

The Nubian Message

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

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Ben Chavis Muhammad 'disappointed' with University administration



Benjamin Chavis Muhammad

Adedayo A. Banwo
Editor

During most of the 1970s, Benjamin Chavis Muhammad, former head of the NAACP and chief organizer of the Million Man and Family Marches, lived, slept and prayed in the North Carolina's Central Prison right down Western Boulevard. Chavis Muhammad was arrested and jailed along

with nine others for protests against the segregated school system in Wilmington, N.C. After being released from Central Prison, Chavis Muhammad was not allowed to stay in North Carolina. Prison officials immediately flew him out of the state upon his release because he says the officials viewed him as "dangerous," according to Muhammad. Chavis Muhammad eventually did return to North Carolina as he did Tuesday night and the same activist spirit that landed him in prison some 20 years ago was on full display before a sparse group of students who came to hear him speak in Stewart Theatre.

Chavis Muhammad spoke on campus for the second time this year, this time in an event sponsored by the UAB Issues and Ideas Committee. He also spoke last October as the key speaker for the African American Cultural Center's Heritage Day.

Chavis Muhammad took university administration to task for its reaction to issues of diversity in recent months, specifically a racial climate survey being promoted by senior psychology student Brandon Buskey and the African American Student Advisory Council's report card.

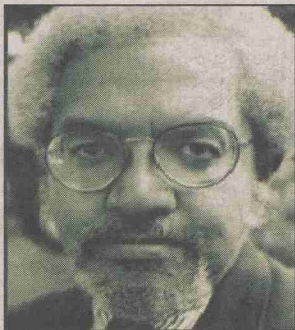
"I am disappointed with the first hand reaction of North Carolina State University's administration to brother Buskey's climate survey and the report card. I understand there are some who are against these things. The first step to solving a problem is to admit it exists and this administration has chose to deny the problem," Chavis Muhammad said.

On the report card issue, Chavis criticized the University for not doing more to identify the problem, leaving AASAC to develop a report card.

"If it is true that over the last six years, black enrollment has not increased, if it is true that over the last 6 years, the number of black graduates have not increased then somebody needs to look at that and it

See Chavis Muhammad on Page 3

Marable Speaks at Clark



Lecture

Robert White
Staff Writer

On Thursday, February 21, 2002 the African American Culture Center brought Dr. Manning Marable for the Dr. Lawrence Clark Lecture. Dr. Marable is a Professor of History and Political Science at Columbia University. He is also the Director of the Institute of African American Studies Program and co-founder of the Black Radical Congress. He has authored at least 20 books including *Let Nobody Turn Us Around* and *How Capitalism Underdeveloped Black America*. Dr.

Marable's lecture focused on the historical disadvantages of African Americans, Affirmative Action and the need for reparations.

Dr. Marable talked about the historical disadvantages of African Americans focusing on labor and the criminal justice system. He mentioned how many of America's institutions, including Chase Manhattan and Yale University, were built from the profits of slave labor. In regards to the labor force, Dr. Marable talked about how the blacks are often the first ones fired and the last ones hired by citing the number of African Americans who lost jobs in the downsizing of Sears and Coca-Cola. He gave numerous statistics on the high prison rate for African Americans. He concluded that at least 1.8 million black people lost the right to vote for life. Dr. Marable called this a civil death where the prisoners "continually pay a penalty" for a crime they committed in their youth.

Dr. Marable spent a large part of his speech taking about Affirmative Action. He pointed out that many in the Republican party have "historical amnesia" regarding their role in the creation of these programs. He also cited that Affirmative Action benefits white women more than it does minorities. "Paycheck Equality" is what Dr. Marable called Affirmative Action as he quoted the political scientist Ron Walters. "I did not see a change in equity," said Dr. Marable. Dr. Marable continued on how the challenging ideologies of the two parties had negative impacts on black people.

The highlight of Dr. Marable's speech was his thoughts on reparations. He talked about the greatest challenge of reparations is to get other black people to believe in it. He noted that African people have existed under a traumatic existence since slavery. Reparations can begin in repairing the damage Dr. Marable believes. He noted that the money is not what black people wanted, but the acknowledgement that the United States openly participated in the slave trade, and that it made the country what it is today. He told the audience that he was invited to the World Racism Conference in Durban, South Africa to do diversity training for the UN. "The Conference had nothing do with Israel," Marable said. The bigger issue was reparations. Marable quoted National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice as saying, "In order to get along, we must forget." The comment received many sighs from the audience. Dr. Marable said the U.S. did not want to go to the conference because they knew that slavery was a crime against humanity. He then quoted a line from *The Godfather*, saying that throughout American history in regards to African Americans it has always been "business, never personal." He ended his lecture by talking about what the actor, Ossie Davis called the "moral assignment." "Each generation has a moral assignment," Dr. Marable said. "The moral assignment for this generation should be the pursuit of justice and freedom for black people throughout the world." Dr. Marable ended to a standing ovation.

See Marable Cont. on Page 7

SABSW Kicks off Hygiene drive

Adedayo A. Banwo
Editor

An on-campus student organization, the Student Association of Black Social Workers, wants you to know that hygiene is just as important to underprivileged youth as proper clothing and nutrition.

The SABSW is holding a hygiene drive for underprivileged children who live in Raleigh from now through March 9. Items that the group is asking for are toiletries, soap, tissue, lotion, shampoo and any other related items that could be of use.

"We chose to do this drive because these things are so important to kids when they go to school to learn. If you go to school without the proper supplies, kids are mean, you cannot learn in that type of environment," said April Jackson, president of the SABSW.

There are three drop off locations for the drive. They are: the Avent Ferry 24 hr desk, the North Hall 24 hr desk and room 231 in the 1911 Building.

"I encourage students, faculty and staff to donate because if I were in the same situation as many of these children, I would be so appreciative of their kindness and thoughtfulness," Jackson said. "I ask students if you were that age, put yourself in the shoes of many of these children," Jackson added.

The SABSW is composed of about 12 members, and their advisor is Cheryl Waits. The purpose of SABSW, says Jackson, is to educate minorities interested in Social Work on the special needs they will encounter in their field.

"As social work students, we have extremely busy schedules and since the department is so

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New group 'YBE' starts out

Adedayo A. Banwo, Editor
Sharonda Addison, Staff Writer

There are over 30 black student organizations but none aimed strictly at aspiring black entrepreneurs. This sparked the idea for Young Black Entrepreneurs by founders Troy Neal and Kevjorik Jones.

YBE's purpose is to educate black students on running a business, gaining entrepreneurial experience and becoming leaders in the local community.

"We chose the name Young Black Entrepreneurs because we want a name that stretches the words young and innovative. We are not just about politics but also about doing what needs to be done and 15 years from now we want to see the same young atmosphere and an even stronger organization," said Neal. One of the organization's short-term goals is to establish a strong board of directors to carry out the business side of things.

"We are looking for a group of people who understand when we say you need to do this...it's done. Not someone we have to constantly check up on," said Kevjorik.

They also want to establish a strong general body that will reflect the presence of the organization, and to achieve a non-profit status.

"We are looking for a general body that will get involved in all activities, who are dedicated, interested in community service, open to new ideas, and want more than another organization on their resume," Kevjorik

added.

There is another organization that is similar to YBE. The Society of African-American Corporate Leaders, organized within the College of Management is designed "to provide students with strategies for professional and academic success through networking opportunities with African-American professionals, organizations, faculty, and the business community."

The key difference between the two groups, Neal says, is that YBE is not associated with the College of Management and one of their goals is focused on coordinating events.

"Our group is not trying to compete with any other organization. Our intent is to network with the other business organizations as well as the other African-American organizations in order to pull off successful events for the public to gain something from," Neal said.

Neal also says the group will be open to anyone from any major and academic discipline, and all are encouraged to attend the interest meeting.

"This organization is open to all majors and all students, not only African-Americans, but there will be a focus on addressing the needs and wants of the African-American community first. We encourage people of all majors to join, that way we won't find ourselves limited in any way," Neal said.

If you are interested in being a part of YBE, there will be an interest meeting Thursday February 28 at 6 p.m. in room 375 of the African American Cultural Center. YBE also has an event scheduled the first weekend of the Pan African week.

what others think move us to the point of disturbance. As Minister Muhammed said, "We need more will, more faith, and more resolve that our efforts are not in vain." We should not waste our efforts trying to argue the validity of our struggle. As Black people, if we live our lives in a manner that distinguishes ourselves from the people around us, then our struggle will not be in vain. We should focus our efforts on each other, so that we can all move forward together. Instead of trying to influence those who insist on being ignorant, if we focus on influencing each other then we will plant the seeds today that will make our struggle victorious tomorrow.

U.S. News Brief Robert White

SALT LAKE CITY-

African American wins Gold

Vonetta Flowers of the U.S. bobsledding team was the first African American to win a gold medal in the Winter Olympics. Her and her teammate Jill Bakken completed their track run in one minute and 37.76 seconds. Flowers called the victory "a dream come true."

Flowers, originally from Birmingham, Alabama, was once a track runner. After several difficulties in track, Flowers decided to do bobsledding. This is the first time in 46 years that the U.S. has won a medal in bobsledding.

Currently Flowers is an assistant track coach at UAB. On Wednesday, the city of



Flowers celebrates after winning the Gold
Chung

Birmingham will present Flowers with a key to the city and hold a parade in her honor.

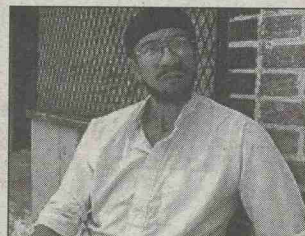
ATLANTA-

Jury Chosen in Al-Amin trial

The jury members in the Al-Amin trial have been chosen. This jury consisting of nine African-Americans, two White women, and one Latino-American will decide the fate of Al-Amin. Judge Stephanie Manis found the jury somewhat racially "skewed" because of the absence of white males from the jury.

Prosecutors and the defense rejected the white men they interviewed because of their views on the Black Panther Party and the death penalty should Al-Amin be convicted not because of race. The jury selection was

one of the largest jury pools in Atlanta history. This selection, which took more than 10



months, interviewed at least 1,500 people. Al-Amin, formerly known as H. Rap Brown is on trial for the murder of a Fulton County Sheriff's deputy and the wounding of another deputy two years ago.

MISSISSIPPI-

Judge approves Settlement for Alcorn, Jackson State Universities

After 27 years of fighting a federal lawsuit, the case is finally over. Jake Ayers, the father of a black college student, filed a lawsuit in 1975 against the state government accusing the state of neglecting its three historically black colleges. The order comes from U.S. District Judge Neal Bigger, Jr. after lawmakers in Mississippi say they

would full fill the requirements

The settlement requires that \$246 million be paid to Alcorn State University, Jackson State University, and Mississippi Valley State University to strengthen academic programs. Seventy-five million dollars will go to capital investments for the universities. One hundred twenty-five million dollars will go to public and private endowments for the universities.

Though opponents of the settlement say they will continue the fight in court, many are happy with the settlement. Mississippi Governor Ronnie Musgrove praised the decision. The settlement will be paid over a period of 17 years.

Editorial, cont. from Page 8

anonymous letter sent to the Nubian this week, one student described her disgust for the arrogance of some African American students on campus. In another article by Decker Ngongang, the issue of the treatment of our women was raised. These are both issues that should be addressed, and may be even more important than the opinions of others that have created so much commotion.

But how can these issues be more important than racist sentiments expressed by students on campus? If we are ever to progress as a people, we can't let

Black History Month at State

Bobby Guthrie III

This week marks the end of another successful Black History Month here at N.C. State. Many events took place throughout this February in which many students had the opportunity to contribute to the celebration.

At the bookstore on Dunn Avenue, concerts and stepshows were performed by student organizations and sororities. At the African-American Cultural Center, guest lecturers such as Dr. Manning Marable

spoke on the importance of Black History Month and black heritage. Events like the African-American Quiz Bowl and the National African-American Read-In served as ways to exhibit the talents of this university's young black leaders. And just down the road, the annual CIAA conference began at the Raleigh Entertainment and Sports Arena.

Black History Month at State ended on Feb. 28 with a book talk by Anthony Groom author of his new book, *Birmingham*. The overall idea of events like these is to get students to realize that celebrating black history, culture and heritage is a year-long practice that goes beyond a 28-day period.

News

"Celebrating Black History Month 2002"

Get ready for March at the AACC

Bobby Guthrie III
Staff Writer

will host Heritage Lecture Series programs. On March 4, Charles Wadlington of N.C. Historic Sites will present the *Life and Times of Charlotte Hawkins*

the home of her ancestors. Each program will begin at 7 p.m.

The AACC will be home to the N.C. Storytellers Conference on March 16. This year's conference

Here's something to circle on your calendar. On April 25, the AACC will be home to the annual Ebony Harlem Awards. This event is a presentation of

New News TV program at State

Bobby Guthrie III
Staff Writer

"Focus: N.C. State" is the university's new TV news program. It was launched in early February and can be seen on Time-Warner Cable Channel 18 in Raleigh. The program is a monthly show that was produced by the university's Creative Services and News Services staff. Dr. Ed Funkhouser hosts the program and interviews the guests. Funkhouser is an associate dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Topics on the show consist of events on campus and deep looks at various departments and schools here at State. The first program dealt with a look at the biotechnology program at the university. There was also an interview with Gen. Hugh Shelton. Plus, State's ROTC program had a segment on the show. "Focus: NC State" airs at 6 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, and 3 p.m. Sundays.



The AACC Staff during a recent staff meeting discuss upcoming events and lectures

The African-American Cultural Center has events coming up in the new month in order to keep students involved. On March 4, 18 and 25, the AACC

Brown. Dorothy S. Redford will present information on the historic Somerset Plantation on March 25. The plantation was

honors Paul Lawrence Dunbar. The event will close with a public storytelling session featuring Granddaddy Junebug.

awards by the Society of African-American Culture to honor student leadership, service and academic excellence.

Chavis Muhammad cont. from Page 1

should not be just black students," Chavis Muhammad said.

Buskey, who was in attendance, said he appreciated Chavis Muhammad's support but said he couldn't criticize University administration as a whole.

"I can't condemn the entire administration but I will say that I am disappointed that this is something that we must fight for. If you say that you value diversity, then a racial climate survey is a logical step," Buskey said.

Vice Provost for Diversity and African

American affairs Rupert Nacoste, who was not in attendance due to a scheduling conflict responded to Chavis Muhammad's comments.

"Climate issues at a university are critical to understand and work on. But as Yogi Berra said, 'Everything takes longer than it takes. There are any number of issues related to diversity that are being worked on at any one time. Criticism that says we are moving too slowly is always worth heeding,'" Nacoste said.

Chavis Muhammad advocated many issues for students to get involved in, among them the U.S. Senatorial bid of Raleigh State representative Dan Blue.

"The fact that a black man even thinks about filling the seat of Jesse Helms is

poetic justice," Chavis Muhammad said.

Chavis Muhammad also spoke about his recent work in the Hip-Hop community. Recently, he has partnered with former Def Jam Records owner Russell Simmons in holding "Hip Hop Summits," the last of which was held last month in Los Angeles. Chavis Muhammad is also working with Hip-Hop impresario Sean "P Diddy" Combs in an initiative called "P. Diddy reading gangs." These groups, sponsored by BMG owned Bad Boy Records, will reward youngsters in the "P. Diddy gangs" who read the most books. The groups will be started all across the country. Chavis Muhammad also said Bad Boy artists would begin to promote literacy in their songs and lyrics.

The Nubian Message



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Sports & Entertainment

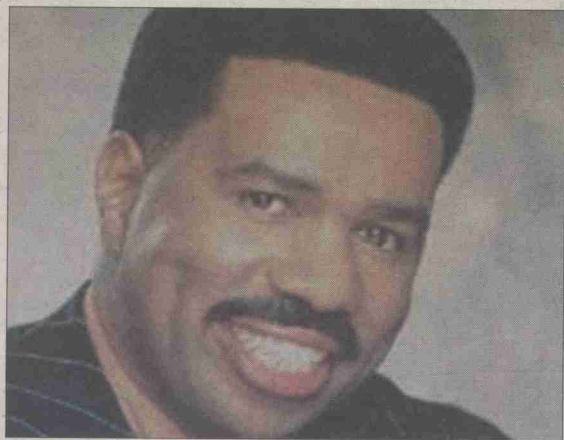
"Celebrating Black History Month 2002"

The Steve Harvey Show calls it quits

Troy Neal a.k.a. T-Nyce

This past Sunday was the last airing of *The Steve Harvey Show* on the WB. It has been the longest running show on the WB network. The WB has a high reputation for teenage drama

have a certain amount of dignity. I am not going to degrade myself." Harvey did previously have a sitcom called *Me and the Boys*. The show aired on ABC briefly before being taken off the air by ABC execs. The show had high ratings, ranking among the 25 most watched shows on television and portrayed a positive African-American father raising his three children after the death of



Steve Harvey, Cedric the Entertainer and the rest of the gang call it quits

shows such as *7th Heaven* and *Dawson's Creek*. *The Steve Harvey Show* has been on the air since August 25, 1996. It appeared on the very first day the WB network aired. The show was seen as a light comedy not really touching too much on deep issues but showing African-American adults in positions of influence within the community. Harvey is quoted as saying "The show was funny...I am proud of it. But we didn't break any new ground. We didn't make any statements." Harvey played a music teacher named Steve Hightower. The other three main characters were also African-Americans playing the roles of a teacher, assistant and principal. Harvey was ready to end the show last season but was persuaded to do 13 more episodes (one more season).

The Steve Harvey show has helped Steve become better known and also better able to promote his other projects such as the "Kangs," a.k.a. *The Original Kings of Comedy*. Harvey still wanted more from his show, "I don't believe in laughing at the expense of black people." Harvey also said, "I

his wife. But due to higher powers the show was taken off the air, as was Harvey's running mate D.L. Hughley's show. ABC cancelled that show despite it being the number one rated show on ABC. Harvey supports shows such as *The Hughleys*, *The Bernie Mac Show*, and *My Wife and Kids* with Damon Wayans. Even though Harvey is working within television, movies, and radio he still calls stand-up the centerpiece of his career. Harvey started out as the first host of BET's *Comic View* and has appeared on Russell Simmons' *Def Comedy Jam*.

As for his Steve Harvey's plans now, he is currently the host of a morning radio show in Los Angeles on "The Beat" 100.3 FM. Harvey says that radio is helping him do a lot more things within the community. He has what are called the "Hoodie Awards" for outstanding service in one's neighborhood. Harvey is good role model for young African-Americans, especially males, to look up to and possibly aspire to be like.

future, I would have to agree with that 65 percent. Just a few days ago, bobsled pusher and brakewoman Vonetta Flowers received the first-ever gold medal victory by a black person in the Winter Olympics. It comes as a surprise to many, however blacks have participated in this sport for over a decade. The first black Olympic bobsledder was for-

See Olympic on page 5

Olympic History

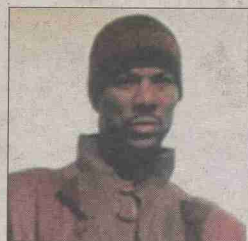
Carla Williams

A few days ago, a Web poll was posted, asking would African Americans ever dominate in the Winter Olympics. Nearly 65 percent of the participants believed that blacks would one day dominate in winter sports. If the display I witnessed last week was any indication of the

Names in the News

Carla Williams

Chicago-born lyricist Common and Dallas-based singer Erykah Badu are reportedly engaged, although there has been no date set. Badu recently played Common's love interest in the video for the "The Light." Soon afterwards, rumors began to surface that the two were involved in a romantic relationship. Common's label, MCA, told BET.com that they could neither "confirm nor deny" the marriage.



Common



Brandy

Just weeks after Brandy announced her marriage to songwriter/producer Robert Smith, the 23-year-old R&B singer has announced that she is pregnant. "We're so happy and excited," Brandy told EURweb.com. "I've always wanted children and I look forward to being a mom."

Basketball star Michael Jordan and his wife Juanita have decided not to end their marriage. You might recall that Mrs. Juanita Jordan filed a multi-million dollar divorce suit against Mike earlier this year, citing the usual "irreconcilable differences." Reports following the announcement define those "differences" as MJ's extracurricular activities with other women. Apparently, Mike somehow convinced Juanita to give big poppa one more chance.



Michael Jackson

Other Names in the News:

Former NBA star Jayson Williams surrendered to the police on February 25, 2002 in connection with the death of a limo driver at his home earlier this month. Williams was charged with recklessness in the shooting death of Costas Christoffi, the 55-year-old driver found shot to death at Williams' estate on Valentine's Day.

Celebrity couples have always had a hard time keeping the press away on their wedding day, but R&B singers Kenny Lattimore and Chante Moore managed to do just that. The pair secretly jumped the broom on New Year's Day during a private ceremony at the Grand Lido San Souci Resort Hotel in Ocho Rios, Jamaica. The couple vacationed in Jamaica following Lattimore's Dec. 28 and 29 concerts with the legendary Isley Brothers at New York City's Beacon Theatre.

Sports & Entertainment

"Celebrating Black History Month 2002"

"The Rosa Parks Story" - Movie Review

Keymia Sharpe



Rosa Parks

On December 5, 1955, a woman by the name of Rosa Parks sat down on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama. She refused to give up her seat to a white man and was arrested.

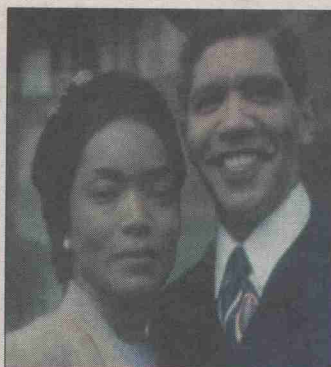
This arrest sparked the modern Civil Rights Movement. Her life has never been the center of a movie or a book, but we finally get to take a look into the life of Rosa Parks through this movie. *The Rosa Parks Story* (which aired on CBS on Sunday, Feb. 24 at 9 p.m. ET/PT) is an insightful biography of both the shy, quiet woman and the strong activist.

The movie begins in Rosa McCauley's early years as she is off to school while being watched by her mother (played by Cicley Tyson). Time quickly goes by, to 1931, as we are introduced to an older Rosa (Played by Angela Bassett). She meets her husband, Raymond Parks (Peter Francis James), in a barbershop while trying to avoid the rain. He instantly

falls in love and after finding out a little bit of information about her, sends her flowers every day. The two eventually become married and are happy until Rosa begins to become more active in Civil Rights issues. It seems to him that she has become too involved for her own good and the more dangerous it seems, the less supportive he becomes of her.

In 1942, a rainy Saturday evening, Rosa refuses to give up her seat in the white section of the bus. She is eventually forced to get off of the bus and has to walk home, in the rain. After meeting back up with her cousin, she becomes the secretary for the NAACP and takes on the task as Adult Advisor for the Youth Council. But one day we will never forget is December 5, 1955. Once again, Parks refuses to move from her seat, but this time, she is arrested. The Black community is outraged and the NAACP organizes a meeting to boycott the Montgomery bus system. This is the center of the story and the focus of Park's life.

The overall movie was one of the best made-for-TV movies ever. It wasn't overly dramatic, and it stuck to the actual portrayal of Mrs. Rosa Parks. Furthermore, a better actress could not have been selected to play the role of Rosa Parks. Angela Bassett also played the famous Tina Turner in



Angela Bassett and Peter James as Rosa and Raymond

What's Love Got to Do With It, which won her a Golden Globe and an NAACP Image Award. She's also played exceptional women in *Malcolm X*, and *The Jacksons: An American Dream*. When asked her overall view of the movie Bassett stated, "I think [the movie] stays pretty close to the story. If anyone was a very reasonable, reserved and calm individual it was Mrs. Parks." Rosa Parks is a person full of compassion, gentleness, and possesses a quiet, yet strong spirit. The story fit her well and it is wonderful that Mrs. Parks had the chance to be honored before she passed unlike so many others.

Olympics cont. from page 4

Semer sprinter Willie Gault, in the Calgary Games of 1988. Prior to the Calgary games, the United States as well as Great Britain began to recruit African Americans and people of Caribbean heritage to participate on their winter teams. I'm pretty sure we all remember the Walt Disney movie, *Cool Runnings*. This movie was loosely based on the emergence of the Jamaican bobsled team in 1988. The "Cool Runners," facing national humiliation finished with one of the fastest starting times recorded in the event. Within a few years, the United States, Britain, France, and Canada had well-stocked their teams with black sprinters. By the Nagano games in 1998, black bobsleders were a common sight at the Winter Games. The presence of African Americans in the 2002 Salt Lake City Games was perhaps the most memorable than all of the others. An African American woman won the first gold medal and an African American male won the first silver medal and both in Black History Month. I don't think it could get too much better than that. It may take a while for blacks or any minority to fully dominate in the Winter Olympics. Minorities populate less than one percent of the population where winter games are practiced. However, it is very clear that we are present and succeeding. "To win a gold medal for your country is awesome," stated Flowers. "I hope it encourages African Americans to give winter sports a try." I hope so too.

One Man's Trash...

is Another Man's Treasure

Andrew "2-3" Seed

What do you do with a person you give a multi-million dollar contract to that isn't satisfied? You trade them, which is exactly what happened to a number of big name players in the NBA last week. Critics will argue for hours on end about who got the better deal and so forth, but these are the facts. The two major deals that got everyone's attention were the Chicago to Indiana and Dallas to Denver deals.

It is well known that Nick Van Exel has wanted out of Denver for months now. So much so that he was even willing to forgo the last two years of a contract that would pay him \$26.5 million! Plain and simple, he was just tired of losing. He finally got what he wanted and was traded from Denver to the West-leading Dallas Mavericks. Even though his playing time will be slightly less, he has a chance at a championship. Players often say, as they get older it isn't about the money, and they just want to win. Let's hope this was the case in his predicament because \$26 million is a lot of money. Two years ago Indiana was in the NBA finals and Jalen Rose was hailed as the golden child. But now he's playing for the Chicago Bulls. Internal

See NBA on Page 7

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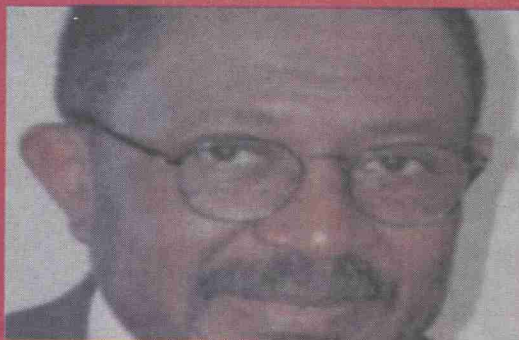
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Jihad Jingoism Live

Post-September 11 Reflections on Muslims, Americans and Homeboys

- White House Correspondent for the *Final Call* Newspaper, the official publication of the Nation of Islam
- Traveled to more than 60 countries with the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan after the Million Man March



Askia Muhammad

Exploring Islam & The Muslim World
Wednesday March 6, 2002 @ 7:00 pm
Poe Hall, 216 Auditorium

<http://www2.ncsu.edu/chass/mds/aas.html>

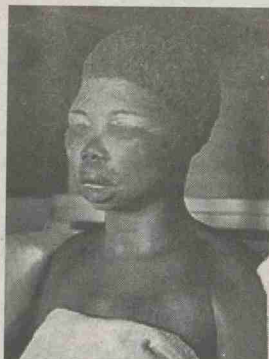
Culture & Arts

"Celebrating Black History Month 2002"

Hottentot Venus Returns to South Africa

-Keon Pettitway

After nearly 200 years parted from South Africa, Sara Baartman, historically known as Hottentot Venus, returns to her true resting



place. The South African government persistently demanded the French government to return Hottentot Venus to South Africa after unsuccessful negotiations with the French government.

Sara Baartman, originally from Eastern Cape in South Africa, was a member of South Africa's first aboriginal people, the Khoisan. Baartman was a slave in the Western Cape capital of Cape Town, where British Marine Sergeant William Dunlop persuaded her to move to England in pursuit of fortune.

Dunlop deceived Baartman, and showcased her unusual physical characteristics (according to European standard). Baartman possessed large buttocks and large genitalia, which caused excitement and wonder among Europeans.

Dunlop noted Baartman as the "Hottentot Venus" when she paraded naked in front of numerous London residents. Robert

Wedderburn, a Jamaican anti-slavery

activist, demanded the British attorney general to cease the humiliation of Baartman. Wedderburn's efforts were fruitless due to the fact that Baartman indeed had a contract with Dunlop.

Baartman was transported to Paris four years later and exposed in peep show under the rule of a French animal trainer. After the Hottentot Venus became overrated, the French animal trainer abandoned Baartman and she was forced into prostitution. Baartman died at the age of 25 due to alcohol and possibly sexually transmitted diseases.

Napoleon Bonaparte's Surgeon General, Georges Cuvier, created a plaster cast Baartman's anatomy, preserved her genitals in formaldehyde, and gave her remains to the the Musée de l'Homme (Museum of Mankind). Baartman's remains were hidden from the public eye and was kept concealed. Few people have had the privilege to view Baartman's remains since their removal in 1976. Zola Maseko, co-producer and director, "The Life and Times of Sara Baartman," viewed Baartman's remains after they were cast aside in museum storage.

In 1994, Nelson Mandela, president of South Africa, consulted with Francois Mitterand, the President of France, and posed the issue to Mitterand. The French failed to respond, and Khoisan groups persistently campaigned for the return of the remains of Sara Baartman.

In 2000, Minister of Foreign Affairs Alfred Nzo and Minister of Arts and Culture Ben Ngubane regenerated the request from the South African government for the return of Baartman. The French Senate finally voted return the remains of Baartman to South Africa.

Baartman never had a proper burial, and her remains were kept in jars and displayed at the museum. The Khoisan nation plans to bury Baartman's remains in the Cape Gardens, near the symbolic landmark of her trials: the Cape Town harbor.



Art from the John Biggers Art Gallery in the African American Culture Center

New Books in the African American Cultural Center Library

Aaron Henry: The Fire Ever Burning
Author: Aaron Henry

Bombingham
Author: Glenn Askew

Carry Me Home: Birmingham, Alabama
Author: Diane McWhorter

How To Make Black America Better
Author: Tavis Smiley

Church Folk
Author: Michele Bowen

Church Folk
Author: Michele Bowen

AFRICAN PROVERBS

There are 40 kinds of lunacy, but only one kind of common sense.
-African Proverb

He who does not know one thing knows another.
-Kenyan Proverb

Landmarks in Black History

1870 Congress passes the Fifteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, guaranteeing the freedpeople the right to vote.

1880 Angelina Weld Grimké is born in Boston, MA. She will become a poet and playwright whose drama Rachel will be one of the first plays by an African American to be staged.

1923 Dexter Gordon is born in Los Angeles. He will become a major jazz tenor saxophonist.

1942 Charlayne Hunter-Gault is born in Due West, SC. She will become the first African American woman admitted to the University of Georgia and the creator of The New York Times Harlem bureau.

1964 Anna Julia Cooper dies in Washington, D.C. Holder of a Ph.D. from the Sorbonne, she was the principal of Washington's famed M Street High School.

1965 Malcolm X is buried in Ferncliff Cemetery, Hartsdale, NY.

1988 Debi Thomas becomes the first African American to win an Olympic medal in the Winter Games as she takes the bronze in figure skating.

What's On Your Mind?

Racial discrimination has proven to be a leading cause of misconception among various groups. Racial discrimination is commonly prevalent in the workplace, social groups, etc. College students fall victim to racial discrimination from faculty, staff, and other students. Do you believe that racial discrimination toward African American students strongly exists at North Carolina State University?



"I think we would all like to think everything is okay and that racism no longer exists. Recent events and comments shows that there is still animosity and prejudice, but it is not as bold."

-Keith Gray



"Racial discrimination exists towards African Americans, but it well hidden. Historically, institutionalized racism is more visible, but the effects are felt every day. An example of this [racism] is when you're in class listening to your professor lecture and he refuses to answer your questions, or let you respond due to the fact that the response refutes everything mentioned in the lecture."

-Birnetiah Killens

Point of View cont. from page 8

oped during the Civil Rights Movement and is used by businesses to increase diversity.

Even with Affirmative Action, the playing field is still very much in favor of White males. Minorities and women are still in lower paying jobs and are still confronted with active discrimination in most areas. Even in this situation, a female of the lighter majority would more than likely be hired for the job over someone like myself. With or without Affirmative Action, America will still be the same, to put it bluntly, a white man's world. Minorities would probably still be on the bottom of the totem pole as far as things such as employment and college admissions are concerned. So, since the American promise is that by law each of us should have an equal opportunity to achieve success in life, how about allowing us minorities the same opportunities as everyone else?

Heartfelt, cont. from Page 8

all black males and for that I am sorry. However, judging from the emails I have received from other women, the actions of "a select few" black males that harassed my little sister and harass women throughout this campus go a long way to stereotype us as well. We are few on this campus, in the classrooms and in the yard; our actions should be to lift up not break down. In my article I meant to lift up but subsequently tore down those brothers who have utmost respect for women and themselves, my apologies. I will continue to hold each of my brothers to the same standards at which I hold myself.

I thank Harold, Robert, Curtis and the other brothers and Greek organizations that came and spoke to me to voice their concerns about my article. Without them, I wouldn't have known better. I will keep writing and I hope you keep reading. I hope my literary gaffe doesn't turn you off to reading my work. My words were ill-timed and not well thought out. In one of my articles, I called for critical consciousness, and in a couple strokes of the keyboard I violated it. I hope you understand the true meaning I wanted to convey and forgive the recklessness with which it was written.

Marable, Cont. from Page 1

The Dr. Lawrence Clark Lecture is an annual intellectual forum named after the longtime N.C. State Africana Studies and Math professor. The lecture is designed to represent the ideals and values for which he stands. Dr. Margaret Burroughs, Haki Madhubuti and Dr. Ivan Van Sertima are among past Clark lecturers.

Drive, Cont. from Page 1

small, a group like SABSW is ideal in order to provide a platform for black Social Work students to develop community service programs that meet the needs of our community," said SABSW member Natalya Rice.

Currently, the group is planning a drive to collect used prom dresses and suits to donate to high school students who may not be able to afford expensive dresses or suits for their senior proms.

Jackson says if they drive is successful over the next week, the group may extend it on a limited basis after Spring Break.

NBA cont. from page 5

bickering between Rose and legendary player Isaiah Thomas led to the trade. Since December Rose's playing time has decreased as well as becoming the second and third option on the team. Team president Donnie Walsh stated that Rose was not on the trading block. But he was sent with Travis Best, Norm Richardson, and money to Chicago for Ron Artest, Ron Mercer, Kevin Ollie, and Brad Miller. The Bulls got a proven scorer and leader for a very young team. The Pacers got some much-needed muscle in the frontcourt.

The Mavs got a much-needed scoring punch in their push for a playoff run, and the lowly Bulls have won three straight. But only time will tell who got the better of the trades.

Mavericks	Nuggets
Nick Van Exel	Juan Howard
Raef LaFrentz	Dondell Harvey
Tariq Abdul Wahad	Tim Hardaway
Avery Johnson	1st Round Pick
Bulls	Pacers
Jalen Rose	Ron Artest
Travis Best	Ron Mercer
Norm Richardson	Brad Miller
1st Round Pick	Kevin Ollie

To Whom It May Concern...

Najja Baptist

I am writing to address the severity of problems that have been recurring throughout the duration of a Law and Justice course I am taking. Within the last two weeks I have experienced so much hostility that it has really been disrupting to my life. Generally, my Political Science classes are based on debate, theory, and exploration of ideas and ideologies, and we have persuaded each other in these areas. Even though it is the intent of this course to explore these areas professionally, there is an absence of a very important element: Respect. The absence of respect in the context of understanding other people's ideas and ideologies has really affected my focus and perspective of this political science class. On February 19, 2002, these elements came to a point of outrage and disgrace beyond measure.

This dilemma was manifested through a Caucasian female who used very explicit and extremely derogatory language and behavior, which should not be tolerated. The behavior of my fellow classmate was a violation of my natural born rights. This matter started that morning at 9:40 a.m. as I entered the classroom. There were a few students within the class reviewing our readings for our class discussion. When I sat down, an African American female asked me about my position on the issue of Lincoln's view on slavery. Our discussion began prior to the professor entering the classroom. As we debated in a very formal and dignified manner, we progressed our conversation to the issue of the struggles of the Native Americans and Africans (via the Middle Passage). By this time, the other students had entered the classroom but the professor had not arrived. The African American female student argued that the Trail of Tears of the Native Americans was equivalent to the Slave Trade that brought captured Africans to America. The African American female and I eventually decided to agree to disagree.

By this time, the professor had arrived but had not formally started the class. He stood in front of the class observing and listening to the African American female student and I debate at a reasonable tone. I argued that the Native American struggle,

even though being the very first group discriminated upon by English settlers, was not as severe as the African destruction. At this time, the class that included approximately eight African Americans and 70 Caucasian students went into an uproar and said I was wrong. I ignored these comments and continued to elaborate my points on this issue because I was having a one-on-one conversation. Behind me and to my right sat a disrespectful Caucasian female student who screamed I was wrong. I then turn around to face and speak to her. She continued to be very vocal and abrasive in her tone and actions. With her loud tone and the loudness of the class I had to project my voice in order to be heard by her and the other students. My personal one-on-one discussion had turned into an informal class forum.

She continued stating that I was wrong and when I addressed my opinion that this whole country was built on lies and based on hypocrisy she became infuriated and went out on a tangent. She said she was "Irish American and she had nothing to do with slavery." She continued to say that her ancestors were a part of slavery and not herself. She further stated that I was not a slave or in slavery, so I should not be worried about it. I then elaborated on the point that there is no chance for African Americans in this country and that this American society is corrupt. Before I could finish my statement she said, "Well why don't you just go back to Africa."

In all my years of attending NC State University, I have never been so humiliated and outraged by such evil and racist comments. In response to her I said, "No, I will not," as I slammed my hand on my book and turned to the professor. At this time the professor looked at me and said "We will have discussions in this class, but they will be civilized debates," as if to say I was the one who was acting uncivilized.

After this happened, the class was filled with a lot of tension but we continued as if nothing happened.

Throughout the duration of the class I tried to ask questions and make statements but both the professor and the students thrust my questions and comments aside with neglect and ignorance that I have never seen or heard of in my entire life. Even though the professor called on me to

ask questions, he and other students said I had no basis for my argument. At one point the professor refused to answer my question stating; "The class had already previously discussed that issue when you walked out of class last week." (I walked out of class when the students and professor treated me rudely while I voiced my opinions by trying to keep me from speaking.) We ended class early as the professor handed out our papers. As I waited after class to speak to the professor about this matter, there were a lot of students talking about the same issues that I had discussed with the African American student before class. I stayed after class and spoke to other African American students about these issues until the professor was able to speak, but due to the fact I had another class immediately following this class, I went back to my room to review my work for my English class. Then as I walked out of the door, my professor said, "Najja...good questions." He didn't say anything about the injustice that had just occurred in class.

I am uncomfortable in the environment that has formed in my Law and Justice class. I think that these issues of racism and many others can no longer go ignored on this campus, especially in a class that deals with Law and Justice. This is a learning environment that I expect to be challenging and to challenge new ideas and ideologies freely and fairly. If a man is to be judged by others because of his personal views about his own heritage then he may as well be judged by the color of his skin. It has occurred to me that racism exists because of ignorance, white privilege and power, and the fear of being challenged. People are afraid of what they don't know and new ideas, "The world is round but we still live in the square." It is sickening to me to think that those who are not African Americans expect African Americans with an opposing view to keep their views private and not expose them publicly. Their view is that African Americans should be seen and not heard. Whenever racism or slavery is mentioned publicly, Caucasians expect African Americans not to respond to these issues. I hope that the present problems in my Law and justice class can be solved in the interest of all of the class members.

Opinions

"Celebrating Black History Month 2002"

A heartfelt retraction

Decker Ngongang

Sometimes anger can cause many emotions, some of level head, and some as irrational as the things that make you angry. Today I write to apologize for my own irrational reaction to an irrational action. I have been writing for the *Technician* for about a year and a half and have written on countless subjects. Last week I wrote about the sexual harassment of my sister, and my feelings on that. The focus was on black males and their participation in this, though the issue stretches across all racial lines. I have been speaking with many of my friends and agree when they state the irresponsibility of the words I used.

I made generalizations that weren't meant to generalize, but were understood to represent the entire African American male community. I have spoken to friends such as Harold Pettigrew as well as other males on this campus that have verbalized that this isn't the norm I portrayed it to be. I was mistaken and can only voice my apologies that my words weren't meant to harm, only a rash reaction taken without deep thought.

In light of the things that have taken place at the *Technician*, my article was even more poorly timed. I don't take back the emotions behind what I said, but I take back the irresponsible manner in which I voiced them. As we have seen in the African American community, the pen is a mighty weapon. My colleague Darren

O'Connor uses it to speak of things he claims to fully understand. He in his writing states so much more than the statistics he quotes. He says something about the African American community, that something I don't believe he understands. In a way my article was no better than his, making generalizations with far reaching implications.

I wanted my article to provide a heightened sense of awareness on campus with regards to the way we treat the women around us. I spoke to black males as a black male but in writing the article I left too much room to generalize that the issue is central to black males. I felt violated by my own people when my sister came to visit and I unjustly transferred that anger towards my pen.

I won't let go of the issue, however. I continue to walk on this campus and witness blatant sexual harassment on the part of all racial groups. I touched on my specific experience because it is what brought the issue home for me. I take back the poor literary tactics I used, but I won't take back the critique of the male chauvinist-dominated environment in which we go to school. There needs to be an effort not to only recognize the problems but to do something about them. I am working with the Office for Equal Opportunity to do just that. In addition, my recent involvement with AMANDLA has given me a renewed sense of acting on that which I critique.

My actions in writing my *Technician* article went a long way to stereotype

See Heartfelt on Page 7

A woman's point of view

Keymia Sharpe

The recent articles published in the *Technician* by writer Darren O'Connor seemed to cause quite a stir on campus, especially among the African-American community. Although my fellow staff writer TJ Eatmon did an excellent job in counterpointing this article, I feel there were a few things missing. We all saw an African-American male's point of view on this topic, but I would like to share views from a female perspective. TJ wrote about how he felt and I wouldn't try to oppose his views on how African-American males are treated as far as Affirmative Action is concerned. How could I write about something I have no clue about? I am a Black woman, which brings me to my first point.

Mr. O'Connor, how can you write about something that you have no idea about? How many times have you been in a setting where you were the only one of your race and overlooked because of it? You may have experienced your own version of discrimination from time to time, but nowhere near the level of the African-American race. One comment that caught my

attention was when you stated that "If [employers] want to hire minorities that are not as qualified as whites who are applying, that is their right." With an adequate amount of research, you may discover that Affirmative Action was made to benefit White females first, and then minority women and men. In addition, Affirmative Action was not meant to be based on quotas nor give preference to people who aren't qualified for a position over those who are. If that was the case, a company could easily be sued for discrimination.

Also catching my attention was the statement, "What about the argument that Affirmative Action is owed to blacks? The institution of slavery existed in America for over 200 years. Yes, there has been discrimination against blacks and other minorities since the abolition of slavery. The point is that slavery was abolished." The Emancipation Proclamation was only developed to save the Union. If it could have been saved any other way, I'm sure slavery would have existed longer than it did. Furthermore slavery has little to do with Affirmative Action. As stated before, it was devel-

See Point of View on Page 7

A Growing Racial Climate The Nubian Message Weekly Editorial

"Never let anything or anyone stand in your way. The worst thing is to live your whole life and not realize your God given destiny." - Minister Benjamin Chavis Muhammed Tuesday night at Talley Student Center

"I wanted my article to provide a heightened sense of awareness on campus with regards to the way we treat the women around us."

"The absence of respect in the context of understanding other people's ideas and ideologies has really affected my focus and perspective of this political science class."

It appears that there is a growing climate of racial hostility surfacing on N.C. State's campus. Whether this is true for a few isolated incidents or for the entire campus, it is evident that there is an emerging mood of discomfort amongst many African Americans. As a result, there are a good number of students who are actively attempting to increase the awareness of the African American struggle. This disposition is readily detected in many of the Opinions columns printed this week. Although these efforts are very commendable, are we as African Americans focusing our energy in the wrong direction?

The uproar stemming from the notorious article recently printed by *The Technician* is not the only bout that students have participated in recently. Najja Baptist, in his article this week, describes a classroom

encounter that left him unable to focus in his learning environment. As a result, it is the understanding of *The Nubian Message* that there are meetings and possibly even sit-ins in the making. Once again, these efforts are very commendable, but is this energy misdirected?

It is very important that non-African Americans understand the issues that occur in our society that create an unbalanced playing field for minorities in our country.

However, everyone is entitled to their opinion and there are some opinions that no amount of education will ever change. Minister Benjamin Chavis Muhammed said in his speech Tuesday, "Many of us go to sleep amidst the storm of life." We should not waste our efforts trying to awaken these people if they do not want to be awakened. There is a revolution taking place in the African American community and simply because there are people who do not know what is happening or will not acknowledge what is happening does not make what will happen less true.

The change in the conditions of African American people must start within ourselves. What others think should not concern us as much as what we think of ourselves. In the See Editorial on Page 2

Speak!

Marsheda Barnette

Yet again, I will stress the fact that there is a very small percentage of African Americans on this campus. When I first arrived on campus during orientation, I was appalled at the sea of white faces and us looking like lost chocolate chips in the batter. So, since the ratio is so blatantly askew, why in the world do some of us act so stuck up toward our own people? I know that everywhere you go, there are cliques and entourages. But seriously, just because someone isn't the same type of person you are, doesn't mean you have to hate.

I understand that even though most of us are of the same ethnic origin, we come from many different backgrounds. Some of us came from NYC; some of us have lived in North Carolina all of our lives. Some of us have money; some of us don't. It is also understandable if you just got finished with that PY208 exam and you are just zoned out -- I, too, do this sometimes. However, are these acceptable reasons for us to be inhospitable? It is cool if you want to hang

around people with similar interests, but how can you broaden your awareness like that? I make it a point to have friends who come from different places and have different backgrounds and family structures. Through my friends, I have learned so many things about our culture; how we are all so alike, but yet so different. I used to always have a smile on my face and would greet, not only most of the Black students I saw, but students of every other race as well. For the most part, I got the same response: that ugly, "Do you know me?" look. I was raised to be friendly and warm, even to those who didn't like me. However, being here at N.C. State, trying to communicate and unite with my people has made me sour.

It is hard to swallow the fact that with us being the age that we are, we still stray away from people who look different than us. I thought that ended in middle school. If this offends you, I am talking to you, and I promise not to single you out any further. So, do us all a favor, instead of you walking around like the world owes you something, put a smile on your face. You never know who might be looking.