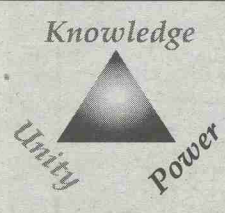


The NUBIAN MESSAGE

The Afrikan American Voice of North Carolina State University

5 February 18, 1999
Volume VI, Edition 18



What's Goin' On?

AATS

The Afrikan American Textile Society (AATS) will host model auditions for the "Fashion Expose," on Thursday, February 28, from 6 to 8 pm on Centennial Campus in the Atrium. Please bring a picture. For more information, contact Daphne at 512-6164. Forward questions to Sharmaine at 512-1159.

Zeta Phi Beta

Mu Xi Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. will be stepping at Barton College in Wilson, NC for Stomp Fest 99. They are inviting all NC State students to accompany us.

Tickets: \$7 General
\$5 Greeks

(if 5 to 10 people go, their rate will be \$3 per person)

The group will be leaving from the Afrikan American Cultural Center @ 3:30pm SHARP on Friday, February 19th. If you would like to go or need directions, please contact Aisha Eldridge at 512-8142 before Thursday.

GET YOUR EVENT ADVERTISED HERE

If you or your organization is having an event or program, let Nubian announce it for you FREE OF CHARGE in this column. All information should be sent one week in advance to Dock G. Winston, at dock@sma.ncsu.edu or fill out an event notification form from the Nubian office, located at 372 Witherspoon. You'll be glad you did.

"Obsidian" To Hold Program, Assistant Editor Publishes Book

By **Keesha Dover**
News Editor

NC State is home to many of the country's most competitive and distinguished academic programs, ranging from Veterinary Medicine and Engineering, to Textiles and Agricultural components. Hence, it is as such, that the university is often viewed as a technical institution, where other academic programs are not equated with the same vigor, though equally respected. Thus, it would come as no surprise that many of you do not know about Obsidian, a literary journal that is based out of State's English department.

The Obsidian, however, is no ordinary organization. It is one of only three journals of its kind throughout the United States. The other two are "Callaloo" and "African American Review." It even boasts of being distributed internationally and has subscriptions overseas and abroad.

Because of its obscurity, Marcia Douglas and Doris Laryea, who



Marcia Douglas
staff photo

serve as the assistant editor and the associate editor respectively, decided to hold an event to make more individuals aware of its presence. On February 19, 1999, the publication will hold an evening of poetry, music, and drama.

The program will feature NC State performers and poets, with the exception of the keynote speaker who is a nationally acclaimed poet and playwright.

The night will consist of performances by several local poets, in-

cluding Victor Blue, Theresa Church, Marcia Douglas, Lenard Moore, Evie Shockley, and Gena Streaty. Kambankafo, a drum troupe, will also be on hand to provide dance for the evening. Joyce Gear, also affiliated with the "Obsidian" will provide a dramatic portrayal of Harriet Tubman.

Admission is free and it is open to the general public. The group will begin to receive guests at 6:30pm followed by the program at 7:00pm. It will be held in the Multipurpose room of the Witherspoon Student Center.

Marcia Douglas, the assistant editor of the "Obsidian," recently published her first novel, "Madam Fate." Douglas, born in England and raised in Jamaica, took the name Madam Fate from a very popular plant that grows there.

In her book, she took different names of plants and gave them specific purposes. The work is centered around Madam Fate, which means "Isotoma Longiflora." The plot is based on the tale of how God created her land and laughed to see

what She had done. It is also based on the very popular tale of the woman who took off her skin.

"Let's call me Bella. I am also that woman people call kin-owl, that woman who lives in her flesh by day, then takes off her skin, living in spirit by night. A kin-owl must always keep her true identity secret. She could be the woman who sells you the morning paper, or the one you see waiting at the bus stop for a ride into town; she could be your neighbor or your best friend, your very flesh and blood—your mother or sister of first-born—but you would never know.".....

Douglas's poetry and fiction writing have appeared in literary journals across the nation. Aside from Madam Fate, she is also the author of a poetry collection entitled "Electricity Comes to Cocoa Bottom." The accomplished author is also an instructor for creative writing here at NC State. Anyone who wishes to purchase the "Obsidian" may do so by contacting the English department.

Clark Lecture 1999 Held in Cultural Center

By **Keesha Dover**
News Editor

The Clark Lecture of 1999 was held on last night in the Multipurpose Room of the Afrikan American Cultural Center. The Clark Lecture is a big activity that is held in the Afrikan American Cultural Center during Black History month. The lecture is named in honor of Dr. Lawrence M. Clark, who was in attendance along with a few other important people including, Dr. Grant, Dr. Conway, and Dr. James Anderson, the vice provost and Dean of undergraduate studies.

The primary goal of the lecture was to: Introduce works of significant scholars, provide a basis for intellectual forums, and build better relationships among diverse

people.

Dr. Clark is a significant scholar of Afrika. He has spent 25 years or more on this campus and has served as a major component for the introduction of African American Studies. He teaches Afrikan American Leadership in the Twentieth Century for the Afrikana studies program. He helped found the Afrikan American Heritage Society. He is well known for his willingness to engage in study groups with students in his home or in community settings.

Dr. Ivan Van Sertima, the keynote speaker for the night, was introduced by Dr. Anderson. Dr. Sertima was born in South America. He has earned degrees in Afrikan American Studies as well as Anthropology. He is the author

of several literary reviews. He was also named as Historian of World Repute. Dr. Sertima has written and published many books. He is the author of, "They Came Before Columbus", published in 1977, which is now in its 21st printing. His latest book is, "Early America Revisited."

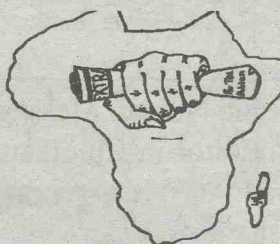
Dr. Sertima was a professor at Rutgers University where he taught Afrikan American Studies. He also lectured in Canada, the Caribbean, South America, and Europe. He has had many more accomplishments. He challenged the Columbus myth at a congressional hearing. He was also the first person to go to NASA to study what black are doing in space. Among all of this, he also wrote the first Swahili dictionary of legal terms.

Dr. Sertima's presentation was entitled, "Early America Revisited: African Presence in America Before Columbus. Within the presentation, he talked about the many myths that we as people are told about how who discovered America and the sculptures that were supposedly created to look like us. He told some things he learned through his journey and shared slides and other important information. He spoke on subjects such as Afrocentricity and Eurocentricity. He stated, "I'm not Afrocentric or Eurocentric, I'm truth centric." Many people were in attendance at the lecture including the Media and a large amount of students from NC State and their families.

NOTE:

The Nubian Message was not published last week due to technical difficulties. We apologize for any inconveniences this may have caused.

This Week

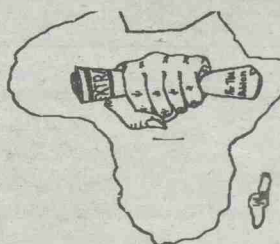


Become enlightened with this week's **Opinion** page. Guaranteed to make you smarter.

See **Opinion**, Page 3

With MJ gone from the game, who will become basketball's king? Trey Webster educates you on this picks in this week's **Sports**.

See **Sports**, Page 3



The African-American Heritage Society
of
North Carolina State University
Invites You to Attend
Spring 1999

Meeting Dates:

January 25
February 1, 8, 22
March 1, 29
April 5, 19, 26
All meetings begin at 6 p.m. in room 356A of the AACC

HERITAGE LECTURE Dates:
January 11
February 15
March 15
April 12
All lectures begin at 7 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room of the AACC

Special Lecture/Tour of Raleigh Architectural Sites:
January 31
\$2 contribution
Tour begins at 2 p.m. in front of the AACC

For more information call 515-5210

AFRICAN-AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER PROGRAMS
NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY
SPRING 1999

January
11 Heritage Lecture; Multi-Purpose Room (126); 7:00 p.m.
Co-sponsored with Zetta Phi Beta and Triangle Women's Multi-Cultural History Project
23 Martin Luther King Festival; McKimmon Center; 12:00 noon
23 Play: "I Have a Dream", Stewart Theatre 7:30 p.m.

February
7 African-American Read-In; Gallery 3:00p.m.
Co-sponsored with EFW
15 Heritage Society Lecture; Multi-Purpose Room(126); 7:00p.m.
17 Clark Lecture; Multi-Purpose Room(126); 7:00p.m.
Dr. Ivan Van Sertina
Co-Sponsored with the Society of Afrikan American Culture and The Nubian Message

March
3 Mahogany Roots; Multi-purpose Room (126); 7:00p.m.
Co-sponsored with EFW
15 Heritage Society Lecture; Multi-Purpose Room(126); 7:00p.m.
21-26 Human Rights Week
26 Faculty Exhibition; Gallery(218) Through May 28
28 Ghana Fundraiser; Multipurpose Room (126) 4:00 p.m.

April
12 Heritage-Pan African Lecture; Multi-Purpose Room(126);7:00p.m.
Co-sponsored with BSB
20 Ebony Harlem Awards; Multi-Purpose Room (126) at 7:00p.m.
Co-sponsored with Society of Afrikan American Culture
24 Heritage Symposium; Multi-Purpose Room(126); 10:00a.m.

For more information write or call:
355 Witherspoon Student Center
Box 7318, North Carolina State Univ.
Raleigh, N.C. 27695-7318
(919) 515-2110
<http://www2.ncsu.edu/aacc/programs.html>



With only the permission of our ancestors and our elders do we proudly print this and all editions of The Nubian Message. Always keeping in mind and spirit: Dr. Yosef ben-Yochannan, Dr. John Henrik Clarke, Dr. Leonard Jefferies, The Black Panther Party, Mumia A. Jamal, Geronimo Pratt, Dr. Lawrence Clark, Dr. Augustus McIver Witherspoon, Dr. Wandra P. Hill, Mr. Kyran Anderson, "Dr" Hughes Suffren, Dr. Lathan Turner, Dr. M. Iyailu Moses and all those who walk by our side as we continue to make our journey to true consciousness.

THE NUBIAN MESSAGE
The Afrikan American Voice of North Carolina State University

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William G. Bowen • Derek Bok
PUBLIC LECTURE

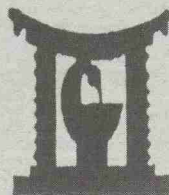
William G. Bowen
co-author of
**The Shape of the River:
Long-Term Consequences
of Considering Race in
College and University
Admissions**

Thursday, February 18th
7:30 p.m.

Page Auditorium
Duke University

Admission is free.
Everyone is welcome.

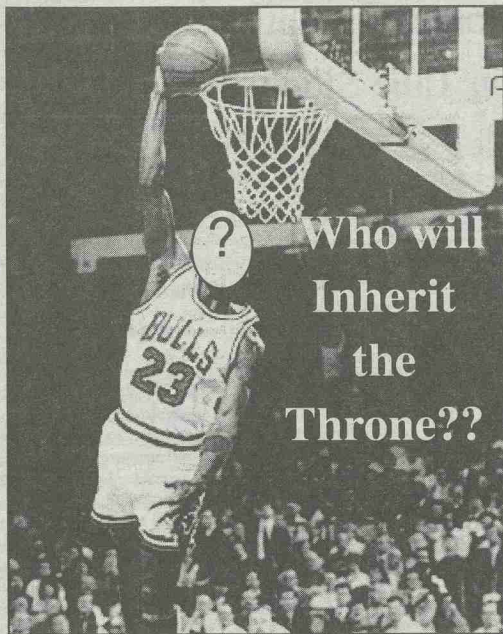
Questions? Call 684-8222.



Interested in being a sports writer for The Nubian Message, then call 515-1468 and speak with Trey Webster, Sports Editor or stop by Room 372 of the Witherspoon Student Center for an application.

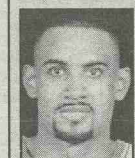
Anyone interested in working for the Nubian Message should contact Dock G. Winston, Editor-in-Chief, at 515-1468 or come by Room 372 of the Witherspoon Student Center.

SPORTS



Who will Inherit the Throne??

And the Candidates are...



nba.com
Grant Hill



nba.com
Allen Iverson



nba.com
Kobe Bryant

By Trey Webster
Sports Editor

After the retirement of King Jordan, their has been a question plaguing the hearts and minds of every basketball fan in the world... Who will inherit the throne and fill the size 13 shoes left by "His Airness?" Who will be the player that will take the NBA to its next level of greatness?

There seems to be not one straight answer to these questions. But, if you have to narrow the list by talent, marketability, and flair, it may come down to three players: Grant Hill, Allen Iverson, and Kobe Bryant. Each of these players have their own style, an element that pushes them both to become the next great superstar.

Grant Hill, much like Jordan, was drafted 3rd overall in the NBA selection, and comes from the ACC, one of the nations' most elite conferences. Hill, who has already established himself as very marketable, has been dubbed by many as too nice of a guy.

Hill has been said to lack the killer instinct that every Jordanesque player must have to get to the next level. Though Hill experience play-off life, it was very short lived, and never a very pretty exit. It also seems that Grant is in great physical condition.

Starting off the season 3-0 for the first time in years, Hill has shown signs of taking his game and also his

team to the next level and hopefully to a championship ring.

"The Answer", or as he is better known as Allen Iverson, may have everything it takes, but is missing one key attribute: attitude. No one will ever forget the night the world stood still when Iverson got his chance with Jordan.

Using his quickness, Allen slowly begin to set Jordan up, as though he were hypnotizing him with his smooth and redefined killer crossover (Sorry Tim!!). Then, as if he was a puppet, pulled his string and left MJ (I still love ya dawg!!) with his hands in his pocket, wondering which way did he go.

Yet, Iverson has been termed a playground baller. His new "no-care" attitude, and corn-rolled hair doesn't fit into the Flight 23 outline left by his predecessor, although there have been signs that his so-called "attitude" is changing for the better. And, after recently signing a contract with Philly, Iverson named Larry Brown as being one of the reasons for his re-signing. This statement shows maturity on his part, and that he is ready to venture out into the land called the playoffs, and make some noise. Maybe "the answer" will be a ring or two or three or....

Last, but certainly not least, we have the "air" to the throne, (whoops!), I mean Kobe Bryant. When Bryant was first drafted into the league, Michael Jordan was written all over his face, from his

ability to fly, right down to his bald head, and clean-cut all-American loot.

After a year or so, his "hops," have not diminished and his skill has grown along with his hair. Kobe may be the closest to gaining this super-stardom, if it was not for the talent-surrounded by him in Los Angeles (Eddie Jones, Shaquille O'Neal, etc....) and his lack of patience sometimes on the court.

At times, Bryant has the tendency to try to make the spectacular play, rather than the easy one. Of course these actions will sell tickets, but it will not win championships.

This season, Bryant has started every game and has responded by averaging double figures in scoring and rebounding in each game, not to mention bothering Pippen in their season-opener by blocking his 3 times, and keeping him to shooting a low field-goal percentage.

This shows the great improvement from the previous season, and also the growth that brings championships!

And although Hill, Iverson, and Bryant are all great players and have chance of taking the NBA in to the next millennium, we all know their will never be another Jordan. At least players now have something to shoot at, a goal to reach, and a level at which to measure themselves by, in hopes they can one day be a great champion.

Answers to Last Week's Sports Trivia Questions

1. What other famous Afrikan American athlete was selected along with Michael Jordan in the 1984 NBA Draft?

Carl Lewis

2. Name the person who said this quote "It's not bragging if you can back it up"?

Muhammad Ali

3. What famous musician recently tried out for the Charlotte Hornets franchise?

Percy Miller or "Master P"

4. What current Afrikan American NBA player has won back-to-back championships with two different teams?

Dennis Rodman

5. Who is NC State's all-time leader in receiving yards?

Torry Holt

"Sweetness" suffering from liver disease

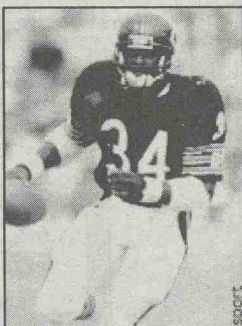
By Trey Webster
Sports Editor

Walter "Sweetness" Payton, one of the greatest football players of all time, held a press conference last Thursday to announce that he had a rare liver disease. Payton decided to hold this conference after reporters noticed his decline in weight. Breaking into tears several times during the conference, he urged fans and well wishers, to pray for him.

Payton, who has been suffering from this disease since last July, has been known as one of the toughest players ever to play the game. Hence, it was a surprise to all who knew him that he was so ill-stricken.

His wife commented that he has lost about 25 pounds since the discovery of the disease, and has not been able to gain any of the weight back since.

Payton talked at how scared he had been since finding out, but knows that now all he can do is



Drake/Allsport

Walter Payton

leave it in Gods hands. Being comforted by his son who is a highly recruited football player made it easier for him to get through the conference smoothly.

The hall of famer played for 13 years with the Bears, and holds the NFL record for most rushing yards with 16,726 and also the single game record with 275 yards rushing in a game.

Gainey Named ACC Player of the Week

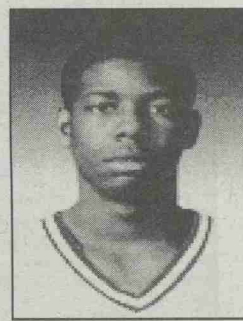
By Trey Webster
Sports Editor

Following spectacular play last week by the Wolfpack men, Justin Gainey, starting point guard for NC State, was named player of the week recently. After showcasing his talent against Georgia Tech and Clemson, Gainey proved to the ACC that the season is far from over for the Wolfpack.

Against Clemson, Gainey had what may have been the best game of his career, going perfect from the field and free-throw line, and scoring 3 out of 4 three point attempts. Justin finished with a career high 28 points, along with 6 rebounds, and 4 assists.

But this wasn't all the junior guard had in store for Wolfpack fans. Against Georgia Tech, he netted a 3 pointer and stole and inbound pass with 2.9 seconds left, to secure a win for the Pack, 51-50, with a season high 5 steals.

Along with these great games, Gainey has been averaging 15 point



staff photo

Justin Gainey

in the last 4 games, and is shooting 60% from the line. He has continued to be a perfect 16 for 16 from the line. Look out NCAA...this Pack player is definitely on the prowl!

Anyone interested in reporting on sports for the Nubian Message should contact Trey Webster at 515-1468 or come by Room 372 of the Witherspoon Student Center.

READ
NUBIAN

CULTURE

How Much Do You Really Know About Affirmative Action? What to Know Before You Take Sides

By **Myshalae Jamerson**
Culture Editor

By Executive Order 11246, President Lyndon Johnson create what is known today as affirmative action. This order has been amended many times since its inception in 1965 and is not technically a law (an executive order is handed down by the president of the United States and does not have to pass through legislative branches of government).

Though an executive order directly affects only governmental agencies or subcontractors of federal government programs, private organizations may be ordered by a court to develop an affirmative action plan.

In employment, an affirmative action plan (AAP) is a formal, written process that includes the hiring and promoting of members of targeted groups such as minorities, women, physically challenged indi-

viduals and veterans. An AAP is based on an analysis of an organization's work force. The analysis compares the gender and racial composition of the available qualified labor pool to that of the organization and determines whether or not there is an imbalance. If an imbalance exists, goals and timetables for hiring additional females and minorities are established. These hiring goals, however, are not quotas. Only courts can impose hiring quotas and they have done so only where employers have been found guilty of substantial past discrimination practices. AAPs must be approved by the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) and meet the following four conditions: 1) have the purpose of ending statistical imbalances within certain job categories, 2) exist only temporarily to achieve a balanced workforce, 3) not totally bar hiring and/or promotion opportunities for non-protected groups (white males), 4) not include

layoffs or other actions that would harm current employees.

Affirmative action may be remedial or preferential. Remedial affirmative action refers to efforts to ensure equality of access to all employment opportunities for those denied access or overlooked in the past and may include: recruiting for applicants in nontraditional ways; education programs, referral services, pre-employment preparation or training for certain groups; or other activities that provide for the most equal opportunity possible to members of various groups historically not having been provided equal opportunity.

Preferential affirmative action refers to preferential treatment given to someone because of his or her race, gender, disability, or veteran's status. An affirmative action employer is one that gives preferential treatment to minorities, women, veterans, and the physically challenged. The purpose of preferential affirmative action is to end an imbalance of minority representation in an organization's work force and does not require an employer to hire or promote unqualified or less qualified individuals. It does mean that when there are comparably qualified applicants for a position, affirmative action considerations may be the determining factor.

Quotas

While goals are targets to shoot for, quotas are strict numbers of women or minorities that must be hired to comply with affirmative action requirements. For many people, affirmative action and quotas

have become synonymous. They are, however, quite different. There is no requirement of quotas under Executive Order 11246, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, or subsequent affirmative action legislation. As previously mentioned, virtually the only time hiring or promotion quotas are permitted or mandated is when an organization has been found to have a long-standing violation of the law. As long as an employer can show legitimate, good faith effort to reach affirmative action goals, quotas will not be imposed as a remedy for underrepresentation.

EEOC (Equal Employment Opportunity Commission)

The EEOC monitors discrimination charges (not affirmative action complaints) and enforces Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Title VII makes it illegal for an employer to "fail or refuse to hire or discharge any individual, or otherwise to discriminate against any individual with respect to his compensations, terms, conditions, or privileges of employment because of such individual's race, color, religion, sex, or national origin; or to limit, segregate or classify his employees or applicants for employment in any way which would deprive or tend to deprive any individual of employment opportunities, or otherwise adversely affect his status as an employee, because of such individual's race, color, religion, sex or national origin." (Title VII was amended in 1978 by the Pregnancy Discrimination Act to provide that pregnant women be treated no better

nor any worse than employees with temporary disabilities.) Though affirmative action and discrimination are normally handled by separate and distinct government agencies, the EEOC may be contacted or become involved in a complaint of reverse discrimination.

Reverse Discrimination

The term "reverse discrimination" applies to situations in which an employee feels discriminated against specifically because of either an affirmative action remedy applied by the court or by an employer under an appropriate affirmative action plan. An employer who must remedy racial discrimination may not avoid doing so because of the possibility of a "reverse discrimination" suit by employees. If an employer institutes a voluntary or judicially imposed affirmative action plan which can withstand judicial scrutiny, the employer will not be liable to employees for "reverse discrimination".

The Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP), which administers the Executive Order, offers several recruitment suggestions to ensure that an affirmative action program does not unduly discriminate in reverse. For instance, the OFCCP recommends that an employer obtain applicant referrals from a variety of organizations that would likely be able to refer minorities or women; gather applicant referrals from women and minorities within the company; or include current female and minority employees in an organization's recruitment process.

Malcolm X Honored With Stamp

By **Myshalae Jamerson**
Culture Editor

Family, friends and colleagues of Malcolm X (El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz) came together on January 20 at New York's Apollo Theatre to celebrate the issuance of a U.S. postage stamp bearing his likeness.

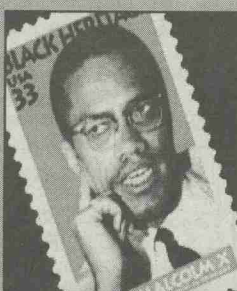
Participating in the historic event were Postal Service Governor S. David Fineman; Malcolm X's eldest daughter, Attallah Shabazz; former Malcolm X Attorney Percy E. Sutton; actors Harry Belafonte, Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee; U.S. Representative Chaka Fattah; Randall Robinson, president of TransAfrica Forum; with performances by the Boys Choir of Harlem and a special tribute by Mike Wallace, senior correspondent of "60 Minutes."

Also attending the ceremony were Malcolm X's daughters, Gamilah, Ilyasah, Malaak, Mallikah, and Qubilah Shabazz.

The Malcolm X commemorative stamp is the 22nd stamp in the Postal Service's Black Heritage series which is a highly respected roster of African Americans whose individual achievements have made significant contributions to American history and culture. Other honorees include: Harriet Tubman (1978); Martin Luther King, Jr. (1979); Mary McLeod Bethune (1985); Ernest E. Just (1996); and W.E.B. DuBois (1992).

In the late 1950s Malcolm X emerged as a major spokesperson for African Americans. He was both a brilliant scholar and a fiery orator whose persuasive and passionate views are still felt today.

During the ceremony, Postal Service Governor S. David Fineman



The Malcolm X Stamp was issued on January 20, 1999

referred to Malcolm X as "a modern-day revolutionary who openly fought for the end of oppression and injustice. He was a visionary, a man who dreamed of a better world and dared to do something about it."

In a new edition of "The Autobiography of Malcolm X" (Random House/Ballantine) due out this spring, Attallah Shabazz states, "the United States postal stamp with the image of El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz - known to the world as Malcolm X - and fondly loved by myself and my five sisters as Daddy, will provide a source of continual pride to his children."

Born in Omaha, Nebraska, May 19, 1925 as Malcolm Little, Malcolm X joined the Nation of Islam in 1952 and founded the Black Muslim publication Muhammad Speaks in 1957. In 1964, following an international speaking tour of Europe, the Middle East and Africa, including a pilgrimage to Mecca, he chose to publicly use his family name El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz and founded the Muslim Mosque, Inc. and later the Organization of Afro-American Unity. He was assassinated February 21, 1965 at the Audubon

A.A.T.S. Presents

Dr. Robert B. Clark Jr.

&

The St. Jude Drama Department

In

"The Bible From a
Black Prospective"

Now is your chance to learn about the Black characters of the Bible.

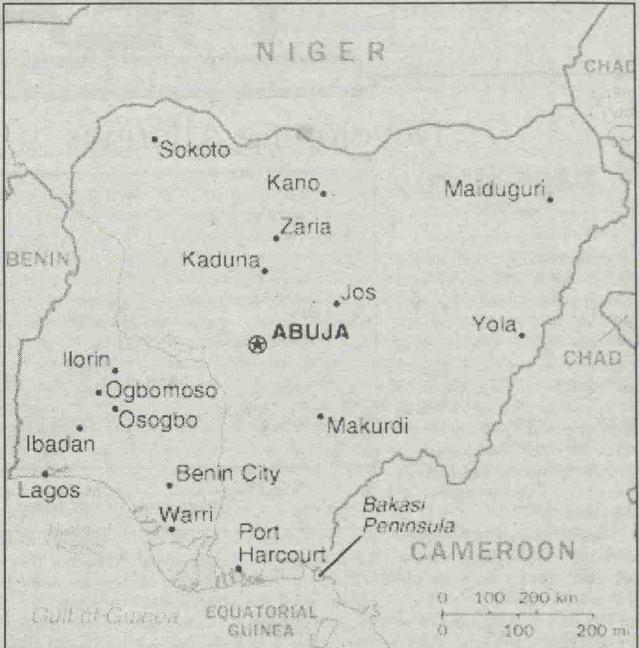
In celebration of Black History Month

Wither Spoon Cultural Center
2nd Floor in the Library
7 p.m. on Wed. February 24, 1999

Free refreshments and snacks will be provided.

Afrikan Country Spotlight: Nigeria

Official name: Federal Republic of Nigeria
Independence: October 1, 1960
Capital: Abuja
Currency: Naira
Income: (per capita US\$) 270 (1990)
Area: 356,700 sq. mi.
Population: (1991 estimate) 88.5 million
Illiteracy: 58% (1991)
Ethnic divisions: 250 tribal groups, the largest are Hausa-Fulani, Ibo, and Yoruba
Religious groups: Muslim, Christian, traditional belief
Languages spoken: English (official), Hausa, Ibo, Yoruba
International relations: EC, OAU, UN
Form of Government: Military



Evidence shows that more than 2,000 years ago, the Nok people lived in what is now the Plateau state worked iron and produced sophisticated terra cotta sculpture. In the centuries that followed, the Hausa kingdom and the Bornu empire, near Lake Chad, prospered as important terminals of north-south trade between North African Berbers and forest people who exchanged slaves, ivory, and kola nuts for salt, glass beads, coral, cloth, weapons, brass rods, and cowrie shells used a currency.

In the southwest, the Uoruba kingdom of Oyo, which was founded about 1400 and reached its height between the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries, attained a high level of political organization and extended as far as modern Togo.

In the south-central part of present-day Nigeria, as early as the fifteenth century, the kingdom of Benin had developed an efficient army, an elaborate ceremonial court, and artisans whose works in ivory, wood, bronze, and brass are prized throughout the world today.

Between the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries, European traders established coastal

ports for the increasing traffic in slaves destined for the Americas. In 1855, British claims to a sphere of influence in that area received international recognition, and, in the following year, the Royal Niger Company was chartered. In 1900, the company's territory came under the control of the British government. In 1914, the area was formally united as the "Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria." Nigeria was granted full independence on October 1, 1960, as a federation of three regions.

Since independence, Nigeria has faced numerous coups. The Ibos tried to secede the tension between various ethnic groups increased, while the country began a rapid economic development based on oil production. Yakubu Gowon who had managed to stay in power was overthrown in 1976 by Mohammed Murtala, followed by Ge. Olusegun Obasanjo.

A return of civilian rule came in 1979, under Shehu shagari, however the military returned in 1984 under Mohammed Buhari and then again under Maj. Gen. Ibrahim Babangida. Sani Abacha ascended to power on November 17, 1993. His government has been interna-

tionally announce for human rights abuses, including executions.

The most populous country in Afrika, Nigeria accounts for one quarter of Sub-Saharan Africa's people. The dominant ethnic group in the northern two-thirds of the country is the Hausa-Fulani, most of whom are Muslims. Other major ethnic groups of the north are the Nupe, Tiv, and Kanuri. The

Yoruba people are predominant in the southwest.

About half of the Yorubas are Christian and half Muslim. The predominately Catholic Ibos are the largest ethnic group in the southeast, with the Efik, Ibibio, and Ijaw comprising a substantial segment of the population in that area as well.

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Writers Wanted!!

Call Myshalae Jamerson, Culture Editor, at 515-1468 or come by Room 372 of the Witherspoon Student Center for details.

HEALTH

Developing Allergies

By Renee Johnson
Health Editor

Although many find Mother Nature's gift of unseasonably warm weather wonderful, there are those individuals who might say "she really shouldn't have." This is a gift of allergies, a problem that has plagued many people and have frequented their visits to the doctor's office. With unpredictable weather, air pollution, and poorly ventilated heating and cooling systems, there has been a rise in the need for treatment of allergies.

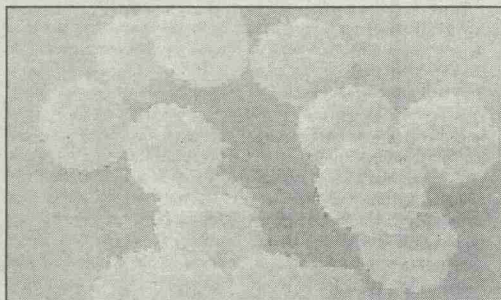
The most common of these allergies is the hay fever allergic reaction to pollen. Though more familiar with many sufferers, pollen is not the only allergenic substance. There are those individuals who have allergic reactions, for instance, to chemicals, dust, insect bites, and even certain foods.

In most cases, an allergy can cause relatively mild symptoms such as sneezing, rashes, and stomach cramps. A rare and severe allergic reaction can trigger anaphylactic shock that occasionally leads to death. Death from bee stings is an example of this severe type of allergic reaction.

An allergy develops in much the same way as does an immunity against an infectious disease. First, a person is exposed to a substance such as pollen, for the sake of argument. While the bodies of most people simply ignore pollen, others treat pollen as a foreign invader.

When this happens, a substance in the blood known as an antigen becomes active. Antigens cause the formation of antibodies whose job is to fight off the invading substance.

Antibodies are in the blood normally and are activated by the anti-



healthnet.com

A microscopic view of pollen

gen to which each is specifically linked. For instance, if a person who is allergic to seafood eats fish, an antigen to seafood will cause the formation of antibodies whose only function is to work against that one antigen.

Antigens that cause allergies are called allergens. The most common are dust, pollens, foods, animal dangers (bits of dry skin or fur), insect venom, cosmetics, soaps, and drugs. Heat, cold, sunlight and certain emotions, can also act as allergens.

A recent study found that 2 out of 10 people have some sort of allergy. Of these 10 individuals, many belong to families in which parents and other close relatives also have allergies, leading many to suspect that this problem can be inherited.

Specific allergies, such as those to pollen, are not inherited, however. A person becomes sensitive, or allergic to pollen as a result of exposure to it.

Regardless of differences in the causes of allergies, they affect the body in a general way. The initial contact with the allergen triggers the action of the blood's antibodies.

And the next contact with the substance make the antibodies react,

causing the release of the chemical histamine from cell tissues. The release of histamine is the most important factor in producing symptoms of allergies.

Histamine is present in all animal and vegetable tissues and is neutral, or harmless, while it remains inside the cells. When histamine is released, however, it triggers a series of dramatic actions. The blood vessels become larger and the speed of the blood flowing through the vessels slows.

These changes in size and volume of cells and blood allow fluid to leak through cell walls. This fluid causes swelling, or edema, of the surrounding tissues. The inflamed tissue becomes irritated and swollen. Puffy, red eyelids and a stuffy nose in hay fever are examples of this.

Histamine also causes smooth muscles (which are involuntary muscles that do not require commands to act) to contract. Smooth muscles are found mostly in the internal organs, the intestines, blood vessels, and breathing passages.

see Allergies, page 7

What is BMI?

By Renee Johnson
Health Editor

Many people get discouraged when they go to put on their favorite pair of jeans and find that they don't quite fit like they did last month, or when they step on the scale to find they're over their estimated weight index.

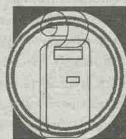
Although this is not a truly healthy fact, it is an almost given in today's society, where this is a heavy emphasis placed on one's appearance. Nevertheless, one should not let these factors drastically change eating habits or start a fad diet.

The fact remains that bathroom scales and weight-for-height tables, are not accurate indications of where this weight is carried or how much

of the weight is fat. The Body Mass Index, or BMI, estimates the amount of body mass, including fat, that your body has. BMI relates your body weight to the health risks associated with being overweight.

A healthy BMI would fall within the range of 19 to 25. If you're at the upper end of this range or score more than 25, you might consider losing enough weight to lower your BMI at least one or two numbers. A BMI of more than 27 is considered overweight.

Of course, this type of measurement alone cannot accurately affect how you lose weight. Look in next week's Health page for ways to trim those unwanted pounds.



HOW TO CALCULATE YOUR BMI

1. Multiply your weight in pounds by 0.45.
For example, if you weigh 150:
 $150 \times 0.45 = 68$

2. Multiply your height in inches by 0.025.
For example, if you're 5'6" (66 inches):
 $66 \times 0.025 = 1.65$

3. Square the answer from step 2
 $1.65 \times 1.65 = 2.72$

4. Divide the answer from step 1 by the answer from step 3
 $68 / 2.72 = 25$

Chlamydia: It's not the New Item at Taco Bell

Staff Report

SYMPTOMS OF CHLAMYDIA

For Women:

- irregular vaginal bleeding
- burning with urination
- itching and burning in the genital area
- vaginal discharge
- lower abdominal pain often accompanied by nausea and fever

For Men:

- pain or burning during urination
- frequent urination
- pain and swelling in the testicles
- low-grade fever
- burning and itching around the opening of the penis
- watery or milky discharge from the penis

Chlamydia, caused by the microorganism *Chlamydia Trachomatis* is the most common curable sexually transmitted disease in the United States and on most college campuses. It is often referred to as the "silent epidemic" because over three quarters of the women and half of the men unknowingly have the disease. Up to 80 percent of women and 25 percent of men with uncomplicated chlamydia infection have no symptoms or signs of infection.

The disease is usually transmitted during contact with the genital, mouth, or rectal area of an infected person. It is not transmitted through casual contact (toilet seats, hot tubs, saunas, or swimming pools).

Symptoms typically occur and appear within one week to a month after exposure to an infected person.

Chlamydial infections are one of

the most treatable STDs, especially when detected early.

The cure rate is greater than 95%, and is usually treated with antibiotics. Treatment with antibiotics may also be suggested even if the test results are negative or if the person has not been tested for the dis-

ease. It is better to be treated than not treated, as untreated chlamydia can have long term negative consequences.

If left untreated, Chlamydia infections can create serious health problems. In women, a chlamydial infection may begin at the cervix

and spread upward to the uterus, the fallopian tubes, or to the ovaries. This may result in pelvic inflammatory disease (PID). PID can scar and block fallopian tubes, causing sterility, infertility, or even an ectopic (tubal) pregnancy. In men, chlamydial infections are the

leading cause of non-gonococcal urethritis (NGU) which can cause epididymitis, an inflammation of the epididymis (located adjacent to the testicle). Epididymitis can eventually lead to sterility.

If you are treated for the disease, it is most important to take the full course of antibiotics, even if symptoms disappear. In addition, all exposed sexual partners should be referred for evaluation and treatment.

Immunity does not develop after being infected; therefore, an individual can be infected with chlamydia more than once. To prevent re-infection, infected people should refrain from intercourse until they and their partner(s) have completed treatment.

Being sexually active requires responsibility of both people to protect themselves from spreading infectious diseases. Contraceptives such as condoms and spermicides must be used. Remember the old adage: an ounce of prevention is

OPINIONS

The Hidden Threats

By Harold Pettigrew

Opinions Editor

A lot of things go on behind the scenes that many of us are not aware of. These are the things that are most threatening to our well-being, the things that affect our lives the most. Especially being in college, if you don't seek to find information, you certainly won't receive it. And, on most occasions, this is the information that is the most threatening to our livelihood. There are many things out there, but the one that I'm speaking of is the elimination of race with affirmative action programming.

Believe it or not, there are many organizations committed to eliminating race in regards to admissions. Two of these organizations include: the John Locke foundation (located on Hillsborough Street) and the Center for Individual Rights (CIR). The latter organization has a publication expressing the legal factors of why universities can be sued for including race in admissions.

Have any of you ever asked why is race the main factor under scrutiny in the affirmative action debate?

Why, of all the factors used as criteria for affirmative action programming, is race being attacked? We've all made the claim that preferences have existed since the establishment of university education. But now, since it is believed America has become the ideal nation moved by democracy and grounded under the auspices of freedom, the attack has been to eliminate the one preference that has consistently been at the root of this nation's foundation: -race.

Let's break it down. It was stated by the CIR that racial differences have almost nothing to do with "intellectual" diversity and that skin color should not be an issue. However, skin color has always been an issue. There is one difference in race being used as a preference than there is with any other preference. It is the one criteria that excludes White Americans.

This is the one preference that doesn't benefit White Americans even though there has always been preferences that hasn't benefited non-White Americans. This is the one criteria that can in no way, fit into White Americans (so how long

did you think it would take before it would be under scrutiny).

We all acknowledge the fact that racism continues to exist. Though it is not manifested physically, where I am faced with being called a "nigger," it is systematically in our communities, universities, businesses, and in the minds of people. People of color (translated: Afrikan Americans) have been "accepted" legally in this country for the past 35 years. Slavery existed for approximately 246 years and segregation lasted approximately 100 years.

That's about 346 years of being treated as a 5th class citizen compared to only 35 years of so called social acceptance. Think of the "flea in the jar" story. These 300 years of oppression has had an effect on blacks and the whites as well. So systematically, there should be a mechanism in place to reverse the damage done to Afrikan Americans and the systemic naiveness of Whites.

Now let's bring it back. Race is the point of attack with affirmative action, but what about athletes? As some of you may be wondering what

does athletes have to do with anything, but I ask you to hear me out. (I've been through the process of college athletics, so I'm speaking from experience).

You have a top prospect student athlete coming out of high school holding a press conference to declare what school he is "choosing" to attend so that he will be a star on that athletic team. But then, you have an academic all star student who has applied to school who is "waiting" to be accepted into a university. What is wrong with this picture? How many Afrikan Americans dominate the major NCAA sports of football and basketball? Preferences exist with athletics and every other aspect of university life.

My question is, "How does athletics increase or enhance intellectual diversity at a university if race doesn't?" This subject has not been addressed because the universities will be making money from these Afrikan Americans as they enhance the athletic programs. Diversity is not looked at with athletics. So why isn't the case made that most basketball and football teams are dominat-

ed by Afrikan Americans?

Money has eliminated the discussion of athletic preferences even though colleges and universities are looking to establish intellectual diversity as stated by the CIR. So there are many breakdowns with pinpointing race as a problem in affirmative action programming.

Affirmative action is a tool used to achieve diversity on a college campus. Assuming they go hand and hand, how can a campus be diverse with ideas if race is not taken into account? If one preference is eliminated then all should be eliminated.

For years Whites have benefited from legacy. And for years Whites have benefited from laws designed to maintain the privileges of being a White American. If one preference is eliminated then all preferences should be eliminated. Thus, race continues to plague our society, and remains an issue that needs to be addressed in our colleges and universities.

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Racial Biases Are Hard to Break

By R. Jeneen Jones

Guest Writer

As an Afrikan American, it is easy to fall into the trap of thinking that racial biases only negatively affect blacks and other minorities. Actually, Afrikan Americans are not immune to the use of racial stereotypes. Take myself for instance. Being in human resource, I am normally acutely conscious of the racial judgments I make and do my best to analyze a given situation when I don't react the way I know I should. Though I pride myself on being fair, equitable and open-minded, I (just like everyone else) have a few pre-conceived notions based on racial biases that are very hard to relinquish.

Three weeks ago, I attended a human resources conference in San Diego. Though there were approximately 100 people in attendance, there were no black men and only one other black woman, Yvonne, at the event. Since I am always trying to increase my network of professional black business contacts, I resolved that I would introduce myself to her and exchange business cards.

At our first break during the training session, I introduced myself to Yvonne and she responded in kind. As it turned out, we both worked and lived less than twenty minutes from one another

and had mutual acquaintances: At the end of the day, I approached her again and offered my business card. Though Yvonne took my card, she said she did not bring any of hers. In addition, she did not offer to write down her information and telephone number. "Not a big deal", I thought.

At least I did my part.

I had forgotten about the incident until last week when Yvonne called me at work. Needless to say, I was surprised to get her call. I figured that, for whatever reason, Yvonne's earlier reluctance to give me her telephone number was an indication that she had no desire to keep in touch. When she called, I hoped that my initial reaction was wrong. I figured Yvonne was trying to "touch base" and warmly welcomed the call. As it turned out, Yvonne called to ask a favor.

Recently, while in church, one of Yvonne's fellow congregation members approached her for help. The woman, Angela, had just been laid-off from her job of eight years. Since she knew that Yvonne worked in human resources, Angela thought Yvonne could help her find a new job. Thus the call to me - Yvonne wanted me to also join in the search.

"No problem", I thought and told Yvonne that I would be happy to help. I'm always promoting business networking among

Afrikan Americans and this was a chance for me to ante-up.

After I finished my conversation with Yvonne, I went through my files and gathered a few job announcements that I thought would be perfect for Angela. There were a couple of positions that I was extremely excited about. These positions seemed to be tailor-made for her and I felt the recruiting companies could greatly benefit from a boost in minority applicants. I could not wait to meet Angela.

Later that day, I did. As much as I am reluctant to admit it, my initial eagerness to help Angela was momentarily halted when I first saw her. Based on my conversation with Yvonne, I had already formed a mental picture of Angela. I imagined her to be black, in her early to mid-thirties, outgoing yet modest, and professional yet slightly conservatively dressed. Though Angela was in her early to mid-thirties, outgoing yet modest, and professional yet slightly conservatively dressed, she was white.

For a moment, just for a second, my enthusiasm wavered as I shook Angela's hand. Because Yvonne was black, because Angela was a member of Yvonne's church, and because Yvonne asked me to help, I assumed that Angela was also "one of us". As a result, when I first saw that Angela was not black, I thought, "She doesn't need my

help. A white female will have no problems finding another job in this economy. Why is Yvonne going to so much effort to help her?" That is what I initially felt though I knew that Angela, just as any other qualified individual, deserved my help just as much as any black person would. I also know that, if our roles and situation had been reversed, I would have expected (and demanded) as much from her.

Though I do not think Angela noticed my initial reaction and I did my best to treat her with the utmost courtesy and professionalism, I felt deeply humbled by the experience. The incident reminded me that, no matter how much we may try to dispel racial stereotypes and biases, they are very difficult to overcome. Many are performed at a subconscious level and manifest themselves before our ethics and rational thinking processes have an opportunity to overrule them. Having an open mind is a difficult task and requires constant reinforcement and effort. This event showed me that I have further to go than I thought. Though I did not allow my pre-conceived notion of Angela to negatively impact on her, I cannot criticize others for their racial biases until I first adjust mine. Fortunately, I am consciously and continuously striving to do just that. Racial biases are hard, but not impossible to break.

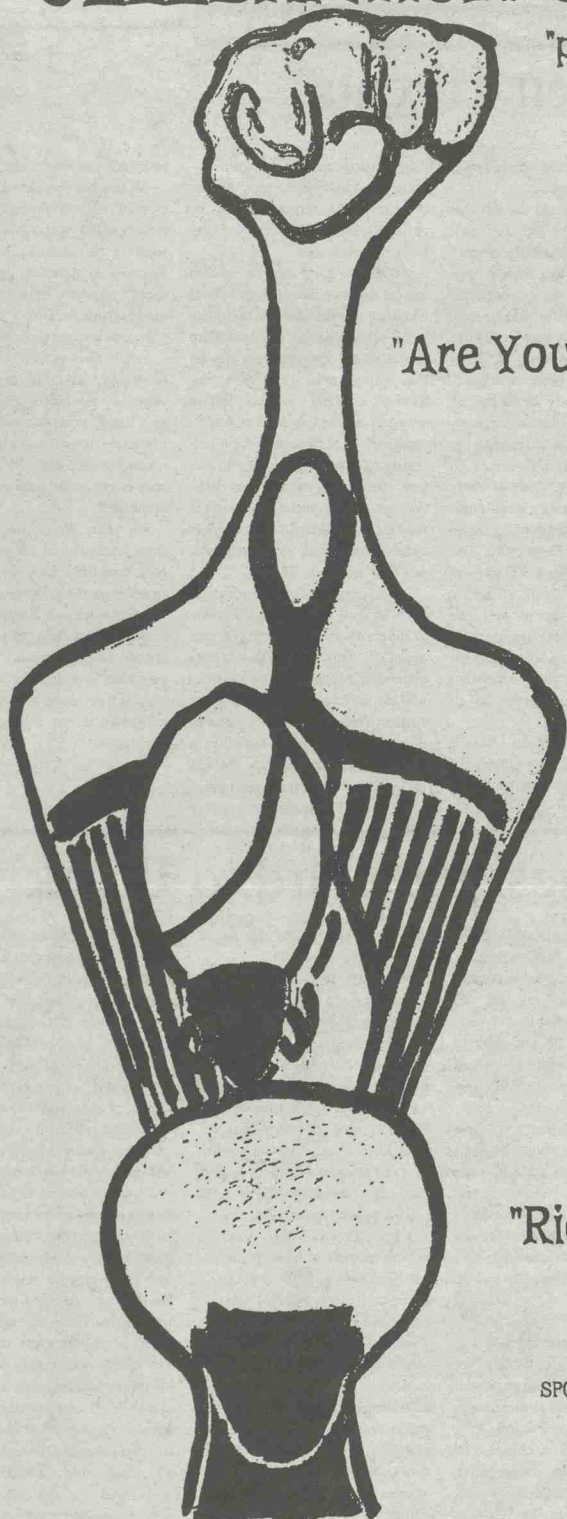
"We are what we repeatedly do.

Therefore, Excellence is not an act, but a habit."

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Feb. 16 \$2 w/ID \$3 w/o
Mahogany Roots
@7:00 in Talley Student Center

Feb. 19 \$3 w/ or w/o ID
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FREE w/STUB Afterparty
@10:00 in Merrymonk

Feb. 20
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