



## PETA Compares Lynching to the Slaughtering of Cows

On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2005, a student organization, an arm of the national organization of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), showcased a large display in Kogan Plaza. There were huge billboard-sized posters on display which were intended to show cruelty to animals.

However, the critical mistake PETA made was that the images that depicted the gruesomeness of the animals absolutely paled in comparison to the human images of suffering alongside them.

A slaughtered cow hangs upside-down from chains. Two lynched black men

hang beaten and bloodied, swinging from a tree with a rope around their necks. A mob of white people surround the dead men.

Black men, women, and children are a mass of black bodies in chains upon a slave ship. Animals are thrown off into the waters below from a ship of animals.

Native-Americans walk along the "Trail of Tears", the path the Cherokees are forced to take which will result in hunger, disease, exhaustion, and death. A troop of cattle is being hurled to slaughter.

There were other horrifying images of human suffering alongside animal suffer-

## A Model in Serving the Katrina Hurricane Victims

The Victims' Rights Foundation, a local organization created in response to the senseless killings of three Washington, D.C. area women in 1996, has been very proactive in upholding its mission to build a strong foundation of volunteers to foster effective response to victims and their families suffering from violent crimes and attacks. The organization was founded by Mr. W. Gregory Wims, a local business man and community activist. VRF is a non-profit 501(c)(3) Montgomery County, MD based volunteer group that consists of ten different chapters, including the national chapter located in Gaithersburg, MD and the first collegiate chapter established here

at GW. Generous contributions on behalf of VRF have been made to victims and their families following a number of violent acts, including the indiscriminate shootings at the National Zoo in Washington, D.C., the brutal murder of 8 yr. old Kevin Shiflett in Alexandria, VA, and the D.C. Metro Area Sniper attacks of 2002. Services by the VRF are focused on, but are not limited to victims of violent crimes and assault. The services are also extended to victims of crisis and disaster. Some of the most recent VRF contributions



A family assisted from New Orleans.

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## The NBA in Three-Piece Suits?

The NBA is currently proposing a new dress code for players. Though it hasn't been finalized yet, the code looks to make business casual a must for players during certain situations. One might think a dress code wouldn't make such a big deal, however this move to make the NBA more "Professional" has caused some uproar in the sports community. Many players have stated their opinions, some expressed their ap-

proval while others call the plan racist and out of line. Is the NBA's idea of professional conduct racist or is there more to the image the league wants its players to uphold.

Indiana Pacers guard, Steven Jackson, had a lot to say about the NBA's demands "I think it's a racist statement because a lot of the guys who are wearing chains

**"The players have been dressing in prison garb the last five or six years."**

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## The Issues of the Millions More Movement

Notwithstanding all the media coverage of the Millions More Movement that took place on October 15th, the Black Ace would be remiss not to comment on such a significant event in American history. The movement, which was hosted by Minister Louis Farrakhan of the Nation of Islam, was geared toward the advancement of the Black community, and especially the Black male.

I found myself torn when a friend, a White male, called me questioning whether it would be appropriate for him to show his support for the cause by attending the march. Although he was in full agreement with the mission statement of the movement, that same mission statement called for "unity amongst Black people" and did not appear to leave room for supportive Caucasians. While influential White civil rights activists have been accepted by the Black community in the past--recall the White workers of Summer Freedom who lost their lives for Black suffrage-- by simple nomenclature there is not room for "White" people in a "Black" movement. But something is bitterly counter productive in seeking to repairing hundreds of years of racism and social (and legal)

segregation by yet another means of separation.

On the other hand, it could be that an event like the Millions More Movement, in which the Black community is airing its dirty laundry (think statements such as "Forty-two percent of all Black boys have failed at least one grade" and "The condition of many Black men in America is still dire"), is not an appropriate setting for someone who does not identify as Black. The presence of non-Blacks may cause embarrassment to Blacks, or incite well-founded anger toward those who cannot identify with our struggle. This is one of

"We call, first, for the unity amongst Black peoples and organizations. We call for unity amongst all African peoples and peoples of African descent worldwide...We will build a skills bank, the talent of which will be used in the development of our people."

the strongest arguments against the inclusion of non-Blacks in events such as the Millions More Movement. Essential to Black solidarity is the demand for Blacks to help Blacks remedy the community's current situation through social, political and economic advancement. This movement would also result in recreating the Black image in America. Allowing Whites to play a role in

developing the Black Image is not a change from what happens daily in this country. And above all else the Black community demands change.

Yet we must also keep in mind that the problems of Black Americans belong to America as a whole, Whites and other minorities included. It is for this country's reluctance to admit this fact that White America has been criticized by the Black community. We cannot exclude Whites from the Black movement, reject their offers of help, and still in fairness, make this criticism.

Clearly, this writer does not look to suggest any one answer to the question of White involvement in the Black struggle. I only hope that in exploring this issue we, the Black community, will think critically of concepts such as separatism and Black solidarity and even of the goals in the

Black movement toward advancement. After all, advancement can be defined in many ways.

As we attempt to change the course of history, let us position our perspectives in the way of true freedom.

*SharryAnn Gonzales*

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### A Model in Serving the Katrina Hurricane Victims

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include placing 100 victims of Hurricane Katrina in safe housing, with 100% of all funds donated through the foundation going directly to the victims. In addition to raising reward funds for families, the foundation holds prayer vigils for slain or injured victims, provides comfort to families throughout drawn-out legal proceedings, provides burial assistance, and provides funds for professional medical care.

*Erica Washington*

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## The NBA in Three-Piece Suits?

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are my age and are black." One way to look at the situation would be from Jackson's perspective, claiming racism and targeting of black urban culture is at work. The opposite would be that the move would set a more "clean cut" and consistent image of basketball players. The debate comes down to two sides: Is comfort and culture, or what the NBA terms as "professionalism," more important?

First lets take professionalism, which is defined as: 1. *Of, relating to, engaged in, or suitable for a profession: lawyers, doctors, and other professional people.* 2. *Conforming to the standards of a profession: professional behavior.* No where have I read about a dress code in the definitions of professionalism. That is not to say that standards in a work environment aren't necessary, but too often I find professionalism too be coupled with a particular style of dress that ostracizes urban style. Stereotypes that involve appearances linked to class and intelligence can work for or against a person dressing a particular way, but in the NBA's case, it seems the black urban style is work-

ing against the players.

These stereotypes are mirrored by the comments from Lakers head coach, Phil Jackson, "The players have been dressing in prison garb the last five or six years. All the stuff that goes on, it's like gangster, thuggery stuff. It's time. It's been time to do that." There are many sides to this developing case and in order to be fair the league has to understand that many of these players were born and raised in environments, which have created their identity. Until the league makes final plans, we must watch to see if a compromise of the big business image and player individuality is created.



"They don't want your chains to be out, all gaudy and shiny. But that's the point of them," Pacers' Jackson said.

Brandon Rogers

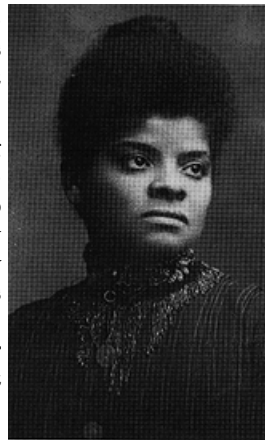
Photo taken from USA Today.

## Making Progress with the GWU African Studies Major

The Joint Committee of Faculty and Students (JCFS) is currently working on several issues that concern you as members of GW's Black community. The most important—in my personal opinion—is the creation of an Africana Studies major in the Elliot School of International Affairs. The idea of creating an Africana Studies major in the Elliot School has been a part of GW's history for quite some time. In the 2004-2005 academic school year former Student Senator Hilary Golston (CCAS-S) sponsored a senate resolution calling for the addition of an Africana Studies major in the Elliott School of International Affairs at The George Washington University.

I am currently working on building a strong recommendation as a member of the Student Association's Joint Committee of Faculty and Students to ensure the resolution's admittance into GW's Faculty Senate. This is a vital part on that long journey ahead of us concerning this issue because professors create the curriculum at all universities not administrators; administrators provide the infrastructure for the curriculum. If the Faculty Senate votes to adopt

Hilary Golston's legislation coming from my committee we as a Black community have won a major battle. The important part today is that we stand united as a Black community supporting this recommendation. I am asking for all of our community's organizations to play a part in this journey by providing an endorsement letter supporting the creation of an Africana Studies major.



Ida Bell Wells-Barnett, July 16, 1862  
- March 25, 1931,  
Born Holy Springs

At the present time the Elliott School of International Affairs offers students a major in International Affairs with a concentration on Africa—quite disheartening. This is yet another example of how our experiences as Black people are overshadowed by that of the white power structure in this country. Although this university does a great job concerning the celebration of a group's diversity through multi-culturalism, issues such as Africana Studies, the enrollment of Black students, the retention of Black students, and other problems similar to those sit untouched at the bottom of our multi-cultural experience. Don't get me wrong, I am just as hype about celebrating my Blackness as the next Black person. However, let us not get fooled like our people were fooled during Jim Crow and the legalized lynching campaigns against Blacks in this country. Do not forget that under our celebrations of

**Bored?? Outraged?? Happy??**

**Write for Black Ace!**

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## Making Progress with the GWU Africana Studies Major

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our Black heritage there are sensitive issues, as I previously mentioned, that get little attention not because the power structure does not care but because they just do not know or sometimes do not understand the importance an issue might have to our community. Unfortunately, this has historically been the case for Blacks in America including GW.

Therefore, it is our responsibility as Black people to bring our experiences and our

voices to light within the mainstream, just like Ida B. Wells-Barnett (1862-1931) did as a fearless anti-lynching crusader during a time when legalized lynching of Black people was a cool thing to celebrate. *“One had better die fighting against injustice than die like a dog or a rat in a trap.”* -Ida B. Wells

**“One had better die fighting against injustice than die like a dog or a rat in a trap.”**

Lamar A. Thorpe

SA: Joint Committee of Faculty and Students, Rep

\*If you are interested in making Africana Studies a reality

## A Special Gem in the GWU Community

For the first edition of the *Black Ace*, we would like to give a special “shout-out” to a man very dear to the GW community, particularly the multicultural community, Micheal Tapscott. Although a member of the GW community for only two years, he has become an integral member of the Multicultural Student Services Center.

Tapscott was born in D.C, but attended Tufts University in Massachusetts, which is where he later got his first university job as a coach. Tapscott since that time has gone on to work on several campuses across the country before returning to his native roots in D.C. These prior job experiences at other universities have given Tapscott

an edge that has enabled him to effectively communicate and connect with the multicultural students at GW.

As the director of the MSSC, Tapscott has and continues to facilitate many programs designed to help minority students have an equal opportunity to a successful experience here at GW. In order to accomplish this, Tapscott and other members of the MSSC have set up an MSSC newsletter that serves to connect the different multi-cultural groups with each other. The MSSC newsletter is great tool for student organization, student events, and anyone looking to get involved in the GWU community. The MSSC initiates a

variety of cultural events that educate

and expose the entire GW community to the rich cultural diversity of our society. Tapscott also serves as a voice for minority students, when it comes to making decisions in the administration that concerns multicultural students.

Among many things, Tapscott is one to be thanked for his involvement in the admissions process. Tapscott is truly a precious gem to the GW community. Tapscott’s wife and child as well as

**ON THE BEHALF OF THE GWU COMMUNITY, BLACK ACE WOULD LIKE TO SAY THANK YOU MR. TAPSCOTT!!**

his faith in God are the driving forces in

The *Black Ace* community would like to wish a Happy Birthday to all those who celebrated their birthday this past October.

Ivie Guobadia, Terra Bailey, Megan Williams, Chris Colon, Erica Paris, Tiana M., Brianna Zenerovitz, Jessica Huang, Alisha Carpenter, Christina Vickers.

**\*If YOU would like to receive a birthday shout-out, or would like to shout-out a friend, please send an email to [blackaceneews@gmail.com](mailto:blackaceneews@gmail.com)**

## Minority Advice by Mr. O'wisman Kno-itall: The Hip-Hop columnist

### The Question:

A yo' Mr. Kno-itall,

I have a weird situation. I feel like I know I have found the right person. Actually it feels like love at first sight because I just know that this person is the only one for me, but the problem is I don't know if this person feels the same way. How do I go about expressing myself to this person, without scaring them away and losing the person I believe is for me?

### The Answer:

Ok, this sounds difficult but I got you. First off, there is nothing wrong with having these feelings. There's nothing unnatural about having an attraction to someone. Does Mr. Kno-itall believe in love at first sight? Well, yes and no because I believe that love at first sight is extremely rare but it can happen. However, a lot of times after we think about it some time later, we replace that unabashed love with a hot lust at the moment. So firstly, you should make sure that you don't make that age old mistake. Next, once you are sure you are not a compulsive stalker and realize that you actually genuinely like-love (peep the visual imagery of the thin line between) that person the next and most difficult step is to express yourself to that person. How do you do that? Well honesty still is the best policy. You should tell that person exactly how you feel without being overbearing. What does that mean? That means you should-

n't be like,

"Oh I love you more than anything in this world and I will stop at nothing to have you!!!"

This mon ami, is not only creepy but it puts the person you like-love at an unfair disadvantage. How so? Well for starters if someone even remotely held an interest in you and the first thing they heard was the (L word), 99% percent of the time they are going to haul "a#@" away from you because no one wants a commitment out the gate like that. <Note: The other 1% is probably the kind who shares the same compulsive disorder as you or either they are apart of the rare class of genuine love at first site (ers)> Your approach should be honest, but respectable, clear and less confusing. I would respond as such,

"I just thought that I would be honest with you and let you know that I'm "feeling" you and want to maybe get to know you better as a friend. I have been thinking about it and I think you are someone who I might like to become better acquainted with, maybe even start something special with. I just wanted to let you know that before someone else had the chance to tell

"Oh I love you more than anything in this world and I will stop at nothing to have you!!!"

you..." damn I'm good, but you get the idea. No "L" words, no "baby please!" just clear and concise honesty, that's all you need. If the other person is interested at all, they will respond to you in a way that would let you know how to proceed. Inherently, that means PAY ATTENTION to what the other person has to say. Their response might be music to your ears or you might get flat out denied but it least you were honest and you kept your dignity while expressing yourself, and while they may not be enough for you, Mr. Kno-itall could at least sleep soundly at night with that. And while you may very well get a not so good response you wanted don't think that you "chased" someone away, you didn't chase anyone away, you simply stated the truth and they ran away from it, look at it as their loss. And after all, my philosophy is not to put all your eggs in one basket anyway unless you are strong enough to carry them because if you do and you drop that basket, that's your ass!!!

Okay well I'm done here, hoped I helped you in your daily lives, if not at I hope I at least entertained you for a minute or two, check back in the next issue because your boy here is just getting started!!! Signing off...

Mr. O'wisman Kno-itall  
aka The Hip-Hop Columnist

## Relax Your Way to Better Grades

Meditation, an ancient practice passed down through culture and religion, was typically only thought of as a means of relaxation; it wasn't until very recently proven to have any affects on health. Scientists at the Medical University of Georgia proved a few months ago that meditation does have a measurable impact on health that goes beyond relaxation.

People who practice transcendental meditation 20 minutes twice a day, on a daily basis, are typically find they have less symptoms of fatigue,

muscle aches, sleepiness, mild-to moderate depression than people who don't meditate. The authors of *APersonality and Individual Differences* also found that university students who meditate develop higher IQs than students who do not. It has the potential to be very helpful for times of like midterms, finals and hectic schedules in college as well as after college. Some of the long term benefits of daily meditation include reduced heart problems, faster recovery rate from illness, and lower blood pressure. Thanks to the study done by stu-

dents at The Medical University of Georgia, we now know that is due to the fact that people who practice transcendental meditation daily typically have less constricted blood vessels; therefore their blood flow is much more vibrant and less constricted. Their study is also backed by professors at the Medical Institute of Harvard who found that meditation is positively correlated with lower blood pressure. Those are great long term affects that meditation causes, but with the short term affects

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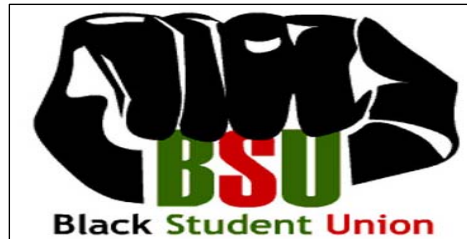
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are just as useful.

There is currently a meditation course offered at George Washington University and there is usually one every semester. However, meditation can just as easily be done individually. It is important to note that transcendental meditation is the special type of mediation that has been most scientifically studied; practicing it usually requires some initial classes or a book to get started. AThe TM Technique@ is a good book to use for that. There are also many simpler ways of meditating that can be found through internet sites such as <http://wiki.ehow.com/Meditate> and [www.how-to-meditate.org](http://www.how-to-meditate.org).

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**A Newsletter By Us.**  
**Created to own our voices.**

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PETA compares lynching to the slaughtering of cows.