

**Anniversary** January 29, 1998 Edition 19

Knowledge

What's Goin' On?

SAAC

SAAC will holds it organiza-

tional meeting today at 7:30 p.m.

in Room 356 of the Afrikan Amer

ican Cultural Center. Topics will

Power

Unity

### The Afrikan American Voice of North Carolina State University

# **Diversity Initiative Gains Momentum**

**Staff Report** The Nubian Message

The N.C. State Diversity Initiative, launched by Chancellor Larry K. Monteith last fall, is taking form and substance in a comprehensive action plan

The Administrative Council recently endorsed the NCSU Diversity Plan that calls for university wide participation. Moreover, the university wide effort has prompted a letter from the White House inviting student participation in the president's race initiative.

Monteith said the university's commitment to diversity should be apparent in all its operations. NC-SU, he said, is compelled to create educational opportunities for all the citizens of the state and to establish an environment allowing for the success of every member of the campus community.

"If we are to continue to be regarded as the people's university, then we must embrace the reality of the changing demographics of our state and of our nation," Monteith said. "Evidence indicates that diversity enhances the quality of the educational experience, and therefore, should be an integral part of our institutional culture. The plan, forged by the Diversi-

ty Steering Committee of administrators, faculty, staff and students, establishes five project teams:

· Access and Retention (recruit retain underrepresented and groups);

· Institutional Climate (create an inclusive working and learning environment where differences are valued);

· Curriculum and Instruction (incorporate diversity into teaching, learning and research); · Programs and Activities (offer

a broad array of cultural and intellectual experiences); and

· Media Relations (create visibility of the diversity initiative internally and externally).

Currently, a campus climate assessment is being designed to help further define areas of concern and progress. Also, the committee will solicit the support of the Teaching Excellence Center to develop diversity awareness across the disciplines

Hank Fiumara, director of University Improvement Programs, is coordinating the NCSU Diversity Initiative. He said the diversity plan provides an excellent framework for action and invites campus participation. Each of the project teams will include administrators, faculty, staff and students and will consider an array of issues - race, ethnic, culture, gender, socioeconomic and physical disabilities associated with diversity. Members of the university community interested in participating on any of the teams should contact Fiumara at 513-1008

Fiumara said the NCSU's diversity initiative is part of a growing national awareness of the importance of an inclusive society. The campus effort has gained President Clinton's attention and resulted in

a letter from Clinton soliciting support for his "One America in the 21st Century" effort.

Students here have been asked to join the youth outreach endeavor to "lead your communities in their efforts to talk, listen, teach and act." The president writes: "For America to succeed and prosper, we must find ways to live and work together as one nation and bring out the best in all our people. Our country has much to learn from you.'

Success of the diversity initiative at NCSU, Fiumara said, will depend on individual and collec tive involvement. He urges NCSU citizens to explore the avenues for diversity available on the campus academic courses, cultural events, and lectures, among other things and the countless individual opportunities "to open a dialogue to appreciate the richness that comes from working with others who are different from you.

AACC Gallery to Feature International Sculptures

#### **Staff Report** The Nubian Message

A new exhibit at N.C. State's Afrikan American Cultural Center Gallery, "A Diaspora of Common-An Afrikan and Afrikan alties: American Sculpture Exhibition," highlights the intellectual and spiritual ties of five artists from two continents. The exhibition will run until Feb. 28, with a reception and gallery talk scheduled for Fe. 8 from 2 to 5 p.m.

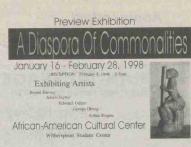
The exhibition, funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, includes the works of Afrikan American wood sculptors Alexis Joyner, Sultan Rogers and the late Bessie Harvey, and Afrikan wood sculptors Edward Oduro and George Obeng. The 28 works in the show are on loan from both private and public collections.

Gallery coordinator Walter Davis said, "This is a collection of a broad audience. The artists deal

with subject matters that transcend cultures and continents - human spirituality, and the importance and dignity of the individual.'

Oduro and Obeng depict figures and scenes from everyday life in their native Ghana, each carved from rich Afrikan woods. Women often are central themes of their work, indicating the importance and respect of women in their culture. "Mother Queen," a work by Obeng could portray a matriarch holding court in a small Afrikan village - or a North Carolina country church supper. "One look and you just know she is an important and wise person," Davis observed. Both artists have exhibited their work internationally.

The five pieces in the show by Alexis Joyner, a faculty member at Elizabeth City State University, were inspired by his 1997 summer study/teaching experience in Ghana, West Afrika. Joyner was among the 40 faculty and students

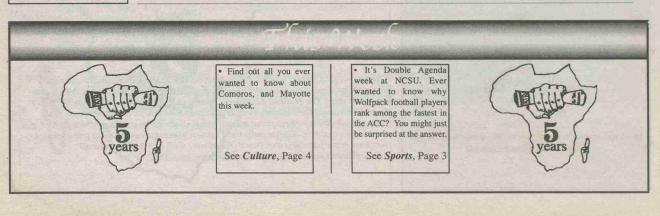


who were part of a long-term educational exchange program with Ghana, NCSU and sister UNC campuses, initiated in 1994. Joyner's work has been exhibited nationally. His "Waterboy" is in the permanent collection at the New York City Public Library's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

The exhibit also includes a ber of pieces by outsider, or self-taught, artists Harvey and Rogers. Davis hopes the audience will discern the similar themes and spiritual ties of these untrained artists and their professional counterparts.

"Georgia-born" Harvey created "dolls" from branches and roots, lacquering them, painting them black and brown or embellishing them with jewelry, shells, feathers or fabric. She believed her root

see Sculptures page 2



include Affirmative Action and Technician's Recent Diversity Se

ASAAC will holds it meeting this Friday at 3:30 in Room 375 of the Afrikan American Cultural Center. All those interested in the fight for Affirmative Action should attend.

ASAAC

### SOUL FOOD

**UAB** Films Committee presents the showing of "Soul Food" on Feb. 5 at 9 p.m., Feb. 6 at 7 p.m. and 11 p.m., Feb. 7 at 7, 9, and 11 p.m. The movie will be shown at the Witherspoon Student Center's Campus Cinema. Soul Food stars Vanessa L. Williams, Nia Long, Vivica A. Fox along with many others. Cost is \$1.50 for students and \$2.00 for staff, faculty and guests. For more information contact 512-9677.

#### CHUCK D

Chuck D will be speaking at the Witherspoon Student Center's Campus Cinema, Friday, February 17 at 7:00 p.m. Sponsors include the Society of Afrikan American Culture, UAB Lectures Committee, Entertainment Committee, Student Government Diversity Committees, First Year College, Scholars Program and Black Students Board.

Health Editor

News Editor

**Opinions** Editor

Cultural Editor

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#### Sculptures continued from page 1

sculptures contained the souls of Edenic Afrikans and that forms of the wood were a collaboration between nature and God. He died in 1994.

Seventy-six-year-old Rogers carves human figures based on people he has met in his travels. His early carvings, he says, were inspired by dreams of the animals he saw in his native Mississippi. His work is in the collections at Mississippi State Historical Museum and at the University of Mississippi's University Museums.

Davis will conduct a number of outreach programs and workshops with public schools and community organizations in the coming months. "This is a presentation of Afrikan culture and history - a humanities outreach meant to build pride and self esteem among our black community, to demonstrate the contributions of black artists to society and to generate understanding and awareness among the community at large," he said.

Davis says the exhibit is a preview of a larger, more ambitious diaspora exhibition series the gallery is seeking to fund. It will include 20 artists from two continents, with separate exhibits for sculptors, painters and folk artists - each with an educational outreach component.

# SCHOLARSHIP **DEADLINE OUICKLY** APPROACHING

\$30,000 in scholarships for students who plan to participate in summer, semester or year-long study abroad programs in 1998-99. The application deadline is February 23. Information is available on the Study abroad home page accessible through the NC State home page and applications are available in the Study Abroad Office, 2118 Pullen Hall. NOTE: Summer program application deadline is also February 23.

# Chancellor Search Forum Set for February 2

The Nubian Message

#### **Staff Report** The Nubian Message

The N.C. State community and the general public will have a second opportunity in February to address the university's Chancellor Search Committee

The public meeting will be Feb. 2 from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the McKimmon Center. The purpose of the meeting is to provide a forum for interested individuals to share their perspectives with members of the search committee. Those interested in speaking should contact John Kanipe, executive secretary of the Chancellor Search Committee, at 515-2200.

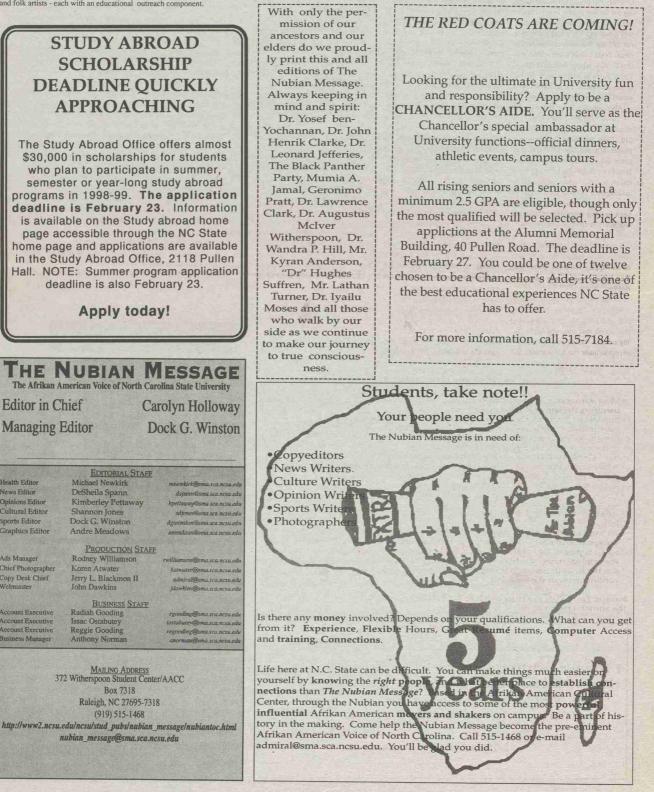
Speakers will be asked to limit their remarks to five minutes, and they must provide a written text that will be retained for future consideration by the committee. Others, who may not have the opportunity to speak, can send one-page letters or statements to: Chancellor Search

Committee, Box 10409, Raleigh, NC 27605

More than a dozen university and community leaders made comments during the first chancellor search forum in November. Their remarks are online at:

http://www2.ncsu.edu/ncsu/univ\_r elations/chansearch/forum.htm.

Chancellor Larry K. Monteith announced in September that he will retire when a replacement is found.





four Own Standard Living the Dream **By Arthur Peoples** 

Staff Writer

My first semester here at N.C. was great. I came out of the State gates full speed and ready to take on any challenge. On tests, I always shot for 100 or more. I was competing for the top grades in my classes, just like I did in high school. Life was great, and I felt great. Just like me, all my friends were doing the same. What I didn't know then was that I was taking remedial classes. These were classes that were similar, if not identical, to classes that I would have taken in high school.

About my third semester, I hit the veed-out" classes. Now I didn't get weeded out, but many of my friends did. They got those first few low grades, 80s and 70s. Now this may seem like ideal grades to some. However, these grades come as a shock to people who are used to making A's. Slowly they began to listen to everything that they had been hearing from upperclassmen. Gradually it sunk in and "weeded" them out. They were not weeded out in a sense that they dropped out of school, but in a sense that they started to happily settle for grades that they initially would have never set. tled for.

Other people on campus such as professors, Teaching Assistants, instructors and advisors have put out this notion that once you begin taking certain classes you "should not expect to make the A's you used to."

So we as the students say "okay" nal is average.

and begin to settle. This is the point Sadly, many are elated with just where we start to go wrong. We can passing. They do not put forth any never afford to settle, especially at effort when it comes to studying for tests. Some do not show up for tests. an institution such as NCSU. Our They fail tests and hope that the ancestors and elders did not compromise. They did not accept what was class had a low average so that the teacher will give a curve. Instead, defined as freedom for them. They define what freedom was and if we must be committed to doing our one's definition did not surpass absolute best. Always aim to ace all exams. Don't just settle for the avertheirs, they rejected it. Afrikan Americans must define our own acaage. Remember, there does not have demic excellence standard. to be a curve.

First and foremost, we must If you make the class average and the class average is a failing grade, understand this. We are attending an then you failed. Whether there is a not get those A's studying like high curve of not you failed, and since as schoolers. You have to be commitwe all know that there is someone ted. You have to study like you are a who makes and "A" on the test, you should aspire to make an A - it is not student at an institute of higher eduimpossible, but we cannot allow ourcation. You have to study with the selves to depend on other factors for realization that you are paying for this education, this opportunity that our success. many of our ancestors did not have.

You must succeed on your own. As a matter of fact, if Affirmative Action is cut in the UNC school systems, you will have to succeed on your own. With no help, you will have to do even better than academically excel, you will have to stand out amongst the white mainstream, and we know how difficult that can be.

It is time that we realized we are here to study. We must study harder. We are here to learn more than what we came in knowing. We are paying customers.

leek

### By Kimberly Pettaway **Opinions** Editor

Last year I had the opportunity to attend a leadership conference in Rust, Miss. with fellow students of this university. On our way back to Raleigh we stopped in Memphis, Tenn. Memphis provided more than a rest stop for the weary passengers on the van. While in Memphis, we visited the Lorraine Motel. This is the motel where Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated while standing on the balcony outside his room. The previous night he had delivered his last speech, "I've Been to the Mountain Top," at the Bishop Charles Mason Temple in the same city, on behalf of the city's largely Afrikan American body of sanitation workers. The workers were striving for increased wages and an end to the discriminatory behavior systematically practiced and sanctioned by their white supervisors

Many of us were speechless as we looked upward at a wreath that was placed at the spot where King lay wounded over thirty years ago. Immediately, my mind flashed back to the many television clippings and book photos that I have seen of King lying wounded on the balcony and Andrew Young, Jesse Jackson, and others who accompanied King pointing in the direction the shot came from. Different emotions flowed through us and some unbashfully wiped tears away. The feeling was and remains too profound for words.

We were actually approximately thirty feet away from the actual spot were a great man was assassinated. A man none of us ever had the chance to personally meet but we all felt we knew intimately. Visiting the Lorraine Motel helped to reaffirm the fact that we are not so far- removed from the Civil Rights Movement of the '50s and '60s. Only 29 years ago, a drum major for justice and equality was taken from this life. Often times we cannot relate to occurrences that happened before our entrance to this Earth and events of the past are mechanically and unemotionally handed down from generation to generation. This visit brought it all home.

The year N.C. State gave students a two day break - an extra day after the King holiday from classes. For many students a two day break from classes was reason enough to venture home or to some other destination. However, others anticipated attending and participating in marches or some other program in King's honor. Sadly, many were not able to see their plans come to pass because of weather conditions on Monday. We must know that we must actively commit ourselves to making changes and keeping warriors' hopes alive whether or not it is raining on the day that many remember them.

We must be dedicated to keeping King's memory alive and the memory and legacy of the many who relentlessly battled for the actualization of human rights of any systematically oppressed people. King is remembered for many things. Some may remember him for founding the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in Atlanta on Jan. 10,1957, to coordinate all civil rights activities. Some may remember him for receiving the Nobel Peace Prize on Dec. 10, 1964. Many remember King's famous "I Have a Dream," speech delivered in front of the Lincoln Memorial on August of 1963 at the March on Washington for Civil Rights

Regardless of how we remember King, as we partook in the celebrations surrounding the date that King's birthday, we must remember that King was more than a visionary. He had more than a dream. Dreams occur when one is asleep, unconscious. Although King had dreams, as we all do, he consciously devoted his life to changing a systematically racist society. We must also. I agree with David C. Wilson who said that: "It is critical that we take charge of our own destiny and stop waiting for some unknown mythical being to come along and wipe racism from the face of this earth.

King refused to give up and his life was taken away for this very rea He spoke out for what he knew to be injustices committed against Afrikan Americans. Perhaps, if he religiously practiced the silentness that many of us daily abide by he would physically be here today. If he jumped on the "bandwagon" and never initiated any actions, he may have

lived a little longer. If so, where would you and I be if Douglass, Malcolm, Garvey and Martin waited until someone else spoke up. In King's own words: "I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality ... I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word."

It is time that we speak our truths and stop accepting others. We must first realize that racism still exists as much so as it did in the '60s. Racism has only adapted to society and has blended in with society to a point where many feel as if it is gone. Racism is systematic and systems aren't abolished

Interested in being an opinions writer, call 515-1468 and ask for Kimberley Pettaway, Opinions Editor or stop by Room 372 of the Afrikan American Cultural Center for an application.

#### Four Reasons for Using "K" in Afrika

institute of higher learning. We ca

Settling is not the answer. Where

would we be if our ancestors had

C's when you get to the "C-wall"

classes, then by the time you get to

the classes within your major you

will be settling for C's and D's.

Settling for whatever grade will not

require you to retake the class is not why we are here. We are here to

excel. Having a C, even on a quiz,

means that you are just average. We

know this to be untrue. We are the

descendants of a mighty people.

They were beyond average, they

were the originators. Nothing origi-

If you start to settle for B's and

settled?

- 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 sound—as in Kongo and Congo, Akkra and Accra, Konakri and Conakry—and by substituting Q wherever they saw K W. No European language outside of Dutch and German have the hard C sound. Thus we see the Dutch in Azania calling and spelling themselves Afrikaners. 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.

I have nothing against intermarriage, except that it means a Negro man is leaving behind the Negro woman who has worked and suffered with him since slavery times.

Mahalia Jackson

# Afrika Spotlight:

### Comoros

Official name: Comoros Federal Islamic Republic Independence: July 6, 1975 Capital: Moroni Currency: CFA franc Income: (per capita US\$) 480 (1990) Area: 838 sq. mi Population: (1991 estimate): 476,000 Illiteracy: 46% (1991) Ethnic divisions: Antalote, Cafre, Makoa, Oimatsaha, Sakalava Religious groups: Sunni Muslim 98%, Roman Catholic 2% Languages spoken: Shikomoro (a Swahili-Arab dialect), Malagasy, French International Relations: EC, OAU, UN Form of government: One-Party Exports: Cloves, vanilla, ylang-ylang

Located off the northwestern coast of Madagascar, Portuguese explorers visited the archipelago in 1505. In 1843, the sultan of Mayotte was persuaded to relinquish the island of Mayotte to the French. By 1912, France had established colonial rule over the islands of Grande Comore, Anjouan, and Hoheli and placed the islands under the administration of the governor general of Madagascar. After World War II, the islands became a French overseas territory and were represented in France's National Assembly. On July 6, 1975, the Comorian Parliament passed a resolution declaring unilateral independence. However, the deputies of Mayotte abstained; as a result, the Comorian government has effective control over only under French administration. After gaining independence, the country faced an enormous economical crisis.

The Comorians inhabiting the islands of Grande Comore, Anjouan, and Moheli (about 86 percent of the population) share Afrikan-Arab origins. Islam is the dominant religion, but a substantial minority of the citizens of Mayotte (the Mahorais) are Catholic and have been influenced strongly by French culture. The most common language is Shikomoro, a Swahili dialect.

French and Malagasy are spoken.

### Mayotte (Mahor'e)

Independence: n/a (overseas territory of France) Capital: Dziaodzi Area: 375 sq. km

Population: (1992 estimate) 86,628

Religious groups: Muslim 99%; remainder Christian (mostly

Roman Catholic)

Languages spoken: Mahorian ( a Swahili dialect), French Exports: Coconut, sugar cane, vanilla, ylang-ylang

Part of the Comoros archipelago, Mayotte shares its history with the Comoros Federal Islamic Republic. When Comoros declared independence in 1975, Myotte voted to remain an overseas territory of France. Although Comoros has since claimed Mayotte, the French have promised the islanders that they may remain French citizens for as long as they wish.

Interested in being a cultural writer for The Nubian Message, then call 515-1468 and speak with Shannon Jones or stop by Room 372 of the Afrikan American Cultural Center for an application.

### Smile

Anniversary

I give you this smile, for it is all that is me. I give it to you gladly, I give it to you free. all that I ask is that you take it, my son, and share my smile with everyone. no matter how high, no matter how low, give it away where ever you go. no matter how rich, no matter how poor, give to the stranger knocking at your door. no matter how bright, no matter how dark, give to the people walking in the park. no matter how young, no matter how old, give to the frail, give it to the bold. no matter how bitter, no matter how sweet, give it to the strong, give it to the weak. and don't be surprised when you're smiling free, that there'll come a day when you give it back to me.

### Michael L. Mills

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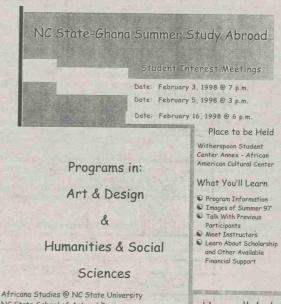
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# Let Us Build From the Contributions of Our Afrikan American Ancestors

### By Tokishia Dockery Staff Writer

The month of February is a very important month for people of Afrikan American descent. This is the month in which we really take the time to recognize and appreciate our heritage and the contributions made by Afrikan Americans.

As Afrikan American college students on the brink of success, February is the month where we put aside our studies to pay homage to those responsible for destroying the barriers and removing the shackles of oppression.

Their contributions have enabled us as Afrikan American students the opportunity to attend predominantly white colleges. Furthermore, their efforts opened numerous doors and windows of opportunities for Afrikan Americans. Many even sacrificed their lives so that we could have the freedoms to decide where we would eat, sleep, think, sit, and matriculate.

These great Afrikan American heroes and heroines, which is exactly what they deserve to be called, have served as excellent role-models for us, and have provided us with the courage and wisdom to also become effective leaders and productive members of society.

One Afrikan American in particular that I believe deserves recognition and praise is Paul Robeson, a native of Princeton, New Jersey.

Paul Robeson can easily be remembered as an athlete, actor, author, attorney, scholar and concert singer. He was certainly a man determined to succeed despite the existing racism. Robeson did not let any one distract him from achieving

his dreams. He attended Rutgers University where he excelled both academically and athletically. Robeson was an outstanding athlete, who played in four sports. As a direct result, he was twice named All-American in football! He continued his studies and later earned a degree from Columbia University Law School.

Over the years Robeson performed on stage in the plays "Othello" and "The Emperor." He appeared in many motion pictures, recorded numerous records and won praises for his moving interpretations of black spirituals and folk music of foreign countries.

Robeson's talents brought him worldwide acclaim. Because of vast travels and education Robeson performed all over the world speaking in over twenty languages and dialects!

In the late 1930's Robeson became involved in the fight for peace, racial justice and improved labor conditions. After supporting the Afrikan colony's fight to gain independence from European countries and maintaining a friendship with Communist from the then Society Union, Robeson was declared a national embarrassment by the United States

As a result of his affiliations with these entities the President canceled his passport for five years. This did not phase Robeson, he remained persistent in his efforts and continued the fight for justice and peace. Paul Robeson died in January 1976 after falling ill.

Afrikan Americans such as Robeson can be positively mocked because of their strong determination to succeed despite oppressive situations. He stood up for what he believed and he crossed every barrier that was thrown in his path.

We as Afrikan Americans must adopt this way of thinking. We have to pull together and standfast on what matters to us most. We have to lift our heads and walk the path that leads to our dreams and goals, removing all distractions along the way.

Afrikan Americans today must be strong like those of yesterday. We must embrace all that life has to offer. So when we sit in our classes on this predominately white campus we should feel proud because the road was long and the struggles numerous. Think about the first Afrikan Americans to attend NC. State as you sit in your seats. Try to imagine how hard it must have been to remain focus knowing that you were not welcomed. NC. State opened its doors so that Dr. Augustus M. Witherspoon, Dr. Nanette A. Henderson, Robert Lee Clemons, Hardy Liston and YOU could become successful authors, attorneys, doctors, philanthropists, athletes and singers, just like Paul Robeson and others.

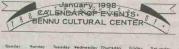
We have to stand up and reach for what we believe in. Then we can depart this life knowing that we too have accomplished our goal and have made a contribution! Transportation Changes Zone System

Transportation will begin to put a redesigned zone parking system in place starting with Fall '98. The initial changes will primarily affect traditional student parking areas, followed by faculty/staff areas in 1999.

This redesigned system is the result of a three year effort by Transportation to simplify parking, making it easier to understand and use. This system will also reduce traffic movement in and around the campus creating a safer and less congested environment for the campus community.

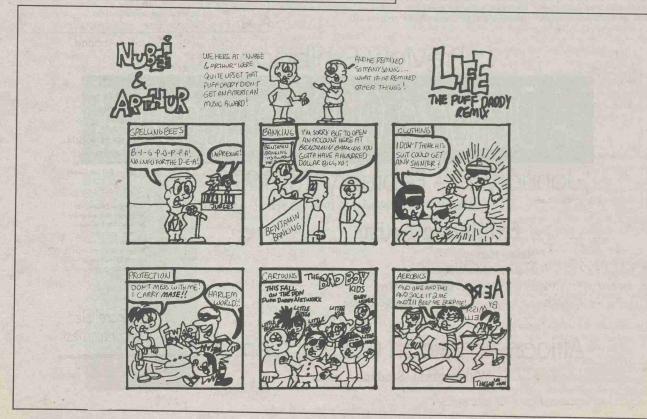
Specific changes for Fall 1998 include combining the existing C and E zones into one D zone, G and F zones into one E zone, and Avent Ferry, Fraternity Court, and E.S. King Village into one F zone. Faculty, Staff, and Students currently holding permits in any of these areas will by automatically assigned the new corresponding zone permit.

Please contact Transportation with any questions at 515-3424.





Interested in being a copyeditor for The Nubian Message, then call 515-1468 and ask for Jerry Blackmon or stop by Room 372 of the Afrikan American Cultural Center for an application.





# Health, in Black and White

### By Michael Newkirk Health Editor

Two weeks ago Kimberly Pettaway gave you the skinny on the 'playing field' in America concerning race relations. This week I take you in a different direction.

As we move into the 21st century, many Afrikan Americans seem to take for granted the strides we have made as far as making our mark in the American society. Socially we are beginning to reap the benefits of the Civil Right Act of 1964. Some Afrikan Americans have made the best of the opportunity afforded them by Affirmative Action.

The prominence of the Afrikan American artist, writers, singers, as well as intellectuals has grown. Fewer Afrikan Americans are said to be living below the poverty line. Contrary to what America believes, teen pregnancy has also decreased. The wage earner gap has come closer together as more Afrikan Americans are getting better paying jobs. According to American statistics, Afrikan Americans have made substantial progress in the areas that are of main concern being economically and in education

We have continued to make advances in the diagnosis, management, and treatment of disease. Just last year America celebrated the first decrease in AIDS related deaths since its introduction. Americans are living healthier lives. Everybody was excited to find that Americans could expect to live longer.

Both Afrikan Americans and whites experienced an increase in average life-expectancy, but Afrikan Americans can expect to live to 70, six or seven years shy of the white Americans life expectancy.

It is no startling discovery that since Afrikans were first brought to America we have succumbed to higher death rates than those of whites no matter what the cause. Even with all the technological research and discoveries, the gap continues to widen between whites and Afrikan Americans and other groups in incidences of asthma, cancer (different forms), diabetes as well as other diseases. For example, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that from 1980 to 1994, diagnosed cases of diabetes rose in America. The results revealed that incidence rate among Afrikan Americans rose 33 percent; three times the increase among whites. The same is true for most other infectious diseases.

What is the reason for such a vast difference? With the exception of melanin in our skin we are biologically identical. The cells that comprise our bodies perform the same type of functions. No agent has been identified that increases an Afrikan American's risk of developing diabetes.

Perhaps it all boils down to the willingness of Afrikan Americans to seek adequate health care. Often enough, Afrikan Americans receive less and worse health care than whites. Finding an explanation to why may or may not come.

In the mean time we must make up in our hearts and minds to live a more healthy lifestyle if we intend to find some equality in the playing field of health.

## 100 Black Men of America and ACS Launch Campus on Prostate Cancer

By Michael Newkirk Health Editor

As you may remember from the Fall '97 issue concerning cancer and the Afrikan American community, prostate cancer is one of the leading causes of cancer related deaths among Afrikan American males. About mid-January of this year action was taken to help reduce this unnecessary tragedy.

The American Cancer Society and 100 Black Men of America launched a campaign to focus national attention on prostate cancer. It is well known that prompt, proper treatment will reduce the risk of complications or death, yet Afrikan American males are two to three times more likely than whites of the disease.

Considering the fact that millions of dollars are raised yearly to aid in research for AIDS and breast cancer, only \$80 million was spent on research for prostate cancer. \$80 million amounts to only one-twelfth and one-sixth of the research totals for AIDS and breast cancer respectively. This total is vastly insufficient when number of deaths from AIDS, breast cancer and prostate cancer are relatively the same.

The American Cancer Society has estimated that 184,500 men in the U.S. will be diagnosed with prostate cancer and almost 42,000 will die. For every 100,000 Afrikan American men, 234 will develop prostate cancer compared to 135 of every 100,000 white men.

Though cancer risk increases with age and is rarely diagnosed in males under fifty, Afrikan American males are more likely to develop prostate cancer at a younger age than their white counterparts.

There is no scientific explanation for the disparity in results between races but, scientists have several theories. As with most diseases, there is some genetic basis for prostate cancer, but that is not to say that prostate cancer is a black man's disease. Other theories range from less access to health care to distrust of the medical field.

No matter what reason is chosen the fact remains that prostate cancer is treatable. The best way to help find a cure is through research and research need the financial support of the federal government.

### Support Group for People With Blood Related Cancers

#### Staff Report The Nubian Message

The North Carolina Chapter of the Leukemia Society sponsors support groups for patients with leukemia, lymphoma, myeloma, hodgkins disease, and myelodysplastic syndrome. Their families and friends are also welcom to attend these groups. At these meetings people can learn about helpful coping strategies for dealing with the issues that cancer brings to both the patient and the family. There is compelling evidence that people with cancer who regularly attend talk groups actually require less pain medication, suffer less depression and report a higher quality of life than those who don't . Leukemia society groups are led by trained facilitators familiar with the needs of cancer patients. In the Raleigh-Durham area meetings are on the 4th Monday of every month at 3:30 p.m. The location is Teer House, 4019 Roxboro Road. To receive more information, call Caryl Fulcher at (919) 684-4113. Interested in being a health writer for The Nubian Message Then call 515-1468 and ask for Michael Newkirk, Health Editor

or stop by Room 372 of the Afrikan American Cultural Center and

ask for an application.

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### Men's Track and Field Spring 1998 Review Pack Women Back on Track

Staff Report The Nubian Message

Mike O'Cain will play a substantial role in the success of the 1998 N.C. State men's track team. No, the Wolfpack football coach won't have his hand in teaching any track and field techniques, but several players on loan from the football team are a vital part of coach Rollie Geiger's program.

And Geiger can't thank O'Cain enough. The two have offices in the same building, and, though they're on opposite ends of the Weisiger-Brown Athletics Facility, the programs are very close. "Mike O'Cain has an outstanding relationship with everybody," Geiger said. "Mike is a fine man, and it carries over to track" and field in the way of cooperation."

The NCAA limits men's track scholarships to 12, so Geiger has turned to other areas for sprinters and jumpers. The football team will provide at least six athletes, though Geiger said others have shown interest. "If we weren't getting sprinters from football, our cupboard would be bare in some events," Geiger said.

But the football players won't be available until after spring practice has concluded, meaning the Wolfpack track team will be a little short during the indoor season from January to early March.

Belgie McClelland, a senior from Charlotte, who had State's best times in the indoor 55- and 200meter dashes last season, will have to go it alone indoors. "He's kind of the Lone Ranger out there until the rest of the football team comes," Geiger said.

When the football players do show, Geiger's team substantially improves.

Senior Alvis Whitted will go down as one of State's best sprinters. He currently holds school records in the 100, 200 and 400, and his best 100-meter time of 10.02 seconds is an ACC record. Whitted, a wide receiver and kickoff returner for O'Cain, missed the U.S. Olympic team last summer by two spots in the 200. Whitted also anchors the 400 relay team that finished third in the ACC outdoor meet last season.

Jason Perry, a senior defensive back, finished second in the ACC and eighth in the NCAA in the 110 hurdles. Perry, of Passaic, N.J., ran a 13.75 in preliminaries for the NCAA meet last season, tying him for the

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third-best time in school history. Perry also runs on the 400 relay team.

Cordell Smith, a fourth-team tailback, is the reigning ACC champ in the long jump, winning the crown with a leap of 24 feet, 1 1/2 inches. Smith, a senior from Washington, D.C., also finished second in the conference in the decathlon, posting the fifth-best point total (6,629) in school history.

Eric Riddick, who starts at free safety for O'Cain, placed second to Smith in the ACC long jump and sixth in the triple jump as a sophomore. The Richlands, N.C. native was the outstanding performer at the North Carolina State High School meet in 1994 after winning the long jump and triple jump.

Other gridiron competitors who will participate in track are senior Theodore Chavis of Durham, and junior Lloyd Harrison of Floral Park, N.Y. Chavis and Harrison both run the 100 meters and the 400 relay.

A lot of track teams around the country have had to go the same route as NCSU, but the cooperation is beneficial to both programs. "It all depends on the football coach," Geiger said. "One of the football coaches recently said that it seems like more and more football programs are concentrating on the football/track athlete because speed is so important to a football team. "Tennessee, for example, has made a living on the football/track athletes for years, and they're traditionally one of the better football programs."

Geiger's team has been one of the best in the conference since he was named head track coach in 1984, winning five ACC championships, including the 1996 outdoor title. So his team isn't simply an extension of the football program.

The Wolfpack, who finished third outdoors a season ago, lost only three athletes from last year. Jason Johnson, an NCAA qualifier in the pole vault, Dan Lee, an 800-meter runner, and distance runner James Bache.

Losing just three from a solid team might bode well for most teams, but Geiger sees it differently.

"We were third last year, but Clemson's got an incredible track and field program right now," Geiger said. "We're still playing catchup. The problem with gradustion is that we didn't have a lot of money to spend with grants. We only lost three athletes, but on the other hand, we didn't have a lot of

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money to bring in new people. Hopefully, the team we have will be better this coming year, but Clemson right now is just dominating the conference."

Geiger will get solid contributions from his throwers, including seniors John Williamson, the schoolrecord holder in the hammer throw; John Patterson and juniors Jeff Pflaumbaum, an All-ACC performer in the discus, and Eric Cannon. "Our strong area this year, as it was last year, is the throws," Geiger said. "We have some outstanding people there. Our throwers are excellent."

The shot-put, discus and hammer throw have always been important events when State does well in the ACC. "When we're winning, yes, and when we're losing, no," Geiger said. "When we've won conference championships, we've been good in the throws. We haven't won, we haven't been good in the throws. Obviously, it's pretty important."

The middle-distance and longdistance events should be another strong area. As the Wolfpack's head cross country coach, Geiger has a history of producing great distance runners, and he has myriad runners to choose from for his track program.

In the 10,000, Geiger has Pat Joyce, Corby Pons and Joe Wirgau; for the 5,000, Chan and Corby Pons, Joyce, Wirgau, Chris Pluchos and Michael Fitzula; the 3,000, Joyce and Abdul Alzindani; the 1,500, Brendan Rodgers, Chan Pons, Pluchos, Aaron Saft, Wirgau and Fitzula; the 800, Pluchos, Wirgau and Fitzula.

Three newcomers will also help. Distance runner Chris Dugan of Scottdale, Pa., was the Pennsylvania track athlete of the year, and Aaron Keller of Bat Cave, N.C., holds the state record in the 1,600 meters. "They're both impact players for us," Geiger said.

Robbie Howell of Cary, N.C., transferred from Princeton and will be a "major factor," Geiger said. Howell has run a 4:04 mile.

Other than Smith in the long jump, State struggled in the jumps a season ago. But Donte Hunt, who didn't participate last season, returns to help out in the triple jump and long jump, and Riddick should also contribute.

"If you include Eric Riddick from the football team, the jumps become very good for us," Geiger said.

The Nubian Message?

You'll be glad you did.

Interested in being a sports writer for

### By Dock G. Winston

Sports Editor

The Wolfpack Women ended a two-game losing streak, defeating a determined Florida State team on their home court 72-62, Jan. 25.

Four N.C. State players scored in double figures, led by senior Chasity Melvin who scored 16 points. Senior Peace Shepard and junior LySchale Jones each added 14 and freshman Tynesha Lewis posted 12. Kristen Gillespie led the team in rebounds with six.

State never could get a rhythm going in the first half, and found themselves tied with Florida State at 34-34 at the break.

The Seminoles continued to battle in the second half, trailing by one with 10:22 remaining in the game, 50-49, before the Wolfpack built a 14-point lead with 7:43 to go, 63-49. Florida State cut the lead to seven, but never got any closer as the Pack held on to win its' 16th game of the season and advance to 16-3 overall and 7-2 in the ACC.

Florida State was led by Latavia Coleman who scored 19 points. The Seminoles fall to 7-12 overall and 3-6 in the ACC.

The Wolfpack plays host to Wake Forest on Friday, Jan. 30 at 7 p.m. in Reynolds Coliseum.

# Miller Named ACC Rookie of the Week

#### By Dock G. Winston Sports Editor

N.C. State freshman Archie Miller was named the ACC's Rookie of the Week Jan. 26. This honor comes after Miller averaged 13 points in the first two starts of his career against second-ranked North Carolina and Georgia Tech.

He earned the first start of his career against the Tar Heels Jan. 21, when Wolfpack coach Herb Sendek opted to go with a smaller lineup, starting the 5'9 Miller along with 6'0 Justin Gainey in the backcourt. The rookie played 39 minutes in the game and finished with 13 points, including three threepointers. He had eight of his points in the first half, helping the Wolfpack keep the game close.

Miller knocked down a key three-pointer with a minute remaining in the Wolfpack's 56-51 win over Georgia Tech. He finished the game with 13 points on 4-of-9 shooting and had a career-high three steals.

For the season, Miller ranks fourth in the ACC in three-point field goal percentage, hitting 43.3 percent (29-of-67) from beyond the arc. He has also connected on 20 of his 24 free-throw attempts this season

### Indoor Track Teams Finish Top Ten at Virginia Tech By Dock G. Winston

Sports Editor

N.C. State's men's and women's indoor track team ended two days of competition at the Virginia Tech Invitational on Saturday. The men finished eighth while the women placed third.

Using their distance runners, the Wolfpack men had four finish in the top 10 for events. Chan Pons, a two-time cross country All-American, finished second in the mile, recording a time of 4:06.93. State had two runners near the front in the 3,000 meters. Brendan Rodgers was third, while Robbie Howell was ninth. Corby Pons, Chan Pons' twin brother, finished ninth in the 5,000 meters.

The Wolfpack women had three runners finish in the top 10 for events. Laura Rhoads, a two-time cross country All-American, finished second in the 3,000 meters, posting a time of 9:40.15. Rhoads was joined by teammates Monique Judkins and Victoria Stokes in the ranks of the top 10, after each posted distances that ranked among the best in the high jump. Judkins was eighth, clearing a height of 5'04.25. Stokes finished 10th, clearing a height of 5'02.25.

The Wolfpack men other top 10 finishers all came from field events. Eric Riddick was the Pack's number one man in the long jump, finishing fifth. Donte Hunt was ninth in the triple jump, while John Patterson and John Williamson finished fifth and sixth, respectively, in the weight throw.

The Lady Wolfpack had four other athletes who placed in the top 20. Tiffany Heath and Anitra Henry finished 13th and 15th in the weight throw, respectively. Keione Covington was 15th in the long jump with a distance of 18'05.00. Sherlane finished 17th in the same event, covering a distance of 18'05.00.

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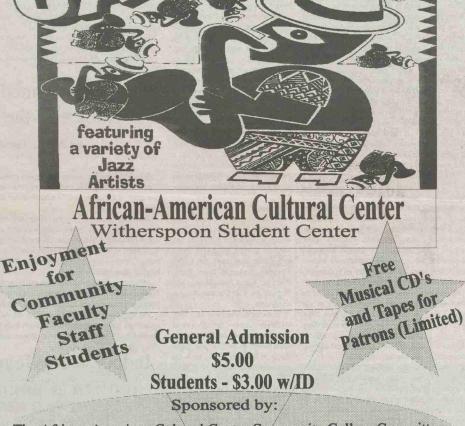
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