



Photo by Nicole Burkholder

Members of the Tuskegee Airmen, who were on campus on Veterans Day. From left to right are Hamp Johnson, George A. "Hank" Henry, Samuel Rhodes, and Samuel O'Dennis.

Tuskegee Airmen Honored in Moving Veterans Day Tribute

By Nicole Burkholder

Capital Times Staff Writer

In a moving tribute, Penn State Harrisburg celebrated Veterans Day last week by honoring members of the Tuskegee Airmen of World War II.

The Tuskegee Airmen were black fighter pilots trained for World War II at the Tuskegee Air Field in Alabama.

Their success as the first black squadron in the U.S. Army Air Corps is legendary. They became one of the most decorated units of the war.

The ceremony began shortly after noon in front of the new library's flagpole.

Retired Army Lt. Col. Ted Clements began the ceremony with a proud welcome to the five veterans and the many visitors and students who attended the tribute.

Clements reminded the spectators that the achievements of the Tuskegee Airmen are the very force that allowed him and other African-Americans to stand before them as a retired officer.

Thomas Steck of PSH Maintenance and Operations Department, addressed the audience next. Steck, also a veteran, read a few poems about veterans and the importance of honoring such an esteemed group of men such as the Tuskegee Airmen.

Members of the Pennsylvania International 193rd Special Operations Wing honor guard lowered the current PSH flag and presented it to the Tuskegee Airmen.

Passersby, both young and old, stopped to watch. Some people were moved to tears.

With the exception of the playing of "Taps," the campus was filled with a devout silence.

Following the outdoor ceremony, everyone was invited inside to the Olmsted Building Auditorium to hear the Tuskegee Airmen's stories.

Beginning with the Posting of the Colors, everyone rose to pay

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Morris Dees Speaks for All of Us

By Alice Potteiger Wilkes

Capital Times Staff Writer

When Morris Dees finished his lecture last Thursday evening and, after a well-deserved standing ovation, the audience's questions began, I found myself regretting that I had to leave.

Dees is a co-founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Ala. He tours America promoting a national program for "Teaching Tolerance," encouraging equity, respect and understanding.

"I didn't come here to put America down. There are a lot of good things about this nation," Dees said.

He backed up these opening words with a few examples, but the statements and stats that directly followed were eye-openers.

"There is an ill-wind blowing across this nation," Dees said.

He noted that in the last reporting year of the Federal Bureau of Investigation there were 9,000 reported hate crimes, 250 permanent hate web sites

with 850 that show up sporadically and over 550 known hate groups in America.

In addition, in the publication "Ten Ways to Fight Hate" which was given to each audience member, I discovered the grim fact that over 500,000 women are raped in America each year.

Dees spoke of our dividing lines: color, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender, old age and youth, saying these divisions cause a lot of pain, anger and frustration.

But he said our deepest dividing line is class; we've come to a point where it's "the people with money, wealth, power and position versus the people who don't [have these]."

It's a battle over whose version of America this nation is going to become, Dees said, relating several encouraging stories of moral and legal triumphs over racism and hate.

One story told how the residents of Billings, Mont., rallied for a Jewish family whose men-

rah had been smashed by a brick thrown through their front window where the menorah was displayed.

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Going Once, Going Twice, Sold!!

By Tina Sickler

Capital Times Staff Writer

Students raised their wands, made of wooden sticks and marked paper plates, to bet on anxious contestants during the Bachelor/Bachelorette event on Nov. 10.

Skirts, suits, and boots lighted the auditorium as the PSU crowd whistled and hollered dollar amounts for a hopeful date.

Kenny Rogers' song, "The Gambler," played in the background as the contestants reached the center stage.

Dressed in their best, contestants waited for the final bidding results. The big

spenders in the crowd were surrounded by supportive cheers and persuasive words to raise the magical wand and keep the bidding going.



Photo by Kristy Pipher

RCC President Deanna Klinger

Mark Burket, a mechanical engineer major, bought three dates which made him a familiar face in the crowd.

Burket, wearing a matching suit and tie, said, "Wearing a suit made me feel like I had lots of money. I am just glad that I have two jobs."

The Resident Community Council (RCC) composed of about 10 Meade Heights residents, hosted and sponsored the Bachelor/Bachelorette event.

The RCC achieved its goal with Burket's and several other participants' cash.

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