



OMA NEWSLETTER

FALL, 2007

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LATIN MUSICAL STYLINGS OF TROPICANTE

By Darnell Parker

The Latin group "Tropicante" graced Washington College with a little Latin love.

On October 4, 2007, the office of multicultural affairs, department of music, and department of foreign languages, literature, and cultures

sponsored musical group

Tropicante for Latino/Latina Heritage Month.

The group started when Karin, a former elementary school

music teacher ran into a friend one day and discussed starting their own group and company and the rest is history.

Tropicante brought a whole new meaning to Latin music. Several students on campus dropped by Martha Square to listen and dance along to this engaging Latin beat.

Tropicante performs at various colleges, universities, and private events that honor and celebrate Latino/a Heritage.

Faculty, staff, and students

dance the night away to Latin beats and they learned about the history of Latin music and instruments.



HOPE FOR A NEW YEAR



By Deneva Galloway

The Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) has flourished since

undergoing new leadership last year. Darnell T. Parker, director of OMA, has been a positive influence for the clubs and organization sponsored by his office.

His expectations for this school year are "to bring more expo-

sure to the office, develop comprehensive and intentional programming around diversity and cultural awareness." Parker also reports that he would like to "continue to create support systems for students of color attending and entering Washington College." He wants OMA to remain "Your Home Away from Home."

When asked if there was anything he would like to see done differently this school year, he replied, "nothing in particular...Each student organization

is responsible for how their organization will function in regards to membership, programs, and governing."

After expressing his views and positive thoughts about the school year, Parker decides to leave new incoming students of color a word of advice.

"Be comfortable with who you are as a person and what you bring to Washington College."

Parker looks forward to a wonderful and exciting school year.

GREETINGS FROM SGA SECRETARY OF DIVERSITY AFFAIRS



By Brittany L. Borden

Greetings!

My name is

Brittany L. Borden and I am the Student Government Associations Secretary of Diversity Affairs for the 2007/2008 academic years.

The position of Secretary of diversity was charted by the SGA in the turn of the 21st century as a necessary step to promote the often lacking, aspects of diversity on the Washington College campus. By creating this position, the SGA sought to not only enhance the educational experience but also a means to celebrate the frequently ignored differences in our common American culture.

The SGA in addition created a senatorial committee, The

Climate and Diversity Committee, which aids the secretary in monitoring the current atmosphere and tensions among students as well as planning social events on campus that promote diversity.

Together with school administration, the Office of Multicultural Affairs, the Diversity Task force, and the SGA are taking an active stance on embracing our differences and creating a shared safe community for all students at Washington College.

I personally understand the challenges facing many of the students and see my position as a means to voice their opinions for change.

Therefore I have made it my personal mission during my time as secretary to address many of the challenges fac-

ing students of color, those of many faiths and creeds, economic status, and sexual orientation.

I hope to establish programs, social events and discussions focusing around the unique identities here at Washington College. I hope to also facilitate cross collaborations with student organizations that other wise would not partner to host campus events.

I would like to encourage anyone with any ideas and or concerns to please contact me at

Bborden2@washcoll.edu so that I can further enhance your time here at Washington College.

“Together [we are] taking an active stance on embracing our differences and creating a shared safe community for all students at Washington College.”

SECRETARY OF DIVERSITY AFFAIRS UPCOMING CULTURE EVENTS

By Brittany L. Borden

The Month of November is National American Indian month and I would like to celebrate our ancestors with a trip to the National Museum of Native American History on the 17th of November.

The day will consist of a free trip to DC, admissions and tour of the museum as well as free attractions in the museum. The span of the trip will be a 9 a.m. departure

and a tentative 10 pm arrival back on campus. That will give you a free day after seeing the main attraction to enjoy the unique sights and sounds of our nations capitol.

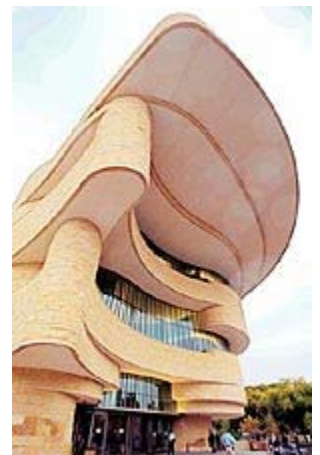
If interested please contact bborden2@washcoll.edu. If you are alumni and would also be interested in joining us please feel free to contact me.

During the month of December the Washington College campus will be celebrating

some of the worlds religions such as Islam, Judaism and Christianity.

If you would like to contribute a cultural or religious holiday not mentioned please contact me as soon as possible. This event will take place throughout the first week of December.

As always please contact me if you have any questions, comments or concerns.



National Museum of Native American History

BESTSELLER BLACK AUTHOR: GEORGIA WOODBINE

By Denea Galloway

Motivational speaker and national bestselling author in the black community, Georgia Woodbine, presents her newest book *Jewels of Inspiration and Reflections* "The Journey of Life."

Woodbine's latest book seeks to encourage others on how to deal



with life's hard times.

Georgia Woodbine is one of the greatest sought after motivational speakers

around the world. She offers spiritual, personal, and financial growth through her speeches, as well as encouraging words to make it through life.

She is among some of the top black, inspirational fe-

male leaders in the black community today; she makes a difference.



Georgia Woodbine speaking at Xtreme Dream Leadership Conference (photo taken captured by P. Andrews)

HIV: THE LIFE TAKER OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY

By Denea Galloway

HIV has become the leading cause of death in the black community, specifically toward black women. Why? one might ask? According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in 2004 the black population accounted for 55% of all HIV reported infections. And since then, the numbers have increased.

According to *The Associated Press*, HIV/AIDS is declared a public emergency and has become "a black disease."

Inquiring minds find it hard to believe that the numbers are rapidly increasing each year. The problem; however, lies in the lack of treatments, lack of medical coverage by a

particular health insurance, and the lack of awareness.

Black America does not want to face the fact that this is an epidemic . Because of

poverty, limitations of health care access, and a low level of education about HIV, the disease is taking it's toll in the black community.

"Just as African-American clergy fervently came together 50 years ago to fight for civil rights, we are banding together today to bring an end to HIV/AIDS and its potential to obliterate our community," reports T.D. Jakes.

More and more people are beginning to involve themselves in the prevention of the spread of HIV/AIDS.

"Until we have a vaccine or a cure for HIV, prevention is our best plan of action," said King County Executive Ron Sims.

This attitude flows among many other leaders who are thriving to prevent what America is calling a plague of the black community.

According to *The Associated Press*, The Reverend Jesse Jackson states, "Because of poverty, ignorance and prejudice, AIDS has been allowed to stalk and kill black America like a serial killer."

Education is the first step in preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS, not just within the black community, but around the world.

"Just as African-American clergy fervently came together 50 years ago to fight for civil rights, we are banding together today to bring an end to HIV/AIDS and its potential to obliterate our community"

STUDENTS RESPOND TO THE JENA SIX CRISIS: IT'S JUST NOT RIGHT

By Denea Galloway

One of the biggest upsets this year in the black community was the Jena Six incident that took place not long ago in Jena, LA. There have been several controversial statements made in regard to this tragic situation, which have effected many people.

Six young black men were arrested and charged for attempted murder after a fight that broke out between black and white high school students. Several people of the community believed that these charges were outrageous and unjust.

This incident has not only had an emotional impact within black communities, but an impact on students attending Washington College. Several students made a statement by wearing black several weeks ago; however, one student decided to voice her opinion verbally.

Anjelica Jackson, sophomore at Washington College, stated that, "I am all for justice and punishing people for the crimes that they commit. The six young men committed a crime—assault. I believe the charge of attempted murder was ridiculous and unwarranted."

Since the Jena Six episode, the world has been faced with the harsh reality that racism still exists.

"My feelings about racism since the Jena Six incident haven't really changed much. I always knew that racism still exists, and seeing what happened in Jena, Louisiana just reinforced that belief," said Jackson.

How close do we come to facing racism every day? Where does it occur? The answer is everywhere, even on college campuses.

I asked a few students around Washington College if

they believed racism exists here campus. Several students said yes and some students replied no.

"I think racism exists everywhere, and it's not just a Black-White thing. To say that Washington College is exempt from that reality would be wrong," explains Jackson.

Although Jackson's words may appear forceful toward the Washington College community, she further explains that she also believes "that racism is not as blatant as it used to be. Being racist is not the acceptable thing anymore, and more and more people from all walks of life and all ethnic groups are standing up to fight it."

More people in the world are beginning to see what society has tried so hard to cover up—racism. This incident with the Jena Six fosters the idea that it is still a vital issue in the world.



Anjelica Jackson, sophomore Psychology Major

"I think racism exists everywhere, and it's not just a Black-White thing"

- Anjelica Jackson

BLACK MEDIA STRIKES AGAIN

By Denea Galloway

Denzel Washington shifts from bad to worse in his newest upcoming movie "American Gangsta," coming to theaters November 2, 2007.

The movie focuses on a drug lord named Lucas (Denzel Washington) who has Harlem, the local police and the

U.S. military underneath his thumb. Lucas' operation of selling heroin, called Blue Magic, to the city shortly gets disrupted by Detective Richie Roberts (Russell Crowe), who wants to restore law and order in Harlem.

This movie is based on a true story that will leave its audience sitting at the edge of

their seats.

San Francisco Chronicle reports that "American Gangsta" is "a portrait of an era." It combines "the Vietnam War, the civil rights movement, modern-day empire building and the emergence of "gangsta" style."

You won't want to miss this thrilling movie.



Scene from "American Gangsta"

Photo Taken by: Universal Pictures/David Lee

FRONTIN'

By Ashley Jones ('11)

I've got a sense of me, you've got a sense of you
So why should we keep frontin' like that's all there is to do
I could be a real chill person somewhere behind this façade
You could be so much more than pretty hair and a nice bod

Girl, I know who I am, you know who you are too
So why are we pretending when this only causes us to be blue
You could deign to speak to them and I could deign to speak to those
Eventually it will come naturally, it won't feel awkward like a pose

If I can shed insecurities, I know that you can too
If I can face the world unmasked, then I know you know what to do
I could grow in leaps and bounds surprising all along the way
You can start to remove your mask and release who you really are today.



Ashley Jones '11

GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

By Anjelica Jackson

Serving the Chestertown community has always been a important thing for the Black Student Union at Washington College, and on Saturday, October 27th.

With children from the Chestertown community as well as those of the WC staff in attendance, members of the BSU threw their second annual Halloween Party for children. The party lasted from 4-6pm and was held here at Washington College in the Student Center.

Kids from Kindergarten through fifth grades, were treated to lunch, games, arts and crafts, and even a movie as their parents looked on.

Many children came in

Halloween costumes and took part in the non-stop fun. Games such as "Pin the Nose on the Jack-O-Lantern" and "Find the Cauldron" were special hits among the children.

"It was a great turn out, a huge success," explained Darnell Parker, director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs. Darnell expressed great admiration for the hard work that members contributed to organizing such an event. He hopes to see more events that are as successful as this event.

The joy that the BSU members felt in being able to give back to the community was evident on each of their faces. Many members commented that the event was "so much fun" and that they

"can't wait to do it again."

This annual event draws great excitement in the Chestertown community, having parents and children looking forward to such fun each year.



The joy that the BSU members felt in being able to give back to the community was evident on each of their faces.



Kathryn McDonald daughter of Jennifer Sipala attended the Halloween Party

*"There is only one race;
the human race"*



WASHINGTON COLLEGE

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CALENDER OF EVENTS

October 2007

October 18th: Open Mic Night in Student Center from 8-10pm

October 22nd: LGBTQ Ally Panel

October 27th: BSU sponsors Community Halloween Party from 2pm-4pm

November 2007

November 10th: BSU sponsor the Black and White Party from 9pm-1am

November 17th: Trip to the National Museum of Native American History@ 9a.m.

December 2007

December 10-14th: Final Exams

January 2008

January 24th: MLK Appreciation: Key Arts Production of "King's Dream" @ 7p.m. in Norman James Theater.

Inspirational Quote of the Season:

"We have to create a vision, make choices based on what moves us most swiftly toward our goals, and go after them with determination and single-mindedness. And whenever you encounter a problem, no matter how insurmountable it might seem, there is one simple response that should be ingrained in your behavior: Never give up."

~Stedman Graham

Featured Writers of this Issue in Order as they Appear:

Darnell T. Parker, Director of Multicultural Affairs

Denea Galloway ('11)

Brittany Borden ('08)

Ashley Jones ('11)

Anjelica Jackson ('10)