

# The Nubian Message

Serving North Carolina State University's Afrikan-American students since 1992

August 30th-September 6th, 2001

volume 10

## AACC To Be "Restructured"



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## Cultural Center to be "Restructured", Re-Organized

Adedayo A. Banwo  
Editor

Under a new proposal by Chancellor Mary Anne Fox and vice-provost for Diversity and African American Affairs Dr. Rupert Nacoste, the Afrikan American Cultural Center will undergo a dramatic shift in both physical and administrative focus. This shift is based upon the results of an external review of the AACC conducted last fall under the direction of Nacoste. Four outside examiners, two of which were directors of other Cultural Centers, conducted the external review. The reviewers expressed a dislike of the physical arrangement of the AACC.

"The placement sometimes creates confusion, especially among majority students who frequently identify the Witherspoon Center as the 'black student center' and therefore a less desirable building to visit. Furthermore they suggest that the physical arrangement of the Center's space has negative consequences for creating the kind of environment and programmatic activities that they would like to see the Center develop," the review stated.

In a letter prepared by Nacoste and released by the Chancellor's office to "The Nubian Message," Nacoste states the external reviewers, faculty and students felt that the "Cultural Center should develop a strong academic presence on the NC State campus."

"I am writing now to inform the campus that North Carolina State University is firmly committed to this effort because we want the African American Cultural Center to be a vital part of this

university now and in the future," the letter also reads.

Among the many changes the AACC will face is a

tered by the student center, with the AACC receiving programming preference.

"Efficiency issues are the



**"The AACC is an important aspect of life at our University, and we are committed to its growth and success."**

-Chancellor Mary Anne Fox

**"This isn't going to happen overnight. This is down the road, long term. You can't go out cutting throats."**

-Student Body President Darryl Willie

Photo courtesy of Milton Wetherbee, "Technician"

"restructuring" of its offices and programming space. The Center will be completely moved to the second floor of Witherspoon under the plan, occupying space that is currently used by student government. Student government would then move all of its offices into where the current AACC administrative offices are held. The programming and meeting rooms within the current AACC would become the new senate hall and judicial boardroom.

There has been a lot of debate about the new plan, particularly about the loss of administrative control over the multi-purpose room, the major programming space of the AACC. Under the new plan, the first floor multi-purpose room would be adminis-

main reasons in changing the administrative organization of the multi-purpose room," Nacoste said.

"This is unprecedented in terms of an African American Cultural Center," says AACC director Iyailu Moses.

**"This campus has never respected the sacredness of the ground the AACC sits on."**

"There are many Afrikan American Cultural Centers around the country. Some of them are one room, some of them are in a house, and some of them are free standing

buildings. Yet all of those spaces are considered sacred to those inside. When anyone else wants to come into that space, it has to be verified with the center," Moses said.

Moses went on to say that during the ten years the AACC has been at NCSU, all of which she has been director, there has been many instances of "artifacts, posters and a number of other things" removed.

"This campus has never respected the sacredness of the ground the AACC sits on. It treats that room (multi-purpose room) as a student center. I understand people use the multi-purpose room for lack of space but it also needs to be understood that people need to respect it as a part of the AACC. When someone else administratively controls the space, then this problem multiplies," Moses said.

Nacoste's overall plan centers around his view that the AACC should be more interactive with the general NCSU community.

"The mission of the AACC should be to educate the university on the traditions, cultures and heritage of Africa. This cannot be done in isolation. The AACC must interact with the campus to do this," Nacoste said.

Among students, a general perception seems to be that the university is pushing the AACC and other departments to become more multi-cultural. That is,

move away from an African American focus to a more broad and general cultural focus. This change of the AACC has created a lot of fear that there will be a move towards a Multi-Cultural

Center.

"That is not the intent at all. The idea is to simply make it more interactive," Nacoste said.

During a recent meeting of black student leaders to discuss the upcoming changes, many students voiced their concerns about the AACC and the plan.

"We have to admit that we're not using it how we could be. We have to show those big folks up in administration that we know how important the AACC is and how much it means to us," said Wilson White, a junior engineering student.

NCSU student Ricky Livingston said in the meeting that these changes were a part of much bigger issues affecting not only this university but others as well.

"The key issue here is what is diversity? How is it being applied and more importantly, defined. If we are going to confront this proposal, these are the issues we need to bring up," Livingston said.

"We've been asking for improvements, an assistant director, more work study students and to get things fixed that need to be fixed," said Kim McNair, senior double majoring in Chemistry and Africana Studies.

"We've been living with their foot on our neck and now they blame us for choking," McNair also said.

"Yes, the AACC has been underfunded, there is no doubt about that. But there has been enough there to do more than has been done," Nacoste said.

Nacoste says that there is a possibility that under the new plan the AACC could receive more funding.

"If under the new plan, it runs well, it will get more resources," Nacoste said.

In regards to a specific time frame, Nacoste says the changes will most likely occur this semester.

## Nacoste Making Waves

Vice Provost for Diversity and African American Affairs Dr. Rupert Nacoste has made many changes at NCSU during his one year tenure in the office.

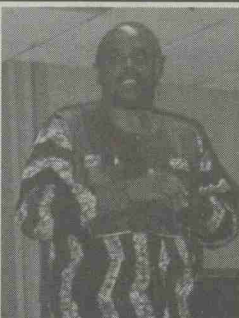
Adedayo A. Banwo  
Editor

September 1st will mark the one year anniversary of the position of Vice Provost of Diversity and African American Affairs and Dr. Rupert Nacoste's tenure in that position. Nacoste has used that year to introduce big initiatives regarding diversity.

"Everything I do causes trouble," Nacoste says.

"Why? Because there is one mandate and that is change," Nacoste added.

Among Nacoste's initiatives was creating a program that trained students to educate other students about



diversity. Nacoste developed this idea from a past program he had been involved with while in the United States Navy.

"When I was in the Navy, they were having big problems with race relations. I mean they were having race riots on vessels with nuclear weapons. The Navy trained and used enlisted sailors to go onboard ships and to shoreside bases and educate the sailors about how their attitudes were interfering with the mission," Nacoste said. He

added that the key to this program was the fact that the Navy capitalized on peer to peer communication by using other enlisted men. He has tried to tap into that same phenomena to do diversity training at N.C. State.

"The program exploded. We had over 200 volunteers the first week."

Nacoste states the one thing that he cannot tolerate in regards to diversity issues is silence. "There has to be an opportunity for students and faculty to engage in dialogue. This program gives us that opportunity," Nacoste said.

Not one to sit behind the desk all day, Nacoste states that he has been and is more than just a scholar.

"At age 18, I was working in the south to register people to vote. Later, I was aboard Navy ships doing diversity training. You see how nice everyone is around here. I was training sailors," Nacoste stated that he wants to get out of his Holladay Hall office and into the university community.

"I didn't become Vice

Provost to sit behind this desk all day. I took this job to make things work better. I'm here because I'm committed to change," Nacoste added.

Currently, Nacoste is in the middle of a controversial plan to "restructure" the Afrikan American Cultural Center. Many opponents of the plan claim that it follows a trend within the university to move traditional African American programs to a more multi-cultural focus.

"When I say the African American Cultural Center will be the African American Cultural Center, that is what I mean," Nacoste said.

Nacoste is determined to bring the campus together. Last year, his office distributed over \$100,000 to specific colleges that developed plans to improve diversity. Each college in the university developed a plan and Nacoste assembled a "diverse" committee to review and rate the proposals and determine which plans warranted funding.

"We got their attention," Nacoste said.

Right now though, the AACC plan is one of the more pressing issues on his desk. Nevertheless, Nacoste is excited about the plan.

"We're going to put a design together. We're going to involve students in the process. Dr. Charles Joyner is taking the lead on that," Nacoste said.

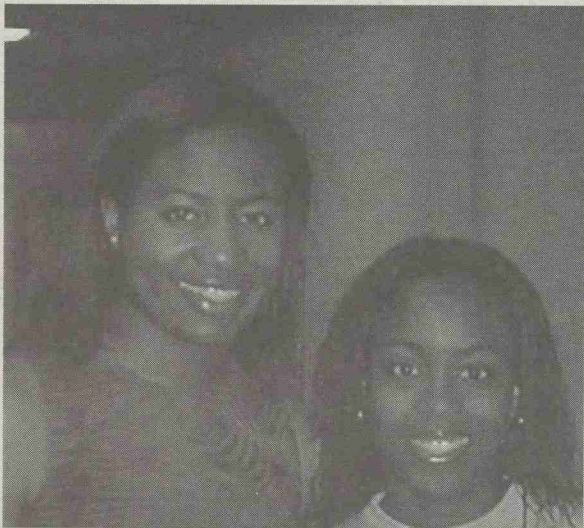
Nacoste also wanted to address concerns that student government would co-opt current student offices held by organizations in the AACC.

"We're going to prepare a memorandum of understanding between student government. Those student groups will stay in those offices," Nacoste emphasized.

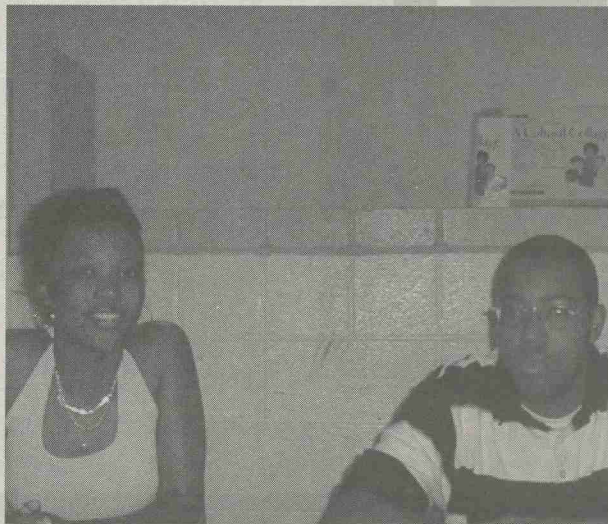
As for upcoming programs being developed through his office, Nacoste is trying to bring in activist Robert Moses. Moses has been campaigning for math education as a civil right. Nacoste is preparing to honor Moses at the annual Brotherhood Dinner, an event that has frequently left students out.

"We're going to change that this year," Nacoste added.

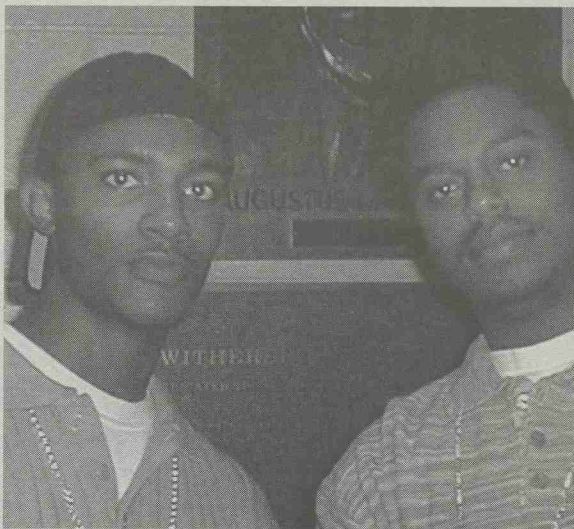
# Pictures from the SAAC Party



Communications major, Tiffany Wilder (Junior) poses with Animal Science/Pre-Vet major, Zakiya Mudiwa (Junior).



Christiana Davis a sophomore in Biological Science smiles with Curtis Hill a sophomore in Political Science for the camera.



freshmen Damien Terry (FYC) and Herman Little (Political Science) chill at the SAC party.

## Winning Numbers from the Nubian SAAC raffle

Ticket 320401- 20 dollar gift certificate to foot locker

Ticket 320359- 20 dollar gift certificate to the NCSU bookstore

Ticket 320146- Free Meal at Applebees

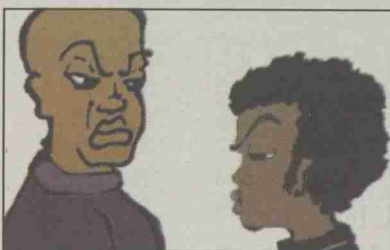
Congradulations to all of the winners!!

# Comics

introducing...



**Nubian Comic Jamaal Wesley**  
*Junior, Art and Design*





# Sports/Entertainment

## Hip Hop Lounge

**The Nycest source of Hip Hop reviews, news, culture, and whatever I feel like...**

Troy Neal a.k.a. T-Nyce

staff reporter

**"We'll be missing you..."**

**Aaliyah Dani Haughton (1979-2001)**

Late Saturday August 25th, Aaliyah and her entourage were killed in a plane crash shortly after takeoff from the Bahamas. Aaliyah was filming her latest video for the next single to be released from her album. It is always sad to see someone we know die, but it hits more people when that person is famous. Aaliyah was only 22 years old and had her whole life ahead of her. Her talents were utilized from the early age of 16. She first became a household name when she dropped her single appropriately "Age ain't nothing but a number." Aaliyah always praised God and gave thanks for her blessings, which she knew she had. An extraordinary singer, performer, actress, and young woman. She will truly be missed. One Luv baby girl.

## Hot or Not

Crossroads Concert

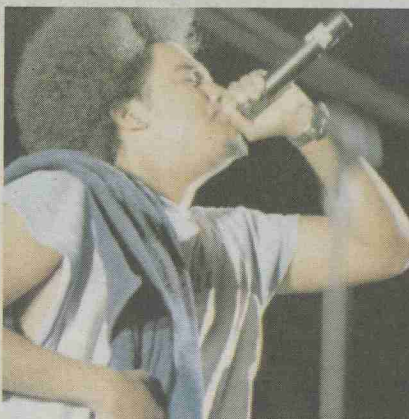
Unfortunately due to a lack of funds. I could not attend the crossroads concert event. So of you might say that I lucked out, but for the most part I have heard good reviews about it. Considering how hard it is to grab the attention of a crowd, let alone a young crowd, the crossroads concert proved to be entertaining. I can only speak off of word of mouth from several people, shout to Emcee Menes Kedar, but I will let you know the deal. With the local act of Yahzarah, the concert was lined by the Beatnuts,

Naughty by Nature, Far Too Jones (Who?), and De La Soul. The Beatnuts started it off with a stage show similar to many rap concerts. The Beatnuts were rhyming...and that's about it. According to reports, their show was OK. True hip hop heads luv a good performance to showcase the performers rhyming ability. Some rap catz lack knowledge in the area of how to hype up the crowd. Possible reasons for the Beatnuts



lack of enthusiasm may have been the crowd...or the lack there of. The parking lot, or should I say the unbeatable standing accomidations was not quite full. Another reason may have been the audience, who were predominantly of the majority culture here at NC State. Many people did not know what songs they made.

Next on the list was Naughty by Nature. This turned out to be the hottest act at crossroads. According to many reports, Treach and Vinnie held it down. Being from Up North myself, I



know that them boys would. You can tell that Naughty by Nature are hip hop veterans and know how to rip a stage show. A hip hop artist can't do much if all they can do is rap. NBN brought some emcees on stage for an opportunity for them to showcase their skillz. Five catz got a chance of a lifetime to spit bars with some real rap vets. Everybody even the majority could bob their heads to NBN, because of their radio friendly hits.

Next was Far Too Jones. They are an alternative group who did not mix well with the hip hop vibe of the concert. I did get one report saying that they was "aight." The showcase act was De La Soul. After the Far Too Jones exhibition many fans called it a night. De La Soul is another example of a veteran hip hop group who knew how to hype the crowd. Everyone, who was still there, enjoyed their performance. De La Soul seemed to be a little disappointed due to the crowd turnout after the FTJ act but still did there thing. Overall from my reports and peer evaluations of the show I would give the concert a 6.5 out of 10. Loosing points for lack of newer acts but gaining points for a better alternative to Brent road. Hey 6.5 is about a 65% which is still passing...unless it is a C wall. Holla...

New albums that came out this Tuesday:

Mary J. Blige - "No More Drama"

Rza - "Digital Bullet"

Krayzie Bone - "Thug on Da Line"

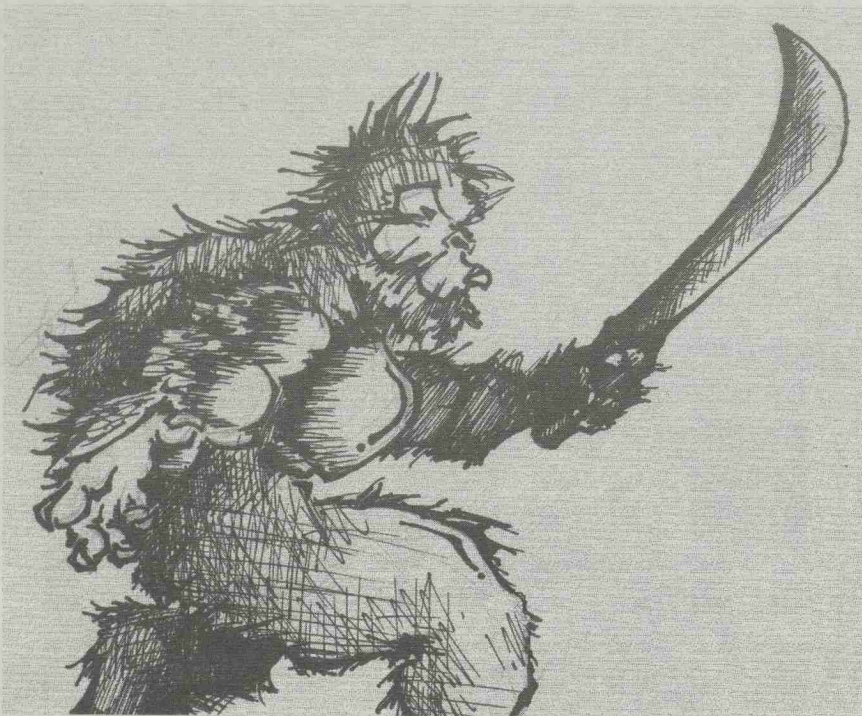
T-Nyce...the one and only, holla

# DRC

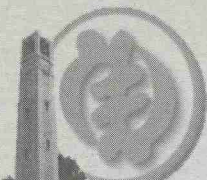
Dirty Rotten Congolese  
DRC storyline brought to you by KWU  
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## The Original Gorillas



See the Gorillas and more comic characters in action next week!



## Nubian Message

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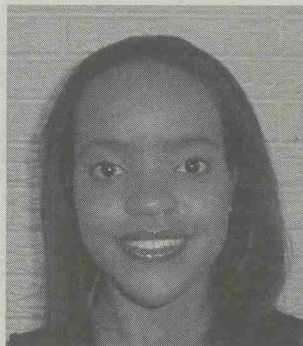
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## Get Your Mind Right

Derrick D. Williams

In the study of biology, there is a theory known as competitive exclusion. This proposed theory states that no two species with similar requirements can co-exist in a community. Each species has a multidimensional description of what it does; this is called a niche. If this theory is applied to America's socio-political fabric many interesting conclusions can be drawn. One may look to the landscape of NC State University to create a mental microcosm that illustrates my point. The African American Cultural Center is about to be stolen! Excuse me, "Restructured" to better serve the greater NC State population. One of the effects of competition is the partitioning of resources. The administration of

this fine university would have you believe that the proposed changes to the African American Cultural Center, both structural and procedural, are in the best interest of all parties involved. This is not the case. The same vicious tactics utilized to promote survival in the jungle are wielded more subtly on the campus of NC State University. The Cultural Center is being subjected to extinction in the name of expansion and not many African American students on campus seem to know, let alone care. The school administration laughs at us as African American students. The "powers that be" have no reason to fear our mobilization behind a legitimate cause such as saving the African American Cultural Center from being reshaped into non-existence. Black people on this campus don't even open their mouths and speak to each other on campus.

So if the African American Cultural Center were to be dismantled, most African American Students on campus would not know, because we don't communicate.

Africans Americans have created a distinct sub-culture on this campus. There are more African Americans on NC State's campus

**"The Cultural Center is being subjected to extinction in the name of expansion and not many African American students on campus seem to know, let alone care."**

than contained within the borders of many Historically Black Colleges and Universities in North Carolina. Instead of realizing our true power and becoming a strong voice on this campus, we divide and weaken ourselves over petty disputes. This illustration is

simply a symptom of the bigger problem on this campus. All eyes see our problems, few people offer suggestions, and even fewer offer solutions. We have an African American Student Center President as well as an African American Student Body President. The African American Student organizations are individually stronger than ever, in memberships and motivation. As a collective, African Americans can demand consideration in the realm of issues that directly affect us. African American students, our backs are against a wall. In a situation like this, our only means of survival is to collectivize or run. And the swim across the Atlantic Ocean would be especially hard with four hundred years of fear and socialization weighting us down. Running is not an option. America is as much ours' as it is the majority's. When African American Students

come together as a collective, and mobilize, our power base will be unstoppable. African Americans on this campus have been trained to believe college is a constant competition. We are led to believe we are competitors, but are really scared of true competition, so we end up fighting amongst ourselves. Everybody is saying the same thing, but they are using different languages. We need to be totally emancipated in this country now! Most differences manifest through misunderstandings. The African American Cultural Center can and will disappear if we sit back and let it. The saddest part would not even be the actual disappearance, but the lack of notice attributed to its passing. My people, we have to get our minds focused on more than just ourselves, or we will continue to be treated as last place in America and on this campus.

## More Action, Less Talk

### The Nubian Message Weekly Editorial

Recently, an "employee" in a department in the Tally student center commented to a Nubian Message writer about the upcoming changes to the African American Cultural Center, "Oh, are they unhappy about the move?" The move, it seems, is already in the works. The only people who seem to think that it is a long time away are those who have the most at stake, African Americans. Dr. Rupert Nacoste, Vice-Chancellor for Diversity and African American Affairs, has developed an action

plan to change the way the AACC is being used. Some of the "structural and administrative" changes include a reshuffling of the current AACC, and moving the entire center to the 2nd floor of the Witherspoon Student Center. Currently, the three floors of the Witherspoon Student Center are divided in half with one half being the AACC and the other housing a variety of student organizations, including student government and various media such as "WKNC" and "Technician."

The AACC was built a little over ten years ago after countless protests, marches, and straight forward action by stu-

dents, faculty, staff, alumni and community leaders. These people believed that African Americans deserved a site where the entire N.C. State community, white and black, could come and learn about the African American experience. Now, there is an opinion that this "sacred" space could be used to expand student government as well as house other cultural centers.

We offer no rebuttal to the need for other cultural centers designed to educate the campus community about other cultures and groups. However, there is no feasible need to eliminate one program for the sake of others, especially when there is no out-

cry from these groups demanding these services as there was from the African American community ten years ago.

Nevertheless, assailing the AACC action plan, its sponsors or their intentions will not accomplish much. Decisions are rarely affected by such attacks. If student leaders are against this plan, solid action such as protests and increased usage of the AACC would be a more effective formula for showing opposition.

It seems that on a university campus, there aren't many administrative issues that student opposition can bring to amendment. Are students going to sit back and allow decisions to be

made without their approval once again? "The Nubian Message" offers no yea or nea on the proposed changes, except on one issue. If you are a student, and these changes make you angry, do not sit back and rail about the system. If you are a student and these proposed changes are going to disrupt your student experience, then put down the pen that you are using to write student government bills and pick up a chair and use it for a sit-in or grab some walking shoes and march to protest. The only effective avenue is action, not talk.

## THE NUBIAN MESSAGE

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Always keeping in mind and spirit:



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