

DUP

# The Black Letter

Volume II Number 1

September/October 1973

## Financial Aids: A Disaster Story

About 6,000 students don't know if they have enough money to attend the University this school year.

Processing of financial aid applications will take at least three more weeks, officials of the University Office of Student Financial Aids have said.

With proper planning and administration, the office could have notified students of their status long before they arrived on campus.

Right now, many students have not received word on whether their requests for financial aid even will be granted. Those who have received approval have not been sent their checks.

"Anyone who has not received notification of financial aid will have their fee payment delayed," Buford B. Baber, associate director, said.

Students are eligible to attend classes while the University still holds the statements for registration this semester.

But uncertainty still lingers in the lives of these students. They don't know whether to get a job, borrow money or just go home.

New procedures and staff turnover have caused the delay in processing financial aid applications.

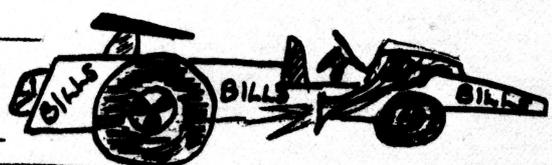
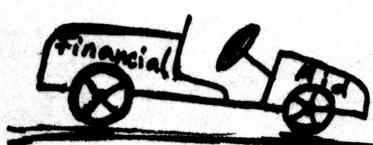
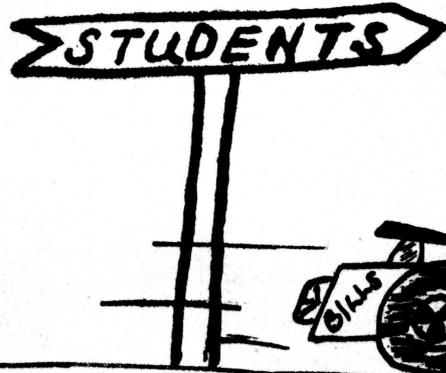
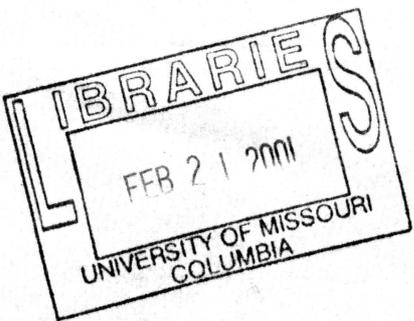
One major delay can be attributed to a switch to computer processing of applications. To insure accuracy, the student financial aid office made a parallel hand tabulation of requests. Surely, the office knew of the changeover in advance so it could have planned how to meet its deadlines.

Federal guidelines for aid administration also were received later than usual this year. When this occurred, the office should have been able to make alternate arrangements with the students before they came on campus.

Under the circumstances, the office now is putting forth its best efforts to alleviate the problem. Hours have been expanded to serve students. In addition, applications are being processed first for those with greatest need and earliest application.

These attempts to minimize the inconvenience and strain involved in this matter are commendable. They could have been made unnecessary, however, by appropriate handling before the students came back.

Reprint from the Columbia Missourian



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# Two More Blacks In Read Hall

*Harold Sims, Jr.*

*Jennifer Hill*

Harold R. Sims, Jr., the new Program Advisor for minority students, is a counselor in every aspect of minority student life. This ranges from tutorial programs to career and vocational planning. His greatest ambition is to set up a counseling session that will meet the needs of minority students.

"Most important though," he stated, "is to create through this office an atmosphere that makes UMC the kind of place where more Blacks would want to grow, develop, and learn to become professional people who will utilize every facet and opportunity that can be acquired."

Sims worked at Lincoln Laboratory High School where he gained one year of counseling experience. He has also counseled at Rentz Farm in the Department of Corrections. He started a school at the pre-release center teaching and preparing inmates to qualify for a G.E.D. He offered assistance also in developing vocational skills and in helping the inmates to acquire a willingness to accept jobs and to keep them.

When asked what motivated him to become interested in the field of counseling, he replied, "Self awareness. Knowing who you are; what you are; and where you're going."

"The situation is quite serious," he said. "There's academic poverty, home poverty, and other things to stunt the development of many Blacks. Only the Blacks involved can identify with this big story untold, but many are in no position to help one another."

The relationship he expects to have with students is an informal one that will not be conducted in any certain way. Wherever the problem is—that's where it will be discussed. Whatever the problem, Sims will attempt to help the student to deal with it. His office is **there** and he wants students to feel free to come in anytime.

When asked how he liked his new position, he said, "I'm thrilled to death! There are so many things to be done. Qualified Black students are here at UMC and with proper guidance and counseling, the atmosphere that's needed can be developed."

Advice he'd give to students, especially freshmen, on the academic level is, "Know how to prepare yourself for the competition." This should raise questions such as, "How do I start?" "What do I want?" "When do I start?" This alone should encourage students to stop by and see Harold Sims and discuss career planning and difficulty in classwork. "Invest yourself for yourself," he added. "It's absolutely essential."

Officially, Jennifer Hill is the new Program Advisor for minority students. Her office, 203 Read Hall, is open to all black students regardless of whether they are planning a function, or just want to rap and get to know her.

As she puts it, "I hope this is the beginning of a solid type of rapport with black students."

Because Jennifer earned her B.A. in English at the University, she is pretty familiar with some of the trials and tribulations of black undergrads. But that's one of the reasons she wanted the job. "Not only did I want administrative experience," Jennifer says, "I wanted a chance to work closely with black students. I had done a little programming for student activities with both MSA and LBC as an undergrad. As a graduate student, I wanted to continue this type of work. And, I thought this would be an enjoyable way to meet many of the black students on campus."

"So far," Jennifer says, "I have met nothing but cooperation and understanding. I'm still new at this job and everyone has been more than helpful, as I feel my way around and become familiar with the situation."

Jennifer's duties include: serving as an advisor to LBC; assisting students in developing and carrying out activities on campus; and keeping the lines of communication open between black greek organizations.

Some of the activities Jennifer has to her planning credit so far, are the LBC dance, Sept. 7, and the Black Ivory Show, Sept. 8. Future projects include a much needed Afro-Coffee House. Jennifer will also be the guiding force behind any black films to be seen on campus.

Ask Jennifer about her future goals and she will smile and say jokingly, "To graduate." (She'll do that next year with a M.A. in Community Health Education.) But then, in all sincerity, she will tell you, "I hope to become the co-director of a neighborhood health center."

And when Jennifer Hill says that is her goal you get the sneaking suspicion she is going to achieve it.

But Jennifer is quick to remind us, "Black people regardless of whether they are Greek or non-Greek, male or female, rich or poor, have to realize we are all black and in it together. We can't let society divide us. The only way any one of us will succeed is if we all do."

And to that, we all would like to give Jennifer Hill, a great big, welcoming soulful, "Right on."

## *Dr. James Banning New Dean of Students*

To most of the Black student body at UMC, the Dean of Students is an inaccessible individual who has very little impact upon their lives. This is not the case as this individual can and does affect many aspects of student life ranging from financial aid to dormitories. As Black students it would be to our benefit to have an individual in this office who is more than sympathetic to the needs of the Black minority at UMC. During an interview recently, Dr. James Banning, the new Dean of Students showed himself to be just that sort of an individual.

"I've been at UMC for only a few months. My knowledge of the Black students here came primarily through conversations with Clarence Wine, Don Johnson and a number of Black students. Black students are different than other students in that they come from a different cultural setting. Their whole experience is perhaps different but their desires of course, overlap those of the white student body."

Professors should be aware that Black students bring different learning styles to the classroom. It should be remembered that education here was designed for the white middle class student and that in order to meet the needs of the various minorities, serious consideration should be given to the redesigning of the educational institution," he said.

"I realize that here at the University there are fewer than 500 Black students out of a population of 22,000. This is a sad situation. Part of the solution to this problem, of course, is to become more aggressive in recruiting students of ethnic origins. Recruitment is not under my supervision, but I will do anything that I can to aid those requesting my help."

When questioned about financial aids to Blacks, he responded by saying the financial aid office which is a part of his realm has a definite commitment to low income students. With this policy he hoped the number of minority students could be increased.

"I am not familiar with Project START, but if it is successful in increasing the Black population of the University then I support it and would like to see it expand.

"I will be affirmative in supporting the idea of a separate Black studies department. It has proven viable on many campuses and should be given serious consideration here. This is, however, outside of my responsibility, but I am willing to work with any group to bring about such a program.

"In regard to your last question," he concluded, "the best way I can increase the sensitivity of a white-oriented institution to the needs of Black students is to support the Black leaders as much as possible. This is perhaps the best way that I as a white, can better life for Blacks at UMC."



## *Carol Ann Horn New Black in Financial Aids*



She's tall, statuesque and she greets you with a poised down-to-earthness. Carol Ann Horn's official title is "coordinator" in the office of Financial Aid, but at this point in the semester things are less formal.

A '69 liberal arts graduate of Stephens College, Ms. Horn has only been on the job for one week and she has spent that time processing the financial aid packets.

"I don't know where my powers lie now, at this point everyone's interest lies in getting out the packets," she said.

She was hired under the assumption that "I would have other duties" but due to the crunch of processing and a reorganization of the office her duties have been limited.

Now working on a thesis in regional planning, Carol accepted the job because "of the broad capabilities of working with people" an essential element in a job of this nature.

From all indications, Carol is a welcomed asset to this campus and at age 26 is well aware of the needs of college students.

No, she is not Mrs. Paul's replacement, she is Carol Ann Horn.

Check her out, she can help.



# Joyce Ballance

## *A Black Student Talks of London and Ghana*

Visiting Africa is something Joyce Ballance thinks all Black Americans should have the chance to do. "Every Black person should experience it for themselves," Joyce said. "You can't understand what is going on there until you have lived in their situation."

Joyce, who is a senior here at UMC, got her African experience as part of a University-sponsored program called Inner Future. Through this program, she spent second semester of last year in London and Ghana, studying race relations in both places.

In London, Joyce lived in a West Indian community where she saw police brutality against Black people. Spending most of her time with another Black American student, Joyce said they were looked upon as immigrants and felt the same discrimination as the West Indians.

"London is a very prejudiced society," Joyce said. She explained that Blacks there had very little to say about their treatment.

Things were quite different when Joyce got to Africa. "There were so many Black people there that I didn't know how to act."

She said that she found most of the young people in Ghana to be ambitious and many of the college students want to come to the United States.

Joyce hopes to keep in touch with many of the people she met on her trip. She also wants to set up some sort of seminar or program with African students here to give American Blacks a closer look at Africa.

Joyce encourages more Blacks to apply to the Inner Future program. Interested freshmen, sophomores and first-semester juniors can talk to Joyce or get more information at Read Hall.



## *John Wallace*

### *New Head of "the House"*

Involved, dedicated and versatile are only three ways to describe John Wallace, Director of the Black Culture House.

Wallace, who is from Cincinnati, Ohio, received his undergraduate degree in psychology from Grambling College. Continuing his education, he obtained a Masters degree from Bemidji State College in Minnesota and for a year worked for the Columbus Model Cities and O.E.O. programs. He has also been involved in volunteer work and has given several lectures on drug abuse at a clinic set up and run by ex-drug addicts. Recently, John undertook another task — that of being Resident Manager of the House.

As Resident Manager, John has set goals for himself and the House. He speaks freely of keeping in close touch with LBC and has hopes of having several rap sessions with students to find out 'what they really want to see happening at the House.' He also talked of cultural programs, jam sessions, tutoring programs and social functions.

Even so, all this planning and activity has not slowed John down. At the moment he is in the process of contacting Black colleges and universities in hopes of obtaining information on scholarships, grants, loans and possible jobs for both graduates and undergrads.

When asked how he hopes to initiate participation in the House, John replied, "With a little good publicity, some help from LBC and the media, I'm sure we'll arouse interest and participation."

"What I really want to see," he added, "is more social and cultural events encompassing all the minority students on campus. I have talked with some of the African students on campus and I find they all seem interested and anxious to get involved with House activities. I think we have an abundance of potential here—all it needs is channeling in the right direction."

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# Thoughts of a Black Woman

Gloria Adger

HAPPINESS IS NOT EXPENSIVE  
IT COSTS SO LITTLE FOR SO MUCH  
I'M NOT ASKING FOR MUCH—I NEVER HAVE  
I'M NOT GREEDY, SELFISH, OR SELF-CENTERED...  
I WANT SO LITTLE BUT I PAY A HIGH COST FOR NO REAL  
REASON...  
ALL I WANT IS HAPPINESS...JUST A PINCH—IS THAT ASKING FOR SO  
MUCH?

YOU PROMISED ME RICHES...THE MOON...THE SUN...  
HE SMILED...

YOU PROMISED ME LOVE...HAPPINESS...SECURITY...  
HE SMILED...

YOU WOULD CONQUER THE WORLD, AND GIVE IT TO ME;  
YOU PROMISED ME NEVER-ENDING WEALTH AND OUR BEING TOGETHER  
ALWAYS...

WE'RE APART...

HE PROMISED NOTHING...

HE JUST SMILED.

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## Wild Bunch

...That seems to be an appropriate title for the new group of freshmen attending ole' Mizzou. It has long been a custom for the Black students of this grand institution to party...very hard. This attitude has been fully grasped by these upperclassmen of tomorrow. One of the primary questions brought to me by Black freshmen is, "Is it true about all the parties up here?" They have made it more than true with their display of livelihood and spirit that one can't help but notice.

On the other hand, hearty partying isn't the only thing noticeable about our 1977 graduates. For the most part they exhibit an air of confidence and maturity toward the academic side of college life. While interviewing them about their class schedules, I received numerous replies to the tone of, "I can handle it," "No big problems," "I'll just have to study," or "I'm gonna' make it." If this attitude is permanent and takes hold throughout the ranks of the Blacks on campus, there will be no problem in "getting over."

by Fred Williams

**NOTICE!!!** Any work-study student interested in working at the House, please leave your name and phone number with Clarence Wine [Office of Student Life]. Interviews will be scheduled by the end of next week. Many jobs are available for all interested work-study students. There are no restrictions on applicants, everyone is welcome!

### STAFF

Denise Adams  
Gloria Adger  
Brenda Boyd  
Pat Camp  
Greg Gibson  
Jerry Highsmith  
Betty Johnson  
Linda Lockhart  
Fred Williams  
Tyrone Farris—Editor  
Clarence Wine—Advisor

# SEPTEMBER 1973

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Afro - Coffee 7:30 - 8:30 Student Union (8-8)      18	19	20	<u>Dance</u> (livestock center) 21
Exec. Board meeting (B.C.H.)      25	LBC meeting (GCB 204) 26	Speaker 27	28

**Warning: Four Hour Waiting Lines  
 Have Determined That Failure to  
 Pre-register is Dangerous to Your  
 Health.**

**LBC/msa  
 100 Read Hall  
 University of Missouri  
 Columbia MO 65201**

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# The Black Letter

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## Black Studies Alive But Not Well

In Black Studies departments at other universities being cut, the University's version of a Black Studies program is still in existence, struggling for enrollment and recognition from a new generation of unaware Black students and support from a less than enthusiastic administration.

The Black Studies program here consists of courses offered in various departments that are in some way related to Blacks. A student who wants to declare a minor emphasis in Black Studies can arrange a program with the help of a Black Studies committee, composed of 12 members, including three student representatives. The undergraduate courses are mainly in Arts and Science and the College of Administration and Public Affairs.

Dr. Arvarh E. Strickland, who was chairman of the committee from its inception until this year, commented, "What the Black student needs is the kind of skills he can use to contribute to his community and the world. The question still arises: What does a student do with a degree in Black Studies and nothing else?"

He said when the alternative of Black Studies courses rather than a separate Black Studies department was chosen, he envisioned the University getting courses in relevant areas and employing people to teach these courses, and making them a part of the faculty.

"I don't like to see instant experts instruct a course," Dr. Strickland remarked.

Dr. Strickland said four problems arose: (1) there was no employment of faculty members, (2) there was virtually nothing as far as finances from the University, (3) Black students were disappointed over the Black Studies philosophy, (4) the programs were not coordinated effectively.

"The University has not done its best to attract Black faculty, limiting what can be done in those areas. It's not because they (Black qualified faculty) don't exist," said Dr. Strickland.

He considers it the "height of folly" to have only one Black faculty member, when a nucleus of Black faculty is needed.

Dr. Paul E. Nelson of the speech department and a former committee member elaborated on this by saying Black professors are needed as models for Black students, preferably someone between 25-35 who is not only a scholar but also knows what's going on.

Dr. Peter Hall, the committee's new white chairman, claims "ignorance of what the committee has done in past years." He said that there will probably be a continuation of things done in the past in the form of getting more course offerings, and coordinating and publicizing them.

Dr. Hall said four or five years ago he wouldn't have agreed with the idea of a "minor" emphasis. He was one of the developers of a Black and Chicano studies program at the University of California in Santa Barbara.

"Right now," he said, "it's the best idea because a Black Studies department could be starved to death."

However, one former committee member who asked not be named calls the University's program "mere tokenism" and the committee a "source of frustration."

"No new courses were created; old ones were tied together and called a program to keep things quiet for Blacks," he said.

Members of the committee felt last year's Black symposium was successful and plan to have another this year, probably next semester. Representatives in education, sociology, English, and political science were brought to the University. Committee members hope to get more MU faculty involved in this one.

Dr. Nelson saw one of the Black Studies committee's problems as the committee format itself.

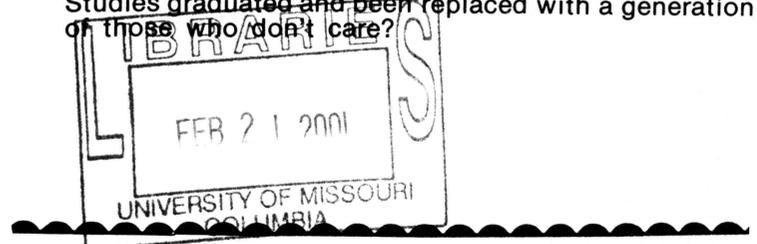
"Motivation for committees is not all that good," he said. Interest in Black Studies classes does not seem to have dropped, but Nelson pointed out that some of the excitement of the '68-'69 era has gone.

Suggestions for specific improvements were the expansion of Project START, more counseling programs for faculty on Black advisement, and publicizing the Black Culture House to the faculty.

Anyone interested in the program should check out the brochure put out by the committee at the College of Arts and Science. Courses under the Black Studies program in different departments are listed. One new course, "Economy of the Black Community," attracted only three students.

Dr. Nelson warns students to beware of some of the courses offered in the brochure. The professor may offer only one day of lecture on Black related material the entire semester.

Dr. Hall said he would like to have input from LBC. The committee appears to be bogged down by lack of adequate backing and no clear cut direction to take. Have all the Black students who clamored for Black Studies graduated and been replaced with a generation of those who don't care?



# Organization Fights For Black Recognition

The riots of the sixties produced more than black rage and white fear. They produced Black action. Across the nation, Black people united, to get involved. On campus after campus, Black students banned to stand up for their rights.

Here, at the University, the Legion of Black Collegians, (LBC), was founded. The constitutional purpose of this organization is: "to assist the Black students of this University in developing a lasting appreciation of the social, moral, intellectual, and cultural values that will give the student a complete and rational meaning for his academic and future existence."

In its infancy, LBC had the distinction of fighting for and ultimately winning funds for its activities from MSA. LBC was instrumental in securing funds for the remodeling of the Black Culture House.

The 1973 school year has found LBC already speaking on behalf of Black students. The most publicized issue was Black band members' participation in the Veiled Propher Parade in St. Louis. Again LBC got results. Black band members boycotted the parade.

Organized so no one person has controlling power, LBC is administratively run by the Executive Board. Its elected members this year are: Marvin "Rock" Thompson, Executive Secretary; Fred Williams, Communications; Mike Carter, Campus-Community; Glenn "Red" White, Economics; Linda Prewitt, Student Activities, and Tyrone Farris, Political Education.

Recently, an African Student Affairs Committee has been added to the Executive Board. The primary purpose of this committee is to better relationships and understandings with African Students.

Even though "Black rage" has quieted, LBC is still very active. They have not given up the struggle to get more Black faculty on the University campus. Newspapers, congressmen, and the NAACP, have been contacted to help pressure the University. Letters have also been written to the administrative officials of the University.

On campus, LBC has started its Afro-Coffee House and plans are underway to provide films for Black students. The Big Sister and Big Brother Program of last year will be expanded to tutor local high school students. LBC is also planning to bring noted speakers this year.

But things don't always come easy to LBC. Just like any campus organization, they fight for student attendance at regular meetings. On the average LBC has about 40-50 active Black members. As some members point out, it's not that Black students don't care, most of them turn out and unite in a crisis. The only problem is that LBC needs members to work. Suggestions to help remedy this situation are now being considered by the organization.

But, for those who don't have LBC on their calendar of events, remember, it is your organization; if you don't support it, no one else will.

## "Insincerity" Plagues Worthwhile Organization

One of the enterprises of LBC, the Big Brother-Big Sister Program is now in its second year. The success of the program is not really up to expectations. The idea for the program grew out of two ideas: the YMCA tutorial program in Columbia two years ago and the then existing National Association of Black Students' desire for some constructive action. In the words of Alonzo Peters, the pilot of the Big Brother-Big Sister Program, the YMCA program fell on its face because of "the insincerity of the individuals involved."

At the first session he attended there were 50 girls from Stephens College and the University, but after the fifth and sixth sessions this number radically diminished. However, a comparison can be made with last year's initial 40 volunteers which soon decreased to about 15. As Petey put it, "Niggers didn't do any better than white folks in staying in there and taking the good with the bad."

The main problems with the program were the constant hassles with the children and the lack of transportation. Being a Big Brother or Big Sister isn't as easy as it sounds. The kids you are dealing with are individuals. "They are Black, they are proud, and they are bad. When you first meet the child, he or she may call you anything from ugly to an S.O.B."

When Petey asked some of the little girls what they wanted in their Big Sister, they often said one with a car, light complexion, and long hair. Replacing these materialistic ideals and values of beauty are one of the aims of the program. The kids are at an impressionable age and this is a good time to impress them with the value of education. For the Big Brother or Big Sister this is an opportunity to escape from the artificial college community and to see a projection of yourself when you were the age of one of the little sisters or brothers.

# Tutoring Program Benefits Students

Everyone has experienced a feeling "being totally lost" in one class or another. Oftentimes, it's hard to follow a professor's line of reasoning; sometimes you simply aren't interested. Perhaps you really never learned how to take good notes.

As a safeguard to all these problems, the Office of Minority Students is offering (and has since last year) a tutorial program.

The program, Project Help (A.S.A.P.)-as soon as possible- is free to all minority students who feel the need to get help in a particular area.

Working on a one-to-one basis, the program offers better reception for dialogue in relations to the regular classroom atmosphere.

Sheila Moore, one of the students using tutorial help, said she feels the one-to-one relationship that has been established by tutors and students has been beneficial to her.

The tutorial program is open to all students with an emphasis on minority students. Nevertheless, of the estimated 600 Black students on campus, about 150 are actually utilizing tutorial facilities.

Clarence Wine, coordinator of Minority Students, said the program employs twenty-five tutors and is considered one of the more effective programs the office has initiated.

Most of the students coming to the sessions seek help mainly in the areas of math and English with a somewhat lesser emphasis being placed on foreign languages.

As an outgrowth of the tutorial program, the Office of Minority Students is engaged in study skills sessions every Thursday from 6-7 p.m. at Read Hall.

This program is designed for persons who may not necessarily need tutorial help but need assistance with study skills, note-taking, improvement in reading or better distribution of study time.

"Tutors refer students to this session," Wine said. "And we help prepare them for their exams. We try to increase their reading rate, comprehension and concentration span. We also have practice sessions in note-taking and writing term papers."

Black Greek lettered organizations on the University's campus have often been accused of not being involved or concerned with the needs of Black people and being primarily concerned with their own social activities.

After talking with several of the sororities and fraternities, the opposite was true. Actually, these groups are very aware of the needs of other Blacks in the community and even throughout the state.

In the coming months, the Deltas will be busy trying to rebuild their scholarship fund. This semester they gave a \$100 scholarship to Marvin "Rock" Thompson, and next semester they hope to do the same for some other Black student in need of financial assistance.

Also among the Deltas' plans are to entertain children in the ward at the University Medical Center.

The Alphas are planning a Halloween Party on Oct. 31 for the school children in the community. Sharing the party with the Martin Luther King Scholarship Committee from Stephens, Artie Hill said they hope to award prizes to the child with the best costume.

The AKAs said they have plans to give a party at the Booneville Boys Center and to entertain at the Biggs Hospital in Fulton some time in November.

Charleen Tinsley also said the AKAs are hoping to start a V.D. information program which would sponsor speakers and provide various information on the topic.

Charles Mayweather of the Omegas said various members of his frat are participating in the local Big Brother-Big Sister Program and are also helping to supervise the Black Boy Scout troop in town.

One of the projects the Omegas are working on for the future is to get the Douglas gym open in the evenings to supervise the kids from the community in sports activities and, in general, just give them some place to go.

Although not all of these plans are definite, it does show that the groups are trying and that they are really concerned with more than just 'partying'.

Markee said he had hopes that programs such as these would expand and go into more depth.

"There is a need for specific placement in student affairs. It will be up to staff members to examine the feasibility of the situation and determine where to go from here."

## The Waterbug Theory

PEOPLE Skipping like a waterbug  
Across the pools of know  
They never stop to look beyond  
What the surface shows.

GIVING Moments without memories  
That hop from time to place  
As bodies crash into the eyes  
Of earth's uncaring face.

LIVING Mistaking truth for one more game  
Played with ruthless rage  
With nothing more to offer life  
Than peace trapped in a cage.

LOVE Beyond the signposts of marked time  
After all the fears  
Nature hides a peaceful gift  
In which all storms may clear,

ALMOST Lost in a labyrinth of hate  
While mistrust hides the key  
With plastic wings faith has to fly  
Above a thoughtless sea.

?

Then like the fleeting waterbug  
Man too may find a know  
Once he begins to look beyond  
The things the surface shows.

—Robert B. Price

# Minority Office Welcomes Student Input

Need a tutor? Have some suggestions as to a possible concert? Just need help, period? Well, the Office of Minority Students located in Read Hall (down the street from the Union) may be just what you need to check out.

Clarence Wine, coordinator, said, "The purpose of the office is to work directly with Black students in developing an atmosphere on campus that will allow them to persist here at the University of Missouri."

Wine, who took over the office this year said, "In essence, we're concerned about the students' educational, sociological, economical, and psychological growth."

For many freshmen, the stress on educational strength may have become a tired axiom, but for most upper classmen, the stress is a necessary one. The 'white tiger' has gobbled up many Black freshmen, simply because they were not prepared for the educational situation that exists at the University.

Also of concern to most Black students is the financial situation for the coming years. "We don't have access to a great deal of money but we work closely with George Brooks (financial aid department) in dealing with specific problems of Black students," Wine said.

"George Brooks has been more than cooperative in trying to cut down on the type of problems I present to him," Wine stated. Brooks has made trips to student meetings in an effort to talk directly with Black students about these problems.

This is not to say all of the various financial problems one has will be solved. "Federal guidelines are set up--but we can make the student aware of what's going on," Wine said.

An advisory student committee serves to get the kind of input needed to go into the problems not recognized by the office. Four freshmen, four sophomores, four juniors, etc. all the way up to faculty members serve as a buffer between students and the office itself.

Offices like the one here at the University are working with Black students at just about every major white institution in the country. All schools in the Big 8 and Big 10 have such an office and all work in close conjunction with one another.

Looking towards the future, Wine would like "two full-time professional counselors on the staff--one male and one female." Currently, Jennifer Hill is serving as an academic advisor for students.

That's enough rap for now, the rest lies with you, how successful do you want your college education to be? Read Hall and the Office of Minority Students might be able to make it more successful, or at least keep you here. Check it out.



## Notice

1. Remember to pre-register-Oct. 29--Nov. 2
2. Pre-law students--on Mon. & Wed. between 9-11 a.m., at 612 Kuhlman Ct. information available on tests and bulletins from every law school in the country.  
Dr. Paul Nelson is chief law advisor.
3. Junior and Senior law students should go to Read Hall and get applications and information on the UMKC Minority Law Student Recruitment Conference being held Oct. 25, at Lincoln U. from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
4. Anyone needing to sign up for Black Directory go to Read Hall now.

STAFF Denise Adams Gloria Adger Brenda Boyd  
Greg Gibson Jerry Highsmith  
Linda Lockhart  
yrone Farris-Editor  
Advisor

The black letter.  
Received on: 02-21-01  
University of Missouri -  
Columbia

by Gloria Ac

BC/msa

### THE REAL MAN

The REAL man possesses understanding.

He's considerate and responds to his woman's needs..desires..feelings..

He respects his woman, her ideas, her dreams...

He's gentle yet firm, revealing his eagerness to love and to be loved.

He captivates his woman with his lovemaking--reassuring her of his masculinity--Never doubting she knows he's complete and beyond all praise....

Yet a REAL man exposes Himself...

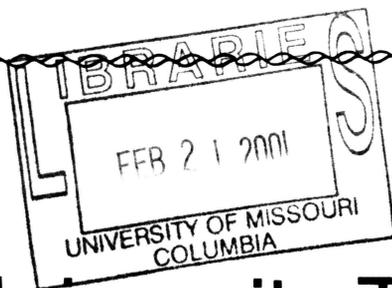
He never fears to reveal his emotions...He reacts in a way that shows his sincerity...Never afraid that others will laugh at his REAL emotions...

But more than 'anything----a REAL man CRIES

# The Black Letter

Volume II Number 3

November/December 1973



From: A University Tradition

## Few Blacks in Law School

In 1933 Lloyd L. Gaines entered Lincoln University. He graduated with honors in 1937 and immediately applied for admission to the School of Law at the University of Missouri. He was denied admission because he was Black. Gaines went to court over the issue and after many months of courtroom battles and setbacks, his case went before the United States Supreme Court.

On December 12, 1938, Chief Justice Hughes delivered the 7-2 decision of the Court. The state of Missouri had deprived Gaines of his constitutional rights by not providing a law school that he could attend. The University and the state, (not wanting to be undone) interpreted the court's ruling and decided that by establishing a law school at Lincoln University for Blacks, Gaines could be denied admission to the University and thereby maintain the all white tradition.

Gaines, determined to enter the law school at the University, decided to press on with his fight. Needing money for the battle, he went to Chicago seeking employment. On March 19, 1939, he mentioned to a frat brother that he was going out to get some stamps. He has never been seen or heard from since.

It is rumored that a Black or two graduated from the law school here in the fifties. The football team was integrated in 1959. It is a fact that a Black graduated in December, 1971 from the law school, and Ollie Mack will be either the second, third or fourth Black to graduate from the law school.

Ollie has been here for three years. After three years at the University you sort of get a feel for what's going on. "As of now, there are four full-time Black students in the law school," he said. "If a Black applies and is qualified, he has no problem getting in, but the school doesn't go out of its way to recruit Blacks.

"The law school does have a program called Minority Recruitment but I would say it is more of a token thing than a truly functioning program."

Ollie organized a chapter of the Black American Law Student Organization and was officially recognized by the University in 1972. The organization had a budget of \$500 and used it primarily for recruiting more Blacks. He emphasized that Blacks planning to apply for law school should score well on the entrance exam.

"We also have a Legal Aid Society at the law school which is free," he said. "If anyone needs legal assistance call us at 882-6753."

Law school scholarships are available. There are also programs that allow an undergrad with 90 or more hours to be admitted and work towards a law degree while completing undergrad work. Charles Hampton is a brother enrolled in this program.

It has been but a few years since Lloyd L. Gaines and 1938. Some things have changed and some things have not. The law school is here, so think about it.

# Too Many Cooks.....

## Homecoming '74—A Time of Unity or Chaos

Year after year the battle is waged. Who is going to give the Homecoming dance? Homecoming '73 is over yet the real problem is just beginning.

In the past, as far as University Blacks are concerned, the campus greek organizations provided the Homecoming weekend activities. This arrangement was fine as long as there were only four Black greek organizations present. It was easy for the sororities and fraternities to pair up, each taking a day and scheduling their dance.

But what is going to happen next year? By Homecoming '74 there will be seven Black greek organizations on campus. Which one gets the Homecoming weekend?

The easy way out would be for greek organizations to take a "first come, first serve" attitude, with the justification being "we need the money." Not only will this eliminate the problem but it will split the Black population into a thousand different factions. Black solidarity will be one step further away.

A second alternative would be for the groups to pair up and add one more activity to the Homecoming weekend. This idea isn't bad but it would still leave one group out of the picture. Here, too, we would have the problem of deciding who gets what day.

A third alternative would be for all the greek organizations to unite with LBC. Not only would this accomplish the goal of Black unity but it could also be profitable to everyone.

The first step toward activation of this plan would be for all the greek organizations to pool monetary resources. This added to the funds available to LBC could be used to bring a really big name group on campus. This would have the dual affect of attracting everyone on campus to participate in Homecoming and attract larger numbers of people from other campuses as well.

LBC could sponsor a dance on one of the nights, the show could be on one other night and if the student body wants, another activity could be given over the course of the weekend.

The entire profit could be split among the contributing organizations with LBC receiving the largest portion.

In an effort to get popular opinion of this idea, The Black Letter decided to get a sampling of student opinions.

Linda Walls, AKA sorority, says, "Anything to give us a better Homecoming weekend. We need something to bring more Black alumni up here. Right now Homecoming is just another weekend."

Pam Bryson, Sigma Gamma Rho, says, "Homecoming should be a time for everyone to get together and make a really big weekend. It should be something for everyone to participate in. I think this would be a good idea."

Beverly Scott, a senior, says, "Why didn't someone think of this before? It would have saved someone a lot of money."

Sherree Butler, a freshman, feels "It's a good idea but I don't know if it will work. The organization may not work. You've got to have that unity."

Dwight Jarrett, Omega Psi Phi, says "The idea is good but I don't think it would work. It may bring about more conflicts. To take a perfect example, Pan Hellenic Council has been trying to function at least three months and hasn't accomplished anything yet. You would have frat against frat and sorority against sorority. The group with the most members would run it."

James (Tink) McClelland, Kappa Alpha Psi, says, "The idea sounds all right, but you have to realize too many chefs will spoil the soup. There are too many organizations and LBC isn't strong enough to control them all. Everyone is going to want to do something different when it comes to the activities."

Beverly Williams, Delta sorority, says, "I think this idea would be bad because we wouldn't make that much profit. But I think its good because it would bring greeks together more as a group and end so much separatism on this campus."

Gary Crowder, Alpha fraternity, says, "You would have to have an advisory board with representatives from all the organizations. Each organization would have to give full power to their representative. That's the only way it would work. If you have 50 different people you have 50 different opinions."

It is obvious, however, before this idea can become a reality, greek organizations are going to have to take the first step. But this is the only way Homecoming '74 is going to survive.

---

### The Unexpected

Out of the dark lagoon,  
From the craters of the moon,  
Rising from the sacred tombs,  
Comes the unexpected.

Up from the deepest seas,  
Falling from the highest trees,  
As painful as the stings of bees,  
Comes the unexpected.

Throughout the world from all parts,  
Results of techniques of modern arts,  
Even—from the human hearts,  
Comes the unexpected.

*Linda Rockelle*

---

# In-Sanity

Trying to stay insane and keep an identity with nothing to identify with...

Except my teeth (having been born with two)—  
I am caught—accidentally—I find my selves in the  
Multi-coloured world of a stolen past of  
sometimes forced exotic moments...

My companion (confusion) smashes steadily at my torn mind.  
Self-acceptance of my own miserable state comes  
Accompanied with ragged insides of twisted...

manipulated...  
entrails...

Trampled and beaten—all but eaten

Solely by the strength of a socially sick society.

Solely repaired by the strength of my own insanity:

Caused by the ugly rejection of a sane, decent, and natural  
world filled with "four" insane me's.

For as I look at you, world...As I see your milleau of faces  
And your multicoloured pupil-less eyes—I see the reflexion  
Of my me's. Looking at my **selves** and my **natures**,  
I am smashed and attacked again repeatedly by the  
Hard directly undiverted stares and the painfully twisted faces  
Of my selves...I feel no warmth. I feel no thing  
No trace of love. Only a mystical collaboration of cells  
That make up a forgotten  
and

ignored history

Of unreal hate that can cause disgust from absurdities.  
The disgust causes me to vomit "pure" blood leaving  
Only, the impurities behind to cause the unletting pain,  
I will feel inside from the sickness of mental incapacity.  
I will curl up like the worm who fears only the

Trodding Foot of Fate

I will die from sanity...Being insane, I pretend  
Not to care.

Robert  
B.  
Price

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## Face It

He doesn't want you anymore  
He's found someone new...  
It's hard to believe, but  
it's really true...

You felt him growing farther  
away, never once realizing why  
Never asking...showing no concern at all  
He wanted something money can't buy...

*Gloria Adger*

He wanted what you had all along  
You...as a woman, a lover, a friend  
You wouldn't give this to him...but  
he has all that now and much more,

He's got me...

# "Fighting Shirley" Still Fighting

"This country is superficial and gullible when it comes to choosing leaders and placing priorities," New York Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm said in an Oct. 29 speech at the Hearnes Multipurpose Building.

Chisholm, the main speaker of AWS' Women's Week, addressed an audience of about 2,000 saying, "Men are so concerned with superficial issues that they're missing the main and most important factor—human preservation."

"What this country needs is leaders—homosapien leaders. Some men and some women who will re-evaluate the American values and priorities."

A candidate for the 1972 presidential election, Mrs. Chisholm said now more than ever women are needed to lead in American politics.

"But, women will face prejudice when entering these roles—in fact when doing anything 'outside the norm.'

"Few Americans are actually free from racism and anti-feminism. These are the two greatest ills of this country," she added.

Chisholm noted that educated women were needed to work in the country. "You can't just get a diploma, then put it on the shelf and forget it," she said.

"Your education has been a failure if it fails to prepare you for the challenges in our society."

As a final comment, Congresswoman Chisholm remarked to the predominately white audience, "If I am Black and a woman and can do it, how much easier it will be for those of you who have only one strike against you!"

In a rap session that followed Shirley Chisholm said she would support impeachment proceedings against Nixon.

"But I don't really think, when it came to a vote, that Congress would support an impeachment."

When asked if she had made plans to enter the '76 presidential race, Mrs. Chisholm smiled and replied, "No."

## For Your Information

"The Black Student in Higher Education, 1974," is the title of a conference being sponsored by The Minority Students Programs at the University on November 29, 30 and December 1, 1973. The purpose of the conference will be the examination of Black Students' relationship to minority students programs, assessment of the status, problems and progress of Black students in higher education, and an exchange of ideas on successful programs. Conference participants include Black faculty and administrators from the University, Lincoln University, Michigan State University, Duke University, and the University of North Carolina A & T.

Structured around a series of workshop sessions, the conference will cover a variety of aspects of the Black student in higher education. Some of the topics to be covered in the workshop sessions are "Career Opportunities for Black Professionals," "Career Planning for Black Women," and "Academic Achievement of Black Athletes." Anyone interested in participating should see Clarence Wine, 100 Hall.

The communications committee needs a C work for three hours a week on radio station KC There is a possibility of having a weekly show.

## For Our Sisters

Once there was no me and you  
the soft warm winds found not two  
Some time some place we were one  
Expanding our Soul beyond the Sun.

Our union was strong built on trust  
A grain of sand could not separate us  
Love was the essence of our Soul  
We were the ocean, the waves, the shore.

Ebony wood inside the jungled mire  
You were the fuel and i the fire  
I was the darkness and you the night  
You were the strength and i the might

The passage of time has found you and me  
Separate, enslaved yearning to be free  
Strangers and strangeness keeping us two  
You denying me and me denying you.

The key to the past  
Loneliness we once had  
to lead us back home  
Loneliness that's now gone.

Your Brothers

LBC/msa

The black letter.  
Received on: 02-21-01  
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Columbia

# The Black Letter

Volume II Number 4

December/January 1974

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## The Education

I am an individual.  
I am frightened.  
I walk around in a remotely distant world.  
I am looking for something to identify.  
I find my face in a reflective window.  
I see Flip Wilson's face on a displayed game in a store...staring at me and laughing at everybody.  
I can't understand this world I am in.  
It lacks the things that I know.  
Am I the alien, the stranger, the invisible one?  
Am I the Native Son?  
I see another Black face coming my way... through the crowd.  
I am prepared to pass the sign of awareness.  
It passes me...looking at Flip's laugh, wondering what it is—and it doesn't see me.  
With no comforting, reassuring "hello," I pick up my pace.

I know I have confidence in myself.  
I always won when we played the dozens at home.  
I can't even buy a rib or two now.  
Momma said, "You got to make it, boy, at all costs. You got to."  
My teachers do not see me.  
My teachers do not hear me even when I speak up.  
I speak up only to be answered by a Marlboro cigarette butt tossed from out of nowhere.  
Even if I could get ribs here, I could not buy any.  
Peanut butter is just as good when I am eating it.  
Grandpa said, "Be sure and mix it with honey. Lots of vitamins."  
Thank's Doc.  
Walking fast.  
Honey. Speaking of honey, where are all the honeys?

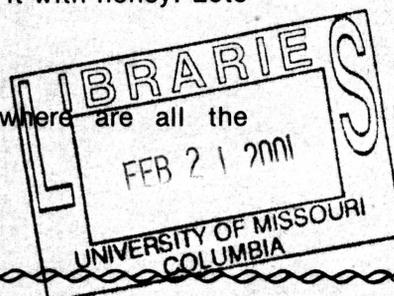
Where are all the sisters?  
There are lots of honeys, but the only sister I saw passed me like I was standing still.  
She was speeding.

I hear music.  
I hear music.  
It sounds like...oh, it's Elton John.  
It should be the Jive Five, or Charlie 'Bird,' or...  
I do not like Dimensions.  
Another Black face...ha! And this dude has got a corned roll head.  
I know that does a job on their minds.  
The first one I saw blew me out.  
I am running. I know because I am out of breath.

What is that noise? Huh?  
Those are flashing red lights.  
Me?  
Why?  
I was running from what?  
Hey, man, I might have been stepping fast.  
Now **there** it is.  
These are my books, man.  
What woman's purse?  
That cat don't look nothing like me...  
????????????????????????????????  
I am the alien, the stranger, the visible one.  
I am a frightened individual.

Robert B. Price

LBC/msa



# Woman Hood

ONCE, A LONG TIME AGO, I WAS A STRONG GIRL.  
NO MAN COULD MASTER MY MIND...  
NO MAN COULD TRY TO RULE ME...  
NO MAN WOULD SHOW DISRESPECT TO ME...  
NO MAN WOULD SEE MY WEAK POINTS.  
BUT NOW, THAT'S NOT TRUE.  
YOU SEE...A MAN HAS CONTROL OF ME  
AND HE KNOWS MY SHORTCOMINGS...  
I WAS A STRONG GIRL BUT I AM NOW A  
WOMAN—JUST LIKE EVERYONE ELSE.

Gloria Adger

## *My Friend—The Enemy*

YOU HURT ME...  
YOU HUMILIATED ME...MY PARENTS...  
MY BROTHERS...  
YOU TREATED ME LIKE I WAS NOBODY.  
YOU SPIT IN MY FACE,  
EACH TIME DEGRADING ME EVEN MORE...  
YOU ABUSED ME, LIED ON ME, CHEATED ME...  
AND DISCRIMINATED AGAINST  
MY FAMILY...MY PEOPLE...

YET, I'M NOT MAD...I'M NOT ANGRY...  
I MEAN...DO I SEEM THAT WAY?

## No More “bitches” and “who’es”

For a people to exist and progress, there has to be some semblance of self-respect and mutual respect between the sexes. For a true revolution to take place, love must triumph over self-hatred. The Black Revolution is fizzling.

Until “niggers” can see that a “bitch” is a dog and not their mommas and a “who’e” is a prostitute and not everybody’s grandma sells “it,” then the Black Revolution will die. Until Sisters demand respect and begin to realize that they deserve respect, the Revolution will continue to be a tool of punk-ass, chump niggers to “get over.”

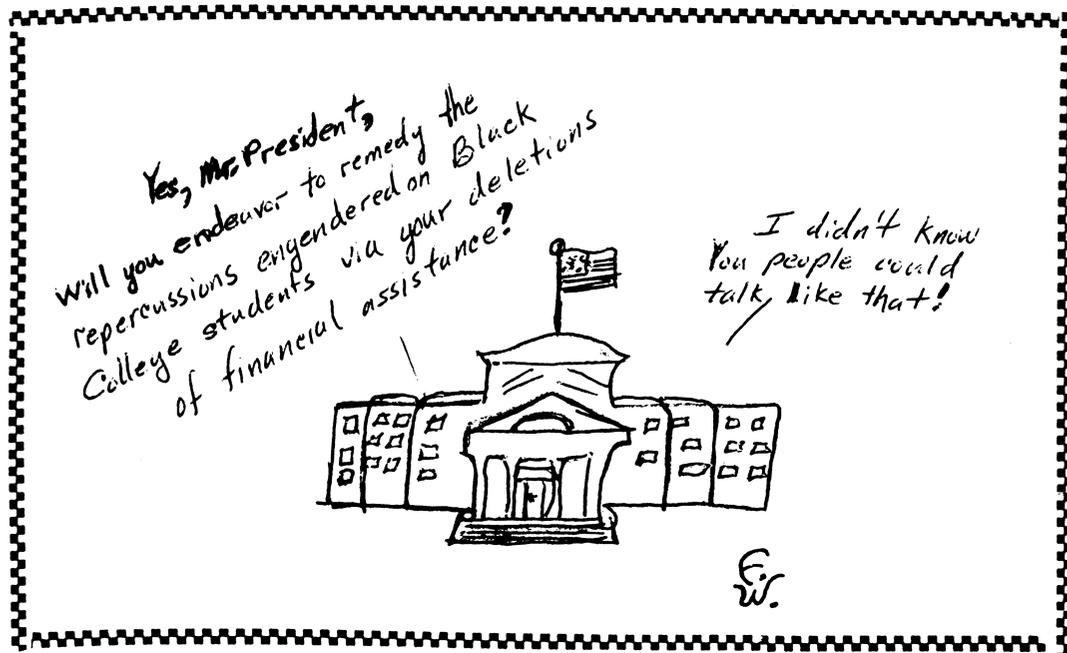
Sisters, you’re somebody and there is no reason for you to suffer the immature, degenerate, and ego-killing epithets that Black men use in an effort to find a false masculinity. Their ignorance should not be your undoing. It is up to you to be their teachers and help little boys become real men.

The Black Letter

## *Without My Love*

Without you—  
I would have only a fraction  
Of life defying defunctions.  
Without you—  
My body would be completely  
delapidated,  
I would be a mere trifle,  
Exiled from the bonds of humanity.  
Without you—  
I would exist only with the  
consciousness  
That we be joined serenely-someday-  
somewhere-soon.  
Without you my love,  
Without you...

Linda Rochelle



## Think About It, Please

I was created a human being,  
I was born into a people,  
I was made into a race,  
I was given a name,  
I was forced with an identity,  
I live a life,  
And I am...

It is said that,  
My great-grand-father was a colored man,  
My grand-father was a negro,  
My father was an Afro-American,  
I am black,  
But we all are "niggers."

My great-grand-father lived a religious life,  
My grandfather believed in God and in the Bible,  
My father believed in God,  
I believe in self-survival.

My great-grand-father slaved; my grand-father  
Worked; My father borrowed; I take.

My great-grand-father had no freedom only his will,  
My grandfather had some freedom, a way,  
My father had a choice, an objective,  
I have the choice—the thing.

I am black and I am proud.  
Proud of my blackness, or proud that  
I have the choice—the thing.

With modern cosmetology; I can hide my  
Blackness, (what little is left).  
I can even remove the top layer of my skin  
And appear white-like, (sometimes I do).  
I can make my hair straight, put it any color  
I desire; (I do this more and more).  
I can get "their" education and think like  
Them; I could even live like them.  
I can conquer their habits!  
(I'm not forgetting, however, that  
They cheat and steal from me; They abuse  
and kill me. They do this to their own too.  
They, the south, had slaves because They had  
great needs for slaves. They, the north, had  
no big need, so they were the slaves  
so-called friends).

Unified, divided, Individualized, white-like.  
I have the choice—the thing.  
When will I finally choose?

"Niggers"! Check it out.  
We have the power!  
If we'd only utilize it,  
To our advantage.  
Think about it, please!

Because I am...

Linda Rochelle

# The City

I

Smoke stacks, so black against the  
Dusty sun, leaving daytime resembling  
The cloudy dawn and poor people milling  
About like ants trying to build castles in the sand.  
Cars honk, tires screech, and shouts and curses  
Reverberate against hardened  
Institutions amidst the speedy confusion  
Of life that oozes toward extinction.  
Lights flash, darkness thrives and thrives  
On lost love, the essence of the egg, the  
Purpose of sex, yet, sex is lost amidst  
Lust for time—no time to take time.  
Concrete trees and ice cube hearts  
Tangible air and intangible thoughts  
Refuge of plastic people, asylum for  
The lost, city lights don't shine on me.  
Men with wine filled veins and alcohol  
Brains struggle with ghosts and memories  
While ladies of the evening find no comfort  
Where even the baddest hombres took time to rest.

II

Someone's little sister with a mini-short skirt  
Wig on sideways trying to flirt  
Someone's grand/dad begging a dime  
So little sister'll give him some piece of mind.  
Mr. Leroy Jones on his way to work  
Top hot, satchel, and clean white shirt,  
Discussing Nixon, China, and the Vietnam war,  
While accepting dime tips for parking cars.  
Someone's young son leaving for school,  
But really plays hookey to show he's cool,  
Drops some little pills, smokes some bomb weed  
With all his young heart, thinking he's free.  
Crime rates rising, nobody's safe  
Only the crooks on the streets late  
Back in the alleys cops take bribes  
Yes, in the ghettos, only the strong survive.

Tyrone F.

The Black Letter  
Received out of the  
University of  
Columbia

## Issue of Black Dorms

The issue of an all Black dorm has long been on the minds of Black students. When looking at the housing situation of the University, the picture of Blacks is "far in between." Dorm dwelling Brothers and Sisters are engulfed by a sea of whiteness. This overwhelming white environment creates static and interferes with Black cultural comfort.

A few pro on the subject were...more Black solidarity...better communication between Blacks... people of common interest and goals being together. Harold Sims (alias Karo) Assistant Coordinator of Minority Affairs, comments, "The advantages are far and wide, depending on how much is wanted to be done." Finally, Bob Williams, singer/director of the LBC Choir states, "It would be hip, but I think the point is that Blacks are tired of dorms, period. They enjoy their freedom and privacy too much."

Blacks' main statement against a dorm was that Blacks don't know how to live together. Other cons were, "It'll be watched more, and cared for less, it would be difficult for people to study..too loud. Debra Perry bluntly remarked, "too many people in your shit."

Fred Williams

## Wishing All

Wishing All...

- 1) The best of good luck on your finals and don't get too shook.
- 2) The healthiest and happiest holidays and may Santa get "ripped off" in your neighborhood.
- 3) The initiative and ambition to submit poems and essays to the Black Letter. Leave your creative work in 100 Read Hall or mail to 100 Read Hall to Black Letter.
- 4) The time and effort to search your soul and commit yourselves to Black people as a New Year's resolution!

# The Black Letter

Volume II Number 5

January/February 1974

## *Sister Adds Color to MSA Elections*

This year's MSA race for president will not have the usual look of the WASP. A new party has been born and at the helm is Linda Wallace. Linda is a Black woman who will add a new dimension to the student political scene at the University.

A sophomore majoring in political science and journalism, Linda is running on the Developmental Party ticket. Linda's running mate is Gil Hutchins, who is white and a senior majoring in industrial arts education and child-family development.

Linda feels there's a need to get more Blacks active in MSA and a need for MSA to be more sensitive to the needs of Black students. Linda hopes to aid these causes as well as see the formation of a council to study discrimination.

"I've been in classes where Blacks have been on the borderline between two grades and the instructor gave the student the lower of the two grades. Sometimes I think this decision was reached because the student was Black," she says.

Hutchins, who is a past senator of MSA, says running on an integrated slate "is fine with me. I think Linda and I both have a lot to offer MSA." He went on to say that the party has a few key people behind it so things look pretty good so far.

LBC's Marvin "Rock" Thompson introduced Linda and Hutchins when he found out both were interested in running in the upcoming elections. According to Hutchins, the two met, talked over campaign strategy, and filed petitions to become qualified candidates.

While collecting signatures in order to get on the slate, Linda says it gave her the opportunity to see what she was going to be faced with when she vied for the student presidency. "It was interesting," Linda says. "I got stares, and looks, and plenty of hesitation before they would sign."

Most of these reactions came from the white boys which prompted Linda to say, "It is going to be a tough fight, but we're hopeful."

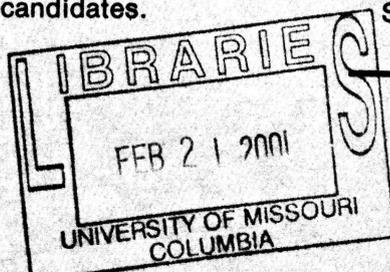
The slate has been filed, now the task of campaigning is underway. Even so, speeches, literature, and political rallies are only a segment of the campaign. Linda and Hutchins are one slate out of several. The election is the story and this is where Black students can make a difference. Whether Black students like or dislike or are indifferent to MSA is irrelevant at this point in time.

Money for Angela Davis and concerts like the Dramatics comes directly from MSA and this flow of cash can be increased or stopped. Linda can make a difference, so it's vital for all of us Black students to give our support to the Sister and get out to vote. The elections are Feb. 20.

### BLACK UNITY

Hey! You big, beautiful, black man,  
I need someone to be my Valentine.  
But wait! I'm already your sister,  
So black brother—You always will be  
mine.

Linda Rochelle



# Letter from Prison

Since most of us suffer from insensitivity to the plight of those who are not near and dear to us, it is no surprise to find little knowledge or concern on our part for our Black brethren who're forgotten behind cold, gray walls of prison. In an attempt to make us aware and bring the true relationship between us and our captive brothers and sisters to light, the following excerpts are from a letter given to us by a Black student. The letter was written by a Black man who is incarcerated in the state penitentiary in Jeff Ctly.

Greetings to you, and the rest of the oppressed people of this country, and the world.

I must mention to you the effects that imprisonment has had on my life. I was sent here to this madhouse at the age of seventeen to do the remainder of my natural life.

There is so much hatred, violence and destruction imbedded in this system. It is the same racist repression that is destroying the people in general, Black people in particular. Knowing this fact Lori, it is not difficult to understand that this country, america, is a prison.

The only difference is that one is maximum and the other minimum security.

Leroy Mayes 18738  
Missouri State Penitentiary

It seems at times that the oppression and violence inflicted upon us here in this madness, people on the outside wouldn't believe it existed, but really it's utterly impossible for me or any of us here to distinguish the oppression and violence we are all victimized by.

Lori, I am constantly thinking about unemployment, underemployment, poverty and malnutrition that are the basic facts of our existence; it's this which sends persons to these concentration camps; it's this which causes so-called crime in general. This place has opened my eyes to the system of capitalism, class interest, surplus value and imperialism which this system perpetuates.

It's this in which we have to recognize the inhumanity inflicted upon the poor and downtrodden people here in this country, and abroad. So what I'm trying to relay is the fact we are all prisoners; and under the yoke of facist enslavement.

Anyone who denies this fact isn't really concerned about a better society, he considers himself free and the attitude relates directly to the petty-bourgeois class society.

In conclusion, Km in hopes that after you read this letter, that you will sit down and try to understand what I am saying—not just with words but with all of me.

nigger,

if

u

is

goin

ta

open

yr/mouth

DON'T CRY, SCREAM.

## STAFF

Denise Adams  
Brenda Boyd  
Greg Gibson  
Jerry Highsmith  
Betty Johnson  
Linda Lockhart  
Fred Williams  
Tyrone Farris—Editor  
Clarence Wine—Advisor

## From the black side...

(a real party weekend!)

Delta Weekend, Feb. 15, 16

THE DRAMATICS, Feb. 17,  
Livestock Pavillion

KOPN, 89.7 FM—Radio in Black—Feb. 18  
from 5:35 to 7:00 pm (just for you)

"A Happy Ending," a bomb Black play directed by Ethel Pitts, Feb. 20-23, at 8 pm in Gentry Hall (a must!!)

Sigma (dudes) Feb. 22

Kappa's thang, Feb. 23

Also, LBC & assoc. Food Coop gettin' together, if you wanna help, contact "Red" or write Food-Coop, c/o LBC, Gentry Hall.

And a reminder that Angela Davis is scheduled to speak, April 4, courtesy of your LBC, and it's free!!

# *LBC grabs the lion's tail*

The Legion of Black Collegians has been busy dealing with the University administration and the figures the administration released on the number of Black faculty members employed. According to two LBC spokesmen, the figures are counterfeit and are an attempt by the University to pass off part-time professors and teaching assistants as full-time professors.

The two LBC spokesmen, Marvin "Rock" Thompson and Glenn "Red" White have been holding press conferences in St. Louis and Columbia in order to refute the claims of the University. In an effort to offset the University's campaign to fool the public, LBC distributed buttons to Black students demanding more Black faculty.

In addition to this, Thompson and White and other LBC members have made trips to the state capitol in an effort to get a less than enthusiastic "Black" caucus involved in the issue. So far, the effort has been less than successful because the "Black" congressmen are more concerned with how they want to be addressed than with solving any problems.

"They didn't give us any respect," Thompson says. "They were suppose to be meeting with us and by the time we got there, only one of them could be found. Then he had to go and find a couple more to meet with us." Thompson says that more trips are going to be made, and more pressure is going to be put on the University to hire more Black faculty and to do less lying.

## Expo No. 2 Is Planned

"Who am I?" and "Why am I here?" are two questions that Black college students are looking to answer. Harold Sims, Counselor for Minority Students, recognizes the pertinence of these questions and feels that through projects like a Sickle Cell

Anemia Drive, Career and Occupational Workshops, and Parent Week-end that the self-knowledge necessary to answer these questions is initiated.

A project currently being planned is the "Sickle Cell Anemia Soulful Awareness Experience." The purpose of the program is to create a non-threatening atmosphere to relate the reality of sickle cell anemia to

college students, school children, parents and other members of the Black community who were previously reluctant to become involved.

The program starts with a joint assembly in which Dr. Nathan Cooke of Lincoln University will discuss the genetics of the disease. This will be followed by an "after party" in the

form of a talent show. Then on March 1 and 2 there will be free testing at the Black Culture House, 511 Turner, between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm.

Auditions have already started for student talent; more participants will be welcomed. Singers, dancers, musicians and all other facets of entertainment are needed. If you have

some talent to share, talk to Harold Sims in 201 Gentry to see how you can be included.

### WHAT CAN I SAY?

I wrote this poem immediately after  
The last time I spoke to you.  
You know that to hurt your  
Feelings would  
Be the last thing on earth that I would  
do.

For I know that without your love,  
What could I say to my friends?  
Except, that the beginning of my life,  
Is about to come to an end.

Oh, my baby, you're my sunshine,  
You're all of my life.  
And if things go the way that I  
planned,  
You'll soon be my wife.

From now on if you're hurt  
By words that I have said,  
Just think of it as being spoken  
By a fool that has no head.

You see, I don't mean to hurt you,  
In any sort of way.  
You know that I love you girl.  
I mean, what else can I say?

Walter Duncan

# project START

Dr. Keener A. Tippin, director of Project START expressed hope for a good summer for this year's participants.

Tippin said he expects about 75 students in this summer's program and the choosing of these students should be completed soon.

Tippin, along with Clarence Wine and several other University officials, have spent the last few weekends travelling to St. Louis and Kansas City to talk with prospective students and their parents to acquaint them with the program.

Communication with the families is one of the most important aspects of Project START, Tippin said. He believes when parents are aware of the problems students must face, this can sometimes make things easier for the students.

Students chosen to participate in the program should be notified by April 15. If you are going to be around the University this summer, it would be hip if you gave some of these new students a few minutes of your time to help them work out any problems they might have. Remember what things were like when you started here?

Must I shoot

the white man

dead

to free the nigger

in his head?

## Wanted: for real black folk

The Big Brother-Big Sister program is still functioning. Many students who asked for little brothers and sisters are not keeping in contact with them. We ask that you get on the case and really be a BIG BROTHER OR SISTER because it really means a lot to the children involved. If you can't get by to see them, you can still keep in touch by calling. They really don't ask for much—just a little time. Also, during the breaks and summer, drop the kids a post card or two.

There are always more children than there are big brothers and sisters to go around. If you think that you might be interested in being a big brother or sister, contact either Petey (Alonzo Peters) or Jerry Highsmith at Read Hall. Remember, it only takes a little time to be a friend.

Sign up, you won't regret it.

## I C, I HEAR, I FEEL, I SMELL, REVOLUTION IN THE AIR

i c poverty  
i hear a baby cry  
i feel reflected in this americas  
i smell revolution in the air

i hear old niggers saying, what's the  
matter with'dem young folks  
i feel there must be a change  
i c that baby growing up  
i smell revolution in the air

i feel i must help make that change  
i c that baby, now grown  
i hear blacks saying brother & sister  
i smell revolution in the air

i smell revolution in the air  
i hear the sounds of guns  
i c the dead & blood running in the  
streets  
i feel the tensions and pressure of  
war

i c the dead  
i hear calls of freedom  
i feel there will be a change  
i smell the fumes of death

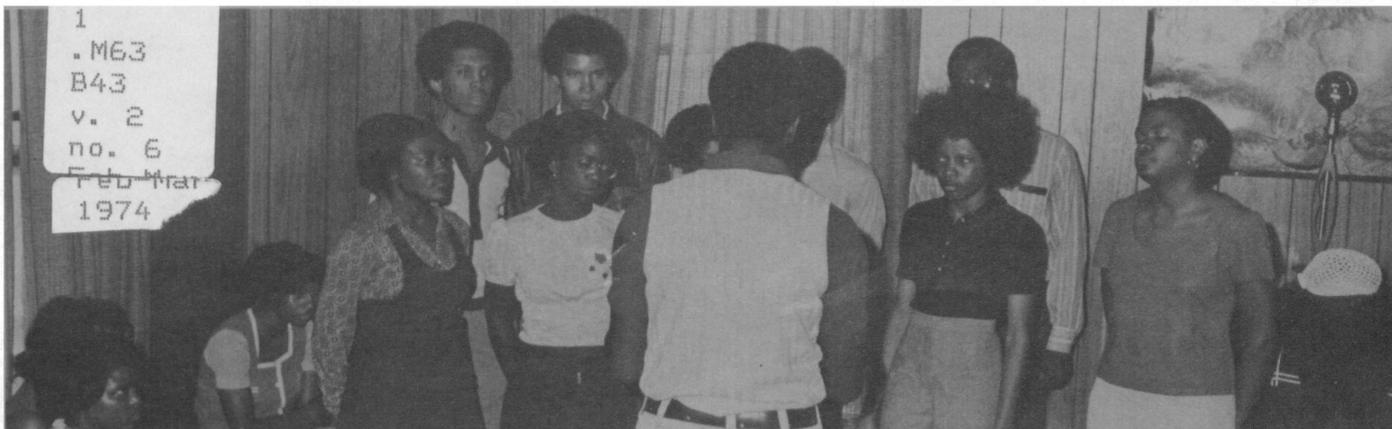
i c the light of understanding and the  
words of wisdom  
i hear words of wisdom, freedom and  
building of nations

I FEEL FREE

i smell the air and it is fresh  
Bob Williams (T.J.)

SPEC-MU  
LH

The LBC Choir



## LBC Choir Seeks Support

The LBC Choir has a problem. It's not a big problem and can be solved without much trouble. What the choir needs is more Black student interest.

Choir director Bob Williams explained that although the choir is now in its second semester of operation, Black student participation both in the form of members and audience is low.

Bob said the most common excuse he receives from Black students is that they don't have enough time. Other than performances put on at the House, Bob said the Black student turnout to hear the choir has been very discouraging.

Response from the community to the choir has been very good, Bob said. He said the community seems to be glad the Black students from the University have gotten the choir together.

The 17-member group is always open to new people and encourages people of all voice types to join.

Future plans for the choir include a Gospel Extravaganza, April 7, at Jesse Hall. Besides the LBC Choir, there will be performances from local choirs as well as some from St. Louis and Kansas City.

Trips to several of the prisons and penal institutions in Missouri and trips to St. Louis and Kansas City later on in the year are also planned.

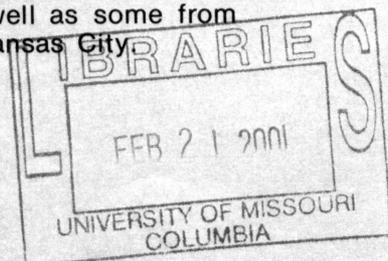
For anyone interested in joining the choir, rehearsals are every Tuesday night at 7:30 p.m. in room 148 of the Fine Arts Building.

Alvaleta Guess plays an important role in the choir. Her singing ability as well as her musical talents helps keep the choir together. Although her time is very limited she finds the time to play and sing for the choir. I feel she is the foundation on which the existence of the choir rests.

We have other talented members who breathe life into the LBC choir and help make it a reality. Jaynette East will make you want to go to church after you taste the sweetness and spiritualness of her voice. Ella Smith, Jackie Wells, Linda Rochelle, Rosalind "Dump" Pennington, and Lori Slaughter, to mention a few of the harmony queens of the choir keep the spirit moving the "amens" coming whenever the choir performs.

Oh yeah, I can't forget the dudes, Glenn "Red" White, Cedric Tate, Michael Carter, Ladelle Flowers, Johnny Felder, and myself. There are only a few of us but we complete the harmony. The LBC choir is a new and young group, but we plan to improve and bloom.

Bob Williams



# Medical Students Fight Racism

It's a whole different world. Grades are harder to get, and just "getting over" is often not enough. The prejudice is more sophisticated, but still there, nevertheless. And being Black, to the majority of your classmates, just means you can answer questions of "what do your people want?"

We can all relate to this situation with very little effort at all. But there is a segment of this campus that could show you the scars, exemplify the battlefield and tell you things are not getting better and maybe getting worse. These are the University's Black medical students.

"Right now the figure is about 15," says Michael Railey, a 2nd year medical student. But when Railey makes that statement you know you aren't getting the full picture. "There is really nothing at this University to entice Blacks to the Medical school." He continues: "This is a difficult profession to get into. Time is a precious commodity—and the pressure of keeping up makes it very difficult to counteract racial problems."

The few efforts the University has made to bring Blacks to the Medical School were fruitless. Part of the reason, Railey says, "Was because the administration doesn't sincerely care. Almost as if they were helping just to say 'We're trying.' But the feeling of wanting us to succeed was missing." The University's "help" was a summer program to improve in those deficiencies it felt Blacks would have upon entering the Medical School. To be "fair," the University included some white students in the program. There were four whites and four Blacks, Railey says during the summer he was in it.

What the University failed to mention, however, was it gave the white students the option of being in the program. It also neglected to mention the course work was more remedial and consequently not as much of a "head start" as it was cut out to be.

Railey feels the idea of a program to help Blacks is fine, but it should really help. More counseling is his first criteria for such a program. He is also quick to list some of the disadvantages. "A program can create polarization because the teachers know you and discuss you regardless of whether or not you know them."

Unfortunately medical school has been the "killer" to many a Black education. The school is aware of this. Railey says, "There is a negative attitude. You are expected to flunk out and are told this constantly. The majority of the administrators don't actually believe Blacks have the inherent ability to make it through medical school."

In a Nov. 21, 1973 Statement of Minority of Admissions, the school's attitude was, "It is simply unrealistic to assume the posture that recruiting Blacks to meet existing admissions and academic standards without prior involvement in their academic programs or altering existing academic programs within the School will be successful."

Now to be fair we must say the statement was revised, but only after Black medical students spoke out. The new statement? "It is untenable to assume that all Blacks will have academic difficulties." And suggestions were made to help an Admissions Committee come up with more (and they hoped academically superior) Blacks. In other words, the attitude was the same.

So far, Railey says, there has been no further action. For financial reasons, academic reasons, and many more, Blacks are going to continue coming to the University School of Medicine. "And," Railey says, "we need the numbers. If for no other reason than to have a Black organizational body on campus to help Blacks interested in medicine." The medical students recently have organized a chapter of the Student National Medical Association, a Black organization with chapters at 97 universities in the U.S.

Another reason for Railey's insistence upon numbers is to show this University there are Black students who will make it through. We are not the dummies this administration wishes we were. There are just so few Blacks here in the first place, it looks worse when we flunk out. And that's true no matter what school you are in.

---

## Black Side .....

**MSA budget hearings upcoming (Time to be announced, and it is your money at stake).**

**AKA's to perform-March 29  
Kappa's showtime-March 30  
ANGELA DAVIS-April 4**

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**You know who you are.**

**Petey is still looking for some big brothers and sisters to participate in the Big brother-Big sister program. Some of the Black folks and some of the Black organizations have not lived up to their commitments to Petey to be a part of this program. What's the deal?**

Uhuru Sasa Chaka's

Salamu Nelugus;

I received The Black Letter, and I can truly say, that it is the foremost interesting news letter I have ever read coming out of Missouri. Such education, information is well needed here in M.S.P. Your collective concern (will aid in) giving the Black man an (easy to) understand collective guide.

There are many good remarks that I can comment on The Black Letter, as personally myself, I salute the staff the The Black Letter. Please continue to send me The Black Letter...Revolution will soon come; it is the people's collective who join unto arm-struggle—it is education that bends the chains on the minds of men, to liberate against racism, and political repression against (the) oppressed all over AmeriKKKa...

Uhuru Sasa  
Comrade Ronrico  
Educate-to-Liberate  
Power-  
Then-  
PEACE.

# Gospel Rocks the House



**Not everybody got off!**

## Students to Visit

The Office of Minority Students is presently involved in the Student Affirmative Action Program at UMC. An increase in the number of minority students on campus is the goal of the program.

Between 800 and 1,000 students from Kansas City and St. Louis are expected to be visiting the campus. Schools such as Soldan in St. Louis and Central in Kansas City will be represented.

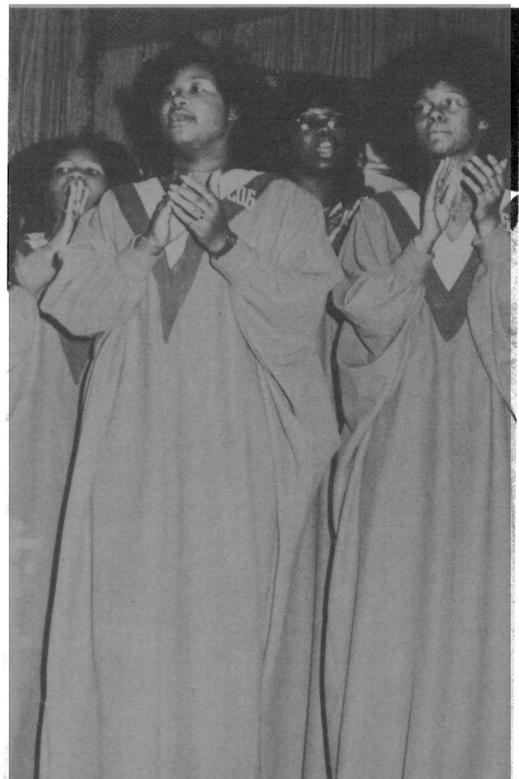
Each group of approximately 95 students will be on campus for one day to receive information about financial aid, housing, admissions and student life. The high school seniors will also have rap sessions with LBC and the Black faculty. They will also tour the Black Culture House, classrooms and a dorm, and talk with a representative in their prospective majors.

The purpose of the program is to serve as a motivational factor for students aspiring to continue into higher education. Clarence Wine and other members of the Student Affirmative Action Program are very optimistic about the success of the program after working with cooperative high school counselors.

Even those who take a dim view of church found the Gospel Caravan, held March 3 at the Black Culture House, to be a refreshing and satisfying experience. The Caravan, set-up under the direction of John Wallace, resident manager of the House, combined talent, spirit, and entertainment to make it the phenomenon it was.

The LBC choir, who hosted the happenin', was sensational and very esthetic as it sang its way through such spiritual statements as "God Will Take Care of You," "Bridge Over Troubled Waters," and "Jesus Be a Fence." Other guest choirs were the Children of God from Columbia College and the St. Luke's Choir of the St. Luke's Methodist Church, both giving the full-house a sample of soul singing and showing that soul is a for real feeling that transcends age.

Ms. Bonita Woods sang a solo, and Rev. Simms of St. Paul talked a few moments, both adding a special dimension to the affair. After the singing and "amens," door prizes were given and refreshments served.



**The Children of God**



LINDA WALLACE

## Elections Unfair

The MSA elections are over and the ballots have been counted. Linda Wallace and the Developmental Party polled some 420 votes, good enough for some place, but not first place.

"The election was unfair," Linda says, "because there was a lot of illegal practices by other slates like tearing posters down, covering posters up, and breaking MSA election rules."

Linda says that MSA is also a bureaucracy which means money will win the election. She and her party spent only \$50 while the top vote-getting slates spent upwards of about \$700. There was a move by some of the slates to get the election thrown out, but it was unsuccessful. However, the Dark Horse Party was thrown out because of unfair campaign practices.

Linda feels the Black student turnout was poor and the foreign student support did not materialize, all of which affected her chances for a victory in the election. If these disappointing circumstances are alleviated next year, Linda says there is a good chance a Black candidate could win.

### STAFF

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Brenda Boyd  
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The black letter  
Received on 02-21-01  
University of Missouri  
Columbia

### News Note:

A Right On to Harold Sims of the Minority office for putting on a bomb Sickle Cell Expo. The music talent was great, style show sexy, and the message vital. For those who missed the event held on Feb. 28 in Jesse, you missed one hell of an experience.

## “Happy Ending”

“Happy Ending” was the story of two Black domestics where the ending really was happy. This short one-act play that was put on in the Gentry Studio Theater is just one example of what Black talent can do and if you missed it you really missed a good one.

Directed by Ethel Pitts, the play starred Alvaleta Guess, Michael Keith, William Osby and Diane Williams.

Ms. Pitts is a speech and drama instructor at Lincoln University and is here working on her Ph. D.

The story revolves around Ellie and Vi the domestics who fear being out of a job because their bosses, Mr. and Mrs. Harrison, are on the verge of getting a divorce.

Junie is their nephew who comes out of a very heavy Black bag and can't understand why his aunts are so upset over the troubles of their white employers.

After the aunts explain to Junie how well they have been living at the expense of their bosses, Junie begins to see just how lucky his aunts are to have their positions and just how smart they are to have taken advantage of the situation.

The happy ending comes when Mr. Harrison phones to tell them he and his wife have decided on a reconciliation and leaves our heroines plotting on how they are going to get some of the new furniture in arrison home.

It was a job well done by all and we would like to make special thanks to all those Black students who came out to the play and showed their support.

# The Black Letter

April-May 1974  
Volume II No. 7

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~~Apr-May~~  
1974

The black letter.  
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Angela Davis Raps at Culture House (photo by Beverlyn Jackson)

# Angela Warns of "Renewed" Racism

Snow flakes clung to the bushy afro and melted against her tinted glasses as Angela Davis made her way to the Black Culture House April 4th. As her tall, willowy figure walked through the door, a somber hush fell over the jammed-packed House before giving way to a thunderous applause. She had really come.

Angela Davis is a legend in her own time and a heroine to most of the Black community. She was welcome change from the usual hum-drum white speakers that frequent the University. She spent a couple of hours rapping to Black students at the Culture House before giving her speech at the Hearnes Building later that evening.

After the rap session at the House, Angela went to a luncheon with a few Black students, held a press conference, and ended the day in Hearnes where she spoke to a predominantly Black audience of about 2,000.

"From what I've heard, there's racism right here on this campus," she said. "You all have an obligation to involve yourselves in the movement to defeat it.

"If you don't get involved in the struggle against racism," she warned, "you are going to be a victim."

Angela cited her own case as proof of this. After she had involved herself in the struggle to free the Soledad Brothers (three Black men who were accused of killing a prison guard, one of the men was George Jackson), she found herself the victim of a racial frameup.

She informed the crowd that a "new, renewed form of racism of the most severe form" is building in this country. She cited as proof George Wallace's new legitimacy, the prominence of Ronald Reagan, and the political suppression of Blacks through the courts which she said is sharply evident in North Carolina, the home of white America's newest celebrity, Sam Ervin, the tongue-tied Watergate detective.

Angela said the National Alliance Against Racial and Political Oppression, of which she is co-chairperson, is planning a march on Raleigh, N.C. to "expose that state." She said 75% of the state's prison population is Black while only 20% of the state's total

population is Black. In addition, she said that of the 72 persons on death row in the U.S., 31 of them are in North Carolina, and 29 of those are Black. Her organization has declared North Carolina a "disaster area" she told the audience.

She defined her role in the movement as only being the medium for thousands of political prisoners across the country.

"Although it was my case that provided the occasion for a particular show of unity, anyone could have been singled out by the government for this kind of oppression. I was no more than one of thousands of those locked behind bars in slave labor and brutality. I was only one victim of the prevailing racism," she said.

Angela urged the Black students to take up the fight here and battle racism at the University as well as the state penitentiary.

"The solution is unity, unity, unity, unity. That is something we can never get enough of," she proclaimed.

## Militants Take Over Meeting

Perhaps the time has come when Black students on this campus have come to realize there are some principles that transcend practicality and logic. At the MSA senate hearings, April 9, Black students (24 to be exact) disrupted the budget hearings to demonstrate their refusal to let the racist student organization continue to oppress them with monumental cuts in LBC's proposed budget for the coming year.

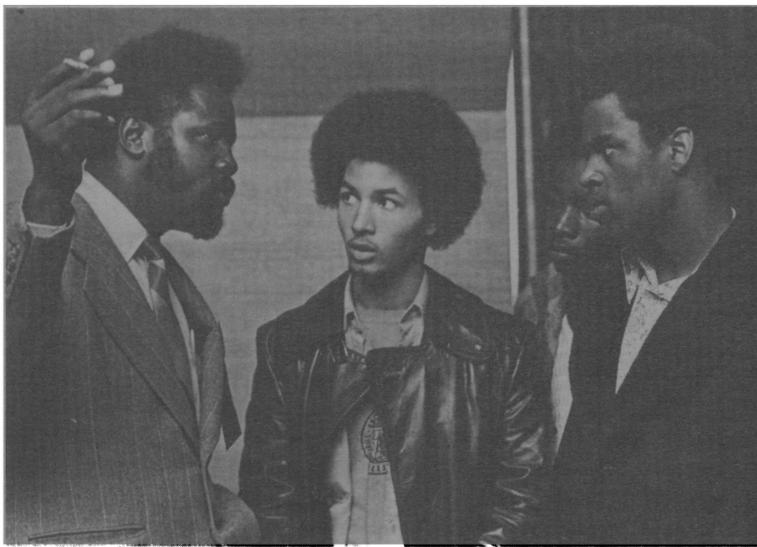
Marching in single file, down the aisle wearing signs protesting racism and oppression, the militant students took over the meeting and brought the proceedings to a screeching halt. When white student senators attempted to recess and leave the Union auditorium, the exits were blocked and the senators made to stay.

One senator screamed that she was not under arrest and wanted to leave. The irony was that this same senator had strongly been urging cuts in the LBC budget and raising strong criticisms to all the allocations LBC had requested. Another significant point to be noted is the consistent efforts of AWS (the white women's organization) to delete monies from LBC and re-allocate them to its own budget.

The Black activist students left the meeting singing "Power to the People" and happy to have finally asserted themselves as the vanguard they were meant to be.

**No slave should die a natural death. There is a point where caution ends and cowardice begins.**

**H· Rap Brown**



Clarence B. Wine (left), Coordinator, Office of Minority Students, talks with George Hedgeman, Cary Flenoy, and Michael A. Bell of St. Louis.

# Affirmative Action Working

Approximately 800 students from Kansas City and St. Louis high schools have attended one-day sessions on opportunities available for minority students at the University.

Participating high schools included Sumner, Beaumont, Central, Northwest, Halter in St. Louis and Lillies in Kansas City.

Wine said, "The purpose of the program is designed to make an assertive effort to acquaint high school students, counselors, and parents with opportunities available to them at the University." Because of past history, there is still some apprehension on the part of many minority students to attend the University Wine said.

University students assisting in the program were Betty Johnson, JoAnn Johnson, and Marvin Thompson. They indicated that feedback received from the students participating in the program was positive and said this was an extremely worthwhile program. About 20 students per group expressed a strong interest in attending the University.

Counselors and parents felt the program should continue but it should include high school juniors, too.

Gospel Extravaganza will be held May 5 from 4:00-8:00 p.m. in Jesse Hall Auditorium. The LBC Choir will host

the event and some of the guest choirs include UMSL Choir and The Salvation Army Choir, both of St. Louis.

## *Racism Must End*

The Legion of Black Collegians have issued a statement detailing the demands of the Black community on campus. The statement calls for an end to the systematic repression against Blacks and the Third World peoples at the University.

The statement says, "The feeling that the University is doing, or has done anything significant to improve the conditions of non-white peoples on the campus is a gross misconception." It goes on to say the University has one of the lowest counts and percentages of Blacks as teachers, professionals and students. It also points out the anti-labor repression used against non-academic employees, the systematic exclusion of Third World students in the areas of programming, ethnic studies and political thought. The Black organization

points out the fact the University is a haven for "comprehensive institutionalized racist and political repression. Missouri is a little Dixie."

The statement issued by LBC demands immediate remedy of five problems resulting from this racist oppression:

- 1) We want more Black faculty—out of a total of 1,600 members, only 19 are Black. Of this 19, less than 10 actually teach a class, two are not hired nor paid by the University, and at least four don't have the title of "faculty."
- 2) More Black students—There are only about 450 Black students enrolled out of a total student body of about 22,000.
- 3) End mis-treatment of Local 45 (non-academic service workers)—MU is bringing a suit against a virtually bankrupt labor union which it refuses to recognize.

- 4) Third World and Black repression must end—As the cost of living goes up, the white student government continues to cut the budgets of foreign students and Black student organizations (the only organizations which program educationally, politically, and socially for their respective members.)
- 5) Stop the Ku Klux Klan—Blacks have been harassed by threats of violence by white groups and individual whites.

The statement is a clear indication Black students know what their problems are at the University, know the source of their problems and have finally gotten to the point where we must say, "There will be No Mo' racism."

# New Exec Board

The Legion of Black Collegians have elected new officers for the '74-'75 school year. The new officers are: Brenda Williams—activities chairperson; Cedric Tate—African Cultural Studies chairman; Willie (Slaughter) Lane—political education chairman; Leroy Williams—communications chairman; Marilyn Quaintance—campus community relations chairperson; Jim Toles—economic chairman and Marvin (Rock) Thompson—executive secretary.

The general aims of the new executive board for the coming year are to apply pressure and more pressure on the University to eradicate the racial injustices at this school, says Marvin Thompson. He says the new board is working to concentrate efforts of all the Black student organizations in the major colleges in Missouri toward the problems at MU, because this campus is the dominant culprit in maintaining the obscene racism that runs rampant on all the campuses in the state.

"We want to make this campus the focal point for our campaign against institutional racism," says Thompson. "We have contacted these campuses and have plans for a positive response."

## More Gestapo Tactics

It has recently been disclosed that LBC has been under surveillance by the University police for a period of several months last year. It was also disclosed that police made regular trips past the Black Culture House to record license numbers of autos without student parking stickers. It is also charged that University police have compiled a list of 1,000 names and have collected intelligence files on them. Although others have been under surveillance along with LBC members, it is a sure bet that out of the 1,000 names

Blacks are well-represented. If the implications of actions like those of the University police weren't so frightening, it would be funny as hell. Who would have thought those little country fags would be into anything more than handing out all them damn tickets! This type of activity on the part of the police should alert us to the dangers that confront us when we go to sleep on our jobs.

**Our will to live must no longer supersede our will to fight, for our fighting will determine if our race shall live. To desire freedom is not enough. We must move from resistance to aggression, from revolt to revolution.**

**H. Rap Brown**

## Support LBC

The purpose of the Black Letter is to provide Black students with a means of communication. It is not meant to be a newspaper nor a comprehensive report on the Black campus community. It is, instead, a means of giving Black students a sense of unity. For the Black Letter is the only press medium Black students have and its designated purpose is to expose our students to some of the things happening in our community as well to be a voice representing and expressing many of our feelings.

Under the auspices of the Legion of Black Collegians, the Black Letter has been able to continue and improve. Today, because of the racist ideology of the white-controlled student senate which resents anything positive emanating from the Black community, the Black Letter faces the possibility of becoming extinct. At this year's MSA budget hearings, LBC's request for \$21,000 of MSA's \$220,000 was cut to some \$8,000. This money did not include funds for the continuance of the Black Letter.

The key to beating the racist senate lies in rabid support of LBC by its Black students. The purpose of LBC and its programs is you, The Black Student. We must agitate, educate, organize.

Yours in the struggle,  
The Black Letter

### STAFF

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# LBC

# The Black Letter

Volume II Number 8

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI  
COLUMBIA

June/July 1974

## Understand Where You Stand

"There was no question as to their right to an education, but the first state constitution adopted after the Civil War had established the policy of 'separate but equal' schools for the white and colored students..."

Though the tone and intent of the above quotation seems to be that of a passage from a post Reconstruction journal or perhaps from a Montgomery, Alabama newspaper, it is not. It is from the **History of the University of Missouri** and deals with the same problem that faced many other white educational institutions: What will we do with the "colored" people; How can we provide for their education without letting them invade our white institution? Thanks to Lincoln University in Jefferson City, the University was able to find an easy way out of the situation facing them and took a firm stand regarding the admission of Black students to the University: All Black applicants were rejected automatically and referred to Lincoln University.

During the 1935-36 term at the University, four Lincoln University graduates applied for admission to the Law, Engineering, Medical and Journalism Schools at the University of Missouri. Though all four applicants were qualified for admission, no action was taken on their applications. The University simply didn't know what to do with "those coloreds." They met and discussed and met and discussed... But still no answer to the question of what to do with the "colored" students. They finally decided to refer the "problem" to the lawyers on the Board of Curators, hoping that they would be able to justify the University's policy of rejecting Black applicants. As expected, the lawyers upheld the University's "lily white" admissions policy. They agreed that Black applicants should be refused admission because the

state Constitution and laws of Missouri provided for separate educational facilities for Black students. The Curators certainly didn't want to break any laws just to accommodate those four "coloreds"!

Since Lincoln University had not established a law school, Lloyd L. Gaines, a candidate for law school, filed suit in Boone County Circuit Court to force the University to admit him. Although the laws of Missouri provided "out-of-state-tuition" for Black students to attend schools outside of the state of Missouri that admitted Blacks, Gaines felt that attending an out of state school would not be in his best interest.

The case was in court for almost three years but Gaines finally won: The Supreme Court ruled that the state of Missouri had deprived Gaines of his constitutional rights by not providing a law school that he could attend. Unfortunately, Lloyd Gaines disappeared, never having attended the law school that he had fought for more than three years.

During the 40's other Blacks failed in their attempts to enter the University. Louise Massey, an applicant for Journalism School, was denied admission and was referred to Lincoln University. Since Lincoln had not yet established a school of journalism, the University jumped at the chance to establish such a school rather than admit a Black student. Though it sounds rather absurd today, throughout the second semester of 1943-44, faculty members and the dean of the journalism school commuted from

Columbia to Jefferson City twice a week to teach their "special" courses. "Special" in that the courses were established at Lincoln by the University of Missouri for the sole purpose of keeping the "colored" students out of UMC.

Admissions policies were not the only racial problems facing the University during the 30's and 40's. No one knew what to do about athletic contests in which Blacks were members of the opposing teams. Though the question embarrassed the athletic department, the curators approved the department's policy of refusing to meet teams that were not "lily white." Again the Curators stressed: "Any question relating to Negro students must be solved in light of the provisions of the constitution of the state..." No "colored people" were to be admitted on the University campus as students, athletes, etc...

In 1949, the students of the University voted on what to do about the "colored" problem. Four thousand out of six thousand students voted for the admission of Black students. It was not until 1950, however, that Blacks were admitted to the various schools at the University.

The University's campaign against the admission of Blacks lasted many years. Years of discussions and conferences in effort to solve the "problem." Today, decades later, the University administrators are still "discussing" and "conferring" about the "Black problem" here on the University campus. They now have an even more baffling problem to deal with: Now that they're here, what do we do with them?

# Support LBC

The Legion of Black Collegians (LBC) is the Black organization representing Unity and Survival for all Blacks on the MU campus. By now, you have probably started coming to the conclusion that MU is far from being the ideal school, culturally, politically, academically, and socially for Blacks. Although MU is better than it was just 5 years ago when there were barely 150 Black students enrolled, we as Brothers and Sisters still have a struggle ahead of us. LBC has over those past five years dealt with these problems of Black students and is now struggling with the University in an attempt to make it receptive to the needs of Blacks and other minorities. You may have seen or heard stories of LBC's activities and accomplishments along these lines on TV, radio, or in the newspaper. LBC and its members was the driving force behind the acquisition of the Black Culture House, Project Start, free Tutorial Services for Blacks, Black entertainment programming and virtually

everything positive for Blacks at MU. Now, we are working for: more than the 19 Black faculty and 600 Black students; adequate Black programming; better treatment for the cafeteria and service workers; and, an end to white harassment of Blacks.

None of our strides in the past were easy, and all of our strides past, present and future will result from the concerted effort of together, for real BLACK folks.

LBC is organized on a committee structure, so there are several areas in which you can get involved:

**Activities:** Deals with social events such as concerts, dances, and picnics.

**Pan-African:** Deals with strengthening our awareness and ties with the Brothers and Sisters from the Motherland.

**Campus-Community:** deals with fighting discrimination and building grassroots programs in Columbia in cooperation with Columbia Blacks.

**Communications:** Deals with informing Blacks of what's happening and trying to secure a Black radio station.

**Economics:** Gives out four \$50 scholarships to MU Blacks, raises money for Black causes (such as the Famine in Africa), and keeps an eye on the LBC budget.

**Political education:** Coordinates all strikes, rallies and demonstrations. It also deals with helping Blacks win campus elections and keeping an eye on the world-wide Black political scene.

The beautiful thing about LBC is that every Black student is a member. Whether you are active or not is up to you. There are no dues and no initiation because they were paid by people like Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, Harriet Tubman, Fred Hampton, George Jackson, our fathers and mothers, and all of our slave ancestors. So, we have a legacy to fulfill. Together WE CAN, together WE MUST.

## START Begins Third Year

For the third year now, Project START (Success Through Advanced Resident Training) is in operation. Due to its past two successful years, the program has been able to grow and make some improvements.

The program which had its beginning in 1972 under Joe Davis, was originally designed for the marginal student who might have had difficulty meeting the admissions requirements. Now, less than a fourth of the students in the program could be classified as such.

"START's main purpose has not changed, it is to aid minority freshmen in adapting to the many facets of University living," said Dr. Keener Tippin the Director of START. "We attempt to aid the students in properly interpreting the new environment so that the student is better able to determine his course of action in the future."

START which has grown from 68 students during its inception in 1972 to over 96 students this summer has undergone a few changes. Students are no longer segregated into one residence hall but are dispersed throughout the various dorms. Classes composed entirely of START students have been eliminated. There is now required class attendance, tutorial sessions and weekly meetings. The staff has also grown and now includes a full-time counselor, an academic co-ordinator and a researcher. This provides for direct staff contact with each student's academic performance.

"We are looking ahead to further growth and hopefully a larger budget," Tippin explained. "The administration has a definite commitment to the program. Next year we anticipate an enrollment of two hundred students and making it a two year program rather than a summer program."

## Demands Not Met

The University continues to drag its feet concerning the demands made upon it by the Legion of Black Collegians. At a meeting held Tuesday June 11, at the Black Culture House, Chancellor Herbert Schooling and Dean of Student Affairs James Banning attempted to respond to the demands. They indicated that the University would keep the tutorial and study skills programs. The Black Conference funds would be met if funds are available. Banning indicated that the revised appeals committee demand was unrealistic. The University also believes that due to its recent expenditures on the Black Culture House, it would not be feasible to build a new one. They did agree however, to the upkeep of the House demand. (cont.)

They also stated that a task force would be set up to investigate the feasibility of setting up a Black faculty fund. Banning stated that there existed an opening in the personnel department that hopefully could be filled by a Black. They also indicated that they would attempt to employ Jennifer Hill and Harold Sims on a full-time basis in the office of minority students and that one thousand dollars will be used for summer orientation programs. They also mentioned that the recognition of Local 45 was not within the confines of the University structure and that a task force would be appointed to investigate the matter. As for the rest of the demands, they failed to properly respond to the specifics of the issues.

LBC's executive board expressed its view that it believed the University to be negotiating in bad faith. It cited as an example, the large Confederate rock memorial located on the corner of Ninth and Conley, which the University has refused to move. The Board re-emphasized LBC's commitment to take whatever action necessary to end once and for all the inequities that exist on this campus.

take a back seat to anyone and when we achieve it must be followed by further achievements so that we can continuously serve others.

With this strong bond of achievement behind us, Kappa Alpha Psi can claim outstanding brothers in numerous fields. Such notable figures include: Thomas Bradley, Mayor of Los Angeles, Arthur Ashe, only Black in professional tennis, Wilt Chamberlain, professional basketball player and Rep. John Conyers (Michigan).

The Delta Omega Chapter here at the University of Missouri has twenty-one members. We have a pledge period during each semester of the academic school year. Kappa pledges are initiated into the Scroller Club during their pledge-ship until they reach that goal of Phi Nu Pi. We have smokers at designated times during the semester to meet and get to know any and all potential pledges. Most importantly we welcome all who are interested in our organization, especially those who feel that they can become an integral part of what Kappa is all about—ACHIEVEMENT.

Michael Anthony Jones  
Polemarch,  
Delta Omega Chap.  
Kappa Alpha Psi, Fraternity, Inc.

70,000 members in the United States and Republic of Haiti and Liberia, and over 500 chapters throughout the world. Since our goals, as an organization, are public service we have been influential in all public service policies in the U.S. especially those dealing with minority races and women.

We feel Black college women should use their education as well as their talent to make contributions to their race and country. Some of our more prominent sorors such as Mary McLeod Bethune, Jessie Fauset, Lena Horne, Shirley Chisholm, Mary Church Terrell, Nannie Mitchell Turner and sorors of the entertainment field too numerous to mention have proven that the Black woman's contributions are essential. Delta opens the door for women in all these respects.

Delta is now expanding into mass media and motion pictures where we are currently co-producers of a film entitled "Count Down at Kusini" starring soror Ruby Dee and Ossie Davis. This branch of our organization is called D.S.T. Telecommunications. Entering this field will enable us to reach more people and our idea will be projected to greater numbers.

Epsilon Psi chapter was chartered in 1966 and for 8 years our goals, in addition to the national goals, have been to create more meaningful relationships among Blacks and to orient young Black women to the problems they will face after graduation. We have done numerous service projects on campus and in the community in an effort to make life more fulfilling for our sisters and brothers. Our chapter sisterhood of 25 members is striving to develop scholarships, leadership and service while at the University and to utilize these ideals to the best of our ability in our future lives.

Peggy Baskin  
President of Epsilon Psi Chapter  
Delta Sigma Theta, Inc.

## From My Perspective...

### What is Kappa?

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. founded in 1911, is a social fraternity based on one main theme—TRAINING FOR ACHIEVEMENT and LEADERSHIP. Our members are educated to implement the idea of achievement in everything that we do. Achieve not only in education, but in the fields of athletics, the arts and humanities, government and politics, religion and all other fields of human endeavor. The fraternity's creed of Phi Nu Pi symbolizes its innate idea of achievement.

This creed is our way of life in Kappa and not a metal or paper card that we carry in our wallets, or a pin worn on our chest, or even a ceremony which can only be read and not felt. We've been trained that we're achieving as Kappas for life. We learn in Kappa that in our quest to strive for achievement and leadership that we cannot afford to

### What is Delta?

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. was founded in 1913 at Howard University by 22 Black college women. Our founders felt that Black women should be more involved in the problems of Black people, while getting a college education. They succeeded in making Delta the first Black public Greek organization in the world and moreover wanted to de-emphasize the social side of sorority life. Today, Delta has over

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The Black Letter  
Read Hall

# Black Professor Completes Text

Black History made its debut to the American school system in the late '60's. At the time not much had been written on the subject and teachers found themselves at a loss for textbooks. Although the situation has been lessened on the college level, there is still a shortage when it comes to high schools. For this reason Dr. Avarh Strickland, University Black History professor, decided to write his most recent book, **The Black American Experience**.

Published by Harcourt, Brace and Jovanovich Inc., the book is divided into two parts. This division allows the book to be used as either a supplement or a course textbook.

Some of the points Strickland hopes will stand out in his book are the history of Black Nationalism, as well as Black protest and contributions. Strickland also delves into the various attitudes of Black Americans on different economic levels. Included are the attitudes and reactions of Black people toward the nationalistic movements of the '60's.

Black History, Dr. Strickland feels, has come a long way since its rather "faddish" creation. Students now turn to Black History with a much more serious attitude. On the college level this attitude has been the impetus for courses, books and programs on Black Americans. High schools are beginning to take these steps now.

Dr. Strickland is also the co-author of another high school text, **Building the United States**, a general history textbook.

## Jazz Festival

Don't forget that the office of minority students and the travel committee will be sponsoring a show-me trip to the Kansas City Jazz Festival Friday, July 26, 1974. Transportation to and from K.C. is free. Tickets for the Festival are only \$6.50 and are now on sale at the Union ticket window. Friday night's show, which begins at 8:00 p.m. will feature such stars as Gladys Knight and the Pips, The Staple Singers, Bill Withers, the Crusaders, the Jimmy Smith Trio, Gene Ammons and Sonny Stitt. Busses will leave from the Physics building parking lot Friday at 3:00 p.m. Get your tickets early and check it out.

The Book  
Received on: Oct 21-74  
University of Missouri  
Columbia

## Tutoring Program

Any student having difficulty in classes this semester should go to Read Hall (office of student life) and sign up for a free tutor. They are available in courses ranging from Physics to Basket Weaving I. Sessions will be held Monday—Thursday 3:30—6:00 p.m. at the Black Culture House, 511 Turner. Sign up now in Room 107 Read Hall. It's free, so no more excuses.

**STAFF**  
Brenda Boyd  
Melanie Hill  
Pam Smith  
H. L. Walker  
Jerry Highsmith—Editor  
Clarence Wine—Advisor

**LBC**

# The Black Letter

Volume II Number 9

July/August 1974

## START Students React

Students in Project START have been participating in the program for eight weeks now and some were asked to express their opinions of the program. They had this to say:

**Donna Barnes**—It helps students get ahead. It gets you prepared for the fall. It helps you out like in tutoring and counseling. I think that we should have more experienced counsellors though.

**Elvis Mullins**—A good program basically. I've always looked at the position side of Project START and to me it's just a good program.

**Thomas Comage**—I think it's a good program, and I like it. It's given us a good insight into what it's going to be like in the fall.

**Linda Portwood [Susie]**—It's all right, but it could be better, especially the teachers.

**James McAllister**—It's a good program for the new fall students. It gives you an idea of how college life is, and how we as students should function. There were too many meetings.



**Keith Brown**—My personal feeling of the program is that of ambiguity. I don't know what the program itself is about. It is supposedly to assist underprivileged and deprived high school students in adjusting to the University. This is what I was told; others were told different.

**Vanessa Steele**—I absolutely positively hate going to summer school, so therefore I'm not too pleased with it. If I could change it I would change it to a type of winter program—not summer.

**Leroy Graham**—I don't exactly hate Project START, but there could be a few changes made, such as more activities and more tutors. It should be in the fall, because I hate summer school.

**Sniffles [Paula White]**—Basically a very beneficent program, but if something is changed there should be more emphasis placed on creating better study habits for start students. Also tutors should be better qualified, but it's good that they are there.

# From My Perspective....

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., is a non-profit, community service organization. It was organized Nov. 12, 1922 at Butler University, Indianapolis, Ind., by seven young college women. They formed the sorority because they felt the need for it among women. They found the rewards of sisterhood to be satisfying for themselves and sought to establish chapters on other campuses, so that potential sisters might share the experiences with them.

Community service, leadership training and education of youth are the goals of the sorority program. Activities are encouraged that will further the dignity and worth of the individual member.

Sigma Gamma Rho offers service to others. Through scholarships, assistance is given to those in need of financial aid to further their education.

Community service projects are sponsored by both collegiate and alumnae chapters.

Once having become a member of Sigma Gamma Rho, you will find a group of college women who are sincerely interested in you. You will have fun. The friendships you gain will be your dearest and truest long after your college days are over.

The Alpha Rho chapter here at the University was established in March of 1973. In our first year, we've made many achievements in the area of community service: from traveling to Fulton on Saturdays to visit the criminally insane, to giving Christmas parties and Easter egg hunts for various youth groups in the community. The pledge club has assisted LBC in the African famine project, and they have also served as ushers for a Black play put on earlier in the year.

Our membership is growing rapidly, and the chapter has even bigger plans for the future. We have pledge lines whenever there are interested hard-working women. You can express your interest at any of the rushes held throughout the year.

Alpha Rho chapter is young and working hard to serve the campus and community in whatever way we can to keep "Great Service, Greater Progress" our motto.

Sigma Gamma Rho wants to welcome all new freshmen to the campus and wish them the best in their academic endeavors.

Mary Crockett, Basileus  
Pam Bryson, First AntiBasileus  
Alpha Rho Chapter,  
Sigma Gamma Rho, Inc.

## Changes

Come around everyone,  
for I have something to say.  
Let's all try being Black, just for a day.  
Even if you can't change physically,  
doesn't mean you can't change mentally  
Step into the world of reality,  
And see that being Black has its draw backs.

When you go looking for a job,  
remember that you're considered a slob.  
Your income is lower,  
Your mind is getting slower,  
all the while you're getting poorer.

Come ye boys, young men, and older  
try being a woman for awhile.  
Let's start off by cleaning the tile  
clean the floor  
Slam the door,  
After an hour or so.  
Then take the kids to school.  
Tell them to remember the rules,  
and not to act like fools.

You'll start the meal,  
pay the bills  
all of your own free will.  
The days get longer,  
you're getting stronger.  
So it's really not so bad.  
But when someone says you're lazy,  
you'll think, "He's crazy!"

The day is done,  
another victory is won!  
Now your chores are done  
you've had your so-called fun!  
You pray to the Lord  
that someday you'll overcome!

You've seen it and heard it,  
now believe it!

Pat Jefferson

# ***Rap session stresses Unity***

Much is said about the word "Unity." It has been determined to be one of the chief elements in the Black struggle for survival. On Monday, June 24, LBC sponsored a rap session, and a group of 15 Blacks got together at the Black Culture House to discuss their views on Unity.

It was concluded that Unity is the main thing that Black people on this campus need to combat racism, for "a house divided against itself shall not stand."

Black Unity for this campus was defined as a sense of oneness and groupness which would enable us to better relate to each other and more effectively struggle together. It was noted that by being together, there would be a greater number of us, and we could better concert our efforts.

Several roadblocks to Unity were discussed by the group. Some Project Start students noted that they were degraded by some upperclassmen. It was suggested that they ignore this and chalk it up to the ignorance of those individuals. Also, most Blacks on the campus come from large urban areas, like Kansas City or St. Louis, where Blacks were plentiful, and just weren't used to Unity or even speaking to each other on the street. One student brought to the group's attention the fact that there was considerable disunity between Blacks from Africa and Blacks born in the United States.

The idea that "none of us will really overcome until we all do" was discussed. The group speculated that this was aimed at Black people that become successful and then forget their brothers and sisters. It was interpreted as meaning that even though you as an individual may become affluent or gain a "high position in society," you as a Black person will still be affected by the racial prejudices in this country; and, the masses of the Black minority in this country will still be oppressed.

Finally, the group agreed that as long as Black people, regardless of their origin, segment themselves into different cliques and groups, and fight needlessly among themselves, our struggle for survival will be severely hampered.

The rap session ended with the participants making suggestions to the Black people on campus. Those suggestions were: (1) that each person at least speak to the other Blacks on campus, (2) that LBC's pan-African committee become extremely active in the area of improving Afro-American relations, and (3) that each Black make a special effort to get to know other Blacks and relate to them the importance of Unity.

The Black Letter staff commends these together brothers and sisters and stresses that our goal should be "Black people helping Black people" because TOGETHER WE CAN and TOGETHER WE MUST!

## ***The Shell***

HAPPY?  
SHOULD I BE?  
MOST CERTAINLY NOT,  
MADE BY ENVIRONMENT  
AS HARD AS A KNOT.  
AS EVIL AS HELL,  
AS MEAN AS THE DEVIL  
I'M SURROUNDED BY A SHELL  
OF POVERTY, BIGOTRY, HATRED  
AND SIN.  
WHERE IN THE WORLD  
WILL IT ALL END.

STEPHANIE DONALDSON

He was so Black  
You could check your eye make-up  
in the reflection on his face.  
And so handsome it made you ill.  
He moved with a manly grace  
that made a girl weak in the  
knees and light headed.  
Yeah, he was so fine, but  
when he walked down the  
street with his white girl friend  
it made you want to cry.

Stephanie Donaldson

It took us a long time  
to find out who we  
are.

How long does it take  
to find what we've lost?

We've just realized we can  
talk.

How Long Before We Know

What To Say?

connie sanders

# Blackness Is. . .

- Black Is.** . . an everlasting cry for equality and Black pride  
**Black Is.** . . a struggling youth who sees the worst and faces the truth  
**Black Is.** . . a Black child born, whose mother cries and tries to carry on  
**Black Is.** . . my mother's face when she says we are the forbidden race  
**Black Is.** . . getting the best and not stopping on the way to take a rest  
**Blackness Is.** . . a father who hides when the people come to check for  
the higher guys  
**Blackness Is.** . . how I feel when a doctor says I have sickle cell (anemia)  
**Blackness Is.** . . knowing someday that you shall overcome  
**Blackness Is.** . . Me and I'm Joanne Butler

## BLACK ROSE

Black Rose, playing in the ghetto streets  
Blooming to be a precious jewel of a petite nature.  
Remain as Black as thy beauty and origin  
And sacrifice to a Black Man those  
Jewels that are his.

Velma Scott

## Bad Bitch! . . Beautiful Lady

There is definitely a lot of Black togetherness on UMC's campus. There are Black fraternities, sororities, the Black Newsletter, the Black student directory, the Black Culture House and good Black parties.

However, with all our togetherness, I find one fault: the way brothers refer to sisters. Tell me, how many times have you heard a brother refer to a sister as a "BITCH"? I have heard this too many times. Where is the pride and togetherness in this word? Sure, I hear brothers say "Well, it's just an expression," but it's not. It shows a lack of respect.

Now, brothers, would you let non-brothers call your sisters "bitch"? In order for Black people to be respected, we must first respect ourselves.

So the next time you greet a sister, refer to her as a lady. It sounds far better than "BITCH."

A Sister

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# LBC

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