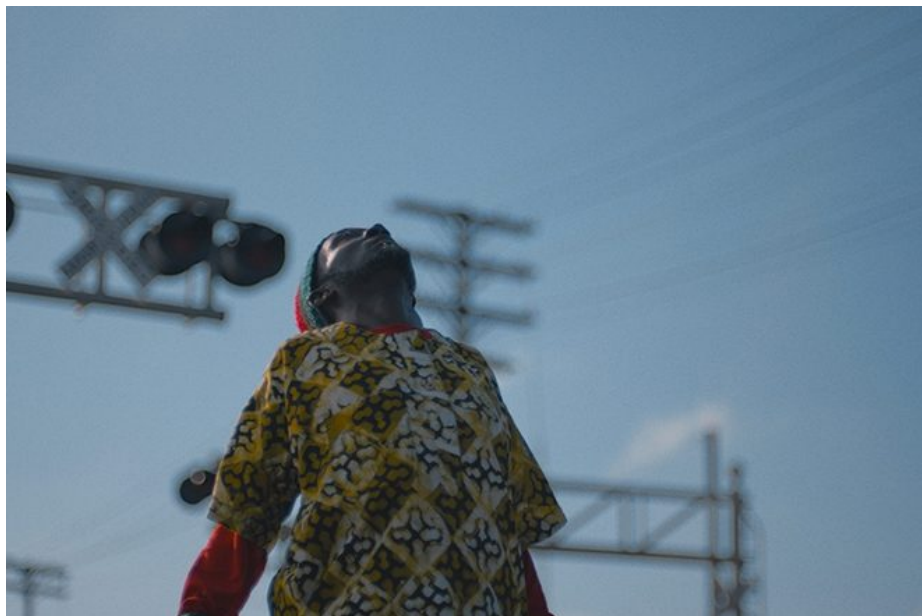


Performer, writer, and artist Vaginal Creme Davis, photographed by Alice Bag

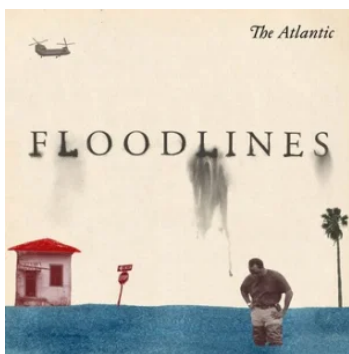
Connecting our local and wider community

If you have anything you would like to see in the next issue,
email us at afamebu.edu

WATCH 'BLACK TO TECHNO': A NEW SHORT FILM ON THE LINEAGE OF DETROIT TECHNO



PODCASTS



FLOODLINES

Atlantic writer Vann R. Newkirk II began reporting this eight-part Hurricane Katrina podcast long before the pandemic. In it, he revisits a familiar story through the voices of several who experienced it



BACK ISSUE

A podcast which celebrates pop culture phenomena that were either largely overlooked by the mainstream (read: white) media or, if they did pervade the mainstream, deserve reconsideration through a modern lens

STREAMING NOW

JOURNEY OF AN AFRICAN COLONY

Streaming on: Netflix

A documentary that takes us through a timeline of how Nigeria was formed. From the colonial masters to the founding fathers, truths will be told, myths will be debunked and tables will be broken.

PREMATURE

Streaming on: Hulu

Seventeen year-old Ayanna meets handsome and mysterious Isaiah in her path toward self-discovery. Her entire world is turned upside down as she travails on the rigorous terrain of young love in the summer before she leaves for college.

JOIN IN CITY OF BOSTON POET LAUREATE



PORSHA OLAYIWOLA

HOME: POETRY READING AND OPEN MIC SERIES

HOME IS A POETRY READING, OPEN MIC, AND WORKSHOP SERIES LED BY BOSTON POET LAUREATE *PORSHA OLAYIWOLA*. A BOSTON TRANSPLANT AND ROXBURY RESIDENT, OLAYIWOLA SEEKS TO CREATE A SHARED DIGITAL SPACE FOR BOSTONIANS TO WRITE AND SHARE AT THE INTERSECTION OF POETRY AND STORYTELLING.

WORKSHOP SERIES:

WORKSHOPS WILL BE HELD ON *THE FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH, FROM 11:30 A.M. - 1 P.M.*

POETRY READING AND OPEN MIC SERIES:

READINGS AND OPEN MICS WILL BE HELD ON *THE FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7:30 P.M.*

D'ART SHTAJIO: JAPAN'S FIRST BLACK-OWNED ANIME STUDIO



There is no exclusive data for the number of African-Americans who live and work abroad, but from the media attention over the last 5 years, it is alot. To saving money, starting over, or learning something new,

countless of African-Americans have crossed the Atlantic – and Pacific – to get to the next level. Arthell Isom, CEO and art director of D'Art Shtajio, Japan's first black-owned anime studio, is one of those people. His work has been featured in music videos for The Weeknd, Jay-Z, Pharrell and others. Yet, working and building a life in Japan has bought along its own unique lessons. *([Read the full interview here.](#))*



Watch: [The Weeknd – Snowchild Official Animated Music Video](#)

INTERESTING READS



THE NIGHT SUN BY ZIN E. ROCKLYN

The slap of a fist against flesh isn't the stuff of '80s movies, and the recovery certainly isn't from any film with a knock-down, drag-out fight. My head struck the window hard enough to dizzy me, the pane left intact. My eyes rolled shut, the muscles of my neck seizing at the point of impact, my head lolling forward. His fingers were deep into my afro, nails scraping at my scalp, when the front of the car collapsed against the great beast.



ST. VALENTINE, ST. ABIGAIL, ST. BRIGID BY C.L. POLK

My heart started to pound, I gasped for breath, and it was as if all sound had ceased, as if I'd sunk to the bottom of a pool. All I could hear was a bell ringing faintly, deep in my ears. As if someone were desperately trying to send me a vital message. All this took only ten or fifteen seconds. It was over before I knew it, and the critical message contained there, like the core of all dreams, disappeared. A dimly lit hallway in a high school, a beautiful girl, the hem of her skirt swirling, "With the Beatles."

CHRISTIANITY AND THE ALIENATION OF AFRICANS

AT A TIME WHEN EVANGELICAL CHRISTIANITY FREQUENTLY GOES AGAINST THE INTERESTS OF AFRICAN PEOPLE, IS IT TIME FOR US TO RE-MAKE CHRISTIANITY?

By David Tonghou Ngong

LESSONS FROM AFRICA'S PAST TO COPE WITH COVID-19

HOW MANAGING COVID-19 AND OTHER CRISES NECESSITATES AFRICA'S STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION, AND WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM THE EARLY POST-INDEPENDENCE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

By Omar Ghannam, Kareem Megahed, Tetteh Hormeku-Ajei

CONVERSATIONS ON CAMPUS

DR. TAKEO RIVERA || ENGLISH, AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

WHAT IS SOMETHING YOUR STUDENTS DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU?

I used to be a slam poet. I started in high school as a spoken word poet who performed for an Afrocentric music group, and then when I went to college, I had stretches when I performed slam poetry nearly every week for a slew of different activist causes. I actually credit that background as one of the reasons why I got into academia.

IS THERE ANYTHING ON CAMPUS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT/PROMOTE?

I'm the faculty advisor for the Asian Student Union, and I have to say that the students running the group are doing a really spectacular job developing anti-racist programming this year, confronting both anti-blackness and anti-Asian COVID xenophobia. They're a wonderful group of student leaders who are really interested in productive, coalitional work.

DR. MARGARITA SIMON GUILLORY || RELIGION, AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

WHAT IS SOMETHING THAT YOUR STUDENTS DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU?

Professionally, I am a religious studies scholar whose works focus on Africana religions in the US. However, poetry has always served as an instrumental bedrock in my life. The first book that I purchased as a kid with my own money was a collection of poems. Below is one of the first poems that I wrote, one inspired by one of my favorite poets, Georgia

Douglas Johnson. Since it is an early poem, y'all be nice because, in the words of Erykah Badu, "I'm sensitive about my sh*@" . See on page 5.

DR. SAIDA GRUNDY || SOCIOLOGY, AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

WHAT IS SOMETHING YOUR STUDENTS DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU?

I rocked a fade throughout high school. Like seriously, hair was a taper fade. I look nothing like my 16 yr old self.

WHAT HAVE BEEN SOME OF THE CHALLENGES OF ADJUSTING TO ONLINE LEARNING/SOCIALLY DISTANT CLASSROOMS?

Communication-- I kinda feel like a mom telling my students repeatedly that their socks are in the dryer

WITH EVERYTHING THAT IS GOING ON, FROM POLICE VIOLENCE TO COVID TO THE ELECTION, HAS IT CHANGED THE WAY YOU APPROACH YOUR CLASSES?

Students are eager to get an immediate context for these national issues, so we often discuss current happenings

The Body of Love

by Dr. Margarita Simon Guillory

Hands of love stretches forth, rescuing one from a raging sea.
Hands of love caress the broken heart and bring forth unity.
Hands of love are strong and will defend at all cost.

The voice of love speaks calmness into the turbulent storms of life.
The voice of love speaks words of encouragement to the
downtrodden.
The voice of love encourages one to climb to the highest heights.

Eyes of love see pain when no one else seems to care.
Eyes of love notices the brokenness.
Eyes of love watch with intensity, taking note of injustices.

Ears of love hear tears as they gently hit the pillow.
Ears of love listen when the world, even one's family, turns a deaf ear.
Ears of love are attuned to one's every desire.

Love reaches and touches.
Love speaks and encourages.
Love views and watches.
Love hears and listens.

Love lives...in spite of of it all. Love never fails.

THE BLACK SCHOLAR: THE INIMITABLE VAGINAL CREME DAVIS

Her blond hair perfectly flipped, a smile breaking across her warm and open face, Vaginal Davis takes the mic, satin blue nighty shimmying... Black and brown women, including Alice Bag of Sad Girl and The Bags, play backup to our Blatino (half Black, half Mexican), intersexed, queer drag superstar, churning out a low-fi frenzied garage punk beat. "CHINGA TU, CHINGA TU, CHINGA TU MADRE!" they collectively sing in urgent, joyful unison. Go fuck yourself. Literally, go fuck your mother.

- Kirin Wachter-Grene, *The Black Scholar*

