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Leading history Black History Month person of the day

Bessie Coleman, the first black female aviator, was born Jan. 26, 1892, in Atlanta, Texas. After her father left when she was 7 years old, Coleman, as one of 13 children, pitched in to help their mother make ends meet.

Coleman was an avid reader as a child, and by using the traveling library that came through town several times a week, she managed to graduate from high school. She then left for the University of Langston in Oklahoma, where she completed only one term before running out of money and returning to rural Texas.

At the age of 23, Coleman left for Chicago to stay with her brother. After hearing his stories of women in Europe flying planes in World War I, she knew she had

to fly. When she couldn't find any way to learn in the United States, facing oppression for being black as well as being a woman, Coleman took the advice of a friend and applied to aviation school in France.

Coleman received her license from the Federation Aeronautique Internationale on June 15, 1921, at the age of 29, as the only woman of the 67 candidates for certification as well as the first black woman ever to receive a pilot's license.

In April 1926, she and her mechanic took her plane for a test flight. The craft malfunctioned while in the air and began to plummet, and Coleman fell to her death from several hundred feet.

— Jessica Richelderfer

Fashion

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traditional African wedding attire and music in "The Wedding March."

Picking up the pace, members of two fraternities and two sororities mixed the clapping and stomping of stepping with a variety of dance styles in the "Steppin' Out" scene. Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity members gave red roses to audience members and integrated the use of canes into

their coordinated routine. The nine members of AKA sorority rounded out the greek performances by stepping in coordinating outfits.

Additional entertainment included two vocal performances by junior Olivia Callier and a poetry reading by University student Cory Mainor, who read the poems "The Beauty of My City" and "Smoke Speaks" with pictures of Harlem on display.

The show capped off with the hip-hop scene "Bourbon Street Live,"

where the performers gathered together on stage to create a party atmosphere.

With few glitches, AKA president and senior Nicole Johnson said that the show was a success.

"It was the 10th anniversary, and it all came together really well," Johnson said. "The models are wonderful — they always do something that just makes it a special event."

Contact the copy chief at jennifersudick@dailyemerald.com.

Horowitz

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Horowitz seemed to have the harshest words for the University faculty, criticizing what he saw as their effort to indoctrinate students into a "leftist ideology." He also accused faculty of employing a "ruthless blacklist" that stifles conservative faculty and viewpoints.

"There is a hostile learning environment on this campus for conservatives," he said. "It is a disgrace. This campus is a disgrace."

Horowitz also slammed the current resolution that would align the University against a war in Iraq. He said if the University Assembly succeeds in passing the resolution, it would be an abuse to all students on the campus who support the war.

Following his deep condemnation of the University, Horowitz switched gears and taught a history lesson of anti-war movements during World War II and the Vietnam War. Horowitz said the anti-war movement in the 1930s was responsible for the 70 million people who died during World War II, and he said the current anti-war movement is moving in the same direction.

"A genuine peace movement would, of course, be demonstrating at Iraqi embassies" and demanding that Saddam Hussein disarm, he said. "This is not a peace movement; it is a movement to divide this country, to sabotage its defense efforts and to help our enemies to win."

"There is a hostile learning environment on this campus for conservatives."

David Horowitz
Author/commentator

The first tense moment of the evening erupted when Horowitz's critical remarks about the anti-war movement provoked an outburst from the back of the room. Horowitz responded with annoyance to the interruption.

Horowitz's scathing response to the outburst seemed to cool the atmosphere, and he started telling the crowd why he believes leftists are responsible for society's ills, especially in the public school system. He said America's poorest and most oppressed minorities are in America's inner cities, and the city councils and school boards of the inner cities — who he said are all controlled by leftists — keep minorities illiterate with their policies.

Leftists "have their boot heels on the necks of poor black and Hispanic kids all across this country ... because they are running the public school systems as a jobs program for adults, and they could care less about what happens to those kids," he said.

Horowitz, a leader in the anti-slavery reparations movement, also talked about racism. He accused leftists of conjuring up a movement that

pits blacks against others in America. "There is a little problem with reparations," he said. "I am for reparations for former slaves. The problem, of course, is that they're all dead — it's 130 years too late."

A question-and-answer period followed the speech, and tensions were high as many audience members argued with Horowitz, throwing the session into a debate and putting him on the defensive. At one point, Horowitz called for security after a man in the back of the room continually interrupted Horowitz.

But others chose to be more civil in their questions. Mike Linman, a student senator and co-chairman of the College Democrats, asked Horowitz whether he would support a University stance supporting a war in Iraq.

Horowitz said he wouldn't, adding he believed the University should take no political position — whether he supports the position or not.

In an interview prior to the speech, Horowitz explained what he hopes to accomplish on the college speech circuit.

"I actually think that if I agitate — if I can get conservative students roused up enough in this generation — by the next generation when they're running institutions, in particular the Republican Party, they can affect this horrible situation on college campuses," he said. "The University, in the liberal arts field, has been destroyed by the left."

Contact the senior news reporter at janmontry@dailyemerald.com.

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