Black-Out Vote

“. . . when I voted for the President I felt like I made a difference.”

By Samantha Barnes

Will young, Black voters continue to make a difference in the political landscape?

Based on the findings of a recent Gallup poll, it’s a tough call if you look at the turnout for the 2010 midterm elections.

Ernestine Bethea, a junior at Coppin, said she didn’t vote because she’d been on campus all day.

“Plus, I would’ve had to go to my district to vote,” she said.

Some students like Senior Evens Louis said he didn’t vote because he isn’t registered in Maryland.

Sophomore Tavon Vincon said he didn’t vote because he was sick, but planned to vote “after [he got] out of class.”

According to the pollster Gallup, young, black voters “appear to have reverted to previous levels of interest in voting,” at least in the 2010 midterm elections.

But early birds like Candice Fields, junior, said she voted on the Nov. 2 election day at 7 a.m.

A Baltimore native, Brittany Faison, 20, said voting was the way she felt she could make a difference.

Faison said she voted in the primary election because “when I voted for the President I felt like I made a difference.”

She said she wanted to “continue to make that difference.”

Statistics show 58 percent of black students who attend technical institutes graduate in debt, compared to 24 percent of private school graduates and 12 percent of four-year public school graduates.

“The problem is not the students are borrowing too much, but the difficulties in predicting earnings after graduation....”

Middle-income students accumulated more debt than low-income students, the study said.

Ashley Marchand, a writer for Higher Education, states that choosing a technical institute will leave black students in the most debt.

Choose Your Debt

By Victoria Cook

Choosing a school is a big financial decision to make, especially for black students who statistically graduate with a lot of debt.

According to Essence.com, College Board studies show only 19 percent of black students graduate with no debt and 27 percent graduate with at least $30,500 in student loans.

“The problem is not the students are borrowing too much, but the difficulties in predicting earnings after graduation....”

Statistics show 58 percent of black students who attend technical institutes graduate in debt, compared to 24 percent of private school graduates and 12 percent of four-year public school graduates.

“The problem is not the students are borrowing too much, but the difficulties in predicting earnings after graduation and students understanding about the concluded.

Nineteen percent of black financial impact of loans leaving too many of them borrowing more than they can manage,” the report students graduate with no debt, leaving 81 percent of black students in debt after they graduate from college, says the study.

Offer of assistance.

Briefcase Professors Make the Grade

By Samantha Barnes

and staff dispatches

Coppin students think they are getting their money’s worth from adjunct professors who now make up over 50 percent of the faculty.

Senior Craig Richmond said, “The teachers are more dedicated to teaching.”

Another Coppin student, James Vagnier, agreed. “I am getting my money’s worth and the teachers show dedication,” Vagnier said.

According to a recent report prepared for the adjunct faculty task force at the University, headed by Harold Bailey and Dr. Fred Medinger, from 2006 to 2010, approximately half of all courses in the past four academic years were taught by adjuncts.

Students said they are not bothered that part-time professors have other priorities.

Senior Jerome Blake said he feels part-timers take their jobs seriously. He added that their ability to teach is enhanced “because of the different schools they [teach] at.”

Richmond agreed, adding, “The teachers bring more aspects of education when they’re teaching at other institutions.”

Shelly Brown, a sophomore, said, “I feel as if the work experience [is] good because some

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U.S. on track for 2011 Iraq pull-out - ROTC Cadet Vaughn Alexander, a Junior, says, “I feel like I won’t get deployed until after I graduate. Hopefully, the war will be over. If I have to go and fight, I would.”
Not Boom-town, Not Doom-town
African-American businesses beat out other minorities in struggling economy

By Ashley Ezeaputa-Evans

New minority enterprises are growing all over the United States, despite many businesses struggling to keep their doors open after the recent market crash.

Last year 10,083 minority business enterprises were created, according to the Minority Business Developmental Agency. The Agency said African-American businesses had $16.2 billion in gross receipts, more than any other minority group in 2009.

“...African-American businesses had $16.2 billion in gross receipts in 2009.”

The Agency reported on its website that in 2009 it helped secure almost $1 billion in financial transactions for its clients.

Kim Bradley, an African-American entrepreneur, in 2005 started Change Creations, a greeting card and graphic t-shirt business.

Bradley said, “In the summer of 2008, I felt it. That’s when business slowed down.”

Today Bradley said business is booming again. ■

they desire in a mate, the result will be a healthy relationship.

One student added, “If they’re both faithful, then it would last.” ■

HBCU Athletes Making it Pro?

Forty-four plus football players in the NFL attended HBCU’s.

By Brittany Baker

Last year the NFL roster seasoned its teams with athletes from HBCU’s.

More than a few previous HBCU players are key parts on these professional teams.

Kendall Langford attended Hampton University and now plays for the Minnesota Vikings.

Delaware State Alumni Jamaal Jackson is with the Philadelphia Eagles.

Isaac Redman from Bowie is now playing for the Pittsburgh Steelers. Pernell Phillips from Central State is playing with the Bengals. Eric Weems from Bethune-Cookman plays with the Baltimore Ravens.

Not many people know HBCU’s have hall-of-fame players in the NFL such as Willie Lanier, who is a Morgan State Bear and represents that college’s orange, blue and white.

Art Shell attended Maryland Eastern shore.

Forty-four plus football players in the NFL attended HBCU’s.

In all, about seven NFL teams believe in their brothers. ■

College Relationships 101

By Latrece Pinckney and Charma Robinson

Trust is a key issue in the romantic relationships of students at Coppin.

One male student said that “females are the worst.” He complained his ex was gay but “lied to me about it.”

Female students said they have had similar bad experiences, with one so irate she attributed the cause of her failed relationship to this: “Because boys are stupid.”

Forty percent of students surveyed on campus said they had negative experiences with dating.

According to Jake Klocksiem, author of 10 Types of College Relationships, “Both partners in this relationship cheat on each other and everyone knows it, except for anyone actually involved in the relationship.”

The reasons for cheating vary.

One Coppin student said, “…there are so many girls to so little males. It’s too easy to have distrust and cheating on campus.”

Another student said, “You grow and start to mature after college. In college you don’t really know what you want.”

Maturity relates to the individual’s “self-concept,” according to Romantic Relationships During Young Adulthood, and is a “key component of relationships, both romantic and platonic.”

Senior Beile Kennedy took the long view. “…in today’s time, most people in college don’t have the interest with just one person,” Kennedy said. “Long time ago people married their college sweetheart. Today you rarely see that.”

Fifty percent of students surveyed said they were not in relationships at all.

One student said, “My ex left me and got married, and I haven’t dated since.”

Another said the point of not being in a relationship is to focus on academics.

Others hold out hope that despite the opportunities to cheat and lack of a mature self-concept, college relationships can work.

According to Romantic Relationships During Adolescents, once young adults know what
Is Diversity a Joke at HBCU’s?

By Chantal Newell and Samantha Barnes

Despite a significant range of ethnic differences, almost 90 percent of students enrolled at Coppin State University are African-Americans.

“Race-wise this school is majority African American, but everyone comes from different walks of life,” said Shawn Brown, a psychology major.

Senior Lynnesha Harper said she noticed a few whites or other races. “Still at CSU, there are a greater number of African Americans,” she said.

The last available data from 2008 showed that of Coppin’s 4,031 students, only two percent are white and 1.1 percent are Asian.

Eighteen students are Hispanic, four are American Indian, four are Native Hawaiian, and the others are either unknown or unclassified.

According to Dr. Elgin Klugh, assistant professor in social sciences, the university has a “significant amount” of ethnic, national and regional differences.

“People tend to let likeness of skin color hide the large degree of diversity...” that belie the likeness of color. “People tend to let likeness of skin color hide the large degree of diversity that actually exists among black people,” Klugh said.

Junior Kiara Tisdale agreed, adding that both faculty and students were of “other races.”

The University once hosted a Diversity Day during homecoming week. However, no one from the several administrative offices contacted could answer what had happened to this event.

Many clubs on campus demonstrate ethnic diversity. Fraternities, sororities, sports teams and other smaller organizations have different backgrounds in their groups.

Some students said they believe Coppin is on its way to becoming more diverse.

Others like Nathaniel Whitt said it’s “too diverse.

“We have so many different kinds of people — and let’s not forget about our high school [students] running around,” Whitt said.

The National Institute of Health suggests that the actual causes of diabetes are unknown, but researchers believe that both genetics and environmental factors play roles in who will develop the disease.

Type 2 diabetes accounts for approximately 90 to 95 percent of all diagnosed cases of diabetes. However, there is hope for African Americans when it comes to preventing the risk of diabetes.

Dr. Andrew Weil, creator of Weil Lifestyle, says that there are four ways to prevent diabetes.

• Maintaining a healthy weight;

• Exercising to improve insulin, moving glucose out of the bloodstream and into the tissues where is can then be used for energy;

• Getting regular checkups for blood pressure and cholesterol is another good way of decreasing the risk for diabetes;

• Eating foods low in carbohydrates.

It’s all Common Sense

By Charma Robinson

The Comic George Carlin once said, “Cherish your health: If it is good, preserve it. If it is unstable, improve it. If it is beyond what you can improve, get help.”

According to the National Health Interview Surveys, between 1963 and 1990 African Americans have a rising prevalence of diabetes.

Briefcase Profs

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of them work [at a] different university.”

The report said approximately half of all Coppin’s adjunct instructors have taught an average of at least one course per regular term (fall/spring) for the past two academic years.

Nor are Coppin students overly concerned about degrees. Brown said, “I actually do believe they know what they are talking about despite the higher education.”

Of the adjunct professors at Coppin, 48 (15 percent) have earned a doctorate degree, 221 (69 percent) have earned their master’s degree or higher and 100 (31 percent) have attained less than a master’s degree, according to the report.

Some students prefer adjuncts over full-time professors.

Sophomore Demian DaCosta said, “[The adjunct who teaches my African American History course] makes sure we know and he’s thorough—better than a lot of professors.”

DaCosta said, “I prefer adjunct professors because they don’t have time to waste and neither do I.”

The only downside students talked about was the lack of accessibility.

Vagner said, “you have to wait after class or else you can’t meet with them until the next class.”

Another student, Jerome Blake, said, “Because of the fact that they don’t have offices, sometimes they aren’t able to meet with you.”

Senior Marcus Hampton said, “I rather they be here and have office hours so that I could sit and ask questions away from class.”
COPPIN ON THE GO

What is the best or worst office to visit on campus?

“The best office to visit is the Administration Office because the secretaries are always in high spirits, have nice attitudes and are very pleasant towards people.”

Dana Brown
Criminal Justice Major

“The worst office to visit is the Financial Aid Office because they are not courteous.”

Frank Simpkins
Senior

“The best office to visit is the Registrar’s Office, because Kevin Karr is the smartest, most informative person on campus and he gets the job done.”

Cynthia Chisley
Senior

“The worst office to visit is the Financial Aid Office. The people are lazy, they have a nasty attitude, they don’t do their job and it always seems as if they are having an unpleasant day.”

Stephanie Smith
Sophomore

EDITORIAL

Miss Coppin: Slave to a Crown

By Sunil Whittle

The royal court descends onto the stage with great pomp and circumstance. The young women glow in the jewel-tones of the peacock feathers they all hold; the young men are dapper in suits.

Soon it is time. Her simple white gown sweeps the floor and gathers at her feet as she makes a small bend toward the President, allowing him to position her crown. She rises to an ovation and what seems like a million flashes as people capture the moment. This is the new Miss Coppin State University.

So why aren’t young women vying for the crown—just enough to fill the positions available.

The truth is Miss Coppin is not so much a monarch but a slave to her office.

Not only is she required to represent Coppin at events in Maryland, but also beyond state lines.

As the official ambassador of the school, she must foster relationships between the university and other schools.

Miss Coppin is expected to be an example of the best that Coppin has to offer.

She is a role model and must maintain integrity in scholarship, leadership and character.

She is the face of Eagle pride.

Not only is Miss Coppin required to attend to all her responsibilities, she is required to attend to them in a way that is befitting of a queen.

Miss Coppin’s public appearance must exemplify her office at all times.

This means that her dress, including her daily classroom attire, should not include an ensemble such as a T-shirt with jeans and sneakers.

So what assistance does Miss Coppin receive in order to help her dress and look queenly at all times?

NONE.

While the queens of other HBCUs boast budgets for clothes, travel, free tuition, room and board, parking, even etiquette classes, our Miss Coppin boasts a big sparkly crown which is then substituted for a small tiara after coronation.

Granted, Coppin is not rolling in the dough. But is it too much to ask that Queen Coppin receive a full scholarship at least for the year of her reign?

This would greatly assist her to maintain integrity and all that jazz while she foots the bill for makeup, nails, coif and curl for her next leadership conference.

Miss Coppin should be a coveted position. The benefits attached to the position should be commensurate with the duties which must be performed—most of which have not been listed here.

We must offer something more than a title and a Thompson-catered dinner.

To our friend and classmate, Dale Dunn, best wishes for a speedy and full recovery.

CHRIS MASON