The ‘cyber resurrection’ of Malcolm X

By Tobin J. Klinger

A new online lecture series discussing the life and legacy of Malcolm X will feature the expert voices of Betty Shabazz, Alex Haley, John Henrik Clarke and Eric Lincoln.

One of the last times the four gathered was for a 1990 conference, which focused on the controversial civil rights leader. They have since died, but their words live on — online, thanks to the project’s organizer, Dr. Abdul Alkalimat. The UT professor of Africana studies has spent some time developing what many consider to be the world’s most comprehensive Malcolm X Internet research site.

Now this resource is being expanded to include an interactive lecture series based on that 1990 conference.

“This becomes a learning environment which reflects the real world,” Alkalimat said.

The site at www.brothermalcolm.net is now available to users internationally, who can listen to the 1990 conference’s lectures and participate in ongoing discussions about the topics. Alkalimat’s students will be utilizing the site in class for the remainder of this semester, with a distance learning reports were made when Parks Tower was burglarized March 2000. The perpetrators were caught and convicted, said Police Chief John Dauer. The event led to changes in the way Parks Tower is policed.

The number of sex offense reports also show an increase, from one in 1999 to five in 2000.

Meanwhile, an increase in the number of reported thefts on the Bancroft campus, from 234 to 362, comes from classifying reports of missing parking decals as “thefts,” a new procedure that was started last year. However, thefts on Scott Park campus dropped from 37 in 1999 to 30 in 2000.

“While it is important to disclose these statistics, the context in which the incidents occurred is also important to note,” Dauer said. “I believe with continued dedication to The University of Toledo Police Department’s mission of insuring a safe, secure and pleasant atmosphere, we can help create a campus community we can all be proud of.”

The University of Toledo Police Department provides 24-hour patrols to its campuses and employs 28 full-time police officers commissioned by the state of Ohio with full law enforcement authority and responsibilities identical to local police or sheriff:
Education dean search under way

The search for a dean of the College of Education is on. The position will be advertised nationally in the Chronicle of Higher Education on Feb. 16. Ads also will run in Black Issues of Higher Education and the Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education Magazine by the end of the month.

There are nine members on the search committee. They are College of Education faculty members Dr. David Bergin, Dr. Christine Fox, Dr. Renee Martin, Dr. William McInerney and Dr. Anathula Natsoulas; education staff member Lori Helvey; education student Melissa Hall; Arts and Sciences Associate Dean Dr. Marietta Morrissey; and community member Richard Jackson of the Toledo Public Schools. Bergin and McInerney are co-chairmen.

The committee is working with the Stratford Group, a national search firm with offices in Maumee and Cleveland. The Stratford Group will review all applications and forward résumés of potential candidates to the search committee for further review. The preferred deadline to receive application materials is March 1.

On March 10, the committee will begin to review applications. However, résumés will be accepted until the

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course planned for fall semester.

"[The first] goal is to further the analysis and exposure to Malcolm X," Alkalimat said. "But the 'cyber goal' is to fashion and model for 'cyber resurrection.'" He said he hopes to "fashion this site so people can say 'Malcolm X is not dead.' Resurrection doesn't mean atoms to atoms. The cyber-Malcolm has a new embodiment in bytes. Atoms become bytes."

The site aims to not only renew discussion about Malcolm X, it also is a means to allow many lost voices to be heard again.

Alkalimat said, "There is an old saying 'Every shut eye ain't asleep, and every goodbye ain't gone.' That can mean a lot of things. But here it means by various forms of electronic technology even the deceased can still speak to us."

The Africana studies expert has high hopes for the future of his resource. He believes it ultimately could lead to a 'virtual Malcolm X,' with those interested in tapping into the man's knowledge could virtually interact with the slain civil rights leader.

"We are in the sandbox here," Alkalimat said of today's technology. "This is kindergarten."

The project is a collaborative effort between UT faculty, Africana studies and engineering students, as well as community members.

FY 2001 General Fee

The General Fee is required of all students registered at the University and is used for student activities and services not covered by the Instructional Fee.

General Fee
Rate per hour = $35.53
Academic Year for a full time student = $852.72

FY01 General Fee Projected Revenue $13,857,277

General Fee Recipients*
FY 01 Approved General Fee*
Cheerleaders $46,322
Child Care Facility $268,004
Escort Services $49,203
Glass Bowl $281,924
Intercollegiate Athletics $4,966,058
Larimer Team Facility $184,389
Marching Band $125,269
MGO — Nursing PT Program $82,428
Parking and Transportation $451,494
Silicon Solutions $52,572
Student Activities $968,607
Student Medical Center $1,187,471
Student Recreation Center $3,041,019
Student Union $2,409,624
Study Abroad $57,900
Allocated $14,171,254
Balance ($313,977)
Transfer from University Bookstores $313,977

*SOURCE: The University of Toledo Budget FY 2001