

# The Nubian Message

Issue 15 Volume 9

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

January 31 - February 7



*Why* does

**NCSU** have a  
GPA of **1.0 ??**

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## Inside AASAC's Report Card

Adedayo A. Banwo  
Editor

Late Sunday evening four students huddled in a dorm room around one document, reading it over and over, editing and re-editing, nitpicking at its details. The document, simply titled "N.C. State University's African American Student Issues; Spring, 2002 University Report Card" gives the University grades on "effectiveness in addressing student concerns regarding" four areas:

Enrollment of African American freshman, the Chancellor's Leadership Award, African American Graduation Rates, and African American Faculty.

The four grades are as follows:

Enrollment of African American freshman **F**  
Chancellor's Leadership Award **B**  
African American Graduation Rates **D**  
African American Faculty. **F**  
If the administration had a GPA, it would be a 1.0.

The African American Student Advisory Council developed the "report card." AASAC is a group composed of the heads of 37 black student organizations and advises the Chancellor on issues concerning black students. For the past two years, AASAC has designated a committee to research the University's effectiveness in dealing with these issues. The committee met numerous times and used as its sources: University Planning and Analysis and the Chancellor's Leadership Award Report developed by the office of Financial Aid.

This is the second report developed by the report card committee in recent years. Black student representatives discussed both reports at general body AASAC meetings and after debate and recommendations passed amended versions. The report being released Thursday by AASAC is the product of months of research by the committee and months of discussion and debate by the general body AASAC representatives. The Nubian Message is a member of AASAC but did not hold a seat on the committee or make any recommendations regarding the report's substance.

### The First Time

Nearly two years ago all of the four students, who Sunday prepared to release the current report, were in the room when AASAC presented its last report to University Administration. Present were Chancellor Marye Anne Fox and then Provost Kermit Hall. AASAC presented the administration with problems it felt were not being addressed, among them: recruitment of black freshmen and retention of black faculty. At that meeting, Hall announced the creation of a new position, Vice Provost for Diversity and African American Affairs, a position that he said, would address many of AASAC's concerns.

The position has been created and the person who filled it, Dr. Rupert Nacoste has even launched a diversity initiative. Kristin Ricks, secretary of AASAC, describes AASAC as an organization that stays within the guidelines and works as a liaison between students and administration. When asked why then has AASAC taken the unusual step developing a report and releasing it publicly instead of within closed door meetings like it did two years ago, she had a simple reply.

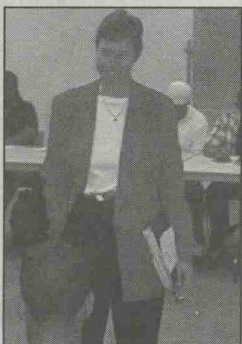
"We've had meetings. Some of the things we graded have been the same for years. We felt it was time for us to take a step forward and to make a change, we felt we had to do something ourselves if we wanted results," Ricks said.

However, many feel the University did make a commitment to AASAC's concerns by creating Nacoste's position so if there is a problem it must be addressed within his office and not university wide.

## Enrollment of African American freshman Chancellor's Leadership Award African American Graduation Rates African American Faculty.

**F**  
**B**  
**D**  
**F**

"We know that position is there to deal with these issues but the University needs to understand it can't rest solely with his office. These issues must involve admissions, faculty, financial aid, and student development just to name



Chancellor Fox at  
a AASAC Meeting

a few. How can an office of two people cover such a broad base of issues and concerns?" said Kim McNair, President of the Society of African American Culture, the organization holding Thursday's town hall meeting and responsible for publicizing AASAC's report.

"The Vice Provost hasn't had the time to affect these changes, a year?" McNair added.

"Our issues are about the community at large, not even only with African Americans, this report could start something regarding university wide diversity," said Curtis Hill, Vice Chair of AASAC.

### Reading the Report Card

The report has five pages. The first page outlines all the grades and defines them as A- well above average, B- above average, C- Average, D- Below Average, and F- well below average. Each grade is explained with University statistics, summaries and suggestions on how to improve AASAC's concerns.

### Enrollment of African American Freshman

The report gave the University a "F" regarding this issue citing a poor working relationship with black students and alumni in recruiting as well as insufficient financial aid for incoming black freshmen.

Last year, applications from black high students increased 18% from the 1222 who applied in 1995 while the amount of applications in general increased 10.49% since 1995 when 10,711 high school seniors applied to NCSU. The University accepted more students overall last year with overall acceptance increasing by 4%. However, as AASAC cites in its report, the acceptance rates for black students decreased by 6.55%, an almost 7% reversal from the University wide increase in acceptance.

However, acceptance rates do not portray the entire picture, how many black students who were accepted actually enrolled? If enrollment rates increased than a decline in acceptance rates would have little effect on the amount

of black students at NCSU. However, black enrollment rates did not increase but saw a sharp decline of over 10% since 1995 while overall enrollment increased over 5%. What these numbers mean is that the number of black students accepted to NCSU who decided to attend decreased sharply while the overall number of high school students accepted to NCSU and decided to attend saw a sharp increase over the last 7 years.

"In six years, our enrollment has not increased, but the university has so that means our percentages have dropped," said Robert Atkinson, AASAC Chair.

### Chancellor's Leadership Award

The report gave the University a "B" regarding this issue citing a large improvement in the amount of awards given to black students over the last 12 years. The Chancellor's Leadership award previously went to nearly all black students and now is given on a need basis.

The above average grade also reflects the improvement in black students who enrolled after being awarded the scholarship in recent years. In 1999, 48.9% of black recipients enrolled while last year, over 60% of black recipients enrolled, a large increase.

"The thing that stood out was that even though we had a total of 160 in 1999, and had a drop, the percentage of black students who received it increased," Atkinson said.

"The rationale behind that is because the university has made significant strides to increase the number of African American students receiving the scholarship," Hill said. "They are not great, but they are significant and that is why this grade was more positive," Hill said.

### African American Graduation Rates

The report gave the University a "D" regarding this issue. Graduation rates for black students are the lowest among all demographic groups, a full 5% lower than the rates for Native American students. On average, between the years 1994 - 1999, 47% of black students who attended NCSU graduated, while 68% of white students graduated during that same period. Native American students also suffered poor graduation rates during this period, with 52.9%. However, black students were the only group to finish with a sub- 50% graduation rate.

The report cites a lack of financial and scholarship opportunities for black and Native American students.

"Since 1994, the graduation rates has not exceeded 50%, for every ten, six years later, 5 will not have graduated. The stagnant growth of graduation rates for black students were unacceptable to the council," Atkinson said.

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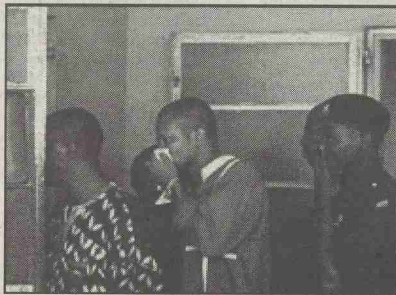
Africa News Brief

Folasade Omosaiye

**AFRICA NEWS BRIEF NIGERIA: DISASTER ROCKS CITY**

A fire reportedly started a huge explosion that caused the deaths of over 600 people in Lagos. The fire is believed to have started at a market in the middle of the night and spread to a nearby army base. This army base many of weapons of destruction - a munitions dump. When the explosions started, people were awakened, and in hundreds, tried to escape from the compound. Amidst this confusion, people trampled each other and slid into water canals. In the shuffle, both children and adults drowned.

This army barracks was situated in a crowded residen-



Relatives look inside a morgue

tial area. As a result, many residential homes, churches and stores were affected. The barracks itself is like a township. The soldiers' families lived there, and because of this tragedy, are now rendered homeless.

The Lagos State governor, Bola Tinubu, has promised to investigate the cause of the fire and help in the rescue effort.

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**SOMALIA: WAR LORD SPEAKS ON "BLACK HAWK DOWN"**

A movie that was number one at the box office when it was released, is at the bottom of a Somalian warlord's to-see list of films. Osman Ali Atto, the warlord portrayed in the movie, shared his feelings on the way Somalis were depicted in the movie.

In the movie, he is portrayed as a stubborn, earring-wearing, cigar-smoking character. Atto, on the contrary, is none of the above. He said he feels the movie did not do him or the Somalis any justice. He agreed that he was resistant to the United States CIA during interrogation, however, the rest of the portrayals were either wrong or altered.

Many Somalis, who have seen this movie, agree with Atto that the movie doesn't, in any way, in music or speech, depict the Somali culture. Claiming no one contacted him about a movie, Atto said, "My rights have been violated and so have the Somalis'."

**KENYA: SCHOOL FIRE: TWO CONVICTED**

Two school officials were convicted at a boarding school after the death of 67 students in a fire. The principal and vice principal of the school were sentenced to eight months in prison for failing to prevent the fire - including one that happened early last year.

Concurrently, two students, 16 and 17 respectively, are being tried for murder. It was reported that they allegedly started the fire. Prosecutors said that the two students set the fire because they were unhappy about the current way the school was being run.

"This conviction is a signal to all teachers and administrators of schools to be more careful and vigilant at this time of growing...school unrest."

Cont. on Page 5

US NEWS

Robert White  
Staff Writer

**Gary, Ind. Memorial for U.S. marine killed in Afghanistan**

On Saturday, January 26, almost 700 people came to the Genesis Convention Center to pay respects to Sergeant Jeanette L. Winters. Winters received a full military burial, which included a 21-gun salute.

Winters was one of seven Marines killed when their refueling plane crashed into a mountain near the Afghan borders. Family and friends went to the center to mourn Winters including Marines from the Chicago Area and the San Diego Area where she served.

Many mourners, like Winters' high school coach David Walton, commented on her determination and persistence. "She was very proud to serve our country," said her commanding officer First Lieutenant Jeni Rechlum. Sergeant Jeanette L. Winters was 25 years old.

**Boston Prominent professor at Harvard resigns**

A prominent African American Studies professor, Kwame Anthony Appiah, is leaving Harvard University for Princeton next fall. Appiah taught in the African American Studies and Philosophy programs at the prominent university since 1991. He was also chair of the African Studies Committee.

Many believe that his decision to leave may have been due to strained relations between the African American Studies department and Harvard administration. Recently the Harvard president, Lawrence H. Summers, and Cornel West had a private meeting where Summers made remarks about West's political and extracurricular activities. Appiah maintains the decision has more to do with his daily commute from New York City to Cambridge.

Students sent e-mails to Appiah urging him to stay at Harvard. Appiah will go to Princeton next fall for a full professorship in the Philosophy department.

**Memphis Study on sickle cell patients**

A research study shows that children with sickle-cell anemia have less pain when on the drug hydroxyurea. The study, which began two years ago between St. Jude's Children's Hospital and Duke University, uses 20 students who were six months to a year old.

Sickle cell anemia is a disease that causes healthy round, red blood cells to become sickle-shaped. When sickle-shaped cells clog blood vessels it causes extreme pain and organ damage. Many sickle cell patients never reach the age of 50.

Hydroxyurea has been a regular treatment for adults with sickle cell since the mid-1990s. It was also used to treat various forms of cancer. The drug blocks the sickle cell hemoglobin by producing fetal hemoglobin. Winfred Wang, head of the St. Jude team, said, "The hemoglobin study subjects remained steady at 20 percent." Fetal hemoglobin in sickle cell patients normal goes to 11 percent.

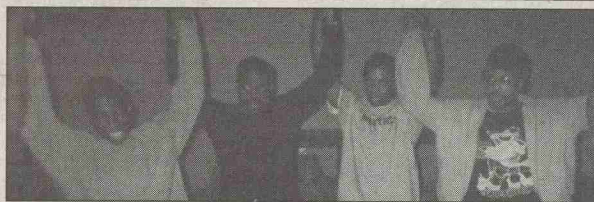
Researchers say it is too early to tell about long-term use of hydroxyurea in children.

**Cincinnati Black groups urge conventions to boycott**

City officials want to attract more conventions to the city, which may be financially damaged by a boycott. The boycott stems from the shooting death of an unarmed man by police last April. Widespread rioting occurred in the aftermath of the shooting. Cincinnati council members believe that the conventions, which gross \$190 million a year, can heal the wounds left by the riot.

The Black United Front, which consists of local churches and civil rights groups, initiated the boycott last July. Representatives of the group are urging conventions to avoid Cincinnati until the city administration begins responding to the racial and economic issues of the city.

Several conventions such as the Manufacturer's Education Council and the American Physical Therapists Association would like their gatherings to be in Cincinnati. A representative for the Manufacturer's Education Council said his organization liked the market in the Cincinnati area. Other conventions, such as The Progressive National Baptist Convention understand the Black United Front's wishes and will be meeting in Myrtle Beach, S.C. to consider moving the convention.



AMANDLA

John Frazier

"We are Amandla. We are a family of Afrikan men supporting each other and our community by embracing each other in love and reverence for our Afrikan spirit and culture. Our foundation is built upon things Afrikan - things that emerge from our collective Afrikan consciousness and experience. Our purpose is multifaceted, but united in the goal of strengthening ourselves and our community."

Amandla Group Information

More so than anything else Amandla is a consciousness. The name Amandla is a Swahili word that stands for power and strength. Amandla's motto is, "I am because we are; we are, therefore I am. This motto is indicative of Amandla's conceptual foundation, which is based in Afrocentric philosophy, and illustrates its guiding principle of strength through unity and collective consciousness. Amandla began in 1992 through the efforts of the Kappa Lambda (NC State) chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Amandla began as a support group for African American men who desired to pool their personal knowledge and skills together to strengthen and support their community. The initial group consisted primarily of African American freshmen on NC State's campus, but four years later it grew to include any and all African American men on NC State's campus who

desired to come together with other like-minded Afrikan men and uplift our community. Its membership included 40 plus members, one of whom was Tony Williamson, whose idea of a newsletter for the Afrikan community developed into the Nubian Message. Thanks Tony, rest in peace.

Membership is limited to men of African descent primarily because of their common experiences with regard to ethnicity, race and gender. Membership is voluntary and only requires signed agreement to maintain the confidentiality of group activities, discussions, materials and members. Though the implied goal and focus of Amandla is community activism, activism comes through the increasing of its members' individual awareness, consciousness and growth.

This year marks Amandla's year of "The Reemergence of Consciousness." Amandla is not just Ques, not just Iotas, not just Alphas, nor just Sigmas. Amandla is not just BSB, not just ASAAC or KWU, but all of these. Amandla is you. Amandla is the consciousness of the whole Afrikan community -- united, strong and determined.

Amandla's next meeting is January 31, 2002 at 6:00 p.m. in the WITHERSPOON African-American Cultural Center's multipurpose room. Contact Jonathan Frazier at jnfrazier2@unity.ncsu.edu or Shawn Penn at shpenn@unity.ncsu.edu for more information.

# Culture & Arts

## Ghettoscopes

By Sharonda Addison

**ARIES:** You got a porkchop sandwich in the refrigerator.  
**AQUARIUS:** You call Miss Cleo collect, talking 'bout, "Let me get a fortune on credit."  
**SAGITTARIUS:** You stop traffic in the cross-walk to tie your shoe.  
**SCORPIO:** You go to church high, and get mad when the usher offer you a fan 'cause you think she judging you.  
**GEMINI:** You go to the pool in your underwear instead of a swimsuit.  
**LIBRA:** You think having to do number two

## Does Violence Chase Black Men?

Nekia Marshall

As I was reading the Sunday N & O, I read



about a young black Catawba College football player who was shot to death by a black student from another college's campus. I have to ask, is your life that bad that you have to use another as your scapegoat? I know that violence is a problem all over the United States, and it has been reviewed, talked about, studied, etc., but it has not been resolved? Will it ever?

Violence was even around during Biblical times. Maybe it was because these people actually had something to fight for because they believed in life and their religion, but that still did not mean that it was right.

Today, especially amongst the black community, is it really called for? It seems like now black men are violent because they do not have anything to believe in. I would think, in this case, if they made it as far as a college campus then they had to believe in something. I always have been taught that if you have education then you have power. Not power to look down on your own people, not power to commit crimes against them, but power to rise up against the majority and make things happen in your community, the power to change, and the power to make a difference.

should be a university excuse to miss class.  
**LEO:** You buy one jar of Vaseline and use it for Chapstick, shoe polish and hair grease.  
**TAURUS:** The batteries in your remote control are held together by duct tape.  
**VIRGO:** Your drinking glasses used to be old mayonnaise jars.  
**CAPRICORN:** Your furniture at home is still covered in plastic.  
**CANCER:** You drink all the Kool Aid and put the empty container back in the refrigerator.  
**PISCES:** Your bottom lip look like a cobblestone driveway 'cause you too cheap to buy Chapstick.

Since Sept. 11, a lot of people have focused on the reality of things, such as life and how short it is. But it never ceases to amaze me how black men are always at the center of violence on unneeded occasions. What should we blame it on this time? Let's think, growing up in a rough neighborhood with no way out and violence is a thing of survival, or they're uneducated, poor, and mentally depressed. This list could go on. These guys were in college, what is their excuse? They were about to enter the world of "Corporate America." What more could you ask for? Yes, I know it is hard for the black man to be treated equally amongst the majority, but is it fair to have to fight in their own house to survive?

When will they wake up? Is the word "support" not in their vocabulary? It has always been an issue of bringing our people down. When will we start to lean on each other to get ahead? Everyone needs help sometimes and there is no one who knows us better than our own people. Or is it that black men are just destined to be the victim of their own violence and they will never work together in unity? Is that too much to ask?

I have often been told that I am a dreamer and I do not live in reality, but I know that things can change with time. For about four months it has been Middle Eastern photos on the news and in the papers. Have black men had their time of hibernation? If violence is chasing the black man, then they are just not running fast enough. Or maybe they have just stopped running altogether.

I know that all black men do not fall under this category, but it is even harder for those who do not, because they will be seen as violent at first sight because of those that do.

A place of higher education is where one should be learning to overcome the temptation of the seducing violent streets, and not a percentage on a pie chart.

I will say once again, if violence is chasing black men, be smart, and don't let it catch you.

## Comic Relief Show

Kemyia Sharpe

**S:** So, Ms. Sharpe How did u like the Comic Relief Show held Saturday in Stewart Theatre? It was sponsored by Matrix entertainment.  
**K:** Comedy Relief 2002 was mad funny. Too bad a lot of peopel missed it.  
**S:** I know right. Can u believe there were only approx. 85 people there due to a publicity error? Where's the love?

**K:** The comics are talented though. Amos Quick, Tone-X, and David Guider are all funny. They were all down-to-earth too.  
**S:** Yeah they were really down-to-earth. In fact, my favorite part of the show was conducting the interviews backstage.  
**K:** They had some insightful things to say. We found out a lot of interesting things about the comics, didn't we?

**S:** Yes we did. Most of the comedians start out being the class clown, or the "life of the party."

**K:** The funniest part of the interviews was when they told us about their most embarrassing moments. Like when Amos Quick was doing a show and "a young lady pulled my pants and boxers down. I always wear boxers for good luck and there I was, naked from the waist down in front of every-body."

**S:** Yes that was so funny. He has been in the comedy business since 1993. Can you believe he went to UNC-Wilmington to major in Chemistry, but as he said "I just couldn't do the math."

**K:** But at least he's doing something that he loves and he's been all across the globe.

**S:** I know we all [as college students] can relate to that old "major switch". He also has a public affairs television show which is dedicated to improving the intelli-

gence of not only Blacks, but all races and nationalities.

**K:** You have to admire his drive for success. He stated in the interview, "Never let success go to your head or failure to your heart; that's how you stay level." Maybe that's why his career is taking off the way it is.

**S:** I know that he performed on Comic View, but what were some of the other places?

**K:** Jamaica, the Bahamas, New York and Detroit, just to name a few.

**S:** Yeah. I can imagine he gets pretty busy at times. I admire the fact that he uses his two daughters Raven (9) and Jasmine (10) as his motivation.

**K:** "Everything that I do is for them", he commented. But what about the host, David Guider? He made the atmosphere a little more relaxing for the audience.

**S:** Yeah David had the hardest job of all. But he did an excellent job. I thought he was funny.

**K:** It kind of comes natural for him since he always wanted to do some type of entertainment. "I wanted to be in front of people. What you do is what you like to do, and if you do it well enough, people will start paying you. I love doing it though, money really isn't a factor with me."

**S:** Right. He was also well prepared to handle the audience. He started out at a punch-line comedy club which is a club that mostly white people attend. There he learned how to write diverse acts and change his comedy to fit any style or crowd. But you know what Key?

**K:** What's that Sharonda?

**S:** As live as David was Saturday night, you would be surprised to know that his most embarrassing moment was performing in front of a cold crowd.

**K:** Hey, like he said, "It helps when you have something to push you to

go through things." He did just that by sucking it up and doing what he had to do to make it.

**S:** Yeah he's performed at places like BET, Apollo and Nashville, Tennessee.

**K:** And let us not forget Tone-X. Just like Amos and David, this comic had the business world tucked under his arm. He's on the Power 98 morning show, has his own company, and Tone-X Extended Family, and non-profit organization.

**S:** He took us to school on some real stuff, and made us laugh. It was too real!

**K:** One of the things that he said is that "You can never be a good sport if you've never lost." I found that to be so true, how can you call yourself a good sport if you've never experienced winning and losing?

**S:** That is right. Failure is apart of success.

**K:** "What doesn't kill you only makes you stronger," he declared.

**S:** Just like when he got booed on stage once, it only made him stronger and when he went back to the same place 6 months later. Guess what? He got a standing ovation!

**K:** Overall, the whole performance was.... help me out Sharonda.

**S:** great despite the hype that would of came from a larger crowd?

**K:** exactly.

**S:** Yeah each comedian showed their true love for comedy by giving their best show whether it be a full or half empty house (in this case it was half empty).

But that's another story. **K:** Those of you who didn't attend, you have no idea what you missed. These are your girls, Kemyia

**S:** and Sharonda and to sum things up, we as African-Americans need to start supporting each other more and showing love whether you want to or not. Cause it's the right thing to do.

**K:** Mad love goes out to Matrix Entertainment for a job well done. Keep it up! **S & K:** Two up and we out!

The Distinguished Gentlemen of The Eta Omicron Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated would like to invite all ladies to the Miss Black & Gold Interest Meeting

Thursday February 7th at 7:30  
 Bragaw Activity Room  
 Business Casual Attire

## NEED TO ADVERTISE?

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## Roll With It: Impact Movement

Shannon Oliver

The Martin Luther King holiday weekend was filled with a lot of cultural activities to celebrate the life of Dr. King. The IMPACT Movement hosted a weekend retreat to Atlanta, Ga. where college students from Texas, Tenn., N.Y., Ga., S.C., N.C., Fl. La., and Ala., came together to lift up the name of Jesus Christ. The IMPACT Movement is a group of African American students taking the truth of Jesus Christ to the college campus, the community, and the world. Nearly 40 NC State students met attended the retreat Friday, January 18. The keynote speaker was James White from Cary, N.C., and a graduate from East Carolina University. The weekend was composed of daily seminars, praise and worship, and a talent show. The daily seminars covered topics such as: "How to study the Bible," "Answering tough Questions," "What God thinks about Sex," and "Going to Africa," to name a few.

The talent show was on the last night and NC State students Shonda Tabb and Angelica Hicks did an exceptional job. The atmosphere of the retreat

was lovely. I have attended many Christian conventions and this was by far the most influential. The gathering of so many young Christians was inspiring and the message was directly for us. College students from the southeast region of our country came together and made friendships that will last a lifetime. The main topic of the retreat was building a personal relationship with God and being totally sold out for Christ. James White challenged us to expand our witness, let go of frivolous ideals, and to alert NC State and crawl out of our foxholes. The students who attended the retreat felt truly blessed and inspired. "After the conference, I felt like I can do anything with God by my side. I felt that I could conquer the world," said Chervonne Leader.

So now I'm challenging you: "Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come." Mark 14:41. Another one of these life-changing retreats is coming up in December 2002. This will be held in Washington, D.C. The IMPACT Movement meets every Thursday night at 7:30 p.m. in North Hall, in the Merry Monk room, come out of your foxholes and begin making your impact and take a stand for Christ. For more information about the Washington, D.C. retreat and the IMPACT Movement, please contact Esther Wells at (919) 512-1380,



## Africa News Brief Cont.

### THE CONGO VOLCANO ERUPTS WIPING OUT ENTIRE TOWN

Over 300,000 people have become refugees from their own town as a result of a volcano eruption. Hundreds of thousands left evacuated their homes after a volcano erupted in Goma on Thursday, January 24, wiping out the whole town. An estimated 45 people

were reported dead, and hundreds of thousands are homeless and hungry.

A significant amount of people tried to go back but couldn't because of the remaining lava on the ground. This lava was flowing into Lake Kivu, a main source of drinking water, leaving the town's people without clean drinking water. Aid groups tried to help by creating fresh water tanks. The United Nations and Red Cross have immediately put their resources to use to help feed the refugees. This was the biggest eruption in Central Africa in 25 years.

## Report Card Cont.

It is disturbing to know that the majority of black students will not graduate within six years," said recent graduate Courtney Hodge.

"We don't put blame on anyone, we just represent the facts and the fact is the administration hasn't made significant strides to address this issue. The board feels its time for the University to make strides to alleviate this problem no matter whose fault it is," Hill said.

"We're here as students to try to solve the problem and address the problem, we're not in the blame business. We're not university bashing, this is a team effort and the University can come to us with problems, this is to start dialogue," Hill added.

## Black Faculty

The report gave the University a "F" regarding the retention and recruitment of black faculty with doctoral degrees. Between 1993 and last year, the number of faculty have increased across the board from whites, Asians, women, Hispanics, and Native Americans except in regards to black faculty numbers, which saw a 2.7% decrease.

The report acknowledges that the number of black faculty have fluctuated over the last 20 years but also states that the current numbers have held steady despite large increases among other minority groups.

"The council felt that these low numbers were related to other issues like poor graduation rates. More African American faculty makes more African American students feel confident in their abilities to succeed," Atkinson.

## Speaker informs students on the Civil Rights Movement in Eastern N.C.

By Robert White

On Monday, January 29, SAAC Week began with a program entitled "The Civil Rights Movement: Eastern North Carolina Style," presented by Dr. Thomas Midgette. Dr. Midgette is the director of the Institute for the Study of Minority Issues at North Carolina Central University. The lecture focused on the role of eastern N.C. in the Civil Rights Movement. Dr. Midgette mentioned that when he attended conferences, the role of eastern N.C. in the movement was often never mentioned.

Dr. Midgette began the lecture by asking everyone their names and where they were from. Many of the students in attendance were not from eastern N.C. Dr. Midgette, who is originally from Tarboro, told the audience he marched all over the state during the movement. As a youth he was involved in the junior division of the NAACP. At the age of 14, he became president of the junior chapter. He then described the environment of eastern N.C. during the 1960s. He told the audience how he had to work in the tobacco fields to earn money. As a high school student, his education consisted of poor textbooks and classes that hardly helped him to get into college. During this time Midgette, his peers and elders experienced a lot of racism and discrimination. Dr. Midgette said the conditions existed because a "wealthy one percent controlled the area." African American women typically worked as domestics, and men worked in the fields. African Americans could not shop downtown nor enter restaurants.

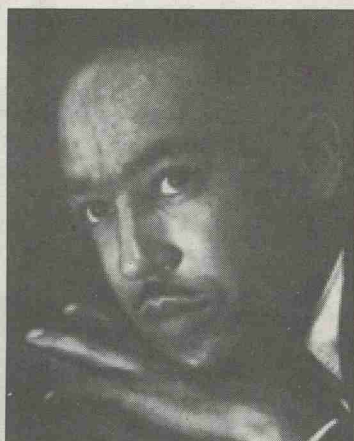
The Civil Rights Movement was integrated into the daily life of many African Americans in eastern N.C. Many reverends and deacons were

involved in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. The group of 10 helped in diffusing local incidents until more experienced leaders such as Golden Frinks of Tarboro or Ben Ruffin of New Bern were able to organize the people. According to Dr. Midgette, many of the adults during the time period were members of organizations such as the NAACP and the Black United Front. As children grew up and went to college, they joined Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and eventually groups such as the Black Panther Party. Each town and community had its own local leaders and activists, such as Sarah Smalls of Swan Quarter, who hid activists from racist officials.

The second part of the program focused on the long term effects of the Civil Rights Movement. Midgette maintained that the "struggle still continues." Many black business owners who were prosperous prior to the movement were phased out due to political planning. Workers in eastern N.C. cannot unionize and schools still remain poor. Midgette warned if situations in the country continue the U.S. could "look like South Africa in 50 years."

To end the lecture Dr. Midgette discussed the lessons learned from the Civil Rights Movement. The movement definitely taught blacks leadership skills and to stand up for their rights. "My Ph.D. could never equal my Ph.D. in the Civil Rights Movement," said Dr. Midgette. He also noted the "it takes a village" mentality of African Americans during the movement. Dr. Midgette urged many of the students, particularly those from eastern N.C. to document the largely unrecorded history of the Civil Rights Movement in eastern N.C. "Talk to your grandmothers and uncles," said Dr. Midgette. He also encouraged everyone in the room regardless of major

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in honor of the 13th annual African American Read In

NCSU's African American Cultural Center presents

## not without Langston

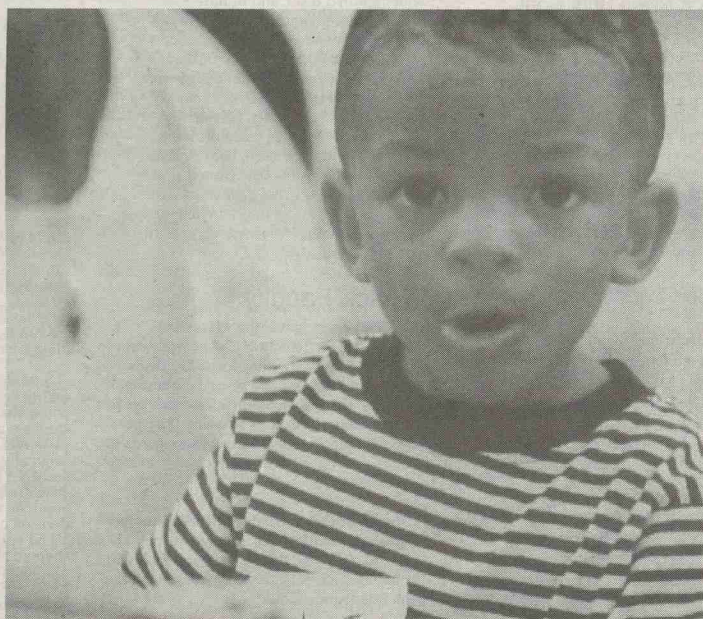
featuring the works of  
Langston Hughes  
and original tributes by  
local artists

remembering langston's 100th birthday

Sunday, February 3, 2002  
3pm

John Biggers Gallery  
African American Cultural Center

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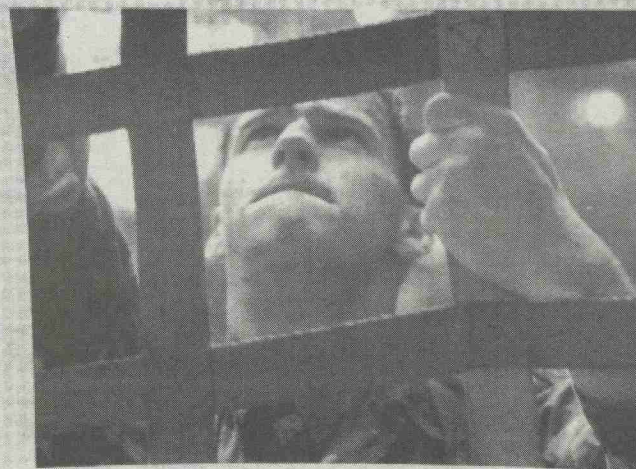


featuring

## Ayaba Bey

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African American Cultural Center

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after this, the corporate  
ladder will be a piece of  
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The African American Voice of North Carolina State University

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With only the permission of our ancestors and our elders do we proudly print this and all editions of The Nubian Message. Always keeping in mind and spirit:



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# Opinions

## A Different Approach to Black History Month

By: Delvis Ingram

Hey, it's that time again. February is approaching and it's the month of love, the month of being with that special someone. It's the month for roses, expensive candy and exhausted wallets. Even more exciting, this is the month for Black History! I know that excites you, right?

Unfortunately, for many people it's not exciting at all. For many Black History Month is just another scheme to keep people busy. Black history doesn't even cross many people's minds until the middle or the very end of the month. That is a very discouraging thought. But that can't stop Black History Month from arriving.

As citizens of the United States, we should have a different approach to Black History Month. It should be our goal to learn something new and out of the norm every week of February. We should have a more in-depth look at leaders like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for he was much more than a dreamer. That brother actually faced reality. All of us know that Frederick Douglass was an abolitionist, but did Abraham Lincoln actually feel comfortable with Douglass services? That is definitely something to look into.

We know that black history will reveal inventors and

their inventions. But what inspired them to invent those particular inventions? Where would music, art and literature be today without black history? The Harlem Renaissance was more than just a period of cultural flourish; it was also a period of philosophy. Who was Malcolm X? That is not necessarily a question of what he accomplished. What was the Black Panther Party about? How does that movement affect you? We should ask ourselves questions such as these so we can get a better understanding of why things are the way they are.

There are 12 months in a year, and February was chosen to be the month of Black History. Many complain about having Black History Month in the shortest month. However, we must not forget that it used to be just Black History Week. How many other ethnic groups have a "History Month"? I just felt like bringing that up because instead of complaining about having the shortest month, these people could be learning some history.

Black History is American History. The hands and minds of prestigious black individuals have affected everyone. For those that do not care for Black History or even hate the very sound of it, that is all right. Just remember that you have already taken part in Black History. It has affected you. Enjoy your Black History.

## Justice or Just Us?

The Nubian Message Weekly Editorial

For those of you who are tired of hearing about the war, this story will give you a little something to take to the barbershop with you.

Friday, January 25, a Boston man was convicted of involuntary manslaughter after beating another man to death. In July 2000, the two men, both fathers of 12-year-old children, watched as their children played a pick-up game of hockey. A fight began when the convicted man, Thomas Junta, felt that the victim and supervisor at the time, Michael Costin, was allowing too much rough play. Thomas Junta, a 44-year-old, 270-pound truck driver beat the much smaller Costin to death in front of their children. The conviction carried a sentence of only six to 10 years.

Just one year earlier in July 1999, a black 12-year-old, Lionel Tate of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., was arrested for killing a six-year-old girl. The boy said that he tried a wrestling move on the little girl, and the outcome was fatal. He was convicted of first degree murder and is now serving a life sentence.

Now do you call that justice? Sure there are many nuances in our legal system, and sometimes guilt or innocence may depend on your lawyer's paycheck, but murder is

murder.

How many times in your childhood did you put your little brother or cousin into the Figure Four followed by a Boston Crab and a nice little People's Elbow to finish off the job. It may have looked brutal to an outsider, but we all know it was just a case of kids being kids. Well, some judge in Florida thought differently.

But when a 44-year-old man, who surely knew by that age the consequences of his actions, beats another grown man to death with his bare hands in front of his own children, he only gets six to 10 years, of which we all know he'll only do five.

Is that justice? Sometimes it seems like the jails in this country were built just for us. We always hear about the overwhelming number of black youth in prison but young black youth are not the only group in this country that commits crimes. We just get all the time. These cases are just two of many where sentencing has been unfair between racial groups. If you disagree, just check out the police log or go downtown and sit in the courtroom for a day.

At a recent ASAAC meeting, a debate arose on Dr. Martin Luther King's dream and whether or not integration meant equal. Well we're integrated, but these two cases serve as an example that we are not treated as equals.

## Stand Up

by Robert White

On Saturday, January 19, I attended the North Carolinian's for Alternatives to War march and rally. The gathering consisted of a march from Martin Luther King Memorial Gardens to the State Capitol. From the State Capitol participants walked to the Exploris building for a reception and to hear various speakers' peaceful solutions to the war. I enjoyed the rally considering the fact that a few hours prior I was thinking about not going.

At 10 a.m. I was thinking of excuses to be absent. I reasoned my absence would allow me to do some of the homework I had been putting off. There were also three library books with my name on them. As I considered these options a thought popped into my head. What if Dr. Martin Luther King "just chilled" instead of lecturing, leading marches and fighting for our rights? What if our elders did not protest, organize, and fight for

equality in education, housing and other issues? Would I even be at N.C. State if my elders did not do these things? The answer is no. There was a time when I wouldn't have even been able to apply to universities like this one, let alone be admitted.

It seems to me that black people in the years before our generation did not hesitate in fighting for the ideals they believe in. This is not to say that our generation doesn't stand up, but we need to do it more often. The issues ranging from police brutality to affordable housing and even affirmative action are too great for us to develop political apathy.

As an old proverb says, "Those who stand for nothing, will fall for anything." The events in Afghanistan may not be the issue that pulls you out of bed to march in the freezing, wet weather, but when your issue calls, you must go.

As I think of what I did Saturday I feel a sense of pride. I awoke to do something for someone other than myself. I couldn't have thought of a better way to celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

got something to say?

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nubianinbox@hotmail.com

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(ETA OMICRON)

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