

What's Inside the

Ladies First edition

Shades of Today's Woman Reflections

A Letter from the Director

A Month of Empowerment

"I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my chief duty to accomplish small tasks as if they were great and noble." -- Hellen Keller

AN EPIZAPH FOR THE B WORD

by Ebony Barney



First she was Miss Lady, Sexy, Beautiful, and psssst... you, yeah, you... but now she is simply B*tch. Unfortunately, (whether she has seemingly done something to deserve this title or not), she has and will always be labeled that word by both men and women when she fails to please someone else for just about any reason.

Some would argue that women who use this word in everyday conversation amongst their peers is what encourages men to use the word. Their argument, "If that is what you call yourself anyways, why shouldn't I call you that too?" I honestly cannot say this argument surprises me. When we refer to

ourselves as B*tch, h*e, N*gga, or like terms how can we truly expect others to perceive us any other way? Is it reasonable to expect others to think higher of us than we do of ourselves?

Whether or not a man was encouraged to say the word at the end of the day really has nothing to do with his choice in using it. To label a woman who turned him down due to a lack of interest, or because she said something he did not agree with or something he did not like, gives him what right to label the woman as a B*tch? Even when a woman's character is questionable, is it not verbal abuse to speak to a woman in such a way? Many would argue there is no difference between verbal, mental, and physical abuse. Where do we draw the line?

A sort of ownership, a sign of something he has conquered, moved on from and defeated, and even used as a sign of manhood, men often use the word to suggest the woman in question is no longer of importance.

(Continued on page 2)

LOST

a personal reflection by Amanda Joseph

He started talking to me asking me if I was happy with my girlfriend, wondering if I had made the right choice to dump him in the way that I did. I was honestly happy with her and did not regret dumping him much more then I regretted hurting him. I needed to dump him to make myself whole. As time elapsed, his



anger grew. I could see the fury swelling in his eyes. I really wanted to leave. As I got up he grabbed my hair and pulled me to the ground. I was in shock, thinking to myself, 'Did he really do that?' I knew that he had a tendency to get angry easily but he never once laid a hand on me.

to read the conclusion of this article visit:
<http://mc.iupui.edu/OurVoice.html>
caution, this narrative contains graphic content

Epitaph (cont.)

Perhaps we could consider it a defense mechanism, a way to spare his feelings by hurting her first, or even a mere disguise of the truth. Funny how just earlier she was every kind phrase he could imagine she might appreciate at the moment when trying to catch her attention.

All I ask of you is that you stop to consider the effect of your words and why we use them. Women, consider the terms you find acceptable, because many of us resent the fact that you attempt to speak for the rest of us. Men, stop trying to belittle women with such degrading terms, because in all honesty your character is usually the one it reflects poorly upon.

Lastly, stop labeling yourselves with negative terms because of your fear of being special. Perhaps it is simply easier to label yourself the way you think the rest of the world does. Well, let it stop now. Stop using the B Word for yourself, your daughters, and every real woman.

Multicultural Center

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I'll Wait For You At Home

an opinion article by Angela Yang



Many successful and smart women choose to leave their jobs to stay at home and take care of their family. Although I think it is admirable that they would make such sacrifice, I do not agree with their actions. When the economy is on the decline, sometimes having a second income can be a backup to when they meet financial crisis. A family friend of mine is going through that exact problem. The wife was very successful and had a master's degree in statistics, but chose to stay at home instead. Their trouble started when her husband was one of the unlucky employees to be laid off, currently struggling to find a new job. During the time in which they were financially prosperous, they obtained a huge home for themselves to live in. However, with him losing his job, they no longer can afford to pay it off since there is no other income. It seems like they have fallen into a deep hole and can't climb back up.

Another problem with wives staying at home is that they are exposed to almost the same occurrences everyday, while their husbands encounter other cultures, other experiences and other people. As time passes, their mentality may differ, resulting in a decrease of common language. My high school sewing teacher was married to a surgeon. She wanted to devote herself more to take care of her family. Although, they didn't need a second income to support themselves, she chose to work two days a week, so she would be exposed to other experiences and be involved in society as it changes.

Family is important, but this phenomena has consequences to where families break apart. In my opinion, marriage today has become less permanent and less serious. Divorce has spread through the country like a plague, infecting not only the husbands and the wives, but the lives around them. Many domestic wives break away from their marriages, but find themselves with no jobs to support them. In my opinion, women should be more independent, even if their husbands are reliable and flawless. Our career and education are one of our major achievements. We should not give that up once we are married. It is true that family comes before career, but that does not mean that we need to dispose of our trained skills completely. Balance is the key in life.

Angela Yang is a 1st year Nursing major and a member of Asian Students United. For more information about ASU send an e-mail to asunited@iupui.edu



The Director's Corner

The Multicultural Center joins the community in celebrating 40 years of excellence at IUPUI, 10 years of access and success through University College and the birth of the new Multicultural Center that will be located on the first floor of Joseph T. Taylor Hall in the Fall of 2009. We are thankful for the Multicultural Center's concept and development committee and conceptualization committee. The vision for the Center was crafted by many:

- The Center will emphasize "inclusion and focus" encompassing all elements of cultural diversity present on campus and addressing critical needs and issues related to persons of color, gender and those with disabilities on campus.
- The Center will function as a resource center and clearinghouse for materials, visual media and publications that relate to experiences of diverse groups in higher education.
- The Center will provide space for creating partnerships internally to strengthen collaborations among students and student-faculty relationships.
- The Center will foster programmatic partnerships between IUPUI student and community organizations.
- The Center will function as a space in which the value of diversity is promoted as an integral component of the undergraduate and graduate academic training, preparing students for the 21st century.
- The Center will be comprised of multiple units each dedicated to African Americans, Latino/Hispanics, Asian Americans and Native Americans, the GLBT community and women, directly including, but not limited to, the student organizations that serve the communities of both on and off campus.
- The Center will be a place for ALL on campus and will promote discourse, awareness and understanding.

It is an exciting time at the Institution as we celebrate excellence and inclusion. We as a community can not promote excellence without promoting the value of Diversity. The richness of those present is what makes this institution special. The Center will not only be a physical space but will be a place that lives and breathes. The space will house a resource area with computers, seminar rooms and classroom space, a state of the art multi-purpose room, a student organization suite, uni-sex restrooms, a nursing mother's room, a foot-wash, key partner offices, a coffee shop, adaptive education services will be housed in the Center and there will be a special area focused on women's issues. The Center will have a strong emphasis around Empowerment, which is so appropriate and timely as we celebrate Women's History Month.

I hope you will join with me in celebrating a phenomenal time here at IUPUI and also join my excitement and anticipation for our new Center that will help to positively impact and transform the environment.

The Best is Yet to Come,

Zephia Bryant

DID YOU KNOW?

The Multicultural Center will soon be taking students on Experiential learning trips through our Get on the Bus Tours. For more information stay tuned to <http://mc.iupui.edu>

EXPERIENCE

THE



Multicultural Center
Indiana University Purdue University - Indianapolis

Here's what you may have missed...

International Festival 2009



Have you ever heard of:

- JABBAWOCKEEZ?
- KABA MODERN?
- Super Crew?
- SoReal Crew?
- America's Best Dance Crew?

If not... It's alright!! they just need your genuine interest in Hip Hop dance culture and willingness to be involved, and that's it!! The IUPUI hip hop dance organization who put on a Hip-Hop Workshop at the International Festival hosted at the Multicultural Center welcomes all who are interested in the culture and expressive aspects of Hip Hop.

The IHHDC needs talent of artists, musicians, designers, photographers, organizers, volunteers, etc. All styles and skill-levels are welcome!!!

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

By Jocelyn Hurst

Women's history truly exceeds its 31-day boundary in March; the history is relevant 365 days a year. Yet, having the month holds certain significance. The month itself stands out as one of the monumental achievement in women's history. The month-long, celebration itself has come a long way. In 1911, many European nations, along with the United States, first celebrated women's rights on International Women's day set for March 8. Throughout the 1970s women's history flourished in the educational setting of every level, and in 1978, California's Education Task Force of the Sonoma County commissioned a "Women's History Week" to coincide with International Women's day. Women's history programs sprung up across the nation. This popular response from the nation prompted the United States Congress to pass a resolution establishing

National Women's History Month.

The National Women's History Project (NWHF), founded in Santa Rosa, California by Molly Murphy MacGregor, Mary Ruthsdotter, Maria Cuevas, Paula Hammett and Bette Morgan, and aligned to spread women's historical achievements. In 1987, at the NWHF request, congress expanded the week to a month, and the U.S. Congress issued a resolution every year since then, with nationwide support, for Women's History Month.

The celebration continues to move forward educational sector still as one of its greatest supporters. There are a number of events will take place on campus in honor of women's

history. Student African American Sisterhood (S.A.A.S.) will kick the month off with its Women's Empowerment Week March 2-March 7. The week consists of a candlelight vigil on Monday, from 7-9 p.m. in University College Courtyard; a film and discussion, from 6-9 p.m. on Tuesday in Ball Hall Lobby; S.A.A.S.'s 3rd Annual Empowerment Luncheon on Wednesday, from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in Campus Center 450. This year's speaker will be Tanya Bell, CEO of Indianapolis Black Expo (IBE). Thursday, is S.A.A.S general assembly, with guest panelists, from 6:00- 7:00 p.m. in the lower level of Joseph T. Taylor Hall. Also, on Friday from 4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. S.A.A.S. hold a community service event with Sister to Sister Mentoring at St. Vincent Unity Development Center, 2301 N. Park Ave. All these events are a part of IUPUI's campus wide Women's History Month calendar of events. For more details on S.A.A.S. and Women's Empowerment Week, contact contact them via email at saas@iupui.edu.



for more information about Women's History Month events, visit:

<http://life.iupui.edu/ccl/campus-programming/whm/>

