



The Aquinas

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University community celebrates "Diversity Week 2000"

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Last week The University celebrated "Diversity Week 2000" The University had a chance to be exposed to different cultures and beliefs from around the world. According to the pamphlet sent to The University community, "The 'Week of Diversity' seeks the 'fostering of care and respect for all members of the university community.'"

On May 1 there was a lecture held by Attorney Kimberly Borland in the Heritage Room of the Weinberg Memorial Library. Borland discussed the meaning of diversity, as well as various civil rights cases in which he was involved.

A comedian from NYC, Eliot Chang, performed in the Wolves' Den on May 2. At the beginning of the evening Chang gave a comedic performance. Following this there was time for an informal discussion; students posed questions to which he responded. He discussed the way in which Asian Americans have been represented throughout history, as well as the way they are presently portrayed in

the media.

On May 3 a gospel choir performed on the Freshman Patio followed by the movie, "Life is Beautiful."

There was a Town Meeting on Diversity held in Collegiate Hall on May 4. In attendance were representatives from United Colors, International Exchange students, and members of student government. This was a rare opportunity for students to interact with administrators on diversity issues and various hate crimes that have occurred around campus. James Houlihan, a junior International Business major from Dublin, Ireland, said, "I thought it was a great evening for faculty and staff to get together and discuss ideas for next year."

He continued, "The panel of students was very diverse, which was great to see."

To conclude the week's activities, the second annual "Day of Diversity" was

held on Friday. The Royal Way was transformed into a gathering of students enjoying music, dances and food from several different cultures. Kelly Hawkinson, a

sophomore history major from Lake Mary, Fla., said, "I thought it was great to see people join together to promote diver-

sity on campus." The future appears bright for diversity on this campus. Howard Thomas, a senior from Scranton, said "I was pleased to see



Aquinas Photo / TOMÁS KEYS

On Thursday, "No Discipline," a calypso band, played a repertoire of music for The University community on the Royal Way as part of the "Diversity Week 2000" festivities.

sophomore history major from Lake Mary, Fla., said, "I thought it was great to see people join together to promote diver-

how many members of The University community participated in this event. I thought it was a great success."

Saperstein featured as speaker for Gelb Lecture

By CARRIE JOHNSTON
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Last night, The University's Weinberg Judaic Studies Institute sponsored the eighteenth annual Morris Gelb Memorial Lecture.

Rabbi David Saperstein presented a lecture titled "Jewish Concerns in the Upcoming Election."

Saperstein addressed an audience of approximately one-hundred at the Houlihan-McLean Center.

University Provost, Richard Passon offered a greeting for the event.

Passon remarked that The University is grateful for the opportunity to welcome a distin-

guished scholar and speaker, such as Saperstein.

During the lecture, Saperstein focused on several issues concerning American Jewish citizens and the upcoming presidential election.

Saperstein discussed what he called the "Jewish tradition in American politics."

Saperstein incorporated Jewish doctrine in his speech, reminding the audience that "we are all fundamentally brothers and sisters."

Furthermore, Saperstein declared that "the great Jewish sin is to sit on the sidelines and do nothing."

By declaring this, Saperstein suggested an obligation among Jewish citizens, considering them brothers and sisters, to vote in elections and demand voting

in the Jewish community.

Saperstein is the Director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism.

According to the pamphlet provided at the lecture, Saperstein is heralded by the Washington Post as the "quintessential religious lobbyist on Capitol Hill."

He works with Congress as a spokesperson for the Reform Jewish Movement.

Saperstein has written for several national journals and newspapers, including The New York Times and the Washington Post.

Additionally, he has authored several books, including his latest titled *Jewish Dimensions of Social Justice: Tough Moral Choices of Our Time*.

Rabbi Saperstein serves as an

attorney and teaches several courses at Georgetown University Law School.

Saperstein has served as Director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism for 25 years.

Also, Saperstein has directed various religious groups and coalitions including the NAACP and People For the American Way.

The annual Gelb Lecture was established by The University with the help of local Jewish citizens.

In previous years, Gelb's daughter attended the lectures and offered comments on Judaism and the Gelb Memorial Lecture, as well as her father's work.

However, Gelb was detained and could not attend the lecture.

In 1979, the lecture was established, as well as The University's program of Judaic Studies.

Each year, the Judaic Studies endowment provides the funding for lectures and informational events.

These events are implemented to promote an understanding and appreciation for Judaism within The University community.

In fact, The Weinberg Judaic Studies Institute has recently received a grant from the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation.

This contribution will help the Institute continue in its efforts to foster the development of respect for Judaism and Judaic history in The University community.