



Senior Reflections

It is hard to believe that my time at Rensselaer is up. We all say it, but it really feels as if I just got here. A little snout nosed freshman chilling in Hall Hall. I have so many memories. I remember back when OMSA was the chill spot between classes, the gospel choir, the random water fights, the invite only parties at blackout 21 (most of yall don't know about that), the annual 52 party put on by LaVonge productions, the BSA panthers remaining champs 3 years running, the original lock downs, freeze taggin' it up, minorities almost starting a fight at every RPI basketball game, the fashion shows, building up the rep of the "uniform", Kerrissa wearing that outfit to the BSA pajama party, spring break '06, and I could go on and on.

My time here has been somewhat of a rollercoaster ride. I have had my ups and downs, from getting beat down by this school, to the loss of some of our own. R.I.P to all those we've lost over the years. As long as I keep you in my heart, you will never be gone. As we get set to go our separate ways I just want to say thank you to all who have made my time here special. You all know who you are and much luv to ya. Let me cut this off before I get all emotional and what not so for all of you all still here, keep your head up. It will be over before you know it. To all my people leaving, see you on the cover of black enterprise!!!
 0000000000000066666!!!!!!
 -- Vonzell Jones, '06--

Wow... it has really been an interesting and fun four years at RPI. There has been so much change since 2002. Memories...

I will never forget the games of tag/hide and seek in the CII. The barbeques and the random water fights through the residence halls, all of the BSA events which were always on point, NSBE conferences, where the business mixed with pleasure, the bomb spring break vacations, the weather that was too cold for my liking. I remember when OMSA used to be the spot, the parties at the "undisclosed" locations, skating in the field house, the numerous "family" members I made... The potentials...

I will never forget the struggles, the late nights, the stress and the tears, the achievements, the love and support; the people who helped me make it through. And I will most definitely never forget the friends who left and never got the opportunity to finish.

The good times and the bad... I would not exchange them for anything in the world. The minority community and experiences here at RPI has made my stay great. I wouldn't be the person I am today if it weren't for your influence. I love you guys for that. Keep your head up and stay focused. Continue to make me proud. And if you ever feel like it... holla at your girl (Kayla.Hales@alum.rpi.edu)!

Until next time...
 ~Kayla Hales

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SUMMER PLANS

This summer, I plan on working. My internship from last summer probably will not need my help. I still have my whack Supermarket job that I've had for the past 5 years. Although that is bad news, my friends in Boston are giving me contact info about other internships that pertain to my major and are also sending out my resume to their relatives who work in management firms. I have also been researching jobs at RPI, but the money is not looking too well so I will try other places. However, if it looks good on my resume, I have no choice but not to care about the money. I'm waiting to find out the outcome of my internship situation, but as I said before I have the Supermarket. I know I need to step up my game and let it go though. I know the job will always take me back and in situations like now the Supermarket is helping me by still being there so I can make some type of money. Besides working I plan on catching up with the family because Lord knows I do not call them while I am in school. It is always nice to see how the kids have grown, not grown, or grown too much. Of course I need to purchase a ticket to go to the city to see my favorite people in the world from RPI and might make a stop at school for those who will be stay at RPI this summer. I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer!

--Kimara Freeman, '08--

Summer 2006 is almost here. I don't know why I'm so hyped about it because I'm going to be at Rensselaer for most of the summer. I was chosen to assist the HEOP program as a teaching-resident assistant from the 23rd of June to the 5th of August. I've tried to find out bits and pieces about how the program is from past HEOP students and TRA's. I've only heard negative things...In fact, I don't even want to do it now. One person told me it would be better to work in Price Chopper. I was like "HELL NAWW!!..." "At least I have 6 weeks in the city before I have to come back to Rensselaer. I heard a couple of people will actually be up here this summer so it might not be that bad after all. Once I get home on the 13th of May, I'll probably fly out to Detroit to see my father for about 2 weeks then come chill in the city with family and friends. Less time in the city will make it more memorable because New York City is highly overrated. No internships or nothing but somehow, some way, I am going to do my thing...I just hope you do too.

--Chris Smith, 08--

This summer, I'm going home to work and hang out with my girlfriend. I'm not going to see anybody. I'm not going to talk to anybody. Screw all of you! Sike, sike. You know I love you guys, and once I get home, I'll be ready to come back up and see everybody again. I'm determined to have fun this summer, and I hope you do too. Stay safe.

--Chris Holmes, 06--

BLACK IN THE DAY

Doctor, Hero, Medical Revolutionary, James Cornish was dying. He had been carried into the emergency ward at Provident Hospital on Chicago's South Side, bleeding from a knife wound in his chest. Dr. Daniel Hale Williams called for six of his fellow black physicians to help him get the dying man into an operating room. Carefully making an incision in his patient's chest, Williams exposed the man's still-beating heart and his near-fatal wound. Williams and his surgeons sewed up the ragged gash located to the right of the heart, and, saying a prayer, sutured the chest incision, ending the world's first open heart surgery. The year was 1893. The patient, scarred but healed, walked out of Provident Hospital one month later.

Just two years before, Williams had founded Provident Hospital and its Training School for Nurses to provide medical education and a place to practice medicine for black nurses and doctors. After performing his historic open heart surgery, Williams was appointed surgeon-in-chief of Freedmen's Hospital in Washington, D.C., by President Grover Cleveland. He reorganized the hospital with his revolutionary idea of creating separate medical departments to treat specific ailments: surgical, gynecological, obstetrical, dermatological, urinary and throat and chest. At Freedmen's, Williams also opened another training school for black nursing students.

Williams accomplished all of this after experiencing a difficult childhood. Born in Hollidaysburg, Pa., he was just 11 years old when his father died. Shortly afterward, his mother sent him to apprentice with a cobbler, then abandoned him. He supported himself later as a roustabout, or transient laborer, on a Great Lakes steamer ship, then as a barber. He was managing a barber shop when he apprenticed himself to Wisconsin's surgeon general, Dr. Henry Palmer, who became Williams' mentor as he earned his medical degree.

DEAR SHAQUAN

Dear Shaquan,

I need some help. I grew up with this girl. She was corny, bucktooth, and very unattractive. We've stayed on the same block for our entire lives; our parents know each other. We spoke but not too often. Now she's in college and she is the bomb...Very intelligent and sexy. We've been speaking lately, just reminiscing about old times. I think she is the perfect girl for me. However, I don't know how to tell her that I'm feeling her...Shaquan, I need some help...

--Counting on You--

Dear Counting on You,

The first thing you need to do is buy the first Musiq Soulchild CD and listen to track number 3. It's called "Girl Next Door". It describes your exact situation. Then, find the video to the song and watch it. You might learn something. Next, you should clearly let her know that you are single and looking for a girl, much like her. Say it while y'all reminisce about the past or when old relationship talk arises. You have to flatter her and tell her what she wants to hear. Don't bring up how you used to tease and talk about her behind her back. You will lose MAJOR points. If she brings it up or asks you anything that remotely has to do with that topic, CHANGE THE SUBJECT! Find out what she likes and dislikes. For some of the stuff that she likes, you may have to do some lying. If you find something that she likes, just say you like it too. That way it seems as if y'all have something in common. You should also put her and yourself in what if situations, in a joking tone of course. For instance, you can say, "If you and I were going out, we would..." and what she says in response or how she reacts to that. That will tell you if you should continue trying to scoop or just stop and move on. Whatever happens, make sure you remain close friends because if you're really a fiend, you may be able to catch her on the rebound because you'll be the shoulder she cries on. Good luck!

--Shaquan--

IN THE NEWS

By: Christopher Smith, '08

Bootleggers Loot \$6.1 Billion in Profits

The major movie studios lost an estimated \$6.1 billion in 2005 because of Internet piracy, bootlegging and illegal copying of their films, according to a study released Wednesday by the Motion Picture Association of America. The losses are far bigger than any previous annual estimates and showed that Internet piracy, which accounted for \$2.3 billion of the losses, is now nearly matching the losses for street sales of bootlegged copies, which totaled \$2.4 billion. The remaining \$1.4 billion was lost to the illegal copying of films. Previous figures quoted by the MPAA were annual estimated losses reaching \$3.5 billion from street sales of pirated movies alone. The MPAA had also previously referred to a study by Informa Media Group which estimated that online file sharing was costing the movie industry \$858 million more annually. The study showed that the bulk of the losses were from international piracy, which accounted for \$4.8 billion. About half of that total was from European countries. The remaining \$1.3 billion in losses occurred in the U.S., which is higher than any individual country. But the report states that the country where piracy is most prevalent in terms of potential percentage loss to the marketplace is China at 93 percent, followed by Russia at 81 percent, Hungary at 73 percent, Thailand and Mexico at 62 percent, and Taiwan at 51 percent.

Shaq and Kobe Become Father on Same Day

Just like old times, Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal are celebrating. The former Lakers teammates became fathers again Monday when their wives gave birth to girls six minutes apart.

Gianna Maria-Onore Bryant was born at 2:03 a.m. PDT in Orange County, California. Kobe and Vanessa Bryant are already parents to 3-year-old Natalia. "The arrival of our new daughter Gianna early this morning is such an incredible blessing for me and my family," Bryant said in a statement. "We are all full of beautiful emotions after such an incredible day."

Shaquille and Shaunie O'Neal became parents for the sixth time when Mearah Sanaa O'Neal was born at 4:57 a.m. EDT in a South Florida hospital. It's the third girl for the O'Neals, with Mearah joining sisters Taahirah and Amirah and brothers Myles, Shareef and Shaqir, who turned 3 last month.

Both mothers and their new babies were said to be doing well.

COMEDY CORNER!!!

By: Christopher Smith, '08

We all know about MLK, Marcus Garvey, and the other famous, more prominent black figures in history. But what about the less famous ones who have made arguably as valuable contributions?

Take Exhibit Number 1. Cheryl "Peaches" Delaney of Englewood, NJ, was working the night shift at a McDonalds in 1974. The 16 year-old high school junior had just been severely reprimanded by her manager, Arnold McFarland, over her Afro hairdo being unprofessional. McFarland gave her an ultimatum of rocking the clown hat or being fired, and Delaney, working to save money for cosmetology school, agreed.

Hours later, she noticed several of her classmates in the drive-through window, on their way to a party in Lucious Jones' booger-green 1971 Cheverolet Impala. The four of them ordered four hamburgers, and were going to split three orders of fries and two cokes. Peaches, filling the order, and noticing that McFarland had taken his nightly thirty minute bathroom break, had an epiphany. She locked eyes with LaWanda, who was on fries, and Buddy, who was on the register, and in a blur of motion, they stuffed 5 jumbo bags with every single hamburger, cheeseburger, french fry, cookie, and other item they could find, accepting \$1.01 from Lucious Jones as payment. Cheryl "Peaches" Delaney had invented "The Hook-Up".

We salute you Ms. Cheryl "Peaches" Delaney...a Black pioneer and hero!

A little boy comes down to breakfast. Since they live on a farm, his mother asks if he had done his chores. "Not yet," said the little boy. His mother tells him no breakfast until he does his chores.

Well, he's a little irritated, so he goes to feed the chickens, and he kicks a chicken. He goes to feed the cows, and he kicks a cow. He goes to feed the pigs, and he kicks a pig. He goes back in for breakfast and his mother gives him a bowl of dry cereal. "How come I don't get any eggs and bacon? Why don't I have any milk in my cereal?" he asks.

"Well," his mother says, "I saw you kick a chicken, so you don't get any eggs for a week. I saw you kick the pig, so you don't get any bacon for a week either. I also saw you kick the cow, so for a week you aren't getting any milk."

Just then, his father comes down for breakfast and kicks the cat halfway across the kitchen. The little boy looks up at his mother with a smile, and says, "Are you going to tell him, or should I?"

MOVIE REVIEWS

By: Christopher Smith, '08

X-Men 3: The Last Stand

May 26, 2006

The X-Men, mutant heroes sworn to defend a world that hates and fears them, are back! This time, with the help of new recruits The Beast and Angel, they must face evolution itself in the form of their former teammate, Jean Grey. Possessed with the cosmic power of the Dark Phoenix, the resurrected Jean Grey has become a danger to herself, her mutant comrades, and the entire planet. To stave off this imminent threat to humanity, a potential cure is discovered and processed to treat -- and ultimately eliminate -- genetic mutations, once and for all. Now, as the battle lines are drawn, the X-Men, led by Professor Charles Xavier, must contend with both Jean Grey's world-consuming powers, as well as the malevolent Brotherhood, a band of powerful mutants organized under Xavier's former ally, Magneto.

The Breakup

June 2, 2006

Pushed to the breaking-point after their latest, "why can't you do this one little thing for me?" argument, art dealer Brooke calls it quits with her boyfriend, Gary, who hosts bus tours of Chicago. What follows is a series of remedies, war tactics, overtures and underminings suggested by the former couple's friends, confidantes and the occasional total stranger. When neither ex is willing to move out of the condo they used to share, the only solution is to continue living as hostile roommates until somebody caves. But somewhere between protesting the pool table in the living room, the dirty clothes stacked in the kitchen cupboards and the sports played at sleep-killing volume in the middle of the night, Brooke begins to realize that what she may be really fighting for isn't so much the place but the person.

Superman Returns

June 30, 2006

Following a mysterious absence of several years, the Man of Steel, Superman, comes back to Earth--but things have changed. While an old enemy plots to render him powerless once and for all, Superman faces the heartbreaking realization that the woman he loves, Lois Lane, has moved on with her life. Or has she? Superman's bittersweet return challenges him to bridge the distance between them while finding a place in a society that has learned to survive without him. In an attempt to protect the world he loves from cataclysmic destruction, Superman embarks on an epic journey of redemption that takes him from the depths of the ocean to the far reaches of outer space. Rated PG-13.

ALBUM REVIEWS

Jorman Pena, '08

Talib Kweli - Right About Now: The Official Sucka Free Mix Cd

Talib Kweli's most recent release is "Right About Now: The Official Sucka Free Mix CD". I've been a fan of Kweli since Reflection Eternal and the Blackstar album. The exceptional work on this album is shown on "Drugs, Basketball, and Rap." This song is a personal analysis of the Black community and declaration that society can do much more together. The standout track is "Ms. Hill," an epic verse dedicated to Lauryn Hill and her talent as an emcee and a strong Black Woman. Kweli re-aligns with former Blackstar partner Mos Def on "Supreme Supreme" and shows us the classic sound on this reunion. One great showcase is from the underground prodigy Jean Grae on "Where You Gonna Run." The great part of this album is the mix of genres. When you're trying to find some tranquility and peace, just listen to "Two & Two." For a more energized and lyrical feeling put on "Who Got It." Talib Kweli fans will definitely want this addition and it is the perfect follow up to the lyrical powerhouse of Quality. What was missing? Hi-Teks' beats on the tracks; but it still leaves a superb collection of great music.

Favorite Verse(s):

- Ms. Hill

"I wish I could talk to Lauryn; I mean excuse me, Ms. Hill

*And let her know how much we love her - it's real
The industry was beatin her up, then them demons
started eatin her up*

*she need a savior that'll bleed in a cup, yup
We used to kick it in the salad days*

*When she look at me like she don't know me when she
see me nowadays*

I nod, she nod back, that's how it stay

*Her songs still better than anything out that Hot or
Power play"*

- Two & Two

*"This right here the bare essentials with no extras y'all
I kept it raw from the school of thought where less is
more*

*Brooklyn is cooking and I blessed it with the special
sauce*

*I got the soul of a prophet and never take a loss
Fresher than kicks out the box, the kids on the block
That is street hungry trying to get that sweet honey out
the rock*

*Crack in the socks when they click the row thicker than
sour sop*

Listening to my black power rock

Music, of this hip hop we be rock to it

I'm a river, you a valley, watch me run right through it"

Rating: 4.5 / 5.0



The Best of Lauryn Hill: Fire & Water

Released in 2005, The Best of Lauryn Hill is named one of the "TOP MIXTAPES OF 2005" (MTV) and featured in XXL, SOURCE & many more! Why buy this two volume set, when the tracks can be found in other albums? The mix tape contains over 80 tracks of hits, remixes, live performances, freestyles, rare recordings and 'personal commentary' from Ms. Hill and exclusive tracks featuring Buju Banton, Steele, Common & Black Thought! Ms. Hill has been a superstar since The Fugees (Refugee Camp & Translator Crew). Hardly any of her songs are disliked, and this mix tape will make fans feel as if songs were left out. Brooklyn DJ "J.Period" is the mastermind behind the mixtape. J.Period used great techniques and covered Lauryn Hill's career well. This mixtape includes remarks from Ms. Hill and shout outs by fellow artists. Hear from Lauryn herself on her start in rapping with Poetry; the friendship she had with Pras; the first time she met Wyclef; and a live performance from Sweden. This is the Lauryn Hill story from her start with Pras Michel & Wyclef Jean in the Fugees through her solo career. Exceptional tracks include "Ex-Factor" (the original and a live UK version), "Turn Your Lights Down Low", "A Chant Down Babylon" (a Bob Marley song restored for his tribute album), and more.

Find More info @ jperiod.com

Favorite Verse(s):

- Meeting The Fugees

" I remember when I first met Pras, he said 'You know Lauryn; I got this group, and you know; heard you could sing, you know; I know your brother so I think you can join my group.' And I was like aight, you know I was down, cause I just wanted to make music."

- Family Business

*" Cause I've seen fire and I've seen rain, You claim fame, while modest niggas remain. I can judge a character like I to judge a verdict, And if you bringin' threats I give you sex if I ain't heard it. See poppin' s***s about your attitude and how you word it, I've seen the biggest niggas on the block get murdered, And they deserved it, Or so the beast said when they served it ??? That s*** is nervous, So what's my purpose?, Family, we must preserve it.*

Rating: 5.0 / 5.0



There are a plethora of new artists and albums coming out over the summer, so stay tuned for new album reviews next semester!