

the Nubian Message

Sentinel of NC State's African American Community Since 1992.

April 8, 2003 - April 21, 2003

Volume 10, Edition 16

TODAY

Opinion

Recent events have endangered the benefits of Affirmative Action.

Entertainment

If you haven't heard of Little Brother then get ready to receive an ear full from this N.C. hip-hop trio.

News

N.C. State students and faculty address controversial issues in "The Vagina Monologues."

WGO

What's Goin' On?

Student Elections

Don't forget to vote online for student elections April 7 and April 8 at <http://students.ncsu.edu/index.php>

Monique Greenwood

Monique Greenwood will speak at the Walnut Room of Talley Student Center on April 8 at 3:30.

ACAAGS Banquet

ACAAGS will have their 21st annual honors banquet on April 9 at 6 p.m. in the Mckimmons Center.

Vagina Monologues

The Vagina Monologues will be on April 15 at 7 p.m. in Stewart Theater.

Triangle Summit

There will be a Sports and Entertainment Summit on April 19 at the Durham Convention Center from 12-5 p.m. For information contact www.trianglesummit.com

Fire restrictions protect students

Mary Garrison

staff writer

While some students are busy discussing their GPAs, searching for summer internships, or looking for the next party, an important yet overlooked topic remains relevant to students' everyday lives - fire safety.

In January 2000, a fire set in a Seton Hall University residence hall took the lives of three students and injured 54 others. The fire spread quickly from the third to the sixth floor. Of the 54 injured students at the Seton Hall incident, the injuries consisted primarily of burned skin, and complications due to smoke inhalation.

Andrew Landers, former resident of Boland Hall, saw some women trying to escape from a window. "They were screaming and they were trapped," Landers said. "They looked like they had nowhere to go and they were hanging out the window because the whole floor that they were in was filled with smoke, black smoke."

Fortunately, N.C. State has not had any deaths resulting from fires on campus. That is due, in part, to the excellent Fire Protection Division on campus. Under the leadership of Fire Marshal Russ Bisbee and Deputy Fire Marshals Reno Vello, Billy Barnes, Brian Polk and Michael Fickel. The department's goals include preventing the loss of life and property at the university,



courtesy/Hummerbridge

protecting students, faculty, staff, guests and property during hazardous and life-threatening incidents, providing efficient and courteous response in emergency situations and promoting life and fire safety through awareness education.

For the prevention of fires, smokers who live in smoke-free dorms should never smoke in bed or near flammable materials. They should use ashtrays and ensure that ashes, matches and lit cigarettes are cold before disposal. Appliances should be attended at all times while cooking, and appliances should remain clean from grease and flammable substances. Circuits should never be overloaded with appliances, and damaged wires should never be used. Immediately replace damaged cords and wires. The use of candles and

incense is not permitted on N.C. State's campus.

A fire in 2001 resulted from the illegal use of candles in Berry Residence Hall. Fortunately, no students were injured. In case of a fire, sound the alarm to alert people in the building and surrounding areas. If a fire alarm sounds, everyone should evacuate the building immediately. Close all doors to delay and prevent the spread of the fire. If there is any smoke, crawl to prevent the inhalation of smoke and other harmful substances. Once you have exited the building the fire, do not re-enter. Contact Public Safety at 5-3333, or use a blue light emergency phone. For more information about fire safety on campus, visit the Fire Protection Division's website at http://www2.ncsu.edu/ncsu/public_safety/fire/.

Students, faculty and Raleigh citizens service community

Marcus Gibbs

staff writer

Over 2,700 students, faculty and Raleigh citizens saturated the brickyard early Saturday morning to give back to the community. Volunteers dedicated their day to community service at the 6th annual "Service Raleigh Day." The event pairs organizations in need of assistance with volunteers who are willing to give a helping hand in their community.

Service Raleigh was established in 1998 when the Parks Scholars and N.C. State's Student Government decided to co-sponsor it. It is normally held in the greater Raleigh area, however there is talk of it being a statewide program in the future. In its first year of existence, Service Raleigh had 600 volunteers and 20 partner organizations.

Now the organization is seeing the fruits of their labor as many people come to participate in the annual event in order to help their community.

On April 5, the site liaisons helped with the preparations of the event to before everything started. Afterward volunteers checked in at the N.C. State brickyard for security purposes. At 9 a.m., the event began with a kick-off ceremony. Volunteers headed for their respective work sites after the ceremony, and most arrived around 10 a.m. After making a good effort to help the community, the volunteers headed home at 3 p.m.

A little over 2,000 people volunteered last year to give five hours of work time to help improve their community. Their goal for this year was 2,500 volunteers for a total of 12,500 work hours.

The local businesses and individuals who make generous donations to support the event, keep the event going each year.

The organization has grown into a system of seven committees with each being headed by one to three people. The project chairs were Kate Dulaney, Allison Hauser and Daniel Pickett. The leadership of the event changes yearly in order to encourage new ideas and to give each year its own accomplishments and its own identity.

Each year Service Raleigh organizers supply the volunteers with free lunch and t-shirts. This annual tradition attracts more volunteers and gives participants something to remember the day with. Organizers of Service Raleigh hope the event causes participants to volunteer and help out with the community more often.

You take a bull by the horns and a man by his words. • Bantu Proverb

Department of Physics recognized for teaching excellence

N.C. STATE NEWS SERVICES—N.C. State's Physics Department is the recipient of the fourth annual Departmental Award for Teaching and Learning Excellence. The department will receive a one-time award of \$5,000 and a recurring addition of \$15,000 to their base funding, beginning next fiscal year. The funding can be used in any way the department chooses, in keeping with state spending rules, to support teaching and learning excellence.

The award was established during the 1999-2000 school year by former Provost Kermit Hall to annually recognize departments that foster "a culture that meaningfully values teaching and learning and thereby contributes to the quality of education experienced by our students." The departments are recognized for their accomplishments in undergraduate and graduate teaching and learning.

The Physics Department distinguished itself by being outstanding in the following areas: sustaining a commitment to the doctoral specialty in teaching physics, undergraduate research, National Science Foundation grants, ongoing assessment using instructional videos, student letters, teaching demonstration rooms, WebAssign surveys and feedback from the Department of Engineering, providing faculty development with workshops for faculty and utilization of Science House, providing resources for students such as the Physics Tutorial Center and connecting Research & Outreach with Teaching and



Department of NCSU Physics faculty

courtesy/NCSU News Services

Learning for the benefit of students.

An ad hoc committee selected the recipient. That committee was appointed from members and recommendations of the University Standing Committee on the Evaluation of Teaching, the Executive Committee of the Academy of Outstanding Teachers, the Faculty

Senate, the Student Senate and the Staff Senate.

This award is open to all academic departments within the university. Nominations must be made by the college, through the dean. For more information, visit www.ncsu.edu/provost/dept_awards/

The 2nd Annual African Diaspora Film Festival African Women & Film

FILM: Nasci Mulher Negra (I was born a black woman)

SPEAKER: Dr. Vania Penha-Lopes

Dr. Penha-Lopes is an assistant professor of sociology at Bloomfield College, NJ. Her research and teaching of masculinities, and social stratification. A native of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Dr. Penha-Lopes will present on the first African ABrazilian woman to be elected to Brazil's senate

Tuesday, April 15, 2003 @ 7 p.m.

WITHERSPOON STUDENT CENTER CINEMA
<http://www.ncsu.edu/chass/mds/AFSFilmFestival03.htm>

the Nubian Message

Sentinel of NC State's African American Community Since 1992.

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Only with the permission of our elders do we proudly produce each edition of The Nubian Message.

Dr. Yosef ben-Yochannan • Dr. John Henrik Clark • Dr. Leonard Jeffries • The Black Panther Party • Mumia A. Jamal • Geronimo Pratt • Tony Williamson • Dr. Lawrence Clark • Dr. Augustus Mciver Witherspoon • Dr. Wandra P. Hill • Mr. Kyran Anderson • Dr. Lathan Turner • Dr. M. Iyailu Moses • Dokta Tōni Thorpe and all those who walk by our side as we continue to make our journey to true consciousness.

Taboo subjects addressed in Vagina Monologues

Jennifer Chamberlain

news editor

RALEIGH, N.C.—N.C. State students and faculty will put on a performance of Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues" on April 15 in Stewart Theatre. Proceeds from ticket sales will go to N.C. State's Women's Center and the V-Day fund, which promotes global awareness of violence against women and children.

"The Vagina Monologues" addresses many issues women deal with regarding their genitalia both literally and figuratively, such as rape, hair down there, tampons and douches, sexual abuse, moaning and many other taboo topics. Some of the monologues are meant to be funny, some serious. One of the primary purposes of the show is to make women more comfortable talking about their vaginas.

"I was worried about what we think of vaginas," said creator Eve Ensler. "And even more worried that we don't think about them. [They are] like the Bermuda triangle—nobody ever reports back from there."

Because the subject was so scarcely addressed in our society, Ensler decided to interview women about their vaginas. Women from a variety of ages, lifestyles, occupations, races and regions were interviewed about a number of issues that are related to the vagina. From the women's responses, Ensler created



Participants of the 2003 Vagina Monologues

courtesy/The Women's Center

"The Vagina Monologues."

Ensler performed a one-woman show on HBO last year where she presented a portion of the monologues along with backstage footage. She now allows colleges and universities to perform the monologues during the V-Day campaign.

N.C. State has been involved with "The Vagina Monologue" project for three years. This year's performance will be one night only. Tickets are available at Ticket Central. Due to the graphic nature of the show, late seating will not be allowed.

Read More Nubian!



will make you smile!

You have the power to choose Affirmative Action or no Affirmative Action

Michael Hoyes
guest writer

If you are like most of the community in North Carolina, you are not aware the Supreme Court is in the process on deciding the constitutionality of having race-based policies within their admissions at the University of Michigan, which gives an automatic 20 points to minority applicants because they represent underrepresented groups. The outcome of this decision could either set the African-American minority society back 50 years or lead to further progression towards a colorblind society.

The importance of this decision does not need to be stressed, and yet those whom this will affect are not being informed. The case was heard on April 1, and there was a large march on the Supreme Court, organized by the NAACP, which had over 10,000 attendees all in support of affirmative action policies. All of this taking place, along with the "Day of Silence" when we all were to wear black on March 31, and the "Power of a Dollar" when we were to not spend any money on April 1 and yet knowledge of these events was very lacking. This was not the fault of the NAACP, who did everything in their power to make

sure the African-American community remained aware of this issue, but the fault of our media resources. It is the fault of our media, which chose to give continuous, live coverage of the UNC Chapel-Hill basketball coach being fired and the effect it had on their student population. Apparently it is more important to the North Carolina community to worry about the outgoing Tar Heel coach than the incoming social issue that will affect our children and grandchildren. Those who were trying to find information about the march and the arguing of the case, had to wait until 2 a.m. to listen to the case on C-SPAN or try to find information on the Internet.

Realizing that the media would not give coverage to the issues that directly affect the African-American community, students representing AMANDLA and the National Society of Black Engineers organized a rally from 12 to 1 p.m. on April 4, in which they spoke in favor of affirmative action policies. The purpose of the rally was to inform the N.C. State community of this current attack on affirmative action. Perhaps the most influential speaker of the afternoon was Norman Phelps, a junior in aerospace engineering, who delivered a passionate message to the crowd about how President George W. Bush had a mediocre aca-

demical record and yet was accepted into a prestigious college and a prestigious law school. He left the crowd with the resounding message echoing off the walls of the surrounding, that we should all remember which is to either "give me my 40 acres and a mule, or give me 20 points."

We as a people need to inform ourselves so that we do not allow the things that our parents and grandparents fought for to become lost for our children and grandchildren. There are many ways in which to educate yourself, one of which being to go to www.barn.com and reading about the issue. Then once you have gained the knowledge and can speak in an intelligent manner about the subject, educate your family and community. Knowledge is power and we must strive to become as powerful as we possibly can become. So chose not to lose the power to attend any institution of higher learning you want. Chose not to lose the power to work for any company you want. Chose to allow your children and grandchildren the same opportunities that you have. You can acquire the power. Chose to use it.

You don't believe in Affirmative Action?
send your thoughts to nubianinbox@hotmail.com

Conceptual existence theory and the power of your hand

Crystal Stallings

Opinion Editor

Webster's Dictionary defines existence as the state or fact of being, especially independently of human consciousness, the manner of being that is common to every mode of being, being with respect to a limiting condition or under a particular aspect, or a continued or repeated manifestation. Existing only in the grace of knowing that I can think independently of anyone else is a gift of free will. Existing with the renewal of knowledge and seeking to find answers to the mysteries that surround our life make it worth the while. Existing with the ability to realize that I not only live completely for me, but I live for the lives of the generations past. Living in the present because I am the completion of a dream, I thank God every day. Living as though I am a chain in a history of greatness is worth the struggles to make this life better and not complain with more fervor than it takes to change my pattern of 'living' in the bare existence of taking up space makes the journey sweeter.

What is it that we exist in the here and now? Is our existence based

on our moral values and actions? Is our existence based on the good and bad that we create as individuals? Who decides the true concept of just 'being'? I know I wonder if anyone will ever remember what I do or who I really am. I pray and wonder if my life has any real meaning. Do I just sit idly or do I change the way someone else views the world? Can I belong and still be unique, or does a society bind me in a sea of concepts of the norm and designated acceptable behavior?

Who would ever thought you could wonder what it is like to exist in the realm of reality? They always say you have that dash in between your birth and death to make a difference or accomplish something. Is it the remembrance that makes it something or the individual satisfaction of knowing that you did? I guess it really doesn't matter what you take to the grave but more what you left in the world. It amazes me that people are inherently born with the desire to be greater than a race, greater than people in a field of intellect, or greater than the God that created them. Greatness is from who benefits from the decisions that we make. I personally would like the satisfaction and peace of know-

ing that I have touched someone's life in secret than in the consistent falsifying glow of what other people think I 'ought' to be doing. It seems that we know longer care what we use our mind for but only for the greater revelation that other people will think us great and empowering.

I just want to know how when you accept the knowledge that you are a breathing ball of energy, you should use wisdom to recreate your existence into not merely existing but into manifesting. Energies of unconditional love, motivation, courage, ability, and acknowledgment of the world, but not ever completely living the way it teaches you to live builds the character that powers the line of ancestry to a greater power of temporal fulfillment. I exist yes in the here and now, but I also exist in the past and future. The seeds I plant now will be sown later in someone else, like those that were reaped in my being. The power of your black hand exists in the seed of knowing the meaning of your true purpose of living. A life that knows its existence looks forth to manifest its true identity in everything it touches and observes.

Do you know your history? Play The Nubian Message Black History Trivia Game!

Answer the following question and win a new book entitled **Race in the College Classroom: Pedagogy and Politics** (courtesy of Rutgers University Press). Send your answer to nubian_eic@yahoo.com or call 919.515.1468.

This former son of slaves was born in 1872, and later became a poet and writer. He published his first book of poems, "Oak and Ivory," in 1893, and his second book, "Majors and Minors," in 1985. He was recognized as one of the first African-Americans to convert the experiences of his people into forms appreciated by the masses.

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North Carolina-based trio, Little Brother, is on the rise

Keymia Sharpe
sports and entertainment editor

Little Brother, a group based out of Durham, N.C., is all about making it happen. Pooh, 9th Wonder, and Phonte, the group's members, first got together on N.C. Central's campus in August 2001. After vowing to help each other with their careers, the trio began to work to form groups such as the Justus League and the Organization (1998-2000). After receiving four mics in the "Source" magazine and going on a much anticipated tour, the group is out to prove a point: they aren't just a bunch of musicians doing North Carolina music.

9th Wonder, the group's producer and emcee, comments, "We're not just a bunch of country [people]. This is not the Dirty South, there is another side to North Carolina that people expect to see. We're just trying to shoe that there is another side to North Carolina than jumping up and down in a club and making a bunch of noise." The group describes their music as "Pre-1995 music" or "Life music." 9th elaborated, "A lot of people hear our stuff and say they're



Big Pooh (left), Phonte (middle), and 9th wonder (right) comprise the group Little Brother

courtesy/www.littlebrothermusic.com

conscious/positive but we don't talk about violence like other cats do."

They describe their music as something that everyone can live to. If you listen to the album, you will discover that the trio raps about what they can relate to in their lives. "It's not conscious. We rap about money even though we don't have a lot. That's why we call our CD 'The Listening,' so that you can listen to what we

have to say," remarks 9th.

While out making a name for themselves, Little Brother has had to confront some of the down sides of being in the music industry. One of the biggest obstacles that they have to face is traveling. The group believes heavily in family, which puts a strain on them. "Another thing is watching people change. You go through the trouble of trying to get people to buy your album when you're first trying to make it, but as soon as they see you on television, then they say you're big." Little Brother also cautions people against the record industry itself. "Industry people are shady, you have to watch yourself because it's so small."

Little Brother has previously done projects with Pete Rock and Jazzy Jeff, but hope to work with artists such as Jay-Z and 50 Cent, as well as Tweet, Missy Elliott, Jill Scott, and Bilal. For those who wish to one day make it in the music world, it is best "not to learn rap from 106 & Park. This industry is just like a fraternity; if you don't know the history, you're going to get [beaten]. Also, learn from the art form. Most importantly, just do you and they'll like you if they think your music is good."

T.J. Giwa

Babatunji Giwa, also known as TJ, is this week's student athlete spotlight. This sophomore from Edmond, Okla., is in a class of his own. He began his track and field career as a freshman running sprints. He placed 17th at the 2002 ACC Outdoor championships with a time of 10.96 in the 100 meters. Giwa also finished ninth at the 2002 ACC Indoor Championships with a time of 22.17 in the 200 meters. In January 2003, Giwa and the team traveled to UNC-Chapel Hill. Not long after, he placed seventh in the 200 meters with a time of 22.16 (February 2003). There, he placed 12th in the 200 meters with a time of 22.94. He also ranked 16th in the 60 meters with a time of 7.12. His collegiate best 200-meter time was when he placed seventh at Notre Dame with a time of 21.80. His collegiate best for outdoor 200 meter is 21.27.

A chat with the Elders

Round table discussion with two members of the Raleigh Community

Mr. Ricky E. Mangum
mortgage banker

Ms. Ruth McKeithan-Mial
retired social worker

April 9 @ 7pm
Multipurpose room AACC
Free, open to the public
Call 515-5210 for additional information

Sponsored by the African American Cultural Center, Amandala, and Knowledge Wisdom and Understanding

To try and fail is not laziness. • Sierra Leone Proverb