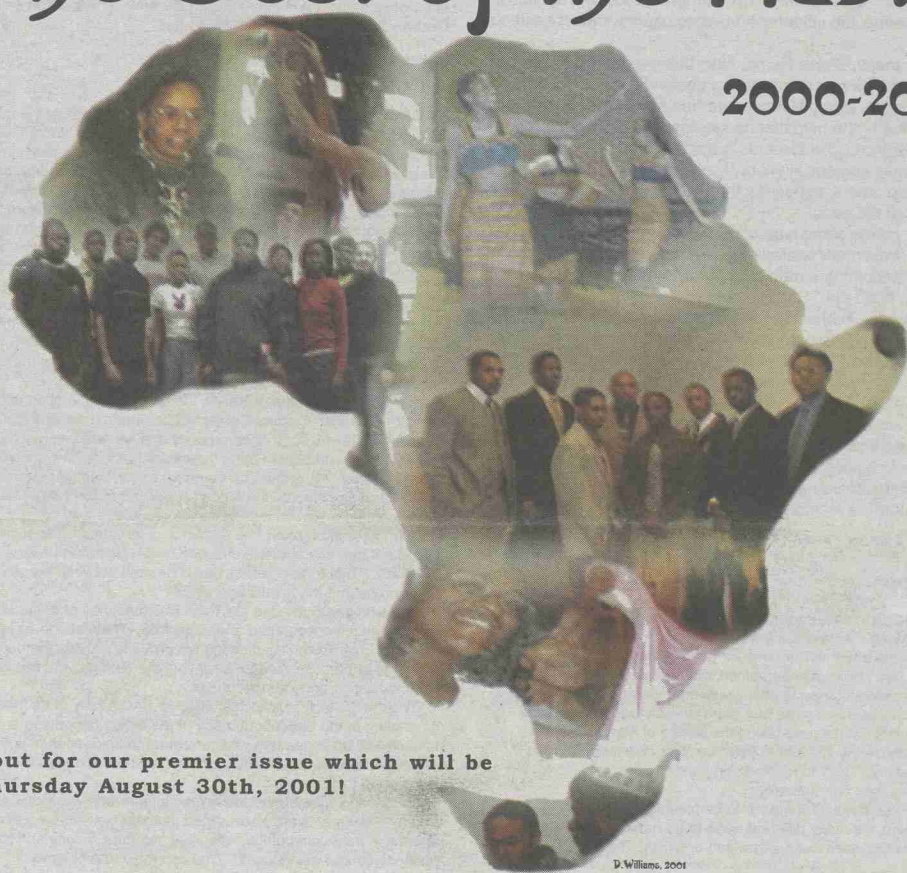


[Vol. 8, Issue 3]

The Best of the Nubian

2000-2001



Look out for our premier issue which will be out Thursday August 30th, 2001!

D. Williams, 2001

NEWS

Kelise Taylor

What a Difference Peer Mentors Make-

Being the minority at an institution can be a challenging experience for black students. Therefore, our brothers and sisters need good resources or they "will surely float downstream," states Tracey Ray, peer mentoring coordinator.

Three mentors have been highlighted, and they share their experiences in hopes of spotlighting the importance of establishing a bond with the black newcomers.

Sophomore, Corey Goolsby, remembers how his former mentor, Andrea Bethea, was instrumental last year in helping him to maximize his full potential. Because of her efforts, Goolsby, felt compelled to become a mentor this year.

"Minorities," he begins, "seem to always be a step lower on the balance scale, and I became a mentor to help them rise above this setback." Goolsby's commitment to this goal is evident as he checks up weekly on his mentees "just to make sure they are having no problems," while also sending them information on important issues. "I enjoy what I do," remarks Goolsby. He finds it satisfying knowing that he has the influential power to directly impact someone else's life.

Junior and psychology major, Blaise Harris, says being a mentor is "his calling." Harris, who last year was part of a program designed to help incoming freshmen adapt to college life, acknowledges that "there were odds" against the black newcomers. Due to the help that he provided his mentees through such actions as tutorial services, the students "beat the odds and were able to have a successful academic and social year." Harris considers it the responsibility of all students to help others, especially the blacks, in accomplishing their goal of succeeding against the odds.

"Peer mentoring helps create some type of unity and provides a support structure for the minority freshmen," states mentor Andrea Bethea. Bethea jumped at the chance of becoming a mentor in order to "help others not to make the same mistakes that I did." She lives out this goal by seeing her mentees on a biweekly basis. Bethea states that all too often, incoming blacks are bombarded with the criticism that they will not make it past their freshman year. To help rid her mentees of this stereotype, she encourages them to do their best and goes out of her way to provide them with the resources to succeed.

The peer mentor program evidently helps in "leveling the playing field for underrepresented groups which have histories of discrimination," while also empowering the black newcomers "in ways that most of them won't realize until years down the road," states coordinator Tracey Ray.

If you would like to become a mentor, please contact the office of African-American Student Affairs.

Chinwe Ekwuribe

Natural is making a comeback

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

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

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

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

Again, relatively simple, but still, many won't go through with it because of they doubt it will look good on them, or they fear the pressure they might face from their families, friends or workplace.

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

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

"It may sound like its hard, but it is not as hard as people perceive it to be. It all depends on the person and their hair texture."

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

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

Bobby Guthrie, II

Food, Fellowship and Fulfillment

Close-knit bonds were formed last Thursday over a hot, sizzling grill. Newly arrived freshmen had a chance to introduce themselves to their mentors and create what could later become strong support resources. N.C. State's Student Mentor Association (SMA) held its annual Mentor-Mentee Cook Out at the African-American Cultural Center. Despite the forecasted rain, the SMA lucked out and was spared the precipitation. The festivities officially started at 5 p.m., but the gathering of mentees and mentors started earlier.

The mentees gathered together in front of the AACC's main entrance to find someone that they could go to for assistance when problems of college life arise. These new students were eager to learn the ropes of university life.

The mentors also collaborated at Witherspoon to find people that could serve as positive role models for, not only in college, but for life in general. These experienced State students were eager to extend a helping hand to those just arriving in this "different world." Besides having all the hamburgers, hot dogs, and chips that one could eat, there was also a talented deejay present. This "master of music" provided the attendees with inspirational music. He played different types of songs that fit different tastes while at the same time keeping the atmosphere on an enlightened note.

"Guthrie" Continued on the Next Page

Ayren Jackson-

SAAC Town Hall meeting

The lowered levels of student involvement on campus, the minimal amount of student to faculty interaction, or the effectiveness of student leader participation; These are some of the concerns that the African-American community at N.C. State is faced with. Through involvement, interaction and participation, is the African-American community doing its part to uplift the University or, is there more that could be done? The Society of African-American Culture has organized a program in which all of these and any other concerns will be able to be brought forth and discussed. The goal is to give all students, faculty and staff a voice.

SAAC will be holding a Town Hall meeting on Thursday, September 28th at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held in the multipurpose room of the African-American Cultural Center. Anyone interested in voicing their concerns on issues facing the African-American community here at N.C. State is welcome to attend the meeting. All students, faculty and staff are encouraged to attend the Town Hall meeting. "This is a time where we can come together and discuss the problems and give solutions," says Kim Mcnair, president of SAAC.

According to members of SAAC, the utilization, operation and promotion of the African-American Cultural Center will be one of the many focuses of the meeting. "The AACC is in a state of emergency and we need as much support from students, faculty and staff to bring the center to the level it should be at," says Mcnair. Other focuses will be on group and individual participation within the Center and on campus, the African-American student organization interaction and the intercommunication between students and faculty.

"With this kind of forum, the audience is the true leader because their comments and ideas turn into effective dialogue," says Diamond Lesane, political action chair of SAAC. "This form of interaction is needed between ourselves as well as between us and the faculty and staff."

Many who participated in the Town Hall meetings of the past agreed that afterwards they felt encouraged and motivated. They felt the need to know more and do more. The Town Hall meeting will prove to provide the opportunity for current concerns to be publicized to the rest of the campus and possibly through this communication bring about change.

"Through the lack of participation in AASAC, many of us [black student leaders] have been in the dark about many of the things happening on campus," says Lesane. "If we as leaders were unaware, imagine then how the rest of the African-American community must feel." SAAC stresses that this Town Hall meeting is open to everyone.

The meeting will also include invited alumni who will assist and participate in the forum. Participants are encouraged to come out and be prepared to make a difference in their community. "We want students, faculty and staff to know that they really do count," said Mcnair. "You can make the difference."

Tonya Johnson

AKAs and Alphas hold Phirst Phamily Ball

The Kappa Omicron chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and the Eta Omicron of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. held their first Phirst Phamily Ball last Saturday at the Holiday Inn downtown. About 200 individuals attended the event.

"I thought it was very well done. I give props to the brothers and sorors who helped put it together. It turned out really nice," said Harold Pettigrew, chaplain of the Eta Omicron chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha.

The sorority and fraternity started preparing for the event last April. Members from both organizations helped plan the ball. They discussed the location, advertising, and chose a band to perform.

With expenses estimated at \$3,000, both organizations held fundraisers throughout the summer such as car washes to pay for the ball.

During the ball, live music was performed by Resounding Steel, Inc., a band from Hillsborough. The director of Resounding Steel is Wilton Dubois. The purpose of the non-profit organization is to introduce low income, inner-city youth to the arts. The money made from performing at social events such as this one is to provide scholarships for higher learning to the group members.

Dinner, which was catered by the hotel, included salmon and chicken. Later, a DJ came to provide additional entertainment for the guests.

"I heard a lot of positive comments from people about the ball. They commented on how well prepared the event was. This was an opportunity for people to dress up, something similar to their high-school prom," said Jackie Kearne, president of the Kappa Omicron chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha.

Both organizations are planning to co-sponsor other activities together including another ball, Kearne said.

"I'm surprised by the turn out. If it wasn't for the overwhelming response of people coming out, it wouldn't have been a success. I'm sure this is something we'll do again," she said.

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., founded in 1906, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., founded in 1908, are the two oldest African-American Greek-Letter organizations.

Cultural Nite Out

**Bring
Your Own
Butta Beans**

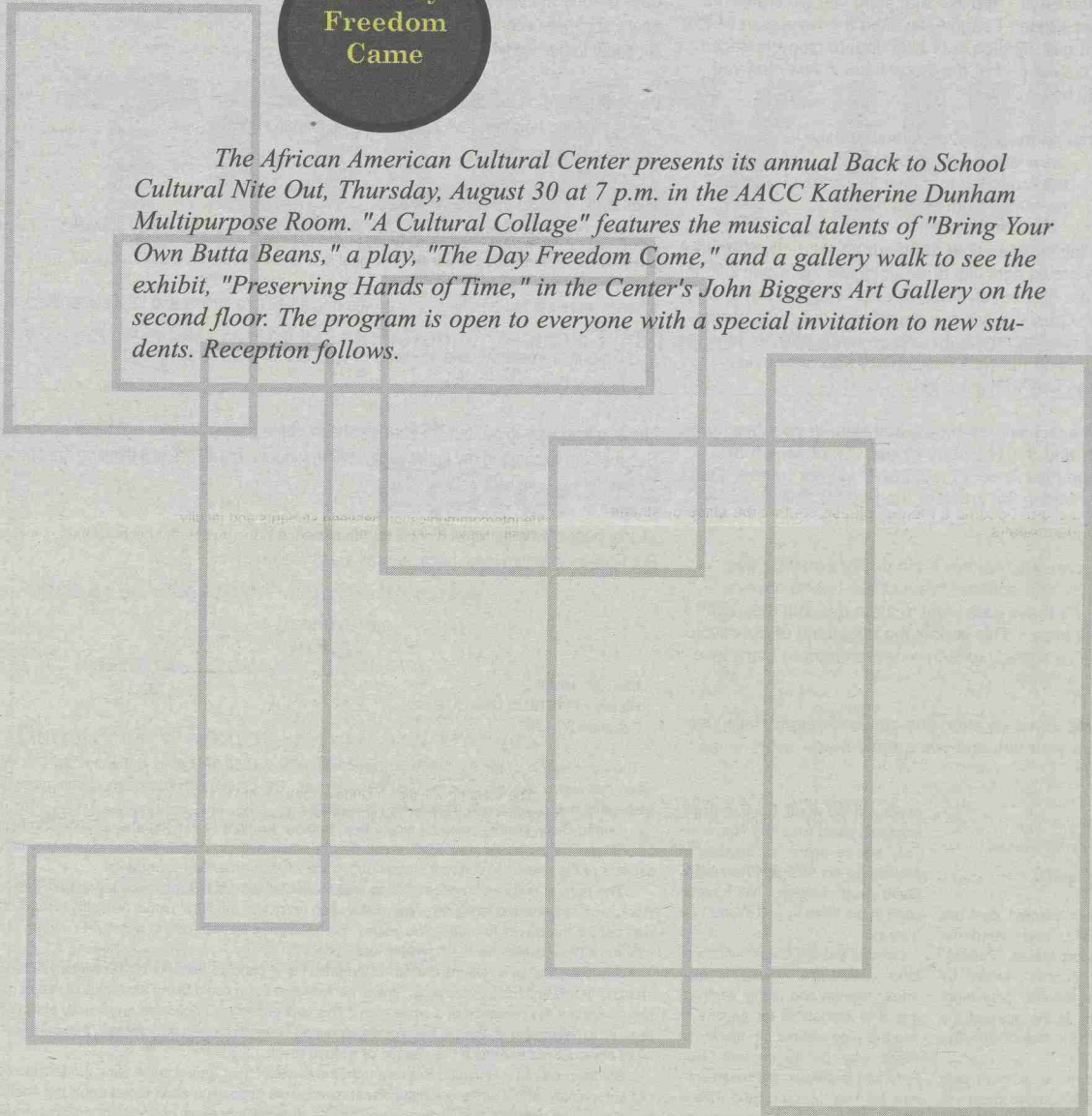
Thursday August 30th at 7 p.m. in the AACC Multipurpose room

Open to everyone!

**Preserving
Hands of
Time**

**The Day
Freedom
Came**

The African American Cultural Center presents its annual Back to School Cultural Nite Out, Thursday, August 30 at 7 p.m. in the AACC Katherine Dunham Multipurpose Room. "A Cultural Collage" features the musical talents of "Bring Your Own Butta Beans," a play, "The Day Freedom Come," and a gallery walk to see the exhibit, "Preserving Hands of Time," in the Center's John Biggers Art Gallery on the second floor. The program is open to everyone with a special invitation to new students. Reception follows.



Culture/Arts

The Best of the Nubian

2000-2001

darkchild

Just when I was beginning to enjoy the convenience of my solitude, here you come interrupting my lonely moods, suggesting rendezvous, only to have me trembling in your presence and shaking around the knees, addicted to your moves and expecting to be pleased.

Blue jeans and collard greens keep me happy on Saturdays, but the times when I'm without you seem like nothing-matter days. And like that night you were smiling into the violet sunset, I eagerly awaited the revelation I felt I was about to get. And as your slim fingers gingerly traced my brow, a distant part of me stood back in awe that you knew exactly how . . .

To touch me so much me, consume me like lunch we,
grew drunk on hot punch and like Captain
we crunched into love like angels' children
on hiatus from God's heaven.

And now in this age, as time turns our page . . . through the years we've grown tight like dusk's night to the moon's light. Can't meditate on heaven's height when you're so busy loving me right. Crashing into me chaotically, our melody symbolically representing the knot that we tied when our loneliness died . . . and during a momentary ebb of one tide, I remember the way that we cried.

Ebony lashes reclining on brown-boy skin, in your black-boy baggy pants and that bad-boy glance . . . proving that chocolate can melt in your mouth AND in your hands. Don't know what's better, the crush or the rush, but when we're together, it's so easy to just hush and be us.

Brown-Boy, can you feel this? No doctor can heal this, been trying hard to conceal this, but our hearts always reveal this. All these cats want to steal this, but they can't take our real bliss. This is only the beginning of our revolution, and we've already written a new chapter in black love's evolution.

But, in simple terms so everyone can understand, let's just say that I am your girl, and you are my man.

Michelle Reed
N.C. State presents "Fences."
November 16th, 2000

An extremely talented cast, an immaculate set, and wonderful technical support makes "Fences" a must-see!! "Fences", written by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright August Wilson, is the story of the plight of an African-American family in the 1950's.

Troy Maxson is a frustrated garbage collector whose dream of playing professional baseball is crushed by him not being "the right color" among other factors. Troy, a womanizer and alcoholic, sees death as a fastball on the outside corner of life, something that he can control. Rose, Troy's strong, devoted wife, makes the mistake of allowing Troy to ignore her needs at times. Her strength is shown when she agrees to raise Troy's baby by another woman while assuring him that she is no longer his woman. Cory, the son of Troy and Rose, dreams of playing football and going to college to have a chance at becoming somebody. Lyons, Troy's son by his first wife, is a struggling musician who is trying to

make it in the world. Bono is Troy's longtime friend who met him while Troy was in prison for stealing to provide for his wife and new baby. Gabe, Troy's brother, has a metal plate in his head from a World War II injury.

Director Patricia Caple's interpretation of Wilson's "Fences" is powerfully moving and highly captivating. It is impossible for anyone to see this play and not be affected in some way by its content. Ron Foreman is difficult and mean-spirited as Troy Maxson, and Tiffany Moody is the epitome of a strong woman as the long-suffering but dignified Rose. Kevin Mitchell's portrayal of Bono is honest and straight-forward. Ernest Hunte is a perfect example of a son struggling and learning to deal with living in his father's shadow. Shadner Ifrene is suave and charming as Lyons. Jackson Brown is "different" but lovable as Gabe. Raven Gill is perfect as the innocent and precocious Raynell. All of the actors were very effective in bringing their characters to life. This play is definitely a must-see!

"Fences" is a University Theatre production.

*i hear
the crisp, sharp sounds
of thunder
followed by the soft, but
rapid thumps
of a billion raindrops
with nowhere to go
but down.
making what sounds like
music*

*in the finale of the gloomy
and frightening
claps of thunder (unpredict-
ed)
the soothing rain is left
behind
for each tiny drop
to create what seems like
its own unique note.
together with sheer*

*and effortless amazement,
they mimic a sweet
lullaby.
shhh...
can you hear it?*

A. Michelle McLean
28 June 2000

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

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!

I know people wonder what KP will come up with next
But I cease to tell anyone, because y'all aren't ready yet!

Braveheart

Michael Harrell
History of the Black Church, Part I
February 8th, 2001

The basic staple of the African-American community outside the family is the church. This institution has slowly evolved over the past few centuries. The church provides many communities with leadership and positive role models for youngsters.

During Black History month, I would like "Nubian" readers to join together in a celebration of the African-American church. Each week during black history month, we will discover different aspects of the church at different stages during the African-American experience.

The right of religious freedom, which was the key objective of those who landed at Plymouth Rock, was not afforded to African-Americans upon entry into the New World. Actually, this privilege was denied the slaves for about 250 years. The bondsmen were forced to worship in secret. Many historians have called this the "invisible institution."

Franklin Frazier's "Negro Church in America" is a concise account of the African-American church. In this text Frazier explains, "It was general that there could be no assembly of five or more slaves without the presence of a white man." This was especially applicable and strictly enforced in regards to religious gatherings. The slaveholders had several reasons for imposing these rules. The most obvious was to reduce the chance of a slave revolt.

Blacks received a Christian Baptism from the onset of their arrival in the New World. However, not surprisingly, some white colonists disapproved. This opposition soon faded upon the adoption of laws, which assured that slaves would not be granted any level of social or political equality through Baptism.

The slaves of the New World adopted and even embraced the white man's religion. Many of the enslaved had been separated from their tribal culture and kinsman. Crowded revival meetings, with the message of fiery damnation versus hope and salvation that promised to save all from the displeasure of this earth, seemed attractive to many slaves.

Many slave masters used religious doctrine as a tool. They attempted to justify slavery through biblical passages. White ministers led black congregations. All religious activities of the slaves were regulated by whites.

The first independent African-American church was dedicated in 1794. Free blacks began to form other organizations as time progressed. In 1816, leaders of several African-American church groups unified during a meeting in Philadelphia and formed the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

In 1844 the Baptists and Methodist churches separated themselves from one another over the issue of slavery. This resulted in the separation of many congregations. Most white and black Methodist churches tended to be anti-slavery. The Baptist churches tended to favor the preservation of the institution of slavery.

After the Civil War, the African-American church really begins to take hold in many facets of the lives of many former slaves. This will be apparent when we examine the period of Southern Reconstruction.

Join the The Nubian Message TODAY!!!

Writers needed, freshmen encouraged to apply. Email aabanwo@unity.ncsu.edu for more information

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Advertisement

Advertising in the Nubian is right for you

The Nubian Message was founded in 1992 and for the last ten years has served as a voice and resource for students, faculty and staff at North Carolina State University. Its audience is among the most diverse on campus. Within this market, our

primary audience is the African American community which has a disposable income of over \$20 million annually. However, the paper has a campus wide circulation, reaching a possible market with over \$120 million in disposable income. Advertising

in our publication is ideal for small businesses looking for their advertising niche or large businesses looking for economical and effective options. The paper has dozens of distribution sites campus-wide and reaches far beyond N.C. State to other

area schools, and local merchants. Our advertising rates are the best in the area and considering the market potential of a college community, you cannot go wrong by advertising with us!

Sports/Ent.

Chris Saunders
Rise of the Black QB, September 28th, 2000

Over the last two decades there has been a lot of change in professional sports with African-Americans taking most of the headlines. From Tiger Woods to the Williams sisters, finally we are erasing stereotypes that have excluded or discouraged our participation in certain sports. There is no question that we can play football since most of the players in the NFL are black, but there has been a question as to whether we can play the quarterback position.

Ten years ago, there were only 2 black quarterbacks in the NFL, Randall Cunningham and Warren Moon. Although they were both good athletes, they had totally different playing styles. Moon was a typical pocket passer like most of the white quarterbacks in the league. Cunningham however, used his athleticism and instincts to run out of the pocket and make plays. Cunningham lead the Philadelphia Eagles in rushing when they did not have running backs that could make plays. In doing so, Cunningham had teams looking for a new breed of quarterback, one that could make things happen with his legs as well as his arm. Even after Cunningham, there were many skeptics saying that black quarterbacks were not smart enough, that they could not read defenses, and that they would not stay in the pocket. This illogic stuck even though Warren Moon, who almost never ran, was one of the leading passers in the league, and Cunningham led his team to the playoffs all but 2 years as the starter.*

Both of these quarterbacks bounced around a little bit with Moon going from Houston, to Minnesota, to Seattle, and finally to Kansas City, and Cunningham playing for Philadelphia, Minnesota, and now Dallas. Incidentally, Cunningham has lead them to their only win this year. Age, not ability, has been the reason for their constant shuffling throughout the league. Notice that both of them have played for Minnesota and that is

not such a coincidence seeing that they have one of the few black head coaches in the league, Dennis Green.

Ten years later, there are still questions about the black quarterback, widely ranging from intelligence to ability. We all know these are not fair questions seeing that most of the black quarterbacks who get an opportunity are successful. When the NFL season started, there were 8 starting quarterbacks who were black and many other key back-ups including Kordell Stewart and Cunningham. The starters included, Jeff Blake, Akili Smith, Daunte Culpepper, Donovan McNabb, Shaun King, Charlie Batch, Tony Banks, and Steve McNair.

This new wave of talent is silencing many of the critics, who not too long ago believed that a black quarterback could not be successful. Half of them were drafted last year and are starters already, when in fact, the average quarterback takes at least three years to start. Even though they are all good athletes each have different talents. For instance, King and Batch do not run as much as their counterparts but are known for their decision making and leadership. On the other hand, McNair and Culpepper are both built like linebackers and could run over most defensive backs. The rest have their own distinct talents, but all of them are good athletes who could probably play another position if asked.

Do not be surprised if Kordell Stewart finds a starting job with another team even if it is at another position. Most importantly, other than Smith and Blake, they all play for good teams. This could also be the first year that both superbowl teams have a black quarterback, seeing that Tampa Bay and Tennessee are both heavy favorites to reach the big game. With a lot of good black quarterbacks in college, the number of starters could go from 8 to 15 in the next five years. And this will keep increasing because the black quarterback is a defense's worst nightmare.

"YA HEARD"

Shequeta Smith

February 8th, 2001

What's up, amigos? I'm back at 'cha this week, "keeping it real," like Miss Cleo. This week, I think I will start out on the domestic tip. It appears that Ms. Marshall Mathers (Eminem's Mother) might be dropping the \$10 million dollar lawsuit that she has against her son. She claims that her attorney was supposed to be sending Eminem a warning letter to stop him from slandering her in his music. However, the next thing she knew there was the lawsuit. I have to say kudos to Ms. Mathers, because that's one hell of a selective memory.

In other news, I am sooo very sad to announce that our favorite method of getting music, "Napster," is coming to an end. On Monday, an appeals court ruled for Napster to cease its song-swapping operations. Prosecutors have even been quoted as calling Napster "Electronic Shoplifting." I wonder what they call it when it only takes \$0.10 to make a CD, and then they charge us \$17.99. I call it a rip-off. Maybe we should file a lawsuit against them.

On another note it has been rumored that Halle Berry and Eric Benet secretly got married in January. I guess this is becoming a trend since Chante Moore recently admitted that she and Kadeem

Hardison have been married for three years. I guess their three years couldn't remain a secret since they are now getting divorced.

While we are on the topic of divorce, word has it that Reggie Miller and his wife Marita are getting divorced. She wants him to give her \$18,000 a month so that she can pay for her \$10,000 a month apartment in Manhattan. That seems pretty low key in comparison to some of the other NBA chicas out here getting divorces. All I want to know is where is the love? Can anybody just humor society and do something like stay married?

On a completely different subject, can anybody tell me why Jermaine Jackson named his son Jermajesty? I tell you black folks, we be coming up with some names for our kids. Well, that's all for this week amigos. Oh, but don't let me forget to tell yall about an interesting new book that should be hitting the shelves pretty soon. The book is entitled "On a Move." It is a biography of former Black Panther member, Mumia Abu-Jamal. For all who don't know who this man is, I suggest you go dig deep into your black history and find out. Well, I'm out for real this time so I will hit yall up next week.

April 5th, 2001

What's up, folks? I'm coming back at 'cha this week like a boomerang to give you the latest on the greatest in the entertainment business. What better way to start off this week's news than with N.C. State's own, Torry Holt. Not only has Holt been doing it up on the professional football field, he has managed to start a new foundation. This foundation is called, Torry Holt's Hope Foundation for Cancer Patients. If you didn't already know, Torry lost his mother to cancer 4 years ago. He says that he created this foundation to make families more aware of cancer. The foundation offers educational programs and helps families get money for cancer treatment. Thank God one of our former athletes is doing something more productive than creating a criminal record. For more information on Torry or his foundation check out <http://www.torryholt.com>.

Speaking of criminal records, word has it that Shyne is accusing Puffy of betraying him. Probably because he got accused of everything Puffy didn't. He has recently been going around saying that at least one of the witnesses lied for Puffy. He said that he could understand them being loyal to Puffy, but they didn't have to put him on blast. Maybe they didn't but it sure made Puffy look a lot better.

In other news, sources say that Eminem and his wife Kim have finally come

to an agreement regarding the custody of their 5-year old daughter Hailie. They have agreed to have joint physical and legal custody of her. The divorce agreement also allows Eminem to keep the house and give Kim the money to buy another one. Now maybe he will stop making songs about killing her.

In more positive news, our favorite gospel artist, Yolanda Adams, recently gave birth to a baby girl. The baby's name is Taylor Ayana Crawford. She was born on January 26, 2001 in Houston, and weighed 8 pounds 9 ounces. Sources say she looks just like Yolanda.

On another note, I'm sure by now you have all heard about Tavis Smiley's show being cancelled. Well, apparently his show wasn't the only one dropped. Word has it that last month, Viacom dropped "The Box" music network they bought from TCI Music Incorporated last year. They have renamed the show MTV2. This has really upset the viewers of "The Box." Now instead of being able to view the underground acts that "The Box" provided, they have to watch those commercialized MTV videos. Man, is Viacom a monopoly or what? Their own MTV, BET, and now, "The Box." Well, that's all for this week, folks. Be sure to check me out next week. Until then, in the immortal words of Hits from the Streets: "I'll Holla."



Their Two Cents...

Njeri's

...On Love In The Air

Issue Date: 02/01/01

Well, yesterday was Valentine's Day. Some of us got everything we wanted; some of us could not wait for the day to be over. Maybe you asked yourself, "why can't I find a man, or what's a brother got to do to get a good woman?" Whatever your feelings on the holiday, all of us agree that it brings enormous pressure. I don't have the answers to all of life's romantic questions but I do have some simple observations that I think bear mentioning. So, indulge me as offer some pearls of wisdom.....my two-cents.

Statistics have told us that it is hard for professional African-American women to find a mate. While it is true that the numbers of African-American males in prison is alarming, it does not mean that professional sisters have to cross over. And you know what I mean. Sometimes that fine brother who owns his own plumbing company is Mr. Right and that Boss suit wearing-Range Rover driving engineer is NOT. Face it ladies, that Cinderella-Snow White-Sleeping stuff IS a fairy tale. I don't care how cute Brandy looked in the movie. It is still fiction. We can't expect to find someone to carry us because when he drops us it will hurt. But enough about us; brothers have their issues too. And before the hate mail pours in, understand that we must "call a Spade a Spade."

I was walking to my car last week when, above the blaring horns and music I hear shouts of "Shorty...Hey, Shorty....." Now, we all know this type of man. He yells across a crowded mall, parking lot, or any public place. He often gets indignant when you rebuff his smooth overture. If you are this man, please take heed to this suggestion: Give it up! Trust me, this gets you nowhere.

Okay, I know there are millions of reasons for singleness. Some choose it and more often than not it, chooses you. But whatever the reason, being single is not a curse.

It sounds corny but sometimes we need to get to know ourselves. Dating is drama but it is an interesting part of life. Let's face it; the obsessive, marathon caller is the worst. But isn't it fun to sit back and listen to their 99th message while laughing with your friends?

...On Pan-Afrikan

Issue Date: 02/15/01

Well, by now NCSU's Pan-African Festival is in full swing. Concerts, fashion shows, lectures and the ever critical Blackout mark the campus' minority community's homecoming of sorts. In fact, it was during one of these events that a friend made a very profound statement. It was nothing I had not heard before but it's always good to hear it again. Her short statement was summed up in these words, "God, I love being black!" Can it get anymore wonderful than that?

In a world where it is easy to see all criminals as black, all women as "Project Chicks" and "the hood" as the domicile of choice; it is good to know that someone relishes the positive things about African-American culture. And there is a lot that is good. Many of our cultural expressions have become adopted worldwide. We start trends in music and fashion. Isn't it funny that the same people who decry our inferiority emulate us in many ways? There's something good about being with family. And for many of us, these events are like family reunions- just substitute that crazy suitemate for the drunk uncle.

For the students here and other similar campuses, Pan-African and Black Alumni events provide a time to see old classmates- complete with festivities that reflect our culture. Now some will argue that there is no need for these events. But just as there are detractors, there are many more who can't wait for the party to begin. And I'm one of them. After being in classes or offices where you are the only one of color it is nice- no it is crucial- to go somewhere and see people who look like you.

Shared culture and experiences make for family environments. Sure we can go anywhere and do most anything but that doesn't mean that we have to forget our culture. Now we have the opportunity to share with more people. Don't you just love being you?

...On Bill Clinton

Issue Date: 02/22/01

By now former president William Jefferson Clinton has signed the lease and is moving to Harlem, USA. Well, not to live but to work. While some herald this move as proof of his love of all things African American it is crucial to note that Harlem was not his first choice. Now before you accuse me of Clinton-hating allow to be go on. I love Bill. I campaigned for him in 1992 and 1996. I even went to a White House Christmas reception and took pictures with him and Hillary. The highlight of my trip to the Democratic Convention this past summer was that I stayed in the same hotel as the Clintons as part of the New York delegation. Believe me, I am not anti-Clinton. Now back to his move to Harlem.

Like most former presidents Bill Clinton will now make real money. There is the customary book deal, the speeches and other business ventures that will make his presidential salary pale in comparison. And while his first choice for office space was in a swank building far removed from uptown, his questionable pardon of fugitive financier Marc Rich placed him, once again, as persona non grata. So like the prodigal son he came home, well almost home. It is amazing how we as African Americans will embrace those that others shun. Perhaps President Clinton's legacy could have been his race initiative. His series of town hall meetings and commitment to bridging racial gaps was derailed by the Monica Lewinsky scandal. But then, as now, the African American community embraced him as a fallen son. We gave Jesse heck for his scandal but we herald Bill Clinton as "The first Black President". Go figure.

Admittedly, Bill Clinton has embraced some aspects of our culture. There is more to being black than a love of Motown and southern cuisine. That's another column! It is a fair assumption to say that the White House saw more African Americans in the past eight years than ever (not counting those who have done domestic work). But now that his presidency is over let's see what happens. His relocation to the Harlem's Economic Empowerment Zone should do great things for the community. But if it does nothing we should note that too. For as liberal as Clinton seems to us, his Democratic Leadership Council is not the liberal faction of the Democratic Party. Let's just wait and see how this thing plays out.

Brandi's

...On Black Designers

Issue Date: 11/16/00

I have noticed that it seems to be very hard for Black designers to penetrate the African-American market. Why is that? It seems that we would be so proud to see some brothers and sisters doing something positive that we would jump on the chance to support our own. Why is it that African-American consumers continue to wear Tommy Hilfiger rather than support designers like FUBU, Willie Ecco, ENYCE, and Phat Farm?

Maybe it is because Black consumers do not believe that Black designers have been as validated as White designers. Or maybe it is because Black designers are not yet considered truly mainstream but they are always categorized as "Urban Wear". However, we all know that unless we wear the clothes of Black designers they will not get the support needed in order to break into mainstream.

This subject falls under the general category of why Black people do not support Black owned businesses. Is it because black people are scared of stepping away from all the hype? I don't believe that there is a real answer to this question. I do believe personally that since Black designers do not get all the advertising and support that White designers get it causes Black consumers to feel that they are not wearing the most popular clothing when they wear clothing by Black designers. However, if we don't support our own we will continually be in a cycle of supporting white owned businesses therefore not putting our dollars back into our communities.

In no way am I insinuating that it is wrong to buy products from White owned companies. Yes, think of this, if the tables were turned don't you think White people would stick together to see to it that their money is recycled back into their community? We need to make sure we support each other. It is the only way we can rise as a people.

...On the future of HBCU's

Issue Date: 11/2/00

With recent legislation such as Ayers vs. Fordice in Mississippi, the future's of historically black colleges and universities are looking pretty dim. Many state legislatures have begun to question why both black and white schools are maintained within a state school system. The focus of HBCU's has changed as well. For example, at Fayetteville State University there are more than 1,000 white students. That is 27% of the student population. How can HBCU's promote diversity as well as retain their historic character?

Other than legislation and diversity issues, HBCU's have tremendous funding problems. State legislatures seem to be phasing out their funding for HBCU's. Since HBCU's are on the low end of corporate and alumni support they are dealing with extreme financial stress. When African-American students are faced with the decision of going to a historically black university vs. a traditionally white university, they are faced with many dilemmas. Since HBCU's rank so low in funding, will their educational programs be comparable to their traditionally white counterparts? Also, is it realistic to spend four years around people similar to you and then have to work in corporate America where African-American professionals are few in number? When you graduate, will a degree from an HBCU be valued equally to a degree from a traditionally white university?

Other than the change in African-American views, there has been a change in the traditionally white universities' leadership. These universities are now aggressively recruiting top African-American students. The percentage of African-American's at traditionally white universities has increased by 40% since 1976. While the leadership at traditionally white universities has become more aggressive, (with a few exceptions) the leadership at HBCU's has become increasingly stagnant.

So what is the future of HBCU's? As of right now, there are no definite answers. At this current rate, the future of HBCU's will continue to hang in the balance unless drastic changes are made. If we want to see a difference, we will definitely need to see changes in legislation as well as in the leadership of HBCU's.

One way to make a difference is to vote in the upcoming elections. There will be many changes put into place depending on who becomes our new president. It's not often that helping make a difference is this easy. I suggest WE ALL VOTE!!!!

...On children taught at schools

Issue Date: 9/28/00

Yes, schools are teaching inequality. I base this on the fact that starting in middle school the first reference about African-American people is slavery. They don't teach about the kings and queens we once were in Africa; they just begin the learning process by starting black people's history with slavery. True, slavery was the biggest struggle for African-American's in the new world, but starting the education process by teaching about Black people at their lowest low teaches inequality.

Inequality is also taught in institutions of higher learning. Why is it that black literature and black history do not count for history or literature credit but elective credit in most curriculums if not all at NC State? It seems that the contributions of African-Americans in literature and history are still not being recognized as being as worthy as those made by whites in American history.

Schools are not teaching inequality outright. We have to give them the benefit of the doubt. Instead of being proactive and changing the ridiculous standards of education regarding minority studies, high schools and universities just choose to keep things the way they've always been. However, like anything else, times must and always will change. We have to remember that it is our history and the study of our culture that is being ignored. Shouldn't we be the ones doing something about it

OPINIONS

Dr. Floyd W. Hayes, III
Dissent and the Intellectual Vocation
November 16th, 2000

In contemporary America when our minds, perceptions, identities, and bodies increasingly are manipulated or managed by cultural, political, and economic elites and their cybernetic technologies of control, we give up the practice of independent thought and the will to dissent at our own peril. America's current transition from an industrial-capitalist economy of money and manufacturing to a postindustrial-managerial economy of knowledge, high technology, and social management is characterized by mounting political and socioeconomic polarization between the professional-managerial elites and the managed masses.

This period of social transformation also

Brandon Buskey
Put up or Shut Up
September 9th, 2000

The dawning of a new day. That's how many African-Americans see the beginning of this new academic year...the dawning of a new day. With so many changes around the university that affect black people, it is easy why some are optimistic about our prospects for the upcoming year. For the first time in recent memory, our Student Body President, Student Senate President, and Student Body Treasurer are all African Americans. After the unexpected departure of Dr. Lathan Turner to East Carolina University, the office of African American Student Affairs has brought in the charismatic, competent, and well respected Tracey Ray to give a welcomed new flair to the position. The Provost's office has inaugurated two new positions, the Vice Provost for Diversity and African American Affairs and the Director for Diversity Programs, in order to address the daunting questions associated with diversity and how minority populations are to flourish in N.C. State's predominantly white culture. Everywhere you look, there is evidence that we are heading for something of a renaissance in terms of improving the African-American presence at N.C. State and understanding what it means to be a

Adedayo A. Banwo
Black Men, Get Used to your Suspect Status
September 14th, 2000

Last year while walking down Gorman street at night, I was stopped and questioned by Public Safety. The reason was simply because I was a black man. In fact, the officer told me so.

"Son, we had a description come over the radio of a black male. You're a black male, what do we do?"

Simply put, this was racial profiling at its best. While I was standing there on the side of the road, surrounded by at least three squad cars, lights shined in my face; I received a message loud and clear. My dark skin, my existence as a black man, makes me a suspect. No matter how well I

is accompanied by the progressive expansion of America's multicultural population, resulting in growing cultural tensions. Under these changing circumstances, it is inevitable that there will be differences of opinion about most any important issue. However, a diversity of cultures, views, ideas, and social action should not be disrespected and rejected, but should be respected and embraced. Increasing diversity, by definition, means change; a commitment to change must be combined with a readiness to confront the status quo.

Herein lies the intellectual vocation. The intellectual is a dissenter who disturbs the peace; his/her purpose is to provoke independent and critical consciousness and to encourage principled social action. In *Representations of the Intellectual*, Edward Said asserts that the intellectual as dissenter possesses the courage and integrity to speak truth to power on behalf of

diverse campus. But I am not completely convinced that things are going to improve.

You see, last year, especially during the elections, there was constant discourse among student leaders about the discouragingly high level of student apathy on campus. No one seemed to care about what happened around the university, and they couldn't have picked a worse time to drift into lethargy. When the battle to halt tuition increases reached its most critical moments, students felt the least empowered to make a positive influence on the situation. Protests faltered, wills crumbled, tuition rose, and most people remained content to hide behind the conviction that they were powerless to do anything about it. But was this really the case? True, there probably wasn't much students could have done in the face of a Chancellor set upon using tuition increases to further a self-serving agenda, but that is very different from saying that there was nothing students could have done.

The whole fiasco becomes even more frustrating when I consider that one of the most silent groups during the tuition increase debate was probably the group with the most to lose. African Americans have traditionally had some of the highest levels of unmet financial need at N.C. State, and last year's tuition increase

dress, no matter how proper my diction, how well I dot my "i"s, all of that does not matter. I am a suspect.

Indeed a few days ago, I was sitting inside my dorm room when I overheard a conversation going on outside my window. The key speaker was a girl, and this is what she said, "Some black guy got into some suites downstairs."

When I heard the official announcement, the description remained "black male."

Bam! A suspect again, I better stop going outside my room or else. The person who made the statement is not a racist, the comment wasn't even meant in a derogatory manner, but that the way I took it. I know there are people out there right now going, "So what do we say? How do we pose these things without offending some-

those who are unjustly underrepresented and disadvantaged. The intellectual as dissenter is an irritant.

In a recent after class discussion with one of my students, I was impressed with his assertiveness and willingness to engage in critical analysis about the contemporary black situation in the United States of America. We also talked about the public role of the intellectual as one who seeks to provoke critical thought and social change by means of dissent. In the present age of social manipulation, I admire students who are intellectual dissenters and activists. For it is the critically conscious student who knows that his/her role is to continue the struggle to transform American society into a racial and cultural democracy. In the process of my exchange with this student, I mentioned that his critical reflections could be sharpened if he read more. Agreeing that he

placed the academic careers of many African Americans in treacherous predicaments. You may have noticed that some of your friends from last year aren't here anymore, and the tuition increase was undoubtedly no small factor in bringing this about.

Yet, despite all that was at stake, we did not fight. Were we too busy? Did we just have too much homework? There were probably a million different excuses as to why people chose not to involve themselves with the tuition battle, and some of them were probably quite admirable. In fact, if I wanted to be fair, I could waste a whole paragraph or two trying to justify why, when our efforts were most needed, we faded into the background. But, honestly, I've ceased concerning myself with excuses. I've ceased concerning myself with mentalities that lament and harangue every social injustice imaginable but leave the responsibility of addressing the issues, of actually putting forth an effort, to someone else. I've ceased concerning myself with dispositions that shamelessly posture about all the proactive things they are going to accomplish and then do nothing else except come up with reasons as to why they are too busy to help see their own goals to fruition. I've ceased concerning myself with talk.

one?"

Well if you are one of those people, then listen to what I have to say because you obviously do not get it. If that girl had made the announcement of "some white guy," the common reaction would have been one of, "why did she say white?" The bottom line is that a description as basic as that would not have cut it. Attached to the white male label would have been: short hair, blue eyes, thick build, early 20s, about 5-10. There would have been more identifiers in order to distinguish the "suspect" from all of the other white males in the residence hall. For some reason, when the skin is dark, all that doesn't matter.

And if any of you are wondering, after my run in with Public Safety, I had a meeting with the Assistant Director of Public Safety,

wanted to, he acknowledged that he didn't know what to read. I suggested immediately that he read Harold Cruse's important 1967 book, *The Crisis of the Negro Intellectual*. As we departed, I thought that his admission might also reflect the views of many other NC State students. Hence, I thought of suggesting some important morsels of food for critical thought.

To the left is not an exhaustive list of books. It is a small contribution I to the student who seeks the path of the intellectual as dissenter and activist.

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Now you can see why I am not convinced. Yes, our university has found some new officers to lead the African American community into battle next year, but, if we are to fight with the same sorry soldiers, we are doomed. African Americans on campus have lain dormant for far too long, and it is high time we actually began taking responsibility for what occurs at this university. "Too busy" will no longer be good enough. If, at the end of this year, we have not elevated the status of the African American on campus and protected our interests in the face of those who would undermine them, it will be our fault. If, at the end of this year, we have not educated other racial and ethnic groups at N.C. State about the culture of African Americans and consciously sought to learn more about the groups we seek to educate, it will be our fault. And, if at the end of this year we have not brought legitimacy to the idea of campus diversity and begun the process of creating a more tolerant racial climate at N.C. State, we will have failed both this campus and ourselves.

My friends, the future of this university is ours, and it is time we did more than talk about it.

Mr. Terry Wright. Also present were an administrator and a director on campus. Mr. Wright, if you are ready to follow through on the things you promised me over 8 months ago, you have my number, I am still waiting.

Perhaps this is just the way it is, maybe I just need to get used to my "suspect" status. I know my grandfather had to. I wonder what would have happened to him if he had wrote an article like this in North Carolina.

Well, no time to ponder such things, public safety just sent me a crime alert.

"What!," a shooting at the bookstore. Here is the description: "black male, 6ft tall."

"Damn, I guess I better stay in tonight."

Words of the Week

"datrightdere"

Go over to her and get "datrightdere"

"IONNO"

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

"Fo"

What? You betted against Duke?
What did you do that "fo"?