and advisors who may contribute to the hostile environment.

These support systems would include a university sponsored student union with an advisor an administrative voice for these graduate students. In this way the feeling of isolation that the students experience may

be addressed. Recruitment can be aided through the implementation of such programs as a minority engineering program and department related summer programs.

This will begin to attract Black undergraduates who will eventually come to Hopkins as graduate students.

7) The requirement of one African American Studies course for all undergraduate students.

The requirement for this type of course should be incorporated into departmental requirements for graduation, in the manner that languages and English courses are now required.

Such a requirement would provide all undergraduates with an understanding of African-American history and culture and at the same time promote awareness of cultures outside of the European cultures which abound at this university.

8) The creation of an Auxiliary Enterprises advisory committee, comprised of workers.

The employees of this university experience de facto discrimination at every turn. Their opinions and rights are ignored and their privileges are curtailed without consultation. They experience undeserved disrespect and rudeness from the student population and exclusion, discrimination, and apathy from the administration.

An advisory committee is to be comprised of the workers and would be a platform for the workers to air their grievances and a voice to air their opinions on matters of concern to them.

9) The protection of the interests of Black students in the Baltimore community.

The university needs to take the interests of its Black students to Baltimore City police and the general com-

munity. In the past, Black students have been the victims of police harassment and unlawful arrests. In the midst of all of these reported transgressions by Baltimore police the University has remained silent. This will no longer be tolerated.

The University also needs to be considerate of Black students in the promotion of Baltimore communities. Hamden is a direct example of this.

While the university stresses that its students and faculty to avoid Greenmount because of "violence and crime" it does not give the same warning for Hamden, haven of discrimination and racial violence.

Clearly equally as "dangerous" as Greenmount avenue yet this is not said because the danger is primarily towards Blacks.

10) The improvement of community relations through educational and social programs.

This community is an illustration of a community divided on all fronts. Both on the student level and the general community.

Programs need to be implemented that will educate this immediate community. Resources need to be spent in these community's elementary and high schools.

Social programs need to highlight all facets of this community in creating a better understanding of each one.

Diversity training is essential on the student and administrative level in order to teach these future leaders how to effectively deal with our diverse society.

11) Free tuition and transportation for students wishing to attend classes geared towards African American studies at other schools not included in the consortium.

At the present time the university does not have a course dealing

with African-Americans. Although the university is part of a consortium with other universities, none of these schools have a separate African-American or Black Studies department.

The nearest African-American Studies program is at UMBC, and there is no transportation and tuition is not free. Therefore there is no access to any African-American courses since there is no transportation to Morgan either which is included in the consortium.

Until such time as the university has its own African American department it needs to provide access to available departments in the area.

12) An increase in funding for Black Student groups.

At the present time the sole responsibility of educating the Hopkins community about the Black peoples and cultures falls upon the student groups. In order for these groups to fulfill this objective the level of funding must be increased.

There is no department, studies, or program to support any Black student activities. Black History Month has been the sole responsibility of the Black student organizations.

The university takes no formal acknowledgment of Black History Month. In order for these organizations to effectively educate the Hopkins community, the level of funding must be increased.

13) The construction of an outdoor athletic facility.

This university has systematically shuts its doors to its immediate community and its auxiliary staff. Under the pretense of space constraints and security problems the athletic facilities have been totally closed off to both workers and members of the community, thus completing the ivory tower. The construction of an outdoor athletic facility, which would include a basketball court, a fitness track and a playground

The Sixteen Demands

Continued from p. 2
would provide the opportunity for the students to interact with the community.

This would help alleviate the present strain on the athletic center and provide a better environment for all members of the community.

14) An indepth letter from the President of the University to the Baltimore Sun, Newsletter, and the Gazette decrying the 400 years of total and absolute mistreatment, degradation, and oppression Blacks have suffered; pledging Hopkins full and active

support in righting the past and present wrongs that have prevented Blacks from enjoying citizenship in the community of humankind.

In order for the university to make an effective change in this environment it must be initiated from the top. The president of this university has acknowledged a need for change.

This letter is the first symbolic step and it signifies the administration's commitment to making change and combatting racism at Hopkins and in society.

15) Monthly written progress reports listing the university's status in meeting these demands.

16) Written acknowledgment of all agreements that are made, to be sent to the Black Student Union within two days of their occurrence.

These last two demands are measures to insure accountability from an administration that has been slow to meet the requests that it has agreed to.

For the past two years the Black Student organizations have met with the present

administration and had been meeting with the previous administration for at least four years.

Although the concerns that have been raised have always met with approval and "support", the final response has always been empty promises. Points fifteen and sixteen are to hold administration accountable by making their spoken promises written.

Address questions to HOMES, Hopkins chapter of The National Society of Black Engineers.

Student Council Supports Black Student Demands

By Craig F. Warren

On September 17 the Executive Board of the Black Student Union (BSU) met with the Executive Board of the Student Council (council), in an effort to improve relations between the two bodies, and to find ways in which council could better represent its Black constituents.

At the meeting council was presented with copies of the demands which a group of Hopkins students had presented to the administration during the summer. Council stated that they would discuss the demands among themselves and inform the BSU of which of the demands they would support at the BSU Executive Board meeting the following week.

On September 24 Vice President for Institutional Relations Katie Crowley and Secretary Bill Van Horne attended the BSU Executive Board meeting

and stated that Council would take the following stances on demands 1-14. At the time of the meetings 15 and 16 had not yet been drafted. However, the BSU is presently awaiting a Council report on their position on these demands.

1. Council agreed with this demand and stated that a letter of support to the appropriate administrative parties would be drafted within a week.

2. Council stated that the new minor in Multicultural and Regional Studies emphasizes Africa, and that the fulfillment of the demand was not feasible at this time.

3. Council agreed to send a letter of support to the appropriate administrative parties.

4. Council agreed to send a letter to the appropriate administrative bodies.

5. Council indicated that it was their belief that a minority programmer already existed.

Ed's Note: The version of the demands presented to council did not emphasize that the demand called for three different positions.

7. Council stated that the demand was unrealistic.

8. Council stated that if the committee had no student members than it was not a council issue.

9. Council agreed with this demand.

10. Council agreed with this demand, and stated that efforts would be made to reach out to more communities, and to move away from the Charles Village focus.

11. Council argued that no free tuition could

be provided unless a special program was established. Council also stated that it would look into the transportation angle and would refer the demand to the Student Services committee.

12. Council agreed with this demand.

13. Council agreed with this demand and stated that a letter would be sent to Athletic Center Director Bob Scott and Facilities Director Bob Schuerholz.

14. Council agreed with this demand and stated that on September 23 SC President Sadow had sent a letter supporting this demand to University President William C. Richardson.

15-16. Not discussed.

South Asian Celebration Nov. 14 HRCO Offers Grants for Diversity Programming

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for all students and their families in the Garrett room from 7-9pm.

On November 6 Ole will sponsor a Hoppy Hour. On November 14 SASH will hold its annual South Asian celebration.

CSA sponsors language tables every week where students may only speak the dialect of the day, they are also planning on setting-up Mah Jong tables.

Other topics discussed during the meeting included the

CLASS OF '96

By Tammie D. Simmons

"Congratulations!" You have been selected as one of the chosen few. In the words of the most illustrious W.E.B. DuBois, you represent the "Talented Tenth."

You are hereby entitled to participate in an intensive four year study which will examine the actions and attitudes of others in your category. The study will concentrate on each of the following:

1. "Me" vs. "We" activism and the dichotomy between campus and community commitment.

2. Black: Is it a feeling? Is it an identity to be exploited for personal gain? Is it only to be claimed in moments of oppression? (See Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas)

3. "Where's the party?" vs. "Where's the problem...and how can I help to alleviate it."

4. "Bandwagon Black Folks" or "Amen, brother! Tell them about themselves..(but you won't catch me making a fuss. I have my studies/image to worry about can't be bothered."

5. Further studies TBA.

Student Council Questionnaire

- The Johns Hopkins University Student Council is a cluster of incompetent, prejudiced, fools who have no interest in representing all segments of the Hopkins community and who lack the intestinal fortitude to take decisive action.
- The Johns Hopkins University Student Council is a body of extremely competent, open-minded students who are interested in representing most of the Hopkins community, and who, on a regular basis make decisions which have a major effect on the student body.
- All of the above

Which of the above statements accurately characterizes Student Council?

Answer: C. All of the above

resources available to the groups from the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs, possible fundraisers, possible jointly sponsored activities, HRCO grants for diversity oriented programs, the distribution of a calendar listing the events of all the groups, and the procurement of more programming space.

At the conclusion of the meeting it was decided that the committee would meet once a month. The meeting ended promptly at 4pm.

VIEWPOINT

Editorial: Why?

The constitution of the Black Student Union states that one of the responsibilities of the Community Relations Chairperson is, "To create and produce a BSU Newsletter." *Perspective* is that newsletter.

But what is *Perspective*? Dean of Homewood Student Services Larry Benedict recently asked why there was a need for this publication since students could voice their

opinions in the *News-Letter*. The opinions voiced in this publication would never be printed in the *News-Letter*. To put it simply, many of them are just too Black for that publication to deal with. Thus we have one of the functions of *Perspective*. It is a medium for voices which otherwise would not be heard.

"Why does the BSU have a newsletter and we do not?" asks

other student groups. Why do you call us nigger behind our backs? Why do you question our academic qualifications? Why are you afraid of us? Why are you so damned ignorant? That is why we have a newsletter, and you do not. A cursory glance through this issue reveals that the situation for African-American's and Blacks at this school is deplorable.

I know a great deal

about you, but you know virtually nothing about me. The fact that this type of ignorance is maintained by the administration and supported by the majority of the student body makes the need for this type of publication self-evident.

The second function of *Perspective* is to educate the Hopkins community about a people, about whom they would otherwise learn

nothing...the sons and daughters of mother Africa.

The third function of *Perspective* is to serve as a catalyst for change by challenging you to see things from a different perspective.

I envision Hopkins as the Mosaic and *Perspective* as John Stewart. Think about it?

-CFW

The Worm From the Apple Comes to JHU

By Michelle S. Cespedes

Black people have a tendency to be reactive. I can't stand people who ONLY get mad when someone in a position of power (usually a White man) does or says something that confirms his ignorance of or bias against Black people.

Please note that these "reactionaries" are the same people that you never see or hear from when there is a call for action or a movement to incite change unless someone lands he first blow. Unfortunately, I am finding out that there are more and more times when you have to respond when you are faced with overwhelming evidence of how people really think.

Former New York City Mayor Ed Koch opened the MSE Symposium on October 13. His topic was "The American Social Fabric: Tearing Apart?" Right off the back, he stated that the issue of race is the most important one with regard to his topic. This comment alone made me pay closer attention to the rest of his remarks.

The first social problem he tackled was crime. He asked "What are the root causes of crime?" He then did the politically correct thing and provided various statistics on how many violent crimes were committed by Black males, around 45%. He went on to state that the root cause of crime, was not genetic, was not due to cultural determination, and most definit-

ely was not poverty.

Not Poverty. Hmm, oh really. His rationale was that during the Great Depression when the poverty rate was extremely high, the crime rate was markedly lower than it is now. Personally, I think that is absolutely irrelevant.

Of course being poor is a factor. Not being able to sustain a minimum standard of living, being more likely to receive a sub-standard education because of your socio-economic class, and the fact that increased drug usage and poverty are often linked are definitely causes of crime.

However, he may have a point. I wouldn't consider the head bankers in the Savings and Loan Scandal, the members of Congress who wrote thousands of dollars of bad checks on the House Bank, or the Michael Milken's of the world poor by any stretch of the imagination. These people committed crimes that every tax payer has been punished for. I have a feeling that Koch wasn't referring to these types of crimes, but only to those which involve Black males.

One of his solutions to our social problems, also caused me to raise an eyebrow, and listen that much more closely. He believes that it is imperative the "disaffiliated" (i.e. inner city Blacks and Hispanics) be removed from their environment. His idea was to

have everyone, regardless of race or class, enlist for a year or two in a national service program.

This would allow them to learn a skill, while serving their country. As idealistic as this sounds, I had to wonder, "If someone's family had enough money would there be loopholes, and would the more desirable "service" positions go to the disaffiliated?"

His most interesting comment of the evening was that Black people are often misrepresented by their leaders. According to Koch, Although their leaders may portray them otherwise, the majority of Blacks are conservative. Hence, they overwhelmingly oppose affirmative action and support capital punishment.

Koch described the Black conservative as wanting to enjoy the same rights and opportunities as everyone else. He defined affirmative action as "quotas".

I, for one, know that the formal definition of affirmative action has nothing to do with quotas, and that the death penalty is inherently unjust because you are more likely to be executed if you are Black. I wonder who he defined as our "leaders?"

Koch's ninety minute lecture may seem insignificant in the larger scheme of things. It was, after all, one man's view on the state of the country. But, if we realize that this man ran one of our

major cities for twelve years, and is still relatively influential in politics, the relevance of what he thinks increases.

Attend the symposiums. You'll always be surprised with what you learn. Know who represents you, watch how you vote, and put an end to the ignorance. It's up to us.

Council of Fools

Continued from p. 8 to approve the letter he threatened to send the letter on his own authority without the approval of the rest of the council.

Throughout the whole affair did Sadow or any other member of the council ever stop to think about the repercussions of their actions. I think not. All they were interested in doing was going on a witch hunt for a piece of the BSU's ass, and unfortunately that's exactly what they got.

The Black Student Union's Perspective

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This paper is published twice a semester by the Black Student Union. Please forward any submissions or comments to the BSU mailbox in the SAC lounge.

Opinions or views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the Black Student Union.

"Things That Make You Say Hmmm..."

What is a "multicultural student?"

Who is Dr. Gordon, and what does he stand for?

And then there were two.

Director Of
Multicultural Student
Affairs Janet Moore

The New Kid On the Block: Check Yourself!

By Tammie D. Simmons

"Here man, have a dollar. In fact, naw, brother-man, here have two. Two dollars means a snack for me but it means a great deal to you...I never thought twice about spendin' on an old bum until I had the chance to really get to know one."

"And to think all the money Blacks spend on big colleges, still most of y'all come out confused."

"Mr. Wendal"

Arrested Development

Confused! In the scant five weeks that I've been immersed in the Hopkins community this appears to be an appropriate label for the "Black agenda" on this campus. This confusion arises from a misunderstanding of motives.

Perhaps the best way to attack this issue is to list those observations which have caused me concern. Bear in mind that I am a lowly, unseasoned, freshman who is probably a victim of her youthful idealism. The items below are not listed in order of importance, for they are all equally disturbing.

1. The BSU sponsors a cook out on the beach to welcome incoming freshman to this glorious university. There are hot dogs, hamburgers, and attempts at football. Everyone is laughing and enjoying this late summer gathering on the beach.

And there's a man in an old and soiled clothing seat

ed quietly on the lawn. Alone munching a hamburger. Alone, I arrive late at the picnic and am only slightly startled by his presence. I have seen him sitting stoically in front of Royal Farms on certain evenings.

Interested in observing attitudes, I stand aside for ten minutes. I get the distinct impression that all the Black folks "catching up" on each other's lives are oblivious to his presence. I send a short prayer upwards asking God to create the situation for me to speak with him.

When he gets up to obtain another hamburger I casually mosey over to the area where he's seated. About ten feet from the spot is a 3x5 photo of an attractive young Black woman in blue jeans standing in a living room. It's one of those casual shots when you're kind of goofing off with the camera but want something kind of nice. The scratches and wear on its' fuzzy cover give it an aged appearance. I timidly approach the crowd seeking an owner.

When I ask if the photo is his, he says yes, thanks me, and asks me gently if I could place it in his back pockets (his hands are full). God had answered my prayer.

I sat down with this gentleman and had a pleasant conversation about nothing in particular. I remember feeling that it was just like talking to "anyone else" for the first time, and not feeling saintly or any of that

condescending mess. When I saw him on the street a few days later, I called out his name and said, "Hello."

The picnic had been going strong for more than an hour. Yet, I was the first to speak to this disenfranchised Black man, a true casualty of the "system" which we so delight in decrying.

We need to check ourselves.

2. A small, select, group of Black students lead the Black organizations on this campus. This, in itself, is acceptable, HOWEVER, this small, select group has a paltry number of dedicated helpers. People voice "We want change," but how many times does the Exec Board have to pass out sign-up sheets?

3. Edward I. Koch is a dangerous man. His power is less potent now that he has been relieved of his mayorship, but he lectures across the country, spreading his skewed values.

More of us should have taken the opportunity to hear him speak. He represents many in the power structure of this nation.

It behooves Black people to know who their enemies are, and to begin re-educating themselves and each other.

We are more brainwashed than we think...

4. Project Outreach is an organization which introduces fifth graders from inner city Baltimore to

and establishes friendships between college students and children.

There are approximately 70 volunteers in the program, each of whom sacrifices a total of 15 hours out of the entire school year. The majority are South Asian and European Americans, only about three are Black.

The schools the fifth graders attend are 100% Black.

Think about it

5. The Garrison Middle School Project mentors and tutors. It is a perfect opportunity to share your gifts with someone who could benefit so much.

Is "Each one, reach one" just a hollow suggestion?

Can we afford to be on the same self-interested, materialistic agenda as so many of our white brothers and sisters?

Think about it

It saddens me to think that we, who represent the best Black America has to offer, are assuming many of the self-destructive attitudes of White America.

This article is an indictment of the apathetic ones. It is an indictment born of love and concern, and not of a simple desire to belittle and complain.

To the true-hearted Black folks who understand, appreciate, and act on their community responsibilities...applause

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The President's Corner

By Henry A. Boateng

The Black Student Union of the Johns Hopkins University was established in the seventies. Among the primary objectives of the BSU is the creation of an atmosphere where a complete education can be received by Black students.

Through the efforts of many dedicated students the BSU has been a driving force for justice and equality at Hopkins and worldwide. Illustrations of our commitment were symbolized in the 1980's by the Black Student Union's role in the university's divestment from South Africa.

In more recent times we have symbolized our dedication to justice and equality by organizing and leading last year's peaceful Rodney King rally.

In fulfilling our objectives the BSU is moving forward in creating a better atmosphere at Hopkins for Black students

and, by doing so, for all minorities. This year we support the sixteen demands presented in this issue and stand ready to battle for what we feel is right.

In the midst of the present controversy, I feel it is necessary to clear the air. The controversy over the September 27 BSU general body meeting has been blown out of proportion and the facts have been totally distorted. The facts surrounding this meeting are as follows:

1. Following the adjournment of the meeting I made the announcement for any Black students who were at the previous week's question forum to remain if they still had questions.

2. At that previous meeting all members who were on the attendance sheet were called. All the people present were Black.

3. At no point was anyone

specifically asked to leave. The meeting was simply adjourned.

4. A total of 12 interested students remained.

The decision by the Student Council, and the latest media hype surrounding this meeting have failed to look at these facts, and the testimony of every individual at that meeting save two. It is interesting to note that members of the SAC executive board were present at the meeting, and did not file similar complaints.

The decision that Student Council is incongruous with the facts and is thoroughly disappointing. Yet what is even more disappointing is the time spent in unnecessary debate, over whether to send a simple letter of reprimand. There are far more important issues for Student Council to debate than an alleged exclusionary meeting.

If exclusion is a concern of this university, then deal with the exclusion of Black people and Black culture from every aspect of this university. If the university wishes to combat injustices than deal with the injustices that are faced by Black students as they are constantly harassed and forced to legitimize themselves to the Hopkins and Baltimore communities. The fact that this insignificant incident has taken precedence over pressing concerns is truly appalling.

Although this entire incident has been disheartening, we remain undaunted. We will move forward. As part of our agenda we will send out liaisons to all student groups to further explain our position and our concerns. This action will help us learn about the concerns of others, and improve our ties with the Hopkins community. It is our hope that by

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RECORD RATING GUIDE

A-Slammin'; excellent; buy the CD!
 B-Damn Good; buy the cassette!
 C-Average; OK; Dub from a friend.
 D-Buy the bootleg tape
 F-Don't even think about buying the bootleg tape.

As you all should know by now, our illustrious university will have the pleasure of being graced by the presence of Boogie Down Production's KRS-ONE next week at the MSE SYMPOSIUM ON NOVEMBER 4, IN SHRIVER HALL. ADMISSION IS FREE, FREE, FREE!

We all consider KRS-ONE to be something of a hip-hop prophet of socio-political ideologies (sounded good, didn't it?), a "Black Revolutionary," a man to be heard. So before we all rush over to Shriver, let's take some time to briefly reflect on just why it is that we give Kris Parker so much respect, the man behind the Stop the Violence movement and HEAL (Human Education) something something), the man known as "the Teacher."

In 1986 the world was introduced to Boogie Down Productions, a veritable posse comprised of

Scott La Rock, KRS-ONE, and, in part, D-Nice, MC Boo, ICU, and Kenny Parker. With the release of the infamous 'dis' singles, "The Bridge is Over" and "South Bronx," and the subsequent release of their debut album, *Criminal Minded*, BDP emerged from the underground hip-hop scene.

Not bad for a former homeless man and his social worker. Regarded as a hip-hop classic, this album brought the sound of the South Bronx streets to the airwaves. For those of us who remember this perpetuated the long-standing radio wars between 98.7 KISS and 107.5 WBLS. Introducing a whole new style with such classic jams as, "Poetry," "Dope Beat," "Remix for the P is Free," and the title track, "Criminal Minded," BDP set the standard against which all hardcore hip-hop artists would be judged. A+

In 1988, KRS-ONE continued with the release of *By Any Means Necessary*. The album was dedicated in the memory of Scott La Rock following his tragic murder earlier in the year. It was with this album that KRS-ONE established himself as a

social and political thinker with such tracks as, "Stop the Violence," "Part-Time Suckers," "Jimmy," "Illegal Business," and "My Philosophy." In these songs he expressed his views on the commercialization of hip-hop music, once a pure form of artistic expression. By *Any Means Necessary* came to be known as one of the first rap albums to demonstrate that the hip-hop culture does possess a social and political consciousness. A

Ghetto Music: The Blueprints of Hip Hop, released in 1989, is decidedly the most overlooked of BDP's albums. With cuts such as "You must Learn" and "Why is that?" KRS-ONE displayed a more mature and focused political and social theory. On the album he delineated racism in religious and academic education as the root of the ignorance that perpetuates racism in America.

The track "World Peace," was a call to all the peoples of the earth to realize that peace is only attainable through the collective resolve to forcibly take it. "Bo, Bo, Bo," addresses the plight that Blacks

face in the face of police brutality. The album also includes, "Hip-Hop Rules," and the classic "Jack of Spades" from the soundtrack of "I'm Gonna Get You Sucka." B+

In 1990, BDP released *Edutainment*. Already considered to be one of the foremost hip-hop authorities, a more revolutionary, more radical, KRS-ONE developed a no-holds-barred commentary on everything from police brutality and the government, in "100 Guns" and "30 Cops or More," to the destructive lure the drug trade has for inner-city youth living in poverty ("Loves Gonna Get Cha"). The cuts, "Blackman in Effect," "The Homeless," "House-Nigga's," "Ya Strugglin'," and "Breath Control" address problems within the hip-hop and Black communities. A

Live Hardcore Worldwide. This 1991 release is one of the finest hip-hop albums ever produced as well as one of the first live hip-hop albums, following hip-hop legend Vanilla Ice's

Extremely Live. With an excellent blend of old and new KRS-ONE returns to what true hip-hop is about—rocking the party. Highlights include the best of his world tour, which included New York, England, and France. A+

Released in 1992, *Sex and Violence* returns "to the raw essence of the street" (Source Magazine, March 1992). This album marks the beginning of a new BDP, without Miss Melodie, Harmony, or D-Nice. In spite of this, the album moves on with an even more radical social and political bent than on any previous album. KRS-ONE comes off strictly hardcore on this his most ambitious album with tracks such as "Duck Down," "Drug Dealer," "Questions and Answers," and "Who are the Pimps?" He also chastises women in "Say Gal" and "13 and Good." A-

That's it for me this time y'all! See you at the symposium. Peace out until next time and remember to look out for:
 Grand Puba—*Reel to Reel*
 Leaders of the New School
 Brand Nubian

Columbus: Hero or Zero?

By Kingsley A. Matthew

1992 marks the 500th anniversary of Columbus's "discovery" of the New world. Whether or not this event culminated in the demise of both of the civilizations existing in the North and South American continents, and several hundred years later parts of African civilization can be argued.

One can surely remember being taught the phrase, "In 1492 Columbus sailed the ocean blue..." Somehow the ocean turned red through the conquests of Columbus and other explorers proclaiming the land theirs in the name of a sovereign ruler.

Centuries of wars fought over land and precious materials has made this historic event hard to swallow.

As the 21st century approaches, the question is, "What will the new discovery be?" Is the world in a "global transition," unsure of its next move? The situation was somewhat similar hundreds of years ago when Spain united under Ferdinand and Isabella to expel the Muslims after 700 years of occupation. There seemed to be a sense of opportunity and hope after the removal of oppression. Expansion of the new sovereignty's wealth and territory seemed to be the answer.

It was Columbus, after several unsuccessful attempts to

obtain backing for his idea, that begged Ferdinand and Isabella to go along with his plan. Thus began the "discovery". Now in 1992, several years after the end of the cold war, the communist regime toppled, the world waits in abeyance as the new century approaches.

Will racial oppression and other forms of social injustice end? Could the age of conquests and unwarranted occupation that marred Columbus' intention 500 years ago produce the age of the "Global Community". Of course it's difficult to tell now, but who knows? Columbus' discovery should serve as a reminder.

More New Kid

Continued from p. 5 and encouragement. To the others...examine yourselves.

Consider what your lot would be today had those who walked before you not thought how their self sacrifice would benefit their and people and their posterity.

I shudder to think how our people and our posterity will fare if the self-gratifying "me" attitude prevails.

Visualize it. Do you like what you see? It doesn't require much to rewrite the screenplay. Choose a role and play it as though someone's life depends upon it. The truth is, someone's does.

The author is a member of the Class of '96, and the freshman representative to the BSU Executive Board.

Corner

Continued from p. 5 achieving justice and equality through our demands we might do the same for others. We anticipate resistance to these changes, for every one is not interested in true justice. However, we will overcome these obstacles and ensure freedom and justice, by any means necessary.

The author is the president of the Black Student Union.

To All Administrators and Students:

YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!

BUST A RHYME

African

In came the tall masted ships
And men with whips and shackles
They stripped the Motherland Africa
Of her most valuable possessions-
Her people
And their identity

Devoid of identity
Humans turned chattel lay in the dark cold ship-
In the bowels of the wooden whale-people-
Who have nothing except the heavy chains and shackles
Are now considered possessions
Of their colorless counterparts, not Africa.

They long to return to Africa
And try to hold on to the identity
Built through the centuries with their possession
Of knowledge of self but the recesses of the ships
And the rigidity of the shackles
Drained hope from my people

No, they were not free people
They were slaves of the mind uprooted from Africa
And put into mental shackles
Of bondage, breakable by the mallet of identity
Not only by the cessation of the sailing ships
Run by those beasts who were possessed

Money and power caused this evil possession
And it still controls the people
Whose ancestors travelled on the upper deck of the ships
To and from the motherland-Africa.
And still they cannot manage to identify
With the stifling effects of their societal shackles
The weight of these restraining shackles
Makes impossible the possession
Of a true identity
And freedom for my people.
The key lies in Africa
And in knowledge of more than just ships

Break the shackles to end bondage of my people
Those possessions need to be returned to Mother Africa
But not in ships-rather a new African identity.

mjs

Injustice

This country tis of thee
Where is the liberty?
Why Should I sing?
Land Where my forefathers died
Held their heads high with pride
Through bondage and slavery
They fought for liberty
God on their side
They fought so hard and long
Throughout it all stayed strong
Descendants of Queens and Kings
Of them I sing
Though they did pave the way
Yet we still fight today
How sad this world's become
Where is that glorious freedom
Of which you sing?
Why must we always fight
To prove what you call right?
When will the struggle cease
So we may have our peace?

No Justice, No peace!

Bushra S. Bahir

What it is like

Many wonder
Most do not,
About how it Feels
What it is like.
To be a descendant of pharaohs,
To have dark shiny skin that glows.
Well,
Let me tell you
Let it be known.
It is not easy in a world not of our own.
It too often implies being judged out of ignorance
While others can pass on their substance.
It can mean heartache in your life
It usually leads to conflict and strife.
It can also make you strong
And give you the courage to fight what is wrong.
It forces you to be aware of the world
And gives you a worthy goal.
It above all gives you pride and spirit
To know that you are Black
And not everyone can say it.

Prophete J. Charles

NEARING AN END

What is soon 2 B my stream of sorrow
fills these eyes
causing my vision 2 blur
as I am the beholder of this distorted view
of a hazy sun
settling on & below a desolate horizon
making 4 doleful depiction
of reunion with sadness
as the life of my newfound love
approaches its final hours
M.L.W.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT?

W.E.B. DUBOIS
MARCUS GARVEY
MALCOM X
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
KWAME NKRUMAH
AKHENTON
CHAKA
GEORGE JACKSON
ASSATA SHAKUR
ANGELA DAVIS
HUEY NEWTON
ELDRIDGE CLEAVER
BOBBY SEALE
THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY
AFRIKA
GHANA
EGYPT
IGBO
ASHANTI
SWAHILI
SOUTH AFRIKA

IGNORANCE OF OURSELVES IS A PRELUDE TO DESTRUCTION.
EDUCATE YOURSELF ABOUT OUR PEOPLE AND OUR STRUGGLE.
YOU MUST LEARN TO SURVIVE. KNOWLEDGE IS POWER!!!

What's Up with the JHU NAACP Youth Chapter?

By Travis Richardson

Last year marked the fourth year since the founding of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Johns Hopkins University Youth Chapter. The organization came to this campus as a result of the work of Dr. Francine Ashby, the former director of Minority Student Services, and the ladies of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Xi Tau Chapter.

The NAACP was founded in 1909 and has a membership of almost 500,000, making it the oldest and largest civil rights organization in the world. The reasons for the creation of this organization are not difficult to understand. 1909 was a time period of total

disrespect, denigration, degradation, and emasculation of "colored people," as those of African descent were then called.

Conditions were ripe for the foundation of an organization that voiced the concerns and promoted the interests of Black people. Many people wonder, "What is the exact goal of the NAACP?"

The goals read as follows:

"1. To eliminate racial discrimination and segregation from all aspects of public life in America.

2. To secure a free ballot for every qualified American citizen.

3. To seek justice in the courts.

4. To secure legislation banning discrimination and segregation.

5. To secure equal job opportunities based upon individual merit without regard to race, religion, or national origin.

6. To end mob violence and police brutality."

Some might say that these goals have been met, but upon closer inspection one may conclude otherwise. For example, the two words "Rodney King" speak for themselves, the ratio of Blacks to Whites in professional and managerial positions are alarmingly disproportionate, and our judicial system is not very judicial. These points and other that have gone unmentioned are indicative of some of the problems that we still face.

The purpose of the NAACP on our campus includes the

forementioned goals compounded with increasing the equality and justice received by Black students in all areas and improving the conditions for Black students on campus. In conjunction with other Black organizations the NAACP has been working towards the realization of these goals.

Last year was not very productive for the NAACP for a variety of reasons, but this year there is a new executive board and hopefully a new attitude. This new attitude applies to the executive board and to the general membership. This year we are planning to have a meeting every two weeks with informative and interesting speakers throughout the year. We are also interested in doing activities with other campus organizations.

It is vital that everyone on our campus and in the country do what they can to contribute to the goals of the NAACP. The last thing Black students at this institution need is for an organization such as the NAACP to become defunct. This is necessary because the problems we face are real.

Two years ago, the Black Student Union's Black History month theme was "Our Struggle, Our Pride." I implore all of you to have some pride and dignity, and join the struggle for our goals. In light of the present situation, it is definitely time to stand up and be counted.

The author is the president of the JHU NAACP Youth Chapter.

Community Affairs

By Michelle Fulwider

Fellow JHU Students,

As Co-Chair of the Student Council's Community Affairs Committee, I urge you to participate in campus wide activities and organizations. Don't hesitate to make your individual voice heard thus opening the channels for the larger, campus Black Voice to speak.

Academic year 1992-93 has the potential to be a year of monumental change in JHU policies and administrative practices. This can only be realized if we individually accept the responsibility of espousing the concerns of the collective good. If you view "your part" as working for the amelioration of JHU-Baltimore City community relations, I encourage you to call the Student Council Office x8203, or me, Michelle Fulwider, 235-2008 for more information and the time and the place of the committee's next meeting.

Remember: Apathy does nothing but sustain the status quo.

Think Before You Act: Council of Fools

By Craig F. Warren

As as an African-American student I know that many members of Student Council are ignorant of and insensitive towards the needs of minority students at this institution. One has only to look at the recent controversy surrounding the September 27 BSU meeting to see this.

The whole controversy began, in part, due to the efforts of Student Council Vice President for Institutional Relations Katie Crowley. Crowley, was one of the two people who filed complaints with the Student Activities Commission alleging that they had been the subject of exclusionary actions on the part of the BSU. It is ironic that one of the reasons Crowley was at the meeting was as part of an effort to improve relations between the BSU and Student Council. It is with great sadness that I note that Crowley's presence at that meeting led to the further deterioration of those relations.

As soon as Student Council President Peter Sadow heard that the Student

Activities Commission had decided to take no action against the BSU because they had correctly decided that no exclusionary actions had taken place at the meeting, Sadow whipped off a proposal for a letter of reprimand to be written to the BSU. In the letter which he proposed to send, Sadow mistakenly claims that the BSU, "violated student policy by asking non-Black students to leave the room after its regularly scheduled meeting."

He then goes on to threaten the BSU with the suspension of their charter if such an "incident" occurred again. "Should this type of incident happen again, sanctions may occur. These sanctions may include, but are not limited to any or all of the following: freezing of the BSU account, loss of the BSU room for a determined period of time, public statements of apology, and/or the suspension of the charter of the Black Student Union."

Fortunately, for Sadow, the council did not approve his masterpiece of punitive action, instead, council amended Sadow's proposal and sent the

BSU an extremely vague letter which states that, "Student Council determined that the Black Student Union (BSU) unintentionally excluded individuals from the BSU room on September 27, 1992," and which claims that the actions of the BSU on that occasion contradicted, "the spirit of the Student Activities Commission (SAC) Constitution." Can't have those damn niggers contradicting

the spirit of things, now can we?

What is even more interesting is the fact that at the council meeting at which the above letter was approved a tie occurred, and "the African-American's best friend" Pete Sadow cast the deciding vote...in favor of the letter.

It is also interesting to note that when it appeared that council was not going

Continued on p. 4

BSU HONOR ROLL Spring 1992

Kenneth P. Anderson
Renata G. Arrington
Todd A. Billings
Michelle Bonner
Shauna C. Bryce
Robbye D. Burton
Donald P. Cooke Jr.
Teresa D. Day
Maisha S. Draves
Vanessa M. Dunlap
Carl G. Edelen
Chukwudube O. Egbuniwe
Ugochukwu N. Ezenkwele
Andrea Y. Forde
Triesta M. Fowler
Craig M. Freeman
Charles C. Glass
Reuben G. Gobeze
Carlos Greenlee
Juanita E. Gupta
Jo A. Hall
Robyn D. Harris
William J. Haynes
Tyler C. Hightower
Reginald Hilliard
William L. Houston

Jesslyn M. Ingram
Tara D. Jackson
Dina R. Johnson
Elaine Johnson
Adria M. Jordan
Adaobi A.C. Kanu
Herman C. Lawson
Pamela F. Love
Joy A. Masseaux
Jenene M. McDowell
Adrinne I. Miller
Michael A. Norman
Malika D. Owens
Jelani Rucker
Christophe L. Russell
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Michael J. Straker
Cammela R. Teel
David Thomas
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Diahann L. Williams
Brian L. Young