



In Memoriam of Rosa Parks

By: Brian Jones '09

BLACK STUDENTS' ALLIANCE

When one thinks back to the days of the civil rights movement there are a couple of names that come to mind. There was Medgar Evers—a US World War II veteran who after coming back from the war was astonished to see his people suffering under such conditions and thus joined the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) to help his people gain equal rights. Another was Martin Luther King, Jr.—probably the most famous civil rights leader and was known for his non-violent approach to achieving equal rights for blacks. This list would not be complete however without Alabama's own, Rosa Louis Parks.

On October 24 2005, Rosa Parks passed away in Detroit at the beautiful age of 92 from natural causes. She is seen to be extremely fortunate for surviving a dangerous time for all blacks, let alone her established position as a civil rights activist. She got the privilege to see her dreams and aspirations of creating a society where blacks could live equally amongst their white counterparts come true.

Parks' funeral was held Wednesday, November 2, 2005 in the Greater Grace Temple found in Detroit, Michigan. The service lasted for a total of seven hours including a grand singing of "We Shall Overcome"—a song well known for its presence in and popularity during the civil rights movement. The church was graced with many famous dignitaries, entertainers, and civil rights activists. Amongst those included were former US president Bill Clinton accompanied by his wife Senator Hillary Clinton, Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, R&B singer Aretha Franklin, Reverend Jesse Jackson, Reverend Al Sharpton, and Reverend Joseph Lowery. There was an approximated 4,000 people that filled the church, about 1,000 people who were placed in an overflow room, and a couple hundred who were left lined up outside. But a turnout this large was to be expected for a woman who had such an effect on the country and so many lives.

Parks is most well known for her initializing of the Montgomery, Alabama bus-line boycott. At the time a Jim Crow ordinance existed in the city that forced colored people to

sit in the back of all buses while white people were on the bus. Parks had been sitting in a front seat of the bus when a white woman walked on and told her to get up from the seat and move to the back. Rosa, being the hard working woman that she was, did not feel like getting up and moving to the back of the bus, especially since there were plenty of other seats on the bus including several located in the front. After refusing to get up she was further pursued by the bus driver and finally the police.

Parks' perseverance on the bus that day got the attention of fellow activist Dr. King who in response organized one of the most famous boycotts this country has ever seen. Many people overlook the amount of cooperation, patience, and hard work put into accomplishing this feat. It required people walking to work as well as opening up their cars for carpool. The boycott lasted for a grand total of 381 days before the Supreme Court demolished Montgomery's Jim Crow bus segregation law.

Prior to the bus boycott, Parks was very active in the civil rights movement. She helped fight for the freedom of nine black boys that were falsely convicted of raping two white girls, and also served as the secretary of the Montgomery NAACP branch. It was behind the scene work such as this in addition to her racial perseverance and political bravery that will cause her to be greatly missed. She will be revered for years to come.

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CULTURAL SPOTLIGHT

By: Andrew Canarte '07

Culture. What is Culture? **Culture:** The system of shared beliefs, values, customs, behaviors, and artifacts that the members of society use to cope with their world and with one another, and that are transmitted from generation to generation through learning and experiences. Culture doesn't have to pertain to one country. As we see everyday certain people live in their own culture. Some people live in the Hip-Hop culture while others live in the Punk Rock Culture. As we have noted it is a system of shared beliefs and values. Can you guess what event takes place every four years that captivates the world? If you're guessing the Olympics you are arguably right. But the event that I speak of is the most anticipated sporting event in the soccer world, the World Cup. The World Cup is a culture of its own. Bringing the most unique, loyal, and charismatic fans the sporting world has ever known. The history of the world cup dates back to 1930, were the first world cup took place in Uruguay. For those who think that soccer is just a Spanish sport let me interject and say that soccer is the most watched sport in Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia. Now the reason the world cup is so important to many is because, it is the only championship game that truly crowns a "world champion." Unlike the Super Bowl and the "World Series" these so called championship sporting events do not take into account the world. The world cup looks at every single country and gives each of them a shot to be the world champion of soccer. This is the main reason it takes so long for the actual event to take place.

Soccer by far is the most popular sport in the world. It entertains all people of all backgrounds and all ways of life. For the last 20 years the World Cup has brought even more people to there stadiums to watch the spectacle. Fans for the last 5 World Cups have been in the range of 2.7 to 2.8 Million. The 2006 World Cup set to be taking place in Germany will promise even more fans. Soccer is slowly gaining the popularity and respect it deserves here in the states. And with that there will only be bigger and better things to come.

BLACK IN THE DAY

By: Andrew Canarte '07

As history passes us it is easy for many to forget the many accomplishment and great strides made within the black community. Especially on this day of November 8, 2005, many memorable accomplishments were accomplished.

On this day John H. Johnson, publisher of Ebony and Jet magazines, was awarded the Spingarn Medal "for his productive imagination...in the perilous field of publishing" and "for his contributions to the enhancement of the Negro's self-image through his publications." I am sure we have all have at least one picked up an Ebony or Jet Magazine once in the last couple of months. The last issue released was the commemorative issue that celebrates 60 years of Ebony History. This issue includes the first formal photo shoot of Academy Award winners Denzel Washington, Halle Berry and Jamie Foxx for the magazine's November cover. Many of the great successes of the magazine are due to the fact that the magazine addresses all the issues that plague African Americans today. The President and CEO of the company describes the company's success with this simple philosophy, "It has empowered some and educated others while exhibiting to the world that the basic hopes, desires and needs of Black people are no different than those of White Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, Polish Americans and any other groups who combine to make this the great country that it is." It could have not been put any simpler, which is why the Ebony has made it for sixty years and will continue to be one of the forerunners in literary entertainment. The magazine is on newspaper stands everywhere.

It is always important to do something with all your heart because then the general public will also feel your passion for what you do. This is an excellent example of how one's passion to educate and empower black America can resonate through time.

Today in Black History:
Edward W. Brooke elected first Black
US Senator in 85 years (R-Mass),
1966

AROUND CAMPUS

By: Valerie Zamor '08

America's black fraternities and sororities are a unique and vital part of 20th century African American history. Since the creation of the first fraternity in 1906 at Cornell University, they have provided young black achievers with opportunities to support each other, while serving their communities and the nation. From pioneering work in the suffragette movement to extraordinary strides during the Civil Rights era to life-changing inner-city mentoring programs in the 1990s, members of these organizations share a proud and vital history of brotherhood, sisterhood, and service.

Today, America's nine black fraternities and sororities are two-and-one-half million members strong and among the most powerful and influential groups in African American society—with chapters at major universities and colleges across the country, including Stanford University, Howard University, and the University of Chicago. Many of America's most prominent business leaders, scientists, politicians, entertainers, and athletes took their first steps toward making a difference in the world in a fraternity or sorority.

Greek Life is flourishing on the Rensselaer campus. Congratulations to the two new members of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated. Kappa Week went extremely well, the "Sex and Chocolate" program had everyone talking. Minority fraternities and sororities have been an increasing interest on the Rensselaer campus. On October 25, 2005 Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated held a program giving the minorities at RPI a chance to meet and learn more about the Divine Nine Black Letter Greek Organizations. It is a beautiful thing to see how the minorities on campus have been supportive of each other. From the large turnouts of minorities at programs, to the large turnouts of minorities to probates *in the rain*, we minorities have shown the bond that we need to keep us going throughout our daily lives. Minorities keep uplifting each other in a positive way and we definitely gon' make it!

The Divine Nine:

Alpha Phi Alpha founded 1906 at Cornell University

Alpha Kappa Alpha founded 1908 at Howard University

Kappa Alpha Psi founded 1911 at Indiana University

Omega Psi Phi founded 1911 at Howard University

Delta Sigma Theta founded 1913 at Howard University

Phi Beta Sigma founded 1914 at Howard University

Zeta Phi Beta founded 1920 at Howard University

Sigma Gamma Rho founded 1922 at Butler University

Iota Phi Theta founded 1963 at Morgan State University

NIGHT OF FREE EXPRESSION

By: Hope Gist '08

This year's Night of Free Expression was held on October 29th in the McNeil Room. This year's crowd was pretty comparable to last year, but the addition of a stage made the performers feel like real stars.

No doubt, RPI peoples did it up big! There was impromptu spoken word, a saxophone accompaniment, a duet, poetry, beat-boxing and slick rhymes, and even a little R&B crooning. On the poetry tip, Ashley Henderson presented her poem "In the Light", Tammy Sobers gave us "Untitled," David Easley took it old school with a poem he wrote for a special high school friend and Duane Granston (dressed as a phenomenal woman himself) read Maya Angelou's classic "Phenomenal Woman." Speaking of more spoken word, Vonzell Jones gave us a little spoken word. Miss Whitney Coleman shared some of her piano and vocal talents with a few of her own uplifting compositions. Whitney was not the only one who brought her own songs to the table, DeSean Moore performed "Let Me Know," a song produced by my RPI's own Intell (aka Jamel Mosley). Of course, again this year, Gene Williams "took it to the next level" and played Tevin Campbell's 90's hit "Can We Talk" on the saxophone (accompanied by alumni Jose Suazo). Ikenna Okoli, Jamel Mosley and Josh Reid blew up the mic because oh I think we liked them...too! To end the HOT student performances, Ms. President herself, Stephanie Robinson performed Alicia Keys' "Diary" along with DeSean. Who knows, you might see anyone of these talented people on your radio or on your TV one day, just watch!

To end the night off, BSA brought Georgia Me (from Def Poetry on Broadway) all the way from the city of ATL (shawdy!). She represented to the fullest with her real, straight from the heart poetry. She started the show off shaking her hips to "Laffy Taffy," then she gave us a glimpse of her hood, in her poem "The Promised Land." She spit a poem dedicated to 50 and Jeezy because she thinks they are some "B.A.N." She also had a selection dedicated to all of the full figured women with "Full figure Potential: A Fat Girl's Blues" and also to the wonderful black men in the world with "Niggods." Her curly hair gleamed in the light while telling us how some guy she was dating thought she was too ghetto! Her response was the poem "Ghetto Belle." Even after she ended the show, a few RPI students crowded around her exchanging a few views on certain people in the music industry and about her personal experience on Def Poetry on Broadway. For all of those who didn't come out to the show, you really missed a good show filled with "free expression" and even a little extra. You can find pictures from the event on BSA's website: <http://bsa.union.rpi.edu> in the scrapbook section. Also, you can check out Georgia Me on MySpace @ <http://www.myspace.com/ghettobellegame>.

ALBUM REVIEWS

By: Christopher Holmes '06

Ratings:

- 1 – Get your Money Back....NOW!
- 2 – Better used as wall decoration
- 3 – It's aiiiight!
- 4 – Pretty Damn Good
- 5 – Masterpiece

Jean Grae

This Week

(Released Sept. 2004)

Rating: 5 – Masterpiece

Jean Grae is a monster in the world of underground hip hop, male or female. As a part of Okayplayer along with other artists the likes of the Roots, Talib Kweli and Common, she has the talent to become a hip hop superstar, but now she just needs the exposure. Born in South Africa (real name Tsidi Ibrahim) to two struggling musicians, Jean was taught to be proficient in any and every creative performing arts. Nurturing her talents in dance led her to becoming the youngest person at 13 years old, to be a part of Alvin Ailey's second company.

"This Week" starts out on a very strong note with a nice intro featuring a beautiful horn loop and Tracy from the Jazzyfatnastees. Jean becomes the consummate emcee on the next couple of tracks, starting with one of my personal favorites, "A-Alikes." It is a hard track that describes in the hook the life of a starving emcee: "I fall apart, I write just to stay right." "Style Wars" is a menacing track with bloodthirsty lyrics that just eat away at the cupcakes that the typical commercial rap has put over your ears. "Supa Love" and "Give it Up" are two very soulful tracks (the latter more so than the former) that work very well, and they happen to be back to back. There's no denying the girl has skills, as witnessed by this verse in "Give It Up":

*I Jean Grae solemnly need this Fresh to death man
Even blind girls can see that he's DEF JAM
I'm in this UNIVERSAL problem
Y'all can probably relate, y'all follow then
So do I give my lovin to him?
Or would that just ruin everything that we're about
I'm so attached to him
He knows the way I am, tempers un-godly so
Domestic violence could turn to me on DEATH ROW
He's so persistent with it, we're makin out again
We double datin, out with one of his COLUMBIA
friends
He didn't graduate, Son makes him feel shitty
We leave the place, and run hand in hand around the
city
He leans in kisses me, his G UNIT shiftily
My mind is listlessly movin into ecstasy
His warmth next to me, now we're all neckin
Layin in his arms affection*

ALBUM REVIEWS (CON'T)

By: Christopher Holmes '06

Like she says on hook of the sixth track, "you know it's not easy just to come across a girl like Jean." It's not easy to come across an emcee like her, let alone a female emcee.

Lil' Kim

The Naked Truth

(Released Sept. 2005)

Rating: 3 – It's aiiiight!

At this point in time, Lil' Kim is sitting in a cell in a high-rise detention center in Philadelphia. Fortunately for her, she was able to release her newest album, "The Naked Truth" before she went behind bars. She will, likelier than not, have a platinum plaque and millions of dollars awaiting her release from prison. This brings me to the point where I will talk about how the album is worth all of the praise it received from The Source. However, I will not say that simply because it's not. The best tracks on the album are "Lighters Up," "Whoa," the smooth "Slippin," "Get Yours" and the sex-laced "Gimme That." That is only 5 better-than-average tracks out of 21 total tracks. There are too many skits in my opinion, and none of them are entertaining. Every album since her first, "Hardcore" has gone down in quality, with the exception of "La Bella Mafia." People will continue buying her albums, if for no other reason than she always releases at least one hot single, in this case "Lighters Up." Unfortunately, her albums don't live up to the hype that the single brings.

Twista

The Day After

(Released October 2005)

Rating: 4.5 – Almost a Masterpiece

Not a really hyped release, Twista's newest album, "The Day After" is a banger. He has a lot more commercial, radio-friendly songs on the album this time around, but the songs are hot regardless. The first single off the album is "Girl Tonight" with Trey Songz. It features a slick sample from Oh Sheila's hit "Tonight." Pharrell shows up on the very smooth tracks "Lavish" and one of my favorite tracks, "When I Get You Home (A.I.O.U.)" featuring Jamie Foxx. If these two songs are released as singles in the future, Twista will not have to worry about album sales. Mariah Carey shows up on "So Lonely," while Snoop Dogg makes an appearance on the very pimpish "Had to Call." It's surprising how well Twista and Snoop work together, especially considering their contrasting styles. Two of the last three tracks held even more surprises for me, with Juvenile and Pitbull showing up, respectively. "I'm a Winner" is an extremely catchy track, with a great hook. The last track, "Hit the Floor" with Pitbull is an unexpectedly bouncy, reggaeton track. I'm sure it will be a hit in the clubs this spring. Overall, Twista's album is beyond good and is a worthy follow-up to his last CD.

THE PANTRY

By: Xavier Hairston-Khan '07



MONKEY BREAD

3 packages of buttermilk biscuit tubes
1 cup sugar (divided)
2 tsp cinnamon
1 cup butter
1/2 cup brown sugar

Take 3 packages of buttermilk biscuit tubes (10 per roll) and cut each roll into 4 pieces. Drop roll pieces into 1 cup sugar and 2 tsp. cinnamon. Drop sugar coated pieces into a well buttered bundt pan (don't squish roll pieces when placing them in the bundt pan).

Put 1/2 cup of the left over sugar/cinnamon mix and 1/2 cup packed brown sugar and 1 cup of butter (2 sticks) into small sauce pan.

Bring this mixture just to a boil, take off heat right away. Carefully drizzle over the roll pieces.

Bake at 350 degrees for 30 min.

Cool slightly in an upright position, then tip pan over onto a plate to remove monkey pull-apart bread.

TOPPING:

1 1/2 sticks of butter
1 tsp. cinnamon
1 c. brown sugar

Melt butter, cinnamon and brown sugar. Pour over biscuits. Use fork method to check. Bake at 350 degrees for 25 to 30 minutes. Cool 10 minutes in pan. Turn upside down onto plate. Pull off chunks to eat.

HOW DID IT GET ITS NAME?!?!

Since monkeys are known for gleefully pulling at, well, everything, it makes sense that an audience-participation loaf should be called monkey bread. Formed of balls of dough and baked in a ring mold, monkey bread emerges as golden puffs that are irresistible to both hand and eye. The idea is that you pick it apart like a bunch of.... (monkeys) . . . that it's more fun than a barrel of. . . . You get the idea.

ARTISTS' CORNER

"True Friendship" by Stephanie Robinson

I get so frustrated with life and love that
I go through moments of depression that feel like
they wont end
I lose confidence, lose sight of my goals
I feel unworthy, hopeless
I question my purpose...no one cares about my
existence
I feel alone...its embedded in me that the world is my
enemy
It seems like there's nothing out here for me, what's
the point of living
No words to heal the pain I reveal
I suffer from a bruised ego, a troubled mind, a heavy
heart
I feel so lifeless, I jus want to be free
From these mental wounds that hold me in captivity
Sometimes I wanna give up
Then a simple hug from you lets me know I'll be
alright, things will fall into place
And instantly these feelings disappear and vanish
Thank you for being my friend.

"Black" by Becca Lane

When I think of black, I don't think of night,
Nor of creepy-crawly things that bring only fright.
When I think of black, I don't think of negative
things,
Or sad stuff that people usually think black brings.
When I think of black, I see a bold strike of life,
That's beautiful to behold, and does not bring strife.
I see a blinding light of hope that always shines
through,
That invokes confidence and determination in all that
I do.
When I look, I see lots of happy love looking back,
I don't see depression, a bleak future, nor a run-
down shack.
I notice something more alive within its mysterious
mist,
Something powerful, alluring, and so very hard to
resist.
When I look at black, I don't see the ugliness of hate,
I see a simple misunderstanding being condemned to
a cruel fate.
I black-out all bad things associated with the color
black,
And let the positive images have a chance to fight
back.
When I think of black, powerful thoughts enter my
mind.
Making it difficult to hold onto the bad that some like
to find.
I see dignity, pride, and a determination that just
won't leave.
When I think of black, I think of beautiful, Black Me.

DEAR SHAQUAN,

Dear Shaquan,
I am off to an ok start to my first year of school. I am a little troubled because I expected to have way more "fun" here at school. I want to get my feet wet but I don't want to get caught out there and have these guys thinking I am a hoe. What should I do?

~New in Town

*Dear New in Town,
What you have to realize young one is that you are going about this the wrong way. Being the fact that you are a woman at a school that is predominantly men, you are holding all the cards. You don't have to go out looking for them because you can guarantee they are looking for you. Keep your stuff tight. Also, try wearing something with a lil' sex appeal to catch a few eyes. Don't put it all out there but let it be known that you are working with a lil' something. Then you have to make sure that you are willing to go out and have fun with your girls. The guys will always be around; you don't want to seem like you are desperate to find someone to have a lil' fun with. So have fun with your girls while waiting for the right guy to notice you. You follow this the right way and all you will have left to do is to pick and choose the lucky one to experience all that is you.*

~Shaquan

Dear Shaquan,
I'm in a little bit of a jam, I have a boyfriend but yet I have been seeing this other guy on the side. It turns out that both of the guys that I am dealing with know each other and all three of us have a mutual friend. This "mutual friend" knows about the situation but has not said anything to either of the guys.

~Caught up

*Dear Caught up,
You are in a very delicate situation. I can see that you haven't read your playa's manual all the way through. Your first mistake was messing with your man's friend, and the second mistake was messing with someone who was a mutual friend with your man. The way I see it there are three ways to handle this situation. You can take a chance and hope the mutual friend never tells, work on the mutual friend and get them on your side so you can break it off and get away clean, or you can do the "right thing" and confess it all to your man before y'all friend do. No matter what happens, make sure you learn from it.*

Shaquan

DEAR SHAQUAN,

Dear Shaquan,
I am a senior this year and I am just trying to graduate. But these young freshmen keep pressing me wanting to do this and that to me. Some of these girls are real sexy and I wouldn't mind but I have always had a two year rule. They are too young in my book. How should I handle this situation?

~Kelly in training

*Dear Kelly in training,
You finally made it. You are about to be out and starting your life as a full grown adult. What was supposed to be the best years of your life are coming to an end. With that bouncing around in the back of my head I would be trying to maximize my enjoyment for my last few months of true freedom. If they are legal by the standards of the law, then handle yours. If you want to maintain your rule, then there are ways to bend that rule...if you get what I am saying.*

~Shaquan

Dear Shaquan,
I am the kind of person who likes to have all kinds of fun, whenever I can and with whomever I can. I don't think that makes me a slut or a hoebag, skigskag, whatever you wanna call it. I just believe in sexual freedom. Unfortunately, that freedom has landed me in this predicament. I think that I contracted a VD from this guy I had sex with last month. I didn't realize it until a couple of weeks later, after I ****ed this other guy. Now the second guy (who is a virgin) is complaining about some problems he's having going to the bathroom. What should I do?

~Tainted in Troy

*Dear Tainted in Troy,
Girl, you messed up bad. How are you gonna be that raggedy with your stuff? If you're gonna have sex, especially with multiple partners, you have to make sure that you both are clean. You should know this girl! Enough with the tongue lashing...as far as advice goes, both of you, actually, all three of you should go to the doctor or to the clinic to get tested for any STDs, including AIDS. Then get a pregnancy test. After that, if indeed you find out that the first guy gave you a venereal, you need to hit him with a frying pan and never speak to him again. And next time girl, please, please, PLEASE, make sure that he's clean, that you're clean and that you use a jimmy hat.*