FEMININE ACCENT

Delta's elect new leaders, criticize "School Daze" film

By Robyn-Denise Yourse
AFRO Assistant Editor

SAN FRANCISCO, CA. — Delta Sigma Theta, Inc., the nation's largest sorority for black women, elected new leaders to head the organization during its nationwide conference, but also blasted filmmaker Spike Lee for his portrayal of black fraternal life in the movie "School Daze."

More than 10,000 members adorned in red and white filled city hotels and streets for the group's 39th annual confab and Diamond Jubilee to commemorate 75 years of service.

Founded on the campus of Howard University in 1913, the sorority's members — which total more than 175,000 college women graduates worldwide — said they were outraged over the film "School Daze," a comedic spoof on black fraternities and sororities released earlier this year.

"The image of Greek life portrayed there is not a very bright image," newly elected Delta president Dr. Yvonne Kennedy said. "It is one of folly, an epicurean philosophy — eat, drink and be merry."

"But that's not what Delta Sigma Theta is all about." Kennedy, an Alabama state legislator and president of S.D. Bishop State Junior College in Mobile succeeded Hortense G. Canady ,who had headed the organization since 1983.

Other newly elected officers for the sorority are first national vice-president Dr. Bertha L. Maxwell Roddy; second vice president for undergraduate affairs, Thyra White; treasurer Marcia Fudge,Esq. and secretary, Verdelle Bellamy.

"I am extremely honored by the fact that this is the first time in our 75-year history that Delta Sigma Theta has chosen to elect a native born Southern resident," Kennedy said. "We are grooming our future leaders on college campuses and Delta is well deserving of young members."

Based on that, Kennedy said the organization feared that the view of fraternal life as depicted in "School Daze" would cause potential members to shun the sorority. "I hope Delta will be able to address the shortcomings of Greek life portrayed in the film if they are a reality," she said.

"And to correct the false image if the film is inaccurate."

Other black fraternities and sororities have also criticized the film — which includes the practice of "hazing" pledges along with divisions between light and dark skinned blacks — as being negative and superficial.

"I was personally offended by the movie because it never honed in on any of the good and positive things Greek organizations do," a member of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity said. "To me it was an insult."

Other Omega members allege that Lee made the film to avenge a friend who was given harsh treatment while pledging the fraternity.

The group was suspended however, from Howard University this spring along with the Deltas, the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity for reportedly hazing pledges.

The Delta suspension was initiated by the organization's hierarchy following a 6 A.M. traffic accident in the District that allegedly involved seven potential members.

All seven received injuries, and two women were hospitalized — one critically after the accident, but city police said no report was filed.

Delta leaders and University officials refused to disclose information surrounding an investigation of the incident.

Kennedy was attending the Democratic Convention when contacted by the AFRO for comment on the organization's current position on staus of the Howard chapter, but in earlier statements said "as glorious as our history is, or zenith has not been reached."

"We are journeying toward new horizons and will always ask how we can best serve society, not ourselves."

SAN FRANCISCO— Colonel Frederick Gregory, NASA astronaut, Mrs. Hortense G. Canady, of Lansing, Michigan, outgoing president of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; Mayor Andrew Young, of Atlanta, Georgia, and Dr. Yvonne Kennedy, of Mobile, Alabama, Delta's new national president, chat after speeches by Young and Gregory to Delta's Diamond Jubilee convention.

Myrlie Evers fights to keep memories alive of Medgar

By Tamara Henry

WASHINGTON — Myrlie Evers expressed gratitude with a hint of vindication when she accepted a special NAACP award recognizing the work in Mississippi of her husband, the slain civil rights leader Medgar Evers.

"I am so grateful that Medgar is being remembered by the organization that he loved so dearly," she told about 16,000 delegates to the NAACP's 79th annual convention, fighting to hold back tears.

"One of the difficulties that I have had over a period of years is the fact that I, as Medgar's widow, always felt that he did not get the recognition that he should have for the work he has done.

"I wanted so badly for people to know about him and his work and it takes a lot of work to keep someone's name before the public. His organization, the NAACP, is doing that," she said.

Evers had been the Mississippi field director for the NAACP about nine years when he was assassinated in front of his home in Jackson on June 12, 1963.

A souvenir booklet distributed during the convention noted that Evers "spearheaded many campaigns of struggle for voting rights, to end poverty, for equal educational opportunity, against brutality, and for the desegregation of public institutions."

The person charged with the murder, avowed racist Byron de La Beckwith, was acquitted twice by an all-white jury.

The NAACP dedicated to Evers' memory its 1988 session, held one week before the Democratic National Convention.

In opening activities, more than 1,000 NAACP delegates gathered at Arlington National Cemetery in suburban Washington to sing gospel songs and hear members of the Evers family reminisce.

Having served in the Army during World War II, Evers is buried at the cemetery.

"I don't remember too much about the night my husband was slain," Myrlie Evers told the crowd, explaining his death altered forever the course of her life. "The memories of Medgar's life — what he was about — profoundly affected many of us, especially our family. Ill feelings surface and you have to retrieve them over and over."

In accepting the NAACP Chairman's Civil Rights Leadership Award at the convention, she reminded the crowd, "It is so important that we remember our leaders ... that our young people know who they are and the contributions that they have given.

"They will have something to aspire to, that they will not as readily as we see now go into black-on-black crime, into drugs. But there will be a sense of well being, a knowledge of who we are and a sense of the future..."

She then held up the distinctively designed, 12-inch crystal with a walnut base, looking proud and satisfied to see the fruits of her efforts to keep her husband's name before the public.

As she spoke, youth in the cavenous ballrooms of the downtown hotel distributed copies of the commemorative booklet developed by the Afro-American 'Studies Program at the University of Mississippi and printed by Los Angeles 'Mayor Tom Bradley.'

Even with three young children, Myrlie Evers had been as deeply involved in the Civil Rights movement as her husband had been, and continues to be today. Both she and Evers were Mississippi natives. She was 18 when she married him and barely 30 when he died.

Evers was 37 at the time of his death. He was awarded posthumously in 1963 the Spingarn Medal, the highest honor of the NAACP.

In reminiscing, Myrlie Evers describes her husband as a modern-day John The Baptist.

"Medgar paved the way for others to follow," she said in an interview. "I'm not speaking about any one particular person or organization or anything.

"I am very glad that Dr. King gets the recognition he gets but people should know the contributions of other blacks," she continued. "It is tragic that as I go around the country and speak at high schools and colleges and mention the names of some of our heroes, they know absolutely nothing about it.

"Even with King, (children) know his name and 'I Have a Dream' but they know nothing about it. Those of my generation and others have been somewhat remiss in really pushing this kind of information to our children. I think this is a major step that NAACP is taking to get just such a movement going."

Myrlie Evers now lives in California and has been married to Walter Williams for the last 10 years. She said there was tremendous guilt in leaving Mississippi for Claremont, Calif. in 1964 but insisted she and the children needed a change in environment.

After the move, she raised her children, worked her way through college, ran for Congress and worked for years as the director of consumer affairs for Atlantic Richfield.

Today, Myrlie Evers is a commissioner on the Los Angeles Board of Public Works, having recently lost her second race for a city council seat.

NEW YORK — Surrounded by a group of attractive "Apollo Models" is Ralph Cooper, the producer of the "Fourth Annual Salute to Harlem" — 21 free weekend concerts staged on the plaza at the Adam Clayton Powell State Office Building in New York City. Revlon is the presenter of the seven-week series, which will run until August 7th. The Apollo models wear the latest designer fashions — from furs to beach apparel. Cooper is the originator and master of ceremonies of the legendary Harlem Amateur Nights at the Apollo Theater. The Concert series is expected to attract well over a quarter of a million people.

IN THE STARS / STRICTLY PERSONAL

LEO (July 22-August 20): You and Libra hold a split decision for "Best Sign of the Week." In your case this Wednesday and Thursday are the really exceptional days with plenty of opportunity for putting pieces into place and getting plans off the ground. Your weekend should be a relaxing one. Monday and Tuesday suggest important commitments, so be ready.

VIRGO (August 21-September 21): You have nothing to worry about this week. First of all, there is not one stressful day on your planetary map. Secondly, but more importantly, you have a stretch of days that are much in your favor, especially from Friday through Sunday evening. Much can be accomplished during this time, so take heed.

LIBRA (September 22-October 20): This week is a dream compared to last week. Like Leo, you have one of the best charts around this time. Your outstanding days for getting ahead should be marked on your calendar — Wednesday, Thursday and especially next Monday and Tuesday. You are in a position to make a lot of things happen.

SCORPIO (October 21-November 21): Amazingly, this week is very similar to the last one. Fortunately, there is one minor difference. Like this past Wednesday and Thursday, it is marked with stress and is unfavorable. The one exception is that you have an extra favorable time from Friday to Sunday. Make the most of it!

SAGITTARIUS (November 22-December 21): Planning this week carefully will make all the difference in the world. First the bad news — Wednesday through Friday is marked as stressful but in a minor way. So avoid letting little things get you off balance. But afterwards, things are favorable, so get things moving.

CAPRICORN (December 22-Janaury 20): Compared to this time last week, at least you will have a chance to catch your breath and set the course for the next several days. The real highlight of this cosmic period is listed for Thursday through Saturday. These are excellent days for getting head. As for next Monday and Tuesday, these days leave a lot to be desired.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): A red flag is waving a strong warning of care and utmost caution for this Wednesday and Thursday. Try to avoid explosive situations or letting your personal affairs get out of hand then. With a quiet weekend in your forecast, you can look forward to Monday and Tuesday being nicer compared with the last several days.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): This is certainly not the best time to do anything that has long range consequences or results. Delays, change of plans and reversals or promises made are likely to be the outcome. Friday through Saturday are the worst of the bunch, suggesting grief, deception and being taken advantage of. So, just rest.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Both Wednesday and Thursday of this week is perfect for plans, dreams and ideas. Friday through Sunday suggest a lull in activities. So if things are not moving as quickly as you anticipated, it is nothing to worry about. What you should be concerned about is next Monday and Tuesday — these are definite caution days for anything important.

TAURUS (April 21-May 20): Remember last week, with its exceptional opportunities? Well, this is not the case this week. It is not that it is so bad, but there are stressful days included. Care has to be exercised during Wednesday and Thursday to avoid possible arguments and accidents. The rest of the cosmic period will be much more to your liking.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Unlike last week, there are some possible pitfalls this time around. Friday through Sunday evening leaves a lot to be desired if you are planning something important. So make adjustments accordingly. Looking at the bright side of the coin, Wednesday and Thursday followed by Monday and Tuesday of next week are far more favorable.

CANCER (June 21-July 21): Relationships on all levels, a chance to get ahead as well as an unlikely source of help is strongly indicated in your chart beginning Friday and lasting into Sunday. But avoid travel plans and interviews as well as commitments on Monday and Tuesday — or at least double check everything.

Tell it to Jan

Dear Jan:

I am a 15-year-old junior in high school and I have a problem.

There are two brothers who live across the street from me. I used to like the oldest brother who is 17, but now I like the other one who is only 15. I think he likes me, too.

His brother told me he likes me but when we see each other, he will not say anything to me.

If two people like each other enough, why can't they get together?

Confused

Dear Confused:

If you ever find the answer, be sure to write a book about it; for this is the question that almost everyone has asked during some part of his-her life.

You see, the difficulty lies in your last question. "If two people like each other enough." What, and how much is enough?

You see, there is really no answer to that question.

So, best not to worry too much about the seemingly inequities of day-to-day living. Somehow, things usually work out although not always to one's satisfaction.

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Dear Jan:

I have this terrible problem. I have been going on dates with my boyfriend on weekends. My mother says I can't go out anymore until I find a job.

I have been trying to find a job. Now I understand that I will be hired in approximately three weeks.

My mother is putting restrictions on me for nothing. After all, I am 18, and want to respect her as well as obey her, but I think she is being very unfair as well as unreasonable.

If she keeps coming up with this off-the-wall stuff, I'm going to leave because I don't want to be imprisoned. I am grown. She is making me feel like a child.

I don't mind working, but jobs are hard to find. I am trying by best but she is putting restrictions on my boyfriend, whom I plan to marry in a few months.

What can I do?

Restricted

Dear Restricted:

Since you may be hired in three weeks, what's the rush.

What you need is a chance to prove yourself. Keep watching the employment ads. Nobody finds a job overnight.

Listen to your mother. She is your best friend and is only interested in your happiness and well being.

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Dear Jan:

I am 28 and have never been married. For the last six months I've been going out with a man with whom I enjoy a good, but platonic relationship.

I know my friend had other interests in me when we first met, but I explained my position to him — basically, I enjoy him as a friend, nothing more.

For some reason my family wants things to go in another direction. My sisters and brothers like him and because they are all married, they feel that I should be, too.

My mother tells me that I should marry my friend because possibly no one else will ask me. The fact that we are not in love does not deter her pushing. At this age, I'm beginning to wonder if she is right. None of this bothers my friend.

D. T.

Dear D. T.

Your mother and your brothers and sisters are not the ones who have to live with the man you choose to marry. You are.

But no need to remind prodding family members of this — just keep it in the front of your mind when deciding who to marry.

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Dear Jan:

I like this boy and he likes me, but when he gets around his friends, he acts like I'm not around.

What should I do?

S. T.

Dear S. T.:

Nothing.

Most teenage boys act like this in front of their peers. It's a part of growing up.

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Confidential to D. T.:

It's easier to get another girlfriend than another job.

If you have a problem you feel our counselor Jan might be able to help you with, why not write to her. All letters will be answered in this column.

Write: Tell it to Jan, AFRO-AMERICAN, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md. 21201.

STRICTLY PERSONAL

Lonesome Hearts
Pen Pals
Searching

To have a notice published in the Strictly Personal section, write the message you want printed clearly in the space below. Enclose five dollars ($5.00), check or money order for 25-word notice. Additional words will cost 20 cents each.

I would like my Strictly Personal notice to read:

To answer a Lonesome Hearts notice, enclose a check or money order for $1.00 for each letter you wish to have forwarded. Be sure to include the box number of the person you wish to contact. All letters, queries and notices should be sent to:

Strictly Personal
Box 1857
Baltimore, Md. 21201

Lonesome Hearts

Conservative male, 57, interested in lady over 40, not over 135 pounds, for meaningful relationship. Must be trustworthy, honest and sincere. If possible, send phone number with first letter as soon as possible. No phonies. CC 73.

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Financially-secure male, 39, 6', 250 pounds, Pennsylvania area, seeks faithful, sincere, affectionate, plain, homely, loving, non-egotistical wife, 16-25. If possible, send photo with first letter. For more, write to CC 74.

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39-year-old black female, 5'3", 125 pounds, medium brown complexion, employed, no children, would like to meet sincere, honest, clean, down-to-earth, "for real" male in the North Carolina area. Write to learn more. CC 75.

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Lonely Virginia Christian lady, 47, a widow, would like to meet nice, attractive, Christian gentleman. Must like church. I am a loving, understanding, "down-to-earth" lady. Write to CC 76.

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Handsome, black male, 35, would like to correspond with sincere ladies, 30-40 who are interested in marriage and, or long-time relationship. Must be open-minded, good natured, lovable, understanding and willing to travel. For more, write to CC 77.

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Christian lady from Washington, DC, interested in meeting single male, 38-55, who is sincere, honest, family oriented, employed or retired. Non-drinker. No drug users. If possible, send photo and phone number with first letter. For more, write to CC 69.

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Single black female, slender and attractive, seeks single, black male, 33-43, 5'9," or taller, for meaningful relationship, spending time together, enjoying activities together. Absolutely no drug users or inmates CC 70.

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Sincere, Christian lady would like to meet sincere gentleman, 65-72 who likes church, some sports and short trips, for friendship. No smoking, gambling or drug users. For more, write to CC 71.

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Attractive 50-year-old single, black female, would like to meet single, healthy, energetic male who enjoys outdoor recreation, going to church and Sunday brunch. For more, write to CC 72.

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Black attractive Christian lady, 30, seeks caring, affectionate, honest gentleman, 30-45 of same descent for friendship and possible marriage. Can relocate. If possible, send phone number with first letter. CC 66.

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Overweight,divorced, black male would like to meet full-figured "Amazon" type lady for fun and possible romance. If possible, send photo and phone number with first letter. For more, write to CC 67.

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Personable, brownskinned, middleaged lady, who lives in Maryland area, with positive attitude, desires to meet honest, sincere, respectable gentleman, 60-76 for compatible relationship. Absolutely no drug users. If possible, send photo and phone number with first letter. Write to CC 68.

Searching

Father looking for daughter, Heather Jenkins, born Sept 20, 1946, New York City, whom he hasn't seen since she was a baby. Her mother's name is Virginia Anderson. If anyone knows of her whereabouts, please contact her father, William H. Jenkins, 6 Echoway Court, Apt. 2-A, Baltimore, MD 21204 (301) 828-9447.

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Anyone who knows whereabouts of D'Jara James, who attended Garrison Jr. High School, Baltimore, MD in 1964, please contact: Henry Sims, Route 3, Box 3333, Hagerstown, MD 21740.

Pen Pals

28-year-old confined, lonely male, would love to correspond with a sincere, serious-minded woman, 25-40 for meaningful relationship, possible marriage. Write to: Muhammad Abdul-Haqq, 77064, CN 861, Trenton, NJ 08625.

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Single, 36-year-old confined male, a Virgo, would like to establish friendship with female pen pal. Willie Williams, Y-9712, 1111 Altamont Blvd., Frackville, PA 17931.

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Confined black male, 36, lonely, caring, understanding, would like to meet caring, understanding, sincere females, 38-55 for meaningful relationship, possible marriage. For more, write to: James Brockington, 206824, CN 861, Trenton, NJ 08625.

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Black male, 30, incarcerated, would like to correspond with interested females. Dale L. Hopkins, 197-302, Post Office Box 57, Marion, OH 43302.

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24-year-old incarcerated male would like to meet interested females 24-35 for serious relationship. Charlie E. Johnson, P. O. Box 137, Tillery, NC 27887.

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30-year-old male, confined, would like to correspond with interested females, 25-40. Michael McGee, 179701, P. O. Box 45699, Lucasville, OH 45699.

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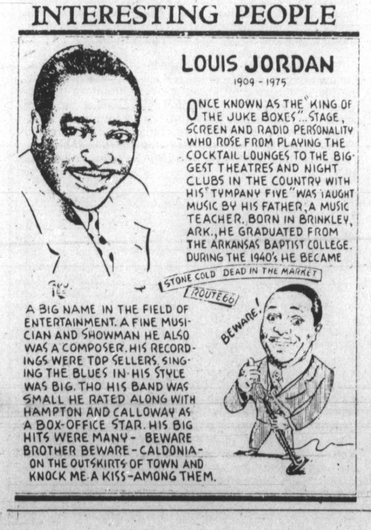
40-year-old male, presently incarcerated, seeks friendship through correspondence. Chris A. Mitchell, 199-285, P. O. Box 56, Lebanon, OH 45036.

INTERESTING PEOPLE