

THE TRUE IDENTITY UNVEILED

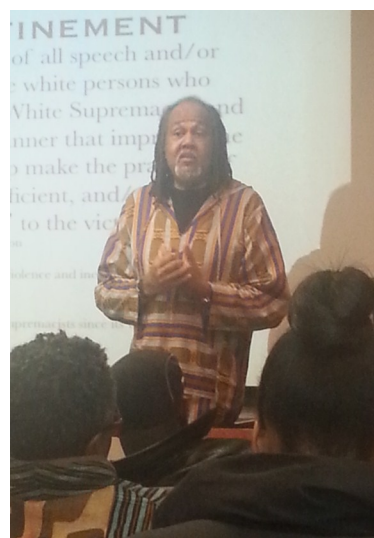
BY MIRCHAYE SAHLU

Washington, DC – On Tuesday, February 18, 2014, the Journalism Club of the University of the District of Columbia, hosted an event at the Van Ness campus as a way to celebrate Black History Month.

The theme of the event focused on emphasizing the importance of images and

his views on how people of African descent look at themselves and define their identity.

caricatures of the African people in



the western world as well as in the media. This event featured important and influential figures, such as Morgan State's own Dr. Ray Winbush and radio icon Askia Muhammad. Renowned historian and Professor of Urban Studies, Dr. Ray Winbush, was the guest of honor for the night. He shared with the audi-

The Opening speech was given by Joe Elam, UDC Journalism Club Advisor, who gave the audi-

ence a few facts about the history of the Journalism Club and its mission. He then gave the stand

into club President, Madeleine LaCore, who gave a deeper sight on black history, the event and what it contained. Her welcoming speech was followed with a brief poem about identi-

fying oneself, being proud and being able to tell one's story to the world. Askia Muhammad, News Director from WPFW 89.3, gave a detailed introduction of the speaker followed

with an advice to college students. He encouraged all college students to make their mistakes while they're in college, so that by the time they go to face the real world they will not fall behind.

In this forum, Dr. Winbush mainly addressed the negative depiction of people of African origin in the media and the Western World in general.

He gave different examples supported by power point slides and videos. "People are constrained by the so-called system and black people just

sell out. That shouldn't be the case, we have to protect our images in the media," said Dr. Winbush.

Dr. Winbush's presentation was viewed differently by everyone; some appreciated his point of view and

opinion, while others thought differently. "I thought it was a very informative presentation and I

agree with what he said. I thought to myself no wonder why people feel powerless or don't recognize how they

have been robbed of their power and identity” Charis Humphrey, Senior Journalism student at UDC.

“Overall, the event was interesting. However, Dr. Winbush’s perspective is different from mine. I did not

agree with some of the things he said. For instance, what he said about Lebron’s cover photo on the magazine, because I believe that Lebron did what he did for the sake of doing it, he didn’t mean anything by it. He did not look at

whether it was racist or not.” Moussa Traore, a Sophomore Mass Media student at UDC.



All in all, the event was eventful. After the powerful presentation and speech Dr. Winbush gave, there was an award ceremony, where he was awarded

by Ceanna Morris, former UDC graduate and club president, for his dedication to African History. Everyone in the audience didn’t

leave empty handed; they each got to go with President Obama’s colorful poster.