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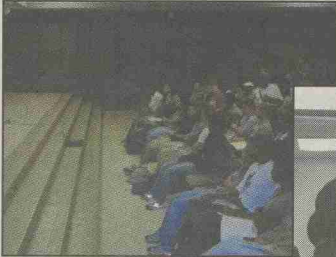
Nubian Message

April 26-May 3, 2001

Volume 8 Issue 28

AACC Closing year with Celebration

News Writer



The final event sponsored this academic year by the African-American Cultural Center will be the 12th annual Heritage Day Celebration and Symposium. The event will be held on Saturday, April 28th, beginning at 11:00 a.m., and is free to both the public and N.C. State students.

The celebration gives N.C. State undergraduate students the opportunity to research African-American history, heritage and tradition, and present their findings in the competition held during the festivities. The participants will present their research papers on the event's theme, "Understanding Our Legacy, Honoring Our Ancestors, Our

Elders, and Our Selves."

First year students and upper-classmen will

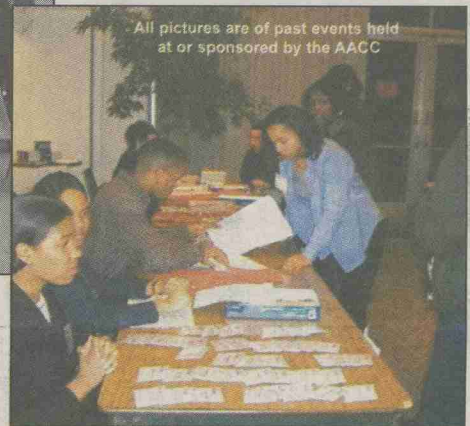
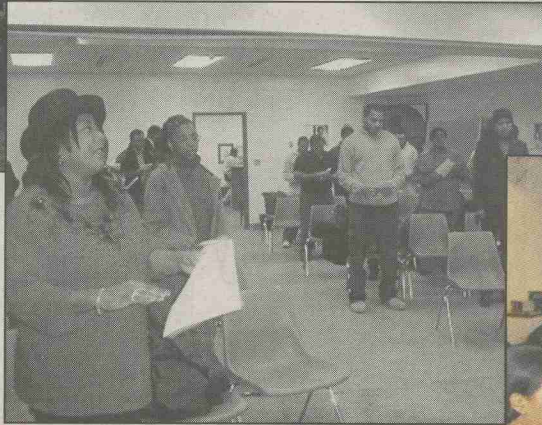
In addition to the literary competition, the event will feature workshops on creating African masks, jewelry, kartouches, and head wrappings. The film "The

attendees will be entertained by a fashion show followed by a performance by Dance Visions, N.C. State's African-American Dance Troupe.

Symposium Awards Presentation for a book signing.

Dr. Iyailu Moses, director of the African-American Cultural Center, encourages all to "come to the Symposium and gain from the experience of learning about our heritage." For additional information on the annual Heritage Day Celebration and Symposium, contact Dr. Moses via phone or e-mail.

The highlight of the daylong celebration is a lecture by renowned poet, activist, and teacher Nikki Giovanni. Giovanni will be available after the



All pictures are of past events held at or sponsored by the AACC

compete in separate categories. The students participating in the literary challenge will be judged based on the extent of their research and the quality of their presentation. A monetary award will be presented to the winners.

Ancient Africans" will be shown along with storytelling with Patti Cake, balloons, and magic.

Those attending the event will have the opportunity to participate in the open mic session beginning at 3 p.m. Afterwards,

S.P.A.C.E Program, a worthy opportunity

Chinwe Ekwuribe

News writer

The Saturday Program for Academic and Cultural Education (SPACE) is a program that is designed to "help students with their performance in and outside the classroom". It is open to all middle school students in Wake County but currently about 10-15 schools represented. It is primarily for students who are "under-represented in science, technology, mathematics and teaching professions".

For 24 Saturdays during the fall and spring (twelve each semester), about 42 of these 6th, 7th and 8th graders meet here at N.C. State for half a day. They have been doing this since the program was established and sponsored by the African-American Cultural Center in 1992. Many of the students in the program need that extra help so they can perform well in the classroom and also on the End-of-Grade Tests.

"When the children first join the program they are given a pre-test to know where they stand. Then after the results are known, the teachers try to strengthen and enhance the weaker skills," says Ms. Janet Howard, the Director of

Programming.

The program has certified teachers who volunteer their time to help these students. Not only do these students receive help on the weekends, but also during the week. They try to take at least one overnight field trip as well. Also, there are many college students who serve as mentors to these so as to "try to help keep them on track and focus."

One of these mentors is April Jackson, the President of the Student Association of Black Social Workers. She says that as a mentor she can work with her student on an individual basis. She goes on to say that "the students need more of a mentor than a tutor because mentoring involves more personal development, which includes academics."

Jackson is not the only one who has an appreciation for this program. Kia Bradsher, a Business Management major, says this about the program: "I believe this is great experience. It feels good to see what a little help and motivation can do to a child. I recommend this program to all NCSU students."

Nyra McCombs who is in FYC matriculating into Mechanical Engineering said that she volunteered because she enjoys helping the children. She also enjoys

volunteering because she helps the children "in an opportunity that I didn't get to participate in when I was in grade school." She effectively summed up the mission of the program by saying: "I believe that this is a very good idea to help the children excel in their studies. I believe that this program can make a great impact on their educational futures."

"And the program truly does have an impact on the student's future," Ms. Howard said. "If parents would just commit to the program when their child is in the sixth grade, that it would have a big impact."

She gave the example of one student who was struggling when he first came into the program but then went on to making the honor roll and even the making the junior National Honors Society.

The college volunteers for this program assist the teacher in whatever needs to be done, and they also do things such as grading papers. The SPACE program is also offered during the summer as a day camp. During this upcoming summer, the program will need some more college volunteers so if you are interested in helping, contact Dr. Janet Howard at janet@gw.ncsu.edu.

U.S. Policy unclear on Sudan

Keon Pettway

News writer

A month has passed and the U.S. still has not configured a concise policy on Sudan. U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell stated that ending Sudan's civil war is a top priority, but President Bush has yet to act and has not devised a strategy to end the war in Sudan.

The Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), a private "think tank" with Republican connections, suggested that Sudan be partitioned into two political entities but under one state. President Bush is leaning largely toward that suggestion.

Partitioning Sudan into separate political entities is based on the notion that neither the Sudanese government, nor the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), have sufficient military equipment and other resources to assist in the victory. If the plan is activated, the suggested colonial border of Khartoum, which divided Sudan into north and south before independence in 1956, will not win approval in the proposal. The reason being the proposal will include giving up the oil wells it controls in the South.

"We categorically refuse both the content and implication of the Pater," said President Omar el Bashir. The SPLA also doesn't want to negotiate

under the proposal. They believe that the "proposed 'one country, two systems' arrangement would permanently legitimize the very fascist state that is the engine of the war." In other words, they believe it will add more hostility to the war.

Reducing sanctions against Sudan at this time after the Sudanese government has made concessions but rather has increased its civilian bombings and other atrocities, would reward the latter for worsening behavior," says the Commission.

"America must not continue to turn a blind eye to the atrocities in Sudan. With a new administration, we must begin a new chapter in our quest to bring an end to the brutal civil war in Sudan," emphasizes Tom Tancredo, a Colorado Republican.

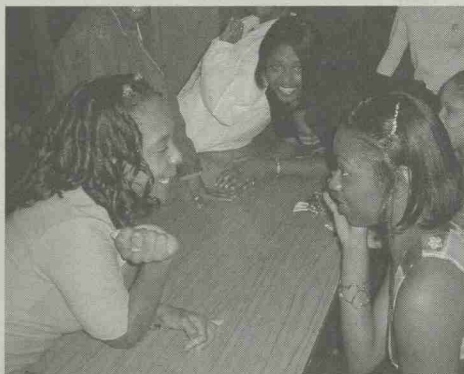
"We won't stand for what's going on in the Sudan. We need to do what ever is necessary to stop this carnage that's going on," says The House "Whip" in the House of Representatives, Tom DeLay.

U.S. representatives have vowed to alleviate the problems in Sudan, but they have not formulated a plan to coincide with their concern, and has yet to sustain peace in the conflict between the Sudanese government and the SPLA.

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Diallo officer could become firefighter

Chinwe Ekwuribe
News writer

One of the four officers involved in gunning down unarmed Amadou Diallo, may become a state employee soon. Edward McMellon was one of the top 200 finishers out of six-thousand applicants on the most recent firefighter test in New York City. A department spokesman says McMellon has been cleared by the department's Personnel Review Board, which is generally the final hurdle for candidates.

In 1999, four officers shot Amadou Diallo, a West African immigrant to death after they mistook his wallet for a gun. They fired 41 shots, and 19 of those struck Diallo.

A black firefighters group said that the possible hiring of McMellon "insults not only the family of Amadou Diallo, but all firefighters."

Mayor Giuliani says "he'll support whatever decision the fire department makes, adding that McMellon 'was found innocent'."

On April 20th, The New York Police Department started an internal review of the shooting death of Diallo. "The department's Firearms Discharge Review Board will decide if four officers will face administrative charges in the 1999 fatal shooting."

After the shooting, the four officers stilled remained on the force, but have been assigned to desk duty with their guns and badges being confiscated.

Got something to say?

voice yourself

nubianinbox@hotmail.com

YA HEARD?

SHEQUETA L. SMITH
Entertainment Reporter

What's up Afrikan Americans? I'm hopping back on the scene like the Easter bunny to give you the clues on the news of what's been going down in showbiz these days. First on the list is more news from the courtroom. Word on the streets says that "Mr. Money Aint a Thing" himself, Jermaine Dupri recently went to jail for three days. The state of Atlanta sent this dude to jail for not showing up for jury duty in March 1999. When he finally did make it to court to do the jury duty, they said that they didn't even need him. Talking about somebody being mad...I bet he will show up the next time jury duty calls.

While we are still on news from the jail cell, word has it that "Mr. Beat Em Up And Take Their Record Company," Suge Knight will be getting out of jail pretty soon. He has been heard saying that people have been doing stuff that they wouldn't have done if he was out. He said that Snoop would still be on DeathRow if he wasn't in jail...IS THAT A THREAT SUGE??? Before we leave the courtroom, sources say that Jay-Z is back in trouble with the law again on illegal gun charges. He was arrested outside a Manhattan nightclub. Get this...a couple of undercover cops said they saw an armed man climb into a suburban outside the club. Naturally the police followed and stopped the car and found the gun on a passenger whom was later identified as Jay-Z's bodyguard. Does this scenario sound all too familiar? I wonder if Puff Daddy...excuse me P-Diddy will be offering any words of wisdom to Jayhovah. It will probably be just one word,

"LIE."

On to more positive news, our favorite child star Todd Bridges recently got some good publicity for a change for saving a paraplegic woman's life. Word has it that Stella Kline's wheelchair rolled into Balboa Park Lake in the San Fernando Valley after her fishing line caught on the chairs controls. Fortunately Bridges and his brother were also there fishing at the time this incident took place, and he was able to go and save her.

Bridges was quoted saying, "We felt God put us there at the right time to save this lady's life, because there was no one else around. This story is pretty comical but kudos definitely go to Todd for doing something so positive and heroic."

In other news word has it that Marlon Brando ("The Godfather") is supposed to get \$2 million dollars to work for four days on the latest Wayan's project "Scary Movie 2." That has got to be some of the easiest money ever to be made. But he is supposed to play a priest performing an exorcism towards the beginning of the movie. Those darn Wayan's be doing it up cause Kennan, Shawn, and Marlon's brother Damon is continuing to hold down the #1 spot with his new show on ABC, "My Wife and My Kids." It has remained at the number one spot since its first broadcast a couple of weeks ago. Speaking of Damon, word has it that his co-star of the show, Tisha Campbell-Martin is expecting. Sources say that she is four months pregnant by her long time husband Duane Martin ("Above the Rim," "Fakin da Funk"). Isn't it funny how his last name happens to be Martin?

Well folks, that's about it for this week's news on the lifestyles of the rich and infamous. Be sure to come check me out next week with some more crazy celebrity news.

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Good for
You

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and make a difference.
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This WEEK IN BLACK HISTORY

April 23

Clatonia Joaquin Dorticus patents photographic print wash.

April 24

United Negro College Fund Incorporated.

April 25

Ella Fitzgerald, "First Lady of Song", born.

April 26

William "Count" Basie, jazz pianist and musician, dies, 1984

April 27

Coretta Scott King, activist (and wife of Martin Luther King), born, 1927

April 28

George B Vashon, first Black bachelor's from Oberlin, becomes first Black American to enter the NY Bar, 1847
Samuel L Gravely becomes first Black admiral in the US Navy, 1962
Muhammad Ali, boxing champion, stripped of his title for refusing to enter the armed forces, 1967

April 29

Macon B Allen and Robert Morris Jr, first Blacks to practice law in the US, open practice, 1845
"Duke" Ellington, musician and composer, born, 1899
Harold Washington sworn in as the first Black mayor of Chicago, 1983
The LA Riots, sparked by the acquittal of four White cops in the beating of Rodney King, begins, resulting in at least 50 dead, thousands

An Excessive Political Corrective?

Michael Harrell
Staff Writer

Recently, the City of San Diego passed a resolution that banned the usage of the word "minority" from city documents and discussions. A black man, Deputy Sheriff of San Diego, George Stevens, initiated this action. He believes the usage of this word is intended to degrade people of color.

In a recent interview with NPR's Bob Edwards of "Morning Edition," Stevens said that people of color have been assigned the label of "minority" by the "majority." He then says this label, in a similar fashion to the word "Negro," was first used by whites rather than chosen by blacks to describe themselves.

Edwards then read a dictionary definition of "minority." This definition says a minority is "the smaller in number of two groups constituting a whole." Stevens said that some definitions also contain the words "less than." He then went on to say white people use this word to make them-

selves superior to people of color and this shows that the word "minority" is more un-American than anything he knows.

Edwards then asked if the word "majority" has been banned by the City of San Diego. Stevens answered that it had not been banned because it is so seldom used. He said that as a person of color, the word "minority" offended him so much that he took action that resulted in its demise. Stevens said that if a white person did not like the word "majority" that they should take steps to have it disallowed.

The Deputy Mayor said that under the new ordinance every non-white racial group will be listed or spoken individually when referring to people of color while conducting city business. Let us suppose that the City of San Diego wanted to establish a new "minority" scholarship. Under the newly passed ordinance this would have to be referred to as an "African-American/ Latino/ Native-American/ Asian Scholarship."

Is this actually to be taken seriously on a broad scale? If a

person is multi-racial, are they not entitled to a specific ethnic name as well? Will whites ask to have their own ethnic title (such as Swedish-American or French-American) when referred to by such municipalities as the City of San Diego?

Perhaps Stevens is missing the point. The real issue here is equality and opportunity for all races and classes. This situation could be paralleled with some aspects of the controversial issue of condom distribution in public schools. Instead of certain groups focusing their energy on education and prevention, they attack a very small aspect of the big picture. Often, the controversy created distorts the most important issues and minimizes the positive results.

Unfortunately, this country has problems that are much more serious than basic terminology such as that which is being questioned in San Diego. Is it not obvious? Look at the Cincinnati Police Department. Situations such as these are the ones that need attention from activists such as Stevens.

India Arie- (Acoustic Soul)



Lately, a lot of neo-classical soul artists have been emerging on the music scene. In the late 1990s, neo-classical soul artists like D'Angelo, Lauryn Hill, Angie Stone, Erykah Badu, and Maxell blazed the charts with songs and sounds that seemed to be vanishing from the airwaves due to the flood and increase of rap artists.

Artists like Musiq, Jill Scott, Bilal, and Dwayne Wiggins continue to bring the jazz vibe and classical soul tradition blazed by artists like Al Green, Marvin Gaye, Donnie Hathaway, Chaka Khan, Aretha Franklin, and Stevie Wonder. Trying to walk in the path that these trailblazers laid is silky-voiced, India Arie.

Blazing the charts with her first

single, "Video," from her debut album *Acoustic Soul*, India Arie has received strong airwave and club play. Writing songs for only five years, India Arie's album is one of maturity, spirit, creativity, exploration, and positive messages. The beauty of the album can be seen in the words being shared and the different tunes that add a certain uniqueness to the album.

Born to parents from Detroit and Memphis is Denver, Colorado, music has always been a strong aspect of Arie's life. At the age of 13 the family moved to Atlanta, and with encouragement from her mother, she began playing the guitar after she graduated from high school. It was while studying jewelry making at Savannah College of Art and Design that the guitar transformed her life. As a child she loved to listen to Stevie Wonder, and also loved to listen to Donnie Hathaway, Bonnie Raitt, James Taylor, Oleta

Adams, and Vince Gill and George Benson.

A little while later, Arie co-founded an Atlanta artist's collective, Groovement/Earthseed, which released a compilation CD featuring Arie's first songs. The release of the compilation led to Arie's appearance at Lilith Fair stops in Nashville and St. Louis. After her appearance at Lilith Fair, a young vocal group at the time with a No. 1 single, Divine, requested Arie's songwriting and production. Success with Lilith Fair also helped her to sign with Motown, where she was able to have complete artistic control.

Acoustic Soul took over a year and a half to complete. Representing both classical soul and hip-hop, the album celebrates the old school and the new. India Arie has created an album that recognizes the self and the importance of the self. Rich, intimate, and inspirational, this CD is a must to add to the collection.

What Looks Like Crazy On An Ordinary Day
By - Pearl Cleage

Michelle Reed



What we do today may have a huge impact on what happens tomorrow. However, because the life lived today is not guaranteed a tomorrow, life should not be taken for granted. And the lessons that life give us, may be learned the easy way or they may be learned the hard way.

Ava Johnson learned the hard way one of the lessons in life that was presented to her. The year was 1984, and Ava left her small hometown of Idlewild, Michigan, which is four hours north of Detroit, to the fast moving town of Atlanta. Here she had a brand new cosmetology license, some salon experience, and the thirst to develop her own hair salon. Living the fast life, she was surrounded by gorgeous, wealthy men. She had money, men, her own hair salon, and could pay for anything she wanted. But money can't buy life or love, and Ava discovered this a little too late when she was diagnosed HIV-positive. After an incident in her salon, in which the wife of a man that Ava had previously slept went off the wall screaming all types of obscenities after finding the letter that Ava had written to all the men she had sex with informing them she has tested HIV-positive, Ava's life and status in Atlanta saw a change. Once it was discovered that she was HIV-positive, customers would not show up to the salon and the people that once gave her awards and asked her to speak at different events were now reluctant to even say "hi" to Ava.

Not wanting to endure the mistreatment she was receiving in Atlanta, Ava sells her hair salon for a huge amount, and journeys back to the small hometown that she once felt she had to escape from in her late teens. Her plan is to stay in Idlewood for the summer, and then relocate in San Francisco. In Idlewood, she is reunited with her big sister, Joyce, who welcomes Ava back with open arms. Joyce, a caring, honest, and charitable woman has had her own share of personal problems and emotional struggles. Both Ava and Joyce's mother and father died, leaving the newly wed Joyce to raise her little sister, Ava. Before she turned forty years old, her husband of twenty-three years, Mitch, died in a freak accident and both of her

children died. One child died in her sleep and the other child died after being hit by a car. But despite her own silent emotional grief, Joyce supports her sister 110 percent.

Back in Idlewood, Ava finds out that the town is not the same as it was before she left. Once bonded as a tight knit community, Idlewood has become a town plagued by drugs and destructive youth that lack dreams and goals. Trying to create self-awareness, self-worth, self-respect, and self-esteem for some of the teenage girls of the town who are in search of these qualities, Joyce runs a girls youth group, the Sewing Circus, in the church she attends. However, Joyce's group faces termination because the reverend's wife believes that Joyce is presenting social and moral ills for the young women of the group. In the attempt to save her youth group, Joyce understands that church and politics don't mix well.

A newborn baby enters the household of Joyce and Ava when one of the youth members abandons her crack-addicted baby in the hospital. Receiving temporary custody of the child because her drug-addicted relatives don't want her, Joyce names the baby, Imani, and is more than willing to be a mother to this child.

Along with a new baby in the house, a new romance is beginning to stir for Ava. Eddie, a longtime family friend of Mitch and Joyce, is a constant thought on Ava's mind. She loves Eddie dearly, but fears being rejected by Eddie because of her diagnosis, and it pains her heart to completely love Eddie because she fears her own condition. But as time passes, wisdom, understanding, and courage play crucial roles in their relationship.

Believing that Idlewood would be the perfect spot to find mental and emotional peace during her summer stay, Ava finds her belief to be semi-wrong when all types of hell breaks loose during the course of the summer. Ava must now be strong for her own self, and for her family, while dealing with her own problems.

This book seems to never cease in action and all the characters are intertwined in some way. It is a book that may make you view your own life, and view how your actions and decisions may help or hurt your future. It is a touching story that will make you laugh, it will make you sigh, or even make you mad, but most of all, it will make you think.

Got something to say?

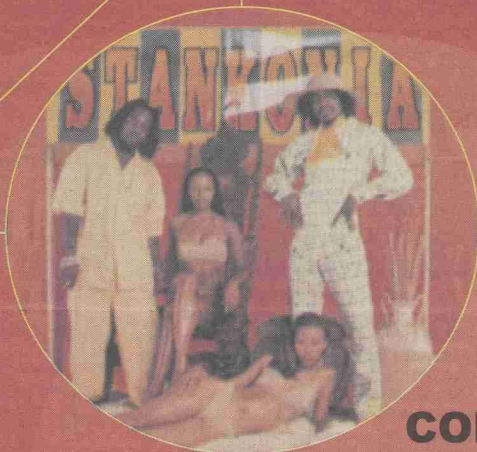
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How should I live?

there's a time for a brother to step up and get stronger
 don't wanna look back after, wishing to start over
 so many times remember being, in that same position
 I try to put people on but aint nobody listening
 I need to just do it, like Nike say
 while keeping my mind on my ends, that's the only way
 only my people know how much I love my fam
 while I use fake people to get what I can
 sometimes it gets tough, living a life alone
 but being alone makes you stronger, cuz there's only one king on the
 thrown
 These money hungry women don't want a broke brother like me
 they change their eyes to green, to only see brothers with cream
 forget all this superficial stuff, It's time to get legit
 time to be real, time to make my name fit
 I'm tired of living life, how i'm supposed to
 I analyze one thing and they think that is all I can do
 people can't see how deep my mind goes
 continuous like a never-ending flow
 so deep sometimes i don't even know
 am I just crazy making more out of it than it needs to be
 or am I the chosen one who has been God sent to lead
 my adolescent life isn't ready for the responsibility
 but time is getting at me
 everyday making it harder to breath
 I think it is time to step up, do what I've been doing all my life
 willing to take an ass whipping so my Mom won't have to fight
 strong will, flows in my blood from day one
 enough writing, let the renaissance begin...one lov

Quiet Warrior

Got something to say?

if you got...

something to say, don't be afraid

SAY IT AND SAY IT LOUD
nubianinbox@hotmail.com

Stress elevates and causes much confusion in my world
 Sometimes I do not know whether to look right or left or which
 way to turn.

The only other way to look is up into the heavens above,
 And wait for my father to send his blessings down and cover me
 in his love.

The storm will be over soon, so there is no reason for me to com-
 plain,
 Because the Lord and the spirit of my ancestors will be my
 umbrella of protection when it rains.

No one can take my happiness from me, because I'm too strong
 to be held down,
 And as long as I keep my eyes on Lord my soul will stay heaven
 bound.

Every day is a good day but some days are better than others,
 But my days are never bad, because I always wake up to see
 another.

Why must people be so pessimistic about life, when everyday
 they are blessed, but they seem to be displeased?
 Of course we have our weary days, but the Lord will always make
 sure that our soul will be at ease.

I wish not to hear anymore "I have failed, I can not succeed, so I
 will conform to have low spirit."
 People should look at failing situations in a brighter light as
 encounters that build experience.

Of course I have fell off of the boat many times, but I tried my
 best to get back on board,
 A lot of times I thought it was because of my abilities, but I real-
 ized it was the strength of the Lord.

In times of struggles always look at the bright side of situations
 and you will find a way to survive with the help of the Lord.

Keon Pettway ***Y'all aren't ready

I Don't Think They're Ready -

Rays of sunshine press
 down on my face
 As my soul gets weary from running this
 race
 I'm about to get ready!

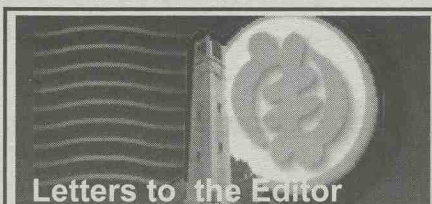
Braveheart

Constantly I am on a quest for the key of knowledge
 And wondering how can I escape these discrimination problems
 Society better get ready!

Yeah it still exist so don't get it twisted
 Because I've been gashed with the evil sword and said to be bound by statistics
 My brothers and sisters better get ready!

Internal and external enemies hate on me because I'm a strong and intellectual
 black man
 And I'm only a freshman and 19 years of age, but my mind is advanced
 The enemy better get ready!

I have a long way to go, but I'm already ahead of the game
 Because I'm expanding my knowledge while my counterparts are still thinking the
 same
 I'm ready!



Got something to say?

voice yourself, be heard

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Letters or The Cross - Minister Fred Hatchet's Response

In reading the responses to the first article, I was not in the least surprised or caught off guard by the responses. They are typical and common among religious Greeks. The main response that I noticed was the "personal choice" excuse to join. Since DST and AKA were the responders, I will direct most of my response toward them.

The responses are saying that one's choice to be a Christian and a Greek are two separate decisions where one does not have any impact on the other. A Kiansman or Black Panther could say the same thing and still be a Christian. The problem with these individuals' responses is that they are Biblically incorrect. They believe that personal choices can supercede God's Word. They have adopted the religious, not Christian slogan which says, "God said it, I believe, I just refuse to live by it." The other one being, "What I believe is more important than what God says."

Every aspect of the Christian's life such as choices, thoughts, beliefs, actions, personal secrets, etc. MUST be GOVERNED by GOD'S WORD. II Corinthians 10:3-5, Romans 2:16, Proverbs 3:5-6, Romans 12:1-2, I Corinthians 2:16 and many other scriptures require the Christian to consider their thoughts, words, and actions. Christians are to have the mind of Christ. This is why True Christians, who stay continually connected with Jesus, look at Greek-Lettered Organization's (GLO's) and see that their true nature is not godly. Greeks want to be seen for their philanthropy and good works. Yet, they want Christians to ignore or keep SECRET from them hazing, partying, drunken-

ness, false gods, or members who belong to false religions. With that thought, I ask the religious Christian, WWJD? Would he join A (GLO)? Yes or No? In answering, let me give some advice; He never joined the organizations of His day, including the religious ones. The professing Christians of GLO's do not ignore, but blatantly deny the reality of God's Word which COMMANDS us to FLEE, HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH, ABSTAIN FROM the above sins mentioned to which there are many more (I Peter 4/Acts 15:20/I John 5:21).

Greeks who are aware of these things are no different from those people in Romans 1. They know God, but they glorify other gods by their association with them. AKA has an association with the idol Atlas, and DST has an association with the idol goddess Minerva. How can you abstain and flee from idols when the organization you belong to makes those gods a part of their national symbol? How can one obey God in this matter? They can't except by willful disobedience. Isaiah 1:19 has something to say to those individuals. You may be attending Bible studies, going to church, but I Corinthians 15:33 will always be in effect on your life. Now I am going to prove by paraphrasing some secret information, and quoting directly what other members have told me.

Delta Sigma Theta's Candidate Syllabus, page 24, states that to denounce is an organizational taboo. They go on to say that one who denounces must suffer strong sanctions for one ought to know better than to denounce. This is a promise and a threat? God does not give us

the spirit of fear. Delta Sigma Theta is disobeying God's Word.

Alpha Kappa Alpha as stated by three members who pledged in three different decades, "To thee O Alpha Kappa Alpha I pledge my heart, my mind, and my soul to foster thy teachings and to obey thy laws and to make thee supreme in service to all mankind."

The problem with this statement is blasphemy. They replace the Lord with AKA. Who does AKA think they are? The Lord!!!! Luke 10:27-28 has clearly been trampled upon. AKA's? Can you serve two masters? The Bible says, No!

The second part to my response deals with Pami Strayhorn's agreeing with me on one part and disagreeing on another. This is obviously an opinion that is not agreed upon by all.

of the Greek method of, "you can't know it until you get in." My response to Pami Strayhorn is concerning her Pastor's disapproval of GLO's without condemning her decision like other church members. The other church members acted on their conviction. The Bible says to expose the works of darkness of which Delta Sigma Theta fits the description. It also says to obey them that have the rule over you, for they watch for your souls, Hebrews 13:17.

Now I would like to respond to Courtney Hodge, who claims that her sororities' ritual is not demonic. On page 1 of their Membership Intake Program, they clearly state that the founders chose Minerva and cherish her as Delta's goddess. On page 106 of the same document says that Minerva is Delta Sigma Theta's sorority MENTOR.

In their Candidate Syllabus on page 38, the pledge is said to be under Minerva's grace. This is DEMONIC. Delta also claims to be rooted in principles of Freemasonry, which is without question demonic. If Ms. Hodge wants to refute these claims, I challenge her to do so.

There is much more than what I have claimed here. She herself said that she chose the organization not the people individually. She said this to avoid being unequally yoked with unbelievers. So I ask her, now that only a tiny portion of proof has been put before you, what will you do now Courtney? Ms. Hodge also mentions pledging for the right reasons, because God has a plan for everyone. It is not in God's plan for a person to yoke himself to false gods and sinful people.

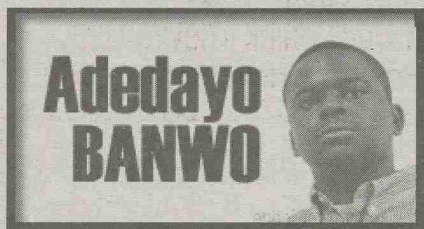
My response to Margaret Hargett will reveal another common flaw in the way many Greeks think on a Biblical level. She claims that two separate lifestyles can coincide as long as your prioritize. She is sadly deceived. The Bible nowhere supports that one can be a Christian and an abortion doctor at the same time. As a matter of fact, the Bible refutes her adamantly in James 4:4 and I John 2:15-16. If you have no problem being identified as an AKA, then you also claim identity with its members. Are they all saved? Probably not! Do you call an association with a false god an identity problem? Any true Christian would see the problem immediately. Now I see the old, I prayed hard excuse. Let me ask you a question Margaret. A man prays hard to God concerning a lady he desires to marry. He believes that God says she is the one. As it turns out,

she is not saved. But since God told him she is the one he marries her. Has he done rightly or has he erred? My point is that God will not lead us into error against His Word. Do not forget the angel of light of II Corinthians 11:14. The problem with the "I prayed hard" reasoning is that the individual already has it set in their mind what they want. It's called self-will. It is antagonistic to God's will and deafens one to His voice.

Hargett also wants to call attention to her organizations deeds. A Christian does something for self-praise the manifest extreme selfishness. It's the attitude that says, "look at what I have done, look at what AKA has done, instead of obeying Colossians 3:17 and I Corinthians 10:31. She wants to bring attention to the sisterhood of AKA. Is it true sisterhood? No, it is not according to Luke 8:21 and Matthew 12:50. Hargett also goes on to say that she wouldn't join an organization that would not allow her to exercise her faith. However, they promote things contrary to her faith. Singing songs of pride and glory to AKA, not God. She even quotes partially Psalms 133. She does not understand the meaning of brethren as it is accordance with the Bible. The personal decision excuse is weak at best and a poor excuse. This is not based on opinion, but clearly God's Word.

What all of these and many Greeks have knowingly done is simple. They make their own commands and doctrines that deny God's Word altogether.

Please send comments to:
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Just My Opinion

Talking White Being Black

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

As a child, I went to an elementary school that was over 70 percent white. I just didn't have much interaction with other black children my age. Every day, I encountered budding "Florida Crackers" and their friends on the playground.

"You know why they call the white house white?" They would say. "Why?" I would ask. "Because ain't never going to be no black man in there," they would answer. Angry and frustrated, I would fight these children who chose to taunt and ridicule me because of my skin color. Without many friends to

associate with, I hid in a shell. On Valentines Day, very few cards were put in my box. I was the bad angry, mean, black boy. Ordinary, they would have put me in the special class where children with behavioral and learning problems spent their days. However, I was an excellent student, the best reader in most of my classes and a hard worker. My teachers could see that and encouraged me. However, the racism was still prevalent. I once got into a fight in the 5th grade with some boy who would constantly taunt me. After the teacher broke it up, I hit

the guy again. (I mean c'mon, ya'll knew the rules to schoolyard fighting, There were none!) The other boy was white. Once in the office, he was sent back immediately to class. Although both of us were equal instigators, all the principal wanted to know from me is why I did it hit him while he was being held back? She asked me that at least 20 times before becoming frustrated and just putting me in suspension. My family moved to another part of the state right after elementary school. My new neighborhood, school, church, everything, was now over 90% black.

What a change! I was so excited about going to school and being around people who wouldn't taunt or ridicule me. However, I soon found that the same white supremacy that is found in white folks, very much exists in black folk as well.

I remember being told, "Nigga you black, stop talking white." The other students were down right offended by the way I talked. Something I couldn't even control! By calling me a nigga, the message was clear, "Don't try to think you're better, you're a nigga, just like us."

Soon after moving there, I

picked up the lingo, the talk. And I could fit in with my peers without sounding "white."

However, I have always been perplexed at how lot of black people except all black people to sound a certain way. How, if a black person has a different type of speaking, is he/she somehow less black. I fundamentally disagree. All anybody can do is simply be themselves and talk the way they know how. No matter what, I'm always been black whether I use "dawg" or "pal." Its time that a lot of other people told themselves that as well.

Going once, twice - Sold!



I was sitting at home watching television when a report came on the news about a missing slave ship. At first I thought the news people were exaggerating about some people being held hostage in a slave-like manner. However to my disbelief, I found out that they weren't mistaken or exaggerating about the story. Apparently there is a registered Nigerian ship missing, which has been reported to be carrying 100-250 children bound for slavery. This is a practice that is not uncommon for a Western and Central parts of Africa. The children are usually taken from poor underdeveloped countries. What makes the situation even worse is that the kids are sold into slavery by their parents. The parents are told that their children will be given good paying jobs, educated, and well taken care of. However, this is far from the truth. The parents usually receive as little as \$14 for their children,

who will then be sold to buyers for as much as \$340. Little boys often end up working on cotton and cocoa plantations. The young girls often times end up as domestic workers or prostitutes.

I am so disheartened by this story. First of all, because it is other Africans who are selling these young African children into slavery. This story also upset me because this has been going on for quite some time now according to "USA Today," and no other country seems to be stepping in saying, "Wait a minute, this is wrong!" I'm mainly talking about our own country. Anytime human rights are being violated in other parts of the world, the U.S. is quick to step in and deploy troops there. For some strange reason though, there hasn't been any deployment in Africa. Does the United States not believe that the rights of African children are just as important as the Arab people that we are fighting for in Palestine or other Middle Eastern countries? Or are we not helping out in Africa because the U.S. doesn't have any vested interests in these parts of the continent? It seems to me that the only time we intervene in some crisis situation is when we are about to lose

money or if we are about to see a price increase for a good or service that we deem necessary.

The United States isn't the only country that I want to rag on because there are many other countries out there that are just as selfish as we are. Also, why is it that the United Nations is just now stepping in and investigating a problem that they have known to be in existence since the 18th century? I mean, for God sakes, Benin, a small country in western Africa has been known as the Slave Coast for almost 200 years now.

Something is wrong in this world when children are bought from their destitute parents for a few dollars and sold to the highest bidder, especially in the new millennium. Something is also wrong when the richer nations of the world do nothing to stop it.

Please send comments to
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NOOBY'S WORD OF THE WEEK:

dunneem

For all you who don't like the words of the week, its too late, we already "dunneem."

It Could Be You

Larry Houpe
Opinion Columnist

On Tuesday April 24, 2001, the United States Supreme Court ruled that police do have the power to arrest drivers for minor traffic offenses. The decision stemmed from a lower court case brought by the plaintiff, Gail Atwater who was arrested for failure to wear a seatbelt. Mrs. Atwater was pulled over on her way home from soccer practice by a Texas police officer who noticed that Mrs. Atwater and her children didn't have on seatbelts. Now I don't know if she tried to "wild out" or if the officer had a bone across his butt for some other reason, but he decided to

handcuff and arrest her. Mrs. Atwater was booked, paid her \$50 seatbelt fine, and posted bail. Later, she filed a lawsuit against the officer for violating her fourth amendment right, which is the right against unlawful searches and seizure. Mrs. Atwater's case was thrown out of the lower court, and then she appealed.

The 5th circuit appellate court reinstated the case. The appellate court ruled against Mrs. Atwater and then the case went to the U.S. Supreme Court. In a 5 to 4 decision, the Supreme Court ruled that officers could arrest drivers for minor traffic violations. The high court didn't mention which offenses could warrant arrest. However, they did say that any offense is breaking the

law, and I interpret that to mean any driving offense.

So what does this all mean for us? Brothers better watch out, because cops who stop drivers for DWB (Driving While Black) have a new weapon. Not only can they stop and harass black motorists, but they now have the power to arrest them if they deem necessary. DWB recently gained national attention because government officials just decided this past year that they should do something about it. Of course police are going to hold to their recent claims that no racial or ethnic group is targeted in traffic stops, but we all know better. I'm just giving everybody a heads up that failure to signal, wear a seatbelt, or whatever could land you in jail. So be careful.

Njeri's Two Cents



To Azariah, with love

Njeri Frazier Moss
Staff Columnist

Can you recall that one moment in your life that changes you forever? Or maybe it's a series of events that leads you to make a decision. For some it has not happened yet, or so you think. Well, there are a few things that have shaped me or better yet, changed my outlook on things. But what amazes me now is realizing the capacity to love.

Sure, I love my family and I've been in love a few times too. But there is nothing like loving a child, whether your own or someone else's. I realized this last week. My niece Azariah Kylee was born on April 10, 2001 and died April 11, 2001. Though she tarried in this place for a short while, I could not believe how much I loved her. And how I miss her. She weighed in at a little over two pounds, smaller than anything I had ever seen. But when she opened her eyes and held her mother's finger, she seemed much stronger. That I could love someone instantly and miss them within such a short time really amazes me. Now I know that sounds strange but fol-

low me here, indulge me.

Everyday we hear about people who commit heinous crimes against children. It seems like people become more vile with each decade. And while I am not comparing their apparent disrespect for human life to me it is shocking that some seem to have no capacity to love. Depraved indifference is not just a phrase shouted on "Law and Order." There are some people who have no compassion and are proud of it. I never imagined how great it would feel to love someone until I became a mother.

Azariah was not my child, but I loved her. And I love her sister Gemmia (aptly nicknamed "big baby" by my grandfather...see Adedayo, we do have nicknames!). Seeing Gemmia's big smile makes my day. After I've spent hours studying bugs, rocks and Logic, I need a laugh. It may seem sappy to some but ain't nothing wrong with love!

I know this a departure from my usual sharp wit and satirical pen, but thanks for indulging me. Tune in next week for my next column on "The New Jack Negro." Oh, and by the way, I love ya!

White lives

Larry Houpe
Opinion Columnist

According to a new study, killing white people in North Carolina makes the murderer more likely to receive the death penalty. "Murderers who kill white people are 3 times as likely to get the death penalty as those who kill nonwhites," according to the study, which was released Monday. However, the race of the murderer didn't seem to matter in deciding whether or not the defendant got life or death sentences. The study examined 502 homicides that took place between 1993 and 1997 and included first-degree murder. Factors such as race, age, the defendant's record and the crime's degree of brutality were all taken into account when conducting the study.

Chris Fitzsimon, executive director of the Common Sense Foundation in Raleigh, the organization who along with the North Carolina Council of Churches sponsored the study said, "We now have empirical and convincing evidence that our capital punishment system is infected with racial bias. The evidence is clear: Our system values black lives less than white lives."

Opponents of the study such as Peg Dorer, director of the state conference of District

Attorneys believe this study is just a ploy to have the death penalty eliminated. She also said, "Murder victims being white or black isn't the issue. You've got someone dead, and you've got 12 jurors who have to decide how egregious it was."

However, in my opinion contrary to Ms. Dorer's perfect little world scenario, jurors do consider race in sentencing. The professors who conducted the study (Isaac Unah and Jack Boger both of UNC Chapel Hill) also feel this way.

UNC Chapel Hill law professor, Jack Boger said, "Sadly, this study shows that skin color still plays a major role in deciding who lives and who dies in our criminal justice system." Mr. Boger went on to say, "Despite a generation of legal and cultural efforts to eliminate discrimination, these results show that racial bias still dramatically affects the most final of judgments -- who gets the death penalty."

The comments made by Ms. Dorer are typical anytime someone speaks out and says blacks and whites in this country aren't treated equally in all aspects of life. The truth is that we aren't, and we never will be as long as studies like this are pushed aside by legislators saying they only serve the interests of death-penalty opponents.