Paine Students Visit 
INDIA by Tonja Bryant

Paine College is the “Gateway to the World.” Most recently it opened that gate for two students allowing them to visit the homeland of Mohandas Gandhi.

The journey to India was organized by Dr. Luther Felder, Paine’s Campus Pastor and Assistant Professor of Religious Life. Reverend Felder, traveling to India in order to attend a conference at Isabella Thorburn College in Lucknow, selected junior psychology majors, Erin Gray and Adrian Sago to share the international experience.

“Over the summer I’d gotten a phone call from Reverend Felder stating that I was chosen to travel with the school to India. With my passport being my only expense, the trip was priceless,” said Erin.

When asked about what was learned by being in such a storied far away land, Adrian remarked, “You think you have it bad until you see a room full of little children with HIV/AIDS. But, in the midst of their misery and poverty, they had joy. They were singing the Lord’s songs. It humbled you. It really humbled you. We should always appreciate the things we take for granted. No matter how bad you think your condition or situation in life is, leave America for a minute and see how quick it could become a whole lot worse.”

Enough said.
Leadership Written in Stone by Tekeya Peterson

Dr. Derek Stone serves Paine College as the Chair of the Department of Mathematics, Sciences and Technology. He is also an Associate Professor of Biology. When asked what is most fulfilling about his current position he stated, “To train students to go into the science, math and technology fields.”

Stone works diligently in preparing his students for “life after PC!”

Dr. Stone serves as the Principal Investigator for the Innovation in Quantitative Literacy for the Improvement of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) project.

STEM, recently funded by the U.S. Department of Education, is an institutional project designed to develop the mathematical skills of Paine College students by increasing the pass rates of students in college algebra and other required mathematics courses. The program is thereby intended to facilitate the progression of STEM majors from the freshman to the sophomore level. According to Dr. Stone, this requires the development of student quantitative and analytical skills so that the STEM student is better prepared for pursuing advanced degrees in the workforce.

“A major goal of the STEM project is student retention of Paine College STEM majors,” says Professor Stone.

Proposed objectives and activities to achieve the goals of STEM are arranged in three components 1) Pre-matriculation Activities (Summer Enrichment Programs) 2) Curriculum Revision and 3) Student Retention and Development.

“The successes of this project can be disseminated to and used by other HBCUs and minority serving institutions to enhance their STEM programs and increase STEM graduation rates,” Dr. Stone furthers.

For more information about the Paine College STEM initiatives, the Paine College Department of Mathematics and Sciences may be contacted directly.
Coming Out of the Closet in 2012

by Tonja Bryant

We’re at the end of the year, and heading straight toward a brand new one. It’s time to come out the closet fellas! No, not THAT closet. Your closet, literally.

Is your closet clean and neat with button down collar shirts and bow ties or a little ratchet with ripped jeans and graphic tee shirts. Look around at some of your friends. Some of them dress like they’re from the 80’s, or just left a punk rock concert.

Then there are some who dress like they have given up entirely! However, I can’t say that for sophomore, Chris Alexander who is an inspiring fashion designer. He has designed many fashion pieces for Crème de la Crème fashion shows and hopes to have his own clothing line in the near future. Looking at his sense of style, Macon, GA is not the place you’d believe he resides.

The same goes for Hephzibah native, Anton Hurst. Both men define their fashion as a way of life. Anton gets his inspiration from Ralph Lauren. On the contrary, Chris gets his from everywhere. He describes, “I’ll look at a red car and ponder, what if I wanted to wear this car what would it look like?”

You would never see these two guys walking about with over sized jeans or shirts three times XL. For any occasion they know exactly what to wear and keep many heads turning.

Step your fashion game up guys, because Paine College’s Chris and Anton are raising the bar.
Can You Handle the MJ Thriller?

by Karnia Lake

Paine College has its very own “Thriller” that doesn’t require you to wait until Halloween to experience. She’s Mychaelj Jackson, also known as MJ, M-Jizzle, and Boom Boom Cat by her peers. This Middle Grades Education major from Covington, GA has brought quite a thrill to the Paine College campus. She currently holds the titles Miss Junior and Miss Omega Psi Phi. And, not only is she a true queen, but her passion for dance is also well known.

Jackson was introduced to dance at the age of three and has fallen in love with it.

“As Miss Omega Psi Phi I would love to implement a program by the name of Dance for Your Life,” says Jackson. Being that Mychaelj is involved in numerous activities on campus, you would think she is running on empty, but according to her, things are running smoothly.

“I’ve learned how to implement time management as well as prioritizing so I’m never overwhelmed.”

Mychaelj goes on to say, “I ran for the position of Miss Junior because I felt like I would be a great representation for the Junior Class. As Miss Junior one program that my king and I plan to implement is called Show Some Respect.”

On another note, Jackson was asked to explain her experience during the Miss Omega Pageant.

“The Pageant was something new to me being that I was always used to being behind the scenes, and I was now in the forefront. There was a great group of girls as contestants that made the experience more fun.”

When asked how it felt to be crowned Miss Omega Psi Phi 2011-2012 Mychaelj responded, “I felt overjoyed! The experience was definitely worth it.”

Ready or not, the truth is the Thriller is here to handle you.
Walking around campus in 6 inch heels; a smile plastered on her face with hundreds of students chanting her name, “King! King!” and smiling at her adoringly. From the outside you can see that she’s a campus celebrity, the Queen, but what you also don’t know is she’s the campus least eligible, single, black female.

Today many of the nations Historically Black Colleges and University’s (HBCU) Queens are advised to not be in a relationship throughout the duration of their reign. While in Atlanta, Georgia at the 26th Annual National Black College Hall of Fame, I realized that at other HBCU’s to say that you were in a relationship was something on the same level of the former “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy that was enforced in the United States Military in regards to homosexuality. Although none of the queens were referring to a same-sex relationship, the rules still applied.

After finding this out, I thought about my good ole Paine College, a school that’s goal is to “provide a liberal arts education of the highest quality that emphasizes academic excellence, ethical and spiritual values, social responsibility, and personal development.” I wondered did they too want me to take on this “Virgin Queen” mentality like Queen Elizabeth I, whom that moniker references. It is important to those that the Queen serves that she appears single and as pure as the white dress she wears at her coronation.

It’s not even that they (being the institution) believe that we haven’t or never had relationships, it’s just the idea that they want us to appear as if we are untouched, unmarred, the face of innocence and purity that every young girl would love to aspire too.

One of my fellow Sister Queens stated, “Even if campus queens are revered and held to such high standards, is this even possible for they, themselves to aspire too?”

“At Johnson C. Smith it’s not that big of a deal as long as you make sure that you appear as “Queen like” as possible everywhere you go; a relationship attachment doesn’t seem to make the student body a difference,” Rolanda Sue, Miss Johnson C. Smith University 2011-2012 commented.

Is it fair that the Virgin Queen be applied because of the effect that it has on a college’s image, or because of the weight it can hold with young girls aspiring to be the next campus celebrity, and how that will translate for all the future Queens when they graduate and move on? Only time “won’t” tell.
The Paineful Truth
by Chase Campbell

Say it ain’t so, Joe Pater-no! And, that’s with a capital NO. There’s a lot of things wrong with middle America today. Or, maybe there’s always been something wrong in “midsville,” and because the media is what it is today, there’s just more coming to light that once stayed hidden in the shadows. At least Michael Jackson was upfront about little boys sleeping in his bed.

Let’s ponder for a moment on the alleged psycho-sexual fascination men in positions of authority and influence are reported to have with reference to little boys. Priests, bishops, even kings of pop? Dead and probably alive.

An old school singer by the name of Bobby Womack sang a song with the lyrics, I Can’t Understand It.” And, it was another brother from another mother by the name of Marvin Gaye who sang, “Make Me Wanna Holler (Throw Up Both My Hands).

So, now it’s coaches touching kids and playing with them in a manner that isn’t normal for those who are normal as defined by generally accepted standards of social normalcy. Latest case now in point, of course, is Jerry Sandusky.

Let’s look at the stats. Jerry’s reported career as an alleged pedophiliac spans 15 years, and places him in serious contention to be charged with 40 counts of child molestation.

The eight boys who are finally giving Sandusky the finger looked up to the man in ways that transcended a male child’s look to his parents. Boys simply want to hear more than just mom and dad speak. A kid that’s trying to play a sport is not on the court, in the field, or in the locker room to be a sport. Or, to be played with figuratively and literally.

As I ponder (now more than a moment) why Sandusky would molest all those kids (if in fact he did), and why his fellow associates would cover it all up (if in fact they did), I won’t even try to understand it. I won’t even holler. I’ll just throw up both my hands.

Mr. Santouchsky (I mean Sandusky) is merely the personification of a biblical self-fulfilling prophecy. That prophecy is written in Romans 1:26-27. I won’t quote it. You can dust off your Bible and read it for yourself.

Unfortunately, for all of us who join Bobby and Marvin in their lyrical take, when reading those two Romans passages, rest un-assured that Jerry is not playing on a team, or in a league all by himself.
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