

"Higher Learning" raises questions

by R. Carl Campbell III
News Editor

Mark Twain once said, "Don't let college interfere with your education."

"Higher Learning," a new movie by John Singleton ("Boyz in the Hood," "Poetic Justice"), stresses this point. "Higher Learning" displays the maturation of a young African-American male in a violent and impartial environment, the fictitious Columbus University.

Singleton creates a realistic big campus setting. He portrays all aspects of campus life; the cliques, the fraternity parties, campus police, the dorms, apartments, athletic fields, etc. The viewer is transported to the Columbus campus. It was that real.

Many of the contemporary issues that college students face were made evident in the movie, such as: individual and institutional racism, sexism, identity, and the opening of one's mind to a diversified atmosphere.

Although the movie was centered on Malik Williams (Omar Epps), a former high school track star who realizes that the competition in college is different, the lifestyles and attitudes of Kristen Conner (Kirsty Swanson) and Remy (Michael Rapaport) are interwoven into the plot. Kristen is awakened to the harsh realities



of life when she is date-raped. Remy is shoved outside of campus life and seeks refuge in the only group that allows him entrance, the white supremacists. The three main characters' lives

are altered when they are introduced to characters that offer new and different trains of thought.

For Malik, his life is changed when he takes Professor Phipps'

(Laurence Fishburne) Political Science class and learns to think for himself. Another pivotal character in Malik's life is senior Fudge (Ice Cube). Fudge teaches Malik that there's more to

college than education and running.

Taryn (Jennifer Connelly) befriends Kristen and teaches her about trust and that "the first thing you learn in college is that you don't have any wisdom at all."

Remy is intrigued by college and being accepted into a group. However, the more he tries to be accepted the more he is pushed away to become an outsider. He doesn't seem to fit in anywhere except with the skinheads.

The climax of the movie is probably the best I've ever seen in a movie. It was a scene that moved on pure adrenaline, energy and emotion. I don't want to give the ending away, just trust me, it's powerful.

"Higher Learning" does what college is supposed to do, make you think. It really questions how far society has gone since the racial tensions of the sixties. Yeah, it's only a movie, but the scenes and situations are real. The interracial message of the movie gives a message that life is not a black thing, it's not a white thing, it's a human thing and we need to take care of the problems.



Logan Series players 'Moore by Four'

Music at Noon: Logan Wintergarden Series presents Moore by Four

ERIE--Contemporary jazz vocal ensemble Moore by Four will perform twice at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, on Friday, Feb. 17.

At noon on Feb. 17, the group will give a one-hour performance in the Wintergarden of the Reed Union Building as part of Music at Noon: The Logan Wintergarden Series.

At 7 p.m. that evening, Moore

by Four will give a longer performance in the Wintergarden.

Admission to both events is free.

Moore by Four, an ensemble of four polished vocalists and five instrumentalists, is a three-time winner of the Minnesota Music Award for "Best Contemporary Jazz Group." Although the group originally specialized in the music of the swing era, it has

expanded its repertoire to include contemporary jazz, blues, latin, gospel, original compositions, and new arrangements of the great standards from Broadway, Hollywood, and Harlem.

Music at Noon: The Wintergarden Series, is an informal fine-music performance series funded by the Harry A. Logan, Jr. Foundation.



"Bluesman" K. J. James

Bruno's Saturday Night - K. J. James

K.J. James is performing at Bruno's Saturday Night at 9 p.m. and is open to the public.

Formerly known as Dr. Blue, he has toured the country extensively playing at major festivals, coffeehouses, special events, and colleges.

He has shared the stage with top recording artists, including legendary blues musicians John Hammond and John Lee Hooker.

A gifted singer, songwriter, and guitarist, James' act covers the entire spectrum of blues, boogie, and rhythm and blue.