As an African-American student leader here on Albright’s predominately Caucasian campus, I’ve had to face some obstacles. At the same time, I’ve been afforded many opportunities. Thus, I have never found the need to blame anyone outside of myself for my successes or failures. Because of the differing opinions between ethnic students concerning the issue of race and opportunity, disunity is broadening among minority students. One problem I’ve noticed is there are cliques forming between the ethnic students. Not only is this visible in the café recently this has spilled into the student organizations. Personally, there seems to be no need to create several ethnic organizations with the same intentions and goals within such a small population. These splits and schisms reflect the growing disunity among ethnic students here on campus.

The one issue that concerned me about coming to Albright, a small liberal arts college, was that it was the size of some people’s high school. However, I didn’t intend to re-live all of the “drama” that comes from immaturity again in college.

There is a need for stronger unity among ethnic students. Even though it’s the 21st century, students are still reporting instances of racial profiling and harassment. While I personally have not had any of these encounters, when this occurs, I believe it should be publicized. Occurrences like this do not make me proud of our institution. In fact, it upsets me that people are still resorting to hate ideology and language. This is simply unfair.

I refuse to support racial injustice and discrimination of any kind. While I do not believe that racism and ignorance will ever go away, I believe public awareness and education on diversity will make a difference.

I am, and will always remain, one of Albright’s biggest cheerleaders. I am not ashamed of my school. I will be the first to admit that I have been afforded opportunities because I am a minority person who is not afraid to share her thoughts. I have many philosophies and one of them is that I refuse to let another human being stress me out, especially when no one is perfect. Keep in mind that each of us has to wake up, wash our dirty faces and rinse our smelly mouths each day. We all are human and have to operate as perfectly as possible in an imperfect world among imperfect beings.

In short, why should I let anyone less than perfect stress me out for any reason? I have made these comments not to be argumentative or controversial but because I felt a need to say something about the strong need for unity instead of discord.
What’s up with the new escort service?

What’s up with the new escort service?

As a junior attending Albright College, I personally have been using the escort service since I got here. I have even worked for Security, so I know first hand how the escort system works. Since the new “plan” has been implemented many people have not been very happy about it. Students are beginning to question as to how this new change could have been enforced all of a sudden. Some students feel that this may be some type of punishment or a way of trying to get students to use the escort service a lot less. In considering why this is happening, there has been no straightforward answer, if there even is one. Myself and other students have made the suggestion that the escort service might run twice an hour rather than the once an hour, which is how they are doing it now. In any case, I would like to know if there is any chance of the old escort service returning, or if the new service could be changed to please both students and safety and security. No one can sit here and say that it wouldn’t work, because such changes were never tried, and it doesn’t hurt to try and experiment a little. The problems of the new escort service have been brought to the attention of several people. I am curious as to what the campus can expect for the next semester a new and improved escort service, or the same one. We do appreciate the service and the fact that we have a new van as well, but I know there are several options that could be discussed to put into action a new or improved “plan.”

Reviews

Jawanza Kunjufu ‘Countering the Conspiracy to destroy Black Boys/ Men” by Simbarashe Murerwa

On 10/21/03 Rev. Wallace, Director of Multi-Ethnic Student Affairs, sponsored a trip to Millersville University in Lancaster Pa. Fifteen students traveled Millersville University, for an informative and inspiring lecture by Dr. Jawanzaa Kunjufu, renowned educator and writer who has authored numerous books in fields of Multicultural curriculum and education, one of his renowned books is Countering the Conspiracy to Destroy Black Boys/ Men. Dr.Kunjufu began the lecture by making reference to one of his books, Satan, I’m taking back my health, which exposes the shocking health statistics of African Americans. One out of every three African Americans will die of cancer, and one out of every six will die of diabetes and one out of every two will die from heart disease. He used these statistics to stress that diet is critical. He highlighted the importance of reading food (cont’d pg 3).
Zimbabwe gained independence on April 18, 1980; it was the last of the 15 British colonies in Africa to achieve independence. Zimbabwe was settled by the British in 1890 and named Rhodesia after its founder, Cecil John Rhodes. Prior to the formation of this British colony, the land was divided into four portions, Mashonaland, Manicaland, Midlands and Matebeleland. The honorable Robert Gabriel Mugabe took power with the ZANU-PF party (Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front), which is based in Harare, the nation’s capital. Zimbabwe’s main source of income is agriculture, naturally occurring minerals i.e. iron ore, gold, asbestos and tourism. Some of the attractions in Zimbabwe are: Victoria Falls (one of the biggest waterfalls in Southern Africa), Hwange National Park (Wildlife reserve, and hotel complex) and Great Zimbabwe (Ancient Bantu tribe ruins from the 12th-16th century). Sixty percent of the population is literate in English. The remaining forty percent either speak Shona or Ndebele, the two traditional languages. Zimbabwe has a population of 10,300,000 in an area of 50,873 sq miles.

There are two major Universities in Zimbabwe: University of Zimbabwe and Africa University, situated in the capital and a small city Mutare respectively. Both Universities offer a remarkable Undergraduate and Post Graduate curriculum. The bulk of the students attending these colleges come from neighboring countries, South Africa, Botswana, Zambia and Mozambique because of the relatively high tuition costs. The following Zimbabwean’s have gained recognition on an international scale in their various sports: Nick Price, World Class Golfer and winner of PGA Tournament in 1994 and Byron Black, outstanding tennis player, whom towards the end of his career defeated Michael Chang on the February 18, 2000. Oliver Mutukudzi is a very popular musician based in Zimbabwe and his albums can be found in local record stores throughout the United States. The image of Zimbabwe has been tainted by the recent act passed by the Government, Land Redistribution, taking the bulk of the farmland from the minority white farmers and redistributing it to the poor majority in Zimbabwe. The Western world scorns the rational to this act because of the harsh conditions in which the farmland was taken away from the minority farmers.
On Thursday, November 7, members of the community and Albright students gathered in the Campus Center to hear the “Untold Story” of a people who were systematically dispersed from their homeland. Chief Wolf Posten, the leader of the Lenape Nation led the audience through a historical timeline of conquest and disillusionment. Significant dates mentioned were 1838 ‘Trail of Tears’ which was a culmination of tribes being forcibly collected as well as the apparent fear of losing their identity, in which they were trying to restructure. And 1924, the granting of US citizenship. Prior to this, only individuals who were members of federally recognized tribes and “naturalized” individuals were given the rights of a United States citizen. Chief Posten went on to state that in an attempt to recapture their heritage, there has been a continuing effort to reorganize the tribe and bring back a culture that has been overlooked. While his presentation was informative, his knowledge of events seemed more to have been grasped through books and research rather than from his ancestry. The evening proved to be an intriguing one as questions were raised as to Chief Posten’s authenticity. However, this matter was left unresolved. I should possibly mention here that Chief Posten throughout his deliverance spoke on recognition of the tribe. He strongly believes that this recognition needs to be forthcoming, but from my point of view, until there is unity among their people, within their ‘nation’ there will be no recognition.

selection stage, companionship
romantic stage, makes you feel good in many ways
problem stage, gets on your nerves
commitment, stay together

many people move up and down through stages one to three, but the successful relationship gets to stage 4 and stays while committed.

Overall this was a very informative lecture and Dr. Kunjufu had a book signing session at the end that was open to any questions from the audience. The Albright students that I spoke with who had traveled to Millersville University to hear the lecture returned with an entirely different perspective on the school system and America in general.

The Talented Tenth Wants You!

Do you want to discuss an issue? Write an article. Do you like to express yourself through the arts? Read a good book lately? Write a review. Submit poetry or a piece of art. Do you just want to be heard? Do you have any suggestions? Just e-mail us with an attachment in MS word at tenthtalented@yahoo.com. Any artwork can be submitted to the Multi-Ethnic Student Affairs Office in the Lower Level of the Administration Building.

WE WANT THIS NEWSLETTER TO BE YOURS
Expressions

I Can See You, But Can You Really See Me?
By Denise Clements

You lie and deceive me, you taunt and you tease me. You say you know me, and what I am about. You say you see me, but is it true. We are all the same, and yet, we anger you. But do you know me, and who I am? Can you see things from where I stand? Only if you could, then you would see that there is not all bad about me. Why must your thoughts be as narrow as those shoes upon your feet? I can see you, but can you really see me? Does my presence upset you, or is it who I have become. I refuse to sit back, and bite my tongue. I will not bury my heritage from which I have come. My roots are grounded, as tight As can be. I can see you, but can you really see me? I will not let your words bright, and I will let it shine. Why can’t you accept me, for who I am? I come in peace, this is all our land. I promise I will not invade your space. Why cant you realize I am a part of this human race. Life is precious, at least I know it is to me. I can see you, but can you really see me? maybe it is my color, but what about yours. You sit out in the sun and burn it to a scorch. I just have a permanent tan, just think of it as that. Yes this person you see in front of you is black. Your eyes are enlarged, have you seen a ghost, maybe it is my approach that has captured you the most. Are you surprised of how fluent I can be. I can see you, but can you see me. Just give me a chance, that is all I ask of you. Hear me out, that is all I want you to do. I am as qualified as the next person in line. I graduated with high honors, but still you pay it no mind. You ask about extra-curricular activities, I and so much more. Cant you see that I am serious? As serious as can be. I can see you but can you really see me? If you look deep down, deep down within your heart, you will see something, which you have never sought. Maybe you have, but have covered it up, you were scared to show the world what you really thought. Am I wrong or am I right? Only the truth lies in your sight. After all I’ve been through, I don’t want a war. Or maybe that is it, you want to see me sore. Well I am sorry to disappoint you, I must continue on. I will not hate you because you hate me. but, instead I pity you, and pray that you can be, different, to accept who I am, and not let you stop me to be. I can see you, but can you really see me?

POWER

by Lakeisha Fairley
Dear Mama,

I am an African American and I use the ‘N’ word frequently. My friends and I use it as a term of endearment. I know the word has caused a great deal of pain in the past, but it’s a new day. Here is my question, last month, my friends and I (all black), were kidding around and talking like we usually talk, when one of my ‘white’ friends approached me and said “What’s up my ‘N’ word?” Many of my ‘black’ friends were offended.

How can this be changed, I don’t believe anything is wrong with using the ‘N’ word among friends ‘black’ and ‘white’ alike. How come my friends don’t understand this?

Love, Confused

Dear Confused,

I thank you for your question, I am glad to hear that you have a desire to create a ‘perfect world,’ however, the negative or bad overtones are still fresh in the minds of African American people. While you are comfortable with the use of the word, many people are not, so I would suggest that you either use it discreetly or better yet, you refrain from using it altogether so as not to offend the least number of people.

Love,
Mama

An Irish prayer.

May the road rise to meet you, may the wind be always at your back, may the sun shine warm upon your face, may the rains fall soft upon your fields, and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of God’s Hand. Amen

Have a Blessed and Peaceful Holiday Season
We’ll be back, geared and ready to go in Spring 2004