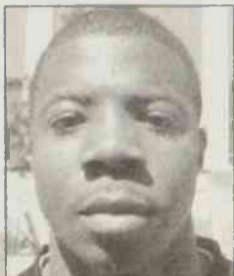


Campus Voices

With the many seminars and information that is distributed about HIV and AIDS on campus, do you care about it, and if so how is it affecting you?



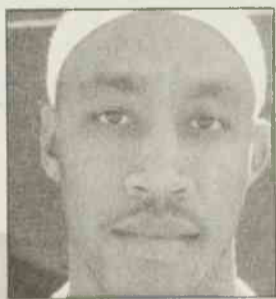
"I care about the statistics. It's smart to know what is going on on campus and students need to be in the know about the virus."

— Samuel Robinson Jr.
Freshman, computer graphics



"Get tested, if you're afraid it is better to find out early before it's too late."

— A'kerra Thomas Junior, accounting



"I don't go because I don't think it affects me."

— Rannard Crawley Junior, computer science



"I think it is important for us students to get educated about HIV and AIDS."

— Tamara Dodson Senior, business management

— compiled by Sherea Cross

Participate in cultural, historical activities

SPECIAL TO THE ARGUS

In February we celebrated Black History Month. While in attendance at Black History Programs at two college campuses, I was struck by the small number of student participation and their seeming air of apathy. Is this an indication of the times?

As a former graduate from a predominately black institution of higher learning, I learned to appreciate the importance of historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and their programs relevant to social activities and academic achievement.

Not long ago Black History Month was only celebrated as Black History Week. Black History activities were a vehicle

through which a proud people recognized their heritage and contributions to society. This vehicle continues to serve as a forum for educating not only ourselves but also other nationalities. An interest in Black History Month is equally important today as it was in the 80s and 90s.

I look at today's youth, examples of tomorrow's finest, and I wonder if you really realize what is happening to you. I wonder if you are seriously taking your college years to heart. Some of you are party goers while others embrace a healthy collegiate learning environment. Our participation in culture and historical activities nurture our mind power and our

appreciation of it. Why is this? Our appreciation of the past will sustain us and the promise of better days to come will motivate us to excel and achieve.

Young men and women, you are the ones who are destined to rule this country, your states, your cities, your schools, your industries, your homes, your businesses and your lives. Are you prepared to meet today's technological and economic challenges?

Today ... the quote "preparations meet opportunity" isn't just a "memorable" statement, IT IS REALITY! Adapting, adjusting and implementing educational priorities to meet today's technological and economic challenges should be TOP PRIORITY in each

of our lives. It is this writer's opinion that HBCUs will continue to play a role in providing bold leaders, educators, innovators and the motivators America needs to remain competitive in our global economy. I am indeed indebted to those black leaders who sacrificed to make HBCUs a vital resource for us to achieve their higher educational dreams.

My hope is that each of you savor the time spent in college with the main objective of graduating in your field of choice. Take your college years serious and accept nothing less than your best. Empower the Vision and Live the Dream of those that came before us and paved the path of greatness, excellence and achievement.

Experience "The Passion"

Mel Gibson does not try to sugarcoat the events of the crucifixion

By Lisa R. Boone
ARGUS NEWS EDITOR

Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" is a daringly detailed film that focuses on the events that surrounded the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Gibson was not at all afraid to let the world see his view of the crucifixion. The film closely follows scriptures in the Bible about Jesus' death with the exception of a few added details and of course the heavily debated topic of Jesus' physical description. Although the film is not an exact replica of the information given in the Bible, it still is successful in spreading a message.

Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" does exactly what needs to be done; it causes people to stop and really contemplate what Jesus had to go through as the Savior of the world. The film does have a graphic, violent nature, but it also contains well-depicted inserts or flashbacks of the other aspects of Jesus' life. However, the main focus of the film is His taking on the sins of the world, having to be separated from God because of his

taking on the sins of mankind, and the physical abuse he withstood.

Moviegoers and critics have complained about the graphic nature of "The Passion," but if individuals actually think about the amount of detail in the Scriptures of Jesus' sufferings, the film is accurate in many ways. In fact, the film is a toned-down explanation of the crucifixion events.

Isaiah 52:14 says, "Many were amazed when they saw him-beaten and bloodied, so disfigured one would scarcely know he was a person." (New Living Translation). So, as far as the violent nature of the movie, if moviegoers want to see the glamorized version of the crucifixion they should seek out a different film. Of course, one individual's interpretation of the Bible is going to be different than another's interpretation, but at least Gibson did not try to "sugar coat" the events.

Christians and non-Christians should see this film, even if you go just to see what the "hype" is about. You may think differently about some things once you experience "The Passion."

North Carolina colleges racing to teach 'HIV 101'

By Cristina Breen Bolling

KNIGHT RIDDER
NEWSPAPERS(KRT)

Gregory Johnson lost two uncles to AIDS, so when he hears of fellow students dallying with casual sex, he wants to stop them.

"That's one of the hottest issues on campus _ sex," Johnson said. As a dorm advisor, the 20-year-old junior from Woodbridge, Va., talks to students about the risks and tries to host AIDS-related events. "HIV doesn't affect you until it hits someone you know. When it hits home, that's when you care more."

AIDS has hit home. At JCSU and colleges across the Carolinas.

North Carolina researchers found a spike in HIV infection among black college males during the last three years. Since 2000, at least 84 N.C. college men _ including 73 blacks _ have been diagnosed with HIV.

The HIV-infected students attend 37 N.C. colleges and universities, but the study also identified HIV-infected students at seven schools in five states who were linked to the N.C. outbreak.

Now, health officials at the schools are racing to make students aware of the danger.

In interviews with health officials, 60 percent of the HIV-infected male college students said they had sex with other men; 40 percent reported having sex with men and women. Most said they didn't consider themselves at high risk for contracting HIV.

At the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, AIDS educators are seeing

more professors and student groups asking for programs on HIV and AIDS.

They've plastered dorms, academic and recreational buildings with posters about the virus. And they're creating a partnership between the counseling center, sports and recreation and the housing departments to expose more students to the information.

"We try to make it real to them, because there are a lot of false senses of security," said Rosemary Ferguson, a health educator at UNCC.

"We try to approach it from a campuswide perspective, instead of focusing on a certain population" like black men. "Just because these men are having sex with men doesn't mean they're not having sex with women."

At JCSU, counseling coordinator Maya Gibbons said students have become more sobered to the realities of unprotected sex.

"There has been more of a buzz ... more of a sense of responsibility among students," Gibbons said. Last fall, the school started requiring freshmen to attend "HIV 101," and when one campus group sponsored free, confidential HIV testing on campus, they had more demand than they could handle.

This weekend, 300 students from a dozen historically minority colleges across North Carolina will gather in Durham for a conference called "Stomp Out HIV/STDs." The event is a product of the state's "Project Commit to Prevent," aimed especially at African American and Native American students, because minorities contract HIV

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