

# Black History Month

## SPECIAL GUEST EDITORIAL by PSH Public Policy Student

February, Black History Month, is often wasted on celebrating what we Black people are and all the while blaming Europeans for making us into just that. Perhaps this year we can set aside time to search for viable solutions to the problems that plague Black people.

Incarceration rates are extremely high for young Black Americans. Rates of teen pregnancy, drug abuse, single motherhood murder and a host of other negative categories are dangerously high. These problems must be solved in order for Black people to be a part of the American dream. What do we do?

My vision of the Black Tomorrow is a vision of hope and prosperity based on cultural sovereignty and an allegiance to common attainable goals. This is the beginning of a Black Renaissance.

Our survival will not come from the U.S. Government, which may love us today but loathe us tomorrow. Our survival will not come from either of the major political parties. It won't come from any group that simultaneously serves another non-Black constituency. Our situation is dire. Our

needs are urgent. Compromise and equivocation are our enemies. Our survival will not come from outside ourselves.

In order to solve our own problems, we must decide exactly what they are. I contend that many of us have become so dependent on the government that we have solidified our fate. The welfare system discourages the building of strong families. Consequently, the more we indulge ourselves of the government's "kindness", the more we get, as George Will says, "the values of unsocialized male adolescents made into norms....immediate gratification, physical violence and predatory sex." Sound familiar?

We must pursue a moral course first. God's Law, which we used to recognize as supreme, needs to be exalted by us once again. Second, we must engage in economic cooperation, which requires trust. Without trust there is no cooperation, only infighting. Some call economic cooperation "economic separatism". They have no danger of ever being in our shoes. Let them call it what they like.

Lastly, we must educate ourselves in all fields. Physics is important, as are psychology and politics. We always have to go to others for financial advice, medical help, home renovations, food, water, etc. We need to have the ability to choose not to pay those who abuse us. In a free market, freedom to choose is a powerful tool. Today we do not enjoy that power, but if we work together, someday we will.

The Black Renaissance will occur. It does not depend on me any more than it depends on you. We can, however, play a part. Malcolm X said thirty years ago that we've been in this land for four hundred years and still haven't learned the language. English is the language of the land. We must master it and make it our tool. We must read every day. We must learn to communicate effectively.

Go learn a skill that suits you best. Master it and use it for the good of all. Learn to love and to write. Then you are a Black Renaissance Poet.

Mark Walston  
Public Policy Major



Photo by Tina Shearer

Chris McCorkel, humanities communications major, reacts to recent price increase at vending machines, "Corporate Scum are lining their pockets with students money!"

**Do you have an opinion about the price you have to pay at the vending machines on campus? Send your comments to W-341, Olmsted and let everyone know what you think!**

V  
E  
N  
D  
I  
N  
G  
R  
I  
P-  
O  
F?

### Penn State Harrisburg celebrates Black History Month

*Cultural Currents: Multi-Layered Works Reflecting On What It Means to be an African-American*  
Featuring the Art of Curlee Raven Holton  
February 10 to March 29

*Meade Heights Futures and Felicia: A Celebration in Gospel, Dan and Song*  
Featuring Felicia Brown-Haywood, Penn State Harrisburg  
5 - 6 p.m./Monday, February 19

*Code of the Streets: Violence and the Inner-City Poor*  
Presented by Dr. Elijah Anderson, University of Pennsylvania -  
Two sessions: Thursday, February 15  
Noon to 1 p.m./PSH Downtown Center  
7 to 8 p.m./Gallery Lounge

*Voices of the Black Middle Class, 1904*  
Presented by Dr. Wilson Jeremiah Moses, Penn State University  
Noon to 1 p.m./Tuesday, February 20

All events are free and open to the public

Call (717) 948-6272

### Jazz Night kicks off Black History Month

By Duane Brooks  
Staff Reporter

The Jazz Night held this past weekend held in the Student Center at the Capitol Union Building helped many to explore a different but unique style of music and culture.

This event was sponsored by Student Activities, Student Government Association, and the Black Student Union. It was designed to be an outreach to the community and kick off Black History month.

The evening featured Genghis Nor and "Magic" with their jazz music that inspired those in atten-

dance. Mr. Nor is the father of the Black Student Union president, Amira Strong-Nor.

"This will bring a new culture to Penn State Harrisburg. Penn State Harrisburg is normally geared toward rock and all that kind of stuff," said Amira Strong-Nor. "This is a good way to add diversity to Penn State Harrisburg and kick off Black History month."

The event was held on a Saturday night for various reasons over a week-night. Matt Fisher, Cabaret chairman for the Student Government Association said that the

event was held on that night to be a community outreach.

"Saturday night was chosen because of its possibility of attracting members of the local community and it was convenient for the performer," said Fisher.

The Cabaret committee encompasses a diverse group of members and there was interest in hosting an event of this magnitude that will touch on cultural diversity.

"The jazz event had a lot of student interest and we seized the opportunity to host the jazz night," said Fisher.

#### \* CAAPA (Capital Area Association for Public Administration)

Attention MPA students, faculty, and staff:  
CAAPA COFFEES will begin on Monday, Feb. 12, 1996 and will be held in the BCAC, W-132 from 5-6p.m. Stop by and enjoy some refreshment before class!!  
Contact Jennifer Petrozino, 930-0206

#### \* Public Affairs Club

Public Affairs Forum, "Black Tomorrow: The Ballot or the Bullet?"  
Will feature a panel of professors, students, and laymen. Discussion will be moderated by Mark Walston, covering any/all issues that the audience or panelists choose to bring up.

-Feb. 8, Film Review  
-Feb. 21, Public Affairs Forum  
Gallery Lounge  
Watch for posters or tune to WPSH for more details.

Contact Mark Walston, 944-8187

Club  
Corner