

BLACK VOICES

Volume 1, Issue 1
November 19, 1998

FMO Scheduled
Speakers for 1999
Selwyn Sefu Hinds
Editor of Source
Gwendolyn Brooks
Poet and Civil Rights Activist
Dick Gregory
Activist
Chocolate
Black Comedy Tour

Inside Scoop

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FMO comes up BIG in Supplemental Funding

ASG approves all of SAFB recommendations for FMO and awards extra funds

By Amanda Holman
FMO Coordinator

At the November 11th Associated Student Government (ASG) meeting, Senate allocated \$30,428 to FMO-General and \$2,934 in additional funds to two of our satellites, NAYO and AATE.

Although we received money for programming that will educate and entertain our members and the campus-at-large, certain forces are still working against FMO, and therefore every Northwestern student of African descent. These forces range in size and stature, but they are unified in their purpose: to maintain white supremacy and privilege at Northwestern at all costs.

What exactly do I mean by this? Who or what are these forces? Well let's

begin on a student level first.

We must begin with ASG and its poor performance for minority students' rights and interests. The attempted NUSG constitution is a classic example of a racially homogenous constitution committee drafting a document without any input from collective minority student organizations such as FMO, AAAB, and Casa Hispana. According to the constitution committee their attempts to reduce the number of student group senators was to increase Senate efficiency. However, my perception of this proposal was to weaken the influence and power of minority students on campus because we have gotten too powerful for some people's comfort.

Interestingly, the really powerful student group is A&O. Not only the Senate

but also ASG president, Ariel Friedler are out on the corner, turning tricks to bring in money for pimp daddy's concerts like Tori Amos and Dave Matthews. And minority students are the ones that have to be checked?

The second force is the administration that did not express concern over the fact that African-American freshmen enrollment dropped this year. Perhaps they didn't speak out because no one has brought this to their attention and I am sure that there is a reason why the university has not openly discussed this. Have they discussed it all? Is anyone in admissions being held accountable for this decline in Black student enrollment? My guess is no.

After the university spent *thousands* of dollars

Cont. page 4

OSB puts best foot forward

OSB brings AIDS speaker, ASG approves funds for Magic Johnson

By Susanna Ebiasah and Erika Davis
FMO Subcommittee

One Step Before (OSB), an

FMO satellite for pre-medical students, has been increasing its presence on NU's campus through a variety of programming for its members and the campus community.

OSB started off this quarter with a trip to University Illinois-Chicago for a

medical school conference. At the conference, members participated in a variety of workshops and spoke to representatives from various medical schools.

Also, the organization participated in an ex-

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Freshmen deal with discrimination

An elderly man is accused of yelling at students studying in library core

By Keisha Battle
FMO Subcommittee

I somehow thought that once I got to Northwestern University that I would not have to deal with the racism I found prevalent in the South.

No more than a month after classes began, I met a very ignorant person. Occasionally, I study in CORE with the athletes and sometimes we can get a bit noisy. One day, someone (not a monitor) screamed, "BE QUIET!" We were shocked, but stopped talking.

The following night, the athletes were split up and my friend, Utica, and I sat with some friends who showed us the man who screamed. He was sitting in front of us. We all studied and at times held a quiet conversation. All of a sudden, out of nowhere, he told us to shut up. I was shocked since we were not that noisy.

We returned the following night. Two white males sitting beside

us began to talk loudly and the man who screamed at us politely asked them if they could talk in the lounge. I thought this was quite odd, since he insisted on shouting at us.

An hour passed by and one of our friends walked in. We reminded him that we were sitting behind this guy and to talk softly. As we were talking, the elderly man stood up and said, "Either you are rude or you are ignorant or both!"

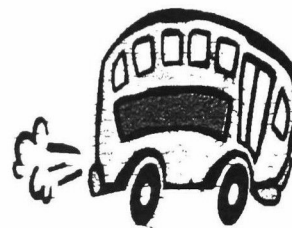
Utica immediately said, "You didn't treat those two white guys like that, so is it because we're black?" He ignored the question, but

As we were talking, the elderly man stood up and said, "Either you are rude or you are ignorant or both!"

Utica asked again. By this time, all of CORE was aware that something heated was happening.

His final comment was, "I didn't say anything about being black you idiots!" I maintained control because I could only sit in disbelief and wonder why this was

happening. One of the monitors came to our aide and said the elderly man had no right to say anything to us. The monitors did not hear us and we were very close to. After this incident, I realized that racism is still alive and its everywhere, even on this campus.



A tour to remember

Freshman experience Chicago's DuSable Museum and soul food

By Kim Johnson
FMO Subcommittee

Towards the end of New Student Week, 20 freshmen were part of the African American Heritage Tour, which was sponsored by Northwestern's Black student alliance, For Members Only.

The tour began at the Black House where vans awaited eager freshmen and escorts, which included Professor Adam Green and FMO coordinator, Amanda Holman.

After a pleasant ride, we arrived in the city.

The first stop was the DuSable Museum of African American History, where we were enlightened with exhibits on the history of basketball in Chicago, aspects of slavery and the life of Paul Robeson.

After gift shop excursions and the end of a rain delay, we returned to the vans wet and hungry.

The next stop was Gladys' Restaurant for a real Soul Food dinner. We ate until we could hold no more and returned to Evanston.

It was a nice tour that allowed us to see the South side of Chicago that is not often seen by NU students.

Volunteer overcomes language barrier

NU student draws on language experience to tutor hispanic children

By Dene Brown
FMO Subcommittee

On Thursday afternoons, I tutor students at the Eugene Field School. I am a tutor for the Partners In Kids program. From 4:30-6:30 p.m., I help children in grades 2-5 with their homework and any problems they have. The first day I went to the school, I expected to see many black children. But the school had equal numbers of black and hispanic stu-

dents. In my hometown of Milwaukee, WI, I have never come into contact with hispanics.

As I stood in the doorway waiting to be assigned to a child, I noticed that some of the hispanic children did not speak any english. I had to completely switch modes and use what I learned in high school spanish classes to speak to them. From the first awkward moment to the last laughing minute, I learned many things from this new experience.

BLACK VOICES

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Black Law and Business Society Update

BULBS presents new Exec Board and programming for the school year

By Shun Walls
FMO Subcommittee

Last year, The Black Undergraduate Law and Business Society (BULBS), wasn't an active satellite of FMO. Now, BULBS is already planning activities for the winter and spring quarters. The objective of BULBS is to enhance the interest and knowledge of potential busi-

ness and law students. BULBS plans one workshop each quarter and invites speakers who are associated



with law and business. Future events include a workshop by Lisa Gibbons, a student in Kellogg and NU Law School. Other events include a speech by former

BULBS president James Thomas and a spades tournament.

Anyone interested in business or law or who wants to be a part of this growing satellite can become a member. The group holds meetings every other Monday at 6:30 at the Black House. Members of the executive board include: Malik Thompson - President, Ashanti Matlock - Vice President, Jennifer Adir - Treasurer, Andrea Cook - Secretary, and Alaina Jackson - Publicity Chair.

Voices from Heaven

Gospel choir takes its show on the road under new leadership

By LaRhonda Jackson
FMO Subcommittee

The Northwestern Community Ensemble, affectionately known as the "gospel choir," is a twenty-seven year old ministry that continues to grow.



Vernesha

Williams and Jocelyn Dinkins direct the group this year as they prepare for a variety of engagements.

This season, NCE is full of many fresh voices with a large number of first-year students eager to be a part of such a great ministry. The Ensemble has already performed an opening concert for the DePaul University gospel choir, and a preview of their own fall concert, which will take place on Sunday, Nov. 22 at 7:00 p.m. at the Alice Millar Chapel.

Many members of NCE will again participate in a gospel choir conference in Atlanta, Georgia this Thanksgiving holiday. The conference consists of college gospel choirs from around the nation, and will culminate with a combined choir concert.

The adopted motto of NCE this year, coined by director Vernesha Williams, is "when you sing from your heart, you will reach someone else's heart." The Ensemble strives, in all their efforts, to utilize this motto in their ministry.

The Northwestern Community Ensemble appreciates, and urges, the continued support of the community in their efforts to minister, so that all may one day be able to clearly hear the "voices from heaven."

-Black Voices

National Association of Black Journalists

Associate Editor at Jet encourages students to focus on networking opportunities

By Rodney Thrash
FMO Subcommittee

In her Nov. 1 address to Northwestern NABJ members, Margena Christian attributed experience and mentorship to her promotion for assistant to associate editor of Jet.

In high school, Christian was inspired to pursue a career as an entertainment reporter. As a sophomore, she participated in the St. Louis Urban Journalism Workshop, which was founded and directed by Emerge editor-in-chief, George Curry.

After high school, Christian received a communications degree from St. Louis University. Although she did not immediately enter the newsroom, she continued to freelance story ideas for popular black entertainment magazines such as Right On.

Kyra Alford, a Medill junior and Christian's protégé, reinforced her mentor's message by encouraging student's to join the national and local affiliate NABJ chapters and to write for

campus publications such as The Daily Northwestern and Blackboard.

Applications for membership and petitions for officers positions are located in Medill student mailboxes. For more information on future NABJ events, e-mail Kyra Alford at k-alford@nwu.edu.

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tremely successful fund-raiser where they bagged groceries for tips at a local Cub Foods.

Visits to Northwestern's Medical School have also been organized throughout November and December for OSB members.

In addition, this Wednesday, OSB, together with Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, were instrumental in bringing Rae Lewis-Thornton to speak to students about her life after being diagnosed with HIV.

For winter quarter, OSB has already begun planning for more speakers and events. Due to the groups efforts, it has been finalized that Magic Johnson will be speaking to the community on Saturday, Feb. 6, 1999 at the Ryan Family Auditorium. Stay tuned for further OSB events throughout the year.

ASG cont. from page 1

researching why Black students are not coming here, they have not maintained this investment. What ever happened to the Underrepresented Minority Taskforce and all of its recommendations? Where is the additional staff person that President Bienen requested in Admissions and Student Affairs that would help expose Northwestern to Chicago's Black communities?

According to a meeting that Vice-Coordinator Kumasi Vines and I had with President Bienen this summer, the university does not have any numerical goals to assess their progress. Bienen repeatedly emphasized that he "did not believe in quotas" and that quotas should not be used to track Admissions' progress in this area. How the hell do you run a multi-

million dollar university without numerical goals in order to assess people's performance at their jobs? The staff in the Admissions' department work very hard and are committed to increasing our numbers on campus. But are their superiors committed and giving them the support that they need to do a better job? Look at the numbers and you can answer that for yourself.

The third force is apathetic and ignorant *African-American* students! Are you surprised that some of our biggest enemies sit next to us everyday at dinner? You know who they are (and hopefully they know who they are as well). I'm not talking about the Black students who join white fraternities and sororities or who have never stepped foot in the Black House. I am referring to the Black people that "are in the community" and hang out with other Black students a majority of the time. Unfortunately this is all they do—*hang out*. The ones that spread gossip and critique what everyone else does, but can't seem to get out of their dorm rooms to do anything constructive for the Black community. These are the students who systematically destroy us through their gossip and rude, abusive behavior towards their Black brothers and sisters.

If we cannot become a community, then we are done for. The only power that

we have is as a *proactive* collective. We don't have to like every Black student we know in order to achieve this. We *must* embrace our diversity and start talking about the things that divide us such as social class status, Greek affiliation, athletic team membership, sexual orientation and the ever-present color complex (thank you to the Sisters of Sigma Gamma Rho for their fireside on our color complex issues).

I leave you with a simple request: let's talk about this stuff! Talking and listening to each other *can* lead to action if we really want to change our situation. Who is man or woman enough to start?

