



Trayvon Martin: The Too-Familiar Tragedy By: S.E. Yimón

Every generation has its incident in which law enforcement is involved with the unlawful assault or murder of an innocent black man; the early 1990s were infamous for the Rodney King case, in which an all-white jury acquitted the officers who beat him (on videotape) and whose verdict led to the rioting that turned South Central Los Angeles into an inferno. The conclusion of the decade gave us the shooting of unarmed Amadou Diallo by the NYPD and countless others in the new millennium, including the very recent case of Sean Bell.

The current case involving 17-year-old Trayvon Martin, however, does not take place in either major city, but rather in a small, gated community in Sanford, Florida, just north of Orlando. He was documented as possessing only a bag of Skittles and a can of iced tea, but was believed to be "on drugs" and supposedly menacing, according to the shooter, George Zimmerman, who was neither arrested nor charged in Martin's killing.

Going on suspicion alone, Zimmerman chose to trail Martin before finally discharging his 9mm and killing the teenager.

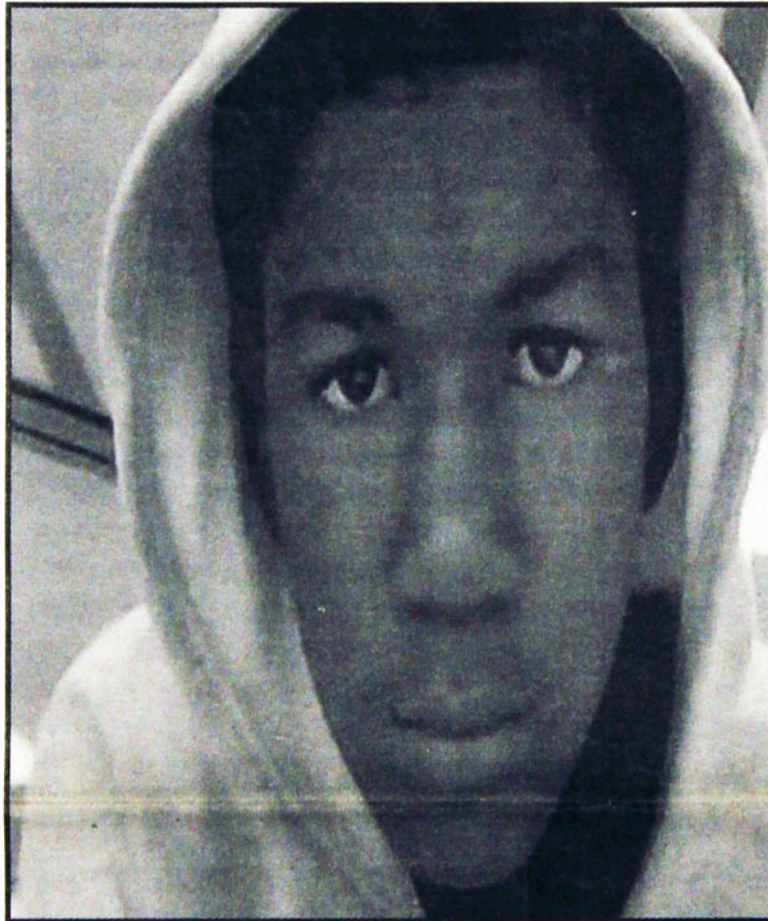
In this tragic case of mistaken identity, of course race was the primary issue; in conjunction with that is also the fact that he was unarmed and was in the proverbial "wrong place at the wrong time."

In this day and age where racial insensitivity seems to have been heightened with the recent election of an African-American president and the upcoming 2012 race to the White House, something as horrific and tragic as the shooting of an unarmed, young black youth will undoubtedly create an atmosphere of increased tensions, not just the already-strained relationship between law enforcement and black communities all over the country, but race relations in its entirety. The new millennium was supposed to be an era of changes; instead, it serves as nothing but a grim reminder of how little things have changed between the 1960s and the present, with eerily similar results.

In the reports of the recently released 911 tapes, Zimmerman, a 28-year-old Hispanic male volunteering on the neighborhood crime watch, told the dispatcher about a black youth wearing a sweatshirt with the hood draped over his head coming towards him "checking him out." He also proceeded to tell the dispatcher that he was going to trail

him, despite being told that he "didn't need to do that."

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The picturesque face of a felon? Our society's pathological distrust of young black males seems to think so. Could it be possible to move away from this fatally flawed stereotype before more tragedies occur? Source: News One

Jeremy Lin: The Never-Ending Flame

By Brandon Bennett

With the heavy weight of disappointment falling on the shoulders of the Knicks, the organization as well as the fans was searching for a spark and to their surprise, Jeremy Lin provided it.

Not only did he provide a spark but Lin also provided what seemed to be a never-ending flame. This flame propelled the Knicks to a season-high seven game winning streak. During the streak, Lin scored more than 20 points for 6 games. In one game, Lin scored 10 points and had 13 assists. Lin's win streak high was on February 2, 2012 against Kobe Bryant and the Lakers in which he scored 38 points. His amazing performances earned him the nickname "Lin-Sanity." Not to mention, Lin initiated the "Linning streak."

Lin revived New York Knicks' basketball and provided the city and its fans with a lot to be excited about. Despite the lack of longevity concerning his accomplishments, they were nevertheless great accomplishments. Unfortunately, with the publication of one article, the focus shifted elsewhere.

On February 18, the headline "Chink in the Armor: Jeremy Lin's 9 Turnovers Cost Knicks in Streak-stopping Loss to Hornets" appeared on ESPN's mobile website at 2:30 a.m. and was published by ESPN Editor Anthony Federico. By 3:05 a.m., the article was removed. Although Federico has apologized to Jeremy Lin and the public, he has been fired since the publication of the article.

It is unfortunate that the public's attention has now shifted from Lin's accomplishments to the controversy surrounded by the article. It is also unfortunate that his accomplishments have been either downplayed or highlighted because he is Asian. Lin's accomplishments over the course of the Knicks's win streak were great for an African American, Latino, Caucasian, or European player.

Although we like to think that we do not look at race as much as we used to, this situation displays just the opposite. Irrespective of the type, race continues to play a major role in all facets of life.

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Letter From the Editor:

Midterm time is never easy; late nights and very early mornings (or an entire 24 hours) of finishing papers and cramming for a make-or-break test at minus 90 minutes before zero hour in that big, quiet classroom with your equally fearful classmates. Coffee pushers make the most money during this point in the semester while you get the less sleep, all at the expense of trying to maintain a good-standing GPA. A lot of us can agree that this is one of the most stressful times of our lives since that rat race of trying to get accepted into our college of choice during our senior year in high school. The Blackworld staff knows your personal pain; yet, in spite of it all, we strived to bring you the latest of the goings-on around campus, as well as to inform you of some of the most important issues that affect everyone across the country. As the tests are ending, let us remember another important aspect of being a student: the simplicity of enjoying life itself. Hopefully, as we come back from spring break, we will have had our deep breath and found the strength to continue with those last, grueling four weeks of the semester. Have a safe, relaxing break!

Simone Brown
Editor-In-Chief

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Are Politicians Political Puppets?

(Stony Brook Political Science Student Nazma Niles voices her opinions)

By J.R. Yussuf *Managing Editor*

Maintaining a country that is war free, crime-free, has a growing education system and an increasing rate of jobs that boost the economy along with the task of marrying what the people in the country want with what is healthy and feasible for the country is a strenuous balancing act that requires a lot of push and pull. These reasons and more is why this country elects politicians who appear fit for the job. Regrettably elected officials have not always fulfilled their promises and sometimes betray the very laws they claim to want to uphold and rectify.

Former Republican candidate, Rick Perry said in a Presidential campaign commercial "...there's something wrong in this country when gays can serve openly in the military...I'll end Obama's attack on religion and I'll fight against liberal attacks on our religious heritage [if I am elected]." This comment along with other things Rick Perry has been quoted saying, are in direct conflict with not only the repeal of the law DADT (Don't Ask Don't Tell) but also the separation of church and state, which have been two controversial issues in the media.

Neither of these prospective policies that he addressed in his 2011 campaign go beyond the trivial and deal with lowering homelessness, joblessness, or things that pose a threat to human life. Rick Perry's campaign underlined his strong opinions about morality yet glazed over putting policies in place to ensure communities thrive, as do many other politicians, which begs the question, what is really important to aspiring politicians?

According to Nazma Niles, Senior and Political Science major here at Stony Brook University, "I think people get into politics because they see the world as being greater than themselves. In the beginning at least they want to make a difference because it is a given that politics is a thankless job and the pay is not so great either." When asked if Nazma thinks politicians are willing to sacrifice everything for money, and whether she thinks they are really willing to give up their own lives, images and families at the expense of money, like it sometimes seems? Nazma responded, "I believe some politicians are willing to be co-opted for monetary gain. Like I said before, the business of political office is a thankless job and in comparison to CEO's and other employment positions the pay is pretty minimal given the stress and responsi-

bility. Essentially they are people and fall prey to the vices and seductions which entice us all. It is ultimately up to the people to hold them accountable."

Nonetheless, it is sometimes thought that politicians are mere puppets; satisfactory eye candy that act out of no free will of their own, but instead out of an order that was handed to them by the invisible "hooded figures" that pay them. Is it true; do politicians care more about money and status than they care about communities, lowered or sustained taxes and preserving the idea of freedom?

Nazma Niles says, "First I don't think anyone in the Political Science Department undergrad or otherwise ever saw politics as a means of reaping huge monetary payoffs! I honestly believe that changing laws can ensure the safety; dignity and humanity of marginalized groups. We have examples of how laws can strip people of their humanity i.e. Jim Crow and Florida's 'Stand your Ground Laws' so I don't see how the reverse is not possible."

Nazma was asked "what sparked your interest in politics?" And her reply was, "what sparked my interest in politics is my determination to understand the political system of which we are a part of to better ensure the liberation of all oppressed people nationally and internationally. I was inspired early in life not necessarily by politicians but by regular citizens empowered with their understanding of politics. People who have fundamentally changed our society."

The last question Nazma was asked was, "based on what you've learned do you think what drew you to politics is still possible?" Nazma replied, "I still believe all things are possible. As a Black woman with political aspiration after the election of Barack Obama as President not by *electoral* vote as George Bush did it the first time but by *popular* vote that society can change and make progressive strides. We have come closer to realizing Martin Luther King's Dream from his infamous speech. That said, I have no illusions that we live in a post-racial country. I know thanks to the data and the statistic and thanks to the classes that I have taken, but I also know that we can get there. Not only that but taking a look at the streets and what's happening with the Occupy Movement, I conclude that people want systematic change and they want progressive liberating politics."

Defining Blackness: Embracing or Fooling Ourselves?

By Khadijah Edwards *Circulation Manager*

Any attempt to define 'blackness' in the United States is guaranteed to be met with opposition. Although many black people identify with the term 'African-American,' for those with Caribbean ancestry, the term 'African-American' is not only inapplicable, but many times insulting. According to Jesse Washington in the article, "Some Blacks Insist: I'm not African American," although the term is mostly used in an effort to maintain political correctness, many blacks now doubt the relevance of the title.

Every ethnic group currently living in the United States enjoys the luxury of having a hyphenated status. However, because the term 'African-American' represents a connection to both Africa and America, many objectors dismiss the title claiming that the Atlantic Slave Trade destroyed any relevant connection to Africa and thus the term 'African-American' is really 'a misleading connection to a distant culture.' Washington quotes Gibre George, an entrepreneur from Miami who states, "We respect our African heritage, but that term is not really us... We're several generations down the line.

If anyone were to ship us back to Africa, we'd be like fish out of water." However, as Washington notes, the same thing is true for almost any fourth or fifth generation American citizen, but only black Americans feel the need to rename themselves accordingly.

Those who continue to fight for the hyphenated status argue that a rejection of the past is an insult to those who came before us. Although African Americans may not have a tangible connection to the African continent, as Irv Randolph, managing editor of the Philadelphia Tribune notes, "It's a historical fact that we are people of African descent. African-American embraces where we came from and where we are now... We are Americans, no doubt about that. But to deny where we came from doesn't make any sense to me." As the popular adage goes, 'those who don't know their history are doomed to repeat it.' Instead of worrying about renaming ourselves to be more accurate, perhaps we should be more concerned about learning about our history in order to reclaim ourselves.

Women's History Month

By Halimah Famuyide

March marks the month long celebration of Women's History. Initially started as Women's History Week in March of 1978, it emerged out of Sonoma County, California. Prior to 1978, the women's movement of the 1960's inspired the study of women's historical contributions to society. The women's movement opened the doors for more female historians. These female historians then delved into the past to recover significant historical information about the many women whose courage and tenacity shaped the society we live in today.

We must commemorate all women during this month for their struggles, persistence and diligence in securing rights that were once only deemed for men. Women around the world have broken barriers throughout history so that future women may be able to have opportunities that were traditionally closed to them. Women such as Indira Gandhi, Dolores Huerta, and Sandra Day O'Connor who worked to change society's perception of women.

As we take the time to reflect and celebrate the many accomplishments women have made through history, we must also show appreciation to everyday women working as leaders in their local communities. These women include doctors, librarians, teachers, childcare workers, bankers, drivers, nurses, lawyers, students and many more. Without such leaders, the world as we see it today would not be the same. Take the time this month to attend a Women's History program on campus and celebrate the accomplishments of our women leaders.

KONY 2012

By Maria Holmes

"Kony 2012" has become of the most recognizable phrases in the past week. Within hours what was a thirty-minute video for the invisible campaign became the most talked about topic in most social media outlets and the most seen viral video in the web. Outpouring support soared as people reposted throughout Facebook, twitter and YouTube to "make Kony famous." As much support as this received some skepticism also existed: who is Kony and why should he be famous?

Within the first two minutes of this documentary the connection is made about the importance of social networks in today's society. The connection made via these media outlets has enabled people to create a continuity of relationships even when distances would have halted these years prior. Social networking has become an indispensable tool at times of political unrest and has allowed for fast and efficient exchange of critical information when needed. The documentary states the following: "The next twenty seven minutes are an experiment, but in order for it to work you have to pay attention." The viewer is told that it is participating in a social networking experiment, the outcome of how the viewer is to proceed

after viewing the documentary has been predetermined.

The story of Jacob, who is the child that has changed the film-maker's life, is one that is compelling and showcases the horrors of war. A lost child, who not only witnessed the murder of his brother at the hands of the L.R.A (the Lord's Resistance Army) a militant group formed in Uganda,

THERE IS NOTHING MORE POWERFUL THAN AN AUDIENCE
CAPABLE OF CRITICAL THINKING

but was also fleeing as many other children were from this very same group. The L.R.A is led by Joseph Kony who is the main target of this particular campaign. The crimes against humanity that Kony has committed in particular targeted towards the vulnerability of children are not anything that ought to be taken lightly. The L.R.A has ruled with terror while violently and mercilessly taken away the childhood of thousands of children in Uganda. Such issues should be brought to the light; this is the only way to stop them from continuing this rule of terror.

The intent of this particular film is to raise awareness for the capturing of Joseph Kony in order to stop him and the L.R.A. The film utilizes emotional appeal and targets specifically towards a young demographic. It urges this demographic to increase awareness so that the U.S government continues to fund the help for the Army of Uganda for the capturing of

Kony. The criticism of this film does not root from the lack of support that this type of cause ought to have, but rather of how well-informed the supporters all throughout the web really are. Watching a thirty-minute

video is arguably not enough information about such a complex issue. How much is this particular film educating the public about the history of the issue, who is Joseph Kony and the reasoning behind his horrendous crimes? The video lacks the crucial information that would help to truly educate the public about Kony and the conflict in Uganda.

Does Kony 2012 really serve the purpose set out by the Invisible Children foundation? Reposts of the video on Facebook and twitter, or simply the

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Trayvon Martin Continued from cover page

According to the New York Times, a fight had ensued between the two men, with Zimmerman ending up on the ground. Next, a gunshot was fired, ultimately causing Trayvon Martin's death. Zimmerman was quoted as saying that he discharged his weapon in self-defense and no arrests have been made. Upon hearing this, one needs to ask, "Exactly what was Martin doing that supposedly posed a threat?" He was walking from a convenient store with some sweets on his way back to the home of his father's girlfriend. Secondly, on a cold, rainy night in late February, isn't just sheer common sense to wear a hooded sweatshirt simply because of the nasty conditions of the weather?

Unfortunately, society sees it has something more; a black teenager in a hooded sweatshirt is the embodiment of all criminal activity in America and steps should be taken to be vigilant against it. And vigilant some people were; the evidence is in many of the violent mishandlings against minorities by law enforcement in cities across the country. There isn't enough evidence, according to prosecutors involved in the case, to refute the claim of self-defense, but most would be inclined to believe the exact opposite.

How could one possibly justify the claim if all the victim had on him was a can of iced tea and a bag of Skittles? Why is there not further investigation into what, or who, had insinuated the fight? Hopefully soon, these details will come to light, but until then, a lot of people will continue to speculate as the Martin family continues their fight for justice for their slain son.

People are starting to feel that same burning uneasiness as was felt at the execution of Troy Davis. College campuses are starting to protest against the injustice being done to this family and news pundits from CNN's Soledad O'Brien to reporters on the online newspaper Huffington Post are continuously giving this story the national attention it deserves. Because it is from tragedies like these that America needs to address the problem it has had with race for many years, instead of sweeping it under the rug, where much more of such foul behavior is bound to resurface.



Civil Unrest in Syria

By Brandon Bennett



The civil unrest in Syria has consumed significant space in much of the major headlines in 2012. Unfortunately, news consumers have become witnesses to the rapid and consistent decimation of this republic. As the world watches Syrian president, Bashar al-Assad, slaughter his people, the topic of discussion in the United Nations has become whether to intervene and save the helpless Syrians to prevent a potential genocide. We must take into consideration that if one of the superpowers do not act quickly, it may be too late.



Photo courtesy: UPI.com

Daily, Syria is getting worse with President Assad at power. Food is getting rationed, prices are going up, cooking and heating costs are rising, and everything is becoming increasingly expensive. The Syrian government is answering Syrian protests with violence. As a result, Syrians are perishing at an alarming rate. The Local Coordination Committees, an antigovernment group, said that attacks by government soldiers on targeted cities killed 34 people on February 26, 2012.

While the United States was able to prevent a mass genocide in Libya last

year, they were able to come up with a low-casualty military plan. This is not the case with Syria. If the United States attempts to save the Syrians, we will put the lives of many soldiers in danger. As of late, the United States has not been able to devise a low-casualty plan. Russia and China has recently blocked any U.N. action to resolve the crisis in Syria.

Many argue that humanitarian motivation should be enough to intervene. However, it has obviously not been enough for anyone to do so. No offense to the United States soldiers, but they were used to recently fight a war that many Americans opposed. Many Americans were skeptical about the real reason for the war in Afghanistan. Many feel that if the soldiers were used to fight prevent a potential genocide and save many helpless people, the ends would justify the casualties. In any conflict, soldiers are going to die regardless. Thus, they might as well die for a good or better cause than the soldiers who perished in the Afghanistan war. If the crisis in Syria does evolve into genocide, we can only wonder if any of the superpowers would regret not intervening.

Contraception: The Controversy and the Campaign Trail

By Simone Brown *Editor-in-Chief*

There have been a wide range of issues that have been hotly debated on the GOP campaign trail to the White House; two candidates in particular, lately Rick Santorum and Mitt Romney, have been at odds with each other in issues ranging from Obama-care and gay marriage to continuing tax-cuts for the wealthy and abortion. Though these issues were as prevalent for the 2012 race as it was four years ago, there is a new issue that has garnered recent controversy for its potential role in being covered (or not) by health insurance: contraception. In the context of reproductive rights, abortion was a principle item on the debate list for candidates of both parties, both in the primaries (like what is happening right now) and the presidential race itself.

But, with the Obama administration's plan requiring all health insurance companies to offer free contraceptives for women, there has been considerable backlash, particularly from Roman Catholic institutions and other religious groups. The administration has since revised its policy so that only health insurance companies, not the religious institutions, are forced to provide the coverage, though it has done little to quell the flames. Now it has become one of the issues at the forefront of the Republican primary elections and, inevitably, the presidential race of 2012.

Recently, a bill proposing to allow employers and health insurance providers to deny coverage of any sort of contraceptives and anything that might be deemed objectionable on religious grounds was shot down in the Senate. According to the New York Times, the 51-to-48 illustrated a sharp divide between Democrats and Republicans on the Congressional floor and brought the social issue to the forefront of political debate, especially in the midst of an upcoming presidential election. What sharply divides these parties is not the cost of such a program, but rather the ulterior motives behind it; Democrats are accusing Republicans of infringing on women's rights and reverting back to issues long settled while Republicans are accusing Democrats of trampling upon the religious freedom of Catholic institutions and violating the Constitution.

Among said grievances, the Republican Party also hoped that the recent Senate debate would provide some sort of leverage in the overhaul of Obama's health care mandate that was approved in 2010 without any Republican vote. The law says insurers must pay for "preventative health services" and cannot

charge for them.

Away from the Congressional floor, the issue is a hot topic among the GOP presidential candidates. Mitt Romney was at first opposed to the proposed bill on the Senate floor (which would have been named the Blunt Amendment for Republican Missouri Senator Roy Blunt's brainchild), citing that one shouldn't "go there" in reference to the context of government involvement in contraception and issues concerning the relationship between husband and wife, but then recanted his previous statement by saying he misunderstood the question that was asked him by reporter from a local media outlet in Ohio.

While the former Massachusetts governor continues to build and repair an image to the liking of social conservatives, his competitor Rick Santorum, on the other hand, has stood by his assertion that all contraception should be outlawed because of their being "damaging" to society. The atmosphere of the debate got further polluted with Rush Limbaugh's comments about Georgetown University law student Sandra Fluke's testimony about the medical benefits of contraception as she referenced a friend being prescribed birth control pills for a medical condition. Limbaugh took the testimony as a confession to sexual promiscuity and proceeded to insult Fluke with a barrage of sexist slurs which included the words "slut" and "prostitute". Though he has since apologized, many doubt its sincerity and he continues to receive flack from many in the sphere of mainstream media. Both GOP candidates also sought to distance themselves from Limbaugh and his inappropriate rhetoric that had spilled onto the airwaves.

This debate has raged since the Obama administration's mandate in late February and continues to divide both the legislative floor in Congress and the American people. With November 4 looming closer every day and the news continuing to update the progress of the GOP candidates geared to run against Obama, the issue of reproductive rights has been pushed closer to the forefront of politics than either those of education or the economy. Considering the time frame in which this is all taking place, this issue could make or break one's campaign; nevertheless, it will also be the defining factor of whether or not this country's social policies will continue to progress or retrogress.

Pinoyorkers

By J.R. Yussuf *Managing Editor*

On March 13, 2012, in the Charles B. Wang Center, at 7:00 pm "The Pinoyorkers *Filipino American Artists and Activists Change New York*" program was underway. Nerissa Balce-Cortes, Assistant Professor in the department of Asian and Asian American Studies here at Stony Brook, moderated the panel discussion that later turned into an open forum. First, Balce-Cortes introduced the panelists and then she allowed them to jump right into their respective topics of expertise. The first speaker, Kenneth Bauzon, a Professor of Political Science at St. Joseph's College, sent a charged message about politics, political disenfranchisement, and resistance to multiculturalism which left the room silent.

When Bauzon spoke about the mounting immigration issues, he said "...the problem is national and the problem is global...Those policies that have been put in place have defects that are driving people out of their homes, with international undercuts acting as impositions that help to widen the gap between the rich and the poor." He took a stance for community empowerment and in the end, democracy for all.

The next speaker was Jessica Hagedorn, a novelist, playwright, musician, and Professor of Creative Writing at the Graduate Program at Long Island University (Brooklyn campus), who gave a witty yet moving presentation drawing on a few interesting parallels between Filipino and Mexican communities. Growing up in San Francisco she was constantly mistaken for being Mexican or Puerto Rican and so "my heart goes out to them [regarding some of the immigration issue solutions put on the table]." Continuously getting mistaken for being

anything other than Filipina, she burrows through the vein of the previous speaker which calls for at-

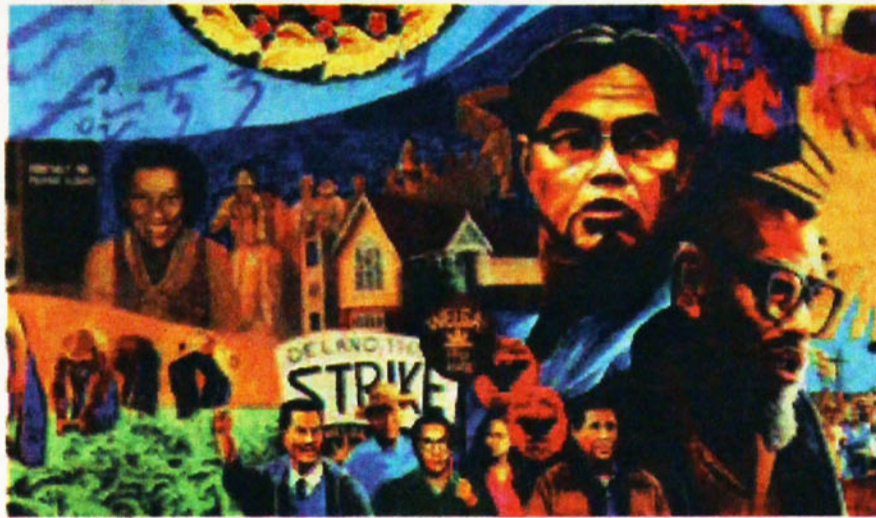


Photo Credit: Eliseo Silva mural Photo courtesy: Filipinas Magazine

tention to a current ineffective system and a future with more efficient immigration system workings.

Angel Velasco Shaw, Filmmaker, Educator and Cultural Organizer at the Curator Center for Art and Thought, showed a segment of the documentary she began putting together "one week after 9/11" that she named *The Momentary Enemy*. It showed New Yorkers voicing their strong opinions on the former President George W. Bush, the aftermath of the Filipino-American War and how there has been little-to-no evolution in the way Filipinos and other immigrants are treated as *citizens* and workers in the United States.

The last presentation came from the Bayanihan Kultural Kolektib group, they run a community center in Queens, in the form of a poem by Lino Baraka. Through this and other lyrical and musical mediums the group concluded the presentation portion of the program by presenting their organization

as a way to "organize to help." Immediately after presentations were through, the panel moved into the open forum portion of the program where audience members got to ask the burning questions they had to hold in during the presentations. Once that had commenced the closing remarks were given and then participants stayed after for a warm meet and greet with each panel member.

In an effort to celebrate the Filipino population in the United States and the diversity Stony Brook University possess, the Charles B. Wang Center presents *Singgalot: The Ties That Bind* from February 12, 2012 until April 22, 2012 throughout the building. *Singgalot* is a series of performances, films, concerts, lectures, seminars, and exhibitions that details a provocative narration of Filipino history and culture in an effort to collaborate with academic departments, student

groups and community organizations to present the public with an well informed and accurate understanding of Asian and Asian American cultures and how they relate to worldly cultures at large. Stony Brook University was chosen by the Smithsonian Institution as one of only two hosts for this exhibition in the Northeast and "The Pinoyorker" program in particular fell under that larger umbrella of the *Singgalot* exhibition.

There has been a 43% increase of Filipinos residing in the United States between 2000 and 2010 bringing the number of Filipinos in America to a total of roughly 2.7 million. Filipinos make up the largest undocumented Asian group in the US and it goes without saying that they have not been drawn to the US solely because of tourist fever. Instead, the poor have little to no options and political oppression combined with homelessness has driven them out of their land of origin.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

By Halimah Famuyide

1...2...3...4...5...6...7...8...9...A woman has just been assaulted and you may not have been aware of it. Every 9 seconds in the United States a woman is assaulted or beaten. Domestic violence affects between 600,000 and 6 million women each year, and between 100,000 and 6 million men. Domestic violence can affect anyone and it does not matter the age, sex, class, sexual orientation, or ethnicity. The damage that domestic violence can have in an individual's life is unquantifiable. At times many do not seek help until it is too late, resulting in death or irreparable physical harm. With examples in the media of how damaging domestic violence is, it is not hard to imagine that so many find themselves in abusive relationships. A prime example is the pop singer Rihanna and entertainer Chris Brown. In 2009, Chris Brown and his girlfriend at the time, Rihanna, engaged in an argument that led to a physical altercation between the two. Rihanna was reportedly beaten in the face, and the incident was reported to the police and Chris Brown was eventually taken to court and charged with felony assault and making criminal threats.

Domestic Violence Awareness month seeks to put an end to incidents like the Chris Brown and Rihanna case. Initiated on October 1, 1987, it was a time to connect those who had been victims of domestic violence, to celebrate those who had survived as well as remember those who had passed away. Domestic violence Awareness month is recognized every year in the United States starting October 1st. If you, or someone you know is a victim of domestic violence there are a number of resources to take advantage of. The National Domestic Violence Hotline is available to provide support and assistance to anyone involved in a domestic violence. Seek help and don't sit in silence, call 1-800-799-SAFE(7233).

Creolefest 2012

By Tatiana Malebranche

The Haitian Student Organization threw their annual banquet CreoleFest. Creolefest is a program that was created to enlighten the Stony Brook community about the Caribbean and Haitian language. The annual event is a fun, free and easy-going affair that everyone is welcomed to.

This year Haitian Student Organization had a bit of a new approach to this event. This time, the event was based on the annual carnival that happens in Haiti during the month of February. Carnival is the biggest party of Haiti, with parades, dancers and floats.

This year's executive board was inspired by this, and Creolefest became based on themes that are present in the Carnival celebration. The room was decorated with vibrant colors of blue and orange, a plethora of gold and cream balloons and decorations. HSO played carnival music to help set the mood.

For the first time, this year's Creolefest had a host who was the Youtube Sensation and Comedian Jonas. His comedic talents gave the show an interest-

ing twist and lightened the mood. He did a stand up piece and also introduced the other acts. Pan-A- Praise, a steel pan group, also graced the stage and played popular songs such as "One Love" by Bob Marley and "Human Nature" by Michael Jackson.

The entertainment continued with two Haitian singer including a Stony Brook Student, Monuqie who sang an original piece in Creole. Also, an upcoming zouk (a popular style of Haitian music) artist Meduchi performed a wide selection, including samples of his own music with the single "Special Somebody" and covered songs such as the famous Haitian hit "Are You Ready" By Carimi.

To top off the night, of course, Creolefest would not be the same without the delicious array of Caribbean food. "HSO definitely this year created a more audience friendly event, I think this has been the best creolefest I have ever been to," said junior Laurel Cole who is a psychology major. Creolefest this year was an event that not only was full of laughter, food,

and entertainment, but it was also all for the great price of free. Hopefully the Haitian Student Organization will continue to have great events and to move in a positive direction.



Black History Month Closing Ceremony

By Terichi Bellinger and James Klurfeld

Tables clad in brown and blue cloths and balloons filled the SAC Auditorium A on the final night of February 2012 for the annual Black History Month Closing Ceremony. The program was the last in a series of events sponsored by Stony Brook's Black History Month Committee and a number of other clubs on campus.

Throughout the month, programs such as film screenings, lectures, stroll competitions, and discussion groups contributed to this month's theme, "From Black Roots Everyone Grows." The closing ceremony followed suit.

Hosted by undergraduate student committee members Ndome Essoka and Kekelly Ketemepi, the program began with a rendition of the Black National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice," sung by J.R. Yussuf and Renee Edwin. Afterwards, Cheryl Chambers, the Associate Dean of Students and Director of Multicultural Affairs, who serves as the Black History Month Committee Co-Chair, gave opening remarks.

Ms. Chambers has been involved with the Black History Month Committee for a large part of her career at Stony Brook. "I've been at the University for a number of years," said Chambers. "I first started working in the area of Student Activities and I worked closely with a number of clubs and organizations. At that time, I was a member of the Black History Month Committee, which is a campus wide committee that was chaired by the head chair of the Africana Studies Department, the late William McAdoo." Chambers stated that through her position on campus, she was able to reach out to a large number student groups on campus that held an interest in Black History Month.

Chambers thanked the myriad of clubs and organizations that contributed to the month's events, some by programming and some monetarily. Both Chambers and Anielisa Jones, the Graduate Student Advisor of the committee, stated that the committee does not as of yet have their own source of funding, but functions through co-sponsorship from clubs and organizations on campus.

Throughout the night, Essoka and Ketemepi taught the audience about "Unsung Heroes" of the Black community, such as Elaine Brown and Daniel Hale Williams. The point, according to Chambers, was to help educate the audience of how Black History has an effect on everyone, not only African Americans. Chambers, along with her co-worker Jarvis Watson, encourage students of all races and ethnicities to participate in Black History Month events.

"I think there needs to be more of an emphasis on Black unity," said Watson. "If we don't put first things first, this thing called community, Black or Latino Community, is not going to be here like you think it should be." "Above everything, there has to be a lesson," said Jones. "There has to be something that they take away that says, 'Oh! I learned something today.'"

Between lessons of past greats, there were performances from the student group Essence of Praise, as well as a few poetry selections from Stony Brook alum, Deborah LaSassier. "The poetry rocked," said Blake Hawkins-Omeir, a member of the Student African American Brotherhood (SAAB), who was in attendance as a representative from his organization.

Additionally, Christina Vargas-Law presented sophomores Jean-Claude Velasquez and Briana Brown with the Dr. William McAdoo Memorial Scholarship and the Ralph Watkins Memorial Scholarship, respectively. Both scholarships were founded in the early 2000's, and Vargas-Law encouraged students to look out for opportunities to be recognized for their achievements.

After a moving slideshow of famous African Americans that had passed away over the past year, the program ended and the guests were welcome to dinner from Island Cuisine, which was described by an audience member as the closest Caribbean restaurant to Stony Brook. The meal included jerk chicken, rice, beef patties, and plantains.

The committee is open to all students, faculty and staff. Meetings begin in early October on Wednesdays during Campus Lifetime, and the majority of planning takes place throughout the Fall semester.

The Black Greek

By Tatiana Malebranche

On February 23rd 2012, Delta Sigma Theta held program entitled "The Black Greek." For many years "Black Greeks" have been known for their discretion and secrecy, and because of this many people now have preconceived notions about these organizations. A lot of questions over time have been formulated but have not been asked. This program aimed to dispel the controversy, rumors and questions that are associated with being a member of a fraternal organization in the Nation Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC).

Volunteers were asked to Greek." Facts about members of were giving to the audience and person was. This was an icebreak- identify with public figures that Next, A small documentary was filmed of Stony Brook students community. The documentary Greeks, such as Greeks change, once an individual gets their let- better then everyone else, and also of the illuminati. This lead to an bers of the audience got a chance



play a game called "Guess that different NPHC organizations they had to figure out who this ing activity for the audience to are apart of these organizations. played. The documentary was and their opinions of the Greek included the stereotypes of which is the perception that ters, they think that they are rumors that Greeks are a part open discussion where mem- to ask members of the NPHC

questions about their respective organization and the council. Ndome Yvonne Essoka, Senior and Health Science major said it best, "Similar to a banquet, our organizations have a complete behind the scenes, set-up and preparation that you do not see. Only the end result is available for everyone to know about and see."

Most non-Greeks fail to realize that a portion of the questions and concerns that they have can be simply answered via a website or a book. This came to light in this program. The popular phrase that ignorance is bliss is key here. Most do not know the answer to the questions about Greeks but do not attempt to find even find the right answer. This leaves people's imagination running wild, which is where rumors begin. Though, yes, there are secrets of each NPHC organization but this holds true for any organization, Greek or not. The message that was conveyed is that black Greek-lettered organizations were not born as secret societies, but rather were created as avenues to advance minorities that have flourished to complete organizations.

Kold Nights

By Christella Francois *Treasurer*

Kold Nights was a success! Kudos to Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated for bringing talent to the Tabler Arts Center on the night of February 16th, 2012. Performers captivated the audience with all forms of art such as poetry, dancing, singing, and spoken word to name a few. The subjects of the poems ranged from slavery to knowing what it feels to be a Latina. The dim lighting and intimate setting of the space allowed the audience to feel as if they were in a jazz club on a cool summer night in New York City.

Brother Patrick Gordon of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated took some time to answer these questions:

BlackWorld Newspaper: What atmosphere and theme did you try to accomplish for the night?

Patrick Gordon: We try and set the proper ambiance this way although the event is on campus, you feel as if your at a poetry slam somewhere in manhattan.

BW: Is it just a social event or is it something more?

PG: It is a social event however we try and create a total experience by setting a relaxed mood.

BW: Did you screen the performers in advance before they went up?

PG: We did screen the performers before hand to ensure no provocative language.

BW: What did you think about the show?

PG: I thought the show went very well as a whole.

We also spoke with sophomore and incoming transfer Janet Rogers who also thought the night went well.

BlackWorld Newspaper: How would you describe the atmosphere of Kold Nights?

Janet Rogers: The atmosphere was intimate and nice. The tables were close together and there were candles on them. Lights were dim and small snacks were served.

BW: What did you think of the performers? Did you have a favorite?

JR: I did not have a favorite. Everyone did a really good job. Every performer stunned the audience. We were able to feel everything they described.

BW: Would you continue to support Kold Nights?

JR: Definitely.

BW: Any comments, questions, or concerns?

JR: Keep up the good work Kappa Alpha Psi

For once the Stony Brook crowd was supportive of who was on stage. This program was nothing short of claps and snaps as each person graced the stage.

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U Cafe Revival: C.O.A.L.I.T.I.O.N.'s Open Mic Night

By Marly Fleurival

On February 28 2012, student group C.O.A.L.I.T.I.O.N. (community of alliance living in total independence of negativity) hosted an open mic night at the local U-Cafe. The open mic night brought a plethora of talent consisting of comedians, singers, poets and rappers who are all full time students at Stony Brook University. As an incentive, the group offered bbq, hot and plain chicken wings to performers and students who came by in order to show their appreciation.

I was able to speak to a rapper, who transferred into Stony Brook University this semester. Cliff Cammock also known as Cavi Cazal (@CaviCazal on twitter) who performed an untitled piece about the sometimes rough transition going from high school to college. When asked how he felt the audience reacted to him he responded, "At first I felt like they were deciding whether or not they liked me but towards the middle of my performance I felt the love. I think they liked me." Cliff Cammock aspires to rap professionally although he is currently pursuing a degree in health science and also aspires to enter the graduate tech program. When asked if his rap coincide with the acronym "rythm and poetry," he responded, "I wouldn't say my rap is poetry but my rap does have substance." One word Cliff Cammock feels describes his art is "relaxed."

I also had the opportunity to speak to the young and witty, Ramon Reinoso (@_RayK47 on twitter), a comedian who is a freshman here at Stony Brook University. When asked how he felt the audience responded to him Ramon responded enthusiastically, "The audience was great and very cooperative! I switched up my material when I felt like they weren't responding well. Honestly, I'm always a little nervous at first because getting booed is a self esteem killer." Ramon was also asked what he thinks of the diversity here at Stony Brook, "everyone at Stony Brook is quite welcoming. I don't limit myself to one group of people here. I'm used to mingling with different races." When asked if he would like to pursue a career in comedy, he responded, "I am a comedian on my leisure time, although I occasionally do stand-up at different clubs in the city."

C.O.A.L.I.T.I.O.N.'s open mic night was a night overflowing with talent, laughs and intellect. The talents touched on everything from social issues, politics and love. This student group hopes to have three open mic nights per semester in hopes of reviving the once popular U-Cafe.



It's Time To Get Mad Again

By Anson M. George



It's that month again. March is synonymous with March Madness and the iconic "bracket" of college basketball that you see on television, in newspapers, and with the millions of us who predict a winner every year. First used by H.V. Porter in 1939, it took until October 2010 for the NCAA to solely own its trademark rights.

March Madness, also known as the Big Dance, refers to the National Collegiate Athletic Association Men's Division I Basketball Championship tournament held each spring.

This single-elimination tournament includes 68 college basketball teams with a little over half of them awarded at-large bids. Teams that do not automatically enter the tournament by winning their respective postseason tournament are voted in, creating tension that adds to the excitement of March Madness.

The Linsanity is contagious and indeed always spreads with the inclusion of "bubble" teams, Cinderella teams, and the possibility of an upset win by



#16, #15, or #14 seeded team. But why get excited about this year? Something spectacular is always bound to happen.

Last year, #11-seeded Virginia Commonwealth was among the final four teams left in the tournament when they lost. Also, #8-seeded Butler reached the National championship game again, losing it by 2 points after missing a winning last-second 3 pointer.

Even more impressive was UCONN's run to become 2011 national champions. UCONN won 5 games in 5 consecutive days in the Big East Tournament and then won 6 more games to win the championship. All of this happened in one year of postseason play.

What's most exciting is that our very own Stony Brook Men's Basketball Team has another chance to enter the tournament.

By winning the America East Championship, Stony Brook would receive an automatic bid. Would you go mad at the sight of Coach Pikiell cutting down the net after a championship win?

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TV Review: Comedy Central's "Key & Peele"

By Simone Brown *Editor-in-Chief*

It has become a tradition with Comedy Central nowadays to have renowned comedians host their own half-hour sketch specials. It started in 2003 with Dave Chappelle, followed closely by Carlos Mencia in 2005 and later with Daniel Tosh and his weekly viral video show

Tosh.O. Earlier this year, former Mad-TV actors/sketch-writers Keegan-Michael Key and Jordan Peele got their own sketch-comedy special simply titled "Key & Peele." A new episode broadcasts every Tuesday night at 10:30pm eastern time, sandwiched between a new episode of Tosh.O and The Daily Show with Jon Stewart.

Considering that they are used to working behind the scenes as writers or are only seen acting in various commercials or on other sketch shows, this is the first time they are in the limelight with their own program, complete with sketches for the screen and situational stand-up in front of a live studio audience. They address the typical issue of race, but instead of rehashing the usual jokes, they create their own spins



Left: Jordan Peele as President Barack Obama and Keegan-Michael Key as his anger translator in Comedy Central's new show "Key & Peele" Source: TheGrio

on them. For example, in one sketch the pair plays some movie hecklers in a theater while a (possible) serious drama is playing; as would be expected, there are white patrons that don't appreciate the "loud black people" heckling the movie. The unexpected irony is that the "hecklers" are actually making intellectual observances while the "well-meaning" quiet movie go-er is shushed for being too loud. They also deal with being type-casted in Hollywood as "the black friend" and "President Obama" (played by Jordan Peele) addresses his critics through his anger translator.

So far, the show's first season is not without fresh ideas for sketches every week. However, what sets it apart from a lot of current shows that focus on solely making fun of celebrities and doing racial humor; Key and Peele choose to be innovative and create further interpretations of those jokes on race and also provide witty commentary on today's pop culture with hilarious situational humor. For those of us who are looking for something fresh on Comedy Central, besides nightly episodes of The Daily Show (no pun intended) and The Colbert Report, while waiting on the new season of South Park, there's hope while we wait. These guys definitely make it worth having a cable box in a dorm room or anywhere else.

Stony Brook Alumni Takes Home an Oscar

By J.R. Yussuf *Managing Editor*

On the night of Sunday, February 26th 2012, shortly after the red carpet was rolled out, the 84th Academy Award ceremony had begun and a few cocktails had been consumed, a first in Stony Brook's history was achieved. Mark Bridges a Stony Brook class of 1983 graduate won the Oscar for costume design for the film *The Artist*. Bridges graduated from Stony Brook with a bachelor's degree in Theatre Arts where he acquired the base of his knowledge in costume design and went on to pursue a master of fine arts degree in Costume Design from New York University Tisch School of the Arts. Bridges' win came as a surprise for some because of the competition from huge films such as *Anonymous* and *Hugo*, however, Bridges persevered.

This is the first Academy Award win in Stony Brook's history for Costume Design; however, this is not the first Academy Award win in Stony Brook's history. *West Bank Story* by Ari Sandel and *Time Freak* by Andrew Bowler both took away Academy Awards in 2005 and 2011 respectively.

All those that are a part of the Screen Actors Guild (SAG), the actor's union, gets to vote on a winner for each category from a list of films that are deemed eligible by the American Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. The categories are best picture, best actor, best actress, best supporting actor, best supporting actress, best director, short film (animated), short film (documentary), short film (live action), writing (original screenplay), writing (adapted screenplay), music (original song), music (original score), visual effects, animated feature, documentary feature, sound mixing, sound editing, film editing, makeup, costume design, art direction and cinematography. The Oscars are held annually in California at the Hollywood and Highland Center, formerly known as the Kodak Theatre.



Mark Bridges receives Oscar for Best Costume for *The Artist*

Bessie Coleman: America's Forgotten Aviator

By Simone Brown *Editor-in-Chief*

What generally comes to mind when most people are asked of the first aviators are the usual figures from everyone's social studies books: The Wright brothers at that famous hill in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina; Charles Lindbergh making the first solo nonstop flight across the Atlantic; Amelia Earhart as the first aviatrix to achieve the same feat which earned her the first U.S. Distinguished Flying Cross Award to be won by a woman. While these achievements are nothing short of commendable, there is still one other aviator that history books have continuously left out. This significant, yet often forgotten achiever is Bessie Coleman.

Her own contribution was something not to be underscored: she became the first black woman in the world to earn an international pilot's license. This feat was not without its obstacles: she encountered racial and gender prejudice and felt that the only way to achieve her dream of going to flight school was to leave the United States, study French and attend an aviation school in France. By taking this initiative, she was able to complete her studies within seven months and earn her pilot's license at France's famed Caudron Brother's School of Aviation. She had dreamed of opening her own flight school for blacks when she returned to the United States. She also specialized in aerial acrobatics, barnstorming, stunt flying and parachuting. Sadly, her amazing, triumphant life was cut short; she was killed during an aerial show at the very young age of 33. Despite a tragic end, she still remains a prestigious figure in aviation history.

She was born Elizabeth Coleman on January 26, 1893 in Atlanta, Texas. Her family moved to Waxahachie when she was two. Seven years later, her father, who was three quarters Native American decided to leave the family to go to his native state of Oklahoma where he and many others of full-Indian blood could earn full civil rights. Her mother remained in Texas and supported her children by taking in laundry and picking cotton. Her excellent ability in mathematics enabled Coleman to complete the eighth grade with high

marks and a life beyond the cotton fields. Though she worked as a laundress, much like her mother, she was able to save enough money to pay her way through secondary school and college. She attended the preparatory school of Agriculture in Langston, Oklahoma in 1910, but later moved to Chicago where she worked as a manicurist and restaurant manager. However, despite these working class jobs, she still continued to have major aspirations: she became interested in the growing field of aviation.

In spite of her moving up north, discrimination continuously thwarted Coleman's goals of going to aviation school in the United States. Seeing the harsh reality of the limited options offered her as a black woman, she decided to learn French and was accepted into the Caudron Brother's School of Aviation in France in November of 1920 at the age of 27. Her achievement was not without it's funding; black philanthropists Robert Abbott, founder of the Chicago Defender, and banker Jesse Binga assisted in paying her tuition.

In seven months, she was able to earn her Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (International Pilot's License) in June 15, 1921; she was the first black woman in the world to have such an accomplishment. The vehicle she learned to fly was a Nieuport Type 82 biplane. She returned to Chicago in February of 1922 to learn how to be a stunt flyer (since commercial flying wouldn't become mainstream until much later in the future), but the barriers of racism kept her from finding a willing teacher. Thusly, she sailed back to Europe and proceeded to travel from Holland to Germany where she learned various techniques and honed them through working with many an experience pilot.

She sailed back to New York in August of that same year with the desire to spread the same enthusiasm of a career in aviation that she possessed among other young, African-Americans. She went to schools, churches and theaters to spark an interest of the new, expanding technology of flight. Another one of her goals was to open her own

aviation school for all races. She used her charm, beauty and exuberant personality to help spread her message to the press. She was known by all the African-American newspapers as "Queen Bess."

Coleman made her first appearance on an American air show on September 3, 1922 at an event honoring all-black veterans of the 369th Expeditionary Force of World War I. Held near New York City and sponsored by the Chicago Defender, Coleman was billed on the advertising poster as the "world's greatest woman pilot" and was featured with eight other ace pilots. Six weeks later, she returned to Chicago where she demonstrated a series of stunning daredevil maneuvers.

She performed in many other aerial shows in the United States, though she refused to perform at segregated shows in the South. Along with her traveling to spread awareness of aviation to young black people across the country, she was also able to raise enough money to found a school for the very people she wanted to encourage. But before she could open it, her life was tragically cut short on April 30, 1926 when a plane she was flying in a rehearsal for an aerial show went into a tail spin and sent her plummeting 2,000 feet to her death.

Though she died very young, Bessie Coleman was able to inspire a generation of future African-American flyers. In 1977, the Bessie Coleman Aviators Club was founded in Chicago and was open to women pilots of all races. In 1990, Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley renamed Old Mannheim Road near O'Hare Airport "Bessie Coleman Drive". Two years later, he proclaimed May 2 "Bessie Coleman Day in Chicago." Shortly thereafter, she received national recognition when the U.S. Postal Service issued a stamp commemorating her achievements as a great American who didn't let the barriers of race or gender stop her from pursuing a career that would literally aim for the skies.

Sources: biography.com; gale.cengage.com

KONY 2012

Continued from page 5

"#Kony2012" on twitter are they all truly serving to educate the public and mobilize it towards the goal of bringing Kony to justice? Is this merely becoming a growing trend in the web? It is uncertain how many people are truly attempting to become informed about these children's plight. With all the excitement built around this type of campaign, it appears as though some are merely jumping on a bandwagon, falsely getting this sense of advocacy by posting a status on Facebook and then later on forgetting about it. Undoubtedly this cause that brings awareness to the horrid crimes against humanity, against children needs to arise in order to halt its existence. The public does not want to know that somewhere in this modern world, children are being used for sex slavery, given weapons to fight wars, mutilated, taken away from their homes. Every child deserves the chance at life that is unquestionable. The issue lies in how as media consumers the public is utilizing and assessing the information given to them and how much is accomplished after all the excitement has decreased. Will Kony 2012 be just a trend or will it become the tool that ultimately aids in bringing Kony to justice?

Winter Warm- Ups! By Tatiana Malbranche

Now that the winter is winding down and the weather is heating up, the question lies, what to wear? The intermediate phase between the seasons is always a hard time to dress. With temperatures that soar in the day but are low at dusk, how do you create a chic, but sensible outfit? Here are three styles that will help you dress for the upcoming month!



ADD Color!

Here Sarah Bell is adding flavor to her outfit by adding one block of color. The warm springtime color of pastel pink pant helps to rejuvenate the outfit. The black blazer with the satin lapel still represents the winter style with the sequined shirt that can be worn in any season.

Pastry Brand Owner and TV Persona Angela Simmons has spruced up a classic all black dress with print. Animal Print is an easy way to add flavor to your normal outfit for fashionable and fun look. Angela's choice was complementing her outfit with a wedged animal print heel.



Contrast Colours!

Solange Knowles sports a beautiful blue Vera Wang chiffon dress. The dark blue cloth is teamed up with a white floral pattern. This creates a contrast that makes the dress stand out, also highlighting Solange's legs. To balance the spring floral prints, Solange wears suede blue pep-toe heels.

Helpful Hints:

Accessorize!!

For some reason people forget to add flare to their outfit with dangly earrings or a chunky necklace that makes an outfit more fun.

Go Nude

Keep your make up fresh, light and closer to neutral colors. This gives the illusion of a vibrant fresh face that we all naturally get as the weather warms up.

Scarf it

A scarf is an easy way to add color, pattern and texture to your look with minimal effort.



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