



THE TOUGALOO HARAMBEE

Working Together

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Attack on free speech?



The car owned by Student Government Association President Gregory Johnson is transported from the Berkshire Cottage parking lot last week. Vandals attacked the vehicle hours before a story Johnson wrote was published in The Harambee, the Tougaloo College student newspaper.

Vandalism being probed

By Maha Mohamed, Lena Lee and Wallace N. Jackson

President Beverly Hogan said she expects a preliminary report within two weeks on an investigation into the vandalism of Student Government Association President Gregory Johnson's car.

"Like all matters of this nature, we will follow the rules of

due process," Hogan said Monday. "This matter is presently under investigation. If an individual or individuals are found guilty of this act, they will be punished in accordance with the regulations covering such acts. I am deeply disappointed and dis-

turbed that any of "my students" would engage in this type degenerate behavior against anyone. This is unacceptable behavior for our campus community and it will not be tolerated."

Johnson's car was vandalized on Friday morning, hours before a

story he wrote about a campus group known as The Four Horseman was published in The Harambee. Johnson's story reported that the group, which is not sanctioned by the college, practices hazing and degradation. A group photograph taken from

See VANDALISM, 3

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Editorial

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Is cheating tolerated at Tougaloo?

By Ja'Lesa Walden

Recently at Tougaloo College the English Writing Proficiency Test, also known as the EWP, was administered and there was an enormous amount of seniors in Holmes Hall Auditorium taking this test.

Anyone in the room will remember this incident that I am about the recap.

Before the test was given every student was informed of the consequences of cheating, but one student fail to comply with the rules and was accused of cheating.

Being a freshman, I thought that this was horrible. Due to the fact, I found the test to be easy.

However the event was done like this:

Anuradha Banerjee and Ida Guice proctored the test. A young lady looking in her pullover – remember this is the middle of April and it was extremely hot in Holmes Hall – attracted Guice's attention.

Guice took the student's test and told her she had been watching her peek in her pullover and asked her to leave.

This caused all the students to pause and become NOSEY. At this point all the other students were either turned around or staring, laughing and shaking their heads.

The student insisted she was not cheating, constantly saying with a sense of disrespect, "I don't have anything. What are you talking about, lady?"

She unzipped the pullover and everything. Banerjee came over, looked around and without any investigation, returned the test.

Other students were left in disbelief, as I was. This was SAAAD-DDD!!!!

I went to interview Banerjee several days later and asked if she could clarify the incident. In her thick accent, she said "she could not comment about this situation with-

out consulting her supervisor."

I have been back to Banerjee's office twice but she was not there.

The whole situation, as a Tougaloo student, made me upset. I know several students who were put out of the test just for "wondering eyes" or even talking about a pencil last semester when the test was only given to fresh persons.

The EWP is a serious part of being a Tougaloo graduate. If one person can get by without facing any consequences why can't others?

Cole loses class presidency

By Ja'Lesa Walden

During the week of April 13-17, Tougaloo College was its own political headquarters.

Along the curves and hills of campus were all sorts of campaign signs for the 2008-2009 Student Government Association. The election consisted of president, vice president, class representative, and class misses.

"Don't vote on who you think will represent your class well, vote on who you know will," said Marcus Johnson, freshman class president who was unopposed for sophomore class president.

In the race for sophomore class vice president, Roshetta Williams beat Lateia Taylor, a biology major from Jackson. Williams wants to make the sophomore class proactive in making decisions that will follow them in the rest of their matriculation through Tougaloo.

Yolanda Ross, "the S.U.P.E.R. candidate," was elected sophomore class representative. She beat Shondell Stinson who simply said she wanted to "improve the awareness of campus activities and problems."

There was a runoff between Ashley Carpenter of Ridgeland and

Courtney Dunn of Saginaw, Mich. Dunn, a sociology major, beat Carpenter, an English major, in a close race for miss sophomore. LaShun Brent, a mass communication major from Jackson, was also a candidate.

Students screamed and chanted "Yah Yah" when the results were read for junior class president. Chineka McGee beat Mysti Harrison in a runoff, meaning Shawn Cole was defeated after serving two years as class president.

"I am tired of the same ole people doing the same ole thing, be real it is time for a change," said Magee, a mathematics and chemistry major from Jackson who used The Soldier Boy song as part of her campaign theme.

Candidates for vice president were Christopher Manuel and LaToya Thompson. Thompson, a psychology major from Batesville, was victorious. Her platform was "Electrifying: taking our campus by S.T.O.R.M. by emphasizing strength, tenacity, opportunity, retention, and matriculation."

Antrice Walker, a biology major from Jackson, filled the seat for junior class representative, beating

Chantal Gatson. Gatson, a mass communication major from 29 Palms, Calif. She urged classmates to "Vote for the All-Star."

In the race for miss junior, Stephanie Jackson beat Jessica Smith, an English/special education major from Chicago. "I am so elated and thankful to everyone who voted and most of all thank God for doing what he does best," Jackson said shortly after being declared the winner.

Jackson wants the class of 2010 to be more aware of their duties and requirements, and wants to prevent the class from failing due to not being informed or misinformed. "I think we should know about things we are suppose to do upfront, not the day before it is due," said Jackson, an English major from Greenville.

All candidates for senior class officers are unopposed. Marquise Slator, a mass communication major from Jackson will be the class president while no one is running for vice president. Whitney Worthy, an economics/business administration major from Nesbit, will be the class representative. Crystal Daniel of Tylertown will be miss senior class.

The Harambee

The Harambee is a publication written by Tougaloo College students with the counsel of an advisor. The newspaper's name is derived from the Swahili language which means "working together." Editorial comments are the views of the writers. Other views expressed are not necessarily endorsed by the newspaper, the newspaper staff or Tougaloo College. Letters should be limited to no more than 200 words. Editors reserve the right to edit or reject submissions. Letters should be sent to:

**Department
of Mass
Communications
Tougaloo College
Pope Cottage
500 West County
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Tougaloo, MS 39174**

Hogan: Acts will not be tolerated

From 1

Facebook of 16 Tougaloo students believed to be members of the group accompanied the article. Supporters, however, call the group a family.

Johnson's car, which was parked behind Berkshire Cottage and beneath a security camera, was pelted with eggs. The messages "I love Keke," "I am gay," and "I love Fours" were spray painted across the windows and body. It is unclear if the camera will be useful in the investigation.

"The surveillance tape has been looked at but we are unable to determine exactly who and how many are involved," said Earnest Manuel, chief of campus security. Manuel said the Jackson Police Department is also involved in the investigation.

Johnson was upbeat and philosophical about the incident. "To the person(s) who committed the crime, I guess I'm concerned for them," said Johnson, 22, who claims Lexington and Belzoni as hometowns. "They could've picked something better to do. With them vandalizing my car, it actually kind of vindicates what I do and what I stand for.

"This is a part of leadership. Martin Luther King's house was bombed. Other leaders I look up to have endured this. But the saddest part is that it does nothing to harm my reputation," Johnson said. "It only affirms what I already proclaim to be. I openly proclaim to be a Christian, so this gives me another platform for truth-telling, social promotion, and for showing people that this is how you behave as a Christian. But it does demean the reputation of Tougaloo. And that's the saddest part."

Members of the Four said they were unsure about who was responsible for the vandalism.

"Yes, Four does exist. Four is a family," said Kim Washington, 19, a history major from Yazoo City. "About the whole situation with Gregory's car, I have no idea who did it. But I do want to apologize if it was a Four who did it. We really feel shocked about it. Everyone knows Fours exist. The whole situation is just a shock.

"I don't feel the article was bad. The only part I didn't like was the picture, which could've been avoided. The picture made the article seen worse than it really was. Personally, I would've

felt better if we were approached about the picture beforehand," Washington said. "What was written on the car didn't seem like something a Four would do. Personally, I think it was someone that's not a Four. Someone who is not a four may have wanted to get back at [Greg] and knew the article was coming out, so they put "four" on [the car]."

Crystal Daniel, 21, a mass communication major from Tylertown agrees. "I'm a Four. I don't know Gregory personally, but it's messed up what they did. Maybe they were a four, maybe not. We don't have control over everybody's actions. It's messed up what they did. A lot of people say that Four is like a gang or a cult, but it's nothing like that. It's really a family. Four incorporates everyone."

Marquise Slator, 22, a mass communication major from Jackson and another member of Four, said he is sure that the members were not planning retaliation against Johnson. "I don't know anything about a meeting or about a plan that got shut down. I'm sorry that it happened. I feel that Gregory didn't deserve that. Whether or not he wrote the story to bash us or get us kicked off the yard, per se, no body deserves to have their car vandalized," he said.


Hogan said she was disappointed that students at Tougaloo would resort to

this type of violence. "If there are those among us who have chosen to reduce themselves to this level of behavior, it is clear to me that Tougaloo College is no longer the place for them. I would like to think that this type behavior is beneath that of "my students" here at Tougaloo College. It is certainly behavior unfitting that of intelligent mature young adults interested in becoming the best that they can be. This behavior shows disrespect for self, first, and then to others. It is an insult to our campus community.

"I urge our students who are a part of this group to cease and desist with your activities now. And if anyone has factual evidence about who actually committed this crime - I emphasize

factual - I also emphasize crime - to please be forthcoming with this information. Any information provided will be held in the strictest confidentiality. Vandalizing someone else property is a crime and there is no justification that can minimize it to another term in my opinion.

"Please allow the administration time to investigate this matter and act accordingly. I ask "my students" to please focus on their final exams and resist the urge to "fan the flames," said Hogan. "I would say to Gregory Johnson, you are called now to rise above this act, focus on your outstanding achievements as a student here, your bright, promising future and the wonderful opportunities that are before you."




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Ralph 2008 graduation speaker

By Le'Mia Jenkins

Acclaimed actress Sheryl Lee Ralph is Tougaloo College's 2008 commencement speaker, bringing excitement not only for graduating seniors but also the entire Tougaloo community.

"Having someone of Ralph's magnitude will not only be positive for the students of Tougaloo College but as to the reputation of the school, having a respected celebrity will bring a positive light upon the campus and its programs," said Chiquita Adams of Grenada, a senior chemistry major.

Ralph, 52 is one of the original "Dreamgirls" as well as a Tony Award nominee for best actress in a musical in 1982. She was also the first woman to graduate from Rutgers College at the age of 19.

Ralph missed her own graduation to get a Skippy Peanut Butter commercial, but was allowed to wear a cap and gown in 2003 as her alma mater's commencement speaker.

Many students are excited about the appearance of an African American actress.

"In the role of African American woman in media today, Ralph has always maintained her sense of dignity and integrity with poise and style, which is a great example for all women, especially here at Tougaloo College," said Ivy Archie a sophomore psychology major from Canton.

Although Ralph has been noted for her parts in Broadway productions such as "Thoroughly Modern Millie," and "Dreamgirls," most college students know her from Brandy's hit sitcom "Moesha."

"Ralph was brought up to the commit-

tee by a member of the board of trustee who happens to be a friend of Ralph's," said Sylvia Clark, special assistant to the president.

Ralph, who wants to become more involved with historically black colleges and universities, agreed.

Many students wondered about the fee the college pays commencement speakers. "The college has never paid a commencement speaker, but they are given an honorary degree from Tougaloo College," Clark said.

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