

Lifestyles

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THE REBEL YELL

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Students ask: What's in a name?

by Debra Bass

A few African-American students at UNLV differ with Shakespeare's famous analogy from the play *Romeo and Juliet*.

"I feel that in order for blacks to get themselves together we are going to have to get rid of a lot of the things that are forced upon us," said Omar Gardener, 25, a graduating senior majoring in business.

Gardener said his opinion may surprise some people who have mistakenly classified him as "whitewashed," meaning that he has lost his identity as a black male by assimilating himself into the culture of white America.

Despite this, Gardener claims to have strong views on the primary issues facing blacks in America, namely cul-

"Why should we carry on the legacy of slave owners? It's only been within the last 200 years that we have been stripped of our natural names."

— Omar Gardener, senior business major

tural identity.

"Look at the Japanese," he said. "They adopt a simple American first name, but their last names are still Nagasaki or Yamimoto which are signs of their cultural heritage...I have been doing research and I plan to change my name. I don't know why I have not done it already," Gardener stated.

Adejoke Adenle, 19, a sophomore architecture major from Nigeria, said,

"It is necessary, not because it is a fad, but because it will be a reflection of our culture. Some people change their name because it sounds poetic, but you should want to change because it is right for you. It is a first step in realizing where they are from."

"It's an important step in your life and you will always look back on that day and know that you've made the right decision. You have to be true to

yourself. It must come from inside, only then will you understand what Africa is about," added Ayo Adenle, 21, Adejoke's sister and a senior accounting major.

Both sisters agreed that the name change must come naturally with self-education.

"I think that you can go through your whole life and still not change your name," said Reese Thomas, a UNLV football player and sophomore in communication. "It is not necessary, it's good but not necessary. First, I have to find out who Reese Thomas is. I only scratch the surface if I only identify myself by that name. I am much deeper than that. Some people change their name to alter their identity, but I plan to fully know who I am before I make that

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Michael Jordan, James Dean and Marilyn Monroe rank up there with rank bands and alcohol advertisements as the most popular poster subjects in UNLV's residence halls.

Images of sex, power, pleasure decorate walls in residence halls

by Deri Ann DeHart

Sex, power and pleasure cover the walls of UNLV students who reside in the campus residence halls.

Each student decorates his or her room differently, and yet all student rooms look similar with the same alcohol, famous people, and objects on display.

In a male room, one can open a door and find the student's favorite athletic star, beer, motorcycle or supermodel pin-up. Likewise, alcohol, brand names, sexy men, sexual advertisements and super models are found on the walls of women's rooms.

Among the students the

most popular athletes were Michael Jordan, Bo Jackson and Barry Sanders.

"(Jordan) is my idol," said freshman Cary Parrot. "Anybody that good, that can stay that calm all the time and take a team who was nothing all the way to a champion team is a great basketball player. In my opinion, he is the greatest basketball player ever."

Computer engineering major Todd Lewis said, "The reason why I have Barry Sanders and Bo Jackson on my wall is because they are both awesome running backs. Their running style is a form of art."

Cindy Crawford, Claudia Schaffer and Marilyn Monroe

were the popular super models among both male and female students.

Lewis replied, "It is a guy's thing," when asked why he decorated his room with these women's posters.

"I love Marilyn," said Keri Danielson, a major in hotel administration. "Marilyn led an exotic life. I have her in my room because the mystery of Marilyn still intrigues me today."

Also among the most popular things in the student dorm rooms were Guess and Obsession advertisements. These advertisements portrayed women in seductive poses or an intertwined couple in a suggestive position.

Alcohol advertisements, bottles, cans and wrappers were also displayed in many of the student's rooms. At least one alcohol advertisement is hung on the wall in most of the dorm rooms. Students also displayed the alcohol by either lining, stacking, or putting bottles and cans in pyramid form.

"This is something to look forward to," said a 19 year-old freshman, referring to the collection of alcohol as almost a challenge.

