

The NUBIAN MESSAGE

April 6, 2000
Volume 7, Edition 18

The Afrikan American Voice of North Carolina State University

THE PEOPLE HAVE SPOKEN!!

AASAC-endorsed candidates swept elections

Knowledge



What's Goin' On?

Remaining Pan Afrikan Events

Thursday April, 6 2000

Block Party

The Pan Afrikan Festival will resume its annual events on Today from 4:00 - 7:00pm in the Talley Student Plaza. ***Rainsite is the Talley Student Center Ballroom***

Dance Visions

The NCSU performance group Dance Visions will be holding there annual performance today @ 8pm in Stewart Theatre. Everyone is urged to show their support.

Friday, April 7, 2000

Step Off 2000

The NPHC of N.C. State University will be sponsoring this year's Step Off 2000. The event will be held in Stewart Theatre. The prices include \$10 in advance w/college id, \$12 in advance w/out college id, and \$15 at the door. The event will begin @ 7:30 pm.

After Party

The after party for the step show will be held in the Talley Student Center Ballroom, from 10:00 - 3:00am. Tickets for this event will be \$3 dollars with stepshow stub, \$5 in advance w/college id, \$7 in advance w/out college id, and \$10 at the door.

Saturday, April 8, 2000

Black Out

This year's Black Out will be beginning at 11:00 am and continue till 5:00 pm in Harris Field.

Comedy Show and Predawn

Pan Afrikan Festival will be concluding its events on Saturday will a Comedy Show followed by an After Party. The Comedy show run from 8-10pm and will be featuring such performers as: Mike Yard, Marquez the Greatest, and Shang. Tickets will be \$5 dollars for college students, \$7 for faculty and staff, and \$10 for general public. Following the Comedy show will be the Predawn. The Predawn will run from 11-4 am. It will be \$5 w/comedy show stub, \$5 in advance w/college id, \$10 in advance w/out college id or @ the door w/ college id, and \$15 for general public at the door.



D. Winston/Staff

Student Body Officers for the 2000-2001 school year (from left to right): Mark Aldrich, Student Center President, Michael Anthony, Student Body Treasurer, Harold Pettigrew, Student Body President, and Conen Morgen, Student Senate President.

By Tonya Johnson

Co-News Editor

This year's election offered tough competition among the candidates, but at last, the winners were announced late Wednesday night with all the candidates endorsed by the Afrikan American Student Advisory Council coming out on top.

Harold Pettigrew, a junior in political science, was elected Student Body President for the 2000-2001 school year, defeating Raj Mirchandani, the current Student Body President.

Pettigrew, who last fall became the first Afrikan-American male to win Leader of the Pack, is also a member of the Student Center Board of Direc-

tor, President of the Society of Afrikan-American Culture, and a proud brother of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He has been tapped to be inducted into the Golden Chain Leadership Honorary Society. During his campaign, he stressed making student government more accessible to N.C. State students.

Michael Anthony, a sophomore in

electrical engineering, was voted in as Student Body Treasurer. Anthony campaigned against Jim Smith. Even before he heard the good news, he stated, "Whether I win or lose, I plan on getting back in the administration's face and making sure they address the concerns of the student body."

see Election, page 2

What did you miss during Pan-Afrikan? Find out on page 4!!!

Election

continued from page 1

Anthony, who has experience as treasurer for Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and the Society for Afrikan American Culture, wanted to win the Student Body Treasurer position to create a better working relationship with the students and Student Government. Anthony is also Chief Photographer for the Nubian Message.

Conen Morgan, a sophomore in computer science, was victorious and was elected Student Senate President for the 2000-2001 academic year. Morgan, a member of Senate, ran against Jason Cotter, a

former member of Senate and editor in chief of the Broadside magazine. Morgan stressed during his campaign that students need to know what is going on around campus.

Besides Student Senate, Morgan is a member of Wolf Aides, a staff writer for Americana and a Caldwell Fellow.

Mark Aldrich, also a member of Senate, was elected Student Center President. Aldrich, a junior in mathematics and political science, hopes that as Student Center President, there will be more student programming. Before becoming Student Center President, Aldrich served as secretary of the Union Activities Board.

Get Ready for the Ebony Harlem Awards

By Tonya Johnson
Co-News Editor

One of the most talked about events which recognize the different talents of African-American students is just around the corner. It is the Ebony Harlem Awards, and it is scheduled for Thursday, April 27th, in the Multipurpose Room of the Witherspoon Student Center. It will start promptly at 7:30 p.m.

During the month of March, students and faculty were encouraged to submit students' names who had made a difference in the following categories: humanity appreciation, dance, vocal music, design, drama, art, instrumental music, literary talent, service, leadership, and academics. One person will also be chosen as the Ebony/Harlem Distinguished Person who "has embraced the (African-American) culture as a badge of pride."

"These people have to exemplify these ideals. They should also be proud of their heritage and culture,"

said Kim McNair, who is the Ebony Harlem Awards Nominating Committee Chair.

A select few from the Society of African American Culture (SAAC) narrowed it down to three finalists in each category. A faculty committee of 12 also helped in the process by reviewing nominations and making nominations to the student group. Once the finalists are chosen, their names were placed on a ballot for students to vote on the winner in each category. Students can vote during most of the Pan-Afrikan events held this week.

"The people nominated have made a positive impact in the African-American community and have represented the African-American community in a positive light. Their peers have recognized this," said McNair.

One of these talented students is McNair. But McNair has stepped down during the selection process of finalists in each category since she is a finalist in one of the categories. "I did not want people to think I had an

advantage because I was chair. This is a fair process, and everyone has a fair chance at winning. Shequeta Smith is acting as chair during this process," she said.

Like McNair, this is Smith's first time participating with the program. "It's been an honor for me to be acting chair for this event. We have some very talented and gifted African-Americans on our campus," she said.

McNair said that the awards program has been in existence since 1995. Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to attend the free program where refreshments and entertainment will be provided.

During the award ceremony, the winners will receive a certificate and a statue called a "shadow."

So cast your ballots this week and mark your calendars for April 27th to recognize the African-American students who have made a difference on campus. "We hope the winners will be surprised and delighted to receive this award," said McNair.

Nubian Fun Fact #89

The paper has been in existence since 1992!!

THE NUBIAN MESSAGE

The Afrikan American Voice of North Carolina State University

Editor in Chief.....Dock G. Winston

General ManagerTrey Webster

Managing Editor.....Lakesha Parker

Production Manager.....Adedayo Banwo

Staff

Co-News Editor.....Latonya Johnson

Co-News Editor.....Brandon Buskey

Sports Editor.....Keesha Dover

Culture Editor.....Michelle Reed

Health Editor.....Thannie Roldan

Opinions Editor.....Lakesha Parker

Photography Chief.....Michael Anthony

Copy Edit Chief.....Chavonda Pighet

Webmaster.....Adedayo Banwo

Mailing Address

372 Witherspoon Student Center/AACC

Box 7318

Web Address

www.nubianmessage.com



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, Tony Williamson, 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.

SPORTS

The Right Choice?

By Keesha Dover
Sports Editor

Recently, there has been a tremendous amount of Afrikan American college basketball players that have chosen to leave college early and enter the NBA draft. The NCAA champions Michigan State recently proved that putting off the money and fame might pay off.

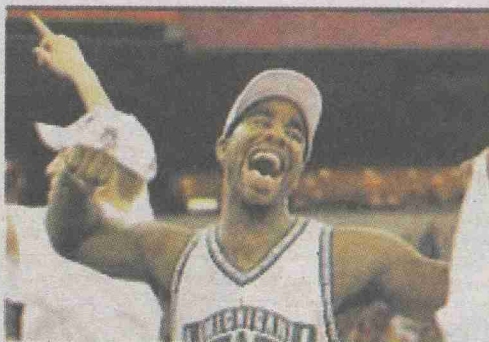
Seniors A. J. Granger, Morris Peterson, and Manteen Cleaves, all decided to stay their senior year at Michigan State instead of entering the draft. Peterson and Cleaves will most likely be first round picks in this upcoming draft, and they made it even sweeter by staying in college all four years and topping it off with an NCAA championship.

The three seniors are definitely worthy of the phrase, "role model," as they set a positive example for young collegiate athletes. The age of athletes that leave early for the NBA has begun to decrease lately. Freshman Corey Maggette and Sophomore Elton Brand, were two of the young college players to leave and enter the NBA draft, wrecking Duke Coach Mike Krzyzewski's reputation for graduating his players. This is an example of the money

controlling the person as former Duke players like Trajan Langdon and Grant Hill waited their four years out before entering the draft, showing respect for their coach, the game, and themselves. Many people don't even know who Corey Maggette plays for not to mention how he is doing. Elton Brand is doing well holding the Chicago Bulls together, but that doesn't say much for a team who has won 15 games all year.

The thing is, these players don't consider the fact that players in the NBA are most likely bigger and more experienced players than them and that it is a few notches above college, but they are constantly faced with the opportunity to go from no money to too much money. The fact is Elton Brand and Corey Maggette were no Kevin Garnett and Kobe Bryant. They didn't have the amount of talent that these two guys had and therefore only had one reason to go to the NBA—money.

In the championship game, the three seniors combined for 58 of Michigan State's 89 points. Manteen Cleaves produced numbers of 18 points, four assists, and only two turnovers. Morris Peterson had 21



Are college basketball superstars ready for the NBA?

points and A.J. Granger had 19 points to tie his career high along with 7 rebounds. It couldn't have been stated any better by ESPN sports writer and commentator Dick Vitale—"If these guys had not played a statement game in leading the team to a victory, they still would have made a bold statement just by being there."

It needs to be emphasized at all times that these guys, especially Afrikan American, will benefit more by staying in school and getting their degree. It's as simple as, if they

want you now, then they will want you even more later when you get better. The NBA isn't going anywhere. The opportunity isn't going anywhere. Manteen Cleaves had no doubt last year that he was going to be a hot pick in the NBA draft and that he could make a lot of money if he went through with it, but he chose to stick it out and get his degree. Things like this show nothing less than character, and guys like Manteen Cleaves, Morris Peterson, and A.J. Granger have it.

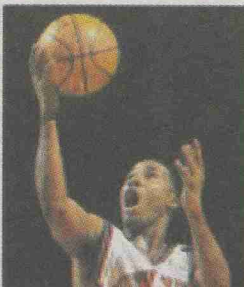
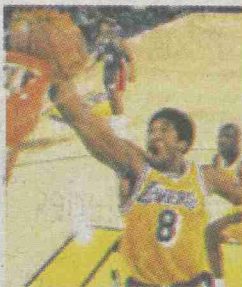
Kobe Bryant gets in fight

By Keesha Dover
Sports Editor

Professional sports are and have always been a place where young athletes choose to find role models. Lately, some players are getting out of hand. It has been said before that Afrikan American athletes need to set better examples—males in particular. There has been some "drama" in the NBA now for some time about athletes not being good role models. Retired NBA star Charles Barkley once commented on national television that he was not a role model, he was a basketball player. True, Barkley may not have wanted to be a role model, but the fact still stands that he was. It's not about what you want to be, but it's about who chooses you.

Sunday night, during the Los Angeles Lakers and the New York Knicks game, Lakers star, Kobe Bryant and Knicks star Chris Childs were both ejected from the game for fighting late in the third quarter. They both exchanged punches after a series of pushing and talking back and forth to each other. Kobe's punch didn't make contact, but he was hit twice by Childs after elbowing him in the mouth. Childs and Bryant were each suspended. Childs was suspended without pay for two games and fined \$15,000, and Bryant was suspended without pay for one game and fined \$5,000.

The pace of the game was set some believe by the referees. Not much was called and Childs and



Kobe Bryant (l) and Chris Childs exchanged blows during the Lakers/Knicks game on Sunday night.

Bryant were going at it the whole game. It's a physical game and that's good, but why is it so hard for professional athletes to grasp the concept that someone is watching. And it's not just people like you or me who know that the whole thing is stupid; they're just guys and they're just competitive. It's my little sister and your little brother and somebody's son or daughter watching the game who never turns their head and catch every minute of that five-minute show down between the two heated teams. Your little cousin's

watching and imitates the same thing in a recreational league game the following week because he's been shown that getting the upper hand is what it's all about.

Don't get me wrong, Kobe is definitely a guy to be respected. A mature 21 year old who entered the NBA draft following high school, he is also a guy to be watched. He is in

the very small group of guys who were highly recruited from high school and received tremendous publicity once they entered the NBA. Oftentimes, announcers and sports magazines refer to him as the next Michael Jordan. Even though he's not going to be, it's a title that definitely keeps kids with their eyes open. If Kobe can do it, then so can they. Now this is not to say that parents can go around blaming television on their child's behavior, like some of them are doing, but it is just to say that maybe, just maybe the players can try to be a little more responsible when it comes to things like this. It was not long ago when Kobe was a kid looking to be like some professional athlete.

Showing respect is also an issue. Kobe is a good "kid," a good person, and a good athlete, but something's falling short when he gets on national television and tries to fight a 32

year old. No, Childs is not old enough to be his father—maybe just a big brother, but he is older than Kobe and he has been in the NBA longer than Kobe, so he does deserve a certain degree of respect which was taken away from him the minute that he was challenged by the 21 year old.

Now, on the other hand, it is to be respected that Kobe was man enough and mature enough to say to the public the next day that his punishment was well deserved. He said that he thought that it was justified that violence is not the way and that they [the athletes] have to set an example for children who are watching and show them that you have to turn the other cheek. He said they have to realize that if you don't do that, then there will be consequences. Having said this though, nobody is aware of it accept for you and me and more than likely other of age people who watch the news or read the paper. The ones who need to hear it didn't hear it because they are busy watching Alonzo Mourning throw an elbow at somebody or Karl Malone shove another inside player. The bottom line is, either way they are being fed violence in the game. If Kobe thinks about these kids before he reacts, then Kobe doesn't have to apologize. Kobe is to be given credit however, and the question now is when are the rest of our athletes going to come to grips with reality like Kobe did and ask themselves, "Who's watching me?"

READ MORE NUBIAN

April 6, 2000

CULTURE

Black Repertory Theatre performs "To Be Young, Gifted, and Black"

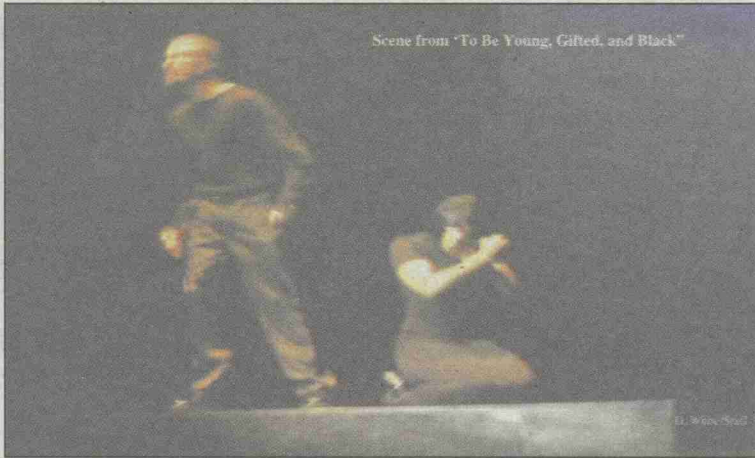
By **Michelle Reed**
Culture Editor

Once again, the Black Repertory Theatre has set the stage aflame as they celebrated the 2000 Pan-African Festival at North Carolina State University. Directed by Dr. Patricia C. Cagle and Mr. Ronald Foreman, and with a cast of nineteen members, the Black Repertory Theatre performed "To Be Young, Gifted and Black," a play by the late playwright, Lorraine Hansberry.

Told in her own words, Lorraine Hansberry shares her story in "To Be Young, Gifted and Black" through letters, diaries, notebooks, and portions of her plays by Robert Nimeroff, her husband and literary executor. In the beginning of the play, we are introduced to a mixture of characters that she created and a scene from her play, "A Raisin in the Sun." In this scene, Walter and his

wife have an argument over eggs. However, the eggs are just a mere distraction to what the argument is really about. This scene symbolizes one of the many complexities of the African American male and female relationship. One of the members of the relationship has a dream that wants to be chased, but their partner does not support them, leaving the dream chaser feeling neglected, abandoned, and without support.

After this scene, the play moves back in forth in time. Through the energy and power of the characters, we see early childhood memories of Hansberry set in the notorious Southside of Chicago. These memories reveal how she hated the white, fur coat and muff she received for Christmas and how the adults adored her in this coat. It was this coat that caused her to be tormented, picked on, and beat up by her peers. But yet she still sees the innocence of her



childhood as she played double-dutch with her girlfriends, and played hand games such as "Ms. Mary Mack."

From happiness to pain, we voyage to her first trip to the South and how slavery stirred deep emotions inside her. Reflecting slavery, two slaves in love, Hannibal and Sarah, are separated because the dream of freedom is too strong not to follow. Hannibal, tired of being a slave, learns how to read, which was a death sentence for a slave. Sarah, in fear of Hannibal's life, desperately tries to get him to stay, but her attempts are unsuccessful.

Hannibal leaves in search of freedom and promises to return one day to buy Sarah and his mother.

Memories of her school days show the chaos and confusion the race riots at Englewood High School caused. From there, we move on to her mem-

ories at the University of Wisconsin, where she did some self searching, developed a relationship with an African male, and encountered the plays of Sean O'Casey, the great Irish writer whose works had a deep impact on her own. At the University of Wisconsin, she has a friend who doesn't know if she is in love with the man who got her pregnant, and leaves school. Later on in the play we are again introduced to her in a letter that tells of how she struggles living in New York, because the life she thought would be easy after leaving college, turned out not to be so simple.

The play is told in chronological order, and the scenes run into each other smoothly. The role of Lorraine Hansberry was not played by just one member of the cast. All characters, female and male, black and white,

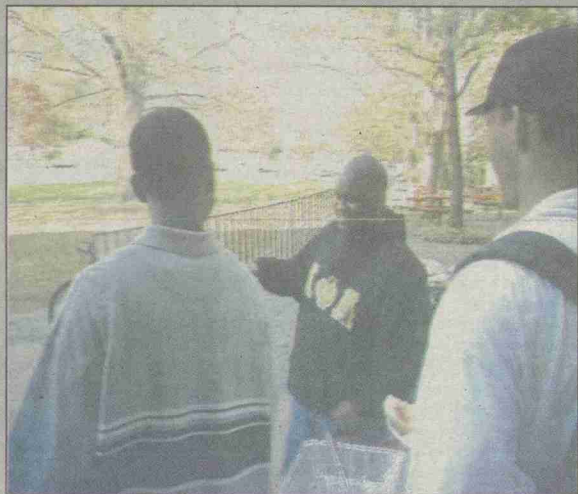
portrayed Hansberry, her characters, and the people who deeply affected her life.

Hansberry's first play, "A Raisin in the Sun," made her the youngest American at the age of 29, the first woman, and the only black playwright ever to win the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for Best Play of the year in 1959. Unfortunately, while her second play, "The Sign in Sidney Brustein's Window," was running five years later on Broadway, Lorraine Hansberry died of cancer at 34 years old. Some of her other works include "The Movement," "Les Blancs," and "Posthumously: In Defense of Love."

Demonstrated with radiant energy, humor, and the heart of Lorraine Hansberry, the Black Repertory Theatre showed how it is "To Be Young, Gifted and Black."



WHAT HAVE YOU MISSED AT PAN-AFRIKAN 2000?



Free food at Gubbing with Greeks'



Insightful lecture by Professor Small

AND MUCH MORE....
DON'T MISS THE REST OF THE FESTIVITIES!!!!
check out next week's Nubian for a complete wrap-up of the week's events.

BLACK FINESSE BREAKS OUT!!

By Michelle Reed
Culture Editor

The Black Finesse Modeling Troupe of North Carolina State University presented their spring fashion show, "Keeping it Hot!!," this past Tuesday evening in Talley Student Center, in front of a packed house, as part of the 2000 Pan-African Festival.

The opening of the program, "The One, The Only," featured the models decked out in the latest summer wear. "Chillin on the Yard," the second act of the program featured the latest casual garbs for males and females that is sure to turn heads for both the spring and summer seasons. From a pair of Timberland boots worn with a pair of khakis and a fitted tee shirt or muscle shirt, to a pair of sandals fashioned with a fluorescent tank top and a denim skirt, the gear could be worn at a party, chilling out with friends, or being that "Playa Playa."

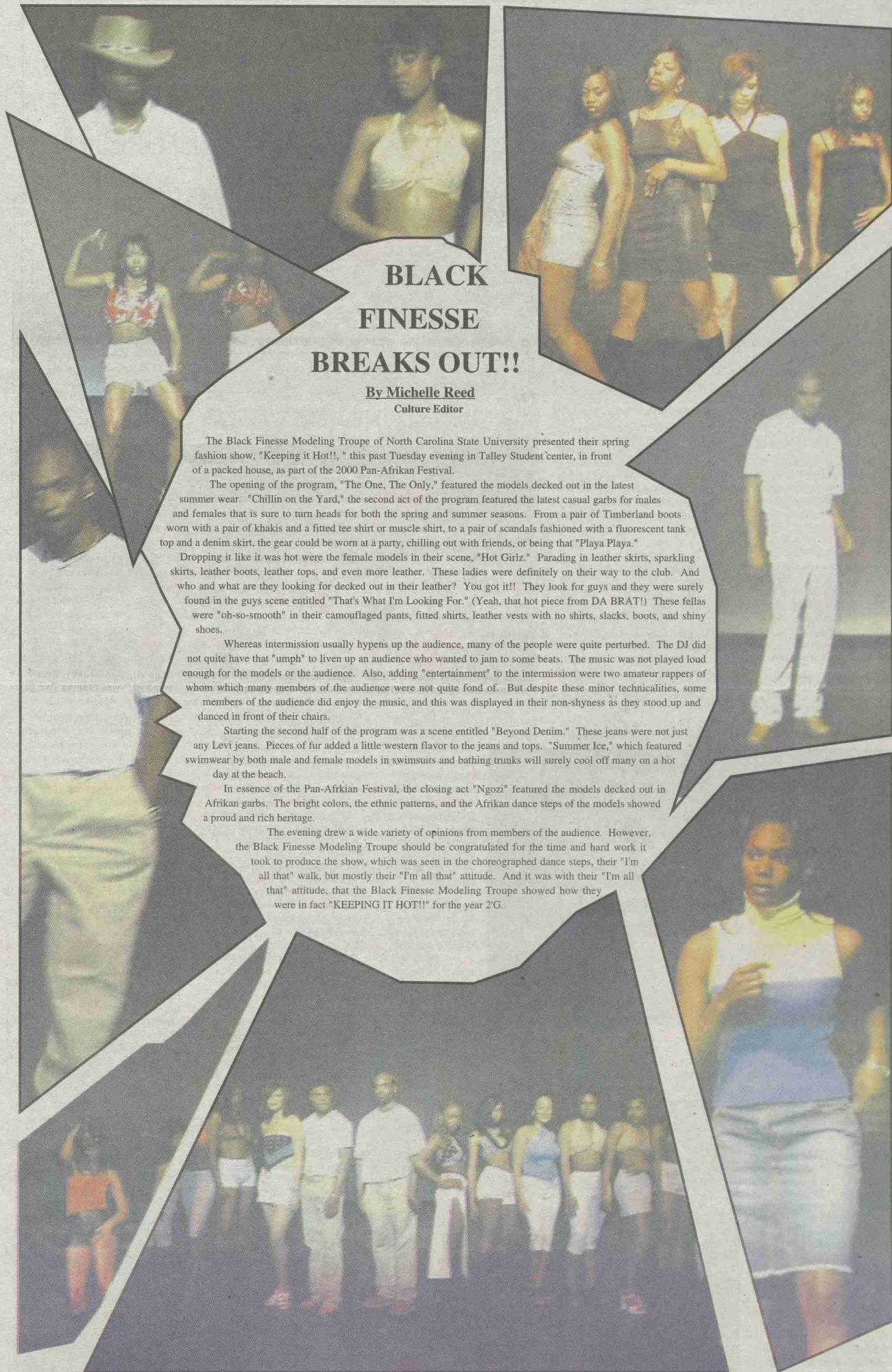
Dropping it like it was hot were the female models in their scene, "Hot Girlz." Parading in leather skirts, sparkling skirts, leather boots, leather tops, and even more leather. These ladies were definitely on their way to the club. And who and what are they looking for decked out in their leather? You got it!! They look for guys and they were surely found in the guys scene entitled "That's What I'm Looking For." (Yeah, that hot piece from DA BRAT!) These fellas were "oh-so-smooth" in their camouflaged pants, fitted shirts, leather vests with no shirts, slacks, boots, and shiny shoes.

Whereas intermission usually hypens up the audience, many of the people were quite perturbed. The DJ did not quite have that "umph" to liven up an audience who wanted to jam to some beats. The music was not played loud enough for the models or the audience. Also, adding "entertainment" to the intermission were two amateur rappers of whom which many members of the audience were not quite fond of. But despite these minor technicalities, some members of the audience did enjoy the music, and this was displayed in their non-shyness as they stood up and danced in front of their chairs.

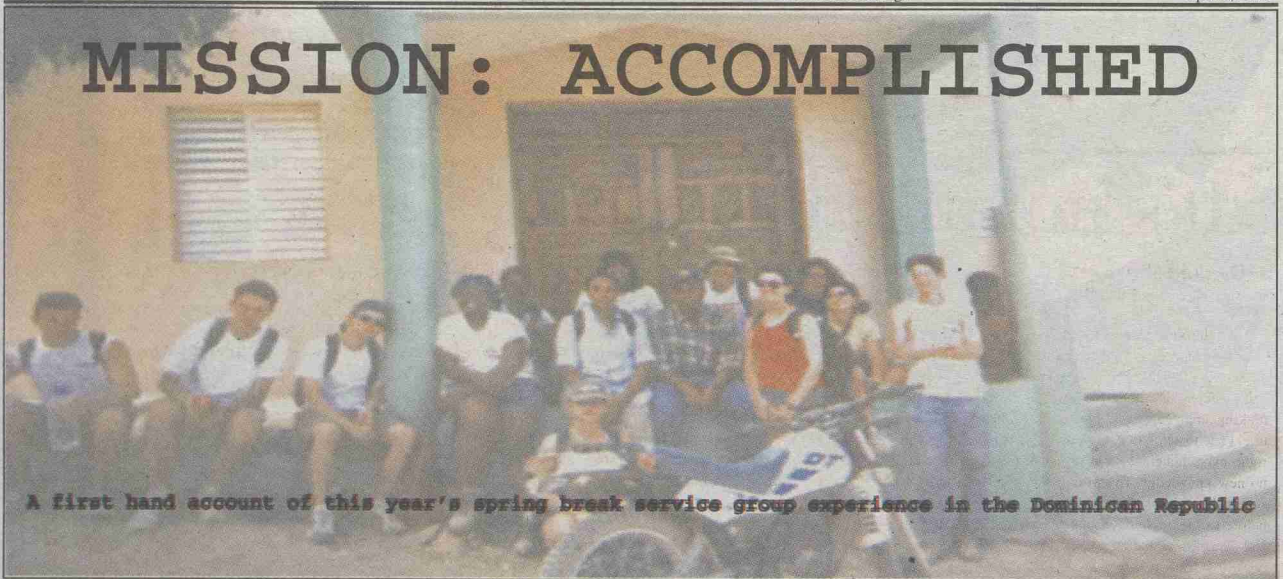
Starting the second half of the program was a scene entitled "Beyond Denim." These jeans were not just any Levi jeans. Pieces of fur added a little western flavor to the jeans and tops. "Summer Ice," which featured swimwear by both male and female models in swimsuits and bathing trunks will surely cool off many on a hot day at the beach.

In essence of the Pan-African Festival, the closing act "Ngozi" featured the models decked out in African garbs. The bright colors, the ethnic patterns, and the African dance steps of the models showed a proud and rich heritage.

The evening drew a wide variety of opinions from members of the audience. However, the Black Finesse Modeling Troupe should be congratulated for the time and hard work it took to produce the show, which was seen in the choreographed dance steps, their "I'm all that" walk, but mostly their "I'm all that" attitude. And it was with their "I'm all that" attitude; that the Black Finesse Modeling Troupe showed how they were in fact "KEEPING IT HOT!!" for the year 2'00.



MISSION: ACCOMPLISHED



A first hand account of this year's spring break service group experience in the Dominican Republic

By Lakesha Parker
Staff Writer

On March 10, a group of 15 students (Spring Break Service Group) left for the Dominican Republic to do a service for Habitat for Humanity. The group, under the direction of two team leaders, Lenae Weichel and Mike Giancola agreed to build houses in Barahona, Dominican Republic during spring break. The trip was definitely a learning service trip. While the group was only there for seven days, the group made connections with the people there that is sure to last for a lifetime. Everyone can tell you what the word "plana, mezcla and traya" means.

What they could not say in words was often made up in gestures and, of course, spirit, because all stood united as they were here for a common cause. (And of course, they

ed, helped start someone's foundation toward a new beginning.

Families now have to pay \$300 pesos per month to live in a Habitat House, whereas before they were paying \$800 to \$900 pesos to live in a shack. \$300 pesos is almost \$20 American dollars. The family pays \$300 pesos for the next 20-30 years.

Work Diary for Spring Break Service Group (including other things that happened)

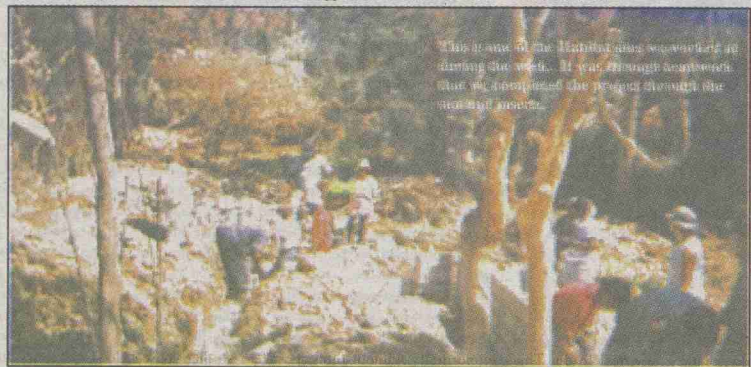
Day One: (Fri) Leave for RDU around 7. Land in Miami and delayed for two hours in runway. Arrive in Barahona, Santo Domingo at Hotel Quemaito around 10:30 p.m.

Day Two: (Sat) Worked for half a day on a site and then went to the

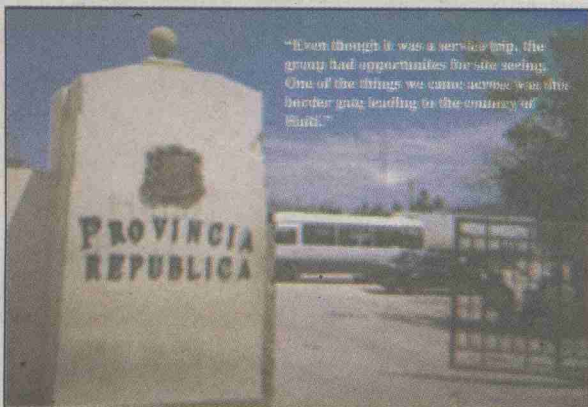
Day Four: (Mon) Worked from approximately 9 a.m. to 4 on house;

about the same hours; The staff for Habitat of Barahona, D.R. decided to hold an appreciation dinner for us at

way to the airport. We leave without problem and arrive back in Raleigh as scheduled.



This is one of the Habitat houses we worked on during the week. It was through our work that we discovered the people through the work had done.



"Even though it was a service trip, the group had opportunities for site seeing. One of the things we came across was the border gate, leading to the country of Haiti."

must also, give honorage to Pedro Peyota, who remained the hero for a couple of days.)

Some of the group were able to visit the houses of people who had actually received Habitat Houses, which made the work seem all the more real. Unfortunately, neither group was able to complete a house because it takes six months before they can complete one. Habitat builds the several houses at one time; at the current time which we were there, they were working on 77.

Some of the families houses who we visited, lived next to their old houses. The old houses serve as a memory as to the hard work that has been done through Habitat and for the name of Jesus. The people there really are grateful and praise God for their new houses. Every brick that was plant-

ed.

Day Three: (Sun) Went to a lake and visited park; visited the Haitian border; bought things from market.

Met owners of house and other Habitat beneficiaries; Dominican children came by and helped carry bricks and mezcla. Mischievous little boy almost beat up his older brother before we broke it up. But he did it with a smile on his face. Traveled to the centro (or downtown) to exchange money and go shopping.

Day Five: (Tues) Worked about the same time; Kids helped at site. Met owner of the house; he worked for the military. He came back to help build on his house after someone told him he needed to change

clothes. Woman seen on site with N.C. State cap. (Wonder where she got it???)

Day Six: (Wednesday) Worked

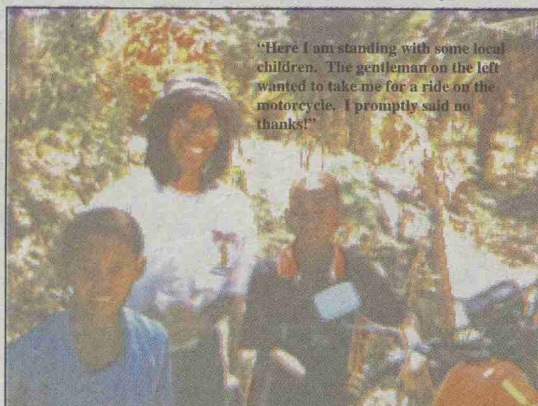
a restaurant called La Brisa Del Caribe. Both groups (ours and theirs) exchanged words and we finally met Riza's (a lady who worked as the accountant at Habitat) husband. He translated for us. A certain team member was presented with a birthday cake and became suspicious when a certain two people were talking about some "Dominican custom" in Spanish. Apparently, there is a custom where females who fulfill their birthdays get baptized (or more specifically, drenched) with water on that special day. The plan was to sneak in and do it at night, but team member threatened to call security.

Day Seven: (Thursday) Worked for half a day. Some of us went back downtown to get cigars and last minute items before we left for Santo Domingo. Though she tried to avoid it, team member got drenched as was previously conspired the night before -- on her birthday. Marisol, coordinator of Habitat for Humanity's International Traveling Groups in the Dominican Republic, invited us to have dinner at a lady from the General Assembly's house.

Day Eight: (Friday) Sightseeing in Santo Domingo; group splits up, some visit the cathedral and others choose to go shopping; Stop by to see Marisol to say our goodbyes before we leave and also meet her husband; We leave and Wilson tells us the real meaning of the "bird" and entertains us once again by singing to us on the

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!!!

- List of attendees (those not already mentioned):
Lakesha Parker--who got drenched "Dominican-style" on her birthday (No pictures of that moment)
Antwannette Watson
Tracey Walton
Shantel Samuel
Jessica Tolliver
James Barnes
Chrissie Ingle
Jacob Hooker
Dana Hughes
DJ Fish
Nathan McCormick
Alton Patrick
Melissa Adams
Mark Aldrich
Andrew Crawford



"Here I am standing with some local children. The gentleman on the left wanted to take me for a ride on the motorcycle. I promptly said no thanks!"



One of the many surprises we came across was the fact that many people still use animals for farming. This donkey is used to carry rocks.

OPINIONS

It's not all in a name

By Lakesha Parker
Opinions Editor

I sat thinking about this when I recently attended a MANRRS conference in Lexington, Kentucky, and someone discussed the keys to making your career dreams come true. I had to admit that this lady was right, even though she had revealed no new knowledge. Everything she said had previously been mentioned before to me, in some distant place and distant time, but as usually happens, I had just not thought about it in a long time until this point.

Naturally, this is a common sense statement, but I realized that most of my life has been spent working behind the scenes for various organizations. I also realized that this has helped shape who I am and helped me clarify various areas in which my strengths lie. I usually hesitate and choke when it comes to stepping up to bat and taking on a leadership role because I realize all of the different responsibilities that go along with becoming a leader. You really have to be a people person. Now, granted, I am a team player and a people person to an extent. But when attitudes, opposition, and unnecessary BS start interfering with what I know should be done, I often go my own way and do what I know best to do. This guarantees that the job gets done. Too many people would be stuck in that situation trying to iron out things that deal with personal faults, but there is a time when you have to look above that and say, "Hey. We have a job to do. Let's do it."

Now, I will admit I have worked in many a position for my twenty three years.

And I feel that some positions I have been called to do for that specific period of time. When that period of time is over, I bounce. Most of the time it is for the better, and I come out with a deeper understanding of myself and able to do so much more than if I had just been sitting idle complaining about how I did not want to do this job because it didn't fit my need for X, Y, and Z.

See, I would have missed out on

many opportunities if I had complained about doing such. There is something to be said about a person who is supposed to be at a job, or is made for a position. It's like God has placed them there and no matter what, you can't shake them until their term is up. And whether God has placed them there or not, there are just some individuals who cannot be moved. And that is very admirable characteristic.

In almost every job or position that I have taken on over the years, I have always tried to do my very best. When I was not able to do my best or felt like I could no longer offer that company my best, then I quit. I come from a family who has always worked and is bent on working and will probably do some type of working till the day that they die. So I know that I cannot afford to be a slack a**, regardless of whether I had a daughter. I must admit that sometimes I got myself in situations where I began to laze off at a job, which was normal considering that some environments were very casual and laid-back, but I often felt like I wasn't doing my best and I soon went away to find an environment where I could give it my all.

I guess what I'm trying to say is that don't turn down a job offer or opportunity without thinking. We are so bent on getting that top dollar job when we get out that if we don't see a certain amount of figures, then we are going to say never mind. But you know what, they have a name for people who are so picky about where they work. And that name, more often than not, is UNEMPLOYED. I figure that making some money is better than no money at all. I think most of us here have bills to pay.

We need to learn how to make the best of every situation that we find ourselves in. Which means that we need to overcome disappointment if when we graduate and can't find that top dollar job. Now, I am not speaking of myself, so don't sit back and say, oh she didn't cut the grade. I know that when I graduate, which is soon and very soon, I know

that I will be able to get almost any job that I set my mind on. I have volunteered, taught, worked, and enhanced my skills while I have been in college. So not only do I have the ability to write, but I can also speak a foreign language, which leads to endless possibilities. (I should say foreign languages, but some of those skills are a little rusty right now.) Which means that by being here in college, I have opened doors for several positions should I wish to enter them in the future. The possibilities are endless.

I would not be able to say this if I had not taken advantage of the opportunities afforded me. And yes, I work at this current time, in a position where I am using my language skills. And when I graduate, I will probably continue in this position until I begin my teaching career and finalize my plans on opening my own business.

Every situation in which we find ourselves in in life is a stepping stone. We just have to learn which way to step once we get on the stone.

You may be on a stone now which you think is blocking you from where you want to go. But you may also be hung up on titles, thinking that you need a particular title, so that you can look good at your high school reunion, and before your friends, and most of all before your family. You want to be the best dressed, to have the biggest house, to have the best car and to have the most money. This is all good and well, but those who have the best of everything had to suffer through a headache or two before they came to have the best. This also means that they did jobs which were out of their field or jobs which they probably didn't want to do. But they were able to list some type of experience.

So as we graduate, let's hope that we have matured a little bit and that we haven't gotten hung up on name calling. As a friend of mine says, "Start appreciating what you have, instead of complaining about what you don't."

Quotes for life

By Antwannette Watson
Staff Writer

This week's article came to me while I was in one of my depression funks. Quotes are often misunderstood, or just badly interpreted. I love quotes and personally try to implement many into my daily life and speech (besides, I cannot continue to add quotes to my e-mail signature). While you all are reading this, I should be absorbing some culture and sights in Nagoya, Japan (like spring break just didn't get it, ya know). Since, I need more time to pack and prepare, I will leave you all with some of my favorite quotes. Think of them as Antwannette's Literary World of Quotes or just food for thought. I wanted to make sure everyone received a little intellectual stimulation while I am away (you all should realize by now, that I am BIG on EDUCATION).

"Il pleure dans mon coeur"
- Paul Verlaine

"This can only end in tear" *

"Earth is 98% full... Please delete anybody you can." *

"No man is an island, entire of himself, every man is a piece of the continent"
- John Donne

"Speak when you're angry-and you'll make the best speech you'll ever regret." *

"It is a luxury to be understood"
-Ralph Waldo Emerson

"... Miles to go before I sleep... Miles to go."
-Robert Frost

"Batter my Heart three-personed God"
- John Donne

"Habit is the easiest way to be wrong again." *

"Not to decide is to decide." *

"The time you enjoy wasting is not wasted time." *

"Los hombres para amigos, no sirven para nada."

-Helena Brenes B. (my dear friend in Costa Rica. I could not have said this one better myself)

"Do not take life too seriously. You'll never get out of it alive." *

"Peace Corp... The toughest job you'll ever love."

"The best thing about the future is that it comes only one day at a time."

-Abe Lincoln

"I have learned that success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life but by the obstacles which he has to overcome while trying to succeed."

-Booker T. Washington (this is so true... It's actually the quote of my life)

Carpe diem, quam minimum credule postero."

-Horace

"... et tu Brute."

-Shakespeare

"I'm gonna walk the Earth like Cain in Kung-Fu"

-Samuel L. Jackson in Pulp Fiction

"The only thing we have to fear is fear itself."

-Roosevelt

"The basis of optimism is sheer terror."

-Oscar Wilde

"Feelings are not supposed to be logical. Dangerous is the man who has rationalized his emotions."

-David Borenstein

"The hardest thing in life is to know which bridge to cross and which to burn."

-David Russel

"It takes a village to raise a child." *

* authors unknown

Letters to the Editor

The Nubian Message welcomes questions, comments, concerns, and suggestions. The following guidelines must be followed:

*Letters must be limited to 300 words

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

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

The Nubian Message will consider fairly all submissions but does not guarantee publication of any.

All letter are subject to editing and become property of The Nubian Message.

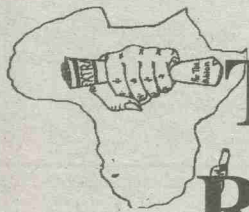
Letters should be brought to Room 372 of the Afrikan American Cultural Center or mailed to:

The Nubian Message
Letters to the Editor
Box 7318, NCSU
Raleigh, NC 27695-7318

or you can submit via e-mail:

nubian@sma.ncsu.edu

Got an Opinion??
Why don't you share
them!
The Nubian Message,
nubian@sma.ncsu.edu



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