

Ebony celebrates 50th anniversary

By Danielle Alford
Reporter

Founded in 1945 and based on a vision of a 27-year old African-American businessman named John H. Johnson, *Ebony* magazine now occupies the number one spot of the most widely circulated and most popular African-American magazine. For 50 consecutive years it has maintained this position, vowing to "project all dimensions of the black personality in a world saturated with stereotypes."

With focus on this mission, *Ebony* started to tear down old stereotypes and replace them with positive images of black men and women. Articles and dramatic photos helped show how African-American individuals could rise out of the difficult situations of poverty and racial barriers and build outstanding careers in education, business, sports, science, the military, and arts entertainment.

During the late 1950's and early 60's, this magazine was at the forefront of the civil rights struggles.

Writers and photographers risked their lives by dodging racist law enforcement officers to bring firsthand accounts of the battle for racial equality. In 1968, Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. was assassinated and *Ebony's* veteran staff photographer

Moneta Sleet, Jr. covered the civil rights leader's funeral. He captured the grieving Mrs. Coretta Scott King and her youngest daughter on film. This photo later earned him the Pulitzer Prize, making him the first black male so honored.

Over the years, the magazine has featured many well-known people such as Langston Hughes, Thurgood Marshall, former first lady Eleanor Roosevelt, educator Mary McLeod Bethune, Rev. Jesse Jackson and Maya Angelou. Dr. King wrote a column entitled "Advice For Living."

In 1963, *Ebony* published a special issue commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. This launched a tradition of August special issues. Some of the provocative special issues published were "The Black

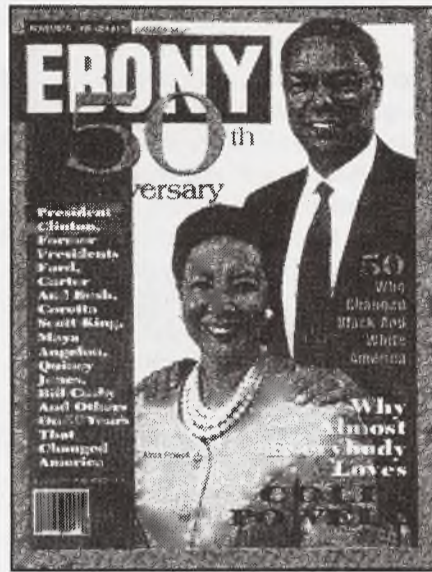
Revolution", "Black on Black Crime", "Black Love", and "South Africa Free At Last."

The *Ebony* cover has also become as exciting as the many issues. It is a distinction to be featured on the cover and many black personalities seek this opportunity. Many celebrities have graced the cover numerous times. Michael Jackson, Sidney Poitier, Eddie Murphy, and Janet Jackson are some of these recent covers. Three U.S. presidents, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Lyndon B. Johnson, and John F. Kennedy and three first ladies, Eleanor Roosevelt, Jackie Kennedy, and Barbara Bush have been on its cover also.

In 1971, *Ebony* headquarters was moved into the brand new 11-story JPC headquarters building on Chicago's Michigan Avenue. It became the first black business to erect a building in the Loop, Chicago's famous business center. This move reflects the changing race relations over the years.

Ebony's many readers have boosted its circulation from 25,000 to 2,000,000 and its readership has grown from 125,000 per issue to

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In the golden anniversary issue the cover story takes an inside look at Colin Powell, who may be the most popular African-American in history.

Weaver plays excel as usual

By Ethan Pell
Staff Writer

In the style of true theater showmanship, Weaver Education Center recently put on their production of *A Voice Within* and *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*. The High Life was there to review the plays.

A Voice Within is the complete story of one woman's life full of trauma, loss, and hope. This one act play had a very unique setup. It took place in a six chambered structure that represented the woman's mind. Each player acted as an emotion and told the audience about one incident in the woman's life through a monologue. Throughout her life the woman has an abusive father, doesn't get along with her mother, is paralyzed from the waist down, and witness' the death of her own children. For her, the worst is yet to come.

"I think Carri Webb's role as a young girl facing anorexia is the most interesting character. She not only represents a problem many young girls in our society face, but she also deals with the psychological reasoning for the disease," said Rachel Davis, a senior.

The second play entitled *I Never Saw Another Butterfly* takes place in the Terrazin ghetto during the Holocaust era. A young girl named Raja was forced from Prague to a school in a Jewish ghetto. Due to the fear of the death camps, Raja is traumatized, and takes a little guidance from her teacher, Irena Synkova. Raja's teacher gives her, along with other students, a new hope that things will be okay in the future. Raja does grow up and lives under the guidance of her teacher. Raja is devoted to helping children regain their self-consciousness just as Raja's teacher helped

her. However, tragedy strikes in Raja's life. Just as she had gained everything back, it is suddenly lost.

It took me a while to understand *A Voice Within*, but when I finally caught on I found myself enraptured in its format. The dialogue was beautifully synchronized, so the whole thing ran smoothly. On the side of the stage were two performers playing acoustic guitars. The music set the mood for each emotion and was the perfect touch. However, the play was entirely too serious. I would even go so far as to call it depressing. Some form of comic relief was needed to tone down the emotion, even though this was a tragic play. It did make the audience think about the problems of today's society. If that was the point the cast was trying to get across, then they most definitely succeed.

I Never Saw Another Butterfly was easy to understand from start to finish. It was set in an environment and situation that was realistic and drew sympathy from the viewer. The highlight of this play was the more than spectacular acting jobs by all performers and the story in general. Weaver added its own twist at the end by giving the message that the holocaust is still going on with Bosnia and other countries. An end to it all must be found soon.

"Being with all the other actors," was the best part of the production for Lara Dean, a sophomore. "I feel really close to them and that's what I enjoy most about this class."

Overall, I enjoyed Weaver's versions of the two plays. I have been to productions in the past at Weaver and all were great. This night was no exception in my opinion. I would encourage anyone who enjoys theater to see a performance at Weaver the next time it is available.



Old bands create new tunes

By Mary Kathryn Ross
Reporter

Many thought they had heard the last of some of the greatest contributors of rock and roll. Although the frontmen of The Grateful Dead, Queen, and The Beatles have died, through the beauty of digital remixes and recorded live performances, their talents will never fade.

The legendary band Queen, creators of the hit "Bohemian Rhapsody," released their newest creation on Tuesday, November 7. This band was responsible for several Top 10 hits in the late seventies, such as "We Are The Champions," and "We Will Rock You." "Made In Heaven," their was actually recorded prior to the death of vocalist Freddy Mercury. Several of the songs are reflections on his battle with the AIDS virus. Mercury's haunting voice provides the listener with a heart-wrenching experience.

The Grateful Dead also released a new album on November 7. They were co-founded in 1965 by guitarist Bob Weir, lyricist Robert Hunter, and Jerome "Jerry" Garcia. This band is famous for their blues-inspired guitar lines and their improvisational concert set lists. Their two disc set

"Dick's Picks Vol. 3," includes live performances of several favorites. The discs contain "Dancin' In The Streets," and "Morning Dew," which were recorded at a Dead show in 1977. This band has become an icon in the music industry, despite the fact that they have only produced one Billboard Top 10 single.

Another double disc set was released on November 21 by perhaps the most legendary band in history, The Beatles. Their new release, "The

Beatles Anthology I," includes sixty tracks with new music from their prime, 1958 to 1964, songs from various television and radio performances, as well as original comedy from the members of the Fab Four. The set also includes smash hit favorites that we all know and love, songs that triggered Beatle Mania, such as "Let It Be," as well as rare finds are included on the discs. A bonus edition to any Beatles fan's collection can also be found on their new release—the song, "Free As A Bird," written and performed by John Lennon, was recently discovered and touched up by the remaining Beatles. The new album is sure to provide a deeper and more personal glimpse into the lives of these legendary musicians.

Several students at Grimsley are excited about the new releases, but there are mixed feelings about the discs. "I like the idea of hearing new stuff from old bands, but it's just not the same without all the members," said Perry Hughes, a junior.

Matt Prince, a senior, said, "I think it's a good concept, but because members in each group are dead, new songs would not have as deep as a meaning and would slightly change in style."



The Queen of England presented the Beatles with The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire award for their aid in boosting the British economy. The Fab Four recently released a new album together along with other famous bands from the 1960s and 70s.