

EBONY VOICES

Which version was better: Lee's film or Haley's book?

Ink Staff Reports

Editor's Note: Ebony voices are black students on campus giving their opinions about current issues.

"The book. The movie leaves out some important facets of his life that we need to know in order to better understand the man." - Marchelle Adams

"Both. Some people will take the initiative to read the book, others will see the movie; but as long as the message is relayed it doesn't matter." - Brian Parks

"The book was astounding and the film did an excellent job of bringing the book to life." - Janene Shubrick

"The book. Since the book was quoted directly to Alex Haley, the facts were presented. Even though Spike Lee had consultants to the movie, his personal biases were shown." - Lori Bolds

"I like the book better because it was more in-depth. There were some things I liked better in the movie than the book and vice versa. The movie was not really a separate entity; it used the book as a guide." - Akinwole N'Gai Wright

"Both of the works were good, I don't really think that you can compare the two. Haley's book was told directly to him from Malcolm, but I think that the visual presentation was more moving." - Michelle Joyner

By Scott Johnson
Ink Staff Writer

Well, it is really here. The long awaited release of Spike Lee's movie version of "The Autobiography of Malcolm X."

After two years, one white director, tons of controversy and three hours and twenty-one minutes, I saw "Malcolm X" on opening day.

At first, I was disappointed with the small turnout for the first showing of what was sure to be an incredible movie.

- From the thirty people at the Plaza (about ten were white), it was obvious that Spike's suggestion that people take off from school and work to see this movie didn't pay off.

So, I got some popcorn and soda and prepared myself for sitting in the same spot for almost three and one half hours.

The fifteen minutes before the movie was sup-

posed to start seemed like an hour, but finally, the lights went out and all of the waiting was over.

From the opening scene of the beating of Rodney King and the

burning of an American flag into an X; to the ending of the eulogy by Ossie Davis and a speech by Nelson Mandela, I sat in utter disbelief at what I consider to be one of the greatest movies of all time.

Going into the movie, I wondered if three hours and twenty-one minutes would be too long.

I wondered how much Spike would stick to Alex Haley's collaboration with Malcolm X on his autobiography.

I wondered if Denzel Washington could play Malcolm effectively. And the answer to all of these questions was yes.

In fact, the movie

could have been easily four hours long. By the time we get through Malcolm as Detroit Red, Malcolm in jail, Malcolm as a speaker for the Nation of Islam, there is only thirty

minutes left for Malcolm's trip to Africa and his return to the United States.

Personally, I feel that this part of Malcolm's life deserved at least

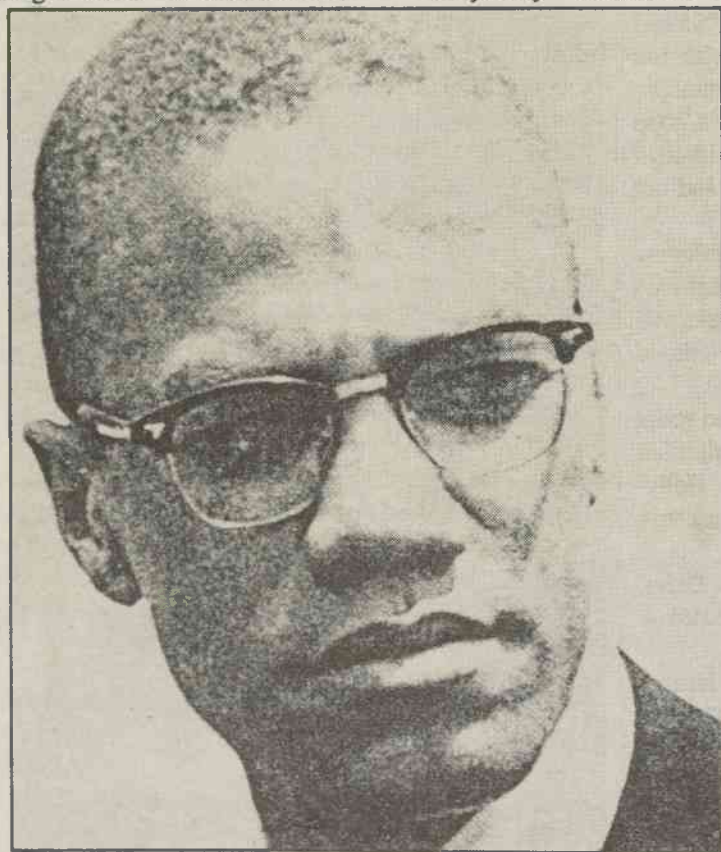
another half an hour, because his trip to Africa and change in philosophy was just as, if not more, important as any of the other events which occurred during his life.

This was my only complaint of the movie.

Money permitting, Spike should have used an additional thirty minutes or more to highlight Malcolm's accomplishments after he separated from the Nation of Islam.

Aside from that, the movie "Malcolm X" was very similar to the autobiography.

Spike did a good job of staying on track, and not letting



Love him or hate him Malcolm demands respect.

Black Ink

Has Malcolm X surpassed Martin Luther King, Jr.?

Stacey Beltravis
Senior
Journalism

They're two different types of leaders, so to compare them would do both of them a grave injustice.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Alvester Wooten
Sophomore
English

At this present time, yes. Obviously, the movie is out, but all the clothing and hype has added to creating a new awareness of Malcolm to the younger generation.

Has Malcolm Surpassed Martin???