

Orphée

NOIR

Expressions of the Black Experience
on Grounds and Beyond

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New Features this Issue & Coming Soon!



Ask Sam...

Advise Column for University Students. If you have a concern, get advise from a fellow Hoo. Relief from your everyday Hoos blues may be a click away. Mailbox opening soon! Every request will get a response: some in print and others by email.

Hoo To Watch!

Graduation is like watching a shooting star. It is a beautiful sight by itself, however, it is just as fun to imagine where the star is going. **Hoo To Watch!** is an opportunity to follow UVA graduates as they blaze trails into the world. Check out our grads on page 18!



AN ODE TO LETTERS: BENJAMIN BANNEKER TO THOMAS JEFFERSON

Letter from Benjamin Banneker, &c.

Maryland, Baltimore County, Near Ellicott's Lower Mills

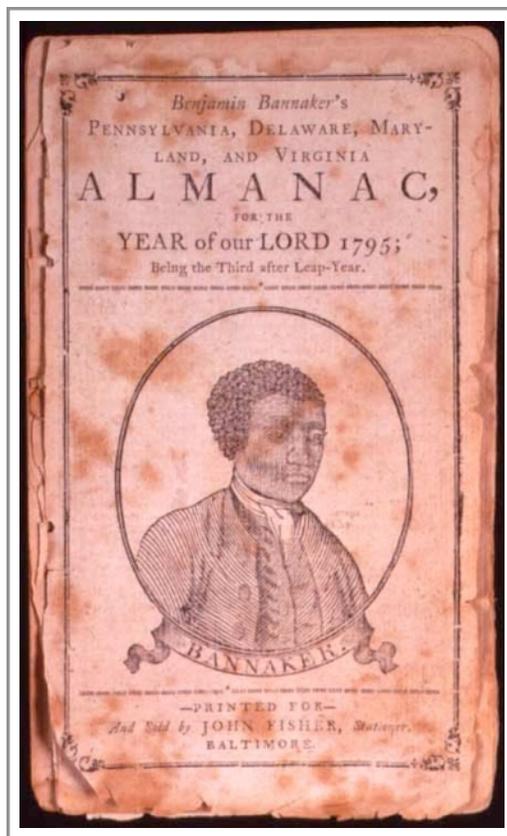
August 19th 1791.

Thomas Jefferson Secretary of State.

Sir, I am fully sensible of the greatness of that freedom which I take with you on the present occasion; a liberty which Seemed to me Scarcely allowable, when I reflected on that distinguished, and dignified station in which you Stand; and the almost general prejudice and prepossession which is so previlent in the world against those of my complexion.

I suppose it is a truth too a proof here, that we are a long laboured under the world, that we have long eye of contempt, and that ered rather as brutish than ble of mental endowments.

Sir, I hope I may Safely that report which hath man far less inflexible in than many others; that you well disposed towards us, and that you are willing and ready to Lend your aid and assistance to our relief from those many distresses and numerous calamities to which we are reduced.



well attested to you, to need race of Beings who have abuse and censure of the been looked upon with an we have long been consid- human, and Scarcely capa-

admit, in consequence of reached me, that you are a Sentiments of this nature, are measurably friendly and

Now, Sir, if this is founded in truth, I apprehend you will readily embrace every opportunity to eradicate that train of absurd and false ideas and oppinions which so generally prevail with respect to us, and that your Sentiments are concurrent with mine, which are that one universal Father hath given being to us all, and that he hath not only made us all of one flesh, but that he hath also without partiality afforded us all the same Sensations, and endued us all with the same faculties, and that however variable we may be in Society or religion, however diversified in Situation or colour, we are all of the Same Family, and Stand in the Same relation to him.

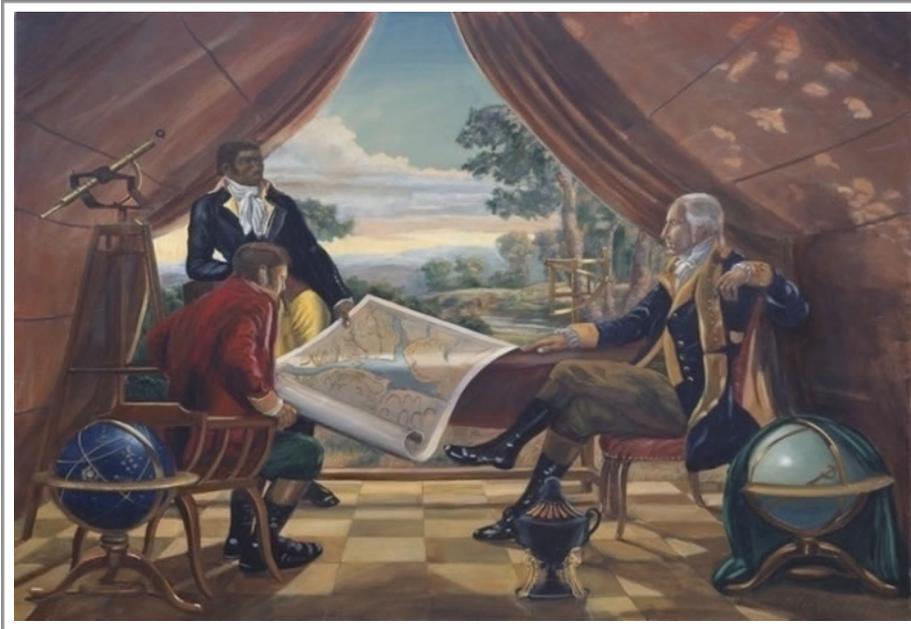
Sir, if these are Sentiments of which you are fully persuaded, I hope you cannot but acknowledge, that it is the indispensable duty of those who maintain for themselves the rights of human nature, and who profess the obligations of Christianity, to extend their power and influence to the relief of every part of the human race, from whatever burthen or oppression they may unjustly labour under; and this I apprehend a full conviction of the truth and obligation of these principles should lead all to.

Sir, I have long been convinced, that if your love for your Selves and for those

inestemable laws which preserve to you the rights of human nature, was founded on Sincerity, you could not but be Solicitous, that every Individual of whatsoever rank or distinction, might with you equally enjoy the blessings thereof, neither could you rest Satisfyed, short of the most active diffusion of your exertions, in order to their promotion from any State of degradation, to which the unjustifiable cruelty and barbarism of men may have reduced them.

Sir, I freely and Chearfully acknowledge, that I am of the African race, and, in that colour which is natural to them of the deepest dye*; and it is under a Sense of the *My Father was brought here on a Slave from Africa. most profound gratitude to the Supreme Ruler of the universe, that I now confess to you, that I am not under that State of tyranical thraldom, and inhuman captivity, to which too many of my brethren are doomed; but that I have abundantly tasted of the fruition of those blessings which proceed from that free and unequalled liberty with which you are favoured and which I hope you will willingly allow you have received from the immediate Hand of that Being from whom proceedeth every good and perfect gift.

Sir, Suffer me to recall to your mind that time in which the Arms and tyranny of the British Crown were exerted with every powerful effort, in order to reduce you to a State of Servitude; look back I intreat you on the variety of dangers to which you were exposed, reflect



on that time in which every human aid appeared unavailable, and in which even hope and fortitude wore the aspect of inability to the Conflict, and you cannot but be led to a Serious and grateful Sense of your miraculous and providential preservation; You cannot but acknowledge, that the present freedom and tranquility which you enjoy you have mercifully received, and that it is the peculiar blessing of Heaven.

This, Sir, was a time in which you clearly saw into the injustice of a State of Slavery, and in which you had Just apprehensions of the horrors of its condition, it was now Sir, that your abhorrence thereof was so excited, that you publicly held forth this true and invaluable

doctrine, which is worthy to be recorded and remembered in all Succeeding ages. “We hold these truths to be

Self evident, that all men are created equal, and that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights, that amongst these are life, liberty, and the persuit of happiness.”

Here, Sir, was a time in which your tender feelings for your selves engaged you thus to declare, you were then impressed with proper ideas of the great valuation of liberty, and the free possession of those blessings to which you were entitled by nature; but Sir how pitiable is it to reflect, that altho you were so fully convinced of the benevolence of the Father of mankind, and of his equal and impartial distribution of those rights and privileges which he had conferred upon them, that you should at the Same time counteract his mercies, in detaining by fraud and violence so numerous a part of my brethren under groaning captivity and cruel oppression, that you should at the Same time be found guilty of that most crimi-

nal act, which you professedly detested in others, with respect to yourselves.

Sir, I suppose that your knowledge of the situation of my brethren is too extensive to need a recital here; neither shall I presume to prescribe methods by which they may be relieved, otherwise than by recommending to you, and all others, to wean yourselves from those narrow prejudices which you have imbibed with respect to them, and as Job proposed to his friends “Put your Souls in their Souls’ stead,” thus shall your hearts be enlarged with kindness and benevolence towards them, and thus shall you need neither the direction of myself or others in what manner to proceed herein.

And now, Sir, altho my Sympathy and affection for my brethren hath caused my enlargement thus far, I ardently hope that your candour and generosity will plead with you in my behalf, when I make known to you, that it was not originally my design; but that having taken up my pen in order to direct to you as a present, a copy of an Almanack which I have calculated for the Succeeding year, I was unexpectedly and unavoidably led thereto.

This calculation, Sir, is the production of my arduous study, in this my advanced Stage of life; for having long

had unbounded desires to become Acquainted with the Secrets of nature, I have had to gratify my curiosity herein thro my own assiduous application to Astronomical Study, in which I need not to recount to you the many difficulties and disadvantages which I have had to encounter.

And altho I had almost declined to make my calculation for the ensuing year, in consequence of that time which I had allotted therefor being taking up at the Federal Territory by the request of Mr. Andrew Ellicott, yet finding myself under Several engagements to printers of this state to whom I had communicated my design, on my return to my place of residence, I industriously apply’d myself thereto, which I hope I have accomplished with correctness and accuracy, a copy of which I have taken the liberty to direct to you, and which I humbly request you will favourably receive, and altho you may have the opportunity of perusing it after its publication, I chose to send it to you in manuscript previous thereto, that thereby you might not only have an earlier inspection but that you might also view it in my own hand writing.

And now Sir, I Shall conclude and
Subscribe my Self with the most pro-
found respect,

Your most Obedient humble Ser-
vant— Benjamin Banneker

N.B. any communication to me may
be had by a direction to Mr. Elias Elli-
cott merchant in Baltimore Town. —
B.B.

As an Essay of my calculation is put
into the hand of Mr. Cruckshank of
Philadelphia, for publication I would
wish that you might neither have this Al-
manack copy published nor give any
printer an opportunity thereof, as it
might tend to disappoint Mr. Joseph
Cruckshank in sale. —B.B.

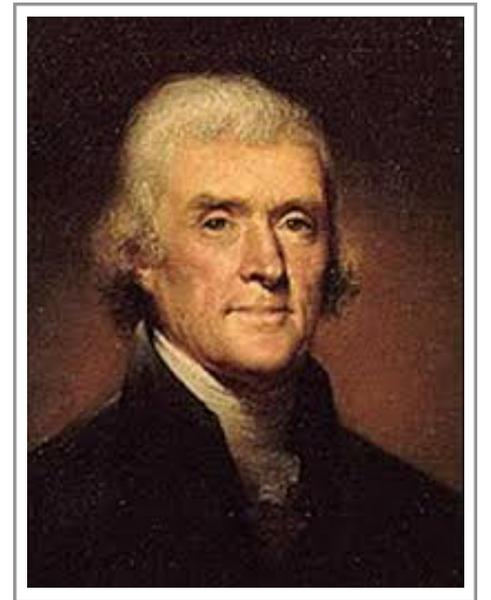
Response:
Thomas Jefferson to
Benjamin Banneker

Philadelphia, Aug. 30. 1791

Sir,

I thank you sincerely for your letter
of the 19th instant and for the Almanac
it contained. No body wishes more than
I do to see such proofs as you exhibit,
that nature has given to our black breth-
ren, talents equal to those of the other
colors of men, and that the appearance

of a want of them is owing merely to
the degraded condition of their exis-
tence, both in Africa & America. I can
add with truth, that no body wishes
more ardently to see a good system com-
mended for raising the condition both
of their body &
mind to what it
ought to be, as
fast as the imbe-
cility of their
present exis-
tence, and other
circumstances
which cannot be
neglected, will
admit.



I have taken the liberty of sending
your Almanac to Monsieur de Condor-
cet, Secretary of the Academy of Sci-
ences at Paris, and member of the Phi-
lanthropic society, because I considered
it as a document to which your whole
colour had a right for their justification
against the doubts which have been en-
tertained of them.

I am with great esteem, Sir your
most obedt humble servt.

Thomas Jefferson.

Mr. Benjamin Banneker,

Near Ellicott's Lower Mills, Balti-

2016 Presidential Candidates' Stand on Criminal Justice and the Black Lives



In the past two presidential elections Black voter turnout has drastically increased and even surpassed White voter turnout. In 2008, the Black voter turnout was at 65.2 percent while White voter turnout was at 66.1 percent (According to The Washington Post). The Pew Research Center records that 66.2 percent of Black turnout exceeded the White turnout of 64.1 percent in 2012. With Black votes becoming more prominent in recent years, it is hard for the 2016 presidential candidates to ignore Black issues, especially when it comes to criminal justice and the Black Lives Matters movement. At the Democratic Debate on Tuesday, October 13th, the

democratic candidates were asked the question, “Do black lives matter? Or do all lives matter?” Bernie Sanders was the first to answer the question, stating clearly that Black lives matter and referencing Sandra Bland.

Sanders said in his statement, “We need to combat institutional racism from top to bottom, and we need major, major reforms in a broken criminal justice system in which we have more people in jail than China.”

Martin O’Malley was next to respond that the point of Black Lives Matter is very important. In his statement he said, “When I ran for Mayor of Balti-

more—and we were burying over 350 young men every single year, mostly young, and poor, and black, and I said to our legislature, at the time when I appeared in front of them as a mayor, that if we were burying white, young, poor men in these numbers we would be marching in the streets and there would be a different reaction.”

Hillary Clinton got a slightly different question afterwards when Anderson Cooper asked, “What would you do for African Americans in this country that President Obama couldn’t?” Clinton responded supporting Obama’s agenda for criminal justice and focused on education reform.



Clinton answered, “But, I believe that the debate, and the discussion has to go further, Anderson, because we’ve got to do more about the lives of these children. That’s why I started off by saying we need to be committed to making it possible for every child to live up to his or her God-given potential. That is really hard to do if you don’t have early childhood education, if you don’t have schools that are able to meet the needs

of the people, or good housing, there’s a long list. We need a new New Deal for communities of color.”

Jim Webb was the only one who explicitly responded to the question by declaring that all lives matter. In his response Webb said, “As a President of the United States, every life in this country matters. At the same time, I believe I can say to you, I have had a long history of working with the situation of African Americans. We’re talking about criminal justice reform; I risked my political life raising the issue of criminal justice reform when I ran for the Senate in Virginia in 2006.... So, if you want someone who is -- can stand up in front of you right now and say I have done the hard job, I have taken the risks, I am your person.”

The other democrat who was present at the debate, Lincoln Chafee, did not say much about black lives other than in a closing statement. Chafee said, “America has many challenges confronting us—ending the perpetual wars, addressing climate change, addressing income inequality, funding education, funding infrastructure, funding healthcare, helping black Americans, helping Native Americans.”

Republican candidates who have commented on the Black Lives Matter movement are not as supportive as the Democratic Party candidates. Think Progress reported that Ted Cruz voiced his opinion about Black Lives Matter at a campaign in Rockwell City, Iowa.

“If you look at the Black Lives Matter movement, one of the most disturbing things is more than one of their protests have embraced rabid rhetoric, rabid anti-police language, literally suggesting and embracing and celebrating the murder of police officers,” Cruz said, “That is disgraceful.”

Donald Trump responded to the matter by saying that the police need to have more power than they do now. Think Progress also reported that Trump said, “We have to give strength and power back to the police. You’re always going to have bad apples... [but] the police have to regain some control of this crime wave and killing wave that we have in this country.”

In a CBS interview, Ben Carson said the movement was “bullying”. “It’s forcing yourself on people rather than engaging in dialogue, and bullying people. I never liked the idea of bullying on behalf of anybody.”

Later in the interview Carson continued, “It also conjures up an image of people being unwilling to actually face the facts. I think the community is unwilling to face the fact that Michael Brown was a bad actor.” One Republican however did not disagree with the Black Lives Matter campaign. Marco Rubio talked about it on Fox saying that it was a “legitimate issue,” reported by The Daily Caller.

Marco Rubio said in his interview, “It is something we need to confront. Because you have a significant percentage of our population that feels that they are locked out of the promise of this country, and the result is the anxiety and the frustration that you’re now seeing expressed.”

Black Lives Matter has stated they will not endorse any of the 2016 candidates. Al-jazeera America reported Alicia Garza’s comments on the matter.



"Black Lives Matter as a network will not, does not, has not, ain't going to endorse any candidates. Now if there are activists within the movement that want to do that independently, they should

feel free and if that's what makes sense for their local conditions, that's fantastic. But as a network, that's not work we're engaged in yet."

Garza also said, "What we've seen is an attempt by mainstream politics and politicians to co-opt movements that galvanize people in order for them to move closer to their own goals and objectives."

The General Election is approaching fast, taking place on November 3, 2015. The Primary Election will be March 1, 2016.

THANKS U. Va. PARENTS FUND!



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2015-2016 GRANTEES!

Luther P. Jackson Black Cultural Center's

Black Male Initiative

Black College Women

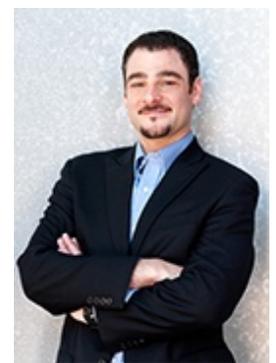
Black Leadership Institute

RESTORING THE GRAND OLD PARTY

On Wednesday, October 1st, officials from the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency announced the state would close 31 DMV offices within the coming year. Within hours, networks across the country reported the majority of these offices are located in predominately black communities. While state officials claim the closures are necessary to reduce an eleven million dollar budget deficit, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Congressional Black Caucus, and other civil rights organizations have condemned the Alabama government for intentionally undermining African Americans' ability to vote.

DMV closures are one of many acts passed by the Alabama state legislature that endanger African American voting rights. In 2011, Shelby County filed a lawsuit seeking a declaratory statement that Sections 5 and 4(b) of the Voting Rights Act, which required certain states (mainly in the South) to seek pre-clearances from the Department of Justice before implementing voting changes. In the ensuing case, the Supreme Court ruled the aforementioned sections were unconstitutional and required a permanent injunction

against their enforcement. In *Shelby County v. Holder*, the Supreme Court sided in favor of Shelby County, claiming that Section 4 imposed burdens that were no longer responsive to the current conditions in the voting districts in question. Shortly after the Supreme Court Ruling, Alabama and ten other states (many of whom had Republican controlled legislatures) passed voter identification laws, requiring all voters present a government issued ID prior to casting a ballot. While proponents of these laws claim these restrictions were implemented to combat voter fraud, instances of fraudulent activity are relatively rare. According to Justin Levitt, a constitutional law professor from Loyola Law School, from 2000 to 2014 there were 31 confirmed cases of voter fraud in general, primary, special, and municipal elections. Clearly voter fraud is not a deciding factor in elections, so why are politicians so eager to combat a problem that is essentially inconsequential?



It is unsurprising that most of the states passing strict voter ID laws have state legislatures with Republican majorities. The Republicans' insistence on passing strict voter ID laws is reflective of an internal crisis within the party. Republicans are incredibly unpopular among minority groups, especially African Americans. In 2012, Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney won six percent of the black vote. In 2014, Republicans managed to win ten percent of the black vote, which was their best performance in eighteen years. Republicans still enjoy overwhelming support among white (mostly male) voters – winning sixty percent of the vote in 2012 – but this support is not enough for the party to remain competitive in future elections. Accepting that African Americans will overwhelmingly vote Democrat, Republicans have resorted to passing measures to diminish African American voter turnout, which reached 66.2 percent in 2012. Although the current platform is highly capable of winning local and congressional midterm elections (where voter turnout is significantly lower than national elections), Republicans must adopt a new inclusive platform in order to remain competitive in future presidential races. At present, demographic changes threaten the future of the GOP, turning former red havens into

crucial swing states. The Republicans must reach out to new constituencies. The future of the party depends on it.

The Republican Party faces three problems that prevent it from seriously contending with the Democratic Party for the support of African Americans. On one hand, Republicans failed to develop policies addressing the socioeconomic issues facing black voters. As the nation witnessed multiple instances of police brutality, most Republicans decided to remain silent on the issue. Others, such as Ben Carson, appeared to make light of the matter. The Republicans' failure to develop a decisive position on these issues are exacerbated by comments made by Democrats such as Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren, the latter of whom was recently praised for voicing solidarity with the Black Lives Matter Movement. Perhaps the best explanation of the Republicans' inability to solicit minority support was given by Daunasia Yancey, a Black Lives Matter activist who lamented “the fact that people can be a politician or even the president without having a really advanced understanding of racial dynamics”. Republicans choose to ignore issues pertaining to these groups because



Danausia Yancey

they lack an adequate understanding of their interests; however, doing this only further alienates them from these communities.

Additionally, the GOP lacks legitimate black politicians on the national stage. The Republicans currently enjoy three African Americans in the 114th Congress (two Congressmen and one Senator); however, none of these politicians have broad name recognition, nor support from the black community. In the past two presidential elections, two African Americans have run for the Republican presidential nomination, but both conveyed a sense of alienation from the black community and a startling lack of political experience. Republicans have attempted to criticize liberal policies in manners that would resonate with black voters, but these attempts are often perceived as hyperbolic and insensitive to African American interests. Public outcry against Ben Carson's comparison of Obamacare to slavery was so severe that he promptly backtracked from his prior comment days later. At present, Republicans lack politicians with sufficient vision and political experience to court African-Americans voters and repair the GOP's tarnished reputation within the black community.

Perhaps the hardest challenge the Republican Party must overcome to challenge the Democratic Party's hold of the black vote is a trade off in support from their traditional support bases. Many ideas that are highly popular among African Americans such as affirmative action, police reform, and welfare programs for low income households are at odds with the views of many of the GOP's current supporters. Furthermore, Republican calls for states' rights is hardly a convincing sell for a people who largely attribute their socioeconomic advancement to greater federal activism. Despite this, the Republicans must decide what type of party they hope to become. If the past is any indication of the future, than the Republicans are certainly up to the task. Now more than ever, Republicans should strive to restore their party to its former glory. Republicans, not Democrats, were the leading proponents of the abolition of slavery and passed the first civil rights act in our country's history in 1866. As the Republicans look to recover from crushing defeats in 2008 and 2012, it may be worth reading up on their own history.

WE SHOULD NOT IGNORE MISOGYNY

Oftentimes, we hear racist sentiments and quickly condemn them and their endorsers. We acknowledge that racist beliefs are baseless and inherently incorrect. We believe that a failure to address these racist statements will result in their perpetuation. If we are silent in the face of racism, then many will begin to blindly accept such statements as true.

Elsewhere, I have written that we often place historical figures (e.g., Thomas Jefferson, Christopher Columbus) on a pedestal. We praise these figures for their achievements. In its decision to determine who to praise, society weighs each of a person's feats. If we consider the weight of the positive feats to outweigh that of the negative feats, then we will choose to laud that person. On the other hand, if we decide that the negative feats are heavier than the positive feats, then we will condemn that person. This idolization is not limited to historical and political figures. It also applies to pop cultural figures as well. Let's look at

a two popular examples: Drake and Trey Songz.

Drake has sometimes been called "Heartbreak Drake", but perhaps his nickname should be "The Misogynistic Heartthrob." Undoubtedly, that last sentence will garner some backlash from Jimmy fans. As his Billboard records and platinum plaques indicate, Drake produces widely popular and sonically appealing music. This popularity comes in spite of the explicit misogyny evident in many of his lyrics. Why is it that we willingly support music that clearly degrades women? If race were involved, I am doubtful that we would observe the same response. That is, if Drake made sonically appealing music filled with racist slurs against Blacks, Native Americans, Asians or any other group of people, then I am doubtful that most people would support and exalt *October's Very Own*. Listening to such music would lead to many of us being deemed "racists" or "enablers of racism."

In the song “No Lie,” Drake raps “Chances are, if she was acting up/ Then I fucked her once and never fucked again/ She could have a Grammy, I still treat her ass like a nominee/ Just need to know what that pussy like so one time it's fine with me.” Despite this clear example of misogyny, the song has been downloaded over 1.4 million times. It is perplexing to know that we are willing to support music that openly dehumanizes women down to disposable objects that may be shown off and boasted about. A look at the videography of “No Lie” will reveal further objectification. In the music video, women reduced to eye candy for the voyeuristic pleasure of the audience. The result of these videos is often misogynoir (i.e., misogyny against black women) or general misogyny against women of color. This result further perpetuates the exoticification of women of color and enables offensive and harmful beliefs about them to live on.

Another example is Trey Songz’s “Foreign.” This song epitomizes the exoticification of women of color and non-American women. Songz begins the track by singing “Colombiano, yeah I love that/ love her if she speak another language/ She be doing things I never

seen/ I think I might have hit it in my dreams/ She drop it, then she throw it, yeah she work it.” Along with its music video of 42 million views, the song encourages a dangerous behavior — the fetishization of women of color. The aforementioned lyrics perpetuate the idea that Latina women are objects to be experienced sexually. Similarly to the trope of the dragon lady, these lyrics reduce Latina women to exotic and sexual objects. Again, despite this clear lack of respect towards women, we continue to support misogynistic musicians.

At their most basic level, racism and misogyny involve the dehumanization of a group of people on the basis of an uncontrollable difference. While I wish I had a proposal to expunge misogyny from popular music, I do not. I am skeptical that it will ever be eliminated. Rather, my hope is that we can raise future generations to understand that exploiting people for your own benefit is morally bankrupt. That hope may be dismal, but we have to start the conversation somewhere.

GETTING INTO MEDICAL SCHOOL BY INCLUDING THE HUMANITIES

Pre-Med students are renowned for their strong involvement in science and math courses. These students need chemistry, biology, biochemistry, physics, calculus, and statistics in order to be successful in medical school. Since so many requirements are needed to take the MCAT, students just major in a particular science or math thinking that it will increase their chances of being accepted. Truth be told, however, medical school is not just about science and math anymore.

There has been much talk about the MCAT expanding on subjects such as psychology, sociology, and many more in order to get students to think about society and many other subjects, rather than solely scientific aspects medicine. Medical schools today are encouraging the applications from students of other majors including those involved in the arts, English, sociology, psychology, and other diverse subjects. How could these subjects help one in the medical school? These subjects bring students

from different backgrounds and ways of thinking, which can provide different perspectives on medicine. Our world is constantly changing and becoming more diverse; the medical field needs students of different types that can use their knowledge from other majors to influence their medical opinions. A bioethics major can use their knowledge to further help their ethical challenges, an arts major can use their knowledge to further explain how art is related to therapy, and a music major can use their knowledge to help patients remain calm and also explain the connection between music and the therapy; it provides to patients. These other majors have their own influence on medicine, which can help patients connect more with doctors and improve relations and trust between people and the medical field.

From this, I strongly encourage you to take classes that you are interested in and possibly major or minor in a diverse subject matter. Of course it is important to be successful in the science and math

courses required by medical schools, but do not be afraid to show your interests and stand out from the other applicants by pursuing a minor in history, sociology, theatre, or any other major.

Hoo To Watch!



Questions: What was a highlight of your University experience? Hardship?

The highlight of my University experience was playing in active role in student self governance. From ROTC to Residence Life I had so many great experiences, but, by far, my most memorable highlights came from my time in the African American community and the Kappa Rho Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Our Black Love unity campaign was unforgettable.

My greatest hardship came during my very first weekend at UVA while on Rugby Road. A group of fellow Black first years and I, ventured down to Rugby Rd like all the other first years, and within 15 minutes had beer intentionally thrown on us from the roof of a frat house. We knew it was motivated by our race, we didn't report it, and I never returned to Rugby Rd.

What have you been up to since Graduation?

Since graduating in 2011, I have served in the US Air Force as Nuclear Operations Officer. I was entrusted with the command and control our nation's nuclear missiles; prepared to launch if President Obama ordered. I worked 24 hours shifts nestled 60 ft underground, in the heart of Montana. In August 2015 I separated from the USAF and I am currently a 1L at The George Washington University Law School.

In 10 years, where will you be and what will you be doing?

In ten years, I hope to be striking a balance between a successful legal career and healthily family life. I hope to continue to find creative ways to pour

back into my community and span the globe while checking off my bucket list.

Words of Wisdom and Advice to current students?

Invest yourself in the classroom but also invest yourself in cultivating bonds of friendship; they will last far beyond graduation. Take advantage of the moment, make memories, don't rush to the finish line.

Hoo To Watch!



The University of Virginia represented a period of my life replete with challenge. Like many students, I viewed college as an opportunity to redefine myself, and frequently so. Every semester I was either joining a new club, pining over a new love interest, or strategizing a clever way to fill my schedule with more responsibility than the next student. This is arguably the defining hardship of UVA. There is an unhealthy pressure to involve yourself and be a leader in as many different arenas as possible, all while maintaining your GPA and

your sanity. But this great challenge was also the impetus for my current success as a Pilot in the United States Air Force.

I fondly recall the moments I did operate within my passions: as a tenor with the University Singers, as the Cadet Wing Commander of Air Force ROTC, as a brother of Phi Delta Theta riding through the night to Montreal on a whim. And I consider the many lessons I learned from the things that did not go so well. What those are is not for me to explain in this forum, but I certainly failed and failed hard. It is because I discovered what I am not that I have been able to intentionally direct my life to where I am today.

Since graduating in 2010, I have commissioned as an officer in the United States Air Force. In pilot training, I flew the DA-20, T-6, and T-1. May of 2012, I am proud to say that I graduated top of my class and selected to fly the C-17. I have deployed twice to the Middle East and have literally flown around the world. As a tactical airlift commander, I specialize in covertly transporting soldiers and equipment into and out of combat while evading enemy threats. On the good days, this is all I do. On the hard days, I get calls like the one two years ago where a man, not old enough to legally enter a bar, had both of his legs, arms, and one eye blown off by a road side bomb in Kabul, Afghanistan. Or just a month later, the call to load and transport the bodies of four marine sol-

diers killed in action out of the desert. Everyday, young men and women are making a positive difference in this world – some are giving their life, all are making a sacrifice.

Not as an authority, or for any other reason but to transmit a greater wisdom than was imparted on me, here's some food for thought. We all see ourselves as having overcome ob-

stacles to be where we are today...the privileged and the disadvantaged alike. The difference I have found between those that succeed and those who live in defeat is that those who are successful see their loss as gain. If you cannot identify the advantage of your disadvantage, then you are not an underdog. You are ignorant. Don't be ignorant. We are not entitled to the fortune, opportunity, and freedom we have in this country. It is earned.



Captain Dante Kavan Earle,
21st Airlift Squadron
C-17 Instructor Pilot

As an African American especially, I recognize that were it not for those who came before me, I would not have the shoulders to stand upon to call myself a Hoo, a Captain, a Pilot. This heritage extends to us all, and to fulfill your calling in life is to honor it. I have been called to lead our nation's most precious resource, its sons and daughters, and have high hopes of fulfilling my call within the Air Force.

Parting shots - Be the best at what you do. Thank the Lord above everyday, and when you can, reach back!

CALLING ALL RECENT ALUMS!

If you would like to be featured in

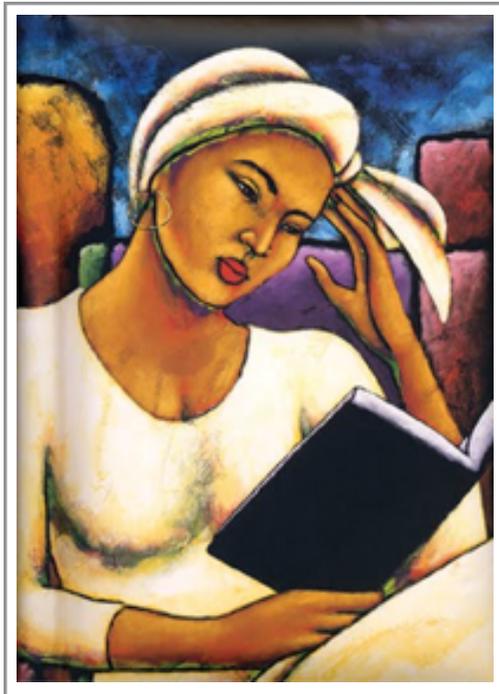
HOO TO WATCH!

Email Dean Mason for more information:

drhoo@virginia.edu.

WHITE OUT: ON THE LACK OF MINORITY REPRESENTATION IN THE NOVEL

One of the first pieces of advice someone receives upon beginning their journey into the world of authoring is to “write what you know.” If you know about sports, you write about sports. If you know about mythical creatures, you write about mythical creatures. It is the piece of advice that has been the key to unlocking a world of ideas, of creative spins, and of new styles. It is interesting, however, to know that despite receiving a versatile piece of advice it is hardly utilized when it comes to racial representation.



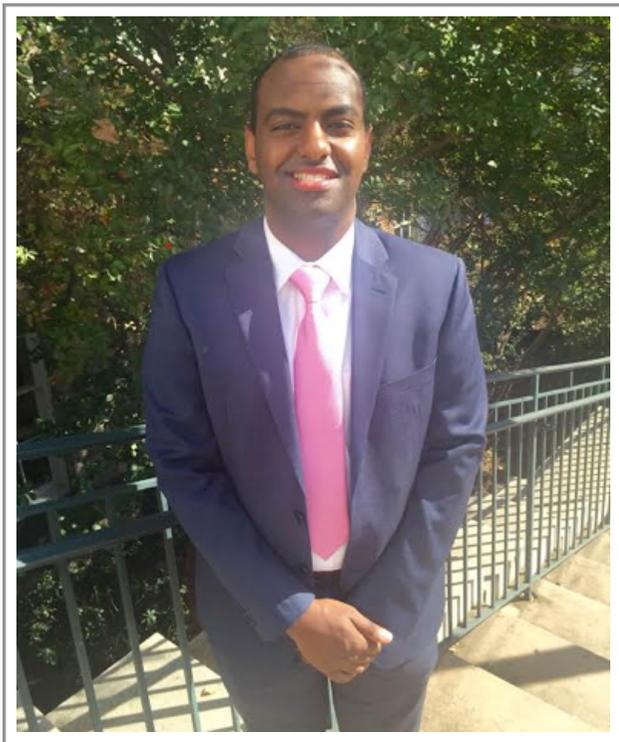
Of course, it is critical to be aware of the talented and intellectual minority authors, such as Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and Ta-Nehisi Coates, whose works diversify an otherwise monochromatic reality: majority of characters within novels are white. Whiteness continues to bleed onto the pages through the perceptions of the reader. Whiteness can also be assumed through the efforts made by, or lack of, the author. Even so, it is not fair to blame them for this issue.

It is the nature of our society. The “white is right” mentality has yet to vanish. It is because such a mentality exists that we cannot help but perceive a character as white until the author hints at or

mentions the character’s race, resulting in a detrimental shock value that was never supposed to be there. When you are within the community, when you are the person of color unable to write a character of color in fear of affirming stereotypes, that inability is a problem. The sooner we address it, and the sooner we nullify the shock value of a minority character in a bestseller, the closer we will be to diversifying areas of society that are otherwise grey.

In short, we need to read more of the novels written by persons of color. The world is a vast place, but for it to be limited to mostly white characters is not an accurate reflection of the society we live in. The United States is a diverse country, so it’s about time that fact is written in the modern bestsellers.

I AM BLACK, THEREFORE I AM... INDEPEDENT!”



Name: Beneyam Adera

2) List your major(s) /year

4th Year Commerce

3) List your clubs/ involvements

- Treasurer of the Collegiate 100 Society
- The Ethiopian Student Union
- Senior Analyst of the Global Markets Group
- Executive board member of the Black Commerce Student Network.

4) Where do you draw inspiration?

I draw inspiration from my mother. After my father passed away, my mother had to work multiple jobs to provide for my brother and me. I use this experience as inspiration to work harder and achieve my goals.

5)What is one thing that you love about yourself?

My personality because I am able to use my sense of humor to help myself and others alleviate stressful situations.

6)What makes you different from everyone else?

My relentless work ethic makes me different and to this I owe my achievements in various things such as my admission into the McIntire school of Commerce and my summer internship with Wells Fargo in their Corporate Banking Division.

7)In what ways has your major(s) or interest(s) shaped you as a person?

Being in the Commerce School has enhanced my analytical skills and has allowed me to incorporate the skills from the school's curriculum into my lifestyle. I am now able to manage, and save my own money better.

8) What are you most passionate about?

I am very passionate about music. I played the trumpet throughout middle school and still play to this day. In high school, I also began arranging, composing, and producing music as a hobby while learning other instruments. Music is important to me because it serves as an outlet for me to get my mind off things. Currently, I am learning the piano and continue to produce music in my free time.

9) What have you done or been apart of that brings you the most pride?

My involvement with Collegiate 100 enables me to give back to the community via the platforms of mentorship and tutoring to the young men of Charlottesville High School. When I was in high school, a resource like this were not made readily available and being able to serve the community, in this way, evokes a sense of pride knowing I am able impact other young men's lives.

10) What do you want your legacy to be?

I want people to remember me for achieving my goals despite what others may have thought about them.

11) If you could give any advice to your younger self, what would it be?

I would advise my younger self to not stress out so much. Someone once

told me that worrying doesn't prevent bad things from happening, it just prevents good things from being enjoyed.

12) What are your future plans?

In the future I plan to secure a full-time job opportunity in the financial services industry and later go to business school to obtain an MBA.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Black Male Initiative Meeting and Dinner. Wednesday, November 11, 2015 @ 6:15. Bryan Hall Room #235. (Supported by Parents Fund.)

In the Company of My Sister (A Sister Circle) Wednesdays, 12-1:30 pm @ WEB DuBOIS Conference Room. Lunch Provided. RSVP Necessary: Email Shamia Moore (sjm3wx). (Supported by Parents Fund.)



LPJ SFC Presents:

BLACK FRIDAYS @ DAWSON'S ROW: 2 HOURS of FOOD, MUSIC, & FUN! (See Back Cover!)

Still Looking for Work Study?

Have Skills with Wordpress, QuarkExpress, or InDesign?

Orphée Noir is seeking talented graphic design and visual artists to join our staff as Graphic Design Managers.

For more information contact: drhoo@virginia.edu.

FINAL: DAWN OF A NEW LEADERSHIP

The Office of African-American Affairs (OAAA) Peer Advisor Program

The Office of African-American Affairs Peer Advisor Program has existed at the University of Virginia since 1984. As a nationally recognized program, the Peer Advisors continue to carry out the mission of supporting undergraduate first years academically, socially, and psychologically. Peer advisors strive to pass on the knowledge and experience they've received while at the University. Most advisors find that the friendships formed within the program and with their advisees are lasting ones. Current Peer Advisor, Audrey Ogendi, says that peer advisors do more than advise, they encourage and help their advisees see their potential at the university. Dean Bassett, the current program director, has strived to help prepare Peer Advisors for each incoming class in the best way possible. Peer Advisors undergo multiple interpersonal and academic trainings so as to be prepared for the

multitude of situations they could find themselves placed in.

The program is always looking for new advisors to help promote and expand our mission across grounds. If you're interested in joining the program please contact Alana Ama

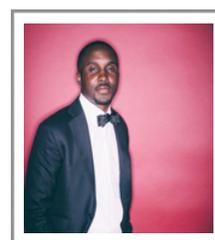


(ama5ry@virginia.edu) or attend one of our information sessions in November.

Sincerely,

Alana Ama, Selections Committee Chair

The Eta Sigma Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.



The Eta Sigma Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. would like to

welcome all of our fellow Wahoos back on grounds. We hope that you had a wonderful summer and wish you all the best this calendar year. Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.'s mission is, "Achievement in every field of Human Endeavor." With that being said, we hope that you all achieve all of your personal and academic pursuits this year and continue to thrive.

If interested in membership in Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., reach out to chapter Polemarch (President) Zayrahn Husbands via email atzh3fe@virginia.edu for more information. Thank you for your continued support and the Brothers of Kappa Alpha Psi wish you a successful school year.



**The Virginia Law Chapter of
the
Black Law Students Association**

Dear Charlottesville,

Greetings from the University of Virginia School of Law and the Virginia Law Chapter of the Black Law Students Association (BLSA)! We are excited for this opportunity to both share our experiences and engage with those around us through collaboration with Orphée Noir.

BLSA is a national, student-run organization whose mission is to increase the number of culturally responsible Black and minority attorneys who excel academically, succeed professionally, and positively impact the community. Nationally, BLSA boasts over 130 member schools in six regions of the continental United States, with additional chapters in Canada and Puerto Rico. Here at Virginia Law, the national mission is put into practice by creating opportunities for law students to connect both personally and professionally based upon shared experience and empathies.

No matter their background, if they identify with our community and mission, there is a place for all law students in our BLSA family at Virginia Law. Some of our annual programs include Diversity Receptions, which give first-year law students the opportunity to connect with potential employers prior to

their recruitment season in the fall of their second year and an International Service Trip, which offers a handful of our members an all-expenses paid opportunity to offer pro-bono legal services overseas. We also make efforts to support the efforts of other student groups such as Lambda Law Alliance, the Latin American Law Organization (LALO), and our Pre-Law Chapter, Undergrad BLSA (UBLSA) at UVA.

We welcome your suggestions on how we can be involved in the greater Charlottesville and UVA community. If you are interested in partnering with BLSA, specifically at UVA, please send your inquiries to secretary@uvablsa.org. If you are interested in partnering with National BLSA (NBLSA), please send your inquiries to president@uvablsa.org.

Sincerely,

Charis Redmond, J.D. Candidate,

2017

President, Black Law Students

Association

University of Virginia School of

Law

NAACP at UVa

Greetings from The University of Virginia Chapter of the National Associa-

tion for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). We are thrilled to be making a reemergence on grounds this year and look forward to engaging with the community. It absolutely excites us to be leading this vital organization at such a pivotal point in time. Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization and is focused on the fight for social justice for all Americans. The mission of the NAACP is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination. This year the NAACP at UVA is placing a focus on building and molding the next generation of leaders. We understand that outstanding leaders must possess key qualities and master essential skills in order to be effective in practice. We will do our best to provide opportunities to prepare students to be competitive in life outside of UVA. We are dedicated to being of service to the African American student population in any capacity that we can and bringing to the forefront the important, often overlooked, racial issues plaguing not only the UVa community, but also the community at large. The goal is to bridge years of engrained gaps between black students and their white counterparts, that have kept minorities at the bottom

of the totem pole. This will be achieved through open dialogue and opportunities for education on our history and how to move forward. We have already made strides by linking with Sustained Dialogue to host the first SD session that focuses on issues pertaining specifically to race and solutions for moving forward. There is a lot of work to be done at UVa, but we will constantly work with everyone in the community to achieve our goals and maintain the longevity of our organization.

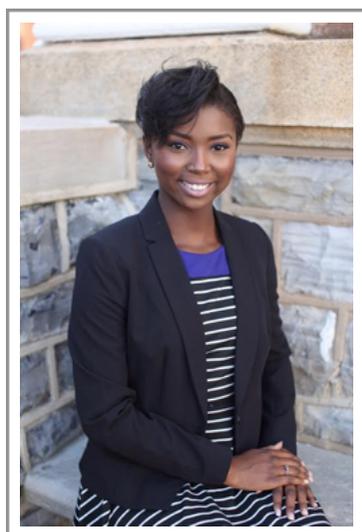
Please join us at our Inaugural Leadership Lunch on Sunday November 1, 2015 from 1-3pm in the Newcomb Kaleidoscope room.

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter @ NAACP at UVA for Updates and our Weekly Student Spotlight.

We look forward to serving you.

Sincerely,

Jennè Nurse
NAACP at UVA
Executive Board



Inaugural Dawsons Row Homecomings Tailgate 2015-2016: Great Times!



JOIN THE ORPHÉE NOIR WRITING STAFF!

Email: aa5ew@virginia.edu for more information.

*LPJ Student Funding Committee
& OAAA Present:*

BLACK FRIDAY



FUN!



MUSIC

FOOD!

“LPJ”

Dawsons Row #3

BLACK FRIDAYS (Kick-Off Event)

Time: 1:30 to 3:30

MUSIC, FOOD, and FUN!

