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Ebony Voice April 1991

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THE EBONY VOICE

The African American Students' League
of La Salle University

Volume 3 Number 5

April 1991

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Words to the Wise

The first week in April is Alcohol Awareness Week. It is easy to view this as a "White problem" on campus, but it is something that affects the African American community very heavily as well.

Alcoholism is not just the fraternities or sororities on this campus throwing wild parties, and mixing alcohol with sex or rape.

Statistically, everyone knows someone who is an alcoholic. I'm also sure that we've all been to parties where there has been an abundance of alcohol available.

The key to this problem is to be smart. I am not qualified to tell you the "symptoms" of alcoholism, or what to do if you have an alcoholic parent, or what to do if a friend who has had too many drinks to drive, but there are many activities and programs that are available to teach you about this growing problem.

List of Activities

Tuesday, April 9, 1991

12:30

General Meeting- ELECTIONS
Olney 227

Spring Fling

Saturday, April 20, 1991
Hayman Hall Parking Lot

Tuesday, April 23, 1991

12:30

End-of-the-Year Ceremony

This and That

We need volunteers to work the HIGHSTRIKER at Spring Fling on April 20th!!!

"The Five Heartbeats", starring Robert Townsend and Dihann Carroll is now playing at Sameric 4 1908 Chesnut.

"The Long Walk Home", starring Whoopi Goldberg, is playing at Ritz 5 214 Walnut.

Central High Gospel Choir will have its annual Spring Concert at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. high School. Rev Earnest Davis and the Wilmington Chester Mass Choir is their special Guest. For more information call 247-4731.

All submission to the Ebony Voice must be sent to Union 305 or Campus Mailbox 723.

Are you on our mailing list? If not drop your name in Campus Mial box 723 or call ext. 1005.

Lift Every Voice

FIRST, THEY SAID

by Alice Walker

First, they said we were savages.
But we knew how well we had treated them
and knew we were not savages.

Then they said we were immoral.
But we knew minimal clothing did not equal immoral.

Next, they said our race was inferior.
but we knew our mothers
and we knew that our race was not inferior.

After that they said we were
a backward people.
But we knew our fathers
and we knew we were not backward.

So then they said we were
obstructing Progress.
But we knew the rhythm of our
days
and knew that we were not obstructing Progress

Eventually they said the truth is that you eat
too much and your villages take up too much
of the land. But we knew we and our children
were starving and our villages burned
to the ground. So we knew we were not eating
too much or taking up too much of the land.

They said: You are right. It is not your savagery, or your
morality, or your racial inferiority,
or your people's backwardness, or your obstructing of
Progress, or your appetite, or your infestation of the land
that is at fault. No. What is at fault
is your existence itself.

Here is money, they said. Raise an army
among your people and exterminate yourselves.

In our inferior backwardness,
we took the money. Raised an army
among our people.
And now, the people protected, we wait
for the next insulting words
coming out of that mouth.

Black Profile James Cleveland

James Cleveland, "King of Gospel Music" was born in 1931 in Chicago, Illinois. He wrote over 400 songs and

recorded over 100 albums. (Sixteen of his albums went gold.) He has also won four grammys.

He began singing as a child at Pilgrim Baptist Church of Chicago, where Thomas Dorsey was the musical director. He moved to Detroit in 1949 to direct the New Bethel Baptist Church, where C.L. Franklin, father of Aretha Franklin, was pastor.

He taught her how to sing, and later, in 1972 produced her album *Amazing Grace*, the last Gospel album to reach the Top Ten.

Cleveland is an important figure in modern gospel, with his unique soulful sound. In the early '60s he organized The Cleveland Singers, whose organist was Billy Preston.

In 1968, he founded the Gospel Music Workshop of America, the largest black gospel music association in the world (over 25,000 people).

This singer, composer, producer, pianist, arranger, died on February 9th of heart failure.

African American Issues:

Black Conservatives

For years the words black and conservative have been considered opposites, but our history is full of many examples to the contrary. African Americans are people, and therefore they have a wide range of views and philosophies from which they make political decisions.

African American conservatives are seen in our society as an exception to the norm, but this view is based solely on stereotype, and in reality is very far from the truth. The fact is that the black middle class is much more conservative than it's white counterparts and that blacks break down roughly the same as whites when declaring their political opinions (30% conservative, 20% liberal, 40% moderate).

Throughout history black conservatives and liberals have argued about the path that blacks should take on the road to success. Booker T. Washington took the conservative view during the turn of the century when he felt that vocational training and self help were the best ways for blacks to advance. This was in contrast to both the more liberal and more popular views that were presented by Frederick Douglass at the time.

Washington also argued with W.E.B Dubios who took an even more conservative and almost Platonic approach to the plight of blacks. He felt that blacks should follow a more intellectual road and develop their smartest minds as leaders for the rest of our society. He felt that Booker T. Washington and Tuskegee Institute (a strictly vocational school at the time) were training blacks to be followers and laborers and not to be leaders.

Author Zora Neale Hurston objected to the Brown v.s Topeka decision which abolished seperate but equal, because she felt that it was an attack on the black community's ability to educate it's own children.

Ishmael Reed wrote that "the dominant strain of black radicalism was anti-achievement and anti-middle class; that welfare was 'the arsenic ... of liberal kindness' and the greatest danger that Afro-American culture faced". He also was opposed to James Baldwin' s writings and called him "a hustler who romanticized urban violence while selling books."

Even today, more and more blacks are showing conservative traits. More and more blacks are switching to the republican party and running for office under the banner of both parties. In congress blacks have representatives in both parties, and more and more are running every day. With all of this action going on, black conservatives are still being stereotyped and ridiculed. They are shown by liberals as being out of touch, sell outs or traitors to their race. This tactic is used very often to divert attention from issues and gain popularity. This tactic was used just last month when Milton Street (a supporter of Lucien Blackwell) publically called mayoral candidate George Burrell an "Uncle Tom Nigger", trying to brand him as conservative and therefore a traitor to his race.

Whites also follow the stereotype that blacks are all liberals. Many whites automatically feel that blacks will take the liberal position on issues and therefore ignore the actual issue and many politicians ignore or take the black vote for granted because they think all blacks always vote democrat, because the party is viewed as less conservative.

Just because blacks do find common grounds on some things does not mean that we are clones or should be expected to be. One day blacks will be considered and respected as individuals with differing opinions and agendas and will not be lumped together by others and by themselves.

- Michael Green