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### MCPC ALUMNA TO WORK IN NORTH PHILLY SCHOOLS

By Tim Mackie

Christy Hutcheson, a senior sociology major at Messiah College, has been accepted into the Teach for America program in North Philadelphia. Hutcheson will move to Philly after graduating this May to attend an intensive teacher training program and will begin teaching classes at an area public elementary school in the fall.

During her time at Messiah College, Hutcheson

took advantage of many service opportunities offered to her. She worked for the Agape Center her first year and spent the summers of her sophomore and junior years volunteering at Urban Promises Ministries in Camden, New Jersey where she worked with underprivileged urban youth. She continued this service while attending MCPC the fall semester of her junior year (Fall 2007). She also worked as an RA

at MCPC with N. Ryan Wilson, who described her as having “a strong ability to get herself into new situations.”

Hutcheson said that she appreciated the community and emphasis on service that she had at MCPC. She said that she appreciated having a close-knit body of people all undergoing the same new experiences that she had living in the big city. She described learning to navigate Philly’s public transit system as one of her most memorable experiences. She took the Eco-Urban Footprints class with Dr.

Timothy Peterson and said that her projects in that class made her appreciate the need for social change in the city.

Hutcheson said that her work in Camden opened her up to the inequity of the inner city public schools. She said that many teachers in these schools have given up, preferring to simply babysit the children and collect a salary rather than actually try to teach. “As part of the school system, I’d be able to teach and actually make a difference” said Hutcheson.

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### PSAB a.k.a. Mr. Money Bags

By Samantha Moore

The Philadelphia Student Activities Board, commonly referred to as “P-sab,” hosts “nights of mayhem” every other week. (I take this term from the PSAB Facebook ad that categorizes the biweekly gatherings as nothing but). These

anarchic evenings have become an unstoppable institution here at MCPC, so how much more of this must we stomach?

Well, I personally have to stop at two (pancakes, that is) but PSAB chairs Philbert Hobbes and Caroline Sharp typically keep the pans open for business for a good 1.5 hours.

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*Students Tim Mackie, left, and Caroline Sharp, right, in front of the Anthropology and Archaeology Museum at the University of Pennsylvania. (Photo Courtesy of Michelle Canales)*

## MCPC ALUMNA...

Teach for America is a nationwide service organization that recruits some of America's best and brightest right out of college and places them in school districts with a need for good teachers, usually either very urban or very rural areas. They accept about 3,000 applicants per year, giving them a crash course in educational techniques over the summer, then sending them into the schools for two years. The program is known to be quite rigorous and many of its graduates go on to successful careers in education. Hutcherson will be taking classes at UPenn toward attaining her PA teaching certification while working for the Philadelphia school system.



*Christy Hutchinson tutoring at Urban Promise Ministries in Camden, N.J*

*(Photo courtesy of Christy Hutchinson).*

## ENOUGH WITH THE WHITE GUILT

By Chad Wright

It's a song we've all heard before. We are white and middle class. We attend a picturesque, private college. For this reason we are privileged. I'm sure that we need to be put in our place. We take the fact that we have a myriad of opportunities presented to us for granted. It is important that we reflect on our place in the world and understand how it's different from others we need to

consider. How does our position offer us chances to help those less fortunate than ourselves. Of late, however, I think we are hearing this message too often. I understand that we are interacting with an urban setting. We are outside our comfort zone. We need to hear these differing viewpoints to better ourselves. But after Monday's community gathering I felt as if the white guilt was go-

ing to envelope me and never let me go.

When I showed up at the gathering, I was very excited to hear a discussion about the current economic crisis in the United States. The news media is inundating us with information about how the situation is affecting major corporations. Except for the occasional story about someone's home being saved from foreclosure or having to take on an extra job we really don't hear about how the economic crisis affects the average person. I was looking forward to Mr. Ewuare

Osayande, our guest speaker, helping us understand the economy's impact on the urban poor. Instead, I was treated to an hour and a half discourse which only served to make me feel like a horrible person simply for being who I am.

At some point our guest speaker seemed to take an unfriendly turn from the topic at hand and clearly exhibited his distaste for those that benefit from American capitalism. Even though he may not have meant to call us out in particular, it is no se-

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## White Guilt...

cret that the white middle class benefits greatly from this system. We can't deny that a large portion of the Caucasian population is born into this demographic. Just as we can't deny that a large portion of the African American population is born into poverty. However, these figures are based on correlation, not causation. There is no direct proof to show us that the African American population is poor simply because they are African American. In the same light we can't show that white people tend to be middle class because they are white.

I may have misunderstood, but it seemed as if Mr. Osayande was attempting to make a race issue out of something that is not. If anything, the issue we were discussing was a socio-economic

status issue. I grew up in a rural town in western Penn-



*Ewuare Osayande speaking at the Monday night community gathering (Image Courtesy of Kelsey Theuerkauf)*

sylvania. The county I lived in was 98% white. I can assure you all that very few of these people were middle class. Most residents of this county can't find anything better than a minimum wage job and their children are forced to live in just as much poverty as any African American child in the city. I'm sure that Mr. Osayande

would have you believe that these children will

have more opportunities than their urban counterparts because they are white. They are privileged. This is not the case. I have to stretch my mind to think of even one person I went to high school with that lived below the poverty line who was able to succeed.

The sad truth of the

matter is that people of any race are caught in a vicious cycle. When any person is born into poverty it is difficult to get out. I've always felt that the old saying is true; you become your parents. As much as we hate to admit this, it's the truth. If we are born into a social class, that is the social class we are most likely to sustain. I do believe there is hope, though. With initiative, it is possible to improve one's condition. Many have overcome the odds despite poor resources and circumstances. If Mr. Osayande would like a few examples, here they are: Bill Cosby, Kobe Bryant, Patti LaBelle, Will Smith, John Coltrane and Wilt Chamberlain just to name a few. They overcame obstacles and did better than many white middle class people can ever dream.

## PSAB...

These nights of mayhem, more commonly referred to as "Hump Day Pancakes," are just some of the many PSAB-sponsored events MCPC has seen this semester. While "Hump Day Pancakes" is an event that takes place in the quiet comforts of the MCPC campus, PSAB, without a doubt, gets around

(Philadelphia, that is).

From free dinners to Continental, Reading Terminal Market, Café Spice, The Bubble House, and Cubre de Libre, to ice skating at Penn's Landing, a Phillies game, the UPenn Anthropology and Archaeology Museum, Eastern State Penitentiary, and an improv comedy club, PSAB delivers. Getting to tour Phila-

delphia is one thing, but touring Philadelphia's hotspots for a small sum of \$0 is another.

But beyond a personal Daddy Warbucks, PSAB has acted as a refreshing Philadelphia tour guide for the students here at MCPC. It has allowed us to experience Philadelphia history, culture, and good eats in the company of

friends we've made in the process. Above all, it has proven to be that loving fatherly figure to us little orphan Annies who seek the spunk, tenderness, care—and spending capacity—Daddy Warbucks has to offer.

Adopted from that last poignant number in *Annie*, "I Don't Need Anything But You," PSAB!

## Say What?

### Cezanne....

By Emily Cope

The Philadelphia Museum of Art (“PMA”) is currently hosting a phenomenal exhibition entitled *Cezanne and Beyond*. Most have probably heard the artist’s name before, but perhaps, are unaware of the impact he had on the art world.

Paul Cezanne was a part of the post-impressionist movement along with artists like Vincent Van Gogh and Georges Seurat. He played a huge role in this movement; implementing ingenious new techniques, namely constructive stroke. His paintings were heavily influenced by the theory that the mind cannot be turned

off. This idea inspired him to create scenes not as they would appear to the eye, but as the mind would organize them, providing his works with feeling and meaning that prior paintings lacked.

The post impressionistic incorporation of emotion into art has been extremely influential on the movements following. The show at the PMA not only displays some of the greatest works of Cezanne himself, but also works of many artists who he inspired including Ellsworth Kelly and Henri Matisse. It is a very unique and rare opportunity to have so many great works together at one time. And the student rate is a mere 15 dollars!

If you are feeling especially cheap and uninspired by Cezanne’s greatness, head out to the museum to see all the other famous works the PMA

houses. If you are feeling super cheap go on Sunday’s where the cost is pay as you will (In other words, give them a dollar and you’re in).

Upon entering the museum, look up and you will see a work by one of the most well known kinetic sculptors, Alexander Calder. It’s huge and if you stare at it for long enough you may just feel a wave of serenity wash over you.

If sculpture isn’t your thing, who doesn’t love some good old fashioned medieval armor? Be transported back to the days of knights and round tables by strolling around the impressive collection of arms and armor.

Perhaps you are still not convinced. Marcel Duchamp provides a most compelling piece—a luring device—to visit the PMA. He is essentially the urinal guy. Yep, the one who picked up a urinal, signed

another guy’s name on it, and proceeded to become arguably the most famous and controversial of modern artists. Given the art museum’s proximity, it is crazy not to be able to say “Yeah, I saw the urinal.” On top of that Duchamp is quite a good painter! He also has an astoundingly creepy room set up with a mysterious door. Naturally—I encourage you—do not forget to look through the key hole!

The famous artists Picasso, Dali, Degas and Monet also pop up in the museum along with a lot of old stuff which would sound drab if a description were given. Nonetheless, the art-i-facts are interesting and worth checking out. So get your Philly pride on and make your way to the PMA!

## Response to White Guilt

By Samantha Moore

Whether or not I came to feel a certain amount of “white guilt” on Monday, I don’t think defending my perceived degree of detachment with the system’s inequalities is going to do me, or anyone else, much good. Although I recognize Wright’s thoughts in “Enough with the White Guilt,” racial biases are em-

bedded in our socio-economic and political context. “Well, what am I supposed to do?” was one response that echoed throughout campus after Osayande’s presentation. “I don’t like feeling guilty just because I’m white” was another.

No one likes to feel guilty, and the first thing I want to do when I feel guilt is purge it. But when that becomes my response—my only response—to hearing an-

other side of a story that can be very harsh, I don’t know how sensitive or productive I can actually be. Looking critically at *why* we are born into a certain social class versus just accepting its end results is imperative for us.

Osayande’s message was meant to challenge my privileged posture to limber up and listen, not to inflame repressed sagas of white guilt. Or maybe it was; who necessarily knows?

Either way, I shouldn’t use lack of “direct proof” as any validation for real disparities with real histories, because *we* are the ones that define the measures for “true and direct proof” in the first place.

**Words are sexy  
Join our exorcism**

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