To Sag, or not to Sag? That is the Question

SHOUT-OUT solicited the opinion of IU students on campus about the phenomenon of “sagging,” or the wearing of oversized pants in a manner in which the waist “sag” is revealed underneath, or skin. Some countries have enacted laws against it. A practice that originated in prison culture due to the prohibition against belts, it is now de rigueur among many young African American males.

―The way individuals dress is a reflection of who they are and how they take care of themselves. Presentation is everything.‖ - Ta’Vonna Robertson, Junior

―If you think sagging your jeans is cool, you should recognize it and make yourself nearer. Sometimes I just want to go and lift their pants up for them – that’s how much it bothers me.‖ - Sara Ko, Sophomore

―If you think your pants are cool, you should be able to wear them anyway you want to.‖ - Chris Tucker, Freshman

―I think that adds on to the unprofessional look that is given to us by the media as they continue to portray us as drug dealers, pimps, and gang bangers.‖ - Sean R. Johnson, Junior

―This image is nothing more than another way for individuals to look down on the African American race.‖ - DeOnuday K. Pope, Senior

The Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center hosted a special event commemorating Hurricane Katrina victims, "Changed Waters: The Aftermath of Katrina: A Presentation of Renewal in Quilts, Stories, and Music." It featured storyteller Karen Hurst, musician Monica Dillon, and master quilter Jacquelyn Hughes Mooney. Ms. Mooney, Artist-in-Residence at Bennett Women’s College, led a quilting workshop in which participants designed small quilts that represented important events or people in their lives. She also discussed the importance of the African American quilting tradition.

―I do not consider myself a quilter who became an artist, but an artist who became a quilter,‖ Mooney said. A New Orleans native who lost many of her treasured quilts in the storm, it is inspired by African American culture with its emphasis on survival and renewal. Her colorful quilts tell stories of love and struggle and spiritual gifts of the African American community. "I am inspired by people, the history and plight of African Americans, especially women," Mooney said. Mooney has made quilts for Oprah Winfrey, Terry McMillan, Bill Gates, George H.W. Bush, Danny Glover, Bill and Camille Cosby, and Maya Angelou among others. During her workshop Mooney instructed the group on basic quilt-making skills, spoke why it is important for African Americans to take pride in quilting. According to Mooney, "Textured African women in the big house created quilts for their masters working from 'can't see to can't see.' Then the women went to their mud-floor cabins and sewed quilts for their families. Quilts protected their babies and kept them from 'sleeping on mud.'" Elizabeth Eckley, who was the seamstress for Abraham Lincoln’s wife, Mary Todd, bought her freedom by sewing and making quilts.”

Marcellus Neal
Frances Marshall
Neal Marshall Black Culture Center
Indiana University
275 N. Jordan Ave., Suite A226
Bloomington, IN 47405-1363

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Spring 2008

In The House

African Dance Ensemble
Every Friday
The Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center in collaboration with the African Studies Outreach Program has organized an African Music and Dance Ensemble for IU students, faculty, staff, and Bloomington community. No experience is necessary. All are welcome! Fridays 6:00pm to 8:00pm Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center, room A219.

Critical Issues Lecture Series
400pm in the MBCC Bridgewater Lounge
Wednesday, February 11
Rashad Shabazz, "Critical Geographies and Black Masculinity: The Prisionization of Black Living Space.”

Black Knowledge Bowl
Wednesday, February 19
7:00pm to 10:00pm in the MBCC Bridgewater.
How much do you know about the Black experience in the U.S. and around the world? Black Knowledge Bowl is an academic excellence and historical program at IU. The game is akin to the game show Jeopardy, but in this case questions are based on the history of African Americans.

Brown Bag Lecture Series
Noon to 1:00pm in the MBCC Bridgewater Lounge.
The African American and African Diaspora Studies in collaboration with the Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center
Wednesday, February 15
Sara Bagby Farmer, "Transfiguration of the Diaspora: Afro-Caribbean Writers in America.”

Wednesday, March 19

Wednesday, April 8
Noon to 1:00pm in the MBCC Bridgewater Lounge.

"One More River to Cross"
7:30pm to 9:00pm in the MBCC Bridgewater Lounge.
This is an open forum event that allows students to showcase their talent and express themes through poetry, spoken word and song.

February 15, 2008
March 5, 2008
March 19, 2008
April 2, 2008
April 16, 2008

Herman Holmes Symposium
Saturday March 22, 2008 - MBCC 10:00am-12pm Registration and Lunch
Keynote address by Sonia Sanchez
“Lifting the Veil: Afrodiasporic Perspectives on Identity and Representation in Global Societies”
Sponsored by the AAADS Graduate Society

One More River to Cross
Cast and crew of the theatrical production co-produced by Drs. Gladys DeVane and James Mumford. A journey through African American history in drama, music, and poetry. Cast members include IU students, faculty (Audrey T. McCluskey), and staff, and Bloomington community members. Presented at the Bloomington Playwrights Project.
**Student Profile: Mahagunee D. Shaw**

**Name:** Mahagunee D. Shaw  
**Class:** First Year Doctoral Student  
**Hometown:** St. Louis, Mo  
**Major:** Higher Education Student Affairs  
**GPA:** 3.8  
**Major:** Higher Education Student Affairs  
**Hometown:** St. Louis, Mo

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**A Moment in History**

**On May 5, 2006, the hip-hop generation proved they could be a force for social change equally as tenacious as their baby-boomer predecessors.** After the University released plans to close NMBCC’s library, students quickly organized a sit-in and protest. Fifty students spent the night in the library as a show of their solidarity, and more than 70 students gathered there the following day to lend their support and sign petitions to keep the library open. The students marched from the Center up Jordan Avenue to the main entrance of the Herman B. Wells library waving signs and chanting “Shut us down, shut us up, shut us down – no way!”

The University cited low traffic volume as the reason for closing the library for closure. Students, however, argued that the technology in the library wasn’t updated or maintained, which deterred students from wanting to use the library. Student activism paid off for the students. Today, the Neal-Marshall Black Cultural Center Library remains open with updated facilities and continues to thrive.

By Brannon Smith

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**N-MBCC Book Club**

**By Carter G. Woodson**

The Black experience was neglected and often completely omitted from mainstream education, which had a huge impact on the education of Black people. Woodson questions the education system that is designed to maintain white supremacy. He also examines the difference between white education and maintaining the education that blacks receive. Woodson, the founder of the original Black History week celebration in 1926, provides solutions to these challenges. He advocates study, discipline, and the awareness of an Afrocentric worldview. The new edition contains a new introduction, a biographical profile of the author, and study questions. This is a great book to read and add to your collection!

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**Student Organizations**

**Black Graduate Student Association**

The Black Graduate Student Association (BGSA) is an organization of graduate and professional students who are dedicated to enriching the graduate experience for Black students. Faced with many issues including financial and psychological stress, BGSA strives to address those needs by providing an information network that links campus and community resources and services. It also promotes academic achievement and provides a social setting for students to bond. Currently, BGSA is planning new events and community service projects. Stay tuned for upcoming news.

Contact: Kimberly Baker at: carterg@indiana.edu

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**Shaping Healthy**

**Hey, can I have some heart disease with those fries?**

Shaping healthy! That should be an important goal for black college students. With obesity at an all time high, HIV/AIDS on the rise, and diabetes growing fast among our young people, the question is what are you doing to stay healthy? Some college students tend to visit fast food restaurants for easy meals and immediately reduce your risk of heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, and obesity. Here are some great alternative choices to make in your diet:

- Instead of a hamburger and a soda, order grilled chicken and water.
- Replace dessert with fresh fruit.
- Buy more whole wheat foods instead of big bags of snack foods.
- Choose low-fat or fat-free milk and dairy products.
- Exercise is important. Here are some simple exercises you can do while at work, in the library, or in the dorms: 
  - **Try some squats:** Stand in front of your chair with your feet shoulder-width apart. Bend your knees as though you’re sitting on your chair, keeping your weight on your heels. When your legs are parallel with the seat of the chair, slowly rise to your original standing position.
  - **Hold up the wall with wall sits:** With your back touching the wall, move your feet away from the wall so that the wall is supporting the weight of your back. Bend your knees so that your legs form a 90-degree angle. Hold as long as you can. After the time limit, repeat the other side.

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**WHAT’S UP WITH THAT?**

- The 2008-09 Kelley School of Business undergraduate scholarship application is now available! The application is made available each year between January 1 and March 1. Completed applications must be submitted on the web at: https://www.kelley.iu.edu/ugrad/admissions/scholarship/current.cfm.
- **Looking for a summer internship?** The Northwestern University Summer Research Opportunity Program (SROP) is what you may be looking for. The goal of the SROP has been twofold: (1) to increase diversity among students pursuing graduate degrees and (2) to provide a concentrated academic and research experience for students who might not otherwise have access to such an opportunity. For more information and to access the on-line application, please visit the following web site: https://www.niu.northwestern.edu/Students/internationaloffice/research/