

TALON MARKS

CERRITOS COLLEGE

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Parking permits delayed

PRICILLA GONZALEZ
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If it isn't enough having to pay for school, books, housing, food and transportation just add on also having to pay for those tickets that are given for not having a parking permit.

For some students this is unfair but unfortunately for them a reality.

According to the students who complain about receiving the tickets, purchasing the semester parking permits manually is not an option.

There is another option and that is to purchase the permit online. This however, brings in a particular problem.

The problem for students who do purchase the permit online, is that they don't receive permits in the mail or on time. The process takes longer than what students expected to take.

Some don't even receive it for

See **Parking** page 3

Hope seeks to recruit volunteers

NORMA PALACIOS
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Project HOPE is seeking volunteers for the upcoming Blood Drive to be held at the Student Center on Feb. 13-14 from 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Cerritos College is the No. 1 community college in the state that donates when the blood drive is held and Project HOPE coordinator Manuel Canderario hopes to continue that success with the help from students.

"It's important to not only volunteer," he explained, "but also to donate blood because without blood donations there wouldn't be a way to save lives."

Canderario also said that he gets a good turnout with student volunteers.

He added that during his one and a half year tenure at Cerritos there are on average 40-50 students who volunteer.

Students say that they too think that what Project HOPE is doing is important and that students should donate and volunteer.

"I think it's a good idea," Edwin Aguiere, business major, said, "because you will feel good about it."

He admitted that he hasn't volunteered but said that he will in the future.

As for donating blood, Aguiere has donated twice because he too said that it would save a life.

Andres Alegria, graphic design major, agreed but said that those students who don't volunteer during a blood drive is probably only because that is a choice that he or she makes.

He said, "However, I do feel that I help an entire community when I donate blood."

See **Blood Drive** page 3

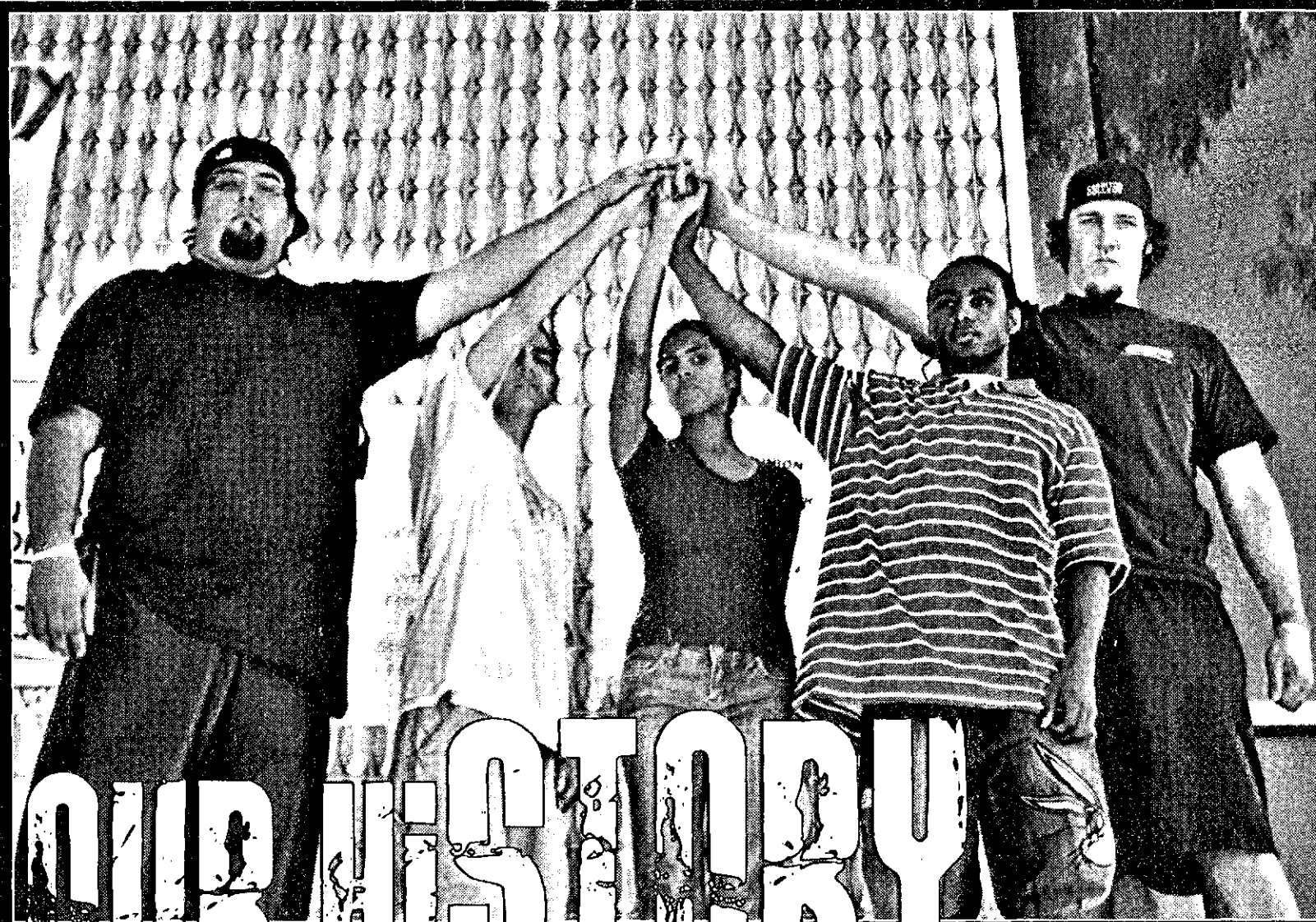


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY TANYA BERMUDEZ

Though February is a celebration of black history, students explain the need for unity in history. With that can emerge a new history, where black history is our history.

STEVEN MARTIN
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The United States consists of different cultures and races; each which has its own history and contributions that make up society as a whole.

But each year, there is a certain time designated to highlight the significant contributions and history of a group of people who have been hated, mistreated and exploited by others; African-Americans.

The month of February is known as Black History Month and is celebrated by people of different cultural backgrounds.

However, there is an underlying controversy about whether or not BHM really fulfills the job of truly educating about African-American culture or if it just perpetuates stereotypes.

Despite this, some members of the Cerritos College community are participating in the celebration.

The Black Student Union is hosting an event on Feb. 23 entitled "A Summons From the Past; A Command for the Future" at 7 p.m. in the Student Center.

The event will include a talent show, a fashion show and guest speakers.

According to BSU advisor Connie Hunter, more than 200 colleges and high schools have been invited to the event.

Among them are students and Black Student Union clubs from Rio Hondo and El Camino Colleges.

"We want all of the students from here and other colleges to come together and learn about African-Americans," she said.

She also sent invitations to instructors, faculty and staff, as well.

But besides the scheduled event for later on this month, no other school related activities have been planned by the BSU, ASCC, or any other campus group.

As to why that is, Hunter said that there could be fiscal matters involved.

See related
Feature
on page 6

"There's only so much you can do with a small budget. A lot of times, I've had

in the making

"There needs to be a push for a continual education. There should be more lectures and more cultural events dealing with Africa and the Diaspora. Every month should be Black History Month"

- Julie Trager, Art Instructor

to come out of my own pocket to help pay for things," Hunter said. "If we can get the school to sponsor (the BSU), then (the club) would (put on) more events."

Though there is at least one event in honor of BHM held on campus, not everyone agrees with the approach of that event.

Latoya Williams, nursing major, said about the BSU sponsored event, "There's nothing wrong with having a talent show and fashion show. But there needs to be some education factored into the event."

"We need to show others that (African-Americans) are more than just good entertainers."

Though the month is specifically designed to highlight the contributions of African-Americans, does it mean that other races and cultures don't celebrate it also?

There are some non-African-American students who say that they celebrate BHM in some form or fashion.

Miriam Godoy, undecided major, who is of Latino origin, said that her sister is part of the Black History Month program at her school. Godoy attends to support her sister and also to support BHM.

"Other minorities have also been abused and discriminated against, so they can relate (to the African-American struggle)," she said as to why other cultures and races participate in the celebration.

But not everyone celebrates BHM, or for that matter, even knows that the celebration exists.

Maria Reyes, nursing major, is a recent immigrant to the U.S. from the Philippines. In her two years in the country, she said that she hasn't heard much about BHM.

She also said she hasn't done much inter-

acting with African-Americans.

However, she added, "I don't see blacks any differently than I do any other race. I think everyone is equal and deserves the same privileges."

Though she said that she doesn't know much about African-American culture, she wants to find out more.

"Even if I don't specifically do it within the month of February, I can do more interacting with the black culture throughout the rest of my life. That will be my own contribution," she said.

While people of other cultures have found ways to get into the celebration, others of all different ethnicities and races have made a conscious choice not to celebrate BHM.

Julie Trager, arts instructor, who also teaches a class entitled Black Images in Pop Culture, feels that BHM marginalizes the contributions that African-Americans have made to the American culture.

Instead of having February as the only month that African-American history is focused on, Trager believes that it should be included with the rest of American history.

"There needs to be a push for a continual education. There should be more lectures and more cultural events dealing with Africa and the Diaspora."

"Every month should be Black History Month," she said.

Williams agrees with Trager. "In history classes, we're taught all of these other things about American history."

"Then all of a sudden when February comes, (instructors) decide they want to throw in all of the facts about blacks," she said.

Some feel that the current educational system hasn't and isn't doing enough to educate

Students take note to war

ROSALI CASTILLO
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There are many ways to voice your opinion, you can protest, boycott and even put it in words.

Last Thursday, the opportunity to voice your opinion about the war directly to President Bush was given to the students when the Political Science club, and Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance joined forces to get students to send e-mails to Bush about putting an end to the war.

"Since we figured that we don't have a million people (from Cerritos) to send to Washington D.C. for a million man march, we decided to use technology to send e-mails," Waleed Nuierat, English and economics major explained.

So the clubs had a table setup and provide the laptop and wireless Internet so the students could write an email to Bush on the spot.

Gredma Casasola, philosophy major also mentioned that this event will be reoccurring so more signatures can be attained.

Nuierat said "these groups will be here every Thursday

See **E-mails** page 3

Cerritos to host Financial Aid Week

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Financial Aid Week will take place in Falcon Square this week to make students aware of information that will be provided to those who are new students and those who are returning.

For some students at Cerritos College, payment for college is not a problem.

Others however, struggle to make ends meet, sometimes requiring them to have to work.

Those who live with their parents have the luxury of financial assistance.

For the students at Cerritos College that have difficulties with affording school have an advantage with the Financial Aid program.

See **Black History** page 3

See **AID** page 3



Future nurses get acquainted SMDEP invites ASET to UCLA

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More than 200 students from the Student Nursing Association of Cerritos College program gathered to welcome new students last Thursday at the Health Sciences Building.

The SNACC program prepares students for skills in the nursing field. On average, nursing students have waited two to three semesters to actually get into the program according to SNACC adviser Peggy Stuart.

"The welcoming event held every spring and fall semester gives students the opportunity to feel welcomed and also to introduce new students to the faculty and staff," Michael Purk, president of SNACC, explained.

"And it also helps students become critical thinkers," he added.

The turnout of the event was great and to have more than 200 students show up, Purk said that he was pleased that it was important to the students.

He added that those who are in the program will receive the benefit of being well prepared for the nursing field once graduating.

Stuart agreed. She stated that the nursing program is popular and that local hospitals seek out students that have skills in nursing.

She continued saying that despite the program being mostly fe-



NORMA PALACIOS/TM

Future Nurses: (second from the left) Karina Aguilar, nursing major, Francisco Terrazas, nursing major and Margot Cisneros, nursing major have a good time as they along with 200 other new students are welcomed by the Student Nursing Assn. last Thursday.

male-dominated there are about 10 percent of students who are male.

But Stuart said that the number of male nursing students has continued to climb within the program itself and said that she hopes it will continue.

Students like Francisco Terrazas, nursing major, said that despite the small percentage of males he said that he is glad to know that within his field of study he will have job security.

"That is what great about the

nursing program," he said.

He too added that the reason why he wanted to become a registered nurse is for the benefit of knowing that he is there to help not only individuals, but an entire community as well.

Karina Aguilar, nursing major said, "Not only will students have job security, but it's just knowing someone is there to help out someone else who's in need."

"The only thing is that one has to have time to study the required

materials within the program."

Aguilar along with Margot Cisneros, nursing major, and Terrazas all say that despite them being in the program just this semester that all of the faculty and students have been really helpful.

For male students who are interested or are not comfortable being around females, nursing majors Terrazas said that men should not be ashamed because this field will make any student, male or female, love what he and she are doing.

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Cathy Jalali, learning skills counselor at UCLA, presented members of the ASET club with a motivational speech last Thursday.

She also informed the students of a program, entitled Summer Medical and Dental Education Program (SMDEP).

SMDEP is a six-week program designed for students who are interested in a career in the medical field.

SMDEP will take place this summer at UCLA with on-campus housing from June 24 to Aug. 4.

The program will admit 60 pre-medical and 20 pre-dental students. To be eligible you must fulfill these requirements:

- Be a freshman or sophomore
- Be a U.S. citizen
- Be a pre-health professional student

More information and an online application are available at www.smdep.org.

Two letters of recommendation and official transcripts must be submitted with the application by Mar. 1.

Afterward, Jalali said that she has devoted her life to helping students go to college in order to reap its rewards.

"I want to teach students to navigate the system to get to where they want to be," she said.

Jalali stressed the importance of time and money management for college students trying to get on the right track.

"Be careful about where your money is going," she said, "and more importantly, about where your time is going because you can't get it back."

Students also said that in hear-

ing Jalali speak that they were inspired about what the SMDEP has to offer.

Sandra Mardonovich, faculty-network coordinator, senator and representative of ASET, asked Jalali to attend the meeting and deliver a speech because she knew that she would do a great job.

"She always has something inspiring and meaningful to say," Mardonovich said, "so I knew that she would be great."

She assured every student that they are amazing, competent and brilliant and that as long as they keep their GPA high, take advantage of their resources and build a strong network of friends and family, they can achieve their highest goals.

"Now is apart of your permanent record," Jalali said, "so let today be the day that you start to better yourself."

Alyson Tilley, pharmacy major, referred to Jalali as uplifting and informative.

"It's reassuring to have someone in a position of authority cheer us on," Tilley said.

Alexander Alvarez, commissioner of information technology, is also thankful for her presentation.

He believes that she gave really good advice, especially about planning and management.

"She was a really good speaker," he said.

Galo Orquera, biomedical engineering major, says that he liked the presentation because she told the truth about navigating the system.

Campus fire bill enforces safety

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Legislation titled Campus Fire Safety Right To Know Act of 2007 was reintroduced to Congress on Jan. 22.

The legislation calls for universities to report information on fire safety to the U.S. Department of Education as well as provide the information to the public.

The bill, which was passed by House of Representatives in 2006, is in response to the anniversary of the fire at Seton Hall University that killed three freshman students as well as Jan. 13 fire that killed three students and two siblings in Huntington, Virginia.

The bill was reintroduced in the House of Representatives by Rep. Bill Pascrell (D-NJ) and Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC) and was introduced in the Senate on Jan. 22 by Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ).

According to www.campus-fire-watch.com, since 2000 there have been 99 campus-related deaths across the country and 90 percent of them have occurred off-campus or in Greek housing.

However, some Cerritos students say that they are not worried about a potential fire on campus.

"I'm not worried about it," Shaka Matthews, photography major, said, "because I feel safe."

He added that though there are potential dangers to being on the campus at night, that he is nevertheless not worried.

Michael Agudo, photography major, agreed. He said that it is not the potential for a fire that worries him the most.

Male feminists are out there

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The Philosophy Club will hold a forum called "Unmasking the Male Feminist" on Feb. 22 at 11 a.m. that will discuss and help students understand what feminism is. As of press time there is no current location to hold the event but it may be in room LC 215.

According to philosophy interim president Alex Armendariz the reason why the event will be held is to support feminism; in having this event he hopes that it will pursue equality between males and females.

"There are males who are feminists," he said, "but those males don't know it. Feminism is the pursuit of women being equal to men's rights."

Ted Stolze, philosophy instruc-

tor said, that he hoped to end the stereotype that men have about feminism through this forum.

"There is a preconception about feminism," he said, "and what this event will do is humanize the fact that feminism is not a bad thing."

In addition, Stolze said that he hopes that the event will create dialogue between students as well as faculty.

Ana Torres-Bower, philosophy club adviser, agreed, that this event will hopefully help not only males to understand what feminism is, but help all students.

Armendariz said he too hoped that but he focused on something else. "The event will talk about the similarities that men and women have."

Furthermore, he said that it will give men the opportunity to speak out and that one side will be able to hear the other side as well.



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E-mails: Students begin sending e-mails to the President

Continued from page 1

from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., but if we can get enough volunteers we want to be here everyday."

Jazmin Rios, undecided major was one of the students who participated by sending an email.

Rio's reason on sending an email was so she can get her voice heard.

"It's suppose to be a Democracy so we should be able to say what we think," Rios explained.

Casasola who is a member of the students for social justice explained that the war isn't the only issue that the club is supporting.

Some of the other issues the club supports are the anti-recruitment effort and the labor union as well.

An upcoming event that the students for social justice will be hosting is Spoken Word, which will take place in the Student Center next Thursday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

And many clubs like FMLA, M.E.C.h.A., Puente, and Writers Anonymous, Sociology club among others will be participating as well.

This event will allow students to speak their mind.

Senate appoints fresh faces

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Three new senators, a student liaison and a majority and minority leader were chosen during the ASCC Senate meeting, last Wednesday.

The new positions have been given to:

- Commissioner of Public Relations Jessica Zaldivar
- Student Liaison Alok Barot
- Senator Yuri Martinez
- Senator Joon Kyu Kang,
- Associate Court Justice Norman Ilagan
- Minority Leader Brian Kachems
- Majority Leader Aditi Khurana Ilagan, clinical science major, came back to the ASCC as associate court justice after dismissing himself from the Senate in 2005.

Ilagan assures the students that his schedule is perfect for this position and that he wants to continue helping the students.

Barot, political science major, said that he has always wanted to be a part of the Senate because he gets to question and take part in the proceedings.

As student liaison, Barot will ensure communication between the student and Faculty Senate.

"I believe that communication between the students and the faculty is key," he said.

Afterward, Barot commented that he is excited about being able



Fresh faces: Alok Barot, political science major, Yuri Martinez, sociology major and Joon Kyu Kang, engineering major answer questions before appointment to Senate.

to help make decisions.

He is interested in financial aid and the distribution of the college's funds.

Martinez, sociology major, said

she has wanted this for a long time and is expecting good things to come out of her term as senator.

"I have the chance to give my opinions and make a change on

campus," Martinez said.

Joon Kyu Kang, engineering major, said that he feels more pressure now that he is part of the Senate and that he is ready to adjust to his new

priorities.

"It's a lot more than I'd expected," said Kang, "but I'm going to learn and I want to know about all of the activities going on."

PARKING: Envelopes arrive without permits and students pay

Continued from page 1

days or weeks, therefore forcing students to buy daily permits for 1 dollar a day until they have received their requested permit.

Without the permit, which is to be located on the rearview mirror or your dashboard of your car, patrol officers will display a ticket or personally hand you one for an illegal parking.

According to Stephanie A. Murguia, dean, admissions & records services the reason there has been

a delay in the arrival of permits is because, "We send out in bulk mail then send it to a distributor in Long Beach, then it is redistributed to the students."

"We are aware that it is inconvenient to the students and we are trying to find a new efficient way to distribute the parking passes."

Regardless of the delay, the down fall of this is that there are still students who are having to go through this long process when they argue that it should be done on campus.

"I believe the things should be well managed through admissions or campus police right but for some reason things don't turn out like they should," Rosa Vega, business major said.

Solutions for this problem are being discussed to prevent the continuation of illegal parking.

"I spoke to Murguia and we are

trying to find a new way to distribute the passes, but by 2008, next year, we hope to have progressed in a more effective way for our system to distribute the parking permits," said Chief Buck of Campus Police.

New students who will be attending Cerritos College will have a better chance of receiving the permits with no hassles.

Current students, however, will have to deal with the circumstances until a resolution is found.

"Apparently they haven't been doing a good job about it but at least something is being done and it shows that they are interested and very well aware of the situation and care in fixing," Mayra Alvarado psychology major, said.

Many are indirect of what will eventually happen but all we can do is wait for change and better results.

Blood Drive: Volunteers donate time to prepare for blood drive

Continued from page 1

Just as Aguiere, he has donated twice.

Janet Juarez, nursing major, said that she hasn't been able to donate because of her lack of weight, "so I feel kind of bad, but in the end I think that those who volunteer and donate are motivated to do something."

That is one thing that Canderarlo hopes that students will feel like and commented, "I would say to those students that don't volunteer or donate blood, don't be afraid."

He continued saying that the benefits that students will get from volunteering as well as donating blood is that one of the things that a person can do is put it on a resume that you did a noble act.

In addition to volunteering at

Cerritos during the blood drive, Canderarlo has also volunteered at blood drives held in Orange County, San Fernando Valley, Indio, and Los Angeles County.

He also said that one of the benefits is that students would know that they would be saving lives.

Black History: Only talked about during February

Continued from page 1

about African-American culture, not only throughout the entire year but even within BHM.

"When I was in elementary and middle school all they did for BHM was just talk about Martin Luther King Jr. and his achievements," Edward Benaidez, psychology major said.

Jamie Baker, sociology major, said that there are certain historical figures, such as King, George Washington Carver and Rosa Parks, who seem to get more recognition than others during BHM.

Baker feels that BHM should be spent highlighting lesser-known people, such as Benjamin Banneker, Daniel Hale Williams and other African-Americans who have made an impactful contribution to society.

"The education should start when you are young," Baker said. "I didn't know a lot about black inventors and scientists until I went out and did my own research."

On a local level, some students say that Cerritos should embrace

the concept of doing more to teach about African-American history.

"(Students) need to have a class about (African-American history) here (at Cerritos). Blacks have made some of the biggest contributions to this country," said Mike Emerson, graphic design major.

"Not just blacks, but other races need to learn more about black culture and where we come from. Black History Month should serve as just a reminder to the rest of America."

Regardless of the debates over whether or not BHM should still exist and if enough overall education about African-American history is taught, all individuals can do their own part to study the history and culture.

Hunter urges students to take advantage of the advances in modern technology to find out more about black culture.

"The Internet lists a lot of organizations and events that specialize in educating about African-American history. Students can go on there and look up information and things that are happening," she said.

But either way, many people feel that the education should not stop when February ends.

"I don't think one month is going to take away from all of the contributions blacks have made to America," Moises Salinas, broadcasting major said. "If people want to choose to celebrate it, then they should do so."



Recycle: (left) ASCC President Joe Cobarrubio and other cabinet members discuss the upcoming recycling drive on Mar. 6-7 that will coincide with the Show Pride on Your Campaign on Monday during the ASCC Cabinet meeting.

Cabinet talks about recycling

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In an effort to help keep the environment clean, the ASCC Cabinet announced plans during Monday's meeting for a recycling event.

The recycling drive will take place Mar. 6-7 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Falcon Square.

"We want to offer popcorn and snow cones to students who give us their cans and bottles," Joelle Lai, commissioner of student outreach, said, "but we still need to get it approved."

The recycling drive is being held

in order to see how many students are willing to volunteer their time, Lai said.

"We want people to help," she said, "and we need as many people as possible."

According to Lai, volunteers will be walking around campus with t-shirts encouraging recycling and as well as plastic bags for the students' cans and bottles.

"There is going to be a sign-up list in ASCC President Joe Cobarrubio's office," Lai confirms.

Mario Torres, psychology major, plans to help with the event.

"I already recycle at home," he said, "(and) I will help (the student

government) with anything that it needs.

"I will definitely bring my bottles to the event. I'll wear t-shirts and everything."

Torres feels that the recycling drive will raise awareness.

"It will teach the students about the changes that need to be made in our society," he said, "and they can't do anything 'until they learn about it."

Charlene Lobarbio, biology major, agreed with Torres.

"Recycling is a good way to contribute back to society," she says, "and utilize our resources to benefit ourselves and our community."

AID:

Awareness provides
education on money

Continued from page 1

The Financial Aid program is a program that helps students pay for going to college by paying (or help in payments) for such expenses as books, materials, and tuition.

Financial Aid Awareness Week is an event that is aimed with helping students at Cerritos College with issues of financial aid.

The main purpose of this event is to answer any questions that Cerritos students have.

For students such as Isaac Delgado, liberal studies major, and Christine Cuevas, liberal studies major, payment for classes is that they have to pay in their own ways.

"I worked and saved up money

to pay for it (school)," said Cuevas.

Delgado has his own method of paying for school.

"I'm doing well in school, so my parents pay for my classes. If I do bad in a class, I end up paying for it," he said.

Cuevas thinks that the event will be helpful.

"They will become aware that financial aid is available," she said.

"A lot of people think that they pay too much money, but if they're wondering if they qualify for it, then the people who are out there are able to answer their questions," she adds.

Delgado agrees.

One of the people who work with the school's Financial Aid department Yesenia Ramirez the Outreach Coordinator Financial Aid Specialist of Financial Aid.

Ramirez was said the reason why it's important for students to be aware of financial aid is, "because it's important to inform the students at Cerritos College about the oppor-

tunities that Cerritos College has to offer in regards to Financial Aid."

"A lot of students are not aware of a lot of the offers whether it be grants, local or federal and scholarships," she continued.

In addition Ramirez said there are benefits to the students who are unaware that there is help for them.

"Of course money, they don't have to pay out of their own pocket whether it's for books or tuition we could them in anyway."

The knowledge that they're going to obtain just receiving the information and hopefully they'll read through the information and if something that they don't understand they could come back to our office and ask questions, but just informing them that there's something out there.

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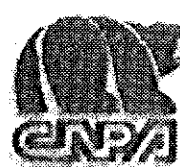
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EDITORIAL

'America belongs to Americans'

People of the American continent, it is time to unite!

The natives of the American continent, north and south, need to erase the notion of "my country is No.1." Whether they come from Mexico, Brazil, Canada, etc.

It is absurd to follow fictitious lines drawn up by old, foreign, colonial powers. The western hemisphere was divided amongst the conquerors, never taking into consideration the thoughts of the people already inhabiting this part of the world.

The true American people were divided and labeled in order to control and manipulate labor.

Technically, light-skinned European descendants living in the "United States of America" are not real Americans.

These labels not only exist throughout the whole continent, but within countries also.

Here in the U.S., people of color are never first considered American. He or she is always labeled Mexican-American, Central-American, Afro-American, etc.

People who are considered "white" are always falsely considered American. Someone who is "white" is never thought of as a Czechoslovakian-American, English-American, German-American, etc., unless they say so; the first assumption is that they must be American.

It is now a sub-conscious standard that anyone who is "white" in this country is American because, sadly, everyone has been taught to think so.

Worst of all, these ridiculous connotations are enforced by a very un-democratic, violent government.

The average individual is free of fault of the crimes committed by their governments.

The average citizen does not get an opportunity to vote for war and conquest.

We should not whine about injustices that occurred centuries ago, as awful as those injustices may be, but should take the initiative to educate and improve ourselves.

We can't truly have freedom and justice until we erase these notions of false patriotism to countries drawn up centuries ago.

The task at hand is to critically come up with viable solutions to finally bring justice to past colonial crimes.

The color of your skin, nationality, ethnic background or religious affiliations is of no importance.

These labels that we were given are man-made and their only purpose is to divide us.

If these labels were given to us by a few, opportunistic individuals, these labels can now be broken by the majority of us.

It is time to unify as one, regardless of what piece of land you happened to be born on.

No one needs a piece of paper to tell him or her whether he or she has any dignity. It's absurd that a piece of paper puts limits on humanity, dictating the capabilities of human beings.

This change cannot come through the ballot. No one votes for your state of mind. These changes of unity must come first from within.

Look at people for who they are, human beings who have the right to the "pursuit of life and happiness."

Labels have only restricted humanity from truly advancing as a whole.

Parading your country's flag up and down the street is not patriotism.

Like the Cuban revolutionary and poet Jose Marti said, "Humanity is patriotism."



ILLUSTRATION BY AXAYACATL NEVAREZ



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR are welcome. They may be submitted both online and in person. In all cases, letters must be signed with real names before they will be considered for publication, either online or in print. Campus related issues are given priority. Letters may be edited for length, though online versions tend to include full content, as long as it is not libelous or in poor taste. You may deliver letters to FA 42 or contact the editor by e-mail at editor@talonmarks.com.

Don't forget the past, but stop living in it

There is no doubt that the colonial United States was built with the overbearing and inhumane labor of West and Central African slaves.

But when one compares the societal times of then to those of now, are the effects of slavery great enough that this current generation of blacks and descendants of slaves deserve governmental monetary reparations?

The answer to that question is a resounding no.

On the surface, the idea for reparations is very emotionally appealing. But when looked at very carefully, it is revealed for what it purely is; a misguided movement based on overly idealistic rhetoric.

The idea for slavery reparations should have died when the last slave who was born in the time of legalized slavery died as well.

But instead, there are some people who make a habit out of living in the past. They think black history began and ended with slavery and continue to preach their "gospel" of perpetual victimization.

Those who are in support of reparations say that the money given out is going to come from the government.

But what reparations supporters don't realize is that the government does not just grab money from the big money tree in the sky when it needs it; the government gets its money from the taxpayer's pocket!



ers' pocket!

Hypothetically, if the US government does make the mistake of giving monetary reparations to blacks, every tax-paying US citizen of every race (including blacks) will have to pay up.

In the case of blacks, we'd be basically paying ourselves!

Since slavery's legal ending, millions of people, who have had nothing to do with slavery, have immigrated to the US. Should these individuals have to come out of their pockets as well?

Also, how would one go about determining who is black and who is a descendant of a slave?

There are so many people of mixed origins and mixed races. It is rare that you find a person of one pure origin.

What if someone of mostly European descent finds out that he/she has some traces of African in him/her? Should that person receive reparations?

There is also a common misconception that Europeans were the only ones who participated in the slave trade or who owned slaves.

Let us not forget that slavery was a common practice among tribes in West African countries during the 1400s. Tribe members would go back and forth into other villages and capture others and would make them slaves or sell them in exchange for goods or money.

One cannot also assume that because he/she is of the black race, that his/her ancestors were also slaves.

Not all blacks have the same heritage. Africa is a very big continent; one shouldn't simply mix and match parts and try and guess where one originates.

Many blacks have virtually no connection with Africa, other than the dark shade of skin.

Attempts to connect to the "motherland", such as the holiday Kwanzaa, the wearing of Kente cloths and dashikis and giving children names in the Swahili language, are somewhat commendable, but still don't come close to a real connection.

The reparations idea also supports the notion that money solves everything.

Reparations supporters think that if you give every black person a few thousand dollars, that all of the problems in the black community will go away.

But there are problems within the black community that money alone cannot solve, are based. There are blacks that still think the "N" word

can be used as a term of endearment, still kill fellow blacks over a color and others who constantly feel that they are in a position to question someone else's "blackness."

How will the possession of money solve these mental conditions?

Reparations are also a separatist view of the world; it is racism at its core.

It is a slap in the face to those who fought for years to get society not to take a person's racial heritage into account when judging actions and character.

To have the government give money to people based solely on race means that we are still living in a society where particular races are favored over others.

Instead of operating in a perpetual victim-like mentality and feeling like one is simply owed because of the color of his/her skin, members of the black community should practice the values of self-reliance and personal responsibility.

Those will help fix the mental conditions that plague some members of the black community, more than any amount of taxpayer money ever can.

Slavery of any kind is no doubt a crime against humanity and morally wrong.

But it is also wrong to punish others for the sins of their ancestors.

Should religion play any role in government policies?

COMPILED BY: OSCAR CATZIN
PHOTOS BY: OSCAR CATZIN



ANDREW YOUNG
undecided major

"I don't think it should be because it's more like a separate thing."



RENEE MARTINEZ
child development major

"Yes, maybe. It depends in what part of government and what kind of religion. We should speak more about religion because people forget about it."



MIRELLA COTA
criminal justice major

"I don't think religion should be part of government policies because personal beliefs and religious beliefs have moral persuasion and they're not for the best for the general public."



LORENZO CAMARGO
undecided major

"No, because religion is a choice. People have different beliefs (and) not every belief applies to everyone."



ANGEL HERNANDEZ
automotive major

"No, because this is a free country and you should be able to practice any religion you want. Government shouldn't try to impose any of their beliefs."



BLAIR JACKSON
child development major

"I don't know. Everybody doesn't have the same religion so it shouldn't be an important part of government policies."



ONLINE

- Blog: Wait now, score later
- Blog: Softball
- Blog: Women's tennis

SPORTS - 5

Wednesday, February 7, 2007 • www.talonmarks.com

Tennis season starts with loss

STEVEN MARTIN
Managing Editor
managing@talonmarks.com

Starting a season with a loss can be disappointing for a team. But it also can be used as a motivational factor to work toward improvement.

In its first match of the season, the Cerritos College women's tennis team allowed first-match jitters to take over in a loss to Saddleback College, 6-3 last Thursday.

For the Falcons, Sonia Gutierrez and Jessica Zalvador lost 8-4 in a doubles match.

Jelaine DeGuzman did double duty by playing in both the No. 1 singles match and playing alongside Esther Lee in the dual match.

The Falcon duo lost to the Gauchos, 8-6. DeGuzman also lost her singles match, 1-6, 0-6.

At the opposite end of the spectrum, Asha Badal, No. 5 singles, won a game for the Falcons, 6-1, 6-1. The other two Cerritos wins were by forfeit.

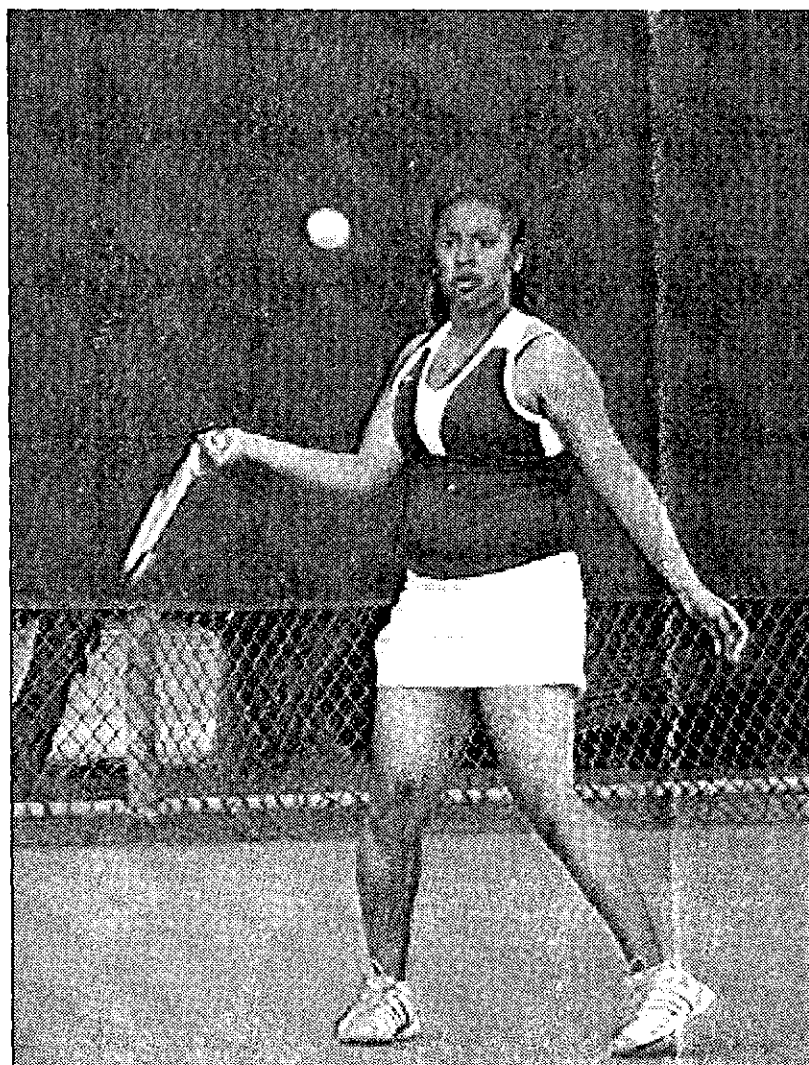
But though the Falcons won a few matches, head coach Rosanna Chatman was nevertheless disappointed with the team's play.

"(This game) wasn't very good. We still need a lot of work, (especially) on our footwork and consistency," Chatman said.

"The team needs to be patient in getting the ball over the net to eliminate mistakes. (It) also needs to get to the ball fast enough so the players have time to prepare for shots."

The Falcons will try and get its first season win against Mesa College, Thursday.

A focus on her technique and the ability to take advantage of her opponent's weakness is what al-



Racket-teer: Asha Badal, #5 singles, gets ready to hit. She won her game, 6-1, 6-1

lowed Badal to win her game.

"I hit deep balls and short balls. I hit mostly to (my opponent's) backhand (because) hers was weak," she said.

Badal relies on her forehand technique because it's more consistent for her. She said the team needs to approach the match in a relaxed way in order.

"We have to think about what we're going to do, before we hit the ball," Badal said.

DeGuzman said that she felt intimidated playing against a left-handed opponent.

About her, Chatman said, "She has a lot of potential to be a great player (but) she needs to believe (in herself)."

DeGuzman normally plays the No. 1 singles match but was asked by Chatman to fill in for the doubles.

"I prefer (to play) doubles because it's more of a fast paced game, singles take too long!" she said.

Falcons continue season adjustments

TIM DICKERSON
Staff Writer
tdickerson7@talonmarks.com

Attempting to ease the tension of growing pains, the Cerritos College men's basketball team defeat Pasadena City College last Wednesday, 55-47.

But two days later, the growing pains kicked in once again for the Falcons as it lost to division rival Long Beach City College for the second time this season, this time by a score of 89-85.

The first match between the two teams LBCC won by 20 on Jan. 12.

The loss puts the Falcons' record at 9-17. The team will play its second to last home game of the season against L.A. Harbor this Friday.

About the win against Pasadena, Cerritos forward Keith Canzater said, "[We improved on] team communication. We grew up a lot tonight."

Against the Lancers, Canzater contributed seven points as a reserve.

Guard Demetrius Turner led Cerritos with 11 points. Forward Travele Jones and guard Andre Zeunault scored 10 points each.

In last Friday's loss, the ball was shared among Cerritos as five Falcons scored in double figures.

Cerritos was led by the well-rounded play of Jones, who had 17 points along with five rebounds, four blocks and three assists.

The game against Pasadena started with Cerritos in the lead, but the Lancers never left the Fal-

cons with enough room to slack off.

The Falcons concentrated on passing the ball quite a bit. The entire team was helping the whole way through.

In the middle of the second half, the Lancers caught up and passed the Falcons by a couple points.

It didn't take the Falcons long to inch their way back to the lead, winning by only a point or two.

By halftime, neither team was easing up on the other one with the score with a 21-18 Lancers lead.

With about seven minutes left on the clock, the Falcons had many opportunities for three-point shots but didn't go for them. They instead tried to move in for the closer shots.

After a timeout called by Coach Gary Cain, Cerritos bounced back to catch up and excel Pasadena with several three-pointers.

Cain said, "[A three-pointer] is a much cleaner shot."

When the team passed the ball away from the basket and behind the three-point line, the Falcons were open enough to make nice shots.

By the last minute of the game, several timeouts were called by the coaches.

"(I was trying to) run the clock down (and) make some fouls," Cain said. "It was us versus the clock at that point."

Cain said that the team is definitely getting better, but it is still growing and there is still room for improvement.

FALCON SPORTS

8

• Softball vs LA Valley @ 3 p.m.

• Men's Tennis vs Mesa @ 2 p.m.

9

• Baseball vs. LA Valley @ 2 p.m.

• Women's Basketball vs LA Harbor @ 5:30 p.m.

• Men's Basketball vs LA Harbor @ 7:30 p.m.

10

• Baseball vs. Victor Valley @ 2 p.m.

13

• Men's Tennis vs. Saddleback @ 2 p.m.

*all home games

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ILLUSTRATIONS BY RON CODDINGTON/MCT

What's your B.H.I.Q.?

(Black history intelligence quotient)

BY ELI SANDERS
The Seattle Times

Black History Month began with historian Carter G. Woodson, who early in the last century came up with the idea for a "Negro History Week," which he envisioned as a celebration of black history and achievement, as well as a time for education.

In 1926, with the support of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, the first "Negro History Week" was held during the second week in February. The timing was meant to honor the birthdays of abolitionist Frederick Douglass and President Lincoln. Over the years, the event grew in popularity, and in the early 1970s, the association (which later changed its name, replacing the word "Negro" with "Afro-American") expanded the celebration and renamed it "Black History Month."

Now, in keeping with Woodson's idea of focusing on black history and education, we offer this Black History Month quiz:

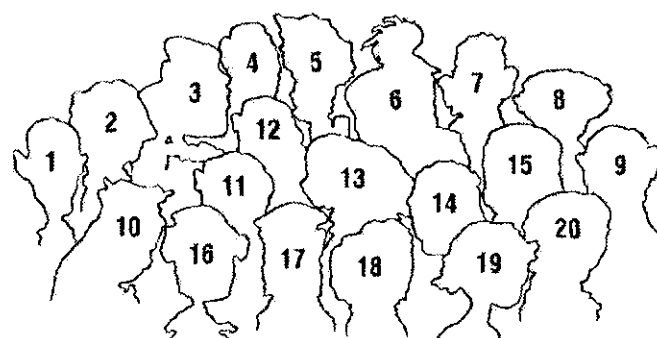
- The founder of the Nation of Islam was:
 - Elijah Muhammad.
 - Elijah Wood.
 - Ralph Ellison.
- Thurgood Marshall was:
 - A prominent black thinker and architect of the Marshall Plan.
 - The first black Supreme Court justice.
 - A Harlem Renaissance writer.
- Negro League pitcher Satchel Paige played with which famous band leader?
 - Benny Goodman.
 - Duke Ellington.
 - Louis Armstrong.
- Which amendment to the Constitution guaranteed black people (and all citizens) equal protection under the law?
 - The 15th.
 - The 26th.
 - The 14th.
- Black people, women and people ages 18 to 21 have all been kept from voting at some point in the history of the United States. In what order were these groups given the right to vote?
 - Black men, then women, then people 18 to 21.
 - People 18 to 21, then black men, then women.
 - Women, then black men, then people 18 to 21.
- What landmark 1954 Supreme Court decision struck down the idea of "separate but equal" schools for black people and whites?
 - Plessy v. Ferguson.
 - Brown v. The Board of Education of Topeka, Kan.
 - University of California v. Bakke.
- The incarceration rates for black people in America have long been decried as a reflection of a biased justice system. At the end of 2000, what percentage of all black males in the United States ages 25 to 29 was in prison? (For comparison, the answer is 2.9 percent for all Hispanic males in that age group, and 1.1 percent for all white males.)
 - 5.6 percent.
 - 9.7 percent.
 - 24.3 percent.
- The holiday Juneteenth commemorates the day in 1865 when:
 - Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, thus freeing slaves.
 - Word reached Texas that Lincoln had signed the Emancipation Proclamation.
 - Lincoln declared war with the South over the issue of slavery.
- Former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, the first secretary-general from sub-Saharan Africa, is from what country?
 - Ghana.
 - South Africa.
 - Nigeria.

True or false:

- When the United States' founding fathers wrote "all men are created equal," they meant black people, too.
- In the "Tuskegee Experiment," the United States monitored 399 black men with syphilis for 40 years to see what would happen to them — even though the men were never told they had syphilis and a cure for the disease was discovered decades before the experiment ended.
- The holiday Kwanzaa was created by black activist and scholar Maulana Karenga in 1966.
- Participants in the Harlem Renaissance included Jean Toomer, Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston and Claude McKay.
- The historically black college Howard University is located in Atlanta.

15. Match the following black Americans with their ideas:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| A. "It is not integration that Negroes in America want, it is human dignity." | ■ Martin Luther King Jr. |
| B. "I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.'" | ■ W.E.B. Du Bois |
| C. Encouraged black people to pick themselves up by their "bootstraps" and said: "In all things that are purely social, we can be as separate as the fingers, yet one as the hand in all things essential to mutual progress." | ■ Malcolm X |
| D. Wanted to start a colony of black Americans in Liberia and said: "There shall be no solution to this race problem until you yourselves strike the blow for liberty." | ■ Booker T. Washington |
| E. Wrote "The Souls of Black Folk" and said of Booker T. Washington: "(When) Mr. Washington apologizes for injustice, does not rightly value the privilege and duty of voting, belittles the emasculating effects of caste distinctions, and opposes the higher training and ambitions of our brighter minds ... we must unceasingly and firmly oppose (him)." | ■ Maya Angelou |
| F. Read the poem, "On the Pulse of Morning" at President Clinton's inauguration: "You, created only a little lower than/The angels, have crouched too long in/The bruising darkness/Have lain too long/Face down in ignorance/Your mouths spilling words/Armed for slaughter/And the Rock cries out to us today, you/may stand upon me/But do not hide your face." | ■ Zora Neale Hurston |
| G. Wrote the poem, "Harlem," a passage from which reads: "What happens to a dream deferred?/Does it dry up/like a raisin in the sun?/Or fester like a sore — /And then run? ... Maybe it just sags/like a heavy load/Or does it explode?" | ■ Langston Hughes |
| H. "I do not belong to the sobbing school of Negrohood who hold that nature somehow has given them a lowdown dirty deal and whose feelings are all hurt about it. Even in the helter-skelter skirmish that is my life, I have seen that the world is to the strong regardless of a little pigmentation more or less. No, I do not weep at the world — I am too busy sharpening my oyster knife." | ■ Marcus Garvey |



- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Jesse Owens: Olympic athlete | 11. Granville T. Woods: Inventor |
| 2. Harriet Beecher Stowe: Author of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" | 12. Henry Highland Garnet: Abolitionist |
| 3. Joe Louis: Athlete | 13. Frederick Douglass: Abolitionist |
| 4. Hiram R. Revels: First black U.S. senator | 14. Martin Luther King Jr.: Civil rights leader |
| 5. Abraham Lincoln: President when slaves were freed | 15. Thurgood Marshall: Supreme Court justice |
| 6. Marcus Garvey: Back to Africa movement leader | 16. Sojourner Truth: Abolitionist |
| 7. John Brown: Abolitionist | 17. Elijah J. McCoy: Inventor; "The Real McCoy" |
| 8. Harriet Tubman: Abolitionist | 18. Rosa Parks: Civil rights leader |
| 9. Booker T. Washington: Educator | 19. Marian Anderson: Singer |
| 10. Duke Ellington: Musician | 20. Barbara Jordan: Politician |

ANSWERS: 1. A; 2. B; 3. C; 4. C; 5. A; 6. B; 7. B; 8. B; 9. A.
10. False. When this country was founded, blacks were not considered equal. In fact, the government counted each black as only three-fifths of a person.
11. True. Years after the experiment, modest cash payments were given to survivors and their families. And in 1997, President Clinton issued a formal apology, saying the experiment was "racist" and "profoundly, morally wrong."
12. True. Karenga wanted to "give a black alternative to the existing holiday." At the center of Kwanzaa are its seven principles, which are represented by seven candles: *ummoja* (unity), *kujichagulia* (self-determination), *ujima* (collective work and responsibility), *ujamaa* (cooperative economics), *nia* (purpose), *kuumba* (creativity) and *imani* (faith).
13. True.
14. False. Howard University is located in Washington, D.C.
15. A. Malcolm X.
B. Martin Luther King Jr.
C. Booker T. Washington.
D. Marcus Garvey.
E. W.E.B. Du Bois.
F. Maya Angelou.
G. Langston Hughes.
H. Zora Neale Hurston.