

9-14-1993

The Black Perspective September 1993

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Recommended Citation

University of Dayton. Black Action Through Unity, "The Black Perspective September 1993" (1993). *The Black Perspective*. 19.
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Black Perspective

The University of Dayton

September 14, 1993

AN INTERVIEW WITH DEBRA MOORE

by Adrian L. Morgan

"Office of Diverse Student Peoples, how may I help you?"

Sound familiar? Maybe yes, if you have visited the Office of Diverse Student Peoples in the past few weeks. Maybe no, if you haven't been to Minority Student Affairs since last year.

Don't worry. MSA is not now MIA (Missing In Action).

Actually, the office has not moved at all, but its services have expanded and in addition to dealing with African-American students, it also works with those students who are of Latino heritage as well as commuters and students with disabilities.

African-American students will still be serviced by Tim Spraggins, who is now Director of African-American Student Services and assisted by Kathleen Henderson.

Walter Green and Bonita Terry, who worked as graduate assistants last year, will also be returning to provide their services.

In other departments, Beatrice Bedard is charged with Disabled Student Services while the Latino Student Advisor and Commuter Student Advisor are yet to be named.

In charge of it all is Debra Moore, whose new title is Associate Dean of Students/Services for Diverse Student Populations and whose new location is 227 Gosiger Hall.

So what does all of this mean for the

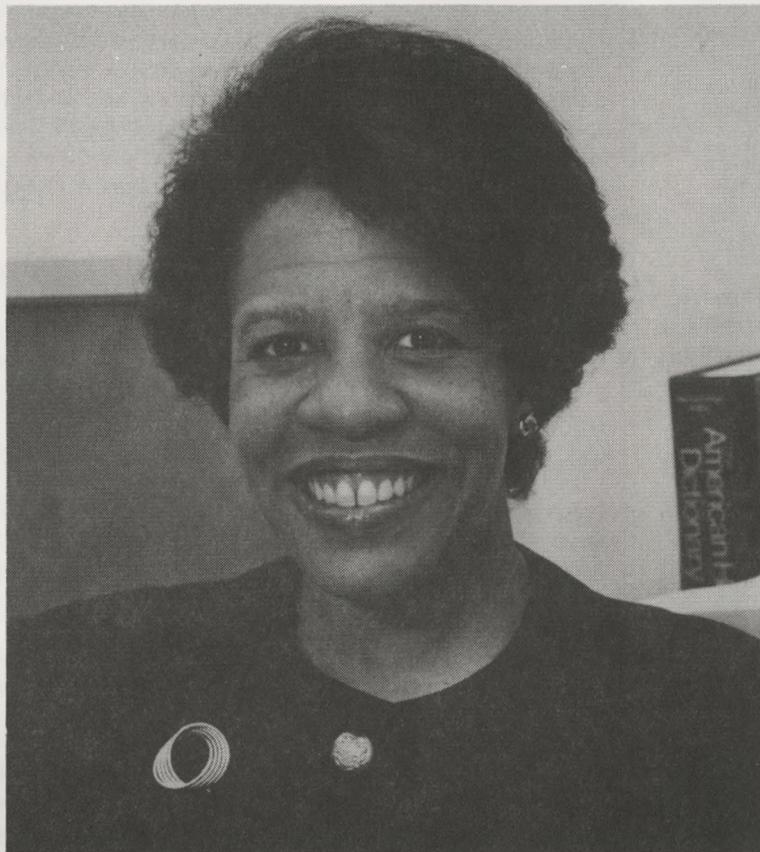


Photo by Larry Burgess

typical African-American student at UD such as yourself?

"These changes have relatively little impact on African-Americans," said Moore in a recent interview concerning the changes. Although Moore has now taken on more responsibility, she feels that with regard to African-American concerns the system has already been in place for some time now and that it is more a matter of extending it to other underrepresented groups. African-American students can still take their problems to Mr. Spraggins or

Ms. Henderson and have their needs met.

"Even in the final years of MSA," explains Moore, "it was mostly supervising and assessing and advising two competent people."

Moore has no question about the continued quality of the program as her comments reflect.

"I feel really good that I leave it in the hands of committed professionals like Tim and Kathleen."

Her only real qualm is having to give up direct involvement in all that she worked so hard to create.

"Having to let go of a program that you designed and developed is very hard," she laments.

In the future, Moore hopes to see an increased utilization of the area that used to be the Minority Student Affairs Office. Even though people presently answer the phone Diverse Student Populations, she really feels that it is more her title than the name of the office.

She likes to think that the area will soon be a complex of different administrators to serve various student needs. Furthermore, she thinks that these changes will not only benefit the new student populations which are being assisted but will also help African-American students as well.

"As we African-Americans would like the majority culture to have a broadening, global view of who we are," she explains, "we also need to have a broader view of other cultures. To do less would leave our students at a loss."

FACES

by Adrian L. Morgan

Derek Bell's *Faces at the Bottom of the Well* may be the new defining book in understanding the impact of race on blacks in America and race relations between blacks and whites. Without sounding too exuberant, this book could possibly be considered the *Invisible Man* of the nineties.

In this work, Bell shares his new thesis concerning the state of racism in this country. In addition to the great ideas that this book espouses, it has the dual treat of being very enjoyable reading. This is because Bell envelops his theory in nine fictional short stories that encompass a wide variety of issues. By the time the book is finished, he has touched on interracial dating, the possibility of all blacks leaving the country (both by choice and by force), and the potential of an all out race war. At times the fiction is a little too easy to believe, but of course that just further illustrates the veracity of Bell's underlying theme.

The book's basic premise is that racism is permanent. Racism against blacks has always existed and will always exist, and it is time for black people to accept that as fact.

In saying this, Bell does not argue that we should abandon the integrationist efforts of the past such as the civil rights movement and the work of the NAACP. Nor is he promoting full embracement of black

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The Black Perspective is a University of Dayton student-run and operated publication. This paper aims to be the eyes, ears, and voice of the UD African-American community. The general editors urge the student body to use this paper to publicize their upcoming events and to express their thoughts on issues/events (national, state, local etc.) that affect the African-American community. This paper reflects the intelligence and determination that exist within the African-American community on this campus. The paper solicits student writings in all forms: editorials, feature articles, commentaries, poetry, or any other forms that address relevant issues. The editors do reserve the right to edit material and to choose material that will be published; however, only material that is presented in a derogatory manner will be rejected. The paper accepts writings from all UD students.

Co-Editors

Valerie Colbert
Adrian Morgan

Artwork

Atris Everson

Dear Students:

Welcome back to The University; I hope that you have settled into the groove of going to class and studying. I realize that when you returned this semester you found numerous changes throughout Student Development, including a change from Minority Student Affairs to African-American Student Services. This new name clearly lets everyone know the specific population that we primarily serve: African-American students. This new name also indicates that The University of Dayton is extremely interested in this specific population and does not serve this group under an ambiguous or vaguely defined title.

As the Director of African-American Student Services, I can assure you that we will continue to help make your UD experience a positive and productive one. Through quality programming, we will maintain our efforts to expose you and the University to national figures who advocate the African-American culture; we will also maintain our support for and advising of historically-black student organizations, helping each preserve its cultural legacy and focus while providing leadership opportunities for students; and through one-on-one interactions, we will maintain our personal investment in both this program and the students we serve. Our philosophy and offerings directly reflect the University's efforts to nurture the educational, spiritual, and professional dimensions of students. I encourage you to visit us, even when you do not have a problem or a question; just stop in and say, "Hello" to all of us. Allow us to serve as a primary support-system to each of you.

I am particularly interested in the first-year students and assisting them in their transition from high school and home to college. As research shows, the first year in college is the most critical; it establishes the academic and social foundation for the next four years. I also ask each upper-class student to take a few minutes each day to be extra helpful to our new students. Upper-class men and women play a special role—one that administrators can never fill—in these students' adjustment to both college and to UD.

I also encourage you to visit the Father Joe Davis Center (the former Minority Student Affairs Lounge) and peruse the reading materials. This space has been renamed in honor of Father Davis, an African-American Marianist priest who is a UD alumnus, and has been dedicated as a programming space for this office and student-sponsored programs. Father Davis was also a member of UD's Board of Trustees. He died last year, but while he was alive one of his main concerns was to promote the African-American culture on campus for both students and faculty.

The books contained in the cabinet are from his personal collection; all of them explore the African, African-American, and European-American cultures, along with strategies of how these cultures can appreciate each other. The collection is a wealth of research information and a valuable resource for anyone researching multi-cultural interactions. Books are available to students on a check-out basis.

I look forward to the opportunity of working with each of you in some capacity. With your support, we can make this academic year an exciting and productive one for both African-American students and The University of Dayton. Peace.

Sincerely,

Timothy Spraggins

EDITOR'S CORNER

by Adrian L. Morgan

Wondering What's Going On?



Check Out
"What's
Happening"
on
Page 4

First and foremost, thank you for picking up a copy of *Black Perspective* and reading thus far. This first issue may surprise you in its brevity and its early printing date of September as opposed to the usual procrastination produced December. This is by all means intentional.

Just like the rest of the campus *Black Perspective* is also undergoing changes which are geared to result in improvements for you, our readers. These changes are the result of a unilateral decision by myself which I think will be beneficial to all involved.

Since my arrival on campus as a first-year student, I have been involved with this newspaper. My first year I was a writer and then I became co-editor and held that position until the present day. In that time I have seen the newspaper have varying interest levels but no matter what level of interest was achieved, it was constantly diminished due to production problems.

People would write a story, article, poem or some other contribution, but because of lack of articles or other hindrances it would be many weeks before they would see their efforts in print. Consequently people became very reluctant to produce further for the paper, creating a vicious cycle of distraught writers, unfinished stories and unpublished papers.

In order to rectify this situation, I am taking it upon myself to provide four contributions for each issue, and have asked Atris Everson to contribute some sort of artwork for each issue. Between the two I am confident that we will provide a new issue every two to three weeks. Of course this means that we won't be able to cover as much as we have in the past and there may be issues without photographs but that is where *you* come in. We hope that with the increased frequency of a quality publication for African-Americans on this campus that you will be encouraged to write about those issues which concern you. And for those of you who are under the misconception that people who aren't black are not welcome, please think again. Non-blacks work for *Ebony*, *Essence*, and the NAACP so there's no reason why they can't work here. Whether it be letters to editor, articles, photographs or artwork, we welcome your submissions and can virtually guarantee that they will be printed.

Submissions can be left in the *Black Perspective* box located in the Office of Diverse Student Populations (formerly Minority Student Affairs) 109 O'Reilly Hall. Submissions may also be brought to my house at 323 Stonemill Road. Anyone with questions is highly encouraged to call or leave a message for Adrian at 223-1637.

Again, thank you for your continued support and best of luck this semester.

WELCOME TO NEW STUDENTS

by Valerie Colbert

The caps and gowns have all been neatly tucked away. The diplomas have been proudly displayed for families to admire. High school friends spend their final summer together before embarking on a new journey. This journey, college, is taken every year by entering first-year students across the country.

The first-year students at the University of Dayton are not unlike any other entering class. They too are excited, hopeful, and even fearful about the new environment that will serve as their home for the next four years.

As a senior at UD and as co-editor of *Black Perspective*, I would like to welcome the entering class of 1997 to UD. For the past two years Adrian Morgan and I have served as co-editors of this newspaper. This publication acts as the eyes, ears and voice of the African-American community at UD. If you have an interest in writing about issues of concern to African-Americans, we invite you to join the *Black Perspective* staff.

Adrian and I began writing during our first-year. The editors at the time noticed our dedication and they began to groom us for the positions that we hold today. They, too, were seniors at the time. After two years in our positions, we are also searching for two students who are eager to take over as editors.

Although UD has a small African-American population, many resources exist to serve this segment of UD. There is the African-American Affairs office, whose purpose is to assist the African-American students with any concerns. A number of student organizations also exist to meet the academic and social needs of African-Americans. There is Black Action Thru Unity, The Ebony Heritage Singers, The National Society of Black Engineers The Black Greek Council and several sororities and fraternities.

So relax and take advantage of the support system that you'll find at UD. Again, welcome and have a great year!

"WHAT'S HAPPENING?"

SEPTEMBER

- 10 NSBE Meeting
Ebony Heritage Singer's Camp
Through September 11
- 11 Peer Mentoring Activity
Alpha Party
- 12 Protestant Worship Services
- 18 Zeta Rollblade Competition
1:00 p.m.
- 20 Deadline for candidacy
submission for BATU 4:30 p.m.
(Pres., V.P., Treas.) Call 229-3634
for more information
- 22 BATU Meeting
- 24 NSBE Meeting 3:00 p.m.
109 O'Reilly Hall
Deadline for next issue of
Black Perspective
- 25 Maya Angelou 4 p.m., 8 p.m.
Victoria Theatre
\$9.75 (228-3630)
- 26-
- Oct 1 Phi Beta Sigma Week

For those events where the time and location has yet to be announced it is not listed. For questions call 229-3634 unless another number has been listed.

FACES

Continued from page 2

nationalist movements represented by groups like the Black Panthers and the Nation of Islam. Instead he insists that we need to accept the present state of affairs and move forward from there.

According to Bell, African-Americans must realize they will never be fully accepted as equals of Anglo-Americans and they will never have their own state completely under the control of black self-determination. With this knowledge in mind it is time for blacks in America to accept their given obstacle in life (permanent racism) and achieve in spite of it instead of working so hard to eliminate it (NAACP) or eliminate having to deal with it (Nation of Islam).

Without spoiling the book for you, the best analogy I can liken this theory to is the story of Jim Abbott. Mr. Abbott is a pitcher for the New York Yankees. On September 4, 1993, he pitched a no-hitter. That feat within itself is an impressive one, but in Jim

Abbott's case it is particularly astounding because he only has one hand.

Now Abbott could have spent his time trying to find a better prosthesis to replace his hand or he could have done something other than play baseball. Instead, he realized that he had only one hand, that he would always have only one hand, and that although it would be harder for him to become a major league pitcher, his one-handedness was no reason why he could not pitch in the big leagues.

It is the same type of determination that Bell is insisting African-Americans need to embrace in order to take the next step in the struggle.

Published in 1992 and having just under 200 pages, *Faces at the Bottom of the Well* is Bell's second work dealing with race issues and certainly his best thus far. If you are going to read only one book this year that has to deal with the black race, make sure this is it.

Tired of looking like Ike Turner?




WE'LL COME TO ATRIS' HAIRCUT EMPORIUM
FORMERLY THE FADE SHOP
LOCATED IN RM. 114 U.W. KETTERING HALL

229-1027

