



the Nubian Message

May 3, 2001

The Last Issue of the Year

Volume 8 Issue 29

The AACC's Plans for the Summer

Chinwe Ekwuribe
News writer

The African American Cultural Center (AACC), located in Witherspoon Student Center, serves as the backbone for educational programs for and about African-Americans here at N.C. State University. The center, which is host to an art gallery and a library, has been in existence since 1991.

The AACC is also the home of several African-American student organizations, such as Society of African-American Culture (SAAC), and the Association for the Concerns of African American Graduate Students (ACAAGS).

The mission of the AACC is to "provide educational experiences that promote an awareness of and an appreciation for the diversity and richness of the African American experience. With a goal of engaging all academic areas of the university, the AACC develops and implements a variety of programs including lectures, workshops, seminars, student study groups, festivals, theater, dance, music and other cultural events.

While enhancing the academic excellence and cultural awareness of African-American students, the center provides

opportunities for all members of the campus community to receive a more culturally diverse and enriching educational experience." The AACC accomplishes its mission under the direction of Dr. Iyailu Moses.

The AACC does not close down during the summer. During the summer, Dr. Moses says the center is "finalizing and evaluating from the previous programs and [is] planning for the future." Also during the summer, the AACC participates in the Symposium and serves as a summer camp for different colleges.

However, during the summer, programs held in the AACC are limited. Hopefully, according to Dr. Moses, "the AACC will try to have a program in honor of Juneteeth." Juneteeth is the oldest known celebration of the conclusion of slavery. The celebration started in Galveston, Texas

in 1865 and is observed on June 19th.

The celebration started two and a half years after Lincoln gave the Emancipation Proclamation. The Emancipation had little effect of slave states because there were no Union soldiers to enforce it. So 1865, when the war ended and the slaves were truly "free" did they start to celebrate their emancipation.



The Cultural Center will not close during the summer and will offer a variety of programs

Also, for the first time, the office for Diversity and African-American Affairs is hiring a graduate assistant so the library can be open and running during the first summer session. This will be done as a pilot so as to get knowledge of how many people use the library over the summer.

This fall, the AACC plans to welcome returning students with "a couple of new series" that will include diversity forums and things that will engage the faculty in a faculty colloquium

Racial tensions at Penn. State

Chinwe Ekwuribe
News writer

LaKeisha Wolf, a student at Penn State, has a professional bodyguard at her side most of the time and she rarely goes out alone. Why? Wolf is the president of the university's Black Caucus, and in the last two years, she has received four death threats (two of which occurred in October).

"Six months ago, the university offered her protection."

Wolf is not the only one to receive death threats. A university trustee and one football player also received death threats in October. It all started in 1999 when dozens of other students received threatening e-mails.

"The e-mails contained insults and vague threats, apparently directed at black students, though Asian and Latino students also received the notes."

The author described minorities as 'savages' and claimed to have elaborate means available to keep them in line. A line in the e-mail went:

"Every time you scan your ID to the dorm, every time you eat on campus, and every time you log into your computer -- we are watching," signed by "Long Live Amerikka."

On April 21, more than two dozen Penn State students were arrested during protest at football game because of not only these

death threats and harassing e-mail, but also because of the threat to bomb a ceremony for black graduates. The student's who were arrested felt the university was not doing anything to help the victims.

The university feels otherwise. They have offered a \$5,000 reward and the Penn State Alumni Association has offered to double it. Also, a statement on the university's Web site said authorities has been sent informing students that the FBI are investigating the letters. Penn State president Graham B. Spanier said in a statement on the site that he condemned the threats.

"Black people are scared, and the university isn't doing anything about it," said Assata Richards, a spokeswoman for the Black Caucus. "Students are protesting what they view as a lack of support from the University by camping out in the student union building, having prayer meetings and even fasting."

In one of Wolf's threatening letters, the victimizer "promised a black man's body would be found. Recently, the body of a black man was shot dead about 20 miles from town, but police say there is no connection. A different location was mentioned in the letter. Because of this, students have started to walk to classes in groups and have really started to fear for their lives.

This summer I'm going to....

Keon Pettway
News writer

What will N. C. State students do this summer to occupy their time that was once filled with stress by homework deadlines and exams? Many students will attend summer school to diminish the amount of courses they will have to take in the fall and summer sessions. Some students will take a trip back home or another part of the earth and enjoy the much-needed vacation from college.

Most students who are taking classes over the summer to transfer credit hours rarely have time to recuperate from the damaging effects of final exams and papers. Students who are attending the first summer session will start on May 23rd and have their final examinations on June 28th and 29th. Students do not have to attend the first summer session, but they have a choice of attending either the first or second summer session or the ten week summer session. The second summer session starts on June 4th and final examinations on August 9th and 10th. The ten-week summer session consist of both summer sessions combined into one.

Finding a job will be one of most popular pastimes to a long awaited break for many college students. Creating monetary gains over the summer is a good way to diminish the cost of tuition for college students to build experience over the summer.

"I plan on getting a job somewhere in the RTP area in Chapel Hill. I am going to take a vacation on the weekends, but I have to find a way to make some money," says Shanika Rogers, a senior in communications.

Students who work during the summer usually do not take a break as soon as school ends. Instead they keep themselves busy during the summer anticipating the next school year.

"I am trying to get a job here in Raleigh, but instead I will be going home to work my father at his company. I'm going to go straight to work, stay up here [NC State] and close up the buildings and then I'll go home. I'll probably leave Friday and start working Saturday. I'll relax on the weekends, and go to the beach, but I will pretty much be working and making money. I don't have a lot time for relaxation, because I have to pay for things," says Adam Tutrell, a senior in business

management.

It seems as though working during the summer is the popular getaway from college for students. Students realize that there is no time for sitting around enjoying being lazy, because the next academic year will have the same stressful environment.

"I plan on working all summer, no school, just work. I have to work, and I am taking my break from school so [everything is alright]. I work at a bank and a shoe store. This year has been stressful because I was working two jobs, and it was not fun, but I have to do what I have to do," says Monica Murphy, a junior in business management.

On the flip side, other students plan on relaxing, and taking their mind off the pressures of school and working.

"This summer I am just going to lounge with friends, and enjoy the summer breeze. This is my first year so I don't want to burn myself out occupying my time with work and school during the summer and then put back into the same stressful environment as last semester. I'm just going to relax, and when I come back next semester my brain will be back intact," says freshman Fontaine Whitehurst.

ANC man alleges Mbeki plot

News Writer

The South African government's investigation of three leading politicians alleged to be plotting against President Thabo Mbeki is

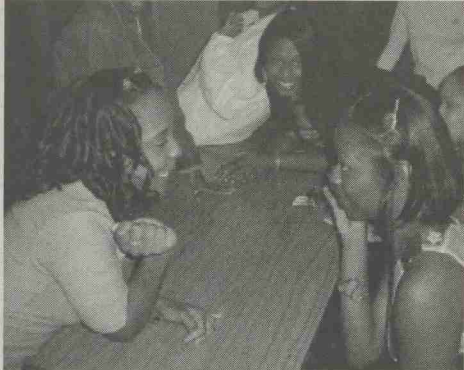
based on statements made to the police by a disgraced ANC youth leader who is facing prosecution on dozens of fraud charges.

The ANC plans to meet all three - the party's former secretary gen-

eral Cyril Ramaphosa and two former provincial premiers, Mathews Phosa and Tokyo Sexwale - this week. It has failed to persuade them to endorse the

See ANC. on page 2

Girl, let me tell you about the Nubian...



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“ANC” Cont. from page 1

investigation in the hope of defusing the crisis.

The man responsible for the allegations is James Nkambule, 29, a formerly influential ANC activist who was suspended from the party as a "factionalist". He has been charged with 77 offences of theft and fraud by allegedly siphoning millions of dollars from state coffers using front companies. He admits taking the money but says it was done to pay for ANC election campaigns.

Mr. Nkambule has signed two affidavits which attempt to implicate the three men under investigation and a number of other senior ANC politicians, including the deputy president, Jacob Zuma, and the former defense minister Joe Modise, in a bizarre string of alleged crimes.

The documents outline a convoluted "plot" which begins with a covert arms shipment on behalf of some ANC leaders to Mozambique nine years ago.

According to Mr. Nkambule's signed statement to the police a week ago, the former Communist party leader Chris Hani discov-

ered that other ANC officials were profiting from the weapons deal and threatened to expose them.

He was then murdered by white rightwingers who were allegedly "influenced" by Mr. Mbeki because he supposedly wanted to make sure Hani did not challenge him for the leadership of the ANC.

Mr. Nkambule claims that the three men under investigation saw an affidavit from Janus Walus, a Polish anti-communist exile convicted of murdering Hani, which said Mr Mbeki had a role in the killing.

Mr. Nkambule says they planned to use the information to topple the president by "briefing" ambassadors of other African states and the foreign press. The source of the allegations will be a further embarrassment to the government, which has so far failed to shake off the accusation that the

investigation is a witch-hunt against Mr. Mbeki's potential rivals for leadership of the ANC. Nelson Mandela gave his backing to Mr. Mbeki during a visit to London yesterday.

YA HEARD?

SHEQUETA L. SMITH
Entertainment Reporter

What's up, N.C. State? I'm coming at ya for the last time to give you the info on the low-low of what's been going down in the world. First on the scene is Kobe Bryant. If you all haven't heard, he recently got married to Vanessa Laine, that chick he met in Blockbuster a couple of months back. I guess she finally decided to sign that prenuptial agreement. I wonder how long that will last since the divorce rate is currently shooting through the roof?

While we are still on the subject of basketball players, rumors have been flying around about the G.O.A.T, Mr. Michael Jordan. Sources say that Mike may be considering coming back to the basketball court. They say Mike has been working out with a personal trainer and has dropped from 242 pounds to his playing weight of 212 pounds. On that same note, rumors have also been flying around that Mike's good friend Charles Barkley may also be coming back. I guess those NBA wives and all them kids are getting on their nerves.

In other news, word on the streets has it that Amil, that girl with the funny voice on Jay-Z's album has been dropped from Rock-A-Fella. I guess she was wrapped up a little too much with those Cash Money cats. You know, she is supposedly seeing Big Baby or one of them cats from that clique. Rock-A-Fella has replaced Amil with Angie Martinez.

Speaking of switching record labels, word has it that Keith Murry will be getting out of jail pretty soon and will be joining Def Jam's roster. I bet his album will be called something like CB4. You know, sooner or later Def Jam is going to be a monopoly in the hip hop world.

In other news, word on the streets has it that our favorite MC/Songstress, Lauryn Hill, may be suffering from depression. This would probably be why she hasn't put out any new music lately. Sources say that Lauryn has shaved off her locks, fired her management, and has disassociated herself from her mother. Maybe those rumors about her "baby daddy," Rohan Marley cheating on her were true. I mean after all, his daddy does have enough kids to form a rainbow coalition. But the good news here is that L-Boogie has been in the studio working on her next album. Well, folks that all the news I got to give, but it has been real keeping you informed about things. I will be graduating soon so I won't be able to give you the weekly news next semester, but I wish you all much success.

Shequeta L. Smith

Left Behind

Continued from page 5

And Karey too. Huh, Ma? Can we, Ma? Hey, Dee." My nephew was glowing with the heat of summer and youth, and although he was six, it was already late October. The 23rd. October shouldn't be this hot. "Go ahead, boy. Just be sure you bring your ass home as soon as those street lights come on." As he slammed back out of the door, I sighed at how much I loved him. Rubbing my temples, I absently wondered if that was ever enough anymore. Dear God. Michelle. It was so hot. I sighed, and the silence began to stretch out in the room again. "Tell me," she said again.

But how could I? How could I explain what I myself couldn't understand? I couldn't even wrap my mind around how incredibly thick this heat was, much less what had just happened. I glanced down at my hands and saw them clenching

the crumbled papers that I held. I closed my eyes and would have gladly slept, but when sleep wouldn't come, the words did. "It was so hot . . . and I was the first car in the procession. The sun was too bright, and Mama, of course, was about to get on my last nerve with all of her yapping. Sometimes you just have to shut-up because there just isn't any right thing to say, you know? The ride to the church was very . . . slow, very long. So anyway, we got there and there were so many people, just standing around. I saw Kim just as we were lining up to walk in. Skinny, but she looked good. Seems like the only time we see each other is at the funeral of someone who died too soon. Kim's nails were digging into my hand, but I didn't let her go. And we couldn't, um, see Michelle because by the time we reached the end of the aisle, her daddy had done climbed on top of her open casket and was just lying

there, hugging her. The flowers were falling off the top and everything, but he wouldn't move. And no one would move him."

I stopped then, and just gazed at her. She wouldn't look at me though. "Go ahead," she said, gazing at her hands. I closed my eyes again. "So we sat down on the second pew. I'm glad I didn't get to see her though. I heard that half of her face was gone. You know, from the impact of the bullet. I stopped again and just stared at the wall, thinking that I really wasn't strong enough to finish. But . . . dear God. The memories came rushing back. I thought about the procession to the cemetery afterwards. How all of Friday's 5:00 traffic seemed to stop and stare. The young men and the old boys on the street corners. The dogs. Kids playing on the sidewalks and in the parks. How every tree seemed to weep, not just the wil-

lows. To me, even the stones seemed to ache for her. I saw them all still etched so perfectly in my mind, and I remembered praying that I wouldn't forget a single detail. But I was so torn between wanting to remember and needing to forget. It hurt incredibly, the necessity of the day, but I wanted to sing for the beauty of it. For Michelle, for Sonnie. For her younger twin brothers and for Kim. For me. I thought about Michelle's mother, and I honestly wondered at her tears. They were warranted, sure, but it seemed to me that Michelle was finally in the one place where the world could no longer touch her. No . . . my tears were for all of us who remained. To mourn her, yes, and to live another day. But as I regarded my older sister, I wondered how I was supposed to say all of that out loud. So I did something that I hadn't done since I was five and she was fifteen.

Read
More
African
Trust
Us,
Its
Good for
You

Nikki Giovanni Helps to Celebrate Heritage Day

Michelle Reed
Culture and Arts Editor

Her tone wasn't one of dictation. Her focus wasn't to reflect on her writing style, or how she may or may not connect with a muse. She wasn't the lecturer giving a lecture in front of a bunch of eager and admiring students. The way in which she spoke didn't show that what she said could have been prepared three days earlier. Rather, the way and tone in which she spoke was an image of someone conversing with good friends. But how could this be conversation when Dr. Nikki Giovanni did all of the talking? Easy. Have you ever engaged in a conversation and as you listened to the speaker, and without words you showed by nodding your head or squeezing an "Uh-huh" from your throat that you could relate to or understand what the speaker has said? Giovanni's easiness and ability to create personal stories through words that reproduced into messages, was reciprocated by a listening audience with many head nods, "Uh-huhs", and an abundance of laughter.

Helping to celebrate the 15th Annual Heritage Day and

Symposium was a woman of extreme versatility, Nikki Giovanni. A mother, poet, essayist, lecturer, activist, and teacher are too narrow words to describe the entire person of Nikki Giovanni. As a trailblazer of African-American literature, a woman who has seen and explored many parts of the world, and a woman who has touched so many in so many ways, Giovanni shared some of her personal stories, wisdom, and experiences with those who listened with open ears, open hearts, and thirsty minds.

Giovanni humored the audience as she reflected on being a mother trying to prepare her only child, Thomas, for the real world once he graduated from high school. Realizing that his plans were not the plans she had desired for him, Giovanni still supported her son with the choices that he made. One of his choices would be to go to Italy with the financial sup-

port of his mother. "The only Giovanni that would



be seeing Paris was Nikki," she joked.

However, she did financially what she could do for her only

child, who eventually joined the army, then went on to graduate with top honors from Morehouse. Once he graduated from college and didn't need the financial support of his mother, Giovanni's was able to have her money to herself. In telling this story, the message that could best be understood is that parents will sacrifice many of their own things so that their children can have the best.

Connecting history, storytelling, and humor, Giovanni shared her experience to the Panama Canal, but through storytelling, she spoke about the history of the Panama Canal and the role of Marcus Garvey. The spirit of Giovanni makes her a natural teacher.

The love that Giovanni has for her deceased grandmother was expressed in stories in which she spoke of her grandmother providing for her by doing domestic work for white families. She spoke of the fragrances and things that made her remember her grandmother.

"If you're going to give somebody something, give the something when they will need it," she stated as she spoke of how the families her grandmother worked for would purposely give her clothes for the wrong season.

This was such a powerful statement. Because younger generations are not as intrigued by traditions and history, like that of our elders, tradition and homage is becoming devalued. Being a wonderful orator, Giovanni is helping the younger generation to understand tradition and paying homage to our ancestors by elevating minds with her wisdom and experience.

Giovanni read several poems, but the day wouldn't have been the same if she did not read her signature poem, "Ego-Tripping." Showing appreciation of this poem, as Giovanni came to the final line of the poem, individuals of the audience recited the final line of the poem with her, "...like a bird in the sky." As the audience left to go home or whatever journey taken that day, a chance to hear Dr. Giovanni speak may have made many feel "like a bird in the sky."

Tajuana "TJ" Butler writes about her "Sorority Sisters"

Michelle Reed
Culture and Arts Editor

It is human nature for one to desire or yearn for belonging. As children, we are exposed to groups such as the Girl Scouts or the Boy Scouts, and it is groups such as these that begin to express and define for us what comradery exactly is. Blooming into young adults, we join athletic teams, academic groups, and social groups that have become such relevant parts of our lives because we have worked so hard to fulfill the desire to become a part of that group. The transition from being a young adult into adulthood does not terminate the need for belonging. It is in adulthood that the groups that we belong to, the individuals that we connect with, and the relationships that we form achieve higher levels of intensity, passion, intimacy, and worth.

Tajuana Butler's novel, "Sorority Sisters," embraces the journey of five young women who must develop their own circle of sisterhood before they are to be included within the larger sisterhood of the Exclusive Pink, a sorority in which they long to become members of. Cajen, Tiara, Stephanie, Malena, and Chancey all have seen each other on campus, but they barely know each other. They all come from diverse backgrounds; how-

ever, each individual knows and understands their own burning desire to become part of this sorority so they can relate to the other's need to become member of this sorority. Not realizing the maximum endurance required and the strength within themselves and within each other that must be brought to the surface, the theme for each of these women now is "Survival of the fittest." The process of inclusion within this sisterhood means being temporarily removed from the world each individual is accustomed to, which only adds to the internal and external conflicts that already exist for each of these lines sisters. Will the internal and external battles that exist vanquish the will and desire within Cajen, Tiara, Stephanie, Malena, and Chancey to become members of the Exclusive Pink?

Malena is the most ambitious, and independent of the five. Planning to pledge to the Exclusive Pink with her best friend, Tammy, the plan changes when Malena finds herself pledging without her best friend. Disappointed, but not discouraged, Malena enters the world she and her friend planned together alone, but only to meet four other individuals who are also alone. In love with her boyfriend, Ray, Malena misses the time that used to be spent with him, which is now being occupied by her dedication to the

Exclusive Pink. Malena is willing to share her determination, strength, and dedication with her sands in order for all five to cross into the Greek world.

With a photographic memory (of which many wish they had) and pure brilliance, Chancey has skipped her freshman year and entered college as a sophomore. Picked on and called names as a child because of her intelligence, the sorority is a perfect opportunity for Chancey not to feel like an outsider. Chancey, the most insecure of the five, is dating Don, who soon will be a professional football player, and Chancey is bothered by her thoughts that she is not good enough for Don or why would someone like Don date her.

Trying to accept Don's commitment to her as true is a constant worry for Chancey, and in the time spent away from Don as she attempts to become a member of the Exclusive Pink only adds to her insecurity.

The elected leader and wealthiest of the five, Stephanie struggles with her identity and her past. Being able to have anything she wants because of her parents' fortune, Stephanie struggles with the realization that she was adopted at birth and that her birth mother was and still is addicted to drugs. With every-one seeing on the outside all the material things that Stephanie has, Stephanie fears that people

will judge and criticize her because she was born to a drug addicted mother. Although she has no connection with her birth mother, she worries that somewhere within her is an image of her birth mother waiting to come out. Valuing her image and wanting to come from nothing but the best, she doesn't want to tell anyone that she is adopted.

Hard work is not a new experience for Tiara. Raised in the projects of Gary, Indiana and being the oldest of five children, Tiara embodies the meaning of persistence for the five. Once a disadvantaged inner-city girl, but with the help and inspiration provided from her mentor through the Big Sisters Program, Rhonda, Tiara is ready to conquer any challenge standing in the way of her goal. College allows Tiara to escape Gary, Indiana; however, she feels that completely escaping means giving her family a better life. With her father walking out on her as a child, and with her mother's constant changes in boyfriends, Tiara defenses are always alert when it comes to trusting men. With the support of her line sisters and Tiara's toughness, the process of becoming a member of the Exclusive Pink is a challenge Tiara is ready to accept.

The youngest and the most naïve of the five, Cajen feels as if her world is crashing in on her. In love with Jason, the attractive

'playa-of-all-playas' on campus, Cajen has allowed Jason to fill her head with words her mind and heart are not ready for. Now she must deal with the consequences of a one-night stand. She needs more time to deal with what was brought upon her so rapidly; however, if she plans to continue to pledge, she must dig down deep and find inner strength. Surrounded by feelings of depression and guilt, the stress of pledging is only adding to the emotional problems that already present Cajen. She needs her line sisters more than ever, but she also has to find the love she has for herself.

Do Cajen, Malena, Tiara, Stephanie, and Chancey have what it takes to become members of the Exclusive Pink? Will they survive being on line and be able to call the other her soror? Do they have the strength and determination to cross the finish line?

This book is not just for those affiliated with Greek societies. It is a book that celebrates sisterhood, courage, difference, strength, and understanding. The individual stories that each of the five has goes beyond pledging to a sorority. It is a great book for both Greeks and non-Greeks. Experience the ride that the five must take in order to become members of the Exclusive Pink.

EAT AT YANCEY'S!!!

Jennifer Bringle

Telling you where you should eat!

As a chef at the Black Dog Café, Harvey Yancey was well known for his Cajun and Creole specialties such as Gumbo and Jambalaya. These dishes join a menu of delicious Southern cuisine at Yancey's Jazz and Blues Café.

Located in a refurbished building on one of the cobblestone streets of the City Market in downtown Raleigh, Yancey's offers patrons not only a variety of good food, but live entertainment as well. Since its opening in March 2000, the restaurant has, mostly by word of mouth and through its web site, made a name for itself as one of Raleigh's most enjoyable new restaurants.

Upon walking in the door, my interest was piqued by the intimate setting of the restaurant. The interior is dominated by the bar, which offers a wide variety of domestic and import beers, wines and liquors. Perched at the bar is Yancey who greets us as we make our way to our candlelit table by the window.

Glancing at the menu, I was pleased to see an assortment of mostly Southern entrees and several other classics such as hamburgers that are quite reasonably priced. In addition to the menu items, our server also informs us of daily specials such as the apple cobbler that "Yancey just made."

To start the meal, there are several different appetizers to choose from. These appetizers, which are priced from \$3.95 to \$7.95, include such items as wine sautéed Buffalo wings and spinach and artichoke dip. But if you want to stick to the Southern theme, a nearly over-flowing basket of hush-puppies is definitely the way to go.

The "Kickin' Chicken," which is two seasoned, grilled chicken breasts smothered with mushrooms and onions, lives up to its name with a spicy Cajun flavor. The chicken is served with generous portions of homemade mashed potatoes and grilled vegetables that worked together to fill my large plate with food.

Yancey's famous jambalaya is a zesty blend of shrimp, chicken, sautéed onions, peppers and Cajun seasonings. Served alone in a "Bayou Bowl" or over linguine, it is easy to see how it made Yancey's cooking so famous.

If you are more of a sandwich person, or are looking for some good lunch options, you will not be disappointed with the assortment of sandwiches offered. There are Cajun inspired sandwiches such as the grilled blackened chicken sandwich and Cajun fried catfish as well as classics like the BLT. But barbecue lovers will want to choose the Carolina Pulled Pig sandwich. Piled high with vinegar-based, chopped barbecue and served with crispy, battered fries, this sandwich is true to the high standard of North Carolina barbecue.

If you still have room, the dessert menu is filled with a tempting array of freshly made confections. The sweet potato pie is served warm and tastes like it came right out of grandma's oven. The bread pudding is dished out in generous portions and covered with raisins, nutmeg and a thick brandy syrup.

In addition to the menu items there are daily dessert specials such as hot apple cobbler. Served ala mode and oozing with cinnamon and brown sugar, this decadent treat is sure to satisfy your sweet tooth.

Yancey's seems to obviously know that a good meal can be great when it is coupled with good service. The wait staff was friendly and informative, often checking back with us to make sure we were enjoying our meal. And the waitresses pass the universal test of good service with flying colors as our glasses never once were empty.

While you dine, there is live jazz music performed nightly. This live music accents the jazz inspired décor of the restaurant which is filled with framed pictures of jazz musicians and instruments. The stage is located in the front dining room by the bar, which gives those seated at the bar a front row seat to live jazz performances every night.

Yancey's offers up a winning combination: delicious food, good service, and reasonable prices. Whether you are just stopping in for lunch or having dinner with the family (a children's menu is offered), Yancey's is a choice that everyone can be happy with. A wide variety of delicious, freshly prepared foods and a relaxed atmosphere give Yancey's the universal appeal that has granted it the success it has enjoyed so far.

A Poem by A. Michelle McLean - 15 June 1999

i want you...
i want you
to make my heart sing
and dance with joy
make me smile and laugh
and feel beautiful
i want you
to hold me in your arms
and make things better
and even if you don't succeed
at least you tried.

i need you...
i need you
to challenge my mind
and make me think and see
in a whole other perspective
ignite the fire in my spirit
and at the same time
be able to look into my eyes
and see how kind and gentle it is
i need you
to touch my soul
look inside
and love me for what you see

can you...
can you allow yourself
to share your thoughts and feelings
realize that being vulnerable
and showing sensitivity
are not always bad things
all you would have to do is allow
yourself to feel...
feel for me

can you...
will you
accept me
want me
for who i really am
all if me
my mind,
my body,
my soul
one by one
or all at once
all of me
or none of me at all
can you do that
can you
can you love me

BLACK, WHITE AND JEWISH

-Autobiography of a Shifting Self

Jennifer Bringle

When Pulitzer Prize winning author Alice Walker married Civil Rights attorney Mel Leventhal in 1967 and gave birth to their daughter two years later, it caused quite a stir. This unusual family that consisted of an African-American woman, her white, Jewish husband and their mixed race daughter was seen as far from socially acceptable at the time by both whites and African-Americans.

It is this premise of social unacceptability that fuels Rebecca Walker's autobiography, "Black, White and Jewish: Autobiography of a Shifting Self."

Walker takes us on a journey through her childhood, which was spent bouncing back and forth across the country between her parents, who divorced when she was eight years old. From this early age through her adolescent and teen years, Walker struggles to fit in and discover her true identity. She lives as a chameleon adapting to fit into social groups as diverse as inner city African-American and Latino kids in New York to affluent Jewish kids at a summer camp in the country.

In addition to these issues of racial and social identity, Walker also deals with issues of abandonment as a result of her mother's hectic schedule as a writer and her father's remarriage.

The book is powerful and personable at once. Walker expresses the wrenching pain of never truly belonging anywhere with language and descriptions that are striking and at the same time easy to relate to. A fine example of this is when Walker relates a story about how a white boy she has a crush on in elementary school rejects her because he doesn't like black girls. Walker then tries desperately to reject her blackness by going so far as convincing her mother to not attend a school play so that she will not be "found out" as black. However, the shame she feels for doing this is described when she says, "I picture Mama lying in her big bed by the window, alone, the lamp giving off a pool of yellow light as she reads, silently wondering about Play Night. Even though everyone says I was good, my Mama, the one with the most important voice can never say this to me. Shame sticks to me like sweat."

Walker uses a great deal of vivid, descriptive language throughout the book that paints a picture in the mind of the reader and is a fine accent to the telling of her story. For example, Walker explains the unsettling change in her life when her parents divorce and her father remarries when she says, "In my bed behind the blood-red curtains I learn not to be a child. I watch as my mother's soft, curvy brown body is replaced by my stepmother's thin, pointy white one."

The use of a diverse array of interesting and entertaining characters also strengthens the storytelling of this book. Walker makes comparisons with these characters, such as her Yiddish great-grandmother on her father's side and her ancestor who was a slave on her mother's side that show the unusual paradox of her own existence. She makes this telling comparison when she says, "But when I see them in my mind's eye, gray-haired Grandma Jennie staring squarely into the lens and Grandmother Poole looking out, exhausted, over the hill, I cannot help but wonder if either of them could have fully claimed and embraced me."

Walker's vividly descriptive writing style and story-telling ability make this book not only an interesting read, but also an insightful commentary on race and identity in this nation. As she follows in the footsteps of her famous mother, Walker charts her own path with a technique and finesse that is singularly her own. Her ability as a writer is strong and this book is proof of it. After reading this book I felt as though I had experienced something that is totally alien to me as though I was hearing about it from a friend. The fact that this book is relatable to a more general audience is what makes this book not only entertaining but educational as well.

BLACK, WHITE AND JEWISH:
Autobiography of a Shifting Self
Rebecca Walker
Riverhead Books
\$23.95 Hardcover
320 pages

The Ones She Left

"Hey, girl," she said through her tears. My sister held my eyes with her own in a way that she hadn't since we were young. I could see her hesitation, but today, I was too weak to knock down any of the walls between us. I walked what seemed like the longest mile, from her front door to the living room couch, and collapsed in a limp heap. The black of my suit blended into the black of the tattered chair, which all meshed into the black of my skin, and I noticed that she too felt all of the grief that I had brought into her house. I felt her awkwardly standing over me, probably wondering what to say. Sweat dripped down my back and down the side of my face, but I couldn't even muster the energy to wipe it away. I probably wouldn't have even spoken, but Sonnie gently sat down beside me on the chair. It was an ancient couch, and when she sat, I automatically sank towards her.

"Tell me," she said. I sighed, but before I could find my voice, the screen door suddenly burst open.

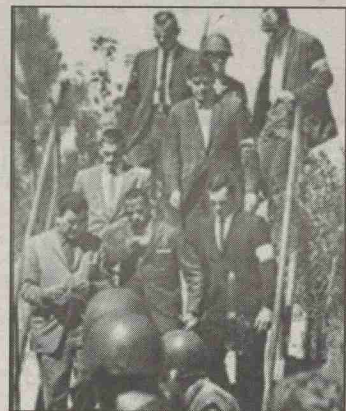
"Ma! Can I go over to M.J.'s house to play on the trampoline? His grandma said that I could."

see [Left Behind](#)
Continued on page 3

This week in Black History for the whole.....

May

May 3
Sugar Ray Robinson, middleweight boxing champion, born, 1920
James Brown, The Godfather of Soul, born, 1933
May 4
Cowboy Bill Pickett earns his title as inventor of "bull dogging", 1893
Robert S Abbott begins publishing The Chicago Defender, Chicago's first Black newspaper, 1905
May 5
Gwendolyn Brooks becomes the first Black person awarded a Pulitzer Prize, for Annie Allen, 1950
J Terry Steib becomes the first Black bishop in the state of Tennessee, 1993
May 6
First Black Masonic Lodge founded Prince Hall, Boston, 1787
Martin R Delaney, ethnologist, army officer and Black nationalist, born, 1812
May 7
William Penn begins monthly meetings for Blacks advocating emancipation, 1700
JR Winters patents the fire escape, 1878
The Liberty Ship George Washington Carver launched, 1943
William H Hastie is inaugurated as the first Black governor of the Virgin Islands, 1946
May 8
Henry McNeal Turner, first Black chaplain in the US Army, dies, 1915
Ernest Green becomes the first Black person to graduate from Central High School in Little Rock Arkansas, 1958
May 9
John Brown, abolitionist and martyr of the Harper's Ferry Insurrection, born, 1800
Slaves in Georgia, Florida and South Carolina are freed, 1862
AJ Burr patents the lawn mower, 1899
May 10
PBS Pinchback, first Black state governor, born, 1837
Smith v Allwright, deciding that excluding Blacks from primary voting is illegal, decided, 1944
May 11
Ira Aldridge, actor, born, 1807
William Still, composer, born, 1895
Louis Farrakhan, religious leader of the Nation of Islam, born, 1933
Nelson Mandela is inaugurated as the first President of South Africa, 1994
May 12
Segregated street cars integrated in Louisville, KY, following sit-in staged by a Black teenager, 1871
Joe Gans becomes the first American-born Black American to win a world crown in boxing (namely, the lightweight), 1902
H Rap Brown replaces Stokley Carmichael as chairman of SNCC, 1967
May 13
Joe Louis, World Heavyweight Champion, born, 1914
Stevie Wonder, singer and composer, born, 1950
May 14
Slavery abolished in Brazil, 1888
May 15
US Congress declares foreign slave trade an act of piracy punishable by death, 1820
May 16
Slavery abolished in Denmark, 1792
James Milton Turner, educator, born, 1840
Sugar Ray Leonard, boxer, born, 1956
A Philip Randolph, activist and labor leader, dies, 1979
Sammy Davis Jr, entertainer, dies, 1990
May 17
Brown v Board of Education, declaring public school segregation illegal, handed down by the Supreme Court, 1954
May 18
Supreme Court upholds the "Seperate But Equal" doctrine in education and public accomodations in Plessy v Ferguson, 1896
Reggie Jackson, baseball player, born, 1946
Mary McLeod Bethune, educator, dies, 1955
May 19
Malcolm X, activist and Black nationalist, born, 1925
May 20
Elias Neau founds school for slaves in New York, 1704
May 21
Black students enroll in classes at Oberlin College, Ohio, 1833
Thomas "Fats" Waller, jazz pianist and composer, born, 1904
May 22
Claude McKay, novelist and poet, dies, 1948
Langston Hughes, poet and author, dies, 1967
May 23
Samuel Sharpe, Jamaican hero, hanged, 1832
May 24
Leontyne Price, world renowned opera singer, opens Metropolitan Opera Season, 1966
May 25
Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, dancer and entertainer, born, 1878
Henry O Tanner, artist, dies, 1937
May 26
Guyana Independence Day
Althea Gibson, tennis champion, wins the French Open, becoming the first Black tennis player to win a major tennis title, 1956
Freedom Ride Coordinating Committee is established in Atlanta GA, 1961
Arthur Ashe wins the National Men's Singles in the US Lawn Tennis Association Open Tournament, becoming the first Black man to win a major tennis title, 1968
May 27
Blind Tom Bethune, pianist and composer, born, 1849
Madame C J Walker, probably the first Black millionaire, dies, 1919
Louis Gossett Jr, actor, born, 1936
Dorie Miller, a messman, awarded the Navy Cross for his heroic deeds at Pearl Harbor, 1942
May 28
Daniel Reaves Goodloe, emancipatist, born, 1814
Eliza Ann Gardner, underground railroad conductor, born, 1831
Nationalist Party in South Africa wins White-only elections and begins dismantling limited rights of Africans, 1948
May 29
Vivian Malone becomes the first Black graduate of University of Alabama, 1965
May 30
Countee Cullen, poet, born, 1903
May 31
Congress passes first Civil Rights Enforcement Act, 1870
NAACP holds first conference (as the National Negro Committee), 1909



summer!

June

June 1
Sojourner Truth begins travel as an abolitionist speaker, 1843
June 2
James Augustine Healey, first Black Catholic Bishop in the United States, born, 1830
June 3
Haiti recognized as a nation by the United States, 1862
June 4
Mississippi Valley State University founded, 1951
Bill Cosby, entertainer, receives an Emmy Award for "I Spy", 1967
Edwin Moses after 122 victories in ten years, loses his first 400-meter hurdles race, 1987
June 5
Dr Mae Jemison becomes first Black female astronaut, 1987
June 6
People of Color Convention held for the first time, 1831
June 7
GJ Sampson receives patent for clothes dryer, 1892
June 8
The First Civil Rights Act passed, 1886
Leroy "Satchel" Paige, major league baseball player, dies, 1982
June 9
Meta-Vaux Warick Fuller, sculptor, born, 1877
June 10
Richard Allen founded the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, 1794
June 11
Hazel Dorothy Scott, classical pianist and singer, born, 1920
June 12
Medger Evers, civil rights activist, assassinated, 1963
Nelson Mandela, South African president and political activist, sentenced to life imprisonment after conviction for "sabotaging" the South African government, 1964
June 13

July

July 1
Thomas Dorsey, the Father of Gospel Music, born in Villa Rica, GA, 1899
July 2
Vermont becomes the first US territory to abolish slavery, 1777
Thurgood Marshall, first Black Supreme Court Justice, born, 1908
1964 Civil Rights Act passed by congress, 1964
July 3
Jackie Robinson, first Black baseball player in the major leagues, named to Baseball Hall of Fame, 1962
July 4
EM Bannister, African painter, exhibits Under The Oaks at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia and is awarded the gold medal, 1876
Tuskegee Institute opened by Booker T Washington, 1881
Jack Johnson, first Black heavyweight champion, retains his championship by knocking out Jim
"The Great White Hope" Jeffries, who had come out of retirement "to win back the title for the White race", 1910
July 5
Republic of Cape Verde Independence Day
Arthur Ashe, tennis champion, wins the men's Wimbledon singles championship, 1975
July 6
Republic of Cape Malawi Independence Day
Althea Gibson, tennis champion, becomes the first Black woman to win the women's Wimbledon singles championship, 1957
July 7
Margret Walker, writer, born, 1915
July 8
Billy Eckstine, jazz singer, born, 1914
Roy Wilkins becomes executive director of the NAACP, 1965
July 9
Dr Daniel Hale Williams performs first successful open heart surgery without anesthesia at Provident Hospital in Chicago, 1893
July 10
Bahamas Independence Day
Mary McLeod Bethune, educator, born, 1875
Arthur Ashe, first Black male to win Wimbledon, born, 1943
July 11
WEB Dubois, activist, founds the Niagra Movement, 1943
July 12
Bill Cosby, entertainer, born, 1937
July 13
Slavery outlawed in Northwest Territory, 1787
Thurgood Marshall appointed first Black solicitor general of the US, 1965
Arthur Ashe, first Black male to win Wimbledon, inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame, 1985
July 14
J Standard, inventor, awarded patent for his refrigerator, 1891
George Washington Carver National Monument dedicated in Joplin MO, 1951
July 15
Pompey Lamb, noted spy, aids the American Revolutionary War effort, 1779
Public schools for Blacks open in Philadelphia, 1822
Francis Bebey, guitarist and author, born, 1929

June 14
Harriet Beecher Stowe, White abolitionist and author of Uncle Tom's Cabin, born, 1811
June 15
Henry O Flipper becomes first Black graduate of West Point, 1877
June 16
Denmark Vesey leads slave rebellion in South Carolina, 1822
June 17
James Weldon Johnson, co-author of the Black National Anthem and the first Black person admitted to the Florida Bar, born, 1804
Thomas Ezekiel Miller, congressman, born, 1849
June 18
Denmark Vesey, slave revolt leader, arrested in Charleston, SC, 1822
June 19
Juneteenth begins when slaves in south Texas first hear about the Emancipation Proclamation, over two years after the fact, 1865
June 20
Dr Lloyd A Hall, pioneer in food chemistry, born in Illinois, 1894
June 21
Henry O Tanner, artist, born, 1859
June 22
Katherine Dunham, dancer and choreographer, born, 1910
June 23
Pvt George Wanton cited for bravery at Tayabacoa Cuba in the Spanish-American War, 1899
June 24
Mary Ellen Pleasant, abolitionist, officially becomes Voodoo Queen in San Francisco, 1869
June 25
Abraham Lincoln signs bill providing schools for Black children, 1864
Beatrice Murphy, editor and author, born, 1908
June 26
St Augustine Riots, involving Black and White clashes over racial segregation, begins, 1964
June 27
Paul Laurence Dunbar, poet and novelist, born, 1872
Thurgood Marshall, first Black Supreme Court Justice, announces retirement, 1991
June 28
Quakers open school for Blacks in Philadelphia, 1770
Bakke Decision, affecting racial quotas in education and industry, is handed down by Supreme Court, 1978
June 29
James Van Der Zee, photographer, born in Lenox MA, 1886
June 30
Lena Horne, actress, vocalist and activist, born, 1917

July 16
Ida B Wells, reformer who first gathered statistical records on lynchings in the US, born, 1862
V A Johnson, first Black female to argue before the US Supreme Court, born, 1882
July 17
John Coltrane, innovative and famed jazz musician, dies, 1967
July 18
Lemuel Haynes, first Black minister to serve for a White congregation, born, 1753
July 19
Nelson Mandela, president of South Africa and political activist, born, 1918
Josephine Baker, entertainer and singer, makes her Paris debut, 1925
July 20
First US Victory in Korea is won by Black troops in the 24th Infantry Regiment, 1950
July 21
The New Orleans Tribune, first daily Black newspaper, is published in English and French, 1864
Mary Church Terrell founds National Association of Colored Women in Washington, DC, 1896
July 22
Abraham Lincoln reads the first draft of Emancipation Proclamation to the cabinet, 1861
Floyd Patterson loses his world heavyweight title to Sony Liston, 1963
July 23
Louis Tompkins Wright, physician, born, 1924
July 24
Townsend Sonny Brewster, playwright and activist, born, 1924
Mary Church Terrell, first Black person to serve on the DC board of education, dies, 1954
July 25
Garrett T Morgan, inventor of the gas mask, rescues six from gas-filled tunnel in Cleveland, Ohio, 1916
The Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment, where Blacks were used as guinea pigs in syphilis experiments, admitted to by US government officials, 1972
July 26
Republic of Liberia Independence Day
July 27
AP Aboume, inventor, awarded patent for refining coconut oil, 1880
July 28
The 14th Amendment, making Blacks citizens, adopted, 1868
The New City Fifth Avenue March, where thousands of Blacks marched in silent protest of lynchings and racial inequalities, occurs, 1917
July 29
First National Convention of Black Women held in Boston MA, 1895
July 30
Adam Clayton Powell, Jr, activist and politician, elected congressman from Harlem, 1945
Louis Lomax, author, dies, 1970
July 31
Father Patrick Francis Healey, first Black man to receive a PhD, named President of Georgetown University, 1874

The Last Nubian for me

Larry
HOUBE

It's finally here. I'm finally graduating from N.C. State so this is the last article that I will have in the "Nubian Message," and as I usually do I will try to provide some words of experience. I guess I can speak from experience on a lot of the things I say about college life in this column. I am a fifth year senior, by choice of course. I have learned a lot about life and about myself while in college. I have participated in almost all possible activities that time permitted, excelled in some courses and been less successful at others, but most importantly

I enjoyed it. I've learned that you can do anything you want to do if you put all of your heart into it. Like I said before I done well in some areas and failed at others, but I never ceased to have desire or doubt that I would achieve what I set out to do. That is why I will probably take the opportunity that I have been offered and pursue my law degree in the fall.

Of all the lessons that I have learned, I believe the most important is to speak up for what you believe in. Get involved and don't let anyone make a decision concerning your well being without at least giving your perspective. That is why everyone needs to get involved in the fight against the budget cuts. I hope you all participated in the march to the Capitol on Wednesday, but don't stop there, flood the bill's spon-

sors with email. The more people that get involved, the better the chance for the voice of the students to be heard.

I'd also like to encourage our African-American students to get more involved with N.C. State's Student Government, ASG (Association of Student Governments), "The Technician," and especially the "Nubian Message." If you want your voice to be heard you must speak up or you'll fade into the crowd. I hope everyone does well on their exams, has a good summer, and good luck in your future endeavors.

Please send comments to
Larry's inbox at
Nubianinbox@hotmail.com

Njeri's Two Cents

Njeri Frazier Moss
Staff Columnist

Well, this is my last column. Let me say that I've enjoyed writing for the Nubian and I hope that you've enjoyed reading it. Now, if you read last week's column you should remember my promise to dissect the "New Jack Negro." Just who is this person? Is it a man or is it a woman? Well, the "New Jack" is both. And remember this lesson, everything that glitters isn't gold.

This "New Jack Negro" has many personalities, but at all times he or she can work a nerve. You know this person, you've observed him/her, sat back and said, "dag they work my last nerve." Follow me here, imagine you are the proverbial fly in the milk and desperate for some soul companionship when you spot some, or so you think. You approach your new friend with his conrows and hip gear but get a big shock. Instead of replying to your, "whassup, man?" you get "sup, dude?" Of course, not every brother is going to be hip and cool. But, really now. How is it that some brothers can embrace everything that is superficially Black but have no Black friends and reject everything from affirmative action to watermelon because they don't want to be seen as Black. Oh, my bad. Now before you

accuse me of male bashing the sisters do it too.

I saw this woman who seemed to be more down than Angela Davis and Sista Souljah but her husband looked more like Brad Pitt than Morris Chestnut. Before you attack me, I am not saying that people can marry who they want. But it never ceases to amaze me when people are exactly the opposite of what we think. While that can be good it also says a lot.

It's good that we as African Americans have achieved success at many levels. But at what point do some of us lose ourselves. Everyone talks about diversity and multiculturalism but have you noticed that some only mean that as an excuse to be anything but BLACK. If I've heard it once, I heard it a thousand times, "we got Indian on my mama side" or "my daddy's great-great-grandfather was one-tenth German." Okay, let's be real here Tiger Woods. Cablasian does not exist. But enough about that I am sure that everyone knows these people. You've seen them and talked to them. Some of you might be them. If so, my bad!

On a final note good luck to all the graduates. The real world is no fun are you sure you want to leave. If you let out a collective yes, I feel you. To the rest of you, hang in there it does get better, I think!

NOOBY'S
WORD OF THE
WEEK:
"oooooh"

You got straight Fs' in that class, "oooooh," boys don't get down like that.

A little somethin' from The Nubian:

We wish y'all success in your finals...

Have a wonderful summer!

Be safe!!

Take a Nubian with you on THIS trip!!!