



the Nubian Message

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

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"Have a Happy Spring Break"

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African-American Cultural Center: Continuing to make a difference

Keon Pettaway
Staff writer

The African-American Cultural Center, located in the Witherspoon Student Center, is known for programs and activities that promote appreciation for African culture. Although many students are not aware of the importance of the AACC on N.C. State's campus, its role is significant.

The goal of the AACC is to "promote an awareness of and an appreciation for the diversity and richness of the African-American experience." The Center does not solely focus on the attraction of African-American students, but all members on campus. It provides various opportunities for the entire campus community

to obtain a more culturally diverse and educational experience.

The existence of the AACC contributes to the overall mission of N.C. State, which is to promote diversity on a campus that encompasses students of different ethnic background. The AACC contains an art gallery and library, which both focus on African culture.

The library contains a collection of educational and leisure reading resources by and about members of the African Diaspora. The collection supports the Africana Studies Program, Women's and Gender Studies Program, the Freshman Advancement Seminar (MDS), and other courses offered by departments in the College of

Humanities and Social Sciences just like other attractions on campus, many students express poor interest to explore the Cultural Center.

"It's always an amazement to me that there are resources, not just the Cultural Center, but other resources on campus that people see but do not come to find out what that resource is all about. We do not have the kind of budget where we can supply every student on campus with information about what we do, so we try to do that through regular emails, posters, flyers, and newspapers, such as the "Nubian,"" says Dr. M. Iyailu Moses, director of the African-American Cultural Center.



file photo
African American Cultural Center Director Dr. Moses and the rest of the staff of the center look forward to serving the NC State community in upcoming months.

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CHASS-MAS group serving as an aid for students

Shavonne Hendricks
Staff writer

The College of Humanities and Social Sciences Multicultural Association for Students (CHASS-MAS) was created in 1996 to provide a network for all minority students in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. Although the organization was created to aid minority students, all NCSU CHASS students and faculty are welcome to join.

"Its purpose is to provide a network for all minority students in CHASS," says CHASS-MAS president, Tina Gillespie. "It serves as a forum for the exchange of ideas for the advancement of self and others in the humanities through community service, newsletters, peer advising, lectures, and fundraising." Gillespie has been involved with CHASS-MAS since her freshman year after realizing how important it was for her to connect with other minorities in CHASS.

Salim Oden, CHASS-MAS fundraising committee chair, joined the organization this year due to the networking opportuni-

ties. "Also, we try to do things for the community such as food baskets around Thanksgiving and different voluntary services," says Oden. "It is also beneficial to give back to the community and uplift today's youth."

Shonaka Ellison has been a member of CHASS-MAS since her freshman year and joined the organization to meet people in the college.

"I have met many people [from CHASS-MAS] in my major, and they have given me tips on certain classes, which professors are good and not good. It has been a beneficial experience for me," says Ellison. When asked why she encourages other CHASS students to join, she said "on a campus that is engineering based, it is sometimes hard to find people with the same interests and goals."

"Joining CHASS-MAS would help students find others who sometimes have the same problems and concerns with classes, finding jobs, applying to graduate or professional school," says Ellison.

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Does skin color make a difference?

Chinwe Ekwuribe
Staff writer

In Boulder, Co., school officials yanked a third grader's science fair project on Barbie dolls, saying it was racist. According to the eight-year-old student's experiments, school-aged children preferred a white Barbie doll over a black one. The little girl's name wasn't released for public record.

In her experiment, "Does Skin Color Make a Difference?," the girl dressed up both black and white Barbie dolls in two different color dresses. "She asked 15 adults which Barbie they preferred. Then she switched dress-

es and asked 15 other adults the same question. She performed the same experiment on two groups of students." Surprisingly, the results were that the adults chose the Barbie wearing the lavender dress (supposedly the prettier one) regardless of skin color. "But only six of 30 children picked the black Barbie, regardless of dress."

The student's hypothesis was that regardless of the color of the dress, white people "would prefer white Barbie because they were used to seeing white Barbie."

The adults she tested contradicted her hypothesis, but the

school-aged students she sampled proved her hypothesis correct.

School officials removed her science fair project because they felt the experiment might make some people uncomfortable. They thought the project would upset the 7 percent of minority students at the school. "The morning after the censorship, Thielen [the girl's father] met with the school's principal, a teacher and the director of elementary education. They told him they removed the exhibit because it might make students of color uncomfortable."

[see Skin, page 2](#)

Local museum continues African American art legacy

Ayren Jackson
Staff writer

Situated in a quiet neighborhood in Southeast Raleigh, away from the hustle and bustle of belt-line activities and surrounded by plenty of trees, sits a house. But this house is not just any house; this house has a story to tell.

In 1984, Dr. E.B. Palmer, and his wife Juanita Palmer, began collecting information, artifacts and other bits of history that tell the history of African-Americans. They have gathered all of their findings and created a museum within their own home. The museum is named the African-American Cultural Complex (AACC). It has grown to be one of Raleigh's most highlighted African-American muse-

ums. Covering three acres of land, the facility that includes the Palmer home, features three other exhibit houses. These houses are small and resemble the early homes of free African-American homeowners. Inside these houses is information on historic African-American women, African-American inventions and African-American artifacts. The houses also feature African-American history projects by local students.

A fourth house is currently under construction and will ultimately tell the story of the Benjamin Spaulding family that is well known for their North Carolina Mutual Insurance Company. The facility also includes a wooded trail that is a

lesson in and of itself. A picnic area is also available for guests.

The AACC also highlights the infamous Amistad, the slave ship where 53 Africans rebelled against ship's men in order to avoid slavery. To tell the story of the Amistad, the Palmers have scripted a play that is written, directed and performed by interested amateurs every July and August at the AACC outdoor amphitheater. The play focuses on the Africans' fight for freedom and the Supreme Court case that granted them their freedom. To enhance the play, the AACC is currently constructing a 50-foot replica of the Amistad. This will also be situated in the Palmers' backyard alongside the other exhibits.

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African-American enrollment at UGA decreasing

Bobby Guthrie, II
News editor

The University of Georgia has seen the number of African-American high school seniors applying for undergraduate admission fall this year as compared to the same time last year.

UGA officials are concerned over the drop, but are not surprised that the number did drop. Fewer applicants would mean fewer African-American students at the university. The school already has a black enrollment of only 6 percent. UGA is currently fighting in court to retain

its policy of using race as a factor in a small percentage of applicants.

UGA administrators are planning concepts to attract accepted African-American students to enroll to the university. They hope these concepts will be successful at luring prospective black students to a school that has seen few black faces. The effort will include UGA President Michael Adams and Ga. Gov. Roy Barnes, a UGA graduate.

"We will be stressing the tremendous strength of our faculty and the opportunities we can offer," said Tom Dyer, vice president for instruction. UGA is increasingly

competing for students with the best schools nationwide. As of Feb. 1, 897 black high school students had applied for admission. This number is a drop from the 1,100 who had applied by Feb. 1, 2000. As of yet, that number isn't a clear reflection. Some applications of African-American students have been received but not logged in, nor does the number include scholarship athletes or walk-on athletes, who will probably number less than 200.

"[The drop] is something we expected, in light of the lawsuit," said Tom Jackson, UGA Communications Director.

"California and Texas, which also had legal challenges, experienced a similar decrease, and they recovered in two to three years. We hope that's going to happen here, too. We're hoping to mitigate that some by increasing our yield."

In general, there were 1,593 African-American applications in 2000. Of those, 597 students were accepted but only 249 enrolled. The university hopes to increase the black student percentage at UGA. Dyer hopes that accepted African-American students agree to make UGA their home instead of other schools, especially the ones in

Georgia.

As an incentive, Barnes has agreed to host some prospective African-American UGA students and their parents to Atlanta, at the Governor's Mansion. Adams will likely invite black high school seniors and their parents to the UGA campus, at the President's House. Dyer said that faculty, staff, students and alumni will also help out by making phone calls to prospective African-American students.

"[This is being done] because the whole institution has to pull together to create the class we want to enroll."

Nigerian conference to fight present-day "slavery"

Shavonne Hendricks
Staff writer

According to the President's Interagency Council on Women, human trafficking is the "recruitment, transport, harboring, transfer, sale or receipt of persons through coercion, force, fraud, or deception in order to get people in situations. The circumstances range from forced prostitution, domestic servitude, sweatshop labor or other kinds of work to pay off debts...It differs from smuggling of persons in that trafficking moves people for the purpose of placing them in modern-day slavery or servitude."

Human trafficking, although it has not received an abundance of media attention, is an urgent issue that needs to be addressed nationwide. Nigerian president, Olusegun Obasanjo, opened the first Pan-African Conference Monday addressing human trafficking, referring to it as "a new slave trade."

Representatives from more than two-dozen African nations were in attendance at the five-day conference. Also present were non-governmental organizations, representatives of United Nations agencies, the Organization of African Unity, United Nations Children's Fund, and Western diplomats.

"This is an unwholesome trade ... an evil business that is threatening ... our women and children," the president said. "The problem, the scourge is ... akin to slave trade of the 18th and 19th centuries. The fight against it will take the same form of doggedness as the fight against the slave trade."

Obasanjo added that Africans represent most of the victims being sold in his country, and therefore need to take the initiative to eliminate this crime against nature.

Most of the human trafficking occurs in Nigeria, Africa's

most heavily populated country. According to the Nigerian officials, mostly women and children are sold every year, mainly into prostitution. This form of trafficking is ranked as the third largest source of profit for organized crime, coming in behind drugs and guns.

Trafficking victims are forced to bear cruel acts such as rape, torture, starvation, and physical brutality. Some are exposed to AIDS and HIV while others are literally worked to death.

Titi Abubakar, wife of Vice President Atiku Abubakar, hopes that the conference will sensitize the world and "evolve an African initiative against trafficking in persons, especially women and children." Abubakar adds African women and children have been turned into "mere commodities, ordinary cattle, to be priced and sold in open market in the streets of Europe, Asia and America."

AACC

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Moses stresses the fact that there is no reason for students not to know about the Cultural Center, as well as other resources. All first year students, and other students, are invited to an activity that focuses on the Cultural

Center, but many choose not to take advantage of the opportunity to become aware of the Cultural Center. Also, at every information fair there are booths about the AACC.

"I've always been firm believer that you can 'take a horse to water but you can't make him drink,' that is my firm belief about a lot of what goes on this campus. People have to get away from the spoon-feed mode. If you are an active learner you have to be engaged in using every one of your sens-

es to obtain information. So you look and learn, and you listen and learn, and take in whatever is coming your way and sort through it," comments Moses. The Cultural Center has undergone many renovations, but there is more to be done. The Cultural Center still faces a bright future in improvement on N.C. State's campus.

"I always hope that anything I am involved improves on a daily, weekly, monthly, annual and basis. Specifically, the improvements that might be involved in this right-now period is working more with African Studies," says Moses. "We work with it now, but we would like to work with Africana Studies with a definite concrete list. One of the things that will help us is having adequate staffing to do the kinds of things we would like to do."

College students may seem more interested in obtaining a

degree, and focusing solely on educational experiences that qualify for their degree. Many students may think there is nothing outside of college except the science, math, and English courses. The main reason that students attend college is to learn how to become successful. Many students are realizing that being successful means more than getting a job in "Corporate America."

There are many resources available to help students grow educationally, physically, psychologically, and emotionally here at N.C. State. The AACC is working hard at be known as one of these places. A well-rounded college student is aware of the various opportunities in life, and realizes that obtaining a degree is important in college, but it is not the only important aspect of college.

CHASS-MAS

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"For myself, it helps me not feel so alone, because I have met people in harder majors such as Chemical Engineering or Biological Sciences, that have said a CHASS major is a 'cop out' and anyone that chose such major is just lazy and won't make much money."

"I feel that CHASS majors are just as hard or complicated as any other; the only difference is we don't constantly work with

equations or programs."

CHASS-MAS is currently planning a Career Panel featuring professionals with a degree in the humanities. In addition, the organization will be volunteering with the Saturday Program for Academic and Cultural Education (SPACE) this spring.

CHASS-MAS meetings are held every other Wednesday at 4:00 p.m., in the Owen Hall underground lounge. For more information, contact Tina Gillespie via email at tgilles@unity.ncsu.edu.

Skin

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Later, the director of elementary education argued that "a science fair is not the way we choose to discuss race relations."

The situation in Colorado is proving many things to the people in the community. It is showing adults that it's not easy hiding things from children.

Most people are learning that young children take in everything, even things that society make not want them to be exposed to. The eight-year-old student was wise enough to see

that racism is not something ambiguous or something that is in the past. She realized that it is still present even in the simplest forms. She also realized that people prefer things that they normally see, and that they prefer things that they are used to.

From the student's experiment, the majority of the children choose the white doll. Other students, teachers and adults have interpreted many things from the test results. Even though school leaders later banned the project, participants were surprisingly unaware of the outcome. The children learned that people of a minority race are less preferred

Museum

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The AACC also sponsors other programs throughout the year. Each February, the complex holds the African-American Commemorative Banquet that is an event that honors those who have made outstanding contributions to the current African-American community. Every May, the Complex celebrates the accomplishments and contributions of African-American women with its Women of Note luncheon. The Independence Festival, held each July, includes

arts, performances, and vendors into the AACC Hall of Fame.

The Palmers were both schoolteachers before they retired to devote their time to opening their museum. Dr. Palmer taught grades 7-12 and was a high school principal, and Juanita Palmer taught kindergarten through third grade.

The African-American Cultural Complex is located at 119 Sunnybrook Rd. in Raleigh. The Complex is open free of charge to the public. To obtain more information, call (919) 231-0625.

Are you ready for Pan-Afrikan? If not, you only have a few weeks until it is here. Watch the Nubian for full coverage of this year's event in coming weeks.

YA HEARD?

SHEQUETA L. SMITH
Entertainment Reporter

What's up folks? I'm just hummin' coming back at cha with the weekly news of the industry. First on the menu is more divorce court news. Word on the street has it that Treach and Peepa recently got divorced. I guess it is safe to say that it was a waste of a tattoo. Since they got tattoo wedding bands. Isn't it funny how people can go together for like 10 years and then as soon as they get married they get divorced. On the flip side to this Peepa's other half Salt just recently got married to her beau Gavin. They had been together for like 10-15 years and have a daughter. Lets see if they can break this trend.

In other break up news, after 15 years of doing it and doing it and doing it well LL Cool J and good ole Def Jam have finally split. LL has one more album to complete before his contract with Def Jam is finished. Def Jam is extremely saddened by LL's decision to leave. I bet they are after all of the rev-

enue this brotha brought in. LL hasn't yet disclosed where he plans to go.

On another note word on the street has it that K-Ci is still in trouble. I'm sure you have probably heard about K-Ci exposing himself to the audience members at a Christina Aguilera radio family concert this past

December. But what you didn't know is that he is being sued (boy doesn't that sound familiar) by one of the 25 families that filed charges against him. The Garcia family are seeking unspecified damages and get this psychological counseling expenses from K-Ci and the concert promoters. I'm sure they need all types of counseling after K-Ci showed them what he had to offer. Hey here is an idea why don't they take K-Ci to counseling with them.

While we are still in the courtroom, word has it that The Queen of Soul, Aretha Franklin

On a funnier note, word has it that our favorite Kung Fu Hero Jackie Chan and Mr. Funnyman Chris Tucker are back in the studio working on Rush Hour II.

Well that's all folks. I will get at cha later. Make sure you check me out next time.

Entertainment Fact of the Week: Did you know that Sunshine Anderson, the girl that sings "Heard it all Before", is from NCCU. The Garcia family, is suing Star magazine for 50 million bucks. Apparently Star came out with an issue claiming that she had a drinking problem. Well I bet they are the ones with the drinking problem cause the Queen hired Johnnie Cochran. She aint playing!!

On a funnier note, rumor has it that our favorite Kung Fu Hero Jackie Chan and Mr. Funnyman Chris Tucker are back in the studio working on Rush Hour II. Word has it that Chris will be getting 15 million dollars from this film. I'm saying are they looking for any extras.

Well that's all folks. I will get at cha later. Make sure you check me out next time.

Entertainment Fact of the Week: Did you know that Sunshine Anderson, the girl that sings "Heard it all Before", is from NCCU.



WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOUR TEAM WON THE TOURNAMENT?

insult to NCSU?

This is an advertisement found in this month's Vibe Magazine.

CIAA TOURNAMENT

Athletes Will Receive Some CIAA Scholarship Money

Bobby Guthrie, II
News editor

For college students that are academically gifted, but in need of money, help is on the way. These students are the intended beneficiaries of the CIAA Tournament scholarship fund. The fund raised \$500,000 from corporate sponsors and local taxpayers last year. But now, some money may go toward the assistance of athletic scholarships at a number CIAA schools.

A contract was formed two years ago that states that fund donors "are aware that their donations go toward the institution's general fund rather than the athletic scholarship fund." The contract was formed by Wake County, the City of Raleigh (N.C.), and the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association.

Some CIAA schools have already allocated the academic scholarship money to student athletes. N.C. Central University, Fayetteville State University and Winston-Salem State University used the donations from the 2000 CIAA Tournament to go in support of these students. But, officials from each of the three schools report they weren't aware of any restrictions

on use of the money. The amount given to each school was \$40,000.

"It is deposited into the athletic account," said Anne Little, Winston-Salem State athletic director, "and it goes toward the makeup of scholarship dollars."

Records show the scholarship money N.C. Central was given last year, went directly to the athletics department. The chancellor said he would ask his staff to study this matter.

"The scholarship money is supposed to go to the general scholarship fund," said Chancellor John Chamberlain. N.C. Central University does go there. I don't know how they are looking for a full investigation of the school's financial records.

The 1999 contract included a promise that Wake County, the City of Raleigh and the local tournament steering committee would raise at least \$250,000 each year for the academic scholarship fund. The donations come mostly from private sources, with the two local governments pledging to cover any shortfall. Wake County and Raleigh both contributed \$25,000 to meet the minimum. The contract also guarantees that Raleigh be the host city of the CIAA Tournament for a three-year run.

It's tournament time again. No, not ACC or NCAA-it's CIAA time.

Jennifer Bringle
Entertainment Writer

The Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association's annual basketball tournament is being held this week at the Raleigh Entertainment and Sports Arena. Even though the tournament week is filled with step shows, fashion shows, alumni gatherings and other various events, the heart of the tournament is the basketball.

The tournament is played by both the men's and women's sides of the 12 historically black colleges in the conference. The conference is broken up into two divisions, the Eastern and Western.

On the men's side, the conference leaders are Johnson C. Smith with a 14-2 conference record and Winston-Salem State with a 13-3 conference record. These two teams will be the front-runners for the tournament championship.

Raleigh schools Shaw and St. Augustine's are also vying for a chance at the championship. Shaw, who is tied for second place in the Eastern Division, posted a 10-6 conference record

this year. St. Augustine's has not fared as well, with a 7-9 conference record, but is still optimistic about the tournament.

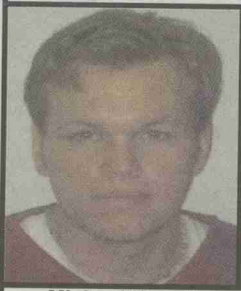
On the women's side, the conference is dominated by the North Carolina Central Eagles with a 14-2 conference record. The Lady Eagles hope to hold off defending champion Livingstone to win their first championship since 1984.

But the Lady Eagles will also receive some competition from the women of Fayetteville State and Johnson C. Smith. The Fayetteville State Broncos posted a 12-4 conference record and the Johnson C. Smith Golden Bulls aren't too far behind with an 11-5 conference record. Both teams are ready to compete.

Overall, the tournament promises to be exciting on both the men's and women's sides. Basketball fans are guaranteed to enjoy the skill and competition these teams bring to the court. And while the many events surrounding the tournament will bring a lot of excitement to Raleigh, the real excitement is definitely on the court.



The History of the Black Church, Part IV



Michael Harrell
Culture Columnist

In this fourth and final part of our exploration of the black church we will examine the role of the church during the Great Depression Era and onward through the Civil Rights movement of the 1950's and 1960's. In honor of black history month the "Nubian" has conducted a celebration of the black church during the entire month of February. In the three previous segments, we have discussed the adaptation of the slave to the white

man's religion, reformation of the black during reconstruction and secularization of the church during the great northern migration.

During the Great Depression, many blacks were the first to lose their jobs after 1929 crash of the stock market. This was a grim situation for the blacks in urban areas. The "down home" support network had been lost as it often is in city life. Many blacks turned to the church. The support that was available was usually spiritual rather than substantive.

This period gave rise to the "Black Consciousness Movement." The church fostered artistic commonalities of the period. Many blacks began to take pride in painting, music and literature. The general theme of the period for blacks was a sense "somebodiness." A kindred spirit among blacks continued to be a motivating factor of the era.

During WWII more blacks

than ever before witnessed combat. The black church once again served as a support network for those on the home front. Black American churches sent a large number of black chaplains to the front lines.

After WWII many black soldiers returned home and participated in the baby boom. The establishment of new households led to an increase in the attendance of the black church. During the time after WWII, many blacks were in search of equality and ready for action. The increase in church attendance and the presence of brotherhood among many black men founded on a foreign battlefield in Europe or the Pacific along with the 1954 Supreme Court decision outlawing school segregation lead to the feeling of solidarity among the African-American community. These elements set the stage for the civil rights movement.

The civil rights movement in America has been

centered around the black church. A church leader, Rev. Oliver Leon Brown, sued his local Board of Education for the sake of his nine-year-old daughter's education. Brown knew the quality of education received at his child's school of segregated black children was inferior to that of other white children her age in the same region. He also was aware of the psychological implications of a life of separation through discrimination. As we know, Rev. Brown, with the support of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, won his legal battle.

The following year, a now well-known black minister organized a boycott of the public transportation system in Montgomery, Alabama. This led to an end of segregation in the public transportation system of the former capital of the Confederacy. This man is now remembered during the month of January on a national day of observance. His name is Dr. Martin Luther

King Jr. His leadership focused primarily on passive resistance and the support of the black church, and it eventually resulted in a form of liberation of his people when President Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The previously mentioned individuals are only a few of the many black men and women from the black church that fought the good fight of equality. Regardless of our ethnic origin, we should always remember that many men and women from various backgrounds struggled and are still struggling for American equality. The black church represents leadership and guidance during this struggle.

Through many years of triumphs and tragedies, it still provides support and a place of refuge. It represents a former period of separation and a current state of potential unity. As Americans, we should learn from the past with a vigilant eye toward the future.

one woman's thoughts

Michelle REED



Unprepared
By: Michelle Reed

Last weekend, I took a trip to Brooklyn, New York to visit a friend. Missing two days of work and three classes on Monday, the trip punctured me financially, and I had to play catch up in the three classes I missed. But what the hay! I was able to spend some quality time with a good friend that I don't get to see often, absorb places like Soho and the Village, wear my knees out from club-hopping, and just flat out enjoy myself.

But aside from the recreational events, I was also culturally enlightened and motivated and inspired educationally. On Sunday at the Brooklyn Museum, I found myself at an event I was so unprepared for. My friend went to the library to support a family member do a poetry reading at an event honoring Gwendolyn Brooks. Believing it was a worthwhile experience (I kept repeating this to myself as the brittle wind bit me in the face repeatedly), I tagged along with my friend. But when I got to the library, I could have slapped

myself in the head twice. Maybe even a third time. My friend hadn't told me that three of the most culturally, inspirational, and motivational African-American poets would be at the event. So I found myself in complete awe being in the same room of Nikki Giovanni, Sonia Sanchez, and Haki Madhubuti, respectively. I was in a Poet's Paradise. A Writer's Wonderland. A Reader's Rainbow.

Cramping into a hot, steamy room that was made for, oh say 25-50 people, I found myself a face in a crowd of about 100, maybe even more. Because my friend and I arrived late, we were not able to hear Nikki Giovanni speak. However, we arrived in time just as Haki Madhubuti reflected on his years of knowing Mrs. Brooks, and the impact she had on him, not only as a writer, but also as a person. He also read some of his own poetry. This was my second time hearing him speak in person, the first time being a lecture at N.C. State.

After Haki Madhubuti spoke, Sonia Sanchez graced the microphone. I couldn't believe such a

powerful voice was coming from this little woman that wooed the audience. It was so hot in the room and because of background noises that came sporadically from the hallway, I found myself distracted. Not only because of the heat and noise was I distracted, but also by all the people around me. There were so many young people in the audience with open ears. I wouldn't expect so many young people at an event such as this, but my expectations were wrong. Despite the distractions, and still in awe, I was able to listen to her reflect about Mrs. Brooks, noting the impact she had on her. Sanchez also read pieces of her own poetry, which at one point she encouraged the audience to chant, "Resist! Resist!"

After Sanchez spoke, my friend and I went to the lobby of the library where all three writers were signing autographs, and talking to the people that approached them. The lobby was packed, so I sat down and from the view where I was sitting, I was able to admire all three writers. The people that came for autographs from the writers

also came with stories, questions, and experiences that the writers listened to. An autograph is materialistic, but a genuine handshake or conversation will be remembered forever.

So, time is ticking, and I'm still sitting there. Waiting, waiting, and waiting. But for what? As people started leaving, the lines to talk with the writers or get an autograph became shorter and shorter. But I still sat immobile, as if an electric current forced me to stay in my chair. The library is getting ready to close, and I still don't have an autograph, a conversation, or a handshake. I did manage to get up, and my friend's sister introduced me to Haki Madhubuti, and I was able to get a handshake. With most of the people gone, my friend stayed around and chatted with Sonia Sanchez for a while, and I went to go look at an exhibit that displayed information on the Civil Rights Movement. When my friend found me, she goes "Where did you go? I turned around and you were not there. I was going to introduce you to Sanchez."

Little did my friend know, I

was present at the event physically, but mentally I was gone from the moment I heard Haki Madhubuti speak. I was upset at myself for not being prepared for such an event that I may never be able to experience again in my life. I was mad because I read the works of these three authors, and at times want to ask them questions when I am reading their works, but when I finally get the chance to ask a question or engage in a conversation and I don't know what to say. Yeah, I was definitely mad at myself for being unprepared. I didn't even have a pen, or a piece of paper. I didn't even take notes on the messages being delivered. Had I taken notes, this article would have been much, much longer. My mind wasn't in the right place.

So, I came back to N.C. State still dwelling on my mishap of not being mentally prepared. But I have to take this as a learning experience. I was unprepared to fully understand the messages that were delivered by these poets and educators, but next time I will be prepared. My ears and heart are open.

Read...the Paper..Read...The Nubian Message

Got something to say?

Submit your poetry to
nubianinbox@hotmail.com

She walks in beauty with style and grace
I stop instantly in my tracks at one glance of her radiant face

Her sweet smell mesmerizes me and clogs my thoughts,
Even a single touch of her body makes me wonder is she real or not

Rainy days and stormy weather fades away when she's around
Her presence is angel-like and her talk is heaven bound

She is like snow in summer, only a few instances in a lifetime does she reveal
her face
And when she appears it is solely her vibes that I chase

I like alluring her with my thoughts and caressing her with my mental
But until she examines my psychological only then will we advance to the
physical

Not just because that is the way it should be, but because that is how I put it
down
And when I capture her mind and spirit she'll willingly stick around

I quiver at the thought of her, because she stimulates my soul
She warms my day even when the atmosphere is cold

Back in the day I didn't know her, but I put her name in every letter
Now when I see her I approach her with the mentality of "How can I get to know
you better?"

Some people say if I we hookup too soon, she'll disappear like a thief in the
night
But I know what my heart is telling me and only we know when the time is right

Other brothers abuse her, and take advantage of her being
But I treat her with respect, and I am confident that she is never leaving

I have mentioned her presence continuously in this poem but I never said her
name
You want to know the reason why? Because most of you use it in vain

When you see her you will definitely recognize who she is
Until then keep your mind, body, and soul alert because you never now if it is
you she wants to dwell within

If you know it's her don't let her slip through your fingers
Because you'll end up a loser and some other person will be granted as the
winner

Keon Pettway

Everyday a child learns something new. For that matter so should we. But what happens when a child is not learning? Most of the students here don't have children and have not thought about school other than their own classes. It is safe to assume that if you are attending college you did not get lost in the shuffle. Somewhere, someone in your life instilled the merits of education and your future. Aren't you lucky?

A recent News and Observer article presented some disturbing facts. Schools with large populations of poor students test scores have low test scores. Surprise. A majority of those schools with low test scores are predominately African American. Surprise again. Well if you are asking what does that have to do with me, well, the answer is everything. We take our blessings for granted. Education and loving parents are taken for granted. All too often we hear horror stories of children who are left alone, unloved and neglected. When these children are abused and left behind the results are alarming.

Look in the prisons. I'm willing to bet money that many of the youthful offenders lack reading skills and other tools needed to survive. Truancy and mischief go hand in hand. I don't mean skipping the occasional class, but flagrant truancy. That young boy or girl, who snatches your purse in the mall should be in school. We complain that iPookie is an inept cashier or that good help is hard to find. When we allow young people to fall behind we damage our own future.

As African Americans we are descended from people who raised our own children as well as others. When we saw a need we did our best to fill it. Hillary Clinton did not coin the phrase it takes a village...i But what has happened? Those of us who made it this far are blessed, whether we believe it or not. Think about where you would be if not in school. It's not as hard as you think.

Phinixt Phamily Week 2001

"Celebrating, Empowering, and Uplifting the Black Family"



Eta Omicron Chapter

sponsored by

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
and
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.



Kappa Omicron Chapter

Sunday, February 25

Worship Service, St. Paul AME
(Visit HO Website For Directions)
Meet at AKA House at 10:15 am

Movie Night

Nutty Professor II: The Klumps
Avent Ferry Lounge
7:00 pm

Monday, February 26

Unsuspected Labor: Single Parents and Parenthood
African American Cultural Center, Room 356
7:00 pm

Tuesday, February 27

NPHC Study Hall
African American Cultural Center, Library
7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Wednesday, February 28

Rich Dad, Poor Dad: Economic Empowerment of the Black Family
African American Cultural Center, Room 356
7:00 pm

Thursday, March 1

Black Artistic Impressions
African American Cultural Center, Room 356
7:00 pm

Friday, March 2

Social and Raffle-Chill with KO and HO before CIAA Weekend
Win Women's Empowerment and Beykub Badu Tickets!!!
African American Cultural Center, Multipurpose Room

Saturday, March 3

Community Service
Meet at AKA House at 9:30 am

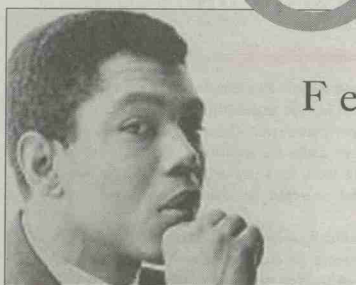
The Nubian Message

Celebrates

Black History Month

Feature Article of the week

By : Michelle Reed



Alvin Ailey

Alvin Ailey is perhaps the best-known American choreographer in various parts of the world. He helped to bridge the gap between modern dance and the public in the United States and internationally. Alvin Ailey was born on January 5, 1931 in the farm community of Rogers, Texas, the only child of his 17-year old mother, Lulu Elizabeth Cooper. At the age of six months, Alvin's father abandoned the family. In order to survive, Lulu picked cotton, and when Alvin become older, he helped his mother pick cotton. In 1942, Alvin and his mother moved to Navasota, CA, then eventually to Los Angeles, where Lulu was able to find employment in the World War II aircraft industry.

At an early age, he showed an avid interest in art by drawing pictures throughout of his childhood. It was on a junior high school field trip to see the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo that he discovered his love of dancing. Soon, he was taking dance lessons from choreographer Katherine Dunham. Ailey attended George Washington Carver Junior High School and Jefferson High School, which were predominately black schools. After he graduated, he went on to continue his education at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) to study literature. The launch of his dance career began in 1949 when a high school friend, Carmen DeLavallade, introduced him to his first dance teacher Lester Horton, the founder of the racially integrated dance company in this United States. Horton's dance troupe was racially mixed, including American Indian and Asian influences. When Ailey began studying with Horton, he left his studies at UCLA. Ailey made his dance performance debut in 1953, which is the same year that Horton died. Ailey then became director of Lester Dance Theater and began to choreograph his own works. After a year as director of the dance company, Ailey left.

The same year he left Horton's company in 1954, he moved to New York, joining his friend, Carmen, in the Broadway dance production "House of Flowers." After the production was through running on Broadway, Ailey stayed in New York studying ballet, modern dance, and acting. For the next 10 years, he was on and off-Broadway and on film as a dancer, choreographer, director, and actor. Some of his teachers included Martha Graham, Doris Humphrey, Hanya Holm, Charles Weidman, and Karel Shook. During this time he choreographed Leonard Bernstein's Mass, the debut performance of the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and Samuel Barber's opera, Antony and Cleopatra, the inaugural production of the Metropolitan Opera at Lincoln Theater.

In 1958, Ailey formed his own dance company, the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Success and world fame came rapidly. Ailey choreographed the dance piece, "Revelations," in 1960, which may be his most celebrated dance piece, which explores the different aspects of black religious worship and is performed to a series of spirituals and gospel music selections.

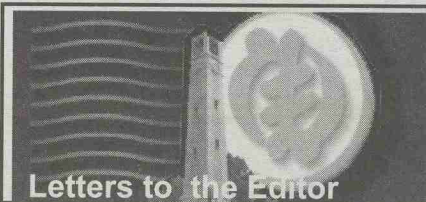
He stopped dancing in 1965 and cut down his choreographic duties to concentrate more on his company and seek out more funding so his company could expand. For three years, the troupe was the resident company of the Brooklyn Academy of Music. The company toured throughout the United States and internationally, including places such as Australia in 1962 and Senegal in 1966. Alvin Ailey's dance company was the first American dance company to tour the Soviet Union in fifty years. In 1970, the Leningrad performance received a standing ovation that lasted more than twenty minutes.

Ailey created about 79 ballets in his lifetime, and many pieces have appeared in other dance companies such as the Ballet Theatre, the Dance Theatre of Harlem, the Joffrey Ballet, La Scala Ballet, and the Opera Ballet. Some of Ailey's best works include "Blues Suite" (1958), "Creation of the World" (1961), "Roots of the Blues" (1961), "Revelations" (1960), "Hermit Songs" (1962), "Cry" (1971), "Hidden Rites" (1973), "Night Creature" (1975), and "At the Edge of the Precipice" (1983). His Broadway work includes "Ding Dong Bell", "African Holiday", and "Dark of the Moon".

Ailey's dance style, founded on the techniques of modern dance, jazz dance, and ballet, reflect on African-American themes, many which stem from his experiences as a young boy. Alvin Ailey received honorary doctorates from Princeton University, Bard College, and Adelphi University. The NAACP awarded him the Springarn Medal in 1979, and he was also awarded the Samuel H. Scripps American Dance Festival Award (1987). The honors of the company include the Dance Magazine Award, 1975; The Capezio Award, 1979; the Samuel H. Scripps American Dance Festival Award, 1987; and Kennedy Center Honors, 1988.

On December 1, 1989, Ailey died in New York, but his legacy and vision still continue to live.

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My Clothes Don't Cost a Thing

Janna Allen

Opinion Columnist

I am not a hater, so when you read this, don't jump down my throat and claim that I am hating on Toni Braxton, or anybody for that matter. I think that she is a very talented singer and entertainer. But at the 2001 Grammy Awards, she was obviously trying to say something with the dress that she was almost wearing. For those of you who don't know, she wore a Richard Tyler dress that is very similar to the Versace dress that Jennifer Lopez wore a year ago at the 2000 show. Both dresses revealed a lot of skin and consisted of pieces of material that were strategically placed.

Last year, J-Lo's dress received almost all of the attention; people are still talking about it. We all remember the dress, but do we remember who went home with the Album of the Year award? (It was Santana, just in case you couldn't remember.) Last week, Toni Braxton shows

up with a similar outfit, obviously trying to make a repeat of what Jennifer did last year. I'm sorry, but it just didn't happen. No one made a big deal of her outfit like they did J-Lo's.

Since I have beat down Toni some, I have to beat down Jennifer too. I really respect the fact that both women were brave enough to wear what they did on national television. I respect the fact that they are very beautiful. However, when a woman leaves little to the imagination (as far as clothes are concerned) it is no longer considered "class." Everyone knows that they have nice bodies; there is no reason for them (and other stars, some of which are teenagers) to push it in our faces. A really admirable woman is one who can look sexy without everyone in the world seeing what you do (or don't) have. Let's think about this when we are getting ready to go out. Isn't it more important for people to respect you for your mind than how much booty you're flashing?

WOMAN

Continued from 8

After describing what the strong black women of our past have done, I don't think that the term should be used with such generality. Not all of the black women of today are worthy to carry this title. When I think of the struggles that Rosa Parks, Maya Angelou, Harriet Tubman, and a host of others have gone through, I don't believe all of the black women of today are worthy of this title. A "Strong Black Woman" deserves respect, admiration, and the best treatment possible for any human being. Some of the black women today

don't even respect themselves, but yet and still want to carry the title along with those women who have gone above and beyond and earned their titles.

I think we should encourage and try to uplift the sisters who want to be considered "Strong Black Women". However, I don't believe we should praise those who have yet to achieve that praiseworthy status. To me this takes away from the importance of the many accomplishments, struggles, and trials and tribulations that others have gone through.

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Women Need Work

Through the years, black women have earned the reputation as being "strong". Their will to protect and provide for their families and their ability to weather the storms of life made them deserving of the "Strong Black Woman" title. There are three main periods in my mind that proved that black women were strong without a doubt. The first event was slavery, then there was the Civil Rights Movement, and finally the absence of the father period.

During slavery, black women endured more pain and suffering than even the wildest animal deserves. Their children were taken from them, and they were worked as hard as mules. No woman should have been forced to perform backbreaking work against her will. They were also raped and molested by their owners, who went unpunished because the women who are the heart and sole of our being weren't considered human. Yet and still, they kept the faith and kept providing the backbone that the families needed during those trying times.

The Civil Rights Movement was another period that black women proved that they weren't going to lay down and die, unless it was for the cause. Even though they were active in the movement, they still managed to hold down jobs and be full-time mothers. The jobs that were available to them were often humiliating or degrading, but they did them with pride just to keep the family going. Many of their husbands were traveling for the movement or wrongly imprisoned, but the black woman still kept the family moving in the right direction. Forget about the laws that were passed and the court precedents that were set, without the perseverance of the black woman we would have never made it through those trying times.

One of the last periods that reminds me how strong black women in the past have been occurred during the past two or three decades when black men began disappearing from the home or were never there from the start. Starting during the 70's, many black women took on the role of both father and mother for many of us. I don't have any chil-

dren, but I think that raising a family with the help of a partner would be hard enough. However, some of our mothers have raised us to be upstanding young men and women, held two or three jobs to provide for us, and taught us the important life lessons without the help of a husband. This kind of commitment is commendable, because there aren't many men or women that could've done that.

The other day when I was watching Jenny Jones, I heard a comment that I've heard many times. The show was about racism and there was a brother on there that was knocking black women and said he preferred white women instead. I think that his way of thinking is sad to begin with, but an audience member said, "He was just too weak to be with a strong black woman". No doubt the brother's way of thinking was messed up, but I have a problem with the audience member's comment too.

See WOMAN, Page 7

Njeri's Two Cents



Njeri Frazier Moss Staff Columnist

Everyday a child learns something new. For that matter so should we. But what happens when a child is not learning? Most of the students here don't have children and have not thought about school other than their own classes. It is safe to assume that if you are attending college, you did not get lost in the shuffle. Somewhere, someone in your life instilled the merits of education and your future. Aren't you lucky?

A recent "News and Observer" article presented some disturbing facts. Schools with large populations of poor students have low test scores. Surprise. A majority of those schools with low test scores are predominately African-American. Surprise, again. Well, if you are asking what does that have to do with me, the answer is everything. We take our blessings for granted. Education and loving parents are taken for granted. All too often, we hear horror stories of children who are left alone, unloved and neglected.

When these children are abused and left behind, the results are alarming.

Look in the prisons. I'm willing to bet money that many of the youthful offenders lack reading skills and other tools needed to survive. Truancy and mischief go hand in hand. I don't mean skipping the occasional class, but flagrant truancy. That young boy or girl, who snatches your purse in the mall should be in school. We complain that "Pookie" is an inept cashier or that good help is hard to find. When we allow young people to fall behind we damage our own future.

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I DON'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT A GRAMMY

Chris Bradley
Opinion Columnist

As the 43rd annual Grammy Awards came to a close, many acclaimed artists walked away with some of the music industry's most prized possessions. Faith Hill walked away with more Grammy gold for her collection...U2 walked away with record of the year honors...and the nights headliner...Eminem, (Mr. "I don't give a damn about a Grammy") walked away with three more Grammys to his credit. This now brings his career total to five.

But as the night was drawing to an end, the imminent climax of the show was about to occur. For all of the controversy surrounding Eminem, Grammy night was supposed to end with his victory, for winning album of the

year honors. This would put a stop to the criticism of his incessantly violent and homophobic lyrics. The award would ring true to what the Grammy's stood for, recognition of artistic expression in the form of music. Then it happened...after going three for three on his first three nominations, Eminem (and everyone else, including his producer, Dr. Dre) thought he was going to walk away with his fourth and biggest prize of the night. This not only would make a claim for Eminem himself but would make a claim for Hip Hop as the dominant force in the music industry. Then the announcement came. And the winner is...Steely Dan.

Steely who? The crowd at the Staples Center didn't know whether to applaud or not. Instead, they looked rather confused, along with the 26 million viewers at home. All the while

Eminem undoubtedly was in the back room thinking, "Who the hell is Steely Dan?" On a night that should have ended in a crescendo of applause for one of the most controversial yet artistically proven musicians of our time, it wasn't meant to be. The night ended instead with a thud, even Steely Dan (anybody figured out who they are yet?) looked a little confused when accepting the award for album of the year. In retrospect, it would be hard to deny that Eminem's artistic achievement on the 'Marshall Mathers' LP was a phenomenal success, and worthy of top honors. But, I don't think America was ready to recognize someone who is so intriguing yet controversial. Or maybe he should have done a duet with the Backstreet Boys instead of Elton John.

Top Seen and Heard at Jazz Nite



- 10 . . . Are high-top fades making a come back?
- 9 . . . Speaking of hairstyles, aren't head wraps making there way back around the fashion scene?
- 8 . . . If a man can play an instrument, and play it well, doesn't that immediately up his stock?
- 7 . . . And while we're on the subject, what is it about passionate musicians that makes them just ooze sensuality?
- 6 . . . An event at the CC . . . and no certain MDS professor in attendance?!
- 5 . . . If the CC was auctioning off dates instead of African goods, would there have been a larger turnout?
- 4 . . . \$550 for a TV?!!
- 3 . . . Didn't "Median" set it off with his spontaneous freestyle performance?
- 2 . . . For every lady in the house, didn't the fact that Freddy Green serenaded all of us in attendance make every joint the band played extra hot?
- 1 . . . Isn't Dr. Moses more than just the director, but the heart of the cultural center as well?

NOOBY'S WORD OF THE WEEK

"Bofum"

For example:

I didn't want just one, I wanted bofum

BOFUM BOFUM BOFUM BOFUM