



The Drum

“The *rhythm* of Millikin”

February 2007

MILLIKIN UNIVERSITY

Office of Multicultural Affairs/International Student Services

Editor: Ollie Green

Table of Contents

Editorial

The New Faces of Black Success: Are You Included?

By: *Ollie Green*

Views and Opinions

Street Beat

By: *Coy Jackson*

Sports

By: *Joe Vick*

Featured Articles

Of History, Ships, and Captains

By: *Pej Clark*

Becoming Greek, the New Trend

By: *Amberly R. Carter*

Community News

The Faces of OMA

By: *Antwane Harris*

Winter Weekend Approaches...

By: *Jessica Barrientos*

Office of Multicultural Affairs and International Student Services
Millikin University
Lower Level Richards Treat University Center
217-362-6411

Winter Weekend Approaches...

By: Jessica Barrientos, Admission Counselor

On March 8th, Millikin University will kick-off the annual Multicultural Winter Weekend. As dozens of prospective freshmen begin milling about campus, it's important to remember the reasons why you chose Millikin as a place to spend the best years of your life.

Perhaps you chose Millikin because you knew you would have one-on-one interaction with your professors. Maybe it was because you saw the opportunity to get hands-on experience in your major and possible career choice. Or maybe you decided to enroll at Millikin because you met some really cool students during your own Winter Weekend or other campus visit experience.

But as you began your freshman year, maybe you dealt with feelings of homesickness, boredom, alienation, or isolation. With those issues, sometimes it can be easy to forget the reasons why you enrolled at a small, private university in Decatur.

The reasons for enrolling remain; you may just need to rediscover them. Let Winter Weekend remind you and reemphasize why Millikin University was the right choice. As you interact with our guests, I encourage you to share your insight and wisdom.

This is an opportunity for you to develop relationships with our prospective students that will continue through their matriculation and their undergraduate experience. With those relationships, our future freshmen can truly feel welcomed, excited, and a part of the Millikin family. Maybe this can serve as our reminder to continue the energy of Winter Weekend throughout the entire year.

The kick-off will be Thursday, March 8th in LRTUC. To find out how you can be a part of this amazing event, please email jbarrientos@millikin.edu.

The Drum is back for your learning enjoyment!

◆ **Want to join the fun of writing and reporting? Contact ogreen@millikin.edu**

The New Faces of Black Success: Are you being included?

By: Ollie Green

Madame C.J. Walker, Frederick Douglass, and Jackie Robinson are just a few of the names we learn as children and are taught about their heroic effort to advance the Black race. I suggest that we still take the time to learn about these heroes while at the same time we learn about our own advances and steps that we have recently made. Over time, success for Blacks has not been an easy thing to come by but it seems that success is becoming a reality for more and more Blacks. We are also seeing this success portrayed on television and in other media outlets. When we see the faces of Condoleezza Rice, Oprah, and even entertainment guru Jay-Z we grasp the amazing success that these great Black leaders have brought to our country. We might not agree with all of their political views or choice of foul language; however, these people are the changing and new faces of our Black success. These people along with other movie stars and athletes have made themselves a household name some in a good way. They have made us rich. We are no longer poor anymore because we have these stars who contribute to our median income, thus making us in line with the majority population. We are just about equal, right? With all the over-paid athletes and record label companies Blacks have just about exceeded our expectations and now are on the same playing level as everyone else. Is this true? Could the stars of our Black entertainment really have put us over the edge and brought all of us up to an equal median income one that mimics our White counterparts? My answer to this question is complex but I hope it will shed light on the misinformed because



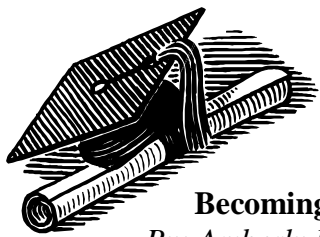
some people really do think that we all have equal pay, equal rights and that we don't need to pursue our fight and dream to full equality because we have already achieved so much. I am here to suggest that we don't have equal rights and opportunities. Yes the door has been opened for us; that's why we have been able to have so many famous athletes, entertainers, and political leaders. We have had a tremendous success rate; however, on a more realistic scale the numbers are not as impressive. In 1994, 42.3% of Blacks owned their own home while 67.7% of their White peers owned homes. Thinking progressively we would hope that in the years to come the numbers would rise which they did in 2002, 47.3% of Blacks owned a home while 71.8% of Whites owned a home. You might think that the numbers have risen but the gap is still essentially the same! It is the American dream to own a home, raise your children in that home and to pass it down generation after generation but we are continually left out of that dream. This will be the case unless and until we all come to an agreement that more civil rights work still needs to be done and we are willing to take a part in that work. I believe that we can change these statistics.

It all starts with you as a college student because you are already defeating the odds by making it to college and then receiving your degree. Think about this when you earn your first real paycheck; don't go out and buy those new spinners for your whip. Instead, invest in your future, the future of your children and the future of your people.

Resource: www.census.gov

Want to get INVOLVED? Check out these student organizations!

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| • Black Student Union (BSU) | Nadja Jackson, President |
| • Latin American Student Org. (LASO) | Maggie Borja, President |
| • Multicultural Voices of Praise (MVOP) | Christa Hunt, President |
| • Sister Circle | Cianta Hogan, President |
| • True Heads Collective | Mark Liwanag, President |



Alums in the Drum

Becoming Greek, the New Trend

By: Amberly R. Carter

Repping sorority or fraternity letters has become the latest fashion statement on and off college campuses. It may be do to the recently released film, *Stomp the Yard*.

“Society at large is changing about how we consume info,” said artist and producer Derek Fordjour.

Though *Stomp the Yard*'s main focus was on competitive fraternal stepping, the movie insinuated negative traditions of Greek Life, such as hazing, without objectively providing the significance these organizations have to the African American community. Despite enjoying the entertainment, many collegiate Greeks believe the movie was unfair and unbalanced in its representation of their organizations.

Having recently created the documentary *Black Sorority Project: The Exodus*, producers, Derek Fordjour and Jamar White, give a sneak peek on how much time and research their film needed to tell this kind of history to an audience. Greek history, in which some Greek-lettered members says *Stomp the Yard* lacks to tell about their founders' organizations. “The project [documentary and painting on Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.] started three years ago. It took about nine to ten months for the documentary and the painting [to be created]. We try to make history sexy... we left all the vital information in,” said Fordjour. The significance of their film was to educate why and how African American women, particularly students, fought for women's rights with public activism at the turn of the century. In March of 1913, 22 Howard students participated in the Women's Suffrage March down Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C. This was the first public service act done by the founders of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, only two months after establishing the organization.

Both Fordjour and White became members of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Delta Chi chapter as line brothers. In fact, White insists that he became an Alpha because of Spike Lee's 1988 film, *School Daze*, a movie about pledging fraternities and sororities, which focused on the process of membership intake and had brief scenes of fraternal stepping and hazing. *Stomp the Yard* was filmed on three of the same Atlanta colleges as Lee's film. “Portrayals [of Greek life] will be lost in litigation,” White commented on the lawsuits and boycotting of *Stomp the Yard*. The two of them believe egos, politics and any possible lawsuits against *Stomp the Yard* will have a heavy impact on membership into Greek-lettered organizations. The general public can catch “The Black Sorority Project” on its screening tour or purchase a copy online at www.blacksororityproject.com.

All of the sororities and fraternities have strategies for reaching academic excellence, sisterly/brotherly love, and continuous service. They help by lobbying on the hill, attending school board meetings, adopting highways, giving out scholarships, joining mentoring programs, and registering and transporting people to vote. These members have volunteered to put themselves in positions to make positive change happen in the world. These leaders have set a trend that can be hard to join.

These secret societies do not officially have a recruitment step in their process. In fact the type of recruitment that the main character encountered in *Stomp The Yard* may be considered hazing under National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) laws. Although schools and national headquarters of Black Greek-lettered organizations (BGLOs) are enforcing more regulations about hazing, underground pledging is still very prevalent across the U.S. The organization holds a rush, one meeting where interested people attend to receive an application packet. Once the packet is completed and turned in, the members of the organization determine who will continue with the process. There are specific guidelines to prevent any misconduct during the process. All of the NPHC organizations are non-hazing organizations, however not every member of each chapter acknowledges the interests' contracted rights. Severe pledging tactics such as wood (padding), excessive calisthenics, and sleep deprivation have been the cause of many college students' deaths. Just recently, Florida A&M University, (alma mater to producers Will Packer and Rob Hardy and also writer Gregory Anderson of *Stomp the Yard*) suspended the chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. from campus until 2013 due to fraternal brutality. Two former members were on trial and sentenced to two years in prison. The verdict is still pending for the other members involved.

(Continued on page 4)

Why would someone want to make near death encounters a trend? A lot of college students don't do their research on the organizations. Thorough research on the national organization as well as local chapters will give interests some in-site as to what the organization and specific chapter is about. Even so, it may not be possible to find out if that chapter hazes, without going through the membership intake process. During the rush, initiates should have learned of their rights while joining and serving as a member of any Divine 9 organization (Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. and Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc.). Each time an initiate allows a big sister/big brother or line sister/line brother to deny them these rights they are considered to be subjecting to hazing. These rights can be viewed on the National Pan-Hellenic Council website as well as their individual National Headquarters' websites.

Submission to hazing will get a member and/or an initiate blacklisted from the organization for life and possibly fined, however, this is the second reason that hazing exists today. Is there something about being able to get away with "murder" that keeps people attracted to it? Some feel as though they are being tough because they can take wood. Others want to be apart of every aspect of the legacy, a legacy that none of the Elite Eight (The first eight BGLOs to join the NPHC) founders created or envisioned for their organizations. They are willing to do anything for these Greek letters or die trying. These people feel this gives them the respect they deserve for having completed the process, but the founders of the Elite Eight BGLOs were not hazed. So, whose legacy is this?

Stomp the Yard identifies individuals that give into hazing because they just want to wear the colors and letters as they represent in the step competition. Many people want to be able to say I'm Greek and more elite than you. These are the people that are helping to make "becoming Greek", not only a trend, but Black Greek-lettered gangs.

It's possible that the good service work done by BGLOs is being over shadowed by the lack of respect for the founders of these historical organizations and negative behavior on behalf of a few bad seeds in a chapter. Unfortunately, the "bad seeds" make good storylines for Hollywood. On the other hand, the controversial topics encourage dialogue. These organizations are a part of American history and were created to uplift communities and societies all around the world. Let's get back to what the founders had in mind – Freedom.

What's going on in February? Everything!

Feb. 2	M.V.O.P. Game Night	7 p.m.	SPEC
Feb. 5	African American Read-In	10 a.m.-12 p.m.	Shilling
		12 p.m.-3 p.m.	Common Grounds
Feb. 14	BSU: BFA Tribute/Love Songs	6 p.m.	LRTUC
Feb. 18	OMA Soulfood Dinner*	6 p.m.	Parquet Room
	Speaker: Dr. Jeanelle Norman: "Decatur: The Struggles and Progress of African Americans"		
Feb. 21	Know Your Heritage Bowl	TBA	
Feb. 22	OMA: "Reflections: Speeches of Dr. King"	7 p.m.	LRTUC
Feb. 23	L/V Scholars: Rosa Parks, the Bus, & More	7:30pm	KFAC 128
Feb. 26	SUDAN: Darfur Diaries	7 p.m.	LRTUC
Feb. 28	BSU: BHM Finale Celebration	7pm	Kaeuper Hall, PMC

Want your event in the Drum? Contact Cianta Hogan
[***crhogan@millikin.edu***](mailto:crhogan@millikin.edu)

****Must RSVP at OMA Office by Feb 14th****

The Faces of OMA: *Getting to know each other, one person at a time*

By: Antwane Harris

Name: James C. Hayes

Hometown: Detroit, Michigan

College/ University Attended: Lakeland College in Sheboigan, Wisconsin

Major: Theater and Drama, Master in Education (September 2007)

Current Occupation: Program Coordinator for freshmen Admission & Assistant Track Coach

What do you love about your job? The justification of knowing that in the end [of the admission process for incoming freshmen], I help students.

Hobbies: I go to the show a lot, I like to read and write, and anything sports related.

Organizational Involvement: Nine years ago my partner and I founded this organization called "Silent Witness Mime Ministry" it's a professional mime group.

Favorite Subject: Introduction to Education... it was life changing.



Quote: "It's not about what you know, it's who you know...and I know Christ."

"What's New? A new day, a new opportunity."

"How many hats will you wear?"

Food: Fried Chicken, Steak, & Seafood

Television Show: The Cosby Show & Martin

Book: The Word...The Bible!!

Worst Subject: Math and Writing...those courses challenged me the most.

What is one of your biggest pet peeves? A negative or unhappy person... it gives me an opportunity to affect them (let my light shine)

Who is the biggest influence in your life? "The Village" It was my grandmother, the men in my family, teachers, pastor, mentor, and business leaders.

We'll be getting
to know different
people all year.

You could be
next!

Visit the OMA Resource Room to borrow magazines such as *Black Enterprise*, *Essence*, *Latina*, and *Native Peoples*. You may also borrow materials for up to two weeks. There are fiction and non-fiction books and video resources by and about people of different ethnic backgrounds, including encyclopedias of African American and Latin American history.

Check it out!



Street Beat

I Still Love H.E.R.

By: Coy Jackson

Keeping with the theme of Black History Month, I decided to talk about whether or not hip-hop is officially history. Many of you might have heard of the new Nas album “Hip Hop is Dead,” but hip-hop did not in fact die with his proclamation. Hip-hop as an art form has reached its apex. The reason is because no one wants to take the time and effort to be creative in order to bring the best out of themselves. Sure there are a few artists (and I mean FEW) that still try to outdo themselves every time they go into the vocal booth, but the majority of mainstream artists could care less, as long as they see people shakin their laffy taffy or ballin (no disrespect of course).

It could not have come at a worse time. The entire world knows about hip-hop and our obsessions with money have created ambassadors like Young Joc, Lil’ Boosie, and D4L. D4L? Not too long ago, there were rappers who would have killed to get the world-wide attention these people get. Now the names, and quite possibly the game, have been changed, giving up Chuck D and Rakim for Young Dro and Rick Ross. I am not saying that I don’t dance and occasionally recite some of these songs, but if all we want out of hip-hop is to dance, then it is nothing more than a harder version of techno. If hip-hop is not dead then its got all but one foot in the grave. Don’t cry for hip-hop. No need to put flowers on her grave. I still love her, and as long as there is one person who is still in love with her, then there will never be a wake to attend.

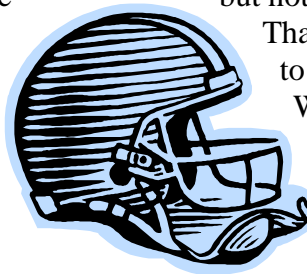
SPORTS

Super Bowl XL1

“Who says defense wins championships?”

By: Joe Vick

So what really happens when you put the NFC’s best defense up against the AFC’s best O? The answer to that is, well, it depends. Are we talking about any other quarterback in the league or are we talking about the “almighty” Peyton Manning. If we are talking about Mr. Manning and company then what you get is an on the field circus of deep passes and lightning fast bullets that will eventually open things up for Joseph Addai and his accomplice to polish things up on the ground. Don’t get me wrong, I am no where near a Peyton Manning or even a Colts fan, but you must, I repeat you must give credit where credit is due. The Colts have overcome many hurdles from getting their defense tap-danced all over for about 1,000 yards vs. the Jags to beating their arch-nemesis Tom Brady and the ever- so- flawless New England Patriots. Now, Bears fans I know what you are



thinking, “He must be crazy”, right? No I am not crazy, but a realist. The reality of it is in order to win a Super Bowl; you must be able to do two things: 1.) Put up points on the *offensive* side of the board, and 2.) Not make dumb mistakes. I can see Rex Grossman coordinating a few successful drives, but not making a mistake? Are you kidding me?

That’s like asking an obese person to switch to fat-free food. It just ain’t gonna happen. Well, to make a long story short, unless the Bears’ defense can find the end-zone, there is no hope for Chicago; but hey, any given Sunday right? The smartest thing that Chicago can do is a good use of clock management in efforts of keeping the ball out of Manning’s hands. What we can expect in this Super Bowl is heavy use of the ground game on both teams and lots of hits. Hits..Hits..Hits... you gotta love it! Prediction: There is no way that Grossman can keep up with Manning’s drive for drive so the final score:

Chicago 17, Indianapolis 27

Black History Month 2007

“Decatur: The Struggles and Progress of African Americans”

with special Guest Dr. Jeanelle Norman

Sunday, February 18

6pm, Dinner

7pm, Program

Parquet Room, LRTUC



Seating is limited and reservations are required.

Contact the OMA at 362-6411 for more information.

Reflections

Thursday, February 22

7pm

LRTUC

Jim Lucas is nationally recognized for bringing to life the words, background, and experiences of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In this dramatic performance he recreates Dr. King’s speeches and writings including, “I Have a Dream,” “I Have Been to the Mountain Top,” “A Knock at Midnight,” and “A Letter from Birmingham Jail.” Experience a glimpse of an era when one man used the power and passion of eloquence in the fight for justice.



FREE ADMISSION

Sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

A Different Drummer

Of History, Ships, and Captains

Pej Clark Office of Multicultural Affairs

I've been thinking lately about history – my own history -- and the decisions I have made that have shaped the course of my life. And I've been thinking about the decisions that still lie ahead of me, that may take my life in a totally new direction. That led me to think about how life is a journey – a voyage through waters that are sometimes clear and serene, and sometimes dark and troubled – and about how each of us is like a ship navigating through the waters of life. In fact, we each make our own history because each of us is the captain of our own ship.

A captain can't control the sea or the weather, and will sometimes be confronted by unexpected dangers and delays. But it is the responsibility of the captain to make good decisions for the safety and success of the voyage. Think about this in terms of yourself. You make decisions every day that will have an impact on the course of your life. Some of them are huge – like choosing a career, a partner, a home, a healthy (or unhealthy) lifestyle. Others may seem small – like what you have for lunch, or how you react to minor frustrations. But just as a tiny error in reading a compass can take a ship in a totally wrong direction, so can those small, everyday decisions affect the course of your life in a very big way.

As you sail ahead, creating your own history, don't just think about the sea in front of you, but look ahead to what lies over the horizon. Consider how different your life might be, depending on how you steer your ship in every moment. Think seriously about what it means to be the captain of your own ship. YOU are responsible. YOU can make the choices that will shape you into the person you want to be.

What direction will you choose? Remember that you don't need to have royal blood to be a noble person – you can choose to develop the qualities of dignity, courtesy, and integrity in your everyday behaviors. Remember that kindness doesn't equal weakness – you can choose to be patient, understanding, and generous in your interactions with others, without sacrificing your strength.

What other choices will you make? Will you nourish your body with healthful foods, or merely satisfy your hunger with whatever is quick and convenient, regardless of its nutritional value? Will you use your education and talents in helping to make the world better for all of humanity, or only as a means to acquire material wealth for yourself? Will you learn the lasting joy of love and commitment, or will you be content with only fleeting pleasure and shallow relationships? Will you surround yourself with diversity and learn and grow from it, or will you seek the easy comfort of sameness, and remain unchanged?

Hopefully, the voyage of your life will be everything you want it to be. You, as captain, will set the course with the decisions you make every day. Bon voyage!

*“Dear Lord, be good to me, for the sea is so wide,
and my boat is so small!”*

A Captain's Prayer

