



the Nubian Message

serving N.C. State's African-American community

February 1-February 7, 2001

"Celebrating Black History Every Month of the Year"

Volume 8 Issue 20

AACC Celebrates 10th Anniversary



Dr. Moses, Director of the African American Cultural Center for its entire existence at N.C. State

Staff Report CC Anniversary

This week marks a significant milestone in the African-American community at N.C. State as the Cultural Center celebrates its 10th anniversary. Wednesday night, there was a program marking the monumental occasion and was attended by a number of key leaders within the N.C. State campus. Since its inception in 1991, the cultural center has served as a cultural resource and social haven for many black students.

In attendance were many

distinguished university representatives, including Chancellor Marye Anne Fox, who spoke about the significance of the cultural center to the climate of N.C. State. In particular, she spoke of the intellectual contributions of African-Americans throughout the history of the university. However, it was her mention of Dr. Augustus Witherspoon that evoked a great sense of accomplishment, as many would go on to reflect.

Dr. Rupert Nacoste, Vice-Provost of Diversity and African-American Affairs, spoke of his vision for the future of the cultural center. According to Nacoste, in order for the center to move from being a presence in the N.C. community to a significant influence, it must embrace its academic role and educate the entire campus about the many diverse aspects of the African-American experience.

Kim McNair, President of the Society of African American Culture, echoed the sentiments of many black students as she heralded the importance of the cultural center in aiding her cultural and academic development. She mentioned the close-knit atmosphere that fostered in her a sense of personal responsibility to the maintaining a high level

of excellence and community.

However, the highlight of the evening came as the keynote speaker, Dr. Margaret T. Burroughs spoke of her longstanding relationship with N.C. State and the African-

speaker, Dr. Burroughs has worked tirelessly as an ambassador for the center. The lounge area within the administrative areas of the center bears her name, and it is her artwork that adorns the walls of the gallery.

political action represented the best of what the cultural center has to offer the N.C. State campus.

Master of ceremonies, Brandon Buskey stated, "it was very encouraging to see the number of



From Left to Right:

Stacia Solomon, graduate assistant in African American Student Affairs, Toni Thorpe, Assistant Director of the Cultural Center, Nicole Simpson, Administrative Assistant in African-American Student Affairs, Princess Hicks, Assistant Coordinator in African-American Student Affairs, Dr. Iyailu Moses, Director of the African-American Cultural Center, and Tracey Ray, Coordinator of African-American Student Affairs at an event this week in the Cultural Center.

American Cultural Center. A renowned artist, prolific poet, and

Her infectious personality and commitment to academic excellence and

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AACC Holds Heritage Lecture

Kelise Taylor
Staff Writer

The African-American Cultural Center held a heritage lecture Tuesday evening. Dr. Mary Sanford of UNC-Greensboro served as the guest lecturer. Sanford, who is the associate dean and associate professor in the anthropology department at UNCG, has studied all over the globe. She has researched the Mayan region of Mexico and the east Nubia region of Africa. These areas being just a few.

Sanford's speech centered around her research and the ancient dietary information she has obtained from her countless studies. This famed anthropologist believes that her research is so important because "we cannot truly appreciate who we are today unless we understand the past." Sanford began her talk by defining her research field.

"Physical anthropology is the study of past kinds of adaptations and biological adjustments of people, as well as the means by which these peoples adapted to their environment," said Sanford. Sanford went on to discuss an important African-American finding that took

place in the northeast portion of the United States in the early 1990s. Head anthropologist for the find, Dr. Arthur Aufderheide, studied the bone material of former plantations and discovered that slave owners as well as slaves were "inadvertently ingesting lead from their cookware utensils," stated Sanford.

This find was an important one because it helped to shed light on the ailing nutritional health of Americans in that region the pre-Civil War era.

Sanford continued sharing information from her other research studies, with her major point being that "persons of ancient times were suffering from numerous deficiencies." The main deficiency being iron deficiency. This is a result of the diet and environment of the people of that era.

The information shared by Sanford made the audience members keenly aware of the crippling diseases affecting ancient peoples and the horrific circumstances that befell them. This pertinent information made the attendees aware of the necessary precautions that all people need to take in order to keep themselves in the best of health.

Natural is making a comeback



Jynelle McCoy shows off her natural look.



Chinwe Ekwuribe
Staff writer

What is good hair? Is it "fine, bone-straight long hair", "soft, easy to manage hair", "non-kinky hair"? Most black women grew up hearing those exact words. They were told their hair was no good. It was nappy, unruly and not easy to manage. This notion was engrained into the minds of many, hence, from a young age, sisters started to chemically treat their hair.

Luckily, times have changed and more and more women today are moving away from that way of thinking. Sisters are taking the advice of Marcus Mosiah Garvey who said "don't remove the kinks from your hair. Remove them from your brain." Sisters today are saying "no" to relaxers, and "yes" to their terminable ways of styling their hair naturally.

What does it mean to go nat-

ural? It means to be chemically free - no perms, or naturalizers. There are many different ways to go natural. It can be by cornrows/braids, dreadlocks, yarn locks, straw set, or twists. The possibilities are endless.

How does one start? It is relatively simple, yet so hard for many. All it takes is a cut. It is recommended that one should cut off as much of the their "straight" hair to prevent breakage. You can either chop it all off and start anew, or you can let it grow out and gradually trim. After that, you wait for it to grow out. While it is growing out, you can let it stay free or you can hot comb it to make it straight. You should shampoo, condition and apply a hot oil treatment every two to three weeks and you should apply natural oils, creams and pomades to your hair and scalp. That's all it takes.

Again, relatively simple, but still, many won't go through with it because of they doubt it will look good on them, or they fear the pres-



Photos by Sydney Williams

sure they might face from their families, friends or workplace.

If one is in doubt of taking such a step, heed the testimony of Adriane Bowens, an N.C. State freshman. She said she was "pressured" into getting her first perm. All her sisters had one so she got one too.

"I started to notice that my hair was breaking off, so I thought it was the perm and switched perms," said Bowens. "I then noticed that my hair continued to break off and I decided to get braids in my hair. Then my sister Carla was telling me how she was letting her perm grow out, so I decided to do the same when I took the braids out. I have been perm-less since June 2000. I have noticed that my hair is much healthier than it was when I was getting perms."

"It may sound like its hard, but it is not as hard as people perceive it to be.

See Natural page 2

Georgia Senate approves new state flag

Bobby Guthrie, II

News Editor

Tuesday became a day of history for Georgia. On that day, the Ga. Senate approved the new flag design. By a vote of 34-22, Ga. politicians showed they were in favor of a new era in the state. All that is needed is the governor's signature. This will bring a peaceful end to the flag controversy in that state.

A brief cheer resounded when the final tally of votes appeared on the Senate's vote board. The new flag needed 29 votes for its bill to be passed. It got 34 votes.

Before the final vote was secured, four hours of debate had taken place. Some people voiced their opinions of why the current state flag should still fly. The current flag stood to many as a remembrance of Confederate history. A portrait of Gen. Robert E. Lee was even present at the vote. It served as a last minute plea to maintain the historic flag.

Two amendments were also defeated at the vote. One called for a non-binding public referendum in 2002. The other amendment would set up a study commission to bring back a recommendation next year. Ga. Gov. Roy Barnes has to seal the deal with his signature. This would be the last step before Ga. changes over to the new flag. After the vote, the governor told reporters how he felt about the bill's passage.

"It's over," said Barnes. He said that he would sign the bill "in due course." Barnes also rejected legal

quibbles such as placing the U.S. flag in a subordinate position.

Barnes was commended by his predecessor, U.S. Sen. Zell Miller. While governor, Miller tried hard to change the state flag. In 1993, Miller fought on the issue with no success.

"I think this is a reasonable compromise and a beautiful flag," said Miller. "No one could have gotten this done except Gov. Roy Barnes. He did it the right way. He did a masterful job."

The "reasonable compromise" is a response to charges that Barnes' push to change the flag amounted to a sneak attack. Barnes said he warned leaders of the Sons of Confederate Veterans last year that a compromise would be required. Any flag backer that wouldn't accept the compromise automatically took themselves out of the process.

Flag protestors and supporters were outside the Ga. Capitol during the vote. Signs were also in full view to "voice" people's opinions.

"Judas, Nero, Arnold, Zell, Barnes," said the sign of Steve Cook, a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

The new Ga. state flag is already designed. It has the Ga. state seal put against a blue background. There is also a flag "timeline" under the seal. On a golden banner, there are five flags present. The flags represent all of Ga.'s state flags over time. The current controversial state flag is one of the flags on the banner.

Gwinnett Co. (Ga.) resident Bob Sanders worries the flag change may be the beginning of a move-

Dartmouth killings strike community fear

Bobby Guthrie, II

News Editor

Two Dartmouth College professors were killed this past weekend. Susanne and Half Zantop were popular at the Hanover, N.H., institution. Police found their bodies Sunday at the Zantop residence.

The Zantops' were known by colleagues as gracious hosts. The couple received many guests in their home. "They practically seemed to run a hotel," said Bruce Duncan, a colleague of the Zantops'.

Police considered the case to be a double homicide. They remained mostly close-mouthed until the late afternoon news conference on Sunday. The Zantop's latest guest arrived at house on Saturday evening. The visitor found the door unlocked, neighbor and friend Audrey McCollum said. "She went in and called out. There was no answer," said McCollum, in a Sunday interview. "She turned and saw Susanne on the floor with blood around her."

The visitor is identified as Roxanne Verona, a Dartmouth languages instructor. She hurried to McCollum's home to call the police. After the call, McCollum's husband Robert, a physician, went to the Zantop residence. "He saw enough to know for certain they were both dead and had been dead for a number of hours," said Audrey McCollum.

According to Verona, she was asked by the police not to talk to reporters. But she did speak about her friends briefly. "They were wonderful people," said Verona, an instructor of French and Italian. "They were special - intellectually, humanly, everything."

Susanne Zantop, 55, had taught at Dartmouth for at least 25 years. She served as a German professor. S. Zantop also was chairwoman of Dartmouth's

German studies department. Her husband, Half Zantop, 62, worked at Dartmouth around 25 years. He taught earth sciences at the college. "Everybody feels they were their

best friends, because they were friends to everyone," said Susannah Heschel, Dartmouth chairwoman of the Jewish studies department. "Their home was the center for so many of us." Dartmouth students were notified of the Zantops' deaths via e-mail. The staff of the Dartmouth, the student newspaper, sent messages to all of the college's 5,600 students. Suzanne Zantop was best-known for her research in German colonialism.

Duncan said she was considered among the top in her field. Half Zantop was involved with economic geology, the study of valuable ore deposits. A fellow faculty member said Half Zantop was probably the most popular professor in his department. "He was the one person in the department who would always come up with a solution that was oriented toward fairness," said James Aronson. The Zantops' leave behind two daughters: Veronika, 29, of San Francisco, and Mariana, 27, of New York City.

Habitat helps rebuild N.C. town

Bobby Guthrie, II

News Editor

Habitat for Humanity is helping one N.C. town try to rebuild.

Princeville is getting assistance from the organization to keep people in town. After Hurricane Floyd left the town for dead, new life is being delivered in the form of hammers, nails and wood.

Hurricane Floyd may be 15 months gone, but the aftermath of the storm is still present in Princeville. During Floyd, the Tar River swelled-up and engulfed the town.

The Eastern N.C. town - the nation's oldest incorporated African-American settlement - was left almost abandoned. Almost two-

thirds of community structures were considered uninhabitable. Many of the town's 2,100 residents weren't sure if they return.

Today, there's hope. Habitat for Humanity has worked to construct up to a dozen homes in Princeville. Each of the new three-bedroom, 1 1/2-bath ranch houses will be sold to first-time buyers in Princeville through 20-year, interest-free mortgages.

Barbara Torres is one of the buyers. She has lived in Princeville for 6 years. Torres' new home is almost completed.

"We kept on praying that we'd be able to come back," said Torres. "And now, to be standing here..."

A soon-to-be neighbor of Torres replied on his "blessing."

"It's a blessing," said James

Atkinson, 52. "All this that they're doing, it can't be put into words. We can say 'thank you' but it doesn't cover what we feel."

The Habitat structures are not the first new houses in Princeville since Floyd. But, the Habitat house do represent the largest concentrated effort to rehouse this town's people. Habitat also has plans to construct 60 houses for other poor, displaced Hurricane Floyd victims throughout N.C.'s coastal plain.

As a result of Floyd, 400 of 687 Princeville homes and businesses had to be leveled because they were so badly damaged. The town was entirely evacuated.

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of faculty, staff, and alumni in attendance. Overall, the cultural center is here to serve students, and I believe this event did a great deal to promote our cause and press home the need for greater diversity at N.C. State.

"The student turnout was a little disappointing, but again, this is representative of the need for a greater effort to draw students to the [cultural] center," he concluded.

Following the program were refreshments and available tours for any of the guests in attendance.

Its current location in the Witherspoon Student Center derived

from the tireless efforts of many African-American students, faculty, and staff that all recognized the need for a place in which they could call their own. Following the vision of Dr. Augustus Witherspoon, for whom the student center is named, a plan was soon formed, and in 1991, the African-American Cultural Center first opened its doors. Since that time, the cultural center's library, gallery, and administrative unit have grown to accommodate the various black student organizations as well as the ever-increasing African-American student body.

Natural, cont. from page 1

It all depends on the person and their hair texture."

Going natural is not confinement; a person can wear his or her hair in just about all the styles one can wear if hair was relaxed. A person could also save time and money. (Think of the long hours a person sits to wait for their scheduled appointment).

A good book to read if

one is seriously considering going natural is "No Lye! The African-American Woman's Guide to Natural Hair Care" by Tulani Kinard. Who is it telling African-American women that their hair is no "good"? The notion of "good" hair is in fact a form of assimilation. Break free from that and remain true.

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The Lakers need to get their house in order

Keesha Dover

Sports and Entertainment Editor

Most people who watch professional basketball have been somewhat shocked by the under-achieved Los Angeles Lakers. However sad the story may be, it has been blamed on anything from Coach Phil Jackson's stand on offense to the public dispute by co-stars Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal. Just recently, former Laker, Glen Rice presented his views on the issue and made it no secret that he resented Coach Jackson. He blames Jackson for trying to win with just two guys. He told NBC that until he lets some of the capable guys step up and prove their worth, the Lakers are going to continue to be unsuccessful.

As the Lakers have already met and passed the 15 losses that they suffered the entire season when they won the national championship, Kobe and Shaq continue to try to outdo one another and carry the team individually. So the next question that fans are asking themselves is who should be the go-to guy

for the Lakers? This whole ordeal has been about Kobe and Shaq both believing that they should be the first option on a team with only enough room for one superstar. Seeing how the younger of the two just wants to keep the peace, Shaq has been a little more willing to display his anger.

And as this all goes on, fans start to question the two players' roles on the court. Does Kobe Bryant shoot too much? Well, in the loss against the Seattle Supersonics last week, Kobe went 5 for 19 from the field and 1 for 5 from the 3-point line. One would think that your inner self would tell you that if you're shooting that bad, it's time to stop shooting. Some people say he shouldn't be shooting that much from the beginning. When you have a guy as big and as powerful as Shaquille O'Neal, you give him the ball. Grant it, Shaq was nothing but a dunking, free-throw-bricking center during his professional debut. Now, however, he is still bricking free-throws, but he has some moves in the post area. He has come to

develop a better sense for the game and what he needs to do. He has worked hard, and he needs to be rewarded for that. Kobe is well on his way to becoming another Allen Iverson. Sure we may be amused that he can score 50 points in a game on a regular basis, but when you are taking 40 shots in a game, you had better be hitting something.

So in an effort to prevent Kobe from repeating Iverson's mistakes, Coach Phil Jackson takes it upon himself to let Kobe know that yes, Shaq should be the first option in the offense. As Jackson is credited not a bit more than he should be for having the talent to deal with multiple players in the spotlight, he goes on to try and coach Kobe and Shaq the way he was successful in coaching Scottie Pippen in the shadows of Michael Jordan. Jackson can do it, and we need to discredit his coaching ability a little less than we are and question Shaq and Kobe's positions as mature adults.

Women athletes deserve support

Jennifer Bringle

Staff Columnist

Everyday, women continue to struggle for equality. Their battle is fought in the workplace, schools, and in the political arena. But one battlefield that is often overlooked is the world of sports.

Women's sports, on both the collegiate and professional level do not receive even a fraction of the coverage and recognition that men's sports do. And, while male professional athletes are given astronomical salaries and superstar status, their equally talented female counterparts struggle to gain status and comparable pay.

Fine examples of this unfair treatment on the collegiate level can be seen right here at N.C. State. For instance, compare the men's and women's basketball teams. The women's team, which went to the NCAA Final Four in 1998 and has consistently posted winning seasons, doesn't get nearly as much coverage as the men's team, whose records have not been nearly as impressive.

Or take a look at the women's

cross country team. A team of consistent success, they posted five top ten finishes during the 2000 season. Of these five, three were first place, and one of those was at the ACC Championship. But, they didn't receive nearly as much coverage as a men's sport such as football or baseball.

And when male athletes such as former Wolfpack football star Torry Holt go pro, it is a big deal. There is no media frenzy for the countless female athletes such as former Wolfpack basketball standouts Chastity Melvin and Summer Erb, who go pro every year.

But, the only way this double standard will change is if the fans show their support. Women's sports will continue to go unrecognized and unappreciated until people fill the stands and sell out games. When the fans support these teams, they show the media, schools, and conferences that these teams are just as exciting and important as the men's teams. And only when this change occurs will these athletes get the attention they deserve.

Disney, Wheaties passes on Lewis for endorsements

Bobby Guthrie, II

Staff Writer

Ray Lewis was recently overlooked by Disney for their traditional Super Bowl commercial. The famous "you've just won the Super Bowl, what's next?" advertisement won't have the Baltimore Ravens linebacker packing his bags for Orlando.

Lewis' team beat out the New York Giants in the Super Bowl on Sunday. But due to double murder charges after last year's football contest, Lewis wasn't considered a good match for the Disney name. The charges were dropped on Lewis in exchange for testimony against his co-defendants.

Lewis' name is still closely associated with the murder case. He was welcomed by an abundance of questions when he got to Tampa for the Super Bowl.

Reporters gave Lewis the "third degree" about his life one year after the incident. They wanted to know what Lewis has been doing after the trial.

"These are business decisions that are made," said Brian Billick, a Ravens coach. "I'm amazed at what corporate America puts on TV sometimes. Go explain it. That's beyond me."

Disney picked Trent Dilfer for the commercial. Dilfer is the Ravens quarterback.

Dave Herbst, Disney World spokesman, said that Dilfer was selected because he fit the part.

"He had an outstanding game and it was kind of a Disney story, kind of a Cinderella," said Herbst.

Dilfer was a key figure in not only the Super Bowl game, but also in the events leading up to

it. He brought hype to the game. Dilfer returned to the city where he was released one year ago. He was a former member of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers before signing with Baltimore.

Herbst didn't really comment on why Lewis was denied the commercial.

"In more than a quarter of the Super Bowls we've done the 'What's next?' commercials, the person who was selected for the game was someone other than the MVP," said Herbst.

Lewis had little concern over his rejection.

"Disney World? Nah, I didn't sign no papers," said Lewis, the NFL MVP.

"I gotta go see my kids tomorrow. They don't want to see no Disney World."

Disney may be the first of many rejections to Lewis due to

the double murder charges.

"Advertisers are not going to feel they are in a position (to have him endorse their product)," said Bob Williams, Burns Sports Celebrity Service president. This company matches athletes with advertisers.

Shannon Sharpe, long time friend and teammate of Lewis, was upset when given a copy of the Super Bowl Wheaties cereal box. He slammed it down on a table.

"I can't believe 'Sugar Ray' is not on here!," shouted Sharpe. Sharpe was on the box, Lewis was not.

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scoops and scandals as heard by Shequeta Laqueta

What's up, peeps? I'm back at ya this week to give you the scoop on what's been going on in the loop of the entertainment biz. This week's rumor in Hollywood is saying that Puffy and J-Lo are supposed to be getting hitched on V-Day. Talk about break-ups to make-ups. On the other hand, word has it that there might be trouble in paradise with Lauryn Hill and our favorite Marley, Rohan. Something to do with his infidelity. I guess it's like father like son, in full effect. Now maybe Lauryn can stop having kids and give us a banging new album. More on the dating tip: word has it that Mr. Shyne (tries to sound like B.I.G. when he rhyme) and Miss Kelis (I hate you so much right now!!) have been recently hitting it off. I bet she hates the fact he just

got arrested again for driving with a revoked license. Other sources have been saying that rapper Kurupt and singer Natina (from Blaque) are supposed to be an item. They are actually planning a wedding. I wonder what Foxy Brown thinks about this. Maybe she will go to the wedding and spit in the face of the bride since she hasn't done that in a while. On another note, rumor has it that everybody's "Hero," Mr. I-Wanna-Be-Like Mike (Jordan) is being sued by some chicken . . . oops, I mean chick who claims to be the other woman. When will the drama ever stop? Ladies, lets get it together and stop sleeping with married men. I guess Kelly Price and Changing Faces has started something with their songs "As We Lay" and "The Other Woman." In other entertainment news, our favorite boy group Jodeci is rumored to be getting back together to do it one more time. That is if K-c-i can keep it in his pants. I don't know if you heard but he recently exposed himself to a group of pre-teen girls at a recent Los Angeles concert. Like black men don't already have enough ways to get arrested. Well . . . that's all folks. I'm going to leave you this week with an interesting entertainment fact.

"SAY WHAT" OF THE WEEK: Did you know that new cat Jaheim, the dude that rides around in somebody else's ride perpetrating in his video "Could it Be" is only 22 years old?

Federal Bureau of Discrimination? Celebrating Black History Month 2001



Michael Harrell

Culture Columnist

The alleged assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., James Earl Ray, recently died as reported in last week's Nubian. King's death is shrouded in mystery.

There have many theories surrounding organizations and individuals involved with his murder.

I was recently shocked when I discovered issues pertaining to an investigation by the FBI. They called this process an investigation of, "Communist Influence in Racial Matters." The investigation centered on King and The Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

In the early 1960's the infamous

J. Edgar Hoover headed the FBI. He was one of the most blatant racists to hold a federal position in the last century.

While obtaining his law degree at George Washington University, Hoover belonged to what is courteously called the "Southern Fraternity," the Kappa Alpha Order. Many consider this organization the college auxiliary of the Ku Klux Klan. Many of Hoover's associates at the FBI also belonged to this fraternity.

Remarkably, there is a vast amount of information that supports claims that Hoover is a direct descendant of an African-American slave family from Mississippi. One example is a recent book written by Millie McGhee, 52, of Mississippi, she shares information that has initiated new genealogical research concerning

Hoover's lineage. Ms. McGhee gives an account of oral history passed to her from her grandfather when she was 10 years of age. Her grandfather explains that he is a second cousin of Hoover's when Millie asks about him. Millie learned of Hoover earlier that day in History class. She is instructed to never utter a word of this to anyone. Her grandfather tells her that if she does, Hoover will surely have them burned while they sleep in their beds.

Hoover pursued King relentlessly.

The former FBI head was obsessed with bringing him to his knees. King's private life and financial transactions were scrutinized by Hoover and his men at a level that was, at the least, unconstitutional. Hoover had agents place wire taps on the phones in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference office in Atlanta, King's home and various other locations connected to the Civil Rights leader.

The FBI also attempted to secure an informant to penetrate activities at the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in Atlanta beginning in the middle of 1963. This was a difficult task.

One FBI agent stated that, "Agents have noticed reluctance, primarily of Negro informants, to refer to Martin Luther King Jr., and the SCLC in anything but favorable terms."

However, the FBI did secure an informant in October of 1965. His name was James A. Harrison. This young account for the SCLC provided the FBI with a great amount of information concerning many aspects of the SCLC and King.

The most appalling tactic used by the FBI was in the form of an anonymous letter written to King. David J. Garrow, who is the Presidential Distinguished Professor at Emory University has recently re-released The FBI and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with a new introduction. He won

the Pulitzer Prize for Bearing the Cross: Martin Luther King and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

These texts are available in D.H. Hill and the African-American reading room adjacent to the cultural center. The following is an excerpt from a letter that can be found in Professor Garrow's book, The FBI and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.:

King,

In view of your low grade...I will not dignify your name with either a Mr. or a Reverend or a Dr.

And, your last name calls to mind only the type of King such as King Henry the VIII....

King, look into your heart. You know you are a complete fraud and a great liability to all of us Negroes. White people in this country have enough frauds of their own but I am sure they don't have one at this time that is anywhere near your equal. You are no clergyman and you know it. I repeat you are a colossal fraud, and an evil, vicious one at that. You could not believe in God... Clearly you don't believe in any personal moral principles.

King, like all frauds your end is approaching. You could have been our greatest leader. You, even at an early age have turned out to be not a leader but a dissolute, abnormal moral imbecile. We will now have to depend on our older leaders like Wilkins a man of character and

thank God we have others like him. But you are done. Your "honorary" degrees, your Nobel Prize (what a grim farce) and other awards will not save you. King, I repeat you are done.

No person can overcome facts, not even a fraud like yourself...I repeat-no person can argue successfully against the facts. You are finished...And some of them to pretend to be ministers of the Gospel. Satan could not do more. What incredible evilness...King you are done.

The American public, the church organizations that have been helping-Protestant, Catholic and Jews will know you for what you are-an evil, abnormal beast. So will others who have backed you. You are done.

King, there is only one thing left for you to do. You know what that is. You have just 34 days in which to do (this exact number has been selected for a specific reason, it has definite practical significant [sic]). You are done.

There is but one way out for you. You better take it before your filthy, abnormal fraudulent self is bared to the nation.

This is one of Hoover's most remarkable displays of racism. Obviously, the FBI is attempting to convince King to kill himself. To understand the full context, Garrow's book(s) is highly recommended.

Weekly Book Review

The Nubian Message

The Coldest Winter Ever

By Sister Souljah

Michelle Reed

Culture Editor

Have you ever read a book that was so captivating that you could not pry your eyes and mind away from the words? Was the book so full of fire and energy that you feared if you didn't continue reading, the flame would be extinguished? When the book ended, did you imagine that you created more life to the characters, and hoped that the author would produce a sequel?

If you have answered "yes" to any of these questions, or if you answered "no" to any of these questions, it is time to grab a copy of Sister Souljah's book, "The Coldest Winter Ever." Electrifying and not shy to hide the social ills that have proven to build walls and barriers for urban America, Sister Souljah takes the reader that is foreign to the brick sky rises and naïve to the evils of the world on a journey one realistically never wishes for.

For the reader who is not used to

the streets ever being silent, the roaring echoes from the brick sky rises, "playa's" playing the same game (only producing a winner until someone dies), and constant reminders of the ills of society by looking out the door or window, Souljah brings to you a journey you may have already embraced, but she also brings direction and solutions to help you smooth out the rough roads along your journey. For the reader who is on top of the world, who feels life has no cryptonite, and who feels the world rotates around their every move, Souljah brings to you 413-pages of admonition or illumination of what it is like to fall off the top and to lose, whether it be mentally or physically, to some form of cryptonite.

Born in the ghettos of Brooklyn, Winter Santiago (Souljah's main character) has yet to actually experience the financial difficulties of living in the ghetto. Having a kingpin drug-dealing father and a mother who feels money and beauty are the two main priorities in life, Winter lives in a wealthy world where a pair

of \$200 pants is seen as cheap. Although not experiencing the financial woes of living in the ghetto, she comes across the violence, the loyalties, the betrayals, and the never-ending activities of a ghetto that rotates around the business of drugs.



Attractive, street smart, and bonded to the dollar, Winter's life is a dream that only many can dream of while living in the ghetto. Her family embodies the 'American Dream,' where you work hard, things fall into place, and economic success is achieved. However, the way Winter's family chose to achieve this

dream via the art of selling drugs, causes the American Dream for those families that serve as profit for the Santiago family to turn more and more into a mirage. A silhouette. A dream that will never be reached for or even thought of.

As Winter's father, Ricky, becomes larger by name, wealthier in the pockets, adored in the daytime, and envied and hated at night, he feels that the time has come for his family to head out of Brooklyn and enjoy life in the suburbs. Because Brooklyn is the life Winter has ever known, it devastates her to leave. Against her father's wishes, Winter journeys back to her home here and now to what her father hoped to rid her of, being the life he had so much grown accustomed to. The disloyalties. The betrayals. The violence. All the characteristics of living a life that rotates around drugs and promises no allegiance to life.

Months pass by, and just as the Santiago family is beginning to accept the slower life in the suburbs, all hell breaks loose. Winter's moth-

er is hospitalized due to an act of violence that was intended for her husband, Ricky is incarcerated for the distribution of drugs and a long list of murders, and Winter's sisters are soon placed in foster care. Once in a world that was created and spoon-fed to her by her mother and father, Winter finds herself all alone. The money that her father stashed away for a rainy day is no where to be found. (Forget rainy, a monsoon is approaching). The house that her father owned, the cars, the money, the jewelry, all the things that her father owned have been seized by the police. To put it simply, Winter is broke. The money that Winter does have is spent on the former world Winter knew. She has yet to distinguish between priority and want.

Still seeking to embrace the world of money and vanity, Winter uses her seductiveness, her street smarts, and her attitude to manage to continue to live the life. She does anything to stay on top, and this includes stealing, hurting others, forgetting family (especially her mother who has turned to crack for comfort and her sisters in foster care), and putting a mask on that conceals any form of weakness.

Along her journey of survival, she comes across those that want to help save her from going down a road that may be injurious or even lethal.

See Book page 7

10 years of the African American Cultural Center

The African American Cultural Center is housed in the Witherspoon Student Center. Inside the center are a library, an art gallery, several meeting rooms, and organizational offices.



A important focus of the African American Cultural Center has been its celebration of the African arts. The center has sponsored exhibits, dance troupes, and workshops to allow visitors to experience firsthand the beauty and richness of the African art heritage.



The African American Cultural Center has played host to many important African American illuminaries such as Kwame Taure.

One on One with B.E.T.'s "Hits from da Streets"

Shequeta L. Smith
Guest Writer

After three different changes in the times scheduled for my interview with Hit's From the Streets, my phone finally rang at 11:11pm on Saturday night. After answering the phone almost asleep, my good friend Eric Terry was on the other end of the receiver whispering for me to come to room 1808 at the Holiday Inn downtown... ASAP.

Well ASAP is definitely what it was, since I had been sitting there on standby for a couple of hours waiting for this phone call. I arrived at the holiday inn to face a line of people that was almost out of the door. Naturally, I took some pleasure in knowing that the I was getting in for free.

While fighting to keep Hits from watching "Oz," I managed to complete one of the craziest interviews I have ever conducted. Next, I presumed to go downstairs with Hits

and the crew to make an entrance into this \$20 gala. This was crazy! As soon as we stepped in the elevator, which was already occupied with two females, they immediately recognized Hits and suddenly became starstruck. Stepping off the elevator and weaving through the crowd, folks were just going crazy, some whispering "hey, there is Hits, while others were yelling his name or telling him how much they liked the show. Then somebody says "hey, Big Daddy Kane is inside" and that just made my night. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to interview Kane but I did manage to get the scoop on our boy, 'Hits From theStreets.' I hope you all enjoy this interview (which is somewhat edited) as much as I did. I look forward to possibly getting Hits to come to our prestigious university sometime in the nearfuture to do as he says "wild out."

What is your real name?
Alyal Sheer (pronounced just like it's spelled)

How old are you?

23

Where did you go to college?
Howard

Are you married?
No, stop playing.



Shequeta Smith poses with Hit's during her recent interview

Do you have children?
No sir.

How long have you been with B.E.T.?
This will be the second season. The second year.

How many members are in the Mu

Psi Mu fraternity you created?
You can't even count them it's worldwide. It's the only fraternity/sorority of its kind in existence.

How did you get hooked up with B.E.T.?

I used to do stuff for "Teen Summit." I was the Washington D. C. correspondent for teen summit in charge of D.C., Maryland and Virginia. Then from there, I pretty much took a little hiatus and got my little hustle hustle on. Then a new cat from MTV came to B.E.T. named Steven Hill. B.E.T. called and said there is a new cat in town you need to come and holla at him so I ran up in his office in the middle of a meeting. I told him he had a new host for his new show. He told me to come back cause he was in a meeting. I said, "pimp, I know what kind of car you drivin, pimp don't try to pull out today cause i will be on your hood like a cadillac emblem." So he said come back later on today so I came back like about three times first was like fifteen minutes and

then thirty minutes and then like an hour later and he finally met with me.

So he called security on you?
Nah, too cool for that, too cool for that. I shook him. Cause I was at B.E.T doing the "Teen Summit" stuff about a year and a half before that so I knew all the nooks and crannies so them niggas couldn't catch me. So we had a little talk back and forth, he had me do a quick audition, and I came back and brought it to him two days later and he called me a day after that and said you got a new job. Then 'Hits' was born.

When your show first came out a lot of people were comparing it to the "Tom Green Show." How do you think your show differs from his?

There is no comparison: mines is better. Oh, did that slip out...oops. I give Tom love. I give him props to do his thing, crazy love. But mines is just a different type of comedy. Like a comedy as opposed to

The Nubian Message

Celebrates

Black History Month

Feature Article of the week

by: Floyd W. Hayes



By Floyd W. Hayes, III.

Recent public discourse about the complex role of race, class, gender, and empire has captured national attention: however, it is more depressing than edifying. This passionate debate—usually among ideologically left and right cultural managers in the academy about the correct study of the past and present—produces more heat than light. In lieu of providing subtle and nuanced analyses of the complicated legacies of civilizations and the intermixture of cultures, many cultural managers serve up absolutist and monolithic conceptions of the West and the rest of us—either to be supported or attacked. These narrow perspectives signify a naïve view of history as well as a mounting cultural warfare in contemporary America's evolving multicultural society. As we traverse the uncertain and complex terrain of the 21st century, Africana Studies can provide the leadership and guidance important for interrupting and redirecting the possibility of acrimonious disputes about cultural and intellectual diversity into principled pursuits for knowledge, mutual understand-

ing, and social change. Africana Studies, as an organized enterprise in the American university, made its appearance in the turbulent 1960s as a part of a larger movement for the transformation of American society. From the outset, the emerging field of multidisciplinary study had three fundamental goals: (1) to challenge and correct European and Euro-American falsifications of history and distortions of African experiences; (2) to resurrect, refashion, and legitimize the experiences of Africans and their descendants in America and throughout the world; and (3) to develop students who possess and independent and critical sense of historical and contemporary social complexity and change. These intellectual and practical undertakings required the development of critical perspectives that grew out of the study, analysis, and interpretation of the historic struggle for social advancement and human rights on the part of Africans and their global descendants, especially in the United States of America. To accomplish these goals, Africana Studies scholars and practitioners have relied heavily on an African and American intellectual tradition.

As an elaboration of the African and African American intellectual tradition that buttresses the relatively new field of Africana Studies, critical perspectives have emerged under the general rubric

of Afrocentricity as a significant intellectual strategy. Afrocentricity largely seeks the radical critique of Western European and Euro-American cultural domination. While maintaining that Western or Eurocentric tradition may be valid in its own context, Afrocentric critical practice rejects that tradition's universalistic and absolutist self-representation. The West does not have a monopoly on knowledge and the Western worldview is not the only one. Hence, Afrocentricity is a fundamental challenge to Western intellectual imperialism and colonization. Nor Afrocentricity arrogantly assert that it is the only interpretation of the world. Rather, it interprets the world from a particular cultural and philosophical standpoint. Afrocentricity is based upon the reconstruction of their history, culture, and thought of African and African-descended peoples. Conscious of the Eurocentric colonization of knowledge, Afrocentric scholars also have improvised upon and refashioned that knowledge. Hence, there is an assumption that there exists a relatively distinct, valid, legitimate, and complex African-centered cultural perspective and worldview.

Yet in the investigation of dehumanization processes and consequent struggles for human emancipation over time and space, Africana Studies rejects static historic formulations that promote cathartic quests for identity; it also resists attempts to become lodged within the narrow-minded parameters of nostalgic claims about a now-lost golden age. Historical consciousness certainly is paramount; however, the past should provide seekers of wisdom with the lessons necessary for building a

humane future. This constitutes an historical appreciation that is inseparable from an open, flexible, and self-critical sensibility.

Ongoing public debates between some Afrocentric scholars and their enemies overlook this less restrictive dimension of Africana Studies. As Afrocentric scholar Clovis Semmes suggests in his book, "Cultural Hegemony and African American Development," there are diverse Afrocentric perspectives that derive from the black intellectual tradition. Although there may be dogmatic ideologues among some theorists of Afrocentricity, Semmes and other formulators of this critical practice point out the need to go beyond either/or perspectives in order to reconstruct a more complex and flexible African-centered cultural theory. This intellectual strategy recognizes the ambiguity and hybridization of African and African American cultures specifically, and the dominant American culture generally.

Native African Americans are the by-product of a multiplicity of captured African peoples and cultures that European slave traders brutally imported to Colonial America as chattel slaves. Through forced and voluntary interactions during the Age of Enslavement and after, African genes and cultures intermingled with those of various European (especially Irish) and Native American peoples. Many African Americans have only to go back three or four generations to verify this historical truth. Actually, of all America's native populations, African Americans clearly reflect this nation's multiracial and multicultural dynamic. Significantly, historian Ronal Takaki reminds us in his book, "A

Different Mirror: A History of Multicultural America," that America always has been a multicultural and multiracial society. The representation of this nation as white is the accepted fictionalized narrative that poses as American history.

At the dawn of the 21st century, Africana Studies and its colleagues in the other "new studies"—Latino, Asian American, Native American, and women and gender studies—need to provide the intellectual and practical leadership required to forge a new American society. This demands new ideas, new theories, new social relations, new thinking, and even new thinking about thinking itself. In the process, Africana Studies must not sever itself from the liberation movements that shaped and continue to influence the field's contours and content. Intellectual activism—educational excellence and social responsibility—must remain a major energizing force in Africana Studies. What is needed now more than ever is credible and bold leadership that can give birth to a new social vision that undermines and dismantles cultural domination and warfare and that asserts a multicultural and multiracial democracy. Africana Studies possesses the potential for exploring and encouraging America's transition toward a culturally diverse and just society.

Floyd W. Hayes, III, is an associate professor in the Division of Multidisciplinary Studies and the Department of Political Science and Public Administration. He is the editor of the anthology, "A Turbulent Voyage: Readings in African American Studies."

every month is

Remember

Black History Month



Letters to the Editor

If you would like to publish a letter to the Editor, you can do so by mailing it to:

The Nubian Message
372 Witherspoon
Campus Box 7138
Raleigh, NC 27695-7138

You can also email us at nubianinbox@hotmail.com
Title subjects of all emails "Letter to the Editor."

No insult intended to the Sigmas

I appreciate the continuous efforts of the Nubian Message for keeping the black community on our campus informed on the latest events not only in the world, but on our campus as well. I also enjoy reading the opinion section as well, but some things are best left unsaid. I didn't like the comment being directed toward

myself. I didn't find it appealing at all. I felt that it was a cut down to my chapter and myself, and I took it very personally. I feel that my chapter and I deserve an apology, for what was said.

Caleb Bulter
President, Phi Beta Sigma
Xi Zeta Chapter

Voice Your Opinion at
nubianinbox@hotmail.com
subjects of all emails "Letter to the Editor."

The truth about Powell

When I picked up the first Spring 2001 "Nubian Message" and saw Colin Powell featured with the headline, "General brings credibility," I knew I had to write. What he brings credibility to is precisely the problem.

I'll begin by stating categorically that neither Powell nor Condoleezza Rice are tokens. Powell is being hired by this illegitimate "de facto" regime as a consummate bureaucrat and politician, and he excels at both. Rice is being hired as a Russia expert, a ruthless ex-Cold Warrior, and as someone deeply committed to the oil industry. She should be taken very seriously, because she will be the Kissinger of this administration. Bush is as racist as the next Republican, but he's no fool on these appointments.

Powell has shown a consistent willingness to be a hard-working team player from the beginning of his career. The question is, whose team? The answer is the same ruling class that maintains the misery and hopelessness of oppressed nationalities including African-Americans here and abroad for the purpose of expanding profits and power.

Powell's legitimizing the theft of this last election is merely the last act in a lifetime of cynical service to one bloodthirsty, racist, administration after another. He won establishment recognition as a young officer in

on to this day, having killed over 1,500,000 people to date. He went to Haiti in 1994 to pull the CIA-led coup regime's cookies out of the fire and to prevent a long-overdue popular revolution there. This is not a man committed to anything except the status quo, and he is certainly no role model. Clarence Thomas is a mere shadow of this man's perfidy and willingness to serve the boss man.

I strongly recommend the following reading for those who want to learn more about General Powell, and the history

of black accommodationism of which he is a part. "Behind Colin Powell's Legend," www.consortiumnews.com/archive/colin1.html, "Race Against Empire: Black Americans and Anticolonialism, 1937-1957," Peggy M. Von Eschen, "Black and Red" (a DuBois biography), Gerald Horne, and "War Crimes," by Ramsey Clark and others.

Sincerely,

Stan Goff
U.S. Army (Retired)
Raleigh NC, USA.

Powell has shown a consistent willingness to be a hard-working team player from the beginning of his career. The question is, whose team?

Vietnam, where he did little combat service, but yeoman's service in the attempt to cover up and do damage control for the My Lai massacre, where his Division's troops had killed almost 500 unarmed Vietnamese men, women, and children. He was a key player in the Reagan-Weinberger Defense Department's illegal war against Nicaragua, where "Somocista" death squads, which Powell referred to as "freedom fighters." He was an architect of the invasion of Panama, where over 4,000 civilians were slaughtered to effect the arrest of a former client and CIA operative, Manuel Noriega. And he presided over the war against Iraq, which goes

Two cents, cont. from page 8 Book, cont. from page 5

is something for which she should be proud. This is a great lesson regardless of race and ethnic background.

I wonder what stories others share with their children. Surely all children wonder about our world's ills. As a child I remember crying as I read about the struggles of the Native Americans and the Trail of Tears. Like most children I could not believe that people could be so mean. Luckily, I enjoyed reading

and could talk to my mother about things that disturbed me. I only hope that my daughter will look back and say that her mom tried her best to answer all of those questions that children ask. As for the young man in the store I have no idea what he thought. I can only hope that he was satisfied too. For just a moment the dialogue between my daughter and me captivated him. If nothing else maybe he found a way to answer one of life's many questions.

But because of her thick skin, she wasn't taught how to be appreciative, sympathetic, or feel guilt, and because she doesn't seek a deeper understanding to life, she betrays the ones that try to help her. The only person in Winter's life is Winter. If Winter is not "numero uno," no one else better dare be number one.

The intensity in this book is

never-ending. When you think one plot has cooled down, here comes some more exhilarating drama. Sister Souljah creates long lasting images and vivid descriptions that seem to plague the mind for infinity. The words in this book are not meant to sugarcoat the life of urban America. Souljah takes you on a real ride. A cold, chilling ride. She

Habitat, cont. from page 2

The government set up a mobile home community to house those residents that didn't have an alternate place to stay. The recovery effort has been met with many obstacles because many of Princeville residents were poor, elderly, on fixed incomes and had no flood insurance.

Habitat came to Princeville last year. The group bought a tract of land in a formerly wooded section of town for \$60,000. It started construction in December. Many volunteers - some as far away as Canada - have helped in the rebuilding of this town.

"We were all affected by this," said Charlotte Webb, the Habitat official helping to coordinate the Princeville effort. "My house didn't get flooded and I was very fortunate, but in the same respect I look at all that these people have been through. They didn't ask for the flood."

Torres, a school bus driver, never once thought about giving up.

"We knew we had to be strong."

Hit's, cont. from page 5

just being a di*khead or an a-hole, it's intelligent comedy. It's ignorant but at the same time it's wild. It's the stuff you want to do when you sitting at the house or you at the club or you sitting on the front porch talking about people. Stuff that everybody does but just can't do it or just don't have the balls to do it. Whenever they do do it there is just no one there to tape them doing it. But everybody does it. Black people talk about everybody, they talk about themselves, they talk about each other in church. So it's the same thing we just wild out pretty much.

Who makes up the topics you do on your show?

All five of us it's like producers and myself included will come up

with topics. They may come up with them I may come up with then we get to the location and then decide on what city we are going to go to for the actual show. We basically go down there and just freestyle off the top of the head. Nothing is ever script or written, it's all off the top of the dome piece. We will come up with the topic and then I will just put the skin on the bones so to speak.

Do you ever feel like you are exploiting people on the show?

Pretty much. But see you know what, if you see me with a camera and you answer the question I ask you and put yourself in that position than that is your bad. And some people are ignorant, not ignorant meaning stupid but some people are ignorant

being they see the camera and just wild out. They put themselves in that position. I don't do nothing you don't let me do.

Has anyone ever tried to fight you while you were out doing hits?

All the time. I got somebody who tried to go to his car for a gun. Somebody tried to stab me. Somebody tried to hit me with a wooden two by four. Then somebody tried to get me when we went into a porno booth, the jack off part in the back. And I ran up on a dude in there and he wanted to wild out so we tustled up in the booth. I knee'd him a couple of times in the ribs. Then somebody tried to spit on me while we were doing a boxing show. I knocked this ladies' cup out of her

hand and she tried to spit on me.

What other things are you doing now besides the show?

Looking at your cleavage...oh that slipped out...my bad my bad my bad...that slipped out...

What is the most embarrassing thing that has ever happened to you?

I don't ever get embarrassed. I mean stuff happens on the regular. I mean my friend like fell down the steps at the esa while there was a game going on so that was definitely embarrassing.

Okay, I fell up some steps on a show and they showed it on the air. But like I said everybody is human and you are supposed to make mis-

Rebuttal, cont. from page 8

contingent upon the fact that the "races" at one time shared some level of social unification? This is particularly true at N.C. State, which has a well-documented history of racial inequalities and ill-advised policies concerning its minority population.

I think that the "ghost-writer" of

the "Technician" article, in his feeble attempt to respond to what he felt was a misrepresentation on our part, mistook our article as an affront to white athletes and the white-dominated society of the U.S. media. That is within his rights. He then expanded upon his displeasure with an article to make personal

attacks on the "Nubian" as a respectable engine with which African-Americans at N.C. State choose to express themselves. However, for him to attack the significance of the "Nubian" by suggesting that we need the majority population or the "Technician" as a means for legitimacy is misguided.

His critique of the "Nubian's" journalistic integrity is particularly unmerited considering that his own vindictive article did much to raise our suspicions regarding his. According to "Darwin's Athletes: How Sport Has Damaged Black America and Preserved the Myth of Race," by John Hoberman, the snare of the "world of athleticism" is in

many senses, a "long collaboration between blacks seeking respect and opportunity and whites seeking entertainment, profit, and forms of racial reconciliation that do not challenge fundamental assumptions about racial difference."

Read
More
Nubian

Guilty Stars

Larry Houpe
Opinions Editor

Last week Rae Carruth's mother, Theodry Carruth, appeared on 20/20 in an exclusive interview with Barbara Walters. Not surprisingly Ms. Carruth maintained that her son was innocent of all the charges of which a Charlotte jury convicted him. Sandra Adams, the mother of Cherica Adams also appeared on the show. Cherica's mother still believes that Rae played a significant role in the death of her daughter.

Carruth's mother made a comment that even caught Barbara Walters off guard.

Ms. Carruth said, "They are punishing Rae, because of O.J. Simpson."

She went on to say that the American public didn't want to see another black athlete get away with a crime that they allegedly committed. I have to disagree with certain parts of this argument. I believe that all of the old white men that run our judicial system are tired of seeing these young black stars go free only because they are rich and famous.

On the other hand, the only way that Rae Carruth would be paying for the alleged sins of O.J. Simpson would have been if Cherica was white and Rae got the death penalty. Rae Carruth may or may not have played a part in Cherica's death, but the fact remains that he is going to serve that prison time.

After watching this year's Superbowl, I have to make a comment or two about this year's Superbowl MVP, Ray Lewis. During media week that brother could hardly talk about the game, because of the questions about his trial. The murder charges against him were dropped before his trial got underway. So why is the media still harping on Lewis' role in the double murder of those two guys?

It's like Lewis said, "This whole thing was never about those two murdered people; it was about Ray Lewis. That's all it's ever been about."

No statement made during media week was ever more on point than Lewis' comment. What really irritated me was the fact that Trent Dilfer got more positive media coverage

than Superbowl XXXV's real hero. Someone wrote an article in "The Technician" slamming Adedayo Banwo's article entitled "Great White Hype," but Sunday's post game events backed Banwo's theory just as he stated it.

It seems that black entertainers are guilty until proven innocent. And if they happen to get off, then they are still guilty by default. Usually people would bring up O.J. Simpson here, but that dead horse has been beaten long enough. People in America want to believe racism exists, or that it doesn't have a profound effect on the way we live, but they need to wake up and smell what they are shoveling. Just because many of the people in our generation are open to all types of cultures doesn't mean that our parents and grandparents who grew up during some trying times in this country are equally as open and it is their generations that control the courts. All I'm saying is if a person is proven innocent in a court of law then let them live their life without constant persecution.

Njeri's Two Cents



Njeri Frazier-Moss
Staff Columnist

My daughter can make an ordinary trip to the grocery store interesting. Imagine pushing a grocery cart listening to your youngster's banter; soon the words run together.

Then they hit you with the big questions, "Mommy, did you know that black people used to have to sit at the back of the bus, why?"

As soon as she asks the questions, I notice the stock boy's face redden and his head tilt. I can imagine he was waiting to see how I wrapped this up. Was I going to be "Angry Woman Walking" or what. To be honest I was waiting to see how I answered this too. The stock boy was still waiting so I had to think fast.

All I could think was, "what has my mother gotten me into?" My mother, a social worker from the Sixties, taught her the "Say it Loud...Black and I'm proud" chant. Now I had to answer the rest. She was waiting. The stock boy was waiting. I had to think fast.

If this had been in the car or at home it would not have caught me off guard. I grew up in a very political home, and we try to raise our daughter in the same kind of atmosphere. But seeing the shocked reaction on the young man's face put it in another perspective. I'm certain that he thought that was a topic too deep for a five-year-old. Maybe I would think the same thing too if I was not black. For me, Black History is not confined to February. With any tough question your child asks, everything must be put in perspective. It would have been easy to just say, "yes, I know baby" and hope that she lets it go.

But knowing my daughter like I do, I knew that would be unacceptable.

able. And she would have been right.

It's funny, in the thirty seconds it took to decide which road to take, I did a lot of quick thinking. "What would be the harm in changing the subject? She's only five. I've got plenty of time." But in reality I knew that time ran out the day she was born.

Like many African-Americans I am proud of my people from slavery to the present. Though our history in America is not pretty, it is a testimony to an unyielding faith for which I could never apologize.

So, I took my time and explained to her about segregation and the ugly truth about Jim Crow. Watching the expression on her face was hopeful to say the least. She smiled and remarked at the changes. "But people like Martin Luther King did not like that, I'm glad." And there it was. The stock boy went back to stocking groceries and my daughter decided what snacks she wanted. But for me the moment was not over. On the contrary, it was a prelude to the many questions yet to come.

To a child, a parent's wisdom is infinite. I am not looking forward to explaining the facts of life any more than I wanted to talk about segregation. Unfortunately, these are topics that I cannot avoid. Maybe the young stock boy blushed because he was uncomfortable, or perhaps he thought the whole dialogue was strange. I am certain he was surprised. But I am glad he was there. It forced me reflect on my commitment to celebrating black history. Although the world has changed and segregation is no longer I want my daughter to understand that she is a survivor and that her heritage

See Two Cents, page 7

My Eyes are brown

Diamond Lesane
Copy Editor

According to the January 11 "Technician" article entitled "A Black Eye For News," what we here at the "Nubian" are striving for as we toil and turn from week to week is not to be the voice of N.C. State's African-American community. Apparently, we are instead searching for a means by which we can be validated in terms of legitimacy as a campus newspaper. As if the title itself was not offensive enough in its blatant intentions to publicly demean our paper, the content of such a laughable excuse for journalism was disturbing, even if it was hidden under the guise of an editorial.

Since its 1991 inception, the "Nubian Message" has gone through a number of creative and cultural changes in correlation to the changing climate of the university as it pertains to issues most pertinent to the African-American experience here at N.C. State.

Before the "Nubian" article that appeared in its final 2000 edition titled "The Great White Hype," the "Nubian" enjoyed a professional, working relationship with the "Technician." In response to our many technological problems due to computer malfunctions, we have often enlisted the help of our journalistic comrades when publication deadlines loomed near. However, the now infamous article caused an

unprecedented backlash of furor as it enraged many members of the majority population. Perhaps it was the picture of Phillip Rivers, evidently crowned the next Wolfpack Messiah. How dare we cast any negative light on one of their heroes (she said sarcastically, remembering the number of front-page "Technician" articles documenting Damon Thornton's legal woes). However, even more offensive was the "Technician's" accusation that the "Nubian" article had single-handedly managed to eradicate all efforts at "racial reconciliation," at N.C. State in particular.

Forgive my fastidiousness, but isn't reconciliation of any type

See Rebuttal, page 7

Top Ten Seen and Heard at Freshman Awards Banquet

By Darkchild



An award winning freshman poses with her award. The event recognized freshman who finished their first semester with excellent GPAs and academic performances.

- 10... For all of the freshmen honorees who did not have representatives from their colleges in attendance at the event, wasn't it a trip that they had to shake the hands of the 2000 Symposium Counselors
- 9... Speaking of the 2000 Symposium Counselors, since their work last summer constituted a pay increase of almost 100% for this year's counselor's, shouldn't they have received at least a certificate?
- 8... Should fruit, chicken fingers, and meatballs 'really' dinner?
- 7... Since it was free, why are we complaining?
- 6... To all of the students who pulled down 4.0's in their first semester at N.C. State, can I study with you?
- 5... What high-ranking administrator, when asked to present three awards, took the opportunity to deliver a well-rehearsed 15-minute manifesto about the importance of his new position?
- 4... Why were even the parents and invited guests wondering exactly what it was he was talking about?
- 3... Speaking of the parents and invited guests,
- 2... To the Freshmen All-Stars, weren't ya'll glad to (finally) have a chance to weat your Sunday best in Raleigh for a change?

1... Didn't Toni Thorpe deliver a funny, yet poignant message about life and love that gave new meaning to Luther's classic "Here and Now"?