

## Editor's Note 4: A Lesson in History

October 2010

“If you don't know my name, you don't know your own.”

~ James Baldwin

It has recently been brought to my attention that many individuals within the Black community at DePaul do not know the origins of *Onyx* magazine, formerly known as *The Hawk*. Thus, I felt a brief history on the subject was an order to sustain this publication and guarantee its future success.

On February 1, 2006 The Black Student Union at DePaul University, under the administration of Voltaire Davis, founded *The Hawk* newspaper. This publication was the first newspaper at DePaul University solely dedicated to the Black community and our issues. Completely under the direction of students who held a vested interest in what should be articulated for and by Black students on campus, the newspaper was named *The Hawk* after the fierce Chicago wind Lou Rawls describes in his song “Windy City.” The founders of this publication envisioned the newspaper as “a razorblade of knowledge and truth that would blow through the university and further symbolize the legacy of Black Students at DePaul.”

The first Editor-in-Chief of *The Hawk* was Charity Clay (2005-2006); her successor was Stephanie Jeter (2006). Under the leadership of these two women *The Hawk* newspaper was distributed every first Wednesday of the month to offices and departments and became a recognizable fixture in the Black community. In the spring of 2007 I was given the opportunity to be Editor-in-Chief and I wanted to see the publication grow and flourish even more at DePaul. Therefore, in the fall of 2007 *The Hawk* broke away from the Black Student Union and established itself as a separate entity, no longer bearing the name of *The Hawk* newspaper. It would now be known as *The Hawk Magazine*. This not only marked a physical change for the look of the publication but for the positive direction the publication would continue to move in.

Since this moment of transition the publication has grown steadily and continued to impact the Black community at DePaul. It has become not only a forum for this demographic to voice their opinions, but also a trusted place for news and events occurring within this community.

Currently the magazine is in the process of being fully institutionalized by the university. With this newfound recognition, the current leadership felt it was only appropriate to evaluate all aspects of the publication. And after careful consideration and research we have settled on *Onyx*.

In centuries past this stone has provided its wearer with stamina, strength, courage, and self-

control. It was further known for its ability to ward off negativity and provide a sense of clarity in confusing times. This ancient symbol is the embodiment of what we want our publication to one day live up to. We desire to provide the Black community with the stamina to continue on when times seem unbearable, the strength to fight for the things they believe in, the courage to voice their concerns regardless of the possible consequences, and the clarity to know when to pick and choose their battles.

The former title of the publication was indeed powerful; however, with growth and sustainability comes evolution and change. This driving force is what has led us to the place we stand today. Everyone in the Black community should be extremely proud of this publication and all that had been done to ensure its longevity at our university. I hope you enjoy this issue of *Onyx* and are continuously inspired by the publication to further evolve within yourself.