

Plague of Injustice

CLASP essay contest winner

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CLASP MEMBER

The tension was high and the stakes even higher; cities were ravaged by a terrible plague that loomed over the entire United States. This plague could not be treated with prescription drugs. The name of this plague was injustice. The time of the plague was the 1960's. In these perilous times Martin Luther King would act as the physician who's "Dream" would be the cure to treat this plague. King's "Dream" was for racial justice and equality.

The word justice is defined as a state of rightfulness. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. wanted people of color to be treated constitutionally right. This meant that people of color would have the same opportunities of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" as White citizens.

In the Jim Crow South, people of color were banned from using the same public facilities as whites. Such necessary conveniences as restrooms and restaurants were segregated and public schools were a part of the separate-but-equal doctrine of that period. In harsh conditions as these Dr. King felt it necessary to speak up and out on this injustice.

The historical significance of

Martin Luther King's "Dream" was its fierce call for freedom, equality and justice. His "Dream" was a mandate that sought to liberate the oppressed in society. The "Dream" also called for emergency action. This is significant because other plans of action were centered on futuristic possibilities. Martin Luther King's "Dream" sought to challenge injustice immediately and aggressively.

Forty-four years after Martin Luther King's "Dream"; Senator Barack Obama launched his bid for the presidency of the United States of America. Barack Obama, the junior U.S Senator from Illinois, was considered the de facto underdog in his run to become the 44th President of these United States. Despite what seemed like an impossible candidacy, he had a tool that would exalt him above his opponents. His tool was the "Vision" he expressed for a new America, a now America. This "Vision" was birthed from the unfortunate realities of a failing economy, an unstable war and a major health care crisis. Senator Barack Obama understood that change would only take place with the collective support and effort of every American.

His "Vision" of a new America, a now America is historically significant because it calls our

nation back to accountability. The "Vision" commands government to be honest and transparent. President Barack Obama's "Vision" to reform the negative and enhance the positive qualities of our ever perfecting Union is unprecedented. In essence the "Vision" is to restore trust and hope and honor our nation's creed that all men are created equal and then we will realize again our status as a powerful and prosperous nation of many people, e pluribus unum.

Who would have thought a civil rights leader from the South and a U.S Senator from the North would both have a platform that would have historical significance in our American history. Dr. Martin Luther King's "Dream" was centered on racial equality and justice for all who called America their home. His "Dream" was not that of weariness but rather of confidence in a brighter tomorrow. President Barack Obama's "Vision" seeks to reconcile the issues we face as American citizens. The "Vision" aims to correct the corrupt practices of our government. Martin Luther King's "Dream" and President Barack Obama's "Vision" will forever have a place in our history because they both seek the greater good for the United States of America.

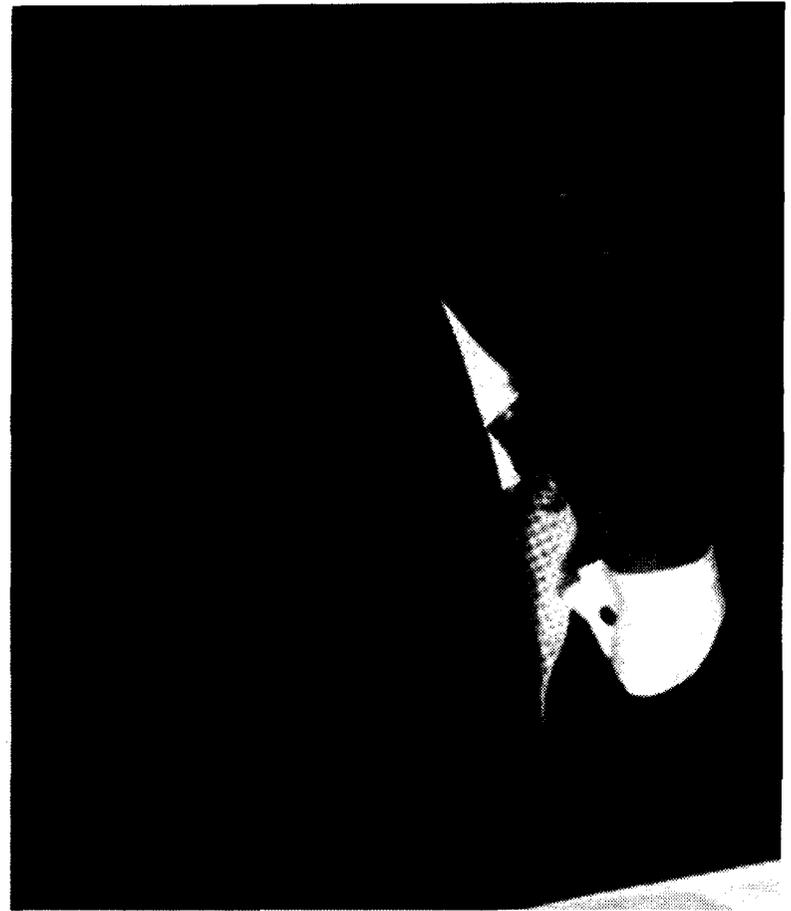


Photo courtesy of MARCELLUS TAYLOR / CLASP

CLASP (Chancellor's Leadership Access Student Program) hopes to create a venue for selected first year Penn State Harrisburg students to gain leadership skills by learning from key leaders in Penn State Harrisburg, the local community and national and international leaders. Throughout the school year, we invite leaders to campus to present five action learning sessions including: problem solving, decision making, leader dynamics, social networking, and organizational systems.

GREASE: Get out your poodle skirts and letter jackets

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he has performed in include "The Wizard Of Oz", "Seussical", "The Fantasticks", "West Side Story", "Bye Bye Birdie", "Oliver", "Guys and Dolls", and many more.

Sara Powers (Marty), a junior marketing major, has dreamed all her life of being a pink lady and is excited to finally wear the jacket in this production. Sara also played Gwen Landis in "5th of July" last Fall, and was involved in numerous high school productions.

Jordyn McCrady (Rizzo) is a sophomore majoring in Journalism and Theatre. She has been in numerous shows such as "Children of Eden", "Peter Pan", "Anything Goes", "Pippin", "Fiddler on the Roof", and "Mame". She also enjoys baton twirling and snowboarding.

Eric Stump (Kenicke) is an English major in his fourth year.

He has been working in theater since middle school, and was very active in the drama club at his Alma Mater, Schuylkill Haven High School. Eric has also done a lot of work with the Schuylkill County Acting Guild, with such performances as "Picnic" and "Gibbsville", and also appeared in the Capital Players' production of "Godspell" last year. He has worked with independent film and hopes to get back into it this summer. Also an avid musician, Eric is adept at playing the bagpipes.

"Grease" will be performed April 16th through the 19th in the Olmsted auditorium on the 2nd floor of the Olmsted building. Get ready for a rockin' good time!

Staff writer Philip Narsh is a cast member in the Penn State Harrisburg Capital Player's production of "Grease."

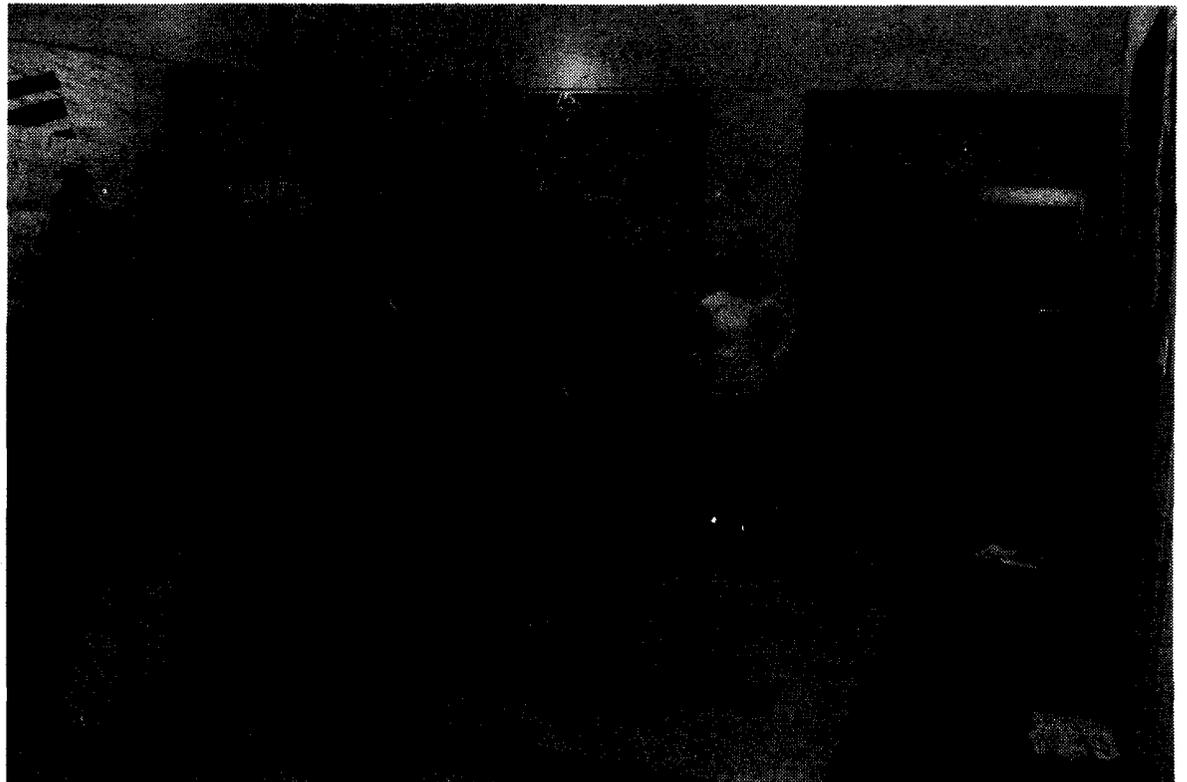


Photo by PHILIP NARSH/ The Capital Times

Members of the "Grease" cast rehearse in the Morrison Gallery.