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THE LIBRARTE THE NUBIAN MESSAGE

The Afrikan-American Voice of North Carolina State University

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CILLED

Evers' killer gets convicted

"Yea!"



Justice

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Black History Month must resist the temptations of commercializationpage 6

By Tony Williamson Editor-in-Chief

"Guilty as charged," said the jury foreman.

"Life in prison," said the judge. These were the words heard last Saturday by Byron De La Beckwith

after being convicted for the June 12, 1963 murder of civil rights activist Medgar Evers in Jackson, Mississippi.

Beckwith had been tried twice for the murder in 1964, but all-white juries deadlocked both times -- even though Beckwith's fingerprints had been found on the murder weapon and witnesses testified that he had boasted of killing Evers.

Beckwith claimed the weapon was stolen and that he was miles away from the scene of the crime when it took place.

Several factors were involved in reopening the case for a third trial: -- The Jackson Clarion Ledger revealed, in 1989, evidence of jury tampering.

-Court records and evidence that were kept intact by Evers' widow and others.

--Recurring boasts by Beckwith, to people who would later become the prosecution's star witnesses, that he had killed Evers, who was an NAACP official

Former Alabama attorney general William Baxley called the conviction "another step in the right direction toward complete justice. People have gotten away with murder up until now, and their hands should be called on it."

Beckwith's lawyers argued that a retrial after so many years violated his right to a speedy trial. That claim is likely to be the central argument in Beckwith's appeal to the state Supreme Court.

Baxley says time should never run out on these cases: "Every murder case ought to be pursued forever," he said. In 1977, he reopened the 1963 case of a Birmingham church bombing in which four young Afrikan-American girls were killed, and got one Klansman convicted.

Beckwith's murder conviction carries a life sentence. He's eligible for parole in 10 years, or earlier since he spent 18 months in jail awaiting trial.

When the verdict was read,

Beckwith showed no emotion. Myrlie Evers, daughter Reena and Darrell shouted son Beckwith's wife, Thelma, wept uncontrollably and screamed "He's

not enilty!"

Obviously, the jury disagreed. After 15 days of testimony and seven hours of deliberation, jury foreman Elvage Fondren says jurors resolved their differences with prayer - and concluded "there was no doubt that he was guilty."

They seem to have accepted what Hinds County District Attorney called the case's central question: "Is it ever too late to do the right thing?"

"I don't think it's ever too late," said Dennis Dahmer. He was 12 on January 10, 1966, when Klansmen firebombed his family's home and killed his father.

Vernon Dahmer was involved in the struggle to register Afrikan-American voters; KKK Imperial Wizard Sam Bowers was tried twice for the murder, but both juries deadlocked.

Now, prosecutors may reopen the case, and Dennis Dahmer is hopeful: "Maybe this Evers case is an indication that the citizens of Mississippi are willing to deal with these cases the way it should have been done 25 or 30 years ago."

Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., who marched with Evers, believes "this trial and others like it tend to bring the dirt and filth of that period into the open light so that we can deal with it

"And then we can go on and build a truly interracial democracy in the South in the name of Medgar Evers, Martin Luther King and others.

The success of the Evers trial indeed opens the door for unresolved cases involving slavings of civil rights leaders and other Afrikan-Americans to be reopened.

IT is possible that the case of Emmitt Till, who was beaten and shot to death in 1955 at the age of 14 for whistling at a white woman, may be retried, J.W. Milam and Roy Bryant were tried for the murder and acquitted by an all-white jury.

Oneal Moore was shot to death in Louisiana in 1965. He and his partner, Creed Rogers, were the Washington Parish sheriff department's first Afrikan-American



Myrlie Evers, widow of Medgar Evers, celebrates the verdict announcement with daughter Renee Evers-Everett.





Evers was shot in the back with a deer rifle June 12, 1963

Byron De La Beckwith prepares to serve a life sentence in prison after being convicted for murdering Medgar Evers.

deputies. The case has been reopened by the FBI.

Michael Schwerner, James Chaney and Andrew Goodman, civil rights workers, were killed in 1964. Their deaths inspired the movie

Mississippi Burning. Eight Klansmen went to prison on federal conspiracy charges, but none served more than six years. The state never brought murder charges.

THE NUBIAN MESSAGE

Gun law gets new attention

By Christina Verleger News Editor

Everywhere people look today, there is a story about violence. A person cannot turn on a television or listen to a radio without finding out about some type of violent act that has taken place: Even in this small community of N.C. State, violence is prevalent

In the January 31st issue of the Residence Life Bulletin, there was a paragraph about the gun law that pertains to N.C. State's campus and on all of the other public and private educational institutions and property owned by the state.

According to the gun law's General Statute 14-269.2, it is prohibited to possess certain weapons on any public and private

educational property. If a person is found to have a gun, rifle, pistol, or other firearm, dynamite cartridge, bomb, grenade, mine or powerful explosive on N.C. State's campus or even any property owned, used or operated by N.C. State, they would be charged with a Class I felony under Chapter 58. If a person is charged with a Class I felony and found guilty, they could be sent to the state penitentiary.

If a person is found with a BB gun, air rifle, air pistol, bowie knife, dirk, dagger, slingshot, leaded cane, switchblade knife, blackjack, metallic knuckles, razor and razor blades (except solely for personal shaving), and any sharp-pointed or edged instrument except instructional supplies, unaltered nail files and clips and tools used solely for preparing food, instruction, and maintenance on any N.C. State property, they will be charged with a misdemeanor. A misdemeanor is punishable by a maximum two years imprisonment and a fine.

Even though this gun law has been in effect for over four years now, why is it now that it is being publicized so much? Steve Davis, North Hall Resident Director, said "The recent publicity is due in part because of the large amount of sanctions that were given out recently that were in violation of the gun law.

Housing and Residence Life along with the Residence Halls staff are making a concerted effort to make students aware of the gun law and the possible punishments involved with such an infraction of the law. Bulletin boards have been posted and fliers have been sent. Hopefully the number of sanctions on this issue will decrease.

READ THE NUBIAN MESSAGE IT S GOOD FOR YOU



Four Reasons for Using "K" in Afrika

- · Most vernacular or traditional languages on the continent spell Afrika with a K; therefore the use of K is germane to us.
- · Europeans, particularly the Portuguese and British, polluted our languages by substituting C whenever they saw K or heard the K soundas in Kongo and Congo, Akkra and Accra, Konakri and Conakry-and by substituting Q wherever they saw KW. No European language outside of Dutch and German have the hard C sound. Thus we see the Dutch in Azania calling and spelling themselves Afrikaaners. We are not certain of the origin of the name Afrika, but we are sure the name spelled with the C came into use when Afrikans were dispersed over the world. Therefore the K symbolizes our coming back together again.
- . The K symbolizes us to a kind of Lingua Afrikana, coming into use along with such words and phrases as Habari Gani, Osagyfo, Uhuru, Asante, together constituting one political language, although coming from more than one Afrikan language.
- As long as Afrikan languages are translated (written) into English, etc., the European alphabet will be used. This is the problem. The letter K as with the letter C, is part of that alphabet, and at some point must be totally discontinued and the original name of Afrika be used. The fact that Boers (peasants) in Azania also use the K, as in Afrikaan (to represent the hard C sound) demonstrates one of the confinements of the alphabet.

Source: From Plan to Planet by Haki R. Madhubuti, February 1992. Reprinted with the author's permission.

Who's Who

NPHC members promote networking

By Rene Scott Who's Who Editor

Once again, unity strikes a familiar chord among one of N.C. State's prominent organizations.

When speaking of any aspect of the Afrikan-American community, the word "network" often comes into play. In the essence of this term, National Pan-Hellenic Council, Incorporated, the governing body among Afrikan-American Greek organizations at this university and nationwide, displays its role of networking in the forefront of leadership at N.C. State.

Established in May 1930 at Howard University, National Pan-Hellenic Council solidified its philosophies and activities. The charter members were: Kappa Alpha Psi and Omega Psi Phi Fraternities: Alpha Kappa Alpha, Delta Sigma Theta and Zeta Phi Beta Sororities. The other organizations later to join in 1931 were Alpha Phi Alpha and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternities and in 1937 Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, which completed this umbrella group. Also in 1937, the organization was incorporated under Illinois State laws and was further to be known as The National Pan-Hellenic Council, Incorporated. Over a period of 16 years (1906-1922), sparked during the blatant time of denial and exclusion of the Afrikan-American, the organization was formed and groomed for a future of involvement and development.

A non-profit, private service organization, National Pan-Hellenic Council maintains its efficiency with a theme of "Unanimity of Thought and Action."

With promotion of interaction through forums, meetings and various means of informational exchange, NPHC recognizes that all eight organizations have mutual interests. With this continual flow of exchange, NPHC can maintain and expand its stability and networking capabilities.

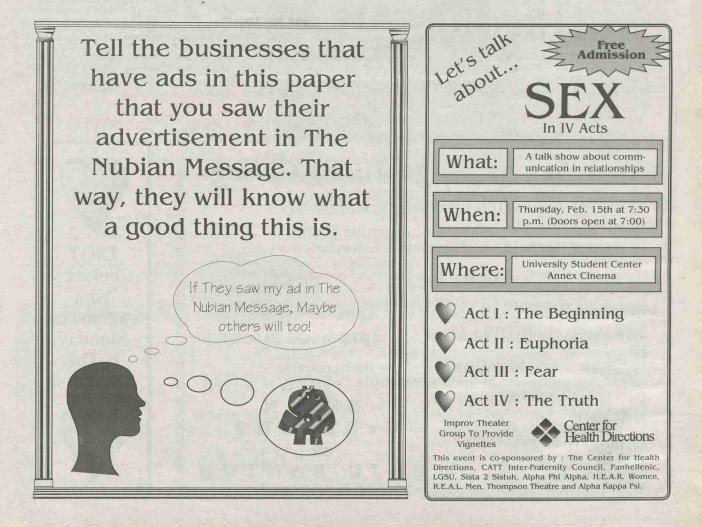
On June 30, 1988 when N.C. State formed a chapter of NPHC. Since 1988, NPHC has continued to grow on the campus and fulfill the needs of the Afrikan-American Greek organizations. Co-Interim Assistant Coordinator of Afrikan-American

Student Affairs, Lathan Turner, whose responsibilities include being advisor of NPHC feels that the N.C. State chapter of the organization "Goes above and beyond efforts similar to organizations nationwide...they're very centralized."

Turner feels that the organization is heading for greater things, especially under its current leadership. However, with the idea of there always being room for improvement, Turner would like to see the organization "...become more visible as a joint organization and be more involved under one umbrella."

Much like many organizations, NPHC needs resources to continue its work. Resources are gained from fund-raisers or other internal events. Promotion of organizations like NPHC is necessary for representation of every aspect of the Afrikan-American community.

NPHC is looking forward to its upcoming involvement in Habitat for Humanity. Involvement in programs such as these continue to show its prevalence on campus and a national scale.



Sports

Sports legends paved the way for today's superstars

By Risha Hamlin Sports Editor

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Wilma Rudolph, Althea Gibson, Joe Louis, Jesse Owens, Arthur Ashe, Jim Brown and Jackie Robinson. Do any of these names ring a bell? These are the names of several great Afrikan-American legends of sports. Their talents range from basketball, track, boxing, tennis, football and baseball. As our history tells us, these few individuals are among many of the legends of sports within our community, past and present.

For example, in the book Negro Firsts in Sports written by A.S. "Doc" Young, several pages are dedicated to Afrikan-Americans who have won titles such as the "First (African-American) basketball All-American," Don Barksdale, who was a center at UCLA in 1947.

Other "firsts" include Sandy Hayes, who was the "first (African-American) girl to appear in the Roy Rogers rodeo"; Ann Gregory, the "first to play in an integrated women's amateur golf championship"; Kirk Ramsey, "the first to roll a perfect game (300) in American Bowling Congress competition," Lorraine Williams, the "first to win a national tennis title"; and Jocko Maxwell, "the first radio sportscaster."

Nevertheless, it is also important to realize the many organizations that helped support the growing number of Afrikan-Americans participating in these various sports. One in particular, the first major (Afrikan-American) bowling association was the National Bowling Association, founded in Detroit on August 20, 1939. In addition, the three most notable African-American sports clubs, 100 Per Cent Wrong Club of Atlanta , the Pigskin Club of Washington, Inc. and the 100 Per Cent Wrong Club of Southern California, gave awards on both a national and local basis to outstanding sports figures and fans.

Now that you have a feel of the legends that existed on the professional level, let us now focus on

those individuals who participated in college sports. First, it is important to realize that Afrikan-Americans weren't even allowed in colleges until desegregation went into effect. And even after integration of colleges and universities it was very hard for Afrikan-Americans to participate in these sports.

This is especially true of what was then called "all-Negro" colleges, because professors were stressing the importance of education versus that of sports. In particular, referring to Booker T. Washington and his students at Tuskegee Institute, "sports were only brought into the picture as a means for creating a well-rounded individual, after the number of male students continued to grow."

In that time, Afrikan-American coaches played a vital role in the success of their student athletes. Such names as Ralph Boston, and Willie Galimore are among many notable Afrikan-American coaches. Other outstanding coaches include Dr. R.W.E. Jones of Grambling College, Fred T. (Pop) Long of Wiley College and Eddie Hurt of Morgan College. All of these individuals have made an amazing contribution to their particular fields of interest.

Dr. R.W.E. Jones of Grambling College was President of that school as well as its baseball coach. During his coaching career, he won 328 of 380 games, and won the Midwest Conference titles in 1954-1956. He also won the Southwestern Conference titles in 1961 and 1962.

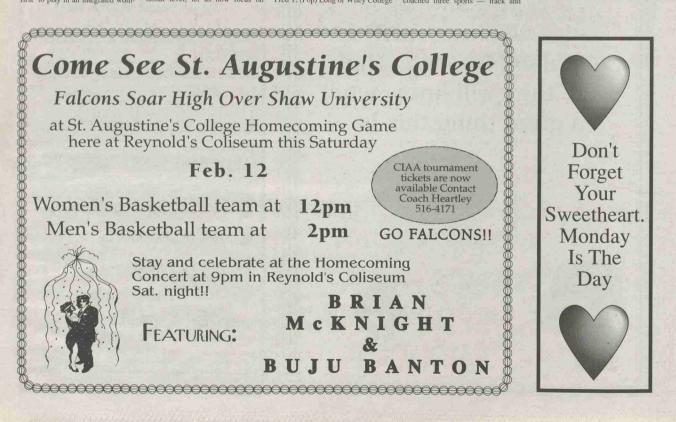
Not only did "President-Coach" Jones have a great reputation, he also helped several of his student athletes sign major league bonus contracts. One student in particular, Tommie Agee, a freshman, received between \$60,000 and \$90,000 from the Cleveland Indians.

Fred T. (Pop) Long coached for 41 years at four Afrikan-American colleges and during that time, he won 12 Southwestern Athletic Conference championships and four national championship claimants.

Perhaps one of the best was Eddie Hurt of Morgan College, where he coached three sports — track and field, basketball and football. Overall, Coach Hurt's teams won 14 CIAA titles in football, 4 championship basketball titles, 10 Penn Relay titles, 6 National AAU milerelay events, 12 National AAU individual titles and 9 NCAA individual titles in track and field.

As many of our ancestors strived for excellence, many of them possessed talents that could not be kept under the covers. As they took the world by storm with their swiftness, speed, strength, endurance, creativity, cunning and ability, they might not have received the recognition that they deserved. However, as time passed on and as world records continued to be broken, it became very difficult for others not to notice them.

We at the Nubian Message will do our part to make sure that these deserving achievers get noticed by continuing this column in the next few issues, for even as the records fall, their legends will keep on rising to the top.



Reflections

New student group forms to celebrate Carribean heritage

By Nicole White Reflections Editor

The Caribbean Student Association is a newly formed club on campus which is open to all students interested in the Caribbean. The association began last semester with just a few students from the Caribbean meeting informally, then they decided to become a university supported organization, with Dr. Clifford Griffin Associate Professor of Political Science, serving as their faculty advisor.

They hold their meetings twice a month on Fridays, and the associations next meeting will be held Feb. 11, in the television lounge in Bowen Hall.

Gail Gibson, the Resident Director for Bowen Hall, stated "When many people think of the Caribbean they just think of Jamaica. There are plenty of other islands out there. Our members are from various places such as Haiti, Trinidad, Barbados, and the British and American Virgin Islands. If someone is interested in Caribbean culture or heritage, then they are more than welcomed to attend."

On Feb. 4th, the CSA held a small gathering to honor one of the greatest musicians of all time, Bob Marley. The members of the CSA sought not to only celebrate the life of Bob Marley, but to help others gain a better understanding of reggae music itself.

It was Marley who made reggae music mainstream in the United States and England. D'Waine Edwards, President of CSA, said " A lot of people can relate to reggae, especially the format of Bob Marley. His music reflects the lives of everyday people. He sings of love, poverty, and oppression. Marley's music is very philosophical and soothing to the mind."

Bob Marley, the king of reggae music, was probably the most important figure to expose and promote reggae music on the international market. This was a tremendous feat, seeing that for most of his career, Bob hardly heard his music on Jamaican radio. Today, reggae has infiltrated the masses to reach the four corners of the world.

It has been said that music is the language of love that breaks down and transcends barriers of all sorts. The rock-steady grooves that Bob Marley was very instrumental in evolving is a testimony to such statements.

Not only did Bob produce catchy rhythms, but more importantly, his melodious lyrics personified his life's struggles and that of all oppressed black people throughout the Caribbean and other parts of the Diaspora. This is probably why he became such a world figure. All the peoples of the world who have been oppressed or who are being oppressed can relate to this music and its personification of a poor man's heartbeat.

One of the highlights of Bob's representation of the oppressed came when he was given the opportunity to write and perform the national anthem at the official Independence Day ceremonies of Zimbabwe, formerly known as Rhodesia, a British colony in Afrika.

All throughout his life, Marley longed to pay homage to his motherland, Africa. When he got the chance, it ached his heart to see that the same conditions of slums, hungry faces and strong-armed governments, he'd left behind in Jamaica



The Carribean Student Association paid tribute to life and works of Bob Marley during a program on February 4th.

existed in this new land. His observations were immortalized in the Zimbabwe national anthem that reminded oppressors that his people will eventually take a revolutionary stance if they are continually treated like scum of the earth: To divide and rule Could only tear us apart In every man chest There beats a heart So soon we'll find out Who is the real revolutionaries And I don't want my people To be tricked by mercenaries Natty dread it in a Zimbabwe Africans a liberate Zimbabwe

Throughout his career, Marley was a champion for the cause of all downtrodden people. In many of his songs, he used Jamaican folklore to dramatize naked realities and pettiness that eroded his inner soul. Consequently, he became a civil rights activist because he agitated people's consciousness about various events that transpired in the affairs and politics of his country.

For someone who was as famous and world renowned as Bob Marley, he was a private person. Not too many people were close to his heart, and those who were, knew that he was a special person. Whatever he did in his lifetime will never have been in vain. He took himself to be as important as others see him yet we all know he had the ability to shake the world." And that is what he did.

Bob Marley died May 11, 1981, but he has been immortalized by his music. Rastas, followers of the Rastafarianism religion of which Bob was a part of, have said on numerous occasions that "Rastaman can't die." This is surely true of Robert Nester Marley, who left his immortal identity with the masses of the world.

As Bob Marley's music played in the background, people sauntered in and out. Although there was a small turnout the members of CSA seemed pleased. They hoped to present other functions as well. They are planning a social in the Culture Center Feb. 18,1994. Reggae music as well as Calypso will be played. A butterfly contest is scheduled to take place. The members of CSA hopes to see everyone out there.



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Opinions

Flavor of the Black History Month

The usual joke about black history month is that it is the shortest month of the year (and why is that?). Size aside, there are other, quieter criticisms of the period: that it compartmentalizes, if not ghettoizes, Afrikan-American issues; that it salves the conscience of the media and the educational system, getting them to do their duty for 28 (or 29) days, after which they return to business as usual; that ultimately it pacifies the urge toward social action with an elaborate package that seems to wrap it all up. Case made, case closed-until same time next year.

This is not the fault of Black History month. As a "monthed" movement, it is more informative, more useful, more moving than most.

READ

The problem is the form: subletting days, weeks, months, years to subjugated groups or social and political causes.

Call it the "Hallmark School of Action," built from hundreds of timeshares: Year of The Woman, Older Americans Month, World AIDS Day, the Great American Smokcoutthese within the Decade of the Brain. (Or was it the child?).

Generically called "commemoratives," these dates are not holidays exactly; their purposes are education and publicity. The more civic-minded are usually created by presidential proclamation or congressional or state legislation. But both causes and diseases are grossly outnumbered by commemorations of products and trendlets, mostly promoted by corporations — Sandwich Day by Ziploc Bags, or industry groups — National Bed Check Month (to remind the public to check their mattresses for wear and tear) by the Better Sleep Council.

Fed up with such calendarism, someone finally took the liberty of declaring January 16th National Nothing Day — which, unfortunately, Congress already had declared Religious Freedom Day and Good Teen Day.

Today's commemoratives descend from ancient customs, such as festivals that celebrated the harvest, which led towns to celebrating the trading of their produce, and eventually to major corporations celebratng their products with a month.

But in the transition from grassroot to mass-media route, the few celebrations with any political edge have become a bit more commercially correct. It is as if the very crown of officialdom makes February the month to remember nice Afrikan-American people, or March the month for not completely shrill women, or November the time for cooperative Native Americans.

Not that these serious months are on par with, say, Pickled Pepper Month, but rationing caused by the calendar does make them all more product-like and, given their abundance, devalued.

Many groups get the marketing treatment only because they have

been neglected in the first place; a month or a week is doled out as consolation for not being a daily priority.

Certainly that's how major corporations respond: Kodak has said about 15 percent of its advertising is targeted to Afrikan-American runs in February, when companies like Miller Brewing, Delta Airlines and Burger King also line up their BHM ads.

Agreeing to tend their chunk of the year, each marginalized group buys into the Century of the Consumer and February becomes a neighborhood of time the corporate Amerikkka feels safe to walk throueh.

THE NUBIAN MESSAGE Spring 1994 Publication Schedule Remaining Dates February:

24th <u>March:</u> 10th and 24th <u>April:</u> 14th and 28th <u>Summer Dates:</u> To Be Announced

Letters to the Editor

"The Nubian Message" welcomes Letters to the Editor. However, some basic guidelines must be followed...

...Letters must be limited to 300 words

...Letters must be signed by the writer, including his/her major (if a student)

...Letters should address campus issues, breaking news, or public-interest topics

"The Nubian Message" will consider fairly all "Letters to the Editor" submissions, but does not guarantee publication of any

All letters are subject to editing and become property of "The Nubian Message"

Letters should be brought to Room 372 of the African-American Cultural Center or mailed to: The Nubian Message Letters to the Editor Box 7318, NCSU Raleigh, NC 27695-7318

(An easy way to remember is we come out on the 2nd & 4th Thursday of each month.)

THE NUBIAN MESSAGE

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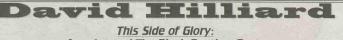
Coming Up

Black History Month Calendar

February, 1994 NCSU African-American Cultural Center

- 10 Gallery Lecture, James Gadson; AACC; AACC Gallery, 8:00PM Celebration of the Black Family; Alpha Kappa Alpha; AACC Multipurpose Room, 6:00PM
- 11 AACC Black History Month Lecture, David Hilliard; AACC/Society for African-American Culture; AACC Multipurpose Room, 3:00PM. True Essence Contest; New Horizons Choir; Stewart Theatre, 8:00PM
- 12 Celebrating Our Heritage: An Afrocentric Experience; Nubian Message; AACC Multipurpose Room, 4PM
- 15 Quiz Bowl; SAAPAMS; AACC Multipurpose Room, 6:00PM\
- 16 African-American Male/Female Relationships, Dr. June Murray; Zeta Phi Beta; AACC Room 356, 7:00PM
- 17 Gallery Lecture, David Johnson; AACC; AACC Gallery, 8:00PM
- 20 Gallery Lecture, Charles Joyner; AACC; AACC Gallery, 2:00PM Exhibit Reception (Special Guest - Neena FreeIon); AACC; AACC Gallery, 3:00PM
- 21 Health Forum; Students for Health Awareness; AACC Mulitpurpose Room,7:30PM
- 23 Family Feud; Delta Sigma Theta; AACC Multipurpose Room, 6:30PM Ebony Man Contest; Black Repertory Theatre, Stewart Theatre, 8:00PM
- 28 Traditional Education in Africa, Kongite Wessene; African-American Heritage Society; AACC Room 356, 7:00PM

Calendar lists dates, events, major speakers, sponsors, location and time of events. For additional information, call 515-5210. For a listing of Annex Cinema films during February, call 515-5146.



America and The Black Panther Party

As the former chief of staff of the Black Panther Party, David Hilliard was actively involved in every major activity of the best recognized and feared Afrikan-American organization of the 60s and 70s.

David Hilliard, a vibrant voice from our recent history speaks eloquently to the racial divisions of America today.

> February 11, 1994 3:00PM African-American Cultural Center North Carolina State University

For more information, please call 515-5210

Sallery Exhibit

THE NUBIAN MESSAGE

UNTITLED, a collage by North Carolina State University's Chandra Cox, is among the multimedia works of teaching artists from universities in the Triangle area on exhibit until April 8th at the NCSU African-American Cultural Center Gallery. "Explore, Envision, Enrich: African-American Faculty Exhibition 1994" is on display in the gallery free of charge to the public weekdays from 11AM to 4PM. A limited number of serigraphs have been made from "Untilled" to be sold at \$250 for membership in the AACC's Community Gallery Committee. For more information, please call 515-5210.

PAMS Quiz Boul

The Society of African-Americans in Physical and Mathematical Sciences will have a quiz bowl on Tuesday, February 15th, at 7:30PM in the Multipurpose Room of the African-American Cultural Center. For more information please contact Sonya Wright at 512-5074.

Musical Quiz Bowl

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. will be sponsoring its 1st Annual Musical Quiz Bowl on February 17th, at 7:30PM in the AACC Multipurpose Room. The competition will be based on a knowledge of Afrikan-American music. Fratemities, sororities, Afrikan-American campus organizations, and everyone else is invited to attend. For more information, call Ursula Ware 829-1992, Reanee Benton 512-4070 or Andrea Pittman 250-9521.

Wanted: Models Purpose: NCSU African American Modeling Group

> •Both males and females needed •Will gain poise and confidence •Auditions to be held soon

Call 512-4422 for more information.

THE NUBIAN MESSAGE

N.C. State's Afrikan-American Newspaper Editor-in-Chief Tony Williamson Office Hours: 2-4 p.m., Fridays

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Please call or write to let us know of any errors we need to correct, as we are committed to accuracy in our reporting.

Education = Money . . . Study . . . Stay In School

for The Ubian

As we celebrate Afrikan-American History Month, The Nubian Message would like to remind everyone that the celebration of our achievements should last all year long, as it is impossible to recognize all the contribution our people have made to civilization in just one month (especially the shortest month of the year). As we reflect upon our history, we also should keep in mind that while it is certainly important to hail our accomplishments in America, we should not forget the foundations our ancestors laid in Afrika -- as our history does not begin with slavery. While we praise the works of Garret Morgan, George Washington Carver, Benjamin Banneker, Ida B. Wells Barnette, Rosa Parks, Booker T. Washington, W.E.B. DuBois, Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, Marcus Garvey and other Afrikan-American pioneers, we should-at the same time-be aware of and rejoice in the accomplishments of Imhotep, Hannibal, Queen Hatshepsut, Mansa Musa, the Dogon, Ibn Khaldoun and our other legendary Afrikan acheivers. Most importantly, we must recognize and accept the responsibility of passing on our true history to our families, our communities, our youth and-ultimately-to the world. An Afrikan proverb says "Until the lion has his own historian, the tale of the hunt will always glorify the hunter." We must begin to tell our own history so that the truth about our accomplishments can be known and so that we, as a people, can liberate our minds anddevelop the faith in ourselves to move formard.

> Sincerely, Tony Williamson Editor-in-Chief