

Perspective

VOL. 4 NO. 2

THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

DECEMBER, 1992

Spring Courses

by The Watchdog

What undergraduate courses dealing with Africans and or African Americans are being taught next semester? One would think that since this is such a diverse University, a look at the course schedule would reveal a veritable plethora of courses about Blacks. Not.

I submit for your chagrin and information the pinkyful of undergraduate courses which the University is offering on Africans and those of African ancestry next semester.

130.355(H,S) The Emer-

gence of Civilization: A Cross-Cultural Examination MW 10

140.388(H,S) Race, Health, and Medicine in the United States. T 1-3

300.363(H)(W) Contemporary African Literature ThF 12-1:30

190.341(S) Topics in American Political Thought W 1-3

190.387(S) African Politics Through Fiction T 12-2

Oops! I was wrong, that's more like a thimbleful.

Family Weekend: The Extravaganza

by Perspective Staff

On Saturday, October 31 the BSU sponsored its annual Family Weekend Program/ Reception. The standing room only event was held in the Garrett Room, and over 100 students, family members, and administrators attended. "This was the highest turnout I've seen since I've been here," said senior Carlos Greenlee.

Attending University officials included University Provost Joseph Cooper, Dean of Homewood Student Services Larry Benedict, Dean of Students Susan Boswell,

Director of Multicultural Student Affairs Janet Moore, and Director of Security Ron Mullen.

The event was organized by BSU Community Relations chair and included performances by the JHU Gospel Choir, Crista Johnson, Alpha Kappa Alpha, Alpha Phi Alpha, and Kappa Alpha Psi. During the program Margo Butler was recognized for the time and effort she put into painting the beautiful murals which adorn the walls of the BSU room. Following the program refreshments were served, and mingling was encouraged.

Response to the event was extremely positive. Benedict

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Women's Center and BSU Meet

by Perspective Staff

The guest speaker at the November 17 Women's Center meeting was BSU Community Relations Chair Craig Warren. Numerous other students attended the meeting, as did Student Council Multicultural Student Affairs Chair Maaz Abdi, BSU President Henry Boateng, and BSU member Shonette Johnson.

Members of the BSU were invited to the meeting in response to a letter which Warren sent out in early Novem-

ber asking any student groups which had any questions about the 16 Demands to contact him. A copy of this letter was distributed to all groups with a mailbox in the SAC lounge.

The Women's Center is a student group, open to male and female students, which meets weekly during the academic year. Goals of the organization include encouraging, "the study of women's history, feminist criticisms, and gender issues at Hopkins," the improvement of the status of women at

Hopkins, and the provision of "an organized support center and vocal political outlet for women of all races/ethnicities, religions, and sexualities."

During the meeting it became clear that the two organizations shared many of the same goals, and that it would be beneficial for them to work together more closely in the future. The Women's Center said that it would draft a letter supporting the 16 Demands, and that it would try to send a representative to BSU meetings. The BSU also agreed to

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Fear of a Black JHU Page 6

"Ode to a Sellout" Page 9

Plus Much More!

GRO Supports Black Student Efforts

by Perspective Staff

One of the items on the agenda of the December 3 meeting of the Graduate Representative Organization's was a presentation by members of the Black Student Union, and a discussion of resolutions on the recruitment of African American faculty and graduate students, Auxiliary service workers, and endorsing the efforts of the BSU to raise awareness on campus.

In addition to representatives from various graduate organizations and academic departments, the meeting was also attended by BSU Community Relations Chair Craig Warren and 16 Demands co-author Kobi Little. According to *GRO News*, BSU

members were invited to the meeting to,"explain their position on the 16 Demands they have made of the university which have been much discussed this semester."

After a brief presentation, during which Little and Warren introduced themselves and provided background on the Demands, the discussion began. Discussion centered around which Demands the GRO would support, what they could do to help the BSU attain achieve their demands, and explanations of demands which were not understood by the body.

During the discussion the GRO members indicated that they supported the demands which called for; an increase in Black faculty, graduate, and undergraduate students,

improving the status of auxiliary service workers, the protection of the interests of Black students in the community, and the construction of an outdoor athletic facility.

At the conclusion of the meeting, GRO decided that it would draft a letter to the appropriate parties supporting the efforts of the BSU. (see bottom of page)

The GRO also stated that the representatives present would go back to their respective organizations, receive feedback from them, and come back next semester with concrete plans for how they would work on the attainment of specific demands.

"I was much more pleased with the GRO's response to

the demands than I was with that of Student Council," said Warren, "GRO did, in one meeting, what it took Council close to two months to do."

Parents,

Continued from page 1
said that, "My wife and I thoroughly enjoyed our-ourselves...the organization was wonderful, the variety of performances outstanding, and the overall event was a very unique and important part of family weekend."

"I was very pleased with the turn-out and with the quality of the performances," said event organizer Craig Warren, "I only wish that more people from outside of the Black community had attended."

"Family weekend was a success not only because of the large turn-out, but also because of the dedicated efforts of everyone who participated," said BSU President Henry Boateng.

Oppressed JHU Groups Unite

Continued from page 1

try to send representatives to Women's Center meetings, and to make every effort to increase the level of interaction between the two group.

"We're willing to work with any group, and the Women's Center has shown a serious interest in our agenda," said Boateng, "So

we're also willing to take whatever they have to say very seriously."

"It's about time the two most oppressed groups on campus started working together," said a female BSU member.

"I think it's important that each of these groups respect the fact that there may be int-

erests unique to one group," said Tammie Simmons, "A group's pursuit of its individual interests should not be construed as a slap in the face to the other group."

The Archaeology of Inequality: Race, Class, and Gender 070.355 Th 12-3 Should also be added to the thimble.

A Resolution of the GRO

1) Whereas discrimination and racism have been and remain a fixture in university institutions and programs, as in the community at large;

2) Whereas Johns Hopkins has been slow to recognize and address the issues that are of concern to the campus

lives and education of minority students;

3) Whereas Black students at Johns Hopkins are working to increase awareness of bigotry, discrimination, and injustice;

Be it resolved that:

1) We, the GRO Council, endorse the on-going efforts of Black students to diversify the curriculum, obtain adequate representation, promote community relations, and redress past and present social wrongs;

2) We, the GRO Council,

hereby initiate a deliberative process among our member organizations that will specify the pertinent issues of concern to us and the actions we wish the university to take.

THE GRO COUNCIL

Intersession 1993
Intro to
African-American
Art
Jan. 11-22
M-F 2-4PM
2 credits P/F
Maryland 110

BSU Exec.

Board Meets with HSS

by *Perspective Staff*

"The meeting with HSS was interesting," said BSU President Boateng, "It was a start...maybe." Boateng is referring to the BSU Executive Board's November 19 meeting with Homewood Student Services Dean Larry Benedict, Director of Multicultural Student Affairs Janet Moore, and Program Coordinator Rose Varner-Gaskins. Also attending the meeting was Multicultural Student Affairs *Bulletin* Editor Jesslyn Ingram.

Topics in the wide-ranging discussion included actions which Homewood Student Services could take to improve the situation for Black students, the 16 Demands, University administrators, speaker's programs, campus security, and diversity training.

"I thought it was a unique gesture on the part of people in the administration wanting to find out about students," said Freshman Representative Tammie Simmons, "I only hope that the sentiments expressed at the meeting will be followed by sincere action on the part of the administration."

Apollo Night A Big Success

by Craig F. Warren

"It was better than *Cats*, said Bushra Bashir, "I'd do it over and over again." Bashir is referring to the BSU's Second Annual Apollo Night which was held on November 19 in the Glass Pavilion.

"Apollo Night is a talent show where the audience is allowed verbal comments," said program organizer and Mistress of Ceremonies BSU Events Chair Michelle Cespedes, "If they don't like a group they will be physically removed from the stage."

Over 100 people from the Baltimore and Hopkins communities attended the event, which started an hour late. Singing, dancing, lip-synching, and comedy were all part of the line-up. First place honors went to the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) Step Team. "We practiced hard, we de-

icated time and effort and it paid off," said team member Stephanie Smith. "The deuce was definitely on the loose," added teammate Angela Jones.

Second place honors went to musical performers Mariessa Terrell and Renata Arrington. Third place went to locally renowned pianist Crista Johnson.

**"All things considered,
Apollo Night was a
success."**

-Michelle Cespedes

Other performers included; Jaleesa Adams, Kim Evans, Gabrielle Aiera, Bushra Bashir, Nicole Laviniere, Kadisha "Ice Cube" Rapp, Nicole "Lynch" London, Mike "Mob" Straker, Debbie Furr, Tsion Abdi, Vikki Williams, Charles Glass, and Karen White.

For the most part feedback

was positive. "It's an experience you'll never forget, especially if you get booed," said London.

"It was so nice to feel everyone come together...to boo your ass off the stage," said an unidentified performer. "I was robbed. I was robbed," said "Ice Cube."

BSU President Henry Boateng felt that the night was entertaining and that, "despite the numerous boos, everyone who participated should be commended for their efforts and courage."

The lone voice of constructive dissent was Carlos Greenlee who said, "It doesn't look like a lot of thought went into it." Greenlee also alluded to the facts that, "It started an hour late, and the sound system set-up was second rate."

In spite of the Greenlee's criticisms Cespedes felt that, "All things considered Apollo Night was a success."

Racial Homogeneity

Continued from page 4
 how to solve our problems.

We even try to discredit one another by saying that those who disagree with us are not really a part of our race. This self-destructive attitude traps us in a self-imposed "divide and conquer" mentality.

Both the leaders and members of Black student organizations must learn to disagree, not for the sake of disagreeing, but to nurture mutual respect. We must not be afraid to disagree with one

another.

Not doing so will ensure a sharp decline in student involvement in our organizations. No one would feel that their opinions were appreciated for what they are. If this occurred we would be back where we started at the beginning of the semester.

The leaders of our student organizations must realize that they not only hold important positions within our groups, but that because of this they are also responsible for fostering an atmosphere

of mutual respect for everyone's opinions. We must all remember that we are not a group of spineless Black folks who can't think for ourselves.

Although we may have opposing viewpoints, we must realize that the advancement of the race is much more important than individual disputes over progress. We must use any and every resource available to solve the problems of race, discrimination and inequality which all of us face in this country.

PERSPECTIVES

EDITORIAL: The U.S. Intervention and Somalia

Is U.S. intervention in Somalia the right thing to do? One of the facts which the media has chosen to underplay is that the present situation in Somalia is the fault of the United States.

During the Cold War, Somalia was, "a pawn in the global battle between communism and democracy," (U.S. News and World Report, 12/7/92) but when the "war" ended, Somalia was left out in the cold.

As a result of Glasnost, President Mohammed Siad fell from power, and warlords and bandits took over the country.

Given these facts it would

appear that since the U.S. was responsible for the creation of the present situation it should also be responsible for the resolution of that situation. However, things are not always as they seem.

It is time for the "Great White Father" to focus his attention inwards. The situation of the "underclass" in this country is deplorable, as are the plights of the homeless, the elderly, and countless other groups. Before gallivanting around the world, under the questionable auspices of humanitarian aid, the U.S. government should clean its

own house. Only after we take care of our own, can we effectively take care of others.

The whiplash from the Bush Administration's emphasis on foreign over domestic policy is one of the reason Clinton was elected, and this should not be forgotten when he takes office with American troops on African soil.

In light of the 300,000+ Somalians who have died many may find this argument heartless. However, as members of the Black race we should acknowledge the Somalians as family, but we

should also realize that our government's money should be spent alleviating our problems, before those of our Black brother and sisters in the Motherland.

That is, unless the U.S. actually pursues a policy which promotes the tenant's of the "New World Order" and humanitarianism, in which case we should be sending troops and to Urban America, Hati, Eastern Europe, Iraq, and a myriad of other places any day now.

Well...you can always hope.

-CFW

Do Blacks Encourage Open Debate?

by Carlos R. Greenlee

"If you're not a part of the solution, you're part of the problem." I am sure that all of us have heard and even spoken this phrase on various occasions. Now, how about, "If you're not a part of MY solution, you're a part of the problem." Huh? Sounds a bit different from the first quote, doesn't it?

I'm bringing this up is because it seems as though the African-American students on this campus, are engaged

in a struggle amongst themselves.

This argument revolves around the second quote in the above paragraph. I am glad to see that this semester there has been increased activity among us in trying to effect a positive change in the atmosphere and actions towards us on this campus. This is important because it will set a positive tone for future classes of African American students coming to Hopkins.

What disturbs me is what I

see as a "do-it-my-way-or-don't-do-it-at-all" attitude emerging along with our increased activism. We are on the verge of making some of the same mistakes our ancestors made in the past with regards to dividing ourselves on what actions to take in facilitating change.

African-Americans have disagreed (and will continue to disagree) on many issues just as other races do. We must be careful to distinguish between the unity of our race and racial homogeneity.

I believe that racial unity implies an understanding that we are all individuals, that we may disagree on some things, and that all of us may not care for each other as individuals.

It means that we put aside our differences when it comes down to it. Unity also implies that those people who are at the forefront of the struggle are sensitive to the fact that there may be other alternatives to solve a partic-

ular problem. Racial unity recognizes that we are autonomous individuals and that we can formulate logical conclusions for ourselves. Therefore this unity promotes mutual respect for everyone's beliefs and opinions.

On the flip side of this whole issue of racial unity, we have "racial homogeneity." This is a false sense of exact "likeness" among all African Americans. While we do share many unique similarities that no other race does, we are not all the same. At the present, I feel that we are swaying towards this dangerous position of homogeneity. This type of position does not allow us to disagree, while agreeing on the need for progress.

Homogeneity facilitates further division amongst our race. Whenever we discover our individual differences we resort to falsely accusing each other of being "sell-outs", because we disagree about

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The Black Student Union's Perspective

Editor in Chief
Craig F. Warren

Staff Writers: Carlos R. Greenlee, Henry A. Boateng, Carl G. Edelen, Michelle S. Cespedes, Nicole London, Prophete J. Charles, Skrouda Witemin.

This paper is published twice a semester by the Black Student Union. Please forward any letters or submissions to the BSU Mailbox in the SAC Lounge. Views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the Black Student Union.

The President's Corner: Feedback!

by Henry Boateng
BSU President

It has been about one month since the last issue of *Perspective*, and I hope this issue finds you in good health. Since our October issue, many things have occurred, and there has been much feedback from the Hopkins community about our mission this year, as outlined in the 16 Demands.

First of all I would like to thank those groups and organizations that have come out in support of our cause and who have also expressed an interest in making a change. I commend your efforts and ask that you continue your support. I also encourage the rest of the Hopkins community to follow their lead and, if nothing else, find out what we are talking about. This installment is a response to numerous questions and criticisms, and an update on our progress and intentions.

"Why was the tone of the last *Perspective* so angry?"

The answer quite simply is that WE ARE ANGRY!

We are angry with a University that has been intentionally slow and unwilling to make definitive changes to improve the racist atmosphere at Johns Hopkins. We are angry with an administration that has continually lied to us, and which has promised to make the necessary changes, only to come up short.

We are angry with a University that has promoted the spread of racism and ignorance through its lack of academic programs which would raise the awareness and consciousness of students about Africans. We are angry with a University that allows the blatant racism and physical harassment of its students to continue unchecked.

We are angry with student organizations that, although founded to aid us, when given the opportunity to do so either turn away or hinder us in our progress. We are angry with a community that has continually turned a deaf ear to our problems (speak outs, forums etc. have been organized to raise concerns) and yet this same community is so quick to criticize

when we prepare to take our own actions towards equality. And we are also angry at ourselves, for allowing this to continue.

In short we are very angry and the reasons listed above are, only the tip of the iceberg. Do not expect me to apologize for any member of the BSU or the Executive Board's anger, because I too am very angry.

"Why now? Is this really necessary, since this is the first time I've heard about these problems."

The problems facing the Black students at Hopkins have been well documented and publicized. Black organizations have taken it upon themselves to inform the administration of the problems that we face and they have even offered solutions. To raise student awareness there have been speak outs, forums, regular meetings, and publications.

What more can Black students do to let everyone "hear" their problems? I don't know, but I do know that we cannot afford to wait

for everyone to "hear" of our problems, since hearing does not equal support or action. It is up to us to initiate change.

As Dr. Martin Luther King stated in his "Letter from Birmingham Jail," "it is unfortunate that demonstrations are taking place in Birmingham, but it is even more unfortunate that the city's white power structure has left the Negro with no alternative." Substitute Hopkins for Birmingham and you will understand why we cannot wait.

"The measures that you use seem drastic. I agree with your cause, but not with your method. You should be able to work within the system."

These have been some of the more infuriating responses. They serve to further illustrate the need for change as times have not changed at all since the 1960's. "I agree with you in the goal you seek but I cannot agree with you in the method of direct action...Shallow understanding from people

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Why We Shouldn't Recruit for Hopkins

by Carl G. Edelen

A few weeks ago a certain irony struck me. "Why are black students on this campus actively recruiting prospective black students for this University, while at the same time they are unsatisfied with the qual-

ty of life here? By active recruitment I refer to activities such as Prefreshman Weekend and telephoning prospective students.

Why would we invite other African-Americans to an institution that does not look for our interests? Prospective black students would get much more for their money (both socially and

academically) from other schools of the same academic caliber, which have made an effort to accommodate African-Americans.

I'm sure I speak for many other upperclassmen when I state that if I could "do it all again," I probably would not have come to this school. My point is null and void if you're happy with the

administration's efforts to improve conditions for students.

You might argue that should work towards improving the quality of life at Hopkins. I agree with this, and we should continue to do so for as long as we are here. However, I also believe that, for the sake of our brothers

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Andrew Hacker: Fear of A Black JHU

by Michelle Cespedes

What is the paralyzing fear that prevents people from standing up for their convictions? Is it the same one that makes the American population blind to the plight of the lower classes and minorities? Andrew Hacker, author and professor at City College in New York City, called it the fear of the Africanization of White America. Unfortunately, I was able to draw far to many parallels between the larger American society, and that of the Hopkins community.

"I agree with what you're saying, but I can't support the way you went about it." This was the response that I heard many times concerning the presentation of the 16 Demands of the Black Students at Hopkins. The major gripe was that they believed

that our complaints were valid, but that the hostile tone was self-defeating. The hostility and anxiety in our voice is a result of years of saying the same thing and getting no response.

The feedback makes me wonder if the majority of Hopkins students really agree with what we are asking for; a SINCERE commitment to end racism here, and African representation on an academic level. If these were their true convictions, if they really believed in our cause, then something as petty as the tone of the presentation would not even be an issue.

What is everyone so afraid of? Is it that the creation of an African Studies Program and the presence of Black professors at Hopkins will mean our presence on this campus will be far too great, and that this is absolutely

Hopkins and Black Recruiting

Continued from page 5
and sisters who are not yet in college, we should discourage them from attending this institution...at least until some positive changes have been made.

One might say a decrease in the number of African-American students here would impair our ability to voice our opinions. This is not necessarily true. As far

as I know the number of African-Americans in each successive class has increased for many years. While our numbers have risen, our situation has changed very little.

When you encourage prospective black students to attend this university (who will be here when you are long gone) you must ask if the quality of life at this school will improve while they are

unacceptable?

Or would it mean that the University gave in to those "militants." We just can't have that happen, now can we? What ever that fear is, it is comparable to that which causes "non-prejudiced" average White Americans to move to another town when their neighborhood becomes 8% Black.

Another complaint was that the Black students didn't raise issues broad enough to concern the entire Hopkins community. How can we be expected to speak for the mute? Unfortunately, I don't read minds.

It is unfair to reprimand us for bringing our concerns to the forefront without waiting for support from others, many of whose main concern is when their next social event will take place. If anything, we should be commended

here. I think it is selfish to encourage a younger brother or sister to enroll in a school which has not satisfactorily fulfilled your own needs.

When I suggest encouraging prospective students to go elsewhere, I believe that at the same time they should be given an honest and critical appraisal of African-American student life at Hopkins.

Nothing is sacred about The Johns Hopkins University. A student can receive a good education at another institution. Perhaps he or she will be satisfied with student life there as well.

The deadline for submissions to the February *Perspective* is January 29.

for opening others' eyes, and for making them realize that they too are being short-changed.

Dr. Hacker also brought to my attention the plight of Blacks in corporate America. He stated that in many corporations there is a Black V.P. (one, never more), but that V.P. usually doesn't have a substantial role in the company (i.e. V.P. of Personnel or Institutional Relations). Their position is usually more for the sake of appearance sake and they are only promoted if White America sees it as useful.

The same sort of machinery is at work here. There are administrators who are trying to appease us and prevent the University from looking bad, at all costs. This is absolutely unacceptable. Temporary solutions and empty promises, or even failing to meet the terms that they have agreed upon won't satiate us, or make us forget what we asked for in the first place.

Understand that the Black students at Hopkins aren't asking for any sweeping, radical programs that will undermine the principles of the University. (Think about it. Can you name any other college or university that doesn't have some sort of African Studies Program?) Our endeavors would only serve to enhance them. Opposition to our efforts (including the reluctant / silent support) leads me to believe that the people here are simply afraid of change.

"Things That Make You Say Hmm..."

Shari Kleiner

Seiler's Employees can now use the gym. Why were they excluded in the first place?

And then there was one...?

True Black Progress and the Individual

by Carlos R. Greenlee

Progression is an often discussed concept about which African Americans need a better understanding. True progression does not equal individual progression. True progression comprises individual progression and facilitates the progression of the whole race.

Though we are led to believe otherwise, we have had many Black doctors, lawyers, scientists, etc. since emancipation. However, for various reasons, this did not effect a positive progression in and of itself.

I believe that one of the main reasons for this was

that we didn't (and weren't) allowed to network. As I think about the situation on this campus it seems that the same problem exists today.

Why?

Unfortunately, I believe that many of us have bought into the "throat" mentality that the campus atmosphere perpetuates. As few of us as there are on this campus, you'd think this trend would be reversed.

When we do have study sessions many of the participants do not come prepared. Therefore, as in the past, a few of us do extremely well and the majority just get by. Hence, our progress is not

"multiplicative," but "substitutional," in that it replaces that which already exists without building on it.

The responsibility for studying does lie with the individual, but we can increase our knowledge by studying together. We have to realize that it's time to get down to business.

Even if we are not taking the same courses, we can inspire each other to weather the storms of academic life by supporting ourselves in these informal groups.

We can push each other to a higher level through the knowledge that, in addition to helping us progress as individual students, our

joint study groups will also help us progress as a people.

Hopefully, this type of activity will stay with us as we go to graduate/professional school and enter the our careers. In this fashion true progression can occur. When the opportunity presents itself individuals can reach back to pull others upward.

Finally, we must remember that "self-help" activity is a two-way street. We must not only be the beneficiaries, but also the providers.

STAY BLACK!

President's Corner

Continued from page 5

of good will is more frustrating than absolute understanding from people of ill will. Lukewarm acceptance is much more bewildering than outright rejection." The words of Dr. King sound very familiar, is this 1992 or 1962? No matter how it is presented there is a serious dilemma facing the Black community. Whether you agree with the tone or not, the problem must be dealt with. If you claim to agree then you must support the cause. The situation is drastic therefore the tone and the means must be drastic. In terms of working within the system, we have yet to do anything outside of the system. We have allowed the "system"

every opportunity to correct itself and aid us; however, it has not done so. Obviously the system does not work for us nor does it care for us, I feel no obligation to care for it. If the tone of the last *Perspective* shocked and amazed you, then I suggest you begin to worry, for those were just words and you have not seen anything yet. We are committed to change, and we are prepared to fight for it. Dr. King, Malcolm X, Kwame Nkrumah and others have died fighting for equality. We cannot allow their sacrifice to be in vain. Start here and now and keep struggling because we are far from free.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT?

1960s

1990s

CIA

FBI

CORPORATIONS

RACISM

HUMANISM

CAPITALISM

FASCISM

SOCIALISM

COMMUNISM

MOVE ORGANIZATION

AUGUST 7TH MOVEMENT

NATIVE AMERICAN STRUGGLE

KKK

CONSTITUTION

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

EQUALITY

REVOLUTION

Bonus: What do you really know about MALCOLM X
Read the autobiography:

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER!!!

More to come....

BUST A RHYME

Monday Morning and 80 Degrees

Illusion of her walking
 Wading through the heat
 One way
 A natural
 Earrings/the loopholes
 Nothing on her feet
 But sandals
 And worn paint on her toes

Looking either way
 Her glare did not bother
 To search across that street
 Her eyes grew darker
 Deep
 Within her head, it seemed
 So
 I guess I really couldn't tell
 The direction in which the glance
 Of her countenance...
 Fell

Stepping from the curb into the sea
 Of metallic fish
 The various makes and models
 She glided through the stares
 Of a thousand, piercing eyes
 And automobiles
 Not one touched her
 But this was their true desire

As soon as the serenade of horns
 Ceased to engulf her
 She stepped back on to shore
 The sun beat down on her
 Oppression
 The weight of the slavewhip

But her rich, caramel skin bore
 That weight
 More...
 As she absorbed the abuse
 Punishment and torture
 She converted this adversity
 Into rich and luxurious
 Elegance
 Golden radiance
 Ebony...the great civilizations of the past

Exterior essence
 It transcends her soul
 Emanating from grace and flow
 Her stride
 A sensual intellect
 And streams from her mind

A passer-by
 Life escaped me
 But somehow I returned
 In exact time
 To catch an utterance
 But no response
 Rare essence.

Carlos Raphael Greenlee

**The 16 Demands:
 "By Any Means Necessary."**

Ode to a Sellout

Oh Sellout, how strange are thee,
 you are like me and mine.
 yet you will never agree.
 You would never define,
 yourself as Black, as that dreadful shade,
 who is looked down upon.
 So, you change your ways, but what have you made???
 A grinning fool singing a foolish song.

Oh Sellout, how strange are thee,
 your hair is kinkier than mine,
 your color that of a tree.
 Yet, when I wave and give you the sign,
 you ignore it and turn around,
 leaving your brother in disgrace.
 Then you go and greet and surround,
 his pretty white face.

Oh Sellout, how strange are thee,
 you actually believe, actually think,
 that they see you differently.
 How sad, for in a second, in a wink,
 they would hurt and insult you,
 call you nigger and another such name.
 For, when it comes to race, only your people are true.
 And they see all of us the same.

Oh Sellout, how strange are thee,
 please wake-up, I am your brother,
 can you not see??
 We have a common history with each other,
 as bountiful as are fish in the sea.
 So, why do you not join our fight??
 It is not one of selfishness or envy,
 it is for justice and what is right.
 (And I hope to see you next BSU night)

Prophete J. Charles

Editor's Note: The author is a member of the class of 1996 who is outraged by the number of "Black" freshmen who do not associate with their own.

**Good Luck On Finals
 and
 Happy Holidays.
 -Perspective Staff**

I Watched It Burn

**They were warned.
 They laughed.**

**They were told.
 They chose not to hear.**

**I watched it burn...
 Down to the ground.**

**I watched it burn...
 Richardson was not around.
 Neither was Armstrong or
 Giddens.**

**To me this was no surprise.
 I had long predicted the
 building's demise.**

**But they...They asked where
 they were.**

**They received no reply.
 Once again...the expected
 reply.**

But that's what started the fire.

**Isn't It?
 Skrouda Witemin**

Much 2 Short's Hip-Hop Review: Ice Cube, Kool G Rap, Grand Puba, Sade...

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

Ice Cube *The Predator* (Priority Records).

Still basking in the glow of the success of his breakthrough third album, *Death Certificate*, as well as the phenomenal reception he received on the Lollapalooza traveling tour, Ice Cube's latest album, *The Predator*, proves to be a consistent follow-up.

Hard as ever with rough lyrics over funky sixties and seventies grooves, Ice Cube comes back with the same gangsta "I don't give a f___" attitude. Learning from all of the critical attention and media hype following his role in John Singleton's *Boyz 'n' the Hood*, and the subsequent release of his third album, Ice Cube's evolution as more of a political and social thinker is evident.

Excellent tracks such as "When Will They Shoot," "Wicked," "Check Yo Self" (featuring Das EFX), and "Who Got the Camera," as well as cuts from the speeches of Black political thinkers such as Malcolm X and Louis Farrakhan serve to highlight this.

Unfortunately, those who

didn't like or were offended by the last album probably won't like this one either. That's too bad because they might have learned a thing or two about themselves. A

Kool G Rap & D.J. Polo *Live and Let Die* (Cold Chillin' Records)

"Kool G Rap and Polo. Back Again. What?! This is Poison... And that's exactly what this latest and not-so-long-awaited venture by Kool G Rap and D.J. Polo is. Poison.

First of all, if you're female (I went to see KRS-One), there is a very good chance that you'll be thoroughly disgusted with the album. Their sexist and degrading attitudes towards women have definitely not evolved to the level of respect attained by Apache (Warner Brothers) with his release, *Gangsta' Bitch*, but that's another story.

Not that the album is a total loss. There are some good tracks, such as "Edge of Insanity," "Two to the Head," "On the Run," and "#1 With a Bullet," featuring Big Daddy Kane. There's also some really bad tracks. I mean *really bad*, like "Operation CB," you don't want to know what the CB stands for, just take my word for it, the song is complete garbage.

There's not much else to say about this album other than that it's very weak. The tracks are weak and the rhymes are weak. It is becoming painfully obvious that this duo peaked with "the Road to the Riches,"

out of respect for which I will be merciful, and rate this record a D.

Must Haves: All of these albums have been out for a month or more.

Grand Puba *Reel to Reel* (Elektra Records)

It's Grand Puba, need I say more? A

Diamond D and the Psychotic Neurotics *Stunts, Blunts, and Hip Hop* (Chemistry Records)

A hip-hop veteran from way back in the day, Diamond D has finally released his own album. Coming off with that old school style, this album could be marked as a hip-hop classic in years to come, with such memorable tracks as "Best Kept Secret," "****!" "What You Heard," "Freestyle (Yo, That's That Sh...)," and the anthemic title track "Stunts, Blunts, and Hip-Hop." Do not sleep on this one. A-

Sade *Love Deluxe* (Epic Records)

It's not hip-hop, but everyone should give it a listen. After a long hiatus from the music business (supposedly due to the rumored drug addiction of lead vocalist Sade Adu), Sade has made an impressive comeback with their latest venture.

Whatever experiences Sade has had in the last few years has definitely influenced her lyrics, the result being a greater depth in her music. The album is magic.

The songs almost hypnotic, with Adu's sultry voice evoking a wide range of emotion.

This is not to say that Adu has the greatest voice in the world, because she doesn't. It's just that her voice and the music and the lyrics blend perfectly, and that's what this album is close to. Perfection. A

Basshead *Play With Toys* (Imago Records)

I don't think that this this album would be classified as hip-hop *per se*, but it has a definite hip-hop feel, with lots of samples, scratching and cutting. The music is mellow, with lots of humorous introspective chatter—between members Michael Ivey, Brian Hendrix and Bill, on love and life and being Black—laced throughout. The album is not all humor though; it makes you think and feel what these bugged-out brothers do on a daily basis. B+

-Much 2 Short

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Two Strong.**

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