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## Leading history

### Black History Month person of the day

**Henry McNeal Turner**, born in 1834 on Hannah Circuit near Newberry, S.C., worked in the cotton fields and in the blacksmithing trade until he was 12 years old. He slowly became active in politics during his youth, fighting for better treatment of black Americans in the South.

Turner tried learning to read several times throughout his childhood, but a law forbidding anyone to teach a black person the alphabet hampered his attempts, and he learned only pieces at a time. At age 15, he was given a job in a law office at the local courthouse, where men in the office defied the law and helped him learn to read.

Turner had a strong desire to become a theologian, which evolved into the establishment of a church exclusively for blacks. He said he believed that the purpose of a black church would be to develop racial pride and consciousness among black Americans everywhere.

Although Turner is most commonly remembered as one of the first bishops in the African American Episcopal Church, he was also a magazine editor, a political activist, a preacher and a college chancellor. He was also active in the military, appointed by President Abraham Lincoln as the first black chaplain ever to serve in the U.S. Army.

— Jessica Richelderfer

## Johnson

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play Dungeons and Dragons and video games. I think I am a definitely a geek," Johnson said. "But I also go to parties and do things other people do."

Johnson, 20, moved with his family to Indonesia when he was eight. His father works as a geologist for Freeport-McMoran Copper and Gold Inc., the primary copper mining company in Indonesia. He lived in a small rural town surrounded by thick green jungle. Johnson said he believes this separation from U.S. popular culture had a lot to do with how he was raised and the perspectives he formed.

"Instead of running through the city throwing rocks off overpasses like some kids, we would go dashing through the jungle swinging on vines" he said. "In the big picture, being cut off from the fall of M.C. Hammer and the rise of Vanilla Ice was not such a big miss-out for me."

When Johnson was in the 10th grade, he moved back to the states and attended a private Quaker high school in Maryland. His parents re-

mained in Indonesia.

During his senior year, he became interested in 3-D computer programs and multimedia design.

"I just started messing around with different programs and really liking them," Johnson said. "I went online and started checking out colleges with good general education programs and good multimedia programs. The University seemed like a good deal."

Johnson spent his first two years at the University in the residence halls, but he now lives with four other people in an off-campus house. One of his roommates, Ben Brown, met Johnson during their freshman year, but now, three years later, Brown said he still doesn't entirely understand Johnson's personality.

"Max is a difficult person to figure out," Brown said. "Sometimes he's completely open and outgoing, and sometimes he seems to retreat back into his own interior world and sort of peek out at the rest of us from behind his eyes."

Perhaps Johnson is hard for his friends to figure out because he's so many things. During his first year in

Oregon, he attended an outdoor rave in Salem. There he saw his first real fire jugglers, known as poi swingers; on the East Coast he had seen similar demonstrations using glow sticks and string.

"I was like 'Oh my god, that's so cool,'" Johnson said.

Johnson talked to several people at the rave and learned how to put together the swinging chains of fire.

"It's basically just a chain and a wick," Johnson said. "The first ones I made were super heavy, but now I've got ones that are a lot thinner and easier to control."

Johnson is now an accomplished fire swinger, and his friend Jessi Macklin says he is getting "really amazing at it."

Macklin has known Johnson for about a year and said when she met him, she immediately thought he was a person she would like to know.

"Max is the kind of guy who has an individualized look," she said. "When you see him you just think, 'Wow, that would be a cool person to be friends with.'"

Contact the reporter at aimeeurudin@dailyemerald.com.

## Debate

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sides of the issues.

"It's obviously not to convince each other or try to change each others' minds," Bailey said.

Topics for discussion include President Bush's economic stimulus package, the pending war in Iraq and the fate of affirmative action, focusing on the two University of Michigan U.S. Supreme Court cases.

White said Democrats and Republicans will each have a six-person panel, two for each topic. University alumnus Jeff Oliver will moderate.

White said students will be encour-

aged to attend the debate because it will educate them on the logic behind both sides of the issues. He added panelists will not be advocating their own personal views at the debate. Instead, White said today's event is geared to inform students about the official Republican Party and Democratic Party stances on the issues.

"It's important for students to hear what both parties believe in," White said.

The last debate the College Republicans and College Democrats sponsored together was Nov. 20, 2001, and included more topics than national political issues. The two student groups talked about

missile defense, education, student incidental fees, President Bush's energy plan and the recession.


Bailey, the moderator for the November debate, said the College Republicans and the College Democrats decided to address fewer topics today because neither group felt there was enough time to sufficiently discuss all the issues at their last debate. He said that the topics were obvious choices because the media has given them steady coverage.

"All these issues are very close to people's hearts," he said. "So we wanted to give extra attention to each issue."

— Jennifer Bear

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