

# Dateline: Downtown

S T U D E N T - R U N S I N C E V O L U M E O N E

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## Students And Faculty Gather Black History Leaders: For Important Anniversary Carter G. Woodson Event Showcases African-American Literature Prolific Founder Of Black History Month Often Overlooked

Gloria Reisman

DATELINE DOWNTOWN

On Monday February 4th, Dr. Vida Robertson, Assistant Professor of English, and UHD's Black Student Alliance organization celebrated Black History Month by hosting the African-American Read-In in the Special Events Center. The Read-In was part of an annual nationwide celebration started by the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. 19 years ago.

Over 150 students, faculty, and staff read or listened to works by prominent African-American authors, such as David Walker, Langston Hughes, Amiri Baraka, and Maya Angelou.

JoAnn Pavletich, Assoc. Professor of English, energetically read from Ralph Ellison's "The Invisible Man," Jillian Adams, who will graduate this May with a degree in History, repeated Walker's powerful words from "Appeal in Four Articles; Together with a Preamble, to the Coloured Citizens of the World," and English student Joseph Middleton proudly read Hughes' "Theme from English B."

Marc Bazaldua, a local author from Acres Homes, spoke about his own book "Thanks to Prison," which describes how his lifestyle before getting locked up was destructive. Due to the education he received in jail and the college degree he pursued afterward, he was able to not only put his thoughts and ideas to paper, but also create his own publishing company, Maroon Publishing, to market his book and to



Clockwise from Top Left: W.E.B. Du Bois; Martin Luther King, Jr.; Edward Brooke; Sojourner Truth; Rosa Parks; and Malcolm X

seek manuscripts from others. For those interested in finding out more, Bazaldua's website is [www.marcbazaldua.com](http://www.marcbazaldua.com).

During the Read-In, UHD Counselor Advisor and former Black Student Alliance (BSA) President Crystal Guillory introduced the organization's new president, Michael White. She explained how he has been a great advocate for the BSA and how under his direction, membership has increased. The BSA has also sponsored or participated in several important functions, such as the Jena Protest March, serving Thanksgiving dinner to the homeless at the George R. Brown, UHD's Fall Family Festival, and a 90's Party that was held in the Special Events Room. To find out more about the BSA or to join their organization visit [www.myspace.com/blackstudentalliance.com](http://www.myspace.com/blackstudentalliance.com) ■

By Gene B. Preuss, PhD  
UHD ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF HISTORY

Today, African American history courses are common at colleges and universities across the nation. In the late 1980s, I was one of a group of undergraduate students who petitioned the History department at my university in Central Texas to offer an African-American History class. It was the first time the department offered a course on African American History since the 1970s. Times, as they say, have changed. February is Black History Month, a

time when the nation centers attention on people like Martin Luther King, Jr, Madam C. J. Walker, Prince Hall, and others. Most Americans are unaware, however, that the person responsible for Black History Month was Carter Goodwin Woodson.

Woodson's parents had been enslaved, but he was born in 1875, toward the end of the Reconstruction Era following the Civil War. After the Civil War, education became an important issue for many African American families across the South, and Carter's father James moved the family

see **Woodson** on page 6

## Reflections On Black History Month

By Caresse Spencer  
THE DAILY CAMPUS

(U-WIRE) I've often heard of Black History Month referred to as simply a "black" thing, but usually when the calendar shows Feb. 1, my mind does not leap with exuberance at the thought that historical black figures will finally be acknowledged. I recognize that this is the month set aside for remembrance of black civil rights leaders, inventors and other prominent figures and try to learn about a few of them. But this Feb. 1 is differ-

ent. My emotions are mixed.

I have known there was a time when black people were perceived as inferior and I have heard about Jim Crow, but I hadn't truly comprehended either, until I took two classes on the subject of race in politics and civil rights. And although I completed those classes having acquired a wealth of knowledge, I also gained a burden that was impossible for me to bear.

To realize that our nation's Constitution and its writers did not originally consider

see **Reflections** on page 7

# STUDENT LIFE

## Student Profile: Cece Johnson

**Regina Panis**

DATELINE DOWNTOWN



Name: Felicie (Cece) Johnson  
Age: 18  
Hometown: New Orleans, Louisiana  
Major: Physical and Biological Sciences

Felicie Johnson, 18, is a student at UHD and also works on campus at the Student Accounting office. She is originally from New Orleans, but moved to Houston due to Hurricane Katrina. She plans to graduate by Spring 2010.

**Was Physical and Biological Sciences your first choice as a major?**

No...actually second.

**What was your first choice, since it was your second?**

My first choice was pre-medicine.

**Why did you change your mind?**

I changed my mind because

you don't have to be a pre-med student to get into medical school and I thought a science might be a better choice.

**What do you want to do with your degree?**

I want to go to Baylor University School of Medicine to be a gynecologist.

**What do you like about working at the UHD Student Accounting office?**

I like it there because it's a set schedule and very interesting job.

**How do you juggle school and work and social life?**

I have to make a schedule for every month and hope that everything works out well.

Being a full time student, having a job, and being involved in school can sometimes be a lot to handle, but patience is the key to success.

**Is there anywhere besides Houston (or Texas) you'd like to live?**

I think Florida is a great place to live because it's beautiful and calm.

**What are your hobbies?**

Well, I love to play basketball. I'm also on Kappa Delta Chi Sorority Inc., and I love to shop.

**What are your favorite hang-outs in Houston?**

The movies, Heat, Live, and Dave and Buster's.

**What is something about you people wouldn't know just by looking at you?**

I'm a vegetarian.

**Where do you see yourself in 5 years?**

I see myself as a graduate, engaged, and going to Baylor University.

**Who or what inspires you the most, and why?**

God inspires me the most because without him nothing would be possible. My mom and my boyfriend also have a big influence over my life. ■

## Student Profile: Angel Saavedra

**By Regina Panis**

DATELINE DOWNTOWN



Name: Angel Saavedra  
Age: 20  
Hometown: Houston, TX  
Major: Biology

**Was Biology your first choice as a major? If not, what was?**

No. I essentially wanted to do something with music.

**What made you change your mind?**

I don't know. I just kinda didn't see much of a future in it. Plus, since I was little, I wanted to do something to help people.

**What do you want to do, ultimately, with your degree?**

Go to medical school.

**Where do you want to go to Medical School?**

University of Texas Southwestern Medical School

in Dallas

**What are your hobbies?**

Music, rock climbing, video editing

**How long have you been into rock climbing and video editing? That sounds interesting...Can you elaborate?**

I just recently got into rock climbing; the physical endurance that it takes to be able to climb something of great height with little or no equipment astounds me. Plus it's really fun. I've been doing video editing for a while, making music videos, editing home movies stuff like that.

**How do you juggle school and work and social life?**

I don't I had to cut one of the three out.

**What is something about you people wouldn't know just by looking at you?**

I'm um... I have a good sense of humor? Is that right? Can I answer a question with a question?

**Who or what inspires you the most, and why?**

My family has always been there; they push me forward even if I think I can't go any further. ■

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# Free Services For Students Go Unused

## UHD Counseling Eases Stressed Students

By Regina Panis  
DATELINE DOWNTOWN

Many students don't know that free counseling services are available on campus. The brochures are at every elevator on the 3rd floor, but they go unread. After all, the brochure doesn't say anything about "free" on the cover. Why would anyone want to pick one up?

Even if a student knows about the free services they might be skeptical to seek free advice from a counselor. Stressed people can see things from a new perspective by talking out loud to another person, but many think they are burdening others or don't want others to think they have mental issues.

According to Dr. Glenn Colton, one of the clinical psychologists at UHD, "Mental health has a negative stigma. Most people think it means they're crazy, or think they can solve their own problems without assistance, or it only involves people who are on drugs."

The majority of students who are smart enough to take advantage of the

free counseling on-campus are female. According to Dr. Colton, the students he sees are "more than 90% female."

When asked why, he suggested, "Males see it as more of a stigma (that they are not male or masculine enough to solve their own problems; but really, stress and everyday problems happen to both sexes."

Students may need to seek counseling for many reasons such as stress from school and juggling education and home-life. Dr. Colton said, "A lot of students say they read but don't remember what they just read, or are unable to study. This may stem from anxiety or fear of failing, or even have a deeper core reason that needs to be addressed. Most people need someone to talk to. Venting helps. It's not a burden to talk to someone though some people may feel that."

Stress and stress-related issues are part of student and human life.

Dr. Colton continues, "Going to college is a stressful event. There are new experiences and events." When asked if it was mainly freshmen straight out of high school who needed counseling, he answered, "No. I see students from all age ranges, up to their 60s. It ranges from problems in a relationship to more severe."

People are not quick to talk to someone about their personal problems, yet expose themselves by putting their personal information on their Myspace page. Dr. Colton suggests that "people don't like others having their personal information that they don't have con-

trol over. They may think since they are talking to a counselor at UHD that their professors and other students will find out about their problems. But it's all confidential."

He said that the media has created a negative impression of counseling. "TV and movies are extreme examples of what can happen to someone with mental problems. Britney Spears, for example, was kicking and screaming when they took her away to get help. Also, celebrities give rehab a bad name. Rehab is meant to help people who are having difficulties in life."

see **Services** on page 5

## 10,000 Steps

### Easy Way To Build Healthy Habits

James Quiroga  
DATELINE DOWNTOWN

The 10,000 Steps a Day Challenge provides its participants with the basis to establish a healthy exercise routine despite a hectic schedule.

Rhonda Scherer, Coordinator of Health and Fitness for UHD's Department of Sports and Recreation, hopes The Challenge will encourage students, faculty, and staff to take a more active interest in their health and to develop good exercise habits.

Participants receive a pedometer and report the number of steps walked to Scherer via email each week. Scherer then emails participants with details on their progress over

the current and previous weeks and notes locally held fitness events.

The Challenge targets those who do not take advantage of Sports and Recreation's facilities and students who are infrequent exercisers.

The deadline for entry into the current semester's Challenge has already passed; however, students who want to participate in future Challenges may contact Rhonda Scherer at (713) 221-8225 or [schererr@uhd.edu](mailto:schererr@uhd.edu). ■

# TOWN HALL



## MEETING

DATE: February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008

TIME: 12:00 Noon

LOCATION: Room A-300

**Come visit with UHD  
Administration!!**

*Food & Refreshments will be  
provided to attendees.*

Sponsored by:

University of Houston - Downtown



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

# CAMPUS NEWS

## Faculty Profile: Professor Westfall

### Philosopher Exemplar

By Frank Raia  
DATELINE DOWNTOWN

I sat down with Professor Westfall in his office and asked him a series of questions. His full name is: Joseph Westfall, Assistant Professor of Philosophy but everybody at school knows him as: "the badass" Philosophy teacher who wears bowties and suits everyday.

He's been happily married for a few years but if you ever want to get involved with him on a more personal level you could join the Philosophy group or learn as much as you can from his minions: Socrates, Jean-François Lyotard, René Descartes. He says, "They do my bidding, if I pay the price."

He was born Modesto, California back in the day when life was a bit simpler and the computer sucked. He is currently teaching PHIL 1301: Introduction

to Philosophy, PHIL 2310: The Meaning of Life, and PHIL 3340: Postmodern Theory. He has also taught: Moral Issues, Philosophy of Gender, Philosophy of Religion, Environmental Ethics, Classical Philosophy, Nietzsche, and Socrates.

A few things about him: he grew up in northern California and went to college there, after living 8 years in New England. "I knew I wanted to major in philosophy when I was still in high school," he says, "but I didn't realize I was never going to get away from philosophy until the middle of college. I keep looking for some escape, but Dame Philosophy just won't leave me alone."

Before coming to UHD, Professor Westfall taught at Boston College. I asked what he thought about UHD students he commented, "I think the UHD students are, on the whole, the most hard-working



students I've known. They come from a wide variety of backgrounds, and have very different levels of preparation for college-level philosophy, but they seem to share a common commitment to their own educations. I respect that, and have learned much from my students."

He enjoys the Boston Red

Sox and hates the Yankees with a passion equivalent to Nietzsche hatred for everything. He was a Red Sox fan before they won the first series in 2004 and was deeply angered when somebody would say something hateful about the Sox but was overjoyed

everytime something bad happened to the Yankees. He also enjoys watching that slowest of all Winter Olympics sport, curling.

He listens to Jazz, folk, and classical including Opera. He regularly goes to Houston Grand Opera performances. He doesn't eat animals.

He is a published writer, his

book "The Kierkegaardian Author" sells for a pretty penny but you can find it online. He plans to maybe write again. Upon asked what he plans to do before death he simply remarked. "I suppose I should get a driver's license, eventually."

Westfall has traveled the world. He remarked that he loved northern Europe, especially Scotland and Denmark. In the states, like everybody that's seen the Northwest they love the winter snow and fall foliage, the West Coast for the sunny days better, and the Arizona desert because the dry air is a great relief from Houston humidity. Boston and San Francisco are my favorite cities, but Tucson is a great place to unwind.

And on a final note, if you think he's been all books and stuff you're greatly wrong. "When I was in high school, I see **Westfall** on page 7

## UHD Baseball Poised For Championship

### New Lefty Rounds Out Solid Team

Jacob Benavides  
DATELINE DOWNTOWN

With tryouts coming to an end this past weekend, The UHD Gators Baseball squad is gearing up and making preparations to make a run at the National Collegiate Baseball Association National Championship. Last years inaugural season for the Gators was a great success as they qualified for the playoffs. For team captain Ryan Werda and his club, expectations have been set to the highest level and the Gators will not settle for anything less than a NCBA Title.

Werda told Dateline, "As the captain, I would feel obligated to say something

like, "to have fun and play each game one at a time," but that's something I would only say if I thought we didn't have the talent to go all the way." Werda is positive about this year's season, "I've already marked May 16-20 on my calendar with the words, "Indiana Trip", the location of the NCBA National Championship."

The Gators will open the 2008 campaign with a solid starting rotation that is anchored by south paw Andy Watson who transferred here from the University of Texas-Arlington just last year. Watson has a few pitches in his repertoire with a fastball setting off the radar guns in the lower 90's, and a nasty curve that triggered the attention

of the Arizona Diamondbacks during the Major League Draft of 2002.

The Gators will also look to Ryan Duff, 3B and 2007 UHD MVP, and the newly acquired pitcher/ shortstop Ricky Watkins to help carry the team to its first National Championship.

With so many important contributors up and down the roster, Werda feels that this team is enriched with talent and poised to make that dream of a championship a reality:

"I'd have to say our strongest point is our depth as a team. We obviously have our stars as all teams do, but we have numerous players who we can call on to get the job done on the mound, on the field, and at the plate."

For the Gators, the level of anticipation is growing with each day as the season inches closer. Preparations are being made to ensure that this club falls nothing short of a NCBA Title. Come out this spring and support the Gators Baseball Squad as they seek to bring their first National Championship to One Main Street in Downtown Houston. ■

# UHD Basketball And Volleyball Tournaments

## Come Watch Our Defending Champions Play For A Second Title

**By Reggie Plummer**  
DATELINE DOWNTOWN

Can't afford tickets to the Rockets game? Can't get tickets to any collegian conference games?

Now you can! Come and be a part of the 2008 Women's Basketball League Lone Star Sport Club Conference Championship Tournament and the 2008 Houston Area Collegiate Volleyball League Championship Tournament.

University of Houston-Downtown will host the basketball tournament on April 6th at 1:00 pm and a volleyball tournament on April 20 at noon.

Coach Stefany Mitchell will lead our UHD Gators Women's Basketball Club Team against worthy opponents, such as Houston Baptist University (HBU), Houston Community College-Northwest (HCCNW), Lone Star College-North Harris (LSC-North Harris), Lone

Star College-Tomball (LSC-Tomball), and Texas Southern University (TSU).

The UHD Women's Volleyball Club will host Houston Community College-Northwest (HCC-NW), Lone Star College-Kingwood (LSC-Kingwood), Lone Star College-North Harris (LSC-North Harris), Lone Star College-Tomball (LSC-Tomball), Rice University (Rice), Texas Southern University (TSU), and the University of Houston (UH).

# Home Game Schedule

## Women's Basketball Club

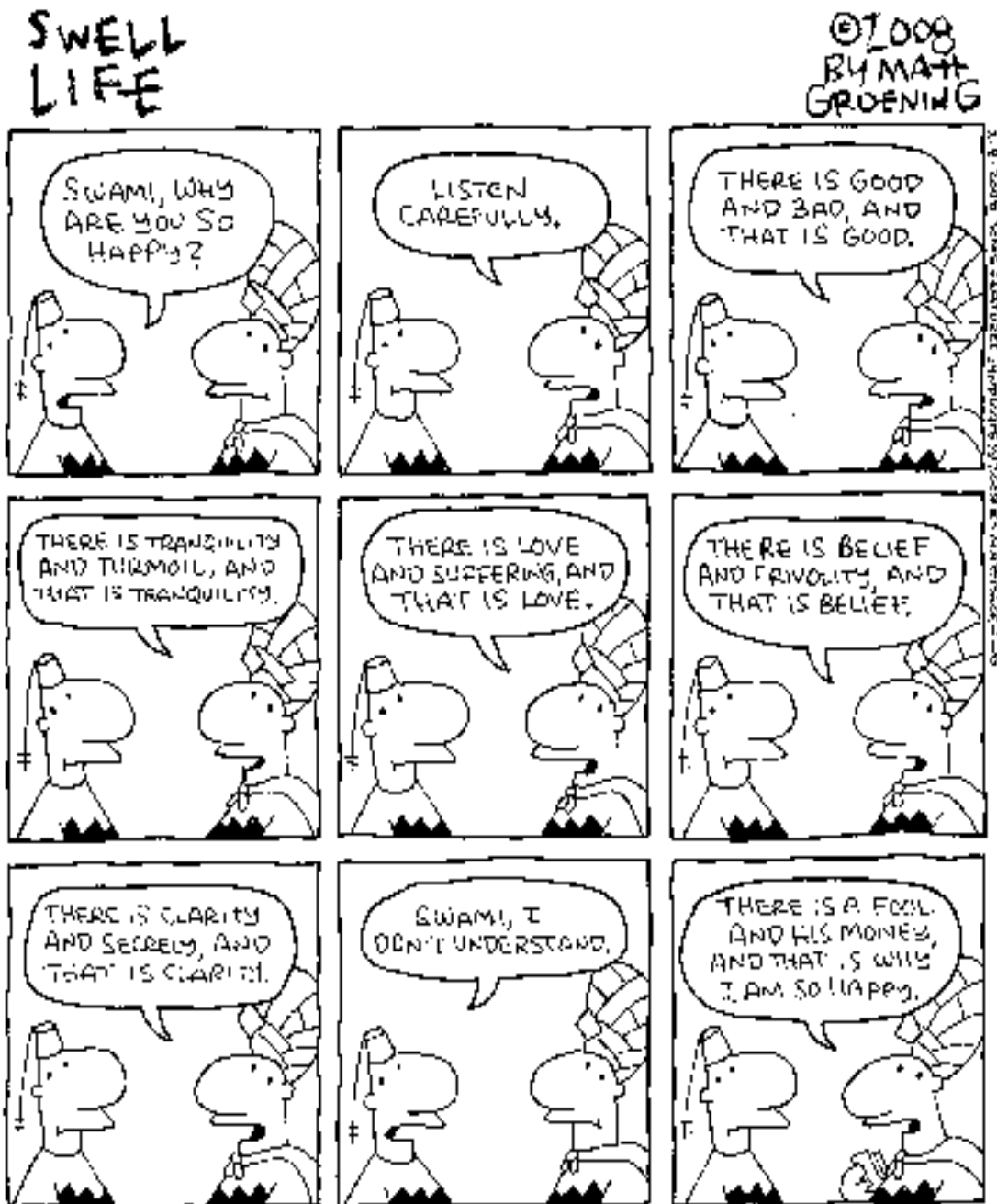
2/26/2008 .... 7:00 PM .....vs .....LSC - Tomball  
3/07/2008..... 7:00 PM .....vs .....HCC-NW  
3/25/2008..... 7:00 PM .....vs .....TSU

## Womens Volleyball Club

2/13/2008..... 6:00 PM .....vs .....HCC-NW  
4/02/2008 .... 6:00 PM .....vs .....UH  
4/09/2008 .... 6:00 PM .....vs .....LSC-Kingwood

Also, come out and support the UHD Gators Women's Basketball Club Team and

the UHD Women's Volleyball Club on their home courts. ■



# Services

Continued from page 3

The counseling services are free to students through a contract with the University of Texas Employee Assistance Program (UTEAP). According to Dr. Colton, "Employees' include everyone from staff and faculty to students."

Student can find some very useful services through the UTEAP program:

- Financial Advice & Analysis
- Legal Consultations
- Identity Theft Solutions
- WorkLife Services – a professional establishes a work-out and dietary schedule for you
- Workshops & Seminars – counselor-directed group discussions about mental health and life situations

Dr. Colton does not write prescriptions because he is a psychiatrist, but he can refer students if they are in need of medication.

"Students have a minimum

of about 5 or so free visits. After that, the student's situation is reviewed. Dr. Glenn may talk to one of his colleagues in the Medical Center about extending the visits, or he may refer you to another doctor for more extensive therapy."

Dr. Colton has been a counselor at UHD since October 2007. He is available twice a week, Tuesday and Wednesday from 8:30-6 p.m. His schedule can be flexible depending on a student's schedule. Student can also schedule an appointment with Heidi Groover, another counselor at UHD.

Counseling services are available at UHD, room S447. Students may also want to go offsite to the main office in the Medical Center if they do not want to be seen entering or exiting the counseling office at school. ■

# FEATURES

## Lessons Lie In Black History Month

By **Brandon Stokes**  
THE MARQUETTE TRIBUNE

(U-WIRE) Since its beginning as the brainchild of Carter G. Woodson, what was originally Negro History Week has become a full-blown month. Today, Black History Month still brings up painful memories of American history.

Usually, the month evokes detractors, who say the month separates blacks from American history and is often ignored the rest of the year. Black History Month is a chance to emphasize the achievements of blacks within the concept of American history. There are misconceptions on this, and most are held by many in society. I think that it is time to set the record straight.

The month is not just for black people. The month is for everyone

to look at the trials and triumphs of African-Americans in the quest to find understanding of their struggle in relation to another group of people to find that we are more similar than we are different.

A white male from Whitefish Bay can learn lessons of sacrifice, courage and determination from the activism of blacks in this country. The inspirational stories of black leaders throughout history can touch the hearts of many through their aspirations of building a society of diversity and equality.

A big misconception is that black history begins with slavery and ends with the Civil Rights Movement led by Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks. Institutions without a sense of black consciousness roll out the same three people: Harriet Tubman, MLK

and Parks, as the primary black figures of American history.

Many people never get a chance to learn about the debates between Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. DuBois or learn that A. Phillip Randolph was the first to come up with the idea for the March on Washington. The stories of people like Malcolm X, Huey Newton and Nikki Giovanni often go unnoticed. Black History Month is an opportunity for these people to have their achievements highlighted, even if it means that they are typically ignored throughout the year.

The importance of this month can be lost among people, but many events during this time can give you the necessary information to engage with your fellow students across campus about issues that you normally would not

talk about. This month brings people together in hopes that a change will come to make the words of the founders of this country ring true in terms of equality among all citizens of this country.

If, after this month, you are not inspired and realize the importance of Black History Month, then take solace that in March, as quoted in the Onion "Americans of every color will set aside their differences to celebrate White History Year." ■

## Woodson

Continued from page 1

from near Richmond to West Virginia when he learned of a new school for African Americans. Unfortunately, like many people from humble backgrounds, work took precedence over education and Woodson spent his youth as a miner in West Virginia. He could not ignore, however, the importance his family placed on education. He was 20 before he entered high school, but quickly earned his diploma in two years. He worked his way through college by teaching in public schools, and then got his Master's degree from the University of Chicago, and in 1912 became the second African American to earn a degree from Harvard University (W. E. B. Du Boise was the first).

Woodson was trained as a scientific historian. This school of thought held that through a careful and thor-

ough study of primary source documents historians could write history "as it actually was." As late as 1941, anthropologist Melville Herskovits demonstrated in *The Myth of the Negro Past* there was a widespread belief that African Americans had no history. W. E. B. Du Boise agreed that this mistaken belief had contributed to racial prejudice. Woodson held that a careful study of the African American past would correctly identify the role of blacks in American history and help end prejudice in American life.

In 1915, Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, later renamed the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), and the scholarly *Journal of Negro History*. Yet, he did not want African American history to be by and for scholars, he wanted the history the scholars he supported to be accessible to the general public, and later created the *Negro*



Photo Courtesy of Flickr

Dr. Carter G. Woodson (1875-1950), is known as the father of African-American history. He helped popularize the study and knowledge of Africans in the United States.

*History Bulletin* to appeal to the general public. He worked ceaselessly to encourage young African American historians, often paying them out of his own pocket, and running the association out of his Washington, DC, home.

In 1926, Woodson established Negro History Week to coincide with two important birthdays, Abraham Lincoln's on February 12 and Frederick Douglass who celebrated his on February 14. Woodson

used the week to call attention to the contributions African Americans have made to American civilization. He even hoped that one day, when America acknowledged the true extent of black history, that such a celebration would not longer be necessary. By bringing more attention to African American history, Woodson not only helped change the way

history was written, he helped lay the foundation for a new generation of historians who began to use history as a tool to correct past wrongs. Just as importantly, Woodson's efforts to promote African American history drew the attention of historians of all races and ethnicities, greatly opening the field to more researchers. Black History Week became a popular celebration, and in 1976, the celebration became Black History Month.

Woodson never lived to see this expansion as he died in 1950 at the age of 74.

In many respects, the popularity of African American studies programs and history courses and Black History Month is the result of the tireless efforts of Carter G. Woodson. In 2005, the National Park Services acquired the Woodson home, and although it is closed to the public and in need of repairs, it is a National Historic Site. Ironically, for all the work he did to bring national attention to the history of African Americans, Woodson has largely vanished from the historical picture. This year, the ASALH, the organization Woodson founded, hopes to renew interest in Woodson, and has named the National Black History theme for this year's 93rd annual convention in Birmingham, "Carter G. Woodson and the Origins of Multiculturalism." ■

# Reflections

Continued from page 1

black people in the phrase “all men are created equal” was disturbing. To see images of individuals lynched for the crime of just being black was heartbreaking. To learn of and see the resistance to which desegregation was met was just downright saddening. Furthermore, to stomach the idea that in spite of the fact that this nation has come a long way from bombings and lynchings -- that racism is unfortunately sewn into the fabric of America -- was the end to my optimistic perspective of life.

Instead, I was stuck in the past, stuck in the struggle and bound by the shackles of racism, which I, myself, have never personally experienced. I had not become prejudiced and distrusting of white people. My common sense and wisdom would not allow me to do so. Instead, I carried a burden because I saw no other alternative. I felt like I had lived for years in oblivion. I knew America's history was no fairytale of democracy and freedom, but I never recognized the human stories of the individuals who actually suffered the burden of Jim Crow and the bondage of slavery. I didn't want to forget the stories of those who hung, bled and died and my mind wouldn't allow me to. It was like a walking nightmare, thinking of how Emmitt Till, Medgar Evers and so many more were murdered without cause, for there could be no rational or humane one.

Essentially, I was attending their funerals -- although they were buried years before I was born. I was mourning for the dead and paying my respects. The sadness reached a climax when I couldn't shake the concept that people were actually hated and killed because they shared my skin color. And for years, no one stepped in to bring an end to the genocide.

But eventually I realized mourning had consumed my life and I was in fact no longer honoring the dead. To truly honor them, I needed to take advantage of the opportunities they never had. I had to view what happened years ago just as it was taught -- as history. I could not ignore that the status of black people in America, although still hindered, is leaps and bounds ahead from where it began. It was imperative that I not confine those heroic individuals to the past. I had to take on the responsibility of sharing their stories with those around me so that they are never forgotten.

But there was something still bothering me. Something I tried to suppress kept resurfacing. I could not understand why a loving God would allow such hatred to exist. Many people have pondered this and decided they could not serve such a God. I was never in danger of doing that, but it was a question that had plagued me. But my worries eased when I remembered the bondage of the Israelites.

I am not trying to compare God's chosen people to blacks, but through the scripture my questions were answered. Man has free will and therefore can endeavor to enslave others. And though God is not responsible for slavery, he did allow it. God allows certain struggles to happen to strengthen people and for Him to gain glory from the outcome -- and there is so much glory he can bask in now.

In 2008, there are black lawyers, actors, politicians and even a black presidential candidate. It is easy to look at the struggle, but it requires faith to realize that the struggle was a part of the process of freedom. Faith is something that cannot be separated from the Civil Rights movement. It needs to be reinstated into the fight against discrimina-

tion. The decline of the Civil Rights movement came from making it a “black” thing as opposed to a faith movement. The black church was a staple in the movement, serving as the meeting place for boycotts and training in nonviolence. The movement's leaders were reverends and ministers who encouraged protests in the name of the Lord. They knew that faith was inextricably bound to freedom, in its truest sense.

February is not just a month to memorize facts about blacks. It's not just black history to be celebrated and honored, it is also American history. This month is for all Americans to honor those heroes and heroines from history. In fact, one problem with America now is that it places a race on everything: black history, Black Entertainment Television, etc. I am glad there

is a month designated for the acknowledgement of black historical figures. But I will not settle for one month. I believe that true integration is endangered by promoting separation.

I believe that Americans

have settled for a month, instead of making sure black historical figures are truly a part of the history books. African-American studies has been accepted as a branch of see **Reflections** on page 12

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## Westfall

Continued from page 4

wore all black: black jeans, black t-shirts, a black windbreaker (it was California, after all), black suede shoes, black socks, and a black fedora.” But in college, he said, “In direct opposition to my high school self, I wore color—many colors, always clashing. I had a habit of wearing mismatched argyle socks. Some of my clothes

looked like the things they give employees to wear at Disneyland. In grad school, I sobered up a bit—long sleeve t-shirts with sweaters and jeans, mostly, and red Converse All-Stars—and that's still more or less how I dress in my free time. The suits and bowties began then, too, on my first day of classroom teaching (in September 1998). I've been wearing bowties and suits to work ever since.” ■

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## One-syllable Titles, Puns Do Not A Good Movie Make

By Brad Boron  
THE DAILY CARDINAL

(U-WIRE) Reviewing films, it is my duty to protect you, the reader, from the worst the theaters have to offer. Because no one has time to see every movie that comes out everywhere, I need a way to tell readers "FOR THE LOVE OF ALL THAT'S HOLY, STAY AWAY!" With that in mind, I give you "Boron's Laws of Bad Movies," a set of universal bad movie traits, so that you can do the job critics can't:

The "One-Syllable Title" Law: One syllable titles are usually the mark of a lazily written or undercooked script, or an idea so brainless that no title can accurately encapsulate it. These titles are generally uninspired, which mirrors the uninspired writing contained within. How was the rogue bomber with artificial intelligence that blew up everything in sight in "Stealth" remotely stealthy? Movies like "Torque," "10," "They" and "Crash" (the David Cronenberg one, not the Paul Haggis one) pervade this list.

However, an exception to this rule is "Crash" (Haggis, not Cronenberg).

The "Kingsley-Gooding" Law: No post-"Jerry Maguire" movie with Cuba Gooding Jr. has any value to anyone, and though Ben Kingsley has a slightly higher success rate, his chances of delivering a quality film are slim as well. Kingsley and Gooding have both won Oscars, and they've been in movies like "Gandhi," "Jerry Maguire" and "Schindler's List." However, in the past 10 years, they've been in mov-

ies like "Snow Dogs," "Lucky Number Slevin," "Boat Trip" and "Daddy Day Camp" -- a movie so bad that Eddie Murphy wanted no part of it.

The "Pun Titles in Comedies" Law: If a comedy's funny, it doesn't have to resort to cheap puns to get you to laugh. When you watch "American Idol" auditions, there are people dressed up, dressed down and doing crazy things. But the ones that are the best singers don't need the shtick because they just do what they're good at: singing. Comedy is the same way. "Who's Your Caddy" should take note.

The "Superhero Law of Threes": No superhero film past the first sequel is as good as its predecessors. "Superman" and "Superman II" were phenomenal. "Superman III" gave us Richard Pryor as a comic sidekick, marking the only time in his career where he wasn't funny. "X-Men" and "X2": great. "X3" gave us Brett Ratner. "Batman & Robin" gave us the nipples Batsuit. The laws could go on, but they won't for your sake.

The "Die Hard but ..." Law: If your film can be summed up as "Die Hard' but...", adding some other wrinkle to that tested formula, it's probably bad ("Passenger 57," "Under Siege," "Air Force One").

The "Movie" Movies Law: Any movie that followed "Scary Movie" by using "\_\_\_\_\_ Movie" as its title shall be bad. "Date Movie," "Epic Movie" and "Scary Movie 4" all fall under this law. Recently, the makers of these horrible films tried to evade this law by

titling their last film "Meet the Spartans," but it may as well just have been called "300 Movie." The laws hate these movies more than anything because not only do they crap all over someone else's creativity and art in the least creative and artful ways possible, but they are not funny at all (Haha! Finally, someone has the guts to give that Britney Spears the public ridicule she deserves but never before has received). ■

## Vince Vaughn's Wild West Comedy Show Movie Review

By Wil Chinchilla  
DATELINE DOWNTOWN

Vince Vaughn's Wild West Comedy Show (VWVWCS) premiered this past weekend on February 8th. The documentary was filmed in 2005-2006 and is being played in theater's now, which is strange. It is hard to pinpoint why this film would be marketed as a strictly comedic movie, and to find out that it's not is disappointing. At a pre-screening of the film, one of the other critics there stated they could have watched this at home. I wouldn't sell this film that short.

The documentary is for-

mulaic but it also used every emotion known to man. I laughed, I cried, and I appreciated the fact that these comedians opened their lives to the world for a big break.

If you want to see the experience of comedian's lows and their new heights, if you are a fan of western culture, and if you never owned a backstage pass but would like too, you should see this film. My favorite part is of course Sebastian Maniscalco's jokes. You will realize that this movie focuses too much on one comedian that isn't really that funny (not Sebastian, Ahmed, or Bret). Rating: 3 stars





# Crack The Case At The Science Museum

## New CSI Exhibit Lets You Experience Hit Show

By **Tamara Wise**  
DATELINE DOWNTOWN

You've seen CBS's hit Television show CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. Now you can join the team and feel the rush of investigating a crime scene at the CSI: Experience, an engrossing and interactive forensic science exhibit. The exhibit runs now through April 30th at the Houston Museum of Natural Science.

This thrilling multimedia exhibit invites you to become a crime scene investigator and to solve one of three hypothetical crimes. In your adventure you will interact with real-life forensic experts and characters from the television show and be guided through your tasks by touch screen TVs. These tasks consist of investigating a crime scene, analyzing evidence, visiting the medical examiner, and presenting your findings to CSI Supervisor Gil

Grissom. The entire experience takes about an hour.

Your journey begins with a briefing by the creator of CSI: Crime Scene Investigation, Anthony E. Zuiker. Ron Singer, a real-life forensic scientist, then explains the science in the exhibit. Finally, Gil Grissom gives you your challenge.

Your challenge is to then enter one of three crime scenes: "A House Collided", a scene where a car crashed through the living room window of a house with a man slumped over in the driver's seat; "Who Got Served?" an investigation into the death of a young woman who found in an alley behind a Las Vegas motel; or "No Bones About It!" where a skull with a hole found by a hiker. Usually you will be told which crime scene you will investigate, but if there are few visitors you can choose which scene you prefer.

After investigating your crime scene,

you analyze your evidence in two highly interactive labs. Each lab has stations that allow you to test hairs, fibers, tire tracks, and other evidence. You then visit the medical examiner for his findings. Finally, you report to Grissom's office where he asks you a series of questions. Based on your answers, the supervisor tells you if you cracked the case or not.

While you're there you should check out the museum's other attractions. There are 14 permanent exhibits to see, such as gems, paleontology to Texas wildlife and Egypt. Also, the IMAX theater has four films, two of which are in 3D. Or you might want to catch one of the mind bending shows at the planetarium. These shows range from stargazing and black holes to rocking with Led Zeppelin, Aerosmith, and Pink Floyd while watching dizzying animations of spirals and infinite fractals. The kids will love the Cockrell

Butterfly Center, a three-story glass cone filled with tropical plants and exotic butterflies. Also, don't forget to check out Lucy's Legacy: the hidden treasures of Ethiopia runs until April 27. Not only will you learn about the rich history and culture of Ethiopia here, but you will be able to view Lucy's fossil remains, which are approximately 3.2 million years old.

All of the exhibitions at the Houston Museum of Natural Science are equally exhilarating. You can check times and dates for each at the museum's website [www.hmns.org](http://www.hmns.org). And make sure to take your student ID card for discounted rates! ■

*Houston Museum of Natural Science  
One Herman Circle Drive, Houston*

## "Love Janis" At The Alley Theater Tribute Takes Another Little Piece Of My Heart

By **Regina Panis**  
DATELINE DOWNTOWN

"Love, Janis" is a musical adapted by Randal Myler. The musical is based on the book of the same name by her sister, Laura Joplin. The book follows Janis Joplin's life from 1966 until her death in 1970.

Marisa Ryan plays the speaking Janis who talks to the audience and shows Joplin's non-singing side. Katrina Chester and Mary Bridget Davies alternate nights for the singing role and belt out old Joplin tunes as if they were new.

"Janis" and the band immediately energized the audience with "Piece of My Heart". That opening gave the audience a taste of what to expect, as did the playbill, which offered free earplugs upon request.

Throughout the play, Janis tells her story by reciting letters to the audience as if talking to her mother, father, or sister. She signs the letters "love, Janis".

The first act took the audience through the beginning days of her short career as front woman for the band "Big Brother and The Holding Company". Tie-dye backdrops moved like huge lava lamps during psychedelic performances of "Down On Me," "Bye, Bye Baby," "Women Is Losers," "I Need A Man To Love," "Summertime," and "Ball and Chain."

The second act opened with "Mercedes Benz." The costumes became more elaborate and the songs more desperate, along with Janis's mood. Songs in this act include "A Woman Left Lonely," "Try (Just A Little Bit Harder)," "To

Love Somebody," "Little Girl Blue," and "Get It While You Can."

Between songs, when Janis speaks, the audience sees the loneliness behind the singing. She writes her family letter after letter talking about buying a dog for company, a house, a car, and more beer. Her songs begin to change. Earlier songs screeched and screamed with rebelliousness, whereas later songs sounded more like pleading and desperation. When Janis recited her letters she lurked in the dark, drinking and smoking. The songs are performed in the dazzling spotlight.

Janis and her band performed at the 1967 Monterey International Festival and got signed to a manager. As her stardom rose, she traveled more and eventually quit her first band. When an "inter-

see **Joplin** on page 11



Stock Photo Courtesy of Regina Panis

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Comedian Ian Bagg

Red Maple Leaf Is His Middle Name

By Wil Chinchilla  
DATELINE DOWNTOWN

Seven days after last year's interview in the Dateline, Ian Bagg's special premiered on Comedy Central. Since then, Bagg has inspired Houston crowds to come to three of his shows at the Houston Improv just to hear what he would say differently in each show. As Bagg continues on his road to fame he gives this advice to all up and coming comedians: "Stay outta my way! And try to remember the reasons why you got into comedy."

Ian says, "Going back to Canada means that I've been deported. I'm a little bit scared but I am fine. I will probably end up marrying 6 or 7 girls then get thrown in jail because I'm a Mormon." With dreams set on an animated series and sights focused on working with famed producer Judd Apatow, Ian will eventually win some type of award.

**DL:** A whole year has past since I got to talk to you – what is new?

**Ian:** I know, I went to Aspen did the HBO special for them. It just gave me the idea to know what I want to do, and that is the stupid "run and gun" guerilla comedy. Then the Comedy Central special came out that gave me good feedback and I just kept touring the rest of the year, kept coming back to the same places that let me see more people coming out than last time.

**DL:** What is your favorite moment of 2007?

**Ian:** I went to my 20 year high school reunion. And I had so much fun because at a 10 year high school reunion people still have attitudes; they still want to prove that they've become something. At 20, people are just like "this is me!"

**DL:** New Year resolution?

**Ian:** My New Year resolutions are, wear condoms. It's already broken. There are no other planned resolutions. I want to work two times as hard. I have come up with two new Internet concepts that I am going to put on my website. One is going to be like a round table talk show called "bad attitude" with Ian Bagg. It's just everyone with a bad attitude talking.

**DL:** It seems like the hecklers will never stop challenging you in Houston, what is your message to people who like to heckle?

**Ian:** I hope they never stop. I don't think they're hecklers. I think people have a tendency



Ian Bagg at the Houston Improv

Photo Courtesy of Will Chinchilla

to be nervous if they've never seen my show in the beginning, but by the end it's just like a big family dinner. There is no meanness. In the beginning people think it's mean, but I don't have a mean bone in my body. A show without contributors would not be fun, and I probably wouldn't have fun because my show is a conversation not a monologue.

**DL:** So if you consider heckler someone to be flat out mean, who is the worst heckler you have come in contact with?

**Ian:** Honestly, in 2007 at Virginia Beach some guy was mad at me since he has been drinking since four. By the time I went on at eight he was completely hammered and started yelling racial and Canadian slurs. When I was talking with some fans he started yelling at me "Hit me!", "Hit me!", "Hit me!" I know he was trying to get me in trouble to sue the club – he looked like he'd done this before. As we walked to the bouncer he threw a punch at me. I leaned back so he just slapped me. I called the cops. When they showed up it turned out his wife was also drunk. This guy goes to jail and the wife ends up driving the wrong way down a one-way street and hitting the cop car. Both ended up in jail. At the same time I was like, "Really! That just cost you \$10,000 and I just got slapped."

**DL:** What are you working on?

see **Bagg** on page 12

## Pushing The Edge Of Scientific Technology With Porn

Industry's adoption Of Blue-Ray May Spell End of HD-DVD

By James Kern  
DATELINE DOWNTOWN

There are very few industries that have the funding to advance scientific progress. The military uses science to kill, medicine uses it to heal, engineers use it to build bigger and better things for humanity, and the movie industry uses it to make movies.

These days you are hard pressed to watch any movie that doesn't have at least some aspect of computer or digital technology.

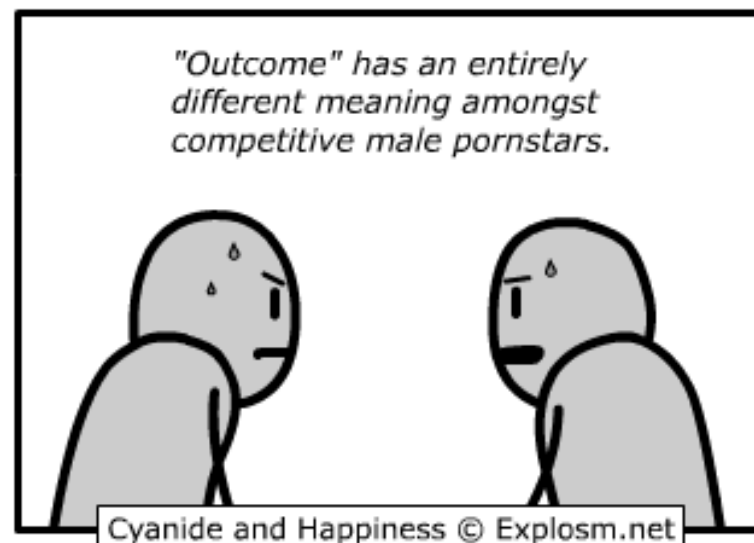
So, it is not so far fetched that the porn industry, which Forbes claims to be worth \$1.8 Billion in annual sales, is setting yet another standard by choosing Blu-ray as their high definition format. High definition plasma and LED TVs get bigger, better, and cheaper every few months making this a high-stakes competition.

PC World notes that "the adoption of Blu-ray Disc by the Japanese porn industry could

make all the difference in the format war. The adult film industry has long been a first mover in using new technologies, and many analysts say the industry played a key role in making VHS the winner in the video cassette fight against Sony's Betamax video tape standard years ago."

Betamax had a better encoding format than VHS but had a shorter recording length, which didn't allow a full nudie movie on one tape. That parallels this current conflict – with a 25 GB capacity instead of the HD-DVD's 15 GB capacity, Blu-ray can hold longer and more detailed movies of, well, smut.

It's just one more way to make a buck. The phrase "sex sells" has proven to be true throughout the history of sexual entertainment. The adult film industry will always be ready to explore virgin fields of technology. ■



# Joplin

Continued from page 9

viewer” asked why she did not go back to “Big Brother,” she answered, “Cause you can never go home, man.”

The audience eventually sees the rock singer’s downturn when the speaking Janis shoots up in a dark corner while the singing Janis performs another song. People in the audience pointed as they saw her tighten a strap to make her vein more visible for her needle.

Shortly after, the “interviewer” asks if she heard the news about Jimi Hendrix, in London. Hendrix overdosed at age 27, the same age as Janis. She told the “interviewer” that while it was unfortunate to lose a great blues artist, she didn’t plan on going anywhere for a long time.

At the end, the stage turned

black. Black and white newspaper articles of her death by a heroin overdose appear where there used to be the backdrop of colorful psychedelic prints. A radio voice announces her death.

Even when the singing Janis and the speaking Janis were side-by-side on stage neither one upstaged the other. Both performances were compelling and bittersweet. The actresses showed a connection to the real Janis Joplin, feeling every word they spoke and sang.

The show ended with “Get It While You Can,” with lyrics that say, “Get it while you can... Don’t you turn your back on love, no, no, no...” ending the reflection of her true loneliness in her tragic life. ■

## ESE, MOD, & A Benefit Concert

By Frank Raia  
DATELINE DOWNTOWN

February 1 at Walters on Washington Method of Destruction (M.O.D.) returned again to for conquest but there is more to this story than just another show.

For starters ESE juts returned from an epic conquest of California and Arizona

and were getting ready to take a much-needed vacation. M.O.D. brought two things to Houston: the testing ground for their new bass player and the kickoff for a long tour. This tour would take them from east to west coast and back home to Austin.

ESE had just experienced a temporary setback with their tour but found a solution and

was able to play a very short but well executed show at Numbers on January 30th. That show was a benefit for a friend whose master bedroom caught fire. Luckily, nothing was destroyed. The benefit was given to help pay the medical bills for minor burns and injuries. The show was a huge success and the bands performances were equally great.

Walters on Washington with ESE and M.O.D. was a nasty combination of punk rock and metal. This show was different from the first few shows the bands have shared. ESE was finished and M.O.D. was starting a tour as amongst many other reasons.

ESE played their set flawlessly. M.O.D. started much the same way ,but played for a bit longer than an hour. The set had more “ballades, they didn’t play “Bubble Butt” so many times but they did play “Alphabet City Stomp”, “Love Boat Hate Tank”, “Bubble



MOD at Walters: Tim “Tank” Casterline on Bass, Billy Milano on Vocals, Derek Lopez on Drums, Scott Sargeant on Guitar

Butt”, “Kill Yourself”, “Fuck the Middle East”, “Pussy Whipped” and most importantly the last song of the night “United Forces”.

It was a great night. After the show ESE and M.O.D. loaded up and Johnny left with M.O.D. to be their roadie for the tour. While Johnny is gone ESE has hired somebody to take his spot so ESE can

play South-by-southwest in Austin and a few other shows. When M.O.D. returns ESE is scheduled to practice for a week or so and leave again for California, Arizona and the rest of the West Coast for an extensive tour.

I’ll let you know more information on ESE and M.O.D. later in the year. ■



ESE at Walters: Uncle Knotch on Bass, Johnny Raia on Drums, and Carlos Valdez on Guitar

# CONTINUATIONS

## Bagg

Continued from page 10

**Ian:** "The Ian Bagg show" is starting again in April. "The Hollywood Burn" will not be coming back even though I keep getting emails. I am actually pitching an animated show right now. I am going to Disney, I have been to Comedy Central, but it is kind of tough because of the writer's strike.

**DL:** Does the writer's strike affect everyone then?

**Ian:** I can still pitch the show so I am not really affected. I understand what they are fighting for, but they are fighting for it in a weird way. I think they lost, and now they are just trying to save their dignity. No one has really been supporting them and too many people are watching reality

TV to notice that something is wrong with other shows. Plus, there are so many channels to choose from that there is always something to watch. I miss things but I think if you look at the contract they come up with it will look the same. I give it two months for this strike to be over with.

**DL:** How has living in LA been with this sort of drama and the recent rise in popularity of TMZ? Are people scared of even walking since they show drunken club goes?

**Ian:** Honestly L.A. is always crazy. Britney is trying to escape from somebody, Dr. Phil being an actual doctor. I think the people being affected are behind the scenes which is sad but they are also getting paid. I was actually on TMZ for a sec. Andy Dick came to one of my shows. He jumped on stage with me and yelled

out the N-word. It was an article just because they wanted to say "Bagg" and "Dick" in the same sentence.

**DL:** You have done Pale Force; any other animated TV shows you would like to do out there?

**Ian:** I am friends with Jim Gaffigan and am basically making a Canadian episode. He decided to call me and it was just a friend helping out a friend.

**DL:** You had a picture with Oates from "Hall and Oates". Is he like your idol or something?

**Ian:** If you watched the HBO special his kids were there with him at a show I did in Aspen. I just thought it was funny if I took a picture with him.

**DL:** Where's Hall?

**Ian:** I wanted to ask but I didn't want to hurt his feelings. ■

## Reflections

Continued from page 7

history, instead of including blacks in American history. It is important to gain historical knowledge of your race, but not at the expense on integration.

So this February will now be for me what every month of every year will become. Every month, every day, I live with the recognition that people died for the privileges I and many other Americans now experience. I know their stories. I must live with a purpose, so that there deaths will not have been in vain. I can fight for and support causes that aim to eradicate discrimination and address transgressions committed against others. I will do my part to truly keep the dream alive.

I don't live by the theory that

life isn't fair. I recognize that people who have power often use their power unfairly. But even human power is limited; so when I consider how far blacks have come in America, my faith is strengthened to know that nothing is too hard for God. And by taking on that perspective and living with that truth, this month becomes far more than just a "black thing." ■

