

the

Nubian Message

March 29-April 4, 2001

Volume 8 Issue 26

Communication is key to AASAC

Ayren Jackson

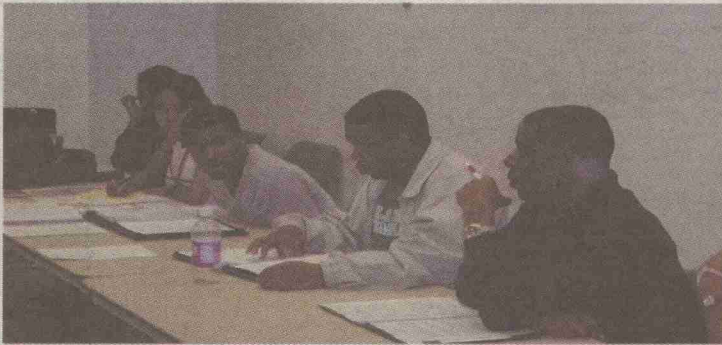
News writer

With nearly 40 African-American student organizations on the N.C. State campus, communication is the agreed key to successful cooperation between each group. The African-American Student Advisory Council is making not only communication between these organizations a requirement but it is also making the communication among all black students a possibility.

The African-American Student Advisory Council is a branch of the Office of African-American Student Affairs. According to Tracy Ray, AASAC advisor,

"AASAC's purpose is to function as a forum for the exchange of ideas and the dissemination of information to all African-American student organizations."

The Black Students Board, the National Pan-Hellenic Council and the National Society of Black Engineers are just a few of the organizations that are



Student Body President Harold Pettigrew, Fraternity members Corey Lewis and Patick Clemons discuss business at a ASAAC meeting.

under the umbrella of the AASAC.

Because AASAC serves as a roundtable for organization leaders, the AASAC itself is not an organization. AASAC is a council. Instead, organization presidents and representatives, African-American campus leaders and class representatives can come together - via the AASAC - and reflect on the various issues which black students encounter.

Membership into the AASAC is solely based on membership of another African-American campus organization. AASAC is comprised of individual leaders from these various organizations. "But if students are interested in an appointment as a class representative, they should make such requests directly to a chairperson of AASAC," said Ray.

"AASAC is doing a lot for all black students at N.C. State in

order to make their education and experience a positive one."

Each semester, the AASAC seeks to confront, alongside the university administration, the issues that are most important to African-American students.

Since 1989, many topics have been addressed and discussed by the AASAC.

According to Ray, some of these issues in the past have included the following:

(1) Acquiring and securing the African-American Cultural Center and focusing on its budget needs. (2) African-American graduation rate and related academic concerns. (3) African-American enrollment. (4) The former Dean's Scholarship. (5) The Chancellor's Leadership Award.

(6) Public Safety Concerns as it relates to African-American students. (7) Student Media Concerns that have included concerns of racist articles and columns in the "Technician" and the lack of press coverage of African-American events. (8) African-American faculty concerns. And (9) Africana Studies. Through discussion and cooperation, those are just a few of the related issues that the AASAC have addressed in the past.

For more information about AASAC, contact the Advisor Tracey Ray at teray@gw.fis.ncsu.edu or Chair Courtney Hodge at cjhodge@unity.ncsu.edu.

Get ready for Summer School

Chinwe Ekwuribe

News writer

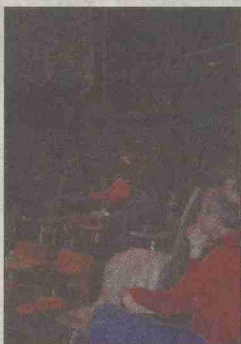
Summer school is a great way to catch-up or get ahead here at N.C. State. Many students here take advantage of it, will you?

Sixty departments offer instruction in more than 900 courses, approximately 90% of which are at the undergraduate level. Each of the University's ten colleges and schools, with a combined faculty of more than 500, participates in the summer sessions.

There are two five-week sessions and one ten-week session. The first session runs from May 23 to June 29. The second session goes from July 5 to August 10. The ten-week session runs from May 23 to August 8. Also, there are several dozen evening courses scheduled for the convenience of working adults. Students still can still receive financial aid and stay on campus while in summer school.

Registration for both summer school sessions is from March 21 to May 8. You go about registering for summer school just as you would any other term. Tuition and fees are due May 10 [final's week]. Late registration is during May 14-25. On the 25th, registration closes at 5 p.m.

Summer school is similar in many ways as the regular [fall and spring] sessions. The



Wolfline buses, Unity labs, etc., remain in service. There are some exceptions though, one being the cost.

Summer school is not cheap, it can cost anywhere between \$71 for 0 credit hours and \$1,222 for 13 credit hours for in-state students. [At a community college like Wake Tech, you pay about \$27.50 per credit hour.] A student is only allowed to take two classes - plus a P.E. - per N.C. State summer school session. If one wants to apply for more classes, that student must get special permission from their department head. Also, during summer school, there are no free class audits.

For more information, visit www.ncsu.edu/acp/acpsite/summer.htm.

University of Maryland adds color to its math department

Chinwe Ekwuribe

News writer

According to American Mathematical Society, there has been a steady increase in the number of "mathematical doctoral degrees earned by black mathematicians at U.S. universities from 1988 to 2000." In 1988, only 4 of 804 degrees were awarded to blacks, but in 2000, the numbers were 15 of 1,119.

The University of Maryland has played an active part in this increase. "Maryland has made an effort over the past decade to change the face of a field that traditionally has been dominated by white men," reports the AMS. "While blacks are underrepresented among graduate students and professors throughout the sciences, the shortage is particularly acute in the nation's math departments." Out of 15 that received a doctorate, 3 graduated from the Univ. of Md.

Tasha R. Innis, one of the three graduate students, and one

of the first black women ever to receive a math doctorate, gave this as a reason for such a few number of blacks in the field. "I believe there is a preconceived notion that students of color are not as intelligent or not as scientifically adept...When you encounter someone with those preconceived notions, then they tend to be not as encouraging to a student to pursue math."

Maryland professor Raymond Johnson believes "those biases, while often subtle, lead to departments making decisions on student grants, graduate admissions and faculty hiring that often overlook black mathematicians."

Jim Maxwell, the American Mathematical Society's associate executive director says, "Often black students do not get the chance to go that far [to get a math doctorate degree] because they don't receive enough exposure to math in high school and earlier grades to prepare for college and graduate level courses."

Johnson, an African-American

who is the chair of the university's math dept., "took an aggressive approach to bringing black students into the program and keeping them" in the early 1990s. He recruited at HBCUs and at conferences for black mathematicians. Johnson also created a support network for his students.

"We worked with students to make sure they were successful, so that incoming students could see that there was someone who could lead the way for them," says Johnson. Though there has been a steady increase in the numbers of degrees awarded, Johnson feels that the program he started has "waned in recent years."

For those who have degrees and are teaching, Innis says they "still have to struggle to show their colleagues that they belong in academia."

"It's a constant battle to prove your worth, prove your intelligence, to prove your mathematical ability."

Hispanics Outnumber Blacks in Florida

Bobby Guthrie, II

News editor

Results from the 2000 Census are in, Florida's new largest minority: Hispanics. The census data released on Tuesday, shows that blacks in that state are third in the racial make-up.

Over the last decade, a million more Hispanics have relocated to the Sunshine State. The surge will grant Florida the opportunity to gain two state congressional seats.

"This is higher growth than we thought we'd be having," said Lance

DeHaven-Smith, associate director of the Florida Institute of Government at Florida State University. Overall, Florida's population grew by three million residents, or 23.5 percent in the 1990s, census data show.

Southern Florida has long been the home of most of the state's Hispanic population. Areas like Miami and Fort Lauderdale have had the majority of Florida's Latino citizens.

But, data shows that the Hispanic population had spread throughout the state and was no longer concentrated in the south.

Statewide, the Hispanic population grew to about 63 percent to 2.7 million people. In the state, Hispanics now account for 16.8 percent of Florida citizens.

What is causing the rampant growth? Immigration and migration, that's what. The growth is not just being driven by Cuban-Americans but also by people of Mexico, Puerto Rico, Colombia and other Latin American countries.

Factors of the growth of Hispanics in Florida range from jobs to location. The large number of service jobs is attractive to many due to higher pay that one may not have received back in their native homeland. Proximity is another factor, especially to countries of origin and government services that support immigrants.

"Because Spanish is spoken so often here, it draws individuals and investors from Latin American countries here," said Katherine Condon, demographer

and research associate at Florida International University. "They feel comfortable coming to Florida because they can speak their own language."

Due to Hispanic growth, not just in Florida, but across the nation, politics can be affected dramatically. Public education, the labor force and economy are other aspects that could change as the Hispanic boom continues.

Black Floridians risk being overshadowed, demographers said. The black population in Florida did increase even though they lost the title of majority-minority. Black percentage of Floridians increased from 13.3 to 14.4 percent in the last decade. The census results show that 2.3 million blacks now live in Florida.

"We have watched this population move literally up the coast," said DeHaven-Smith. "In the 1970s, Miami was a Jewish retirement community. This is the exact same place that was little brown Jewish women lying in the sun. Today, it is Hispanic women on Roller Blades."

The Other Side of the Coin: A Greek Response

Diamond D. Lesane

managing editor

Last week's article entitled,

members, with all of their flaws and imperfections. I didn't pick all of them individually, but the organization.

Hodge continues, "I guess that



A group of NCSU Greeks show their pride during an event at Tally.

"The Letters or the Cross? Can You Wear Both?" initiated many responses from the N.C. State community, Greek and non-Greek. As promised, the "Nubian Message" is committed to reporting all sides of the story, and in exclusive interviews with members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., we have attempted to give the Greek response to Minister Hatchett's allegations concerning Christianity and Greek-letter organizations (GLOs).

In response to Hatchett's initial belief that true Christianity and GLOs cannot mesh, those interviewed responded emphatically to this statement. Pami Strayhorn, chaplain for Delta Sigma Theta, believes that Christianity is a based upon a "personal relationship with God, just as joining a GLO is a personal decision." She continues on to say that, "while I agree with certain aspects of [Hatchett's] arguments, I disagree with his methods. I am unsure of his overall goal... if anything, I think he is turning others against Christ rather than towards Him."

According to Hatchett, his initial endeavor is to lead Christian Greeks towards the "light" by revealing the "evils of Greek-letter organizations." In what he describes as "demonic rituals, blatant idolatry, and spiritual compromise," Hatchett believes that the two lifestyles cannot co-exist. However, Courtney Hodge, a newly initiated member of Delta Sigma Theta, disagrees, specifically with the allegation of "demonic rituals."

Hodge feels that anything that she participated in was based on Christian ideology. Similarly, she asserts that GLOs are a far cry from what Hatchett describes as a "cult-like atmosphere."

"If anything, it is more of a family. The sisters are my family. As far as the fact of being unequally yoked, because the organization is just like a family, and all aren't saved, just like my real family. I picked this organization, and along with that choice came all 195,000 nationwide

someone could say that we don't get to choose our biological families, but what determines a family really? What about adopted children? Because they are not "saved" or don't believe in the same principles that you do, are you going to denounce or abandon them?"

Margaret Hargett, chaplain of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., echoes these sentiments and adds that "the two [lifestyles] can coincide as long as you have your priorities set, just like you would with any organization. Personally, I feel that Christianity and Greek life are complimentary, and I have no regrets about being identified as either one. There is no either/ or... the relationships that I share with my sorors is religious in a sense because we pray together and discuss problems."

All interviewed reiterated that joining should be an individual decision based on one's own personal beliefs rather than one another's perceptions of a life that they don't fully understand.

"I think that there is definitely a tendency to fear what we don't understand. They are often inclined to believe the worst when they don't know. Many times, people don't even look at our community service efforts, how we tutor kids throughout the community. And what about our sisterhood?" Hargett asks.

"I think that many of [Hatchett's] views are extreme. Again, it goes back to prioritizing and individual choices. I prayed before pledging... I prayed hard that if it was for me, it would work out, and it did. And I have no regrets about either my decision to be a Christian or an AKA," Hargett continues.

Hodge agrees. "I would advise everyone to pledge for the right reasons. For everyone, God has a plan, and whatever you do, just make sure you're going along with his plan for you whether it's in a GLO, school, or whatever."

When asked whether either had encountered any hostility or opposition from church or family

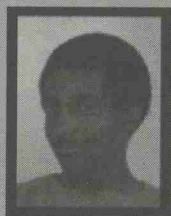
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The Nubian Message

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Dock C. Winston - Production Manager (Production)

Diamond Lesane - Managing Editor



Congratulations to Brandon J. Buskey, Truman Scholar Recipient

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The Nubian Message is currently interviewing for the position of Circulations Manager. If you are interested please contact Head of Staff Brandon J. Buskey to schedule an appointment. We seek someone who will be a team player and work to better the Message. Contact Brandon to go over details at bbuskey@unity

UAB - Black Students Board

uab.ncsu.edu/bsb/paf

presents...

30th Annual PAN-AFRIKAN Festival

North Carolina
State UniversityMarch 30th - April 7th, 2001

Madd Laughs Comedy Zone

Saturday, March 31st, 2001

NCSU McKimmon Center

adv: \$8 w/ID, \$12 GP

at door: \$12 w/ID, \$15 GP

Michael Blackson

Bro Man (from tha 5th floor)

TP Hearnese

Host: Joe Claire

7:30 - 10pm

(doors open @ 6:30pm)

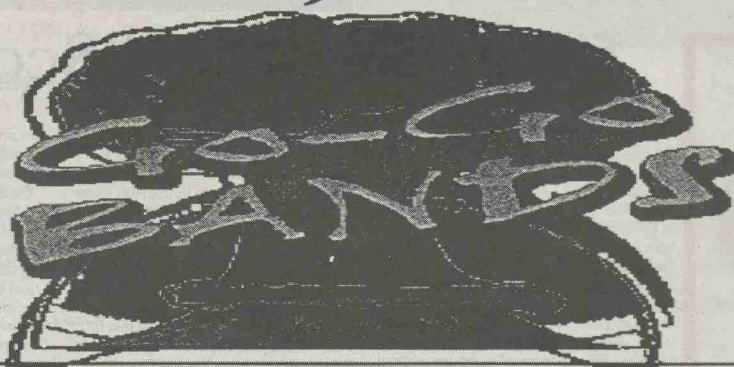
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Pan African Festival 2001

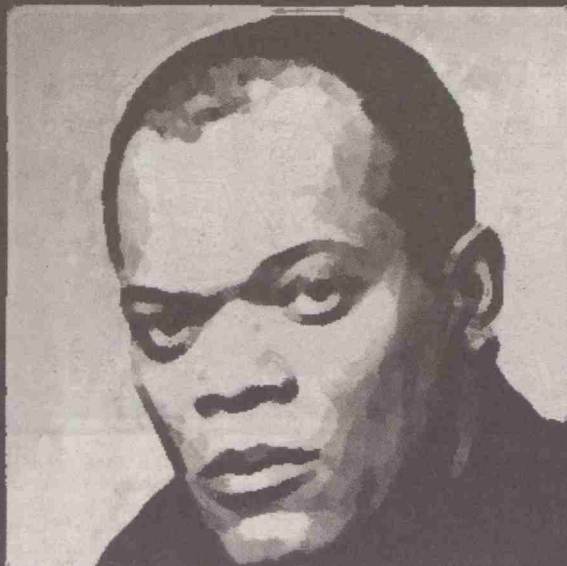
"911"



MARQUEE

UNIVERSITY

Friday March 30th ~ Talley Student Center Ballroom, NCSU
 DAMAGE: (adv.) \$8 w/ col. ID, \$10 GP (at door) \$12 everyone
 Doors open @ 9:30pm Show starts @ 10pm



getting to know:
SAMUEL L. JACKSON

**SAMUEL L. JACKSON'S
MOVIES:**

The Caveman's Valentine - 2000
Unbreakable - 2000
Shaft - 2000
Rules of Engagement - 2000
Deep Blue Sea - 1999
The Red Violin - 1999
Star Wars: Episode I - The Phantom Menace - 1999
Sphere - 1998
Out of Sight - 1998
The Negotiator - 1998
Hard Eight - 1997
187 - 1997
Jackie Brown - 1997
Eve's Bayou - 1997
The Great White Hype - 1996
The Long Kiss Goodnight - 1996
A Time To Kill - 1996
Trees Lounge - 1996
Die Hard With a Vengeance - 1995
Fluke - 1995
Losing Isaiah - 1995
Kiss of Death - 1995
Hail Caesar - 1994
Pulp Fiction - 1994
Fresh - 1994
The New Age - 1994
Amos & Andrew - 1993
The Meteor Man - 1993

Jurassic Park - 1993
True Romance - 1993
Menace II Society - 1993
Fathers and Son - 1992
Patriot Games - 1992
Johnny Suede - 1992
White Sands - 1992
Juice - 1992
Jumpin' at the Boneyard - 1991
Jungle Fever - 1991
Strictly Business - 1991
William Peter Blatty's The Exorcist III - 1990
GoodFellas - 1990
A Shock to the System - 1990
Mo' Better Blues - 1990
Betsy's Wedding - 1990
Def By Temptation - 1990
The Return of Superfly - 1990
Sea of Love - 1989
Do the Right Thing - 1989
School Daze - 1988
Coming to America - 1988
Eddie Murphy Raw - 1987
Together for Days - 1972

Michelle Reed
Culture and Arts Editor

Despite the struggle of being addicted to drugs in his earlier life, Samuel L. Jackson has proved that being down does not mean staying down. He has become a mega Hollywood star, and has been seen in numerous movies that have cast him with a variety of roles that portray how talented he is.

Born Samuel Leroy Jackson on December 21, 1948 in Washington, D.C., he was raised in Chattanooga, Tennessee by his mother and grandparents. In his youth, Jackson had difficulty with his stuttering problem. Jackson was first introduced to acting after his speech therapist suggested that his impediment might be corrected through acting. Trying out for a college production was effective in helping his impediment, and soon he switched his major at Morehouse University to drama. Jackson was highly involved in Civil Rights causes, but was expelled from Morehouse for his participation in a student demonstration, in which he and others held hostage trustees, that included Martin Luther King, Jr., to protest the non-existence of a Black Studies Program. The school did accept him back and he graduated from Morehouse with a B.A. in drama in 1972.

After graduating from college he moved to New York, working with the Negro Ensemble Company of New York, and starring in diverse theater productions. However, the actor found it hard to make a living because money was tight. His paycheck increased when he landed a job filling in for Bill Cosby on his hit 80s sitcom "The Cosby Show." His job was to keep the audience entertained during breaks.

He made his debut in 1976 on a television show, "The Displaced Person." Five years later, Jackson was featured in 1981's "Ragtime" as "Gang Member

No.2." Later, he saw smaller roles starring in "Coming To America" as the "Hold up man," and "Black Guy" in the "Sea of Love."

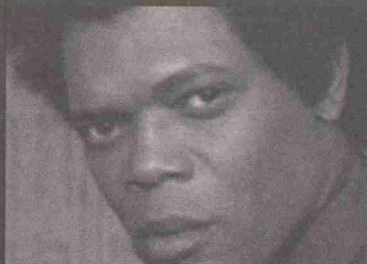
Two events stand out as the huge turning points in Jackson's career. One was in 1981 when Spike Lee and Jackson met and their introduction produced a mutually rewarding professional relationship. The other life-changing event occurred when Jackson lost a leading role in a Broadway production because of his constant drug and alcohol abuse. Understanding that he had blown a huge opportunity, Jackson was ready to cease his drug and alcohol abuse.

His first role after cleaning up was in Spike Lee's "Jungle Fever," as Wesley Snipes' crack-addicted brother. After this appearance, many directors sought out Jackson. It was after his 1994 appearance in "Pulp Fiction" that Jackson really began to blow up.

Jackson's honors include the 1991 Cannes Film Festival Special Jury Prize Award for Best Supporting Performance in "Jungle Fever" and the 1991 New York Film Critics Circle Award for Best Supporting Actor in "Jungle Fever," the 1994 Society of Texas Film Critics Award for Best Actor in "Pulp Fiction" and the 1994 Independent Spirit Award for Best Actor in "Pulp Fiction;" the 1995 BAFTA Award for Best Supporting Actor in "Pulp Fiction;" the 1997 NAACP Image Award for Best Supporting Actor in "A Time To Kill;" the 1998 Berlin Film Festival Silver Bear Award for Best Actor in "Jackie Brown;" and the 1998 Independent Spirit Award for Best First Feature in "Eve's Bayou."

Jackson is a very talented and energetic actor who continues to amaze his audience with his acting range and the diversity of his roles. Aside from acting, Jackson is also a devoted husband and a father.

**Check out
Shaft and
Rules of
Engagement,
new on DVD
and video!!**



Eve stings with "Scorpion"

Michelle Reed
Culture and Arts Editor

The first lady of Ruff Ryders is back and in full effect! Receiving much success from her debut album, "Let There Be Eve," the former blond hair bandit (now sporting the blazed red hair look) is back with her sophomore album, "Scorpion." Eve's first single release, "Who's That Girl," from her latest album has been pumping through the airwaves. "Scorpion" is the top selling R&B/Hip-Hop album on the charts.

Teaming up again with executive producers, Dee & Waah Dean, and co-executive producers, Swizz Beatz & Jay "Icepick" Jackson, Eve is ready to "blow ya mind" and continue to leave the music charts aflame. Eve doesn't fail to forget about her Ruff Ryder family, and this is

shown as she is reunited with Drag-On on the song, "Got What You Need" and Styles from the Lox on the song, "That's What It Is." The salute to the Ruff Ryder family is heard on the song, "Scream Double R," as DMX and Eve declare that Ruff Ryders is here to stay.

Adding more variety to the album, Eve reaches out to the dirty south as she teams up with the funkified rapper from Atlanta, Da Brat, and the Baddest B**** from Miami, Trina, in the song "Gangsta B****." In the song, "Let Me Blow Ya Mind," she pairs up with Gwen Stefani from the rock group, No Doubt.

Acknowledging the experience and achievements of artists that may have made it easier for her to be successful as a woman in the R&B/Hip-Hop industry, Eve unites with Teena Marie (who has produced 10 self-produced gold and plat-

inum LP's) in the song "Life is So Hard." Spitting out rap and reggae, Eve joins forces with Damian and Steve Marley in the song, "No, No, No."

Eve and the producers of the album come through with different beats that are sure to have your head bopping. A few beats may favor her last CD, but that may just be a signature of the Ruff Ryder family, a family that has seen much success. Many artists fear the second album because it may not be as good as their first. However, Eve has nothing to fear. The album is completely solid. Whether it is with blond hair or red hair, braids or the short curly look, Timberlands or stilettos, Eve shows that she will continue to rip the mike, while bringing even more to the table. So, don't delay any longer, and go get stung by Eve's "Scorpion."

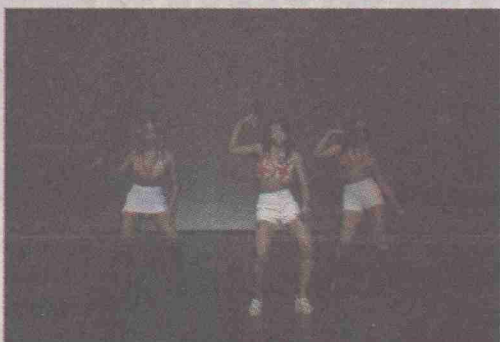


PAN-AFRIKAN FESTIVAL 2001 EVENTS

Friday, March 30th, 2001
BATTLE OF THE BANDS



Saturday, March 31st, 2001
Da' show 2001- NuFacesNC
Madd Laughs Comedy Zone
An Evening of Bliss



Sunday, April 1st, 2001
Worship and Praise Service
New Horizons Concert
Essence of Africa

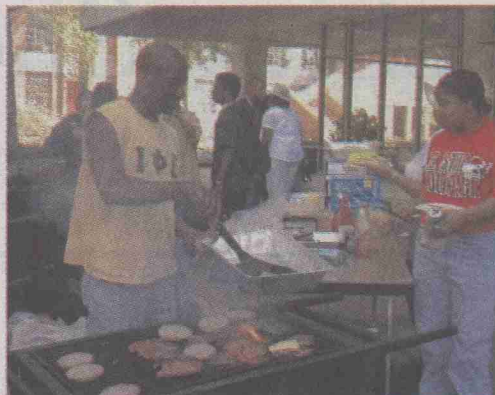
Monday, April 2nd, 2001
What is Pan-Afrikan?
Black Repertory Theatre Play

Tuesday, April 3rd, 2001
Evolution of Black Music
Fashion Show

Wednesday, April 4th, 2001
Sistah Souljah

Thursday, April 5th, 2001
Sights Unseen- Sounds Unheard

Friday, April 6th, 2001
Step-Off 2001
Step-Off 2001 Afterparty



Saturday, April 7th, 2001
Block Party
Black Alumni Showcase
Pan-Afrikan Festival Concert
Broke Down Party

Got something to say?

Submit your poetry to
nubianinbox@hotmail.com

Essence of Africa



Sun.
April 1st
7:30pm

Talley Student Center
(The Ballroom)

African Play, Dance,
Fashion Show, & FOOD

Sponsored by: African Students Union & Black Students Board

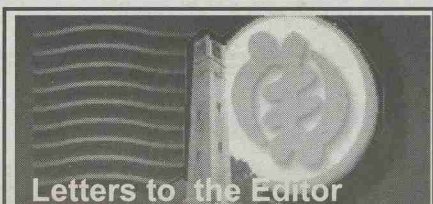
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30th ANN-ARTIBEN
Festival



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The Minstrel Act

Adedayo's opinions are his and his alone and are not in anyway a reflection on the Nubian Message or its staff. This guy can go off sometimes! Don't blame us, blame him! Adedayo can be reached for comment or response at Nubianinbox@hotmail.com



**Adedayo
BANWO**



Adedayo A. Banwo
Editor-in-chief

When Darryl Willie ran for leader of the pack, the images of him smiling with kinky hair and a bright bow tie reminded me of some comedic skit from the

1920s. For sure this guy can't be serious I thought! No black man would show a wide grin, pick his hair out and wear a bow tie and expect to be taken seriously. However, Willie's campaign for Student Body President has shown that through the min-

**Just
My
Opinion**

strel act, there is a search for legitimacy.

What is so surprising is how popular this Willie guy is. I mean, people not only like him, people love him. He actually has a chance to win. When I heard that

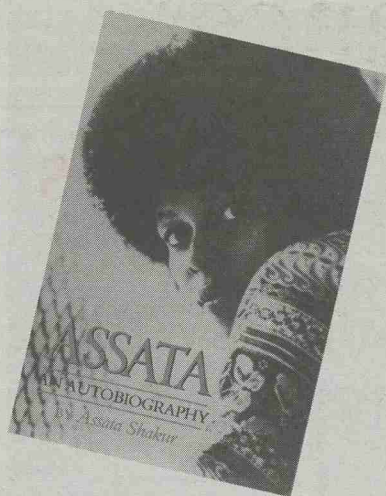
Willie burst out with a song and dance at a recent debate, I was skeptical because the information was second hand but I was not all surprised. It seems the act has worked. Put on a bow tie, dance, smile, laugh, joke, propose "small ideas", and yes, they will love you too. As African Americans, we know this act all too well. As long as you're nothing but a mascot, they love you. The minute you show backbone, ideas, strength (and God forbid anything but a smile), the love goes away.

I can't knock the Willie guy too hard. He's a student leader and I'm sure he has some great energy and good intentions for the NCSU campus. However, the

images he is campaigning on are a slap in the fact to African Americans everywhere. They display a lack of consciousness by a person who theoretically could represent all students. This is scary.

This is not an issue of black and white. This is an issue of right and wrong. I wish Willie good luck if he wins. I hope he doesn't burst out with a song and dance in front of the board of trustees. I hope he doesn't tap dance his way into a city council meeting. I hope he doesn't get the image of feel good leader confused with black minstrel clown. However, it may already be too late.

The Nubian Message's



Book of the Week

Assata: An Autobiography

Check it out at a local bookstore
Near You!!!

You're invited...we're on our way to
Paramount's Kings Dominion
so hang on to your seats and join the fun!

Date:

Saturday, April 28, 2001

Time: 8am Meet @ Talley Student Center, 9am Buses will depart NCSU

Cost: \$10 (includes park admission & transportation)

Tickets are available at Ticket Central ONLY, 515-1100.

This trip is for NCSU students ONLY, no outside guests allowed.

If you have questions, please call Takicha Lee @ 515-5918 or tllee@unity.ncsu.edu

Additional information available at our website, uab.ncsu.edu

Sponsored by the UAB Leisure &
Entertainment Committee

Greeks, cont. from page 2

members when deciding to join their respective organizations, all admitted that they had except for Hodge although she is still a relatively new member. Strayhorn, a once active member in United Student Fellowship (USF), the on-campus ministry at N.C. State, encountered this type of opposition from its non-student members. This caused her to reevaluate her participation in the ministry.

"Although the pastor [Pastor Reginald Stepney] was open in telling me his personal stance against them, he did not condemn my decisions like other church members."

Similarly, Hargett experienced

these same reactions although she also received support as well. However, she feels that she has "surprised others because I was active in [USF] before pledging and afterwards as well. I went to church and Bible study before I was an AKA, and I continue to go even after becoming one. My faith is obvious to anyone who knows me, and I wouldn't join any organization that mandates that I cannot exercise that faith, which is an integral part of my life."

Obviously, there is a variety of opinions concerning this subject although there seems to be a general consensus that pledging is a completely personal experi-

ence, not to be entered into lightly. As far as the Christian aspects or the move by others like Minister Hatchett to "destroy fraternities and sororities," Hargett concluded with a scripture that she hopes adequately reflects her decision to remain an active Christian and an active member of a GLO.

"There is a verse that reads, to paraphrase, 'it is good for brethren to dwell together in unity.'"

We continue to welcome all responses to this series of articles. Please send your comments to nubianinbox@hotmail.com.

Ruling too harsh for 14 year old

Larry Houpe
Staff Columnist

A couple of weeks ago, the state of Florida—along with the rest of the nation—were stunned when 14-year-old Lionel Tate was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole for killing his 6 year old playmate, Tiffany Eunick. Tate fatally wounded the six-year-old while performing some wrestling maneuvers on her that he had seen on television. The defense claimed that Tate, being rather large for his size, didn't realize the harm that he was inflicting on the little girl. Prosecutors argued that the girl had wounds such as broken ribs, internal injuries and head injuries that had been seen of victims struck by vehicles. Tate's mother, a Florida State Trooper, didn't believe her son would be convicted so she turned down a plea bargain, which included three years in a juvenile detention center, one year of house arrest, and ten years of probation.

My problem with this whole thing is that Tate was twelve at the time of the child's death so he should have never been tried as an adult. There is no way a child of that age is mature enough to truly understand the consequences of his actions. On television, the other guy always gets up or comes back the next week for another serious beat down. I understand that the child did wrong, but now that he knows what he did was wrong, he should be

corrected. He should not be killed himself, and putting that child in prison for the rest of his natural life is as good as killing him.

The state of Florida realizes that their juvenile laws are just a little too strict. Many Florida officials, including Governor Jeb Bush, are said to be making moves to undo the child's sentence. Even the prosecutor in the case said he is in favor of a "reduced sentence" considering the defendants age.

Sources from the "USA Today" say, "In spite of such professions of dismay, the harsh sentence should come as no surprise. It is the logical conclusion of a decade-long national push in which 47 states have made it easier to try youngsters as adults."

The new tougher juvenile penalties are a result of the sharp increase in juvenile crime in the 1990's. In cases where teenagers shoot up their schools killing people and wounding dozens of others stiff punishment is deserve, because they are old enough to understand the consequences of their actions.

As I said before, the child needs to be punished for his actions, just not that severely. I hope that a new successful way of treating him can be agreed on and his life spared.

Can a brother just drive?

Larry Houpe
Staff Columnist

Racial profiling can rear its ugly head in many different forms. However, the most common form is the harassment of black motorists by the police. The practice of racial profiling has been an increasing problem here in the U.S. for quite some time. Increasing complaints against officers and departments have led to numerous investigative television reports, talk shows, and groups such as the NAACP and ACLU addressing the problem. Queen Latifah recently did a show on racial profiling. Her panel was made up of a professor who believe racial profiling was justified, a (white) cop that was harassed on the job for being against racial profiling, with other people who had strong opinions on the subject. Based on statistics from the FBI's UCR (uniform crime report) and the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), the professor believed racial profiling was justified. According to these reports "blacks commit more crimes". My argument is that of course their arrest rate will be higher if they are targeted (through racial profiling) more than any other ethnic group.

His fellow officers were harassing the cop that was on the panel because he believed that the other officers were wrong for violating the rights of minorities. He went on to say that the police chief in the small town in which he was employed said that "darkies" don't have rights and therefore the police can do whatever they want. The list of violations that the officer named included illegal searches and seizures, unlawful arrest, and unwarranted traffic stops.

Queen Latifah and her staff also conducted a test to see if New Yorkers would be more or less likely to help out blacks or whites who were tourists. The two black guys were dressed in jeans, bubble coats, hoodies, and Tims. When they would ask people where were commonly known tourist sites either people wouldn't answer or they would say that they didn't know and keep on walking. When the two white guys were sent out wearing the

same kind of clothing they got responses almost every time. Sure this survey isn't concrete evidence of anything, but it leads one to believe that people will judge you based on the color of their skin.

In recent years, there has been rising interest in the practice of racial profiling, which has lead Congress and the federal government to get involved. A few weeks ago at a Justice Department news conference, Attorney General John Ashcroft said he asked that Congress "attack racial profiling".

According to an article in the "News & Observer," Ashcroft said, he believes that "Congress can, and will, respond constructively". I'll believe it when cops stop harassing us. This has been going on since African-Americans fought for their civil rights 40, plus years ago, and finally we are receiving national attention from a group who has the power to do something about it.

I can speak from experience on this topic, because I'm from a small town here in North Carolina where racial tension often runs high. I remember being pulled over one night on my way home, and I hadn't committed any traffic violations because I knew how the cops are in this part of town were. I asked the officer what had I done, but he wouldn't answer me. He continued running my plates and checking my license. He then came back to my car and ask me "Where did get the car, and did I have a job to pay for it?" I politely told him that I didn't have to answer that question. I then asked him had I done something wrong and if not could I leave? He finally let me go, but I was subjected to this kind of scrutiny for no apparent reason, except that my car looks suspect. In which case, it is only suspect when a young black man is driving it.

I am skeptical about the efforts of our new legislative and executive branches. However, any step in the right direction is welcomed. I hope more education and more selective measures are taken when hiring police officers. It seems to me that this will be the only way to stop the "driving while black" injustice of minorities.

Njeri's Two Cents



Spring is Here

Njeri Frazier Moss
Staff Columnist

Spring is here. Spring is here. If you are like me, it did not get here soon enough. Spring is a time of renewal. I know that January and resolutions go together like babies and pacifiers, but SPRING is it for me. There is something about spring that just warms my soul. What about you?

Growing up, I could not wait to shed those heavy coats, hats and gloves. Just knowing that it was almost summer was enough for me. There is something about warm weather that just excites me. It could be something as simple as a sunny day. But whatever it is, I am ready for it. Certain songs always remind of spring, barbeques, and good times. Can't you just picture it now?

Sit back, relax, and allow yourself to remember what it felt like to be a child. For me longer days meant more time to play. In my house blinking streetlights meant "head for the house". All-day kick-ball games and endless hours of skating meant long baths and bubbles. Can't you just picture it now?

Oh well, back to reality. Spring break is over and it is crunch time. All of those papers that you have been putting off are due. That grade you said you would try to make higher is still pitiful. And, that sunny day that seemed like paradise has turned into a mirage. Ain't life grand? Oh well, do what I do—PRETEND!

When it seems like you are beyond overwhelmed, take a breather—get your thoughts together. Whatever your spiritual background, call on it. Think about the last time you felt like life was just too hard and how it seems so irrelevant now; an old song decries "my soul looks back..." It's amazing how life can have us high one day and low the next. But that is the nature of living. Without winter, we would not appreciate summer. It sounds trite but it is true. Spring IS here.

NOOBY'S WORD OF THE WEEK:

“IONNO”

Your girl asked
me if I should
tell you, and I
said, “ionno”.