

BLACK STUDENT UNION'S *Perspective*

Vol. 5

The Johns Hopkins University

April, 1995

Who Should Be Held Accountable?

The accountability that Johns Hopkins has had for its students this year and throughout our time here, has been atrocious! With this statement, we hold two things firmly in mind. Now... let's talk about the law and the abuse of it by Hopkins students.

Since our freshman year, it has been increasingly difficult not to notice the tremendous substance abuse problems engulfing our campus. Some of our future doctors, lawyers, government officials, and scientists are substance abusers. We speak about welfare recipients and the unemployed on drugs destroying the world, but who do you really think has more power to do harm, doctors and

other professionals with authority, or the economically disadvantaged? If we remember correctly, drugs have not been legalized in the United States; and alcohol is illegal to use if you are under 21. This age restriction would leave about one-fourth of our undergraduate student population legally allowed to drink. Yet, we see students drunk on the Beach; students entering dorms drunk; and drunkards riding the shuttles. There is nothing wrong with wisely using alcohol, but we don't see that being done here at Hopkins.

Besides alcohol, there is another substance being abused on campus. Its called reefer, weed, chronic, et cetera.

Obviously, the students who attend Hopkins and have this habit are not as bright as we believe they are. We held all students who attended Hopkins in such high regards before we enrolled, but that mystique has long worn off. We are supposed to be some of the brightest young people in the world. Obviously, we all have a huge capacity for book smarts, but only some of us have common sense and street smarts.

The sad fact is no one is being held accountable for breaking the law. After speaking with various JHU officers, we saw their genuine concern for the well being of student, but it seems as though something or someone is

holding them back from performing their duties. We feel it is a travesty to see such lawlessness enacted by these students, then in the same breath they defame the Greenmount community about its similar problems. How hypocritical!

Another occurrence on campus which has bothered us occurred this past intersession. One of our fellow students racially and sexually assaulted a close friend of ours by means of the internet. The lawbreaker was only forced to move out of his dorm and take sensitivity training. That is fine and dandy, but imagine if we assaulted a female in a

continued on page 3

Lasting Change Begins Within

Recent attention focused on threats to affirmative action and the conservative shift in Congress has all but obscured that fact that many of the most serious threats to black people today now come from within the race.

Contrary to media reports, the average black isn't overly worried about

Newt Gingrich, the alleged mean-spiritedness that has seized Congress or proposed welfare reforms.

Elderly blacks are scared to death today of being robbed, raped or murdered by drug-crazed black youth.

Working blacks are purchasing guns and costly alarm systems to protect

their families and possessions from blacks who now make their living preying upon other blacks.

Black children today risk their lives by playing in front of their homes or attending schools which have increasingly become war zones.

Many of our leaders
continued on page 4

INSIDE

Haiti's Democracy
page 2

Why We are Here
page 4

Poetic Justice featuring
Black, Struggle, and
June 20 (Martyrs Day)
page 6

A Welfare Assessment
page 8

Plus much more!

The Haitian Road to Democracy

Haiti was the first free Black nation in the Western hemisphere. The Haitian Revolution (1789 - 1804) demonstrated the determination of the Haitian people to achieve a better way of life for themselves. They demanded the right to govern themselves. They were working towards democracy, their democracy, *Haitian* democracy.

The reason I decided to start out my article with these facts is to put things into perspective. It is something I think

needs doing, because from the articles I have been reading here about the current political turmoil in Haiti, I get the impression that Americans believe that Haitians don't know what democracy is or don't know how to attain it.

Perhaps, this stems from the common American belief that the United States is the best country in the world and must lead other nations. I honestly don't know where this idea came from, and I really don't care. The important thing to realize is that the

United States can't be the best nation in the world because it would be impossible to compare nations in such a way. What would be the criteria for such a judgement? Americans seem to assume that there's only one way of doing things, the *American* way. I beg to differ. Let it be known that there are other cultures out there and that they are of equal value to the American culture.

The United States is always kind enough to want to *help* other

nations on the road to democracy. With its economic and political power, this is not an inconceivable idea. However, helping is one thing and imposing a set of ideals is another. When Americans purport to be helping Haitians on the road to democracy, it must be the road towards Haitian democracy, not a clone of American democracy. Unfortunately, I find it hard to believe that the American government would undertake any project that was not in its own best interest. Therefore, the democracy restored to Haiti would have to be beneficial to the United States and it is not given that a true Haitian democracy would be.

What does this all mean? Simply, that true democracy in Haiti can only be attained by Haitians themselves and it's time for everyone to stop pretending otherwise.

by Nadeve Menard

Tutorial Mentors Deserve Credit

I would like to commend all of the student mentors in the Office of Volunteer Services (OVS) Tutorial Project. The attention and time that you give to all those little children is so crucial and beneficial. Many of you probably do not know how precious and necessary those jewels are to our communities.

Developing the bonds which you have are tremendously necessary. I cannot believe that the relationships which you all are developing with our jewels are not helping to foster a better understanding of

Black life and culture in Baltimore City. In turn, I am sure, meeting college students gives them goals to strive for and a vision beyond their smaller communities.

Last month, I had a chance to attend the unveiling ceremony of the African-American flag. It was sponsored by the OVS. It touched me, in a very special way, to see the talents of our jewels from two local elementary schools. One young student, as the Master of Ceremonies, spoke very eloquently; and the other young students sang and danced to some contemporary music. I would

again like to thank OVS and the mentors for helping to shine our future stars. I hope others will try to take advantage of that opportunity to share in the glow. You should volunteer, you owe it to the community and yourself.

by Charles E. Sydnor III

The Black Student Union's Perspective

Editor in Chief
Charles E. Sydnor III

Contributions by Michael Davis, Dawit Habte, Tyler Hightower, Brandon McMillan, Nadeve Menard, Mike Straker, The Watchdog, and Clifton Williams. Featuring articles from The Baltimore Times, The Baltimore Sun, Emerge Magazine, and Jet Magazine.

Accountability

continued from page 1
similar manner, would that be the punishment our actions would merit? The lawbreaker received a slap on the wrist as far as we are concerned and should have received a kick in the butt. We thought the political rhetoric existing today was to be tough on crime. We don't know if it was because he was White and this occurred to a young Black lady.

Historically, a White male had never been convicted of raping a Black woman in the United States until the 1960s. We are not saying the lawbreaker physically raped her, but we are sure he has left some mental scars for her to deal with. We hope that the attitude does not exist on this campus; among the people who rendered such

a lenient punishment, the student body, or the administration and faculty, that Black women are Jezebels and Sapphires. Black women are women just as any other, and deserve the same respect that would be expected for our mothers and sisters.

We really do hope this case is looked into further. We would not want the assailant to think he was above the law, and got one over on Hopkins and the Black community because we find his actions unacceptable and we would not want to see these circumstances reoccurring. Hopkins, you have to make these lawbreakers accountable or be held accountable yourself. Why? Because what you are demonstrating to these young lawbreaking

students is that they are above the law. And if they enter the real world with those types of attitudes, it can only spell doom for those who they feel stand in their way.

Our country's history has proven that this type of attitude has been destructive. Look at the massive numbers of Blacks who have been lynched in the past. Look to the murders of Emmitt Till, Martin King Jr., Charles Mack, Medgar Evers, and the nameless others sentenced to death because of that attitude. How many of their murderers were tried and sentenced to death? It was just this past year that Ever's murderer was convicted, after almost 30 years of unjustified freedom. The law let these men feel they were above the law and they harmed

whomever. And we just don't want Hopkins giving its students that same sense of power. It is a power which has proven to be manifested economically and politically against a body of people who cannot fight back. Sometimes, it even ends with tragically violent results.

Accountability does lie with the individual, but if the individual cannot do this for him or herself, than intervention is necessary. Come on Hopkins. . . we are supposed to be tough on crime. Young Republicans, Newt says we have to be tough on crime. And Young Democrats. . . Bill also says this. Or do you all have an attitude that only certain types of crimes deserve your attention?

*by Charles E. Sydnor III
and Michael Davis*

Baltimore Mayor Kurt Schmoke Considers Suggestion To Caning Juvenile Offenders

After his father and step-mother were robbed at gunpoint outside of their Baltimore home, Mayor Kurt L. Schmoke told news reporters that caning delinquent teenagers "should not be dismissed as being a frivolous suggestion."

At a press conference, the Baltimore mayor said, "I was just really angry. When it happens to anybody, it's something that just tears you up. When it happens to your parents, your loved ones, you feel it personally."

He continued, "I don't

have any sympathy for the person who did that. I don't believe he's a political prisoner. I don't believe he's a victim of his environment. He chose to do what he did. He had options but he chose to victimize others. I have no tolerance for that."

His father, Murray Schmoke, 67, and his stepmother, Verdeen Schmoke, were robbed of \$30 after they got out of their car in front of their home in the evening.

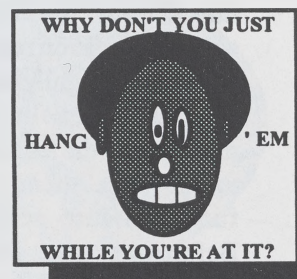
A Few years ago, the mayor's son, Gregory,

then 17, was robbed of a black leather jacket and \$12 while walking to a neighborhood mall. The mayor mentioned caning because state Delegate Clarence Davis recently proposed legalizing caning of juveniles who vandalize or steal property.

"Some of these young people don't care," the mayor angrily pointed out. "There is a need for some new dimensions on the punishment side of the criminal justice system."

The mayor inferred that he is tiring of crowded court dockets and repeat offenders.

*This article was taken
From Jet, "Newsmakers"
March 13, 1995, p. 34*



Change Begins Within

continued from page 1

have been conspicuously silent on these alarming trends because they are firmly rooted in one of three positions: the politics of race, the name game or the struggle to maintain past victories.

The politics of race covers charismatic blacks who speak endlessly about the evil of whites and the perils of racism. From conspiracy theories to covert operations, some of these folks can lead you to believe that everything wrong with blacks can be directly or indirectly traced back to whites.

Unfortunately, the modern politicians of race are completely lost when it comes to outlining in equally compelling terms how blacks can reverse the spiral of self-destruction. They seem totally unaware that the natural result for holding whites responsible for all of our problems places blacks in the pitiful role of powerless victims.

The name game involves blacks who compound exiting confusion by willingly labeling themselves as anything but black. Preferred qualifying titles include middle class, liberals, conservatives, Democrats, Republicans, Christians and Muslims. By dividing themselves, often in groupings established or controlled by whites, name game players further undermine black unity. As Malcolm X once commented:

"You don't catch hell because you're a Methodist or a Baptist, you don't catch hell because you're a Democrat or a Republican, you don't catch hell because you're a Mason or an Elk, and you sure don't catch hell because you're an American; because if you were an American you wouldn't catch hell. You catch hell because you're a black man.

Why We are Here

Last May, I celebrated the 40th anniversary of *Brown V The Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*. The decision reached in this case legally ended segregated schooling and gave Blacks the legal right to choose to attend well-funded White schools. Before the case, Blacks were legally forced into

underfunded and overcrowded all-Blacks schools without consideration of their ability as students. Many of them were cheated out of attaining proper education. Unlike those students, today we have more of a choice in the schools we attend. I graduated in 1992 from the first public school in Bal-

You catch hell, all of us catch hell, for the same reason."

While others address issues that will shape the 21st century — global markets, information technology, and a new world order — black organizations which led the drive for civil rights are now focused on maintaining what they thought they won thirty years ago. Undated by old styles of leadership, funding problems, and dissension within their ranks, these once vital groups seem out of touch with today's demands.

To progressively emerge from this triple-sided quandary, we must first and foremost be honest with ourselves.

If knowing America as we should by now, we have relied on public schools to educate and raise our children, the mistake is ours. If knowing racism as we should by now, we have allowed television and drugs to

overtake the minds of our children, the mistake is ours. And if whites today can easily reduce what we thought we won thirty years ago, then we never truly had it in the first place!

Lasting change always begins within. The issue has never been relying on whites to change or to safely guide us to genuine empowerment. Our rise as a people has always relied upon efforts to stabilize our families and communities by our own means, on our own terms.

It would be a significant improvement to see black politicians and organizations as equally aggressive when blacks murder and exploit one another as they have been against discrimination perpetrated by whites.

Great progress could be made if black Christians, Muslims, Democrats and Republicans would stop arguing over ideological differences and pool their resources for the benefit of all blacks.

For in the final analysis, dwelling on the past and blaming whites for all of our woes accomplishes nothing if we continually ignore immediate responsibilities to ourselves and our children.

by Jehuti El-Malik Amen-Ra

This Article Was Taken From The Baltimore Times, March 27-April 2, 1995 Vol. 9 No. 26 pps. 1 and 2

timore City to desegregate, Baltimore Polytechnic Institute (desegregated in September, 1952). Today, the school is predominantly Black, and one of Maryland's top achieving schools. Now I attend Hopkins, a predominantly White university. It is not just because of my intel-

continued on page 7

Infamous Research: Tuskegee Experiment Was But One Medical Study that Exploited African Americans

Troubling questions about surgeon general nominee Dr. Henry W. Foster Jr.'s knowledge of the "Tuskegee Study" have refocused public attention on one of the most infamous chapters in U.S. medical research. Over 40 years, beginning in 1932, 400 Alabama men — all poor and black — were denied medical treatment while the U.S. Public Health Service documented the long-term effects of syphilis. The health service told the men their syphilis was being treated but gave them placebos.

During the 1960s, Dr. Foster served as professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Tuskegee Institute — the focal point of the experiment. He also sat on a local medical board that was briefed about the research in 1969. Last month, a conservative group attempting to block Dr. Foster's nomination accused him of having known details of the experiment some three years before its disclosure sparked public outrage.

But Dr. Foster steadfastly maintains that he did not learn about the experiment until 1972 and that he then immediately called for "appropriate treatment" for the subjects. Beyond the questions of what Dr. Foster knew and

when he knew it, the controversy underscores an ugly fact: In the name of medical science, blacks have been exploited in numbers that far exceed their proportion in the U.S. population.

"There are a lot of articles that say African-Americans have a distrust of the medical establishment because of the Tuskegee [syphilis experiment], but I think it's broader than that," says Dr. Vanessa Northington Gamble, a physician and medical historian who is also an associate professor of medicine at the University of Wisconsin Medical Center.

"There's a long history of blacks and medical experimentation that predated Tuskegee.

"Tuskegee symbolizes the abuse, but I think that blacks who have never heard of Tuskegee fear experimentation."

No one was more misled than a group of parents in Baltimore about 25 years ago who thought they were enrolling their boys in a free *Johns Hopkins* child-care program.

More than 7,000 young boys — "95 percent from underprivileged Negro families" — were used as guinea pigs in a three-year experiment that could have branded them as latent criminals for life,

according to a story that appeared in the now-defunct *Washington Daily News*.

Funded by the National Institutes of Health, the project extracted blood samples, ostensibly to test for anemia and other medical problems.

In reality, the blood was drawn to screen boys with an extra "Y" chromosome, making them XYY males instead of XY males. This was done because a theory, which remains unproved to this day, holds that males with the extra Y chromosome are more likely to become criminals later in life.

This genetic testing was done without the parents' knowledge or consent, according to the newspaper article.

Although men with XYY chromosomes tend to be taller than the norm, it has not been demonstrated to cause any type of psychological abnormality.

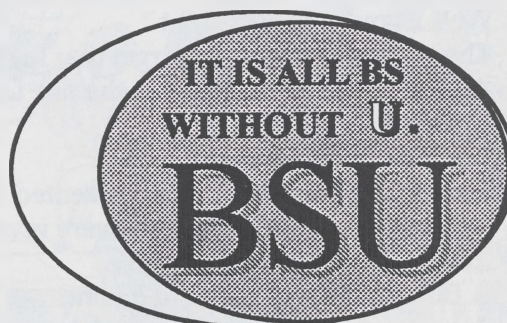
A similar experiment was conducted on another 6,000 young men, approximately 85 percent of whom were black, housed in Maryland state institutions for abandoned or delinquent children.

According to the *Washington Daily News*, the children's confidentiality was not protected and the blood-test results were passed to the courts to use as they saw fit.

Because blacks make up 44 percent of all prisoners — almost four times their proportion in the general population — prison experimental abuse is more likely to disproportionately affect African-Americans.

by Harriet A. Washington

This article excerpt was taken from *The Sun* March 19, 1995; Section F, Page 1





Black

by Micheal Straker

What is Black
 Black is me
 It's what you are afraid of
 Yet do not see
 Black - it is not frightening
 But quite mysterious
 It's your lack of understanding
 That stirs your fear of us
 Black cats are deemed bad luck
 The villains always wear black
 But what you don't know is
 Black is where it's at

Our rhythm passed down by tribal drums
 Is often emulated
 The skintone which is natural
 Is feebly simulated
 And the deep-rooted spirituality
 Cannot be imitated
 But the truth of the matter in all of this
 Being Black is underrated

Turn it on and turn it off
 The light most likely white
 But who invented it
 You say Edison
 Well... you're almost right
 The books they seem to forget that his filament was bad
 And the one we use today is the one Louis Latimere had
 Cotton fiber is white too
 But history books again
 Forget to tell us a Black man invented the cotton gin
 So think of all the things that were invented through this date
 A Black man probably had a hand
 So remember the truth is - Black is great

JUNE 20 (MARTYRS DAY)

LILA, your family is getting ready,
 Allow me to tell them your true identity.
 Eritreans
 Let's talk about the gallantry of our martyrs,
 So the world can perceive their forbearance.
 History is our martyrs' indemnity
 In every battle,
 Each martyr has faced Migs,
 Bren MK1, Mortars, Multi Launch rockets,
 Anti-tank missiles, and helicopter gun ships,
 With only and only KALASHNIKOVE (AK-47).
 Every martyr has been shot once, twice or more
 To draw the map with his blood
 Upon her dead body.
 Painful live, severe endurance,
 That irresistible life inexorable war,
 A fairy tale to someone,
 who doesn't know about.
 The record of every martyr disclosed,
 The bullets in every martyr's body counted,
 Those still alive should be rejoicing
 Rather than crying.
 Eternal glory to Eritrean Martyrs!!

Dawit Gebremichael Habte

STRUGGLE

Ours was a people's
 struggle,
 And not the work of a
 few.
 Struggle based on
 aspirations,
 Dreams, and a desire for
 justice.
 I'm back to the day,
 The day when I was first
 taught
 The most important
 lesson:
*"Our struggle is long and
 bitter
 But victory is certain."*

Dawit Gebremichael
 Habte

Why We Are Here

continued from page 5
lectual ability and my work ethic, it is because of something I feel is more substantial.

I am studying at Johns Hopkins University today because of the sweat, tears, and blood sacrificed by my elders for the future generations. They were not fighting for themselves. They fought for everyone else's rights to receive a proper education; no matter what your race or economic capability was. The fight is not one to be taken lightly or in vain. Their dedication is what opened the doors to Johns Hopkins

and other White universities for us. We cannot be so arrogant as to say or feel we achieved this because of our own work. Do you not believe that they also had the ability to attend these schools prior to desegregation? They could not. Their life struggles opened the doors for you and me. It was not just what we accomplished which placed us here.

In my term as the Admissions Chair, I attempted to pass out keys of enlightenment and unlock those same doors for others in high school. Far

too many people died decades before us to give Black students the opportunity to attend these schools.

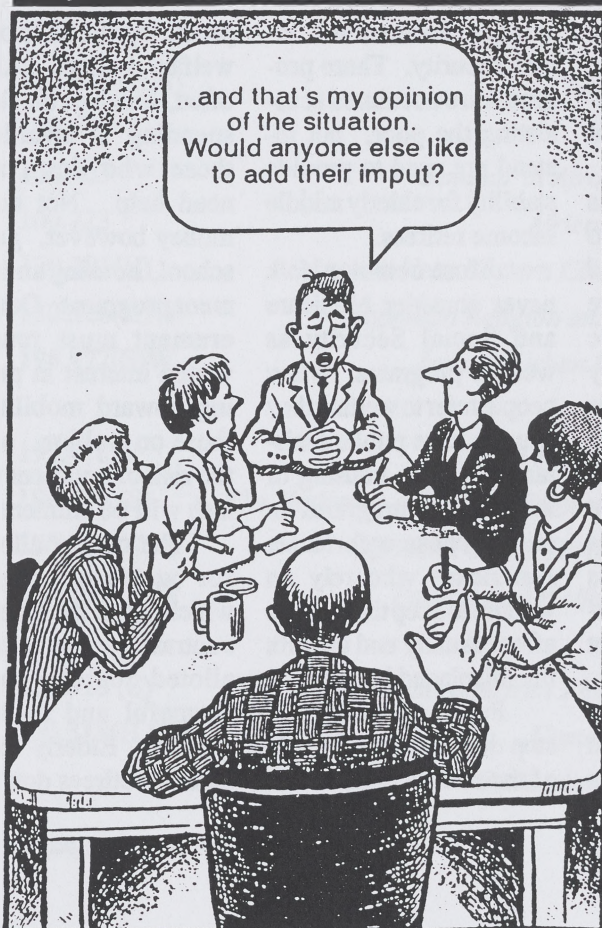
Their legacy can only continue with the hard work and perseverance of the present day student activist at the universities. We must help pave the way for our future students as our ancestors did for us. To accomplish this we must not only protest the wrongs of the university, we have to go to class and perform well on tests and papers thereby not giving anyone the chance to ex-

press that we did not rightfully earn our admittance here.

We have arrived within the realms of higher education because of many factors; our abilities, our family's support, connections, et cetera. But more importantly, we are here because of the running of the blood and tears of many people fighting for equality. Please do not allow that torch not to be passed and for their struggle to be one in vain.

by Charles E. Sydnor III

Lester's World



How White Folks Communicate



How Black Folks Communicate

(Explains a whole lot of things, don't it?)

Mississippi Legislators Set to Abolish Slavery

Slavery. It's finally-officially-on the way to being over. History. And it only took 130 years for the Mississippi Senate to see its way clear to ratify the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

The only state never to outlaw slavery, Mississippi held out when the amendment was adopted in 1865, in part because lawmakers were upset they were not reimbursed for freed slaves from the federal government.

But Democratic state Senator Hillman Frazier, who brought

the state's inaction on the matter back to the table this year, insisted that it's never too late and the legislative body had an obligation to address the issue.

"It's never a waste of time to correct a wrong," said Frazier, the great-grandson of slaves. "I think it's very important for us to show the world that we have put the past behind us." Congressman Bennie G. Thompson congratulated Frazier for introducing the bill that he said was long overdue.

"I commend Senator

Frazier for being persistent in moving the bill through the legislative process, where it passed on a voice vote without any objection," said Thompson.

Thompson went on to say, "while it is symbolic to ratify the 13th Amendment at this time, it still is the right thing to do. I hope that this will give the legislature the incentive to continue to pass legislation that will improve the quality of life for all Mississippians, particularly African Americans who

have suffered from past discriminatory practices of the state government."

At JET press time the state's House of Representatives had not yet voted on the bill, which would make Mississippi the last state in the Union to abolish slavery.

This Article was taken from Jet Magazine, National Report, March 13, 1995, p. 8

Editor's note: At *Perspective* Press time, slavery has now officially ended in Mississippi.

An Assessment on Welfare Reform

The most crucial political issue facing the United States for years to come is undoubtedly the case of welfare reform. Everyone has their own opinion on how the welfare system should be improved. Congress recently passed a bill that would cut forty-four welfare programs off of the federal budget. Federal aid on school lunch programs all across America are being squandered. Instead of looking to improve the rights of underprivileged Americans, our government is steadfastly working to take these rights away. The steps taken thus far are indicative of both a

government which has shifted to the left, and a citizenry which is somewhat misinformed about the issue of welfare.

The welfare state is currently divided into contributory and noncontributory welfare programs. The public views noncontributory welfare programs, such as the A.F.D.C. or food stamp program with contempt. Those on public assistance are often stigmatized as being indolent shiftless dependents of the government. This assertion is not true.

The bulk of the welfare budget is actually spent on contributory programs

such as Medicare and Social Security. These programs are not aimed at assisting the poor, but instead are used to provide stability for elderly middle income retirees.

Most common folk never consider Medicare and Social Security as welfare programs. When people refer to welfare they usually have public assistance, public housing or food stamp programs in mind. Those unfortunate Americans who rely on welfare to keep themselves afloat usually end up with the misplaced blame.

Public officials must stop downplaying the role of the middle class in

procuring the \$375 billion welfare budget. All too often, much of the federal spending is awarded to those who don't really need help. Not enough money however, goes to school, housing and treatment programs. Our government must renew a vested interest in providing upward mobility for those on welfare, or else the risk of a violent backlash will be eminent.

The money allocated for welfare programs which assist the elderly in contrast to the leftovers allotted for the poor is shameful and so short-sighted. Elderly middle income retirees don't earn

continued on page 14

Fall Course Offerings

By The Watchdog

Unlike previous issues of Course Guides, the one provided for the 1995-96 first term does not specify a list of classes which deal with Multicultural Issues. The below listed courses are those that may be of interest. Remember, the stronger the support for classes like these, the stronger our argument for a **Black Studies Department or Program.**

- 070.329(H,S) *Theories of Nationalism and the Case of Black Nationalism in the United States* (3)
MTW 9 Williams (Anthropology p. 1)
- 070.620 *Caribbean Ethnology: Theory and Practice* M 3-5 Mintz (Anthropology p. 2)
- 070.631 *The Social Organization of Difference* T 1-3 Feeley-Harnik, Williams (Anthropology p. 2)
- 060.349(H)W *Race and Nation in 19th Century African-American Literature* (3)
T 2-4:30 Limit 40 Reid-Pharr (English, p. 12)
- 300.141(H)W *Race and Culture* (3) MT 2-3:30 Limit 15 Michaels (English, p. 12)
- 100.121 (H,S) *History of Africa* (3) MT 2 Curtin (History, p. 18)
- 100.124 (H,S)W *U.S. Slavery and Freedom, 1776-1876* (3) TW 10 (with section)
Johnson (History, p. 18)
- 100.215 (H,S)W *The Formation of the Afro-Atlantic World, 1441-1700* (3) MW 2-3:30
(Year Long Course) Bennett (History, p. 19)
- 100.439 (H,S) *Cuba and Caribbean* (3) ThF 10:30-12 Knight (History, p. 19)
- 100.649 *The American South* T 2-4 Johnson (History, p. 19)
- 100.703 *Seminar in Afro-Atlantic History and Culture* TBA Bennett (History, p. 20)
- 100.723 *African Social and Economic History* TBA Curtin (History, p. 20)
- 130.101(H) *Ancient Near Eastern Civilizations* (3) MW 10 Schwartz (Near Eastern Studies p. 27)
- 130.326(H)W *Egyptian Religion and Mythology* (3) MW 11 Bryan (Near Eastern Studies p. 27)
- 195.477(S)W *Intro to Urban Policy* (3) T 3-5 Limit 12 (Coreq: 195.478) Seidel, Newman
(Policy Studies, p. 32)
- 195.478W *Urban Policy Internship* (3) TBA Limit 12 Seidel (Policy Studies, p. 32)
- 190.316 (S) *The Nation as a Cultural Project* (3) Limit 12 W 10-12 Hemberger (Political Science, p. 33)
- 190.387 (S)W *African Politics Through Fiction* (CP) (3) T 1-3 Kriger (Political Science, p. 33)
- 230.305 (S)W *Poverty and Welfare Policy* (3) T 3-5 (with section) Cherlin, Fernandez-Kelly
(Not for freshman) (Sociology, p. 37)
- 230.316 (S) *The African-American Family* (3) ThF 9-10:30 Limit 25 McDonald (Sociology, p. 37)
- 230.318(H,S)W *Contemporary Perspectives in Race Relations* (3) M 1-3 Limit 70
Fernandez-Kelly (Not for freshman or Sophomores) (Sociology p. 37)

Affirmative Action: Political Opportunists Exploit Racial Fears

Those now calling for an end to affirmative action—including Republican leaders on Capitol Hill and some Black conservatives—ignore one fundamental fact: The reason we need affirmative action is because we've had so much negative action throughout American history. Those negative actions began with slavery and have continued with African-Americans being treated as second-class citizens for more than two centuries. For its entire history, affirmative action has been subjected to attack. Political opponents such as Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), former Attorney General William Bradford Reynolds repeatedly over the last 15 years have tried to overturn it. Their efforts have drawn support from African-American writers such as Shelby Steele, Stephan Carter and Thomas Sowell. Each time civil rights groups, rank-and-file Americans, business leaders and Republicans and Democrats, in Congress

and across the nation, have defeated them....

In the 1980s, the political war cry was to end "reverse discrimination" against White men; in the 1990s it is the need to gain the votes of "angry White men." It all amounts to the same appeals to ignorance, studied blindness to the facts, commitment to ideology over reality and deflecting real concern for our nation's economic future by catering to prejudice. National Urban League President Hugh Price, who has become a vocal advocate of affirmative action, in a speech to the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco observed, "It is not yet time for impatient whites and successful Blacks to hoist the gangplank behind them." African-Americans who object to affirmative action apparently have a different view. Some perhaps do not understand how they got where they are. Some may be in denial or refuse to believe the policy is needed. Some may really believe we are inferior or that there is something called pure "merit" and that White people have more of it than African-Americans, which is just about as rational as believing their ice is colder.

Whatever their reasons, African-American critics of affirmative action are simply exercising their freedom of expression and thus operating within a historic tradition. When the state of Mississippi voted in 1890 to put legal measures, which they announced would be implemented to disenfranchise Blacks in the state Constitution, African-Americans in 40 counties mobilized to protest the measures. But the lone Black delegate in the convention,

Isiah T. Montgomery, supported the provisions.

Kelly Miller, in *Radicals and Conservatives and Other Essays on the Negro in America*, in 1908 reported that while traveling in Europe, one gentleman told him he had heard that there were Black conservatives in America. Surely this was a joke. After all, what did they have to conserve?

Well, the answer is apparently a great deal. When civil rights concerns were in vogue, the African-American protest tradition was at the peak and enforcement of laws was probable, affirmative action worked to increase opportunity for Blacks. That evidence means we need more affirmative action, however we label it—"diversity" or something else. African-Americans are only slowly mobilizing to repel a very real threat, which is part of the across-the-board war on the poor in general and African-Americans in particular.

When I despair, my mother always says, "God is my president and also the Speaker of my House." But the Lord helps those who help themselves. If we do not see to our own interests and consolidate allies, the Congress and the states are likely to repeal affirmative action along with anything else characterized as benefitting African-Americans. President Clinton, calculating his own political future, is likely to be two steps ahead or behind them.

The political signaling that already has had a chilling effect in the workplace in recent years will further constrain the opportunities of qualified African-Americans.

continued on page 11

White Guys Still are Having All the Fun

White men are 47% of the work force (41% of the population), own 64% of the nation's businesses and have most of America's high-paying jobs. Some examples:

- 70% of judges
- 71% of air traffic controllers
- 73% of lawyers
- 75% of police detectives and supervisors
- 84% of construction supervisors
- 89% of U.S. Senators
- 94% of fire company supervisors
- 95% of senior managers

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, The Congressional Record and the Glass Ceiling Commission. (This chart was taken from *Emerge*, May 1995 page 44.)

Affirmative Action

Continued from page 10

The anger and alienation of young African-American, many of whom are separatists or Black nationalists and already have written off the system, are likely to increase. Americans are about to enter the 21st century still encumbered by the tired old baggage of myth and stereotypes about African-Americans.

The problem of the 21st century, like that of the 20th century, will remain, as W.E.B. Du Bois noted, the problem of the color line.

by Mary Frances Berry

*This article excerpt was taken from the **Emerge Magazine**, May, 1995*

***** What's at Stake

[Losing Affirmative Action]

On the federal level alone, there are about 167 regulations, statutes and executive orders—now under scrutiny by Congress and the White House—that seek to remedy discrimination against minorities and women. Here are some of those measures:

Banking

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation can approve minority bank acquisitions by minority holding companies without regard to asset size. Ten percent of funds awarded through the local Public Works Capital Development and Investment Program are slated for contracts with minority firms.

Business

The Small Business Administration requires the heads of all federal agencies to establish goals annually for the participation of "small, disadvantaged businesses" in procurement contracts and subcontracts.

Communications

The Public Telecommunications Facilities Program gives special consideration to applications that foster the ownership and control of telecommunications operations by minorities and women.

In radio licensing, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) must consider the use of tax certificates and bidding preferences to ensure full participation by small businesses, rural telephone companies and firms owned by minorities and women.

continued on page 13

Congratulations SOBA

On behalf of the Black student Union, we would like to congratulate the efforts of everyone involved in making a network of Black Alumni from Hopkins a reality. For your own personal knowledge the following is the mission statement of the *Society of Black Alumni*:

A concerned group of interested alumni and current students of the schools of Arts and Sciences and Engineering of The Johns Hopkins University has identified a need and desire to generate and sustain interest in and support between the University and its black alumni on issues relevant to black students, alumni and faculty. This group will be known and addresses as The Society of Black Alumni of The Johns Hopkins University, which is being formed to confront hands-on the personal and professional interests and concerns of the University's black alumni.

We are interested in the sum total of the entire Johns Hopkins University experience and will seek to create an environment at Johns Hopkins which facilitates the development of black students into productive and contributing alumni.

Society of Black Alumni, we are glad to have your support!

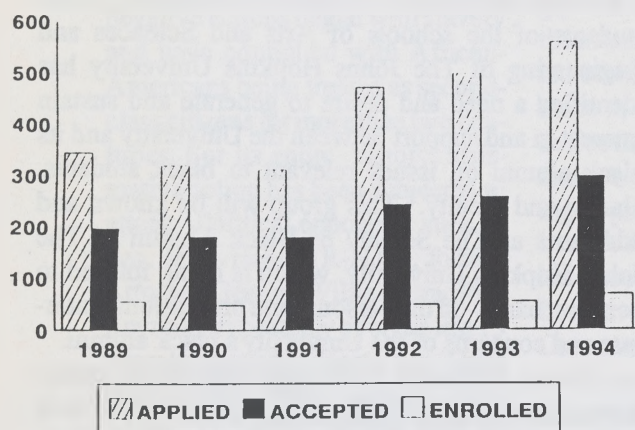
Ready for Discovery Weekend '95 April 20th-22nd

If you have not already volunteered to host or help out in any other way, and would like to help, please contact Jodi Hester or Charles Sydnor III at 516-8171.

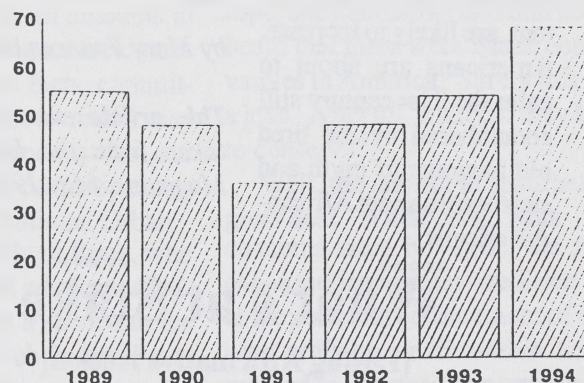
F.Y.I.

The following graphs are a look at where Hopkins was, and where Hopkins presently is. Draw your own conclusions.

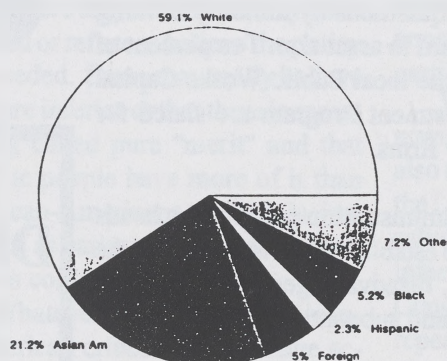
**FRESHMAN ADMISSION
AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDENTS
1989-1994**



**FRESHMAN ADMISSION - 1989-1994
AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDENTS
ENROLLED**



**JHU - Schools of Arts & Sciences and Engineering
Undergraduate Enrollment
1994-95**



An Ode From The Perspective

I have been in a long sleep. For almost two years I rested. Although I have rested, I am a light sleeper and I have seen all that was around me. I decided to rise from my light slumber in order to let you, my readers, understand my perspective. I hope my perspective will increase dialogue concerning the topics I cover and raise a consciousness among you that you may not have had.

Sincerely,

The Perspective

What's at Stake

continued from page 11

Defense

Five percent of the value of procurement, research and development, military construction and operation and maintenance contracts is slated for historically Black colleges, other minority institutions and "socially and economically disadvantaged individuals." This requirement was extended to the Coast Guard and the national Aeronautics and Space administration (NASA).

Transportation

Recipients of surface transportation funds must establish goals for including disadvantaged businesses and ensure that at least 10 percent of funds go to such firms.

Education

The Department of Education is authorized to make grants to post-graduate institutions that substantially contribute to legal, medical, dental, veterinary or other graduate education opportunities of Black Americans.

Priority in selection for Model Program Community Partnership and Counseling Grants is given to proposals that include areas with high proportions of minority, limited - English-speaking, disabled, nontraditional, economically disadvantaged or so-called at-risk students. At least 12 percent of amounts appropriated for the Academic Research Facilities Modernization Program are reserved for historically Black colleges and universities and

other schools with substantial minority enrollment.

Housing and Urban Development
Applications for the Section 8 Housing Assistance Program and the Section 202 Direct action Loan Program must include a description of the level of ownership by minorities and women in the project. Also, it should include such businesses in the project's contracting and procurement.

Environment

At least 10 percent of the total federal funding for research related to the Clean Air Act is to be made available to disadvantaged businesses.

Source: Congressional Research Service (Emerge, May 1995 page 40)

The Black Motif; Spreading Knowledge

We would like to thank everyone that has come out in support of the **Black Motif** Game Show. The **Black Motif** is a jeopardy-type game show that focuses on the accomplishments and history of Blacks around the World. Its creation was brought about to foster a further understanding of what Blacks have given to this world and to further educate anyone who is willing to learn.

This first inaugural year of the **Black Motif** has consisted of 3 rounds and fielded a pool of 22 contestants. During first semester, we hosted the quarter-finals. In order to advance, contestants had to place either first or second in their game. This gave them an automatic bid into the second round (another way to advance without an automatic bid was to attain the highest score among non-advancers). This left only 9

players to advance into the semi-finals.

Each class at Hopkins had someone representing them. The lone freshman semi-finalist was Clifton Williams. The sophomore class was represented by Nadeve Menard, Andy Roberts, and Jipsen Risee. The junior class, having the largest number of students advance, was represented by Kali Murray, Cicely Vaughn, Delisa Adams, and Ajoy Reddi. The full weight of the senior class rested on its representative Chris Lawson.

On March 3rd and 10th, the final three contestants emerged to advance to the **Black Motif** Finals to play for \$150, \$100, and \$50 Certificates to the Barnes and Noble Book Store to assist them in books and supplies for next year. In the 1st semi-final match-up, Cicely Vaughn advanced without competition. In the second

semi-final game, Nadeve Menard, Clifton Williams, and the quarter-finals highest scorer Andy Roberts went all the way to the end with a surprise upset of Mr. Roberts by Mr. Williams. In the 3rd and final semi-final game came to be another battle to the very end. After having arrived after the official start of the game, Ajoy Reddi was ultimately able to surpass Chris Lawson and Delisa Adams in the single most competitive match up this year.

Finishing off this display of Knowledge will be the Final Game between *Cicely Vaughn, Clifton Williams, and Ajoy Reddi*. The time will be promptly at 7:00 P.M., and the location will be at *Shaffer 3* on *Wednesday, April 19*. We Truly Hope that all of you can come and support our finalists.

by Azim Davis

An Assessment of Welfare Reform

Continued from page 8
an income, so they can't pay taxes. A young able-bodied welfare recipient however, is still capable of making a meaningful contribution to society. All they need is to be given a decent chance.

Rather than taking money out of noncontributory welfare, more funding should be put into it. The government needs to make a concerted effort to push for

the economic empowerment of poor people.

The government should redistribute the wealth fairly, initially to those who need it the most and then to others who have more financial stability. This is the only rational way to get welfare recipients on their feet and into work. Conversely, getting rid of public assistance will only further disenfranchise a class of Americans who already

feel left out of the picture.

Many people will have to make sacrifices to reduce the gap in wealth in America. The person who argues that welfare is alright 'as long as it doesn't cost me too much' doesn't realize that we all, both rich and poor are in the same boat together.

The policies of governments are swayed by the interests of the people. The American middle class is not

genuinely concerned about improving the lives of those on public assistance. This is why nothing constructive is done on Capitol Hill to alleviate the problems induced by welfare. Instead politicians and plebeians alike currently focus on securing their own living standards. While forgetting those unfortunate Americans living at the other side of the rainbow.

by Clifton Williams

Word to the Wise: We Have Not Forgotten

By The Watchdog

If knowledge of my condition is all the freedom I get from a "freedom movement," it is better than unawareness, forgottenness, and hopelessness, the existence that is like the existence of a beast. Man only truly lives by knowing; otherwise he simply performs, copying the daily habits of others, but conceiving nothing of his creative possibilities as a man, and accepting someone else's superiority and his own misery. -Alice Walker

The primary objective of each and every student attending a college or university is to accumulate all the knowledge the institution has to offer. We, as tuition paying students of this university are not being afforded all the educational opportunities which we seek. For too long, the Johns Hopkins University has ignored a small, but vital segment of its population. The Black community is angered by the University's unwillingness and outright stubbornness against installing either a Black Studies department or program on campus. Black students awaken, this is our freedom movement. Our University has failed us and we have not forgotten!

The Black Student Union's Perspective welcomes all letters and/or submissions. Please forward any letters and/or submissions to the BSU Mailbox at Merryman Hall. We ask that all submissions be either done on a macintosh word processor or type-written. All disks will be returned to the owner in a prompt manner. All type-written submissions become property of the Black Student Union's Perspective and cannot be returned. In case of lost or stolen property, the Black Student Union's Perspective will not be held responsible. The Black Student Union's Perspective reserves the right to edit for grammar, clarity, and need of space.