



# NUBIAN MESSAGE

Sentinel of the African-American Community

October 2, 2003

Vol. 12 | Edition 5

## Brookins: Africana Studies program faces uncertain future without MDS as home

**Aniesha Felton**  
NEWS EDITOR

With MDS slated to be abolished next year, the curriculum for which so many black students advocated will no longer have a departmental home. The entire Africana Studies program will become the purview of an office of the dean of CHASS.

"If we are relegated to a CHASS unit, it will be difficult for African Studies to move forward," Craig Brookins, director of the Africana Studies program said. "We are very interdisciplinary academically, but we want to be autonomous structurally," he said.

According to Brookins, the key problem with AFS not having a departmental home is that Africana Studies' faculty will be dispersed into specific CHASS disciplines rather than being grouped together as AFS faculty. The program's director Brookins, for example, will be considered a faculty member of

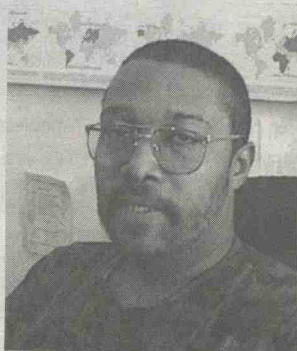
the psychology department and not AFS faculty.

"We are an academic area of study unto ourselves," Brookins said. "We incorporate all disciplines. History, psychology, anthropology, and English separately cannot promote the growth of Africana Studies by themselves."

When AFS is moved, it will not only lose its faculty, it would lose its autonomy, Brookins said.

"We believe in connectedness, but we also believe in the integrity of Africana Studies as an autonomous interdisciplinary curriculum," he said. "We won't be able to function as efficiently if we don't have a say on matters that concern Africana Studies."

African Studies, formerly known as African-American Studies began in 1988 as an effort from students and faculty to create a field of study that was more representative of the black experience. In 1997, the name was changed to Africana Studies



file photo  
Dr. Craig Brookins, AFS program director



file photo  
Shawna Daniels-Ash

because this new name, according to Brookins, was more reflective of the African experience throughout the world.

"You have to understand the atmosphere of N.C. State during the '80s in order to understand why we have this program, and what it's about," Shawna Daniels-Ash said. Ash played an active role in the movement to change the name

and focus of the program from African-American Studies to Africana Studies.

"African-American students were incensed — they didn't feel they were being represented or respected by the campus community." African-American students were graduating at lower rates than other students and the university

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## Minority Career Fair

all photos: Adam Altman • staff

snapshots from the floor



C.J. McBath shares resume with potential employer.



John Moore gives a job prospect the once over.

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## AKAs confront black family issues for 'Skee Week'

**Aniesha Felton**  
STAFF WRITER

"The African-American family is neither dead, nor dying, nor vanishing. Instead, the family remains a resilient and adaptive institution reflecting the most basic values, hopes, and aspirations of the descendants of African people in America."

Zaynah Williams, a sociology graduate student, used this quote from the book "Climbing Jacob's Ladder" to open a discussion about the African-American family and how to deal with its issues for an Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority "Skee Week" program.

Williams directed the discussion sitting in a circle of about 40 women and two men. Her central ques-

tions: what is family, and why are African-American families at a maximum point of danger. Williams also touched on the African-American value system, loss of community, and relationships.

When asked what is family, Bimettiah Killens, a junior in Psychology, replied that family is a foundation of who you are. "It sets your values and your outlook of the world," she said. Killens said that the family is one's comfort zone — a place where one can just "be," and still be loved and supported.

"Although we are 12 percent of the population, we are characterized as being poverty stricken, dysfunctional, and powerless families. It is believed that we are at a maximum point

of danger," a student said.

The perception that African-Americans are "losing the game before they even start playing" is what Williams defined as the maximum point of danger. Students suggested that another factor contributing to the dangers confronting black families is the growing trend of fatherless African-American households.

"Is this a situation that has always been part of the African-American family or is it relatively new?" Williams asked.

"Men in slavery fought to keep their families together — they understood the importance of unity, love, and a support system," she said.

She followed this com-

FAMILY see page 6

## Althea Gibson, sports pioneer, dead at 76

**Aniesha Felton**  
NEWS EDITOR

Pioneer and barrier-smashing tennis champion Althea Gibson died Sunday at the age of 76.

Gibson, the first African-American to play in a Grand Slam event, died from respiratory problems in East Orange, N.J., according to Fran Clayton, a friend of Gibson for 30 years.

Gibson dominated the tennis world in the late '50s, winning both the 1957 and 1958 Wimbledon singles titles. Gibson also won three more single titles, five doubles titles, and one mixed doubles title, for a total of 11 Grand Slams.

Venus Williams, two-time Wimbledon champion, released a statement about Gibson's death.

"I am grateful to Althea Gibson for having the strength and courage to break through the racial barriers in tennis. Her accomplishments set the stage for my success, and through players like myself, Serena, and many others to come, her legacy will live on."

Like Jackie Robinson, Gibson pioneered for African-Americans in tennis. She acknowledged her role as groundbreaker, but she always said she could never have done it alone.

"I always wanted to be somebody. If I made it, it's half because I was game enough to take a lot of punishment along the way and half because there were a lot of people who cared



Afro-American Web Ring

Althea Gibson congratulated after 1957 Wimbledon victory.

enough to help me."

In remarks at the induction ceremony in 1988 when Gibson donated her Wimbledon trophies to the Smithsonian, she said, "Here stands before you a Negro woman, raised in Harlem, who went on to become a tennis player — in fact, the first black woman champion of this world."

Gibson retired from tennis in 1958 and toured with the Harlem Globetrotters. After that stint, Gibson once again opened doors for African-Americans by integrating the LPGA tour. She played from 1964-1971.

Gibson was born Aug. 25, 1927 in Silver, S.C. to sharecropper parents. The oldest of five, she described herself as the most mischievous and "a born athlete."

Gibson won her first tournament at 15 and was named New York State black girls' tennis champi-

on. Her athleticism brought her to Florida A&M on both tennis and basketball scholarships.

Prevailing over many trials and hardships, Gibson finally played in Wimbledon in 1951. Five years later, she won the French Open and in the following year she won her Wimbledon's single title.

After an impressive two years in tennis, and an unimpressive seven years of golf, Gibson became New Jersey's commissioner of athletics in 1975.

Billie Jean King reflected on Gibson's importance.

"It was truly an inspiration for me to watch her overcome adversity and to see her never back down. Her road to success was a challenging one," said King, founder of the Women's Tennis Association. "Althea did a lot for people in tennis, but did even more for people in general," she said. — contributing wire reports

## AFRICANA from page 1

boasted an African-American population that was less than 10 percent of the student body," she said.

Ash said that academically, the Africana Studies program spoke to the entire academic campus about the concerns, plights, and history of African and African American people — a major issue for African-American students at NCSU for some time.

"The focus of the African-American Studies program, now known as Africana Studies, has always been to cultivate an understanding of the African and African-American experiences through academic course work," Ash said.

Ash added that with classes such as MDS 240 and 241, students are given a general understanding of African history, "from as early as can be told to fairly recently." Other courses that enhance understanding include topics such as African Religions, African-American leadership, African geography, and others. The program takes courses from across the campus to complete the learning experience — English, History, Psychology, Political Science, and Social Work all carry courses that fit into

the AFS minor and concentration curriculum.

Brookins says that once students have completed their minor in AFS, they will understand the African-centered worldview, the uniqueness of African and African-American culture, and understand the human experience by looking through the eyes of Africans.

"The black experience in America is as much a part of America's history as Columbus," Brookins said. "To have little focus on the African experience, to me, is a crime."

This lack of perspective causes students to have an inaccurate and incomplete understanding of America and the role that those of African descent played in helping transform this society to live up to the founding traditions of America, Brookins said.

While Brookins is somewhat concerned with how Africana Studies will survive its "rainy period," he is extremely concerned with AFS receiving some respect.

"We see ourselves as important and unique to the university, we just want to receive the same respect that other disciplines on campus do," he said.



## NUBIAN MESSAGE

Sentinel of the African American Community

372 Witherspoon Student Center  
Box 7138 NCSU Raleigh, NC 27695

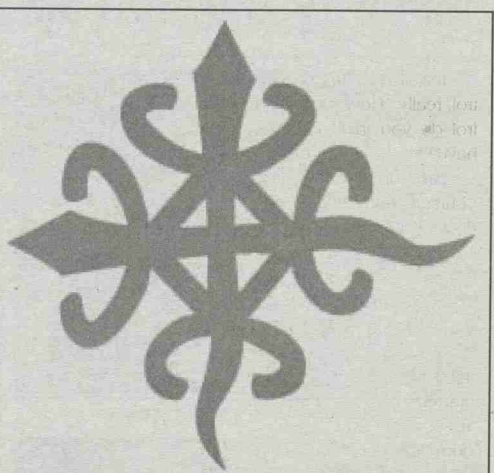
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Aniesha Felton	NEWS	Johnathan Brunson	OPINION

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INQUIRIES/FEEDBACK [response@nubian.sma.ncsu.edu](mailto:response@nubian.sma.ncsu.edu)  
WEBSITE [www.nubianmessage.com](http://www.nubianmessage.com)

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### FUNTUNFUNEFU-DENKYEMFUNEFU

Also known as the siamese crocodiles, this Adinkra symbol depicts a two-headed crocodile sharing a common stomach — a symbol of unity in diversity. It serves as a warning that infighting and tribalism are harmful to all who engage in it.

A symbol of unity in diversity, democracy, and the oneness of the human family, the symbol represents a desire for oneness despite cultural differences.



## Control and love lead to self respect

**Lakesha Parker**  
SPECIAL TO NUBIAN

Everything that we do in life boils down to one or two things: choice and control. As humans, we naturally seek to control everything we possibly can. It's an inborn instinct we often don't even think about, but we do it automatically without even wondering why we do it.

We send our children to school so they can get more education, and hopefully so our children will learn how to control their behavior. We raise our children so they can be responsible for their actions, and so we can control and manipulate their behavior.

We are taught that we should control our behavior if we want to stay in the good graces of society and the law.

We are taught that we should remain in control of ourselves. Also, we seek to control one another and manipulate things or others so we can satisfy our thirst for control.

It's all a matter of control, really. How much control do you think that you have?

Are you able to control yourself, and respect others? Or do you find yourself being subject to uncontrollable outbursts of embarrassing behavior that you wish to change?

I was reading something the other day, which started me to thinking. Yeah, started me, because I don't like people to know that I think sometimes. Somehow, if I do, then people will try to play me with more responsibilities, which I have probably at some point tried to avoid. Just kidding.

Anyway, back to the control thing. We as humans allow other people to control our feelings, emotions, and behaviors.

We alone can choose how we react to what other people have done.

One way to break out of the cycle of letting people control your actions, behaviors and feelings is just to unconditionally love people. It's really not that hard to do, despite how rare it is to hear this subject. But, think about it. By choosing to love people regardless, you have learned to control yourself. That is, you have broken the cycle of letting others choose your reaction, and determine how you are going to react. You have saved yourself a lot of trouble. People who choose to unconditionally love have realized the importance of self-control. They have realized that, while they do have emotions, the most important part of those emotions is properly handling them.

Controlling yourself is hard work, no doubt, but loving is easy. Think about it. Hate requires so much energy. First of all, you have to have a reason for hating somebody. Then, you have to remember that you have someone that loves you.

Loving people is really simple. All you have to do is love in spite of.

It's that simple. And you know what? It's easy too. It's as simple as making a choice and saying, "You know what? This is my life. I choose to love people just because."

Doing so will allow you to be respectful of others feelings. Sometimes we don't know what a person has been through that day. They may need to vent, while they do not need to be venting at you. When the person has calmed down, you can approach them and tell them that you did not appreciate what they did.

## Oil and Bush don't mix



**Johnathan Brunson**  
OPINION EDITOR

Sen. Bob Graham (D-Fla.) in the Sept. 22 edition of Newsweek magazine said "it's not just [a question of] whether the Bush administration is getting Iraq right, but whether Iraq should have been invaded at all."

I don't think Bush should have invaded Iraq at all. The United States doesn't help any country unless the United States is getting something out of that country; this, I believe, explains why Bush is so hesitant to contribute to the effort to aid the people of Liberia. The United States will get very little in return from Liberia. Bush ordered soldiers sent to Iraq not because he intended to liberate the Iraqi people, he sought only to overthrow Saddam Hussein and take Iraq's oil.

We've heard the pervasive argument that Bush only went into Iraq to take its oil, but there are much more important issues that need to be addressed aside from its oil. Every assumption the Bush administration used to justify this second war with Iraq conflict has turned out to be false.

A Sept. 24 U.S.A. Today article outlined Bush's central justifications for war as being Iraq's possession of weapons of mass destruction, and its links to terrorists. There have been no weapons of mass destruction found and Bush's so-called purpose for war was a lie. President Bush should have bluntly told U.S. citizens that his desire was to send soldiers to Iraq to get oil for the United States, home of capitalism.

The easy capture of Saddam Hussein was never accomplished. Saddam is still at large and Bush no longer mentions him in public, or in any of his speeches concerning Iraq. How can Bush justify defeating "terrorism," if he has not caught Saddam the "terrorist?"

The claim that the war would be short

was a false prediction. Bush promised that this war would be a go in and get out situation. Unfortunately, this was not the case at all. Jack Biddle III (R), an Alabama state senator, commented, "I just don't know when we'll get out of Iraq, that's what worries me."

The U.S. media portrays the people of Iraq as being happy that the United States came to liberate their country; the news shows Iraqi people smiling and young children happy to shake U.S. soldiers' hands.

The United States tries to play the hero in this situation, but there are always two sides to a story and I would like to tell Iraq's side as I know it. Not everyone accepts the U.S. presence there. "There are at least 15 different groups in Iraq against U.S. presence," according to Iraq insurgency expert Professor Ahmad Kashim of the U.S. Naval War College. "These groups all share one goal: to get the U.S., as an occupying power, to leave, and allow Iraqis to govern themselves."

I was watching World News on television and I saw Iraq's side of the story for the first time. During my study abroad trip to Ghana this summer, I had the opportunity to speak to a female U.S. Reserves soldier about what life was like in Iraq. She told me "the people in Iraq are going through and living in hell." I understood exactly what she meant when I saw on World News the many churches, schools, homes, and villages burned down by U.S. soldiers during this time of war.

The U.S. media does not show this side of war in Iraq or tell us how many innocent Iraqi people died during this so-called time of "liberation." The United States is quick to give the number of U.S. soldiers killed, but there is never a comment about how many Iraqi soldiers were killed. I don't appreciate the fact that the United States uses the media to always make our country look like the good guy and all other countries look like the bad guys. If we are really the "land of the free" and we believe in the "equality of all people," how about people of other countries getting some of that same respect in their treatment by America?

opinionated? tell us about it.

op-ed@nubian.sma.ncsu.edu

919.515.5478



## 'Silent killer' breast cancer a concern for men and women

**Jonica Rowland**  
STAFF WRITER

Breast cancer is a silent, aggressive killer in the African-American community, and you are your own best defense against it.

Results from a study published in "Estrogen, Breast Cancer and Black Women," indicate fewer African-American women are diagnosed with breast cancer, but when it is detected, it is often more aggressive. From 1973 to 1995, the breast cancer death rate for black women increased 19.4 percent, while for white women it decreased 7.1 percent - the mortality rate for black women was nearly three times that of other ethnic groups.

Some scientists have theorized that lack of treatment is responsible for the disproportionate death rate among African-American women. Others have

argued that minority women face cultural issues that might influence breast cancer outcomes. The majority of scientists have agreed that the continuing increase in the high death rate in minority women is partially attributable to biological differences in hormones such as estrogen receptors that contribute to how fast breast tumors grow.

Denise Hicks, of the Breast and Cervical Control Program in Wake County, explained that locally 49 percent of African-American women age 50 and older, according to a survey the program conducted, had had screening mammograms within the past two years compared to 59 percent of white women. Hicks said that black women are also more likely to be diagnosed at a later stage of breast cancer.

CANCER see page 5

## Keep your wallet healthy

**A. Michelle McLean**  
MBS EDITOR

Worried about your monthly car payment? Can't get your mind off those credit card bills?

Well, you are not alone. With the economy slumping, people are sinking deeper and deeper into debt in record numbers every day. What's even more agonizing is the dread of having to begin paying back student loans before the ink on your diploma has even dried.

What many of us don't know and we're never told is what could happen to our credit rating if we don't pay those loans back consistently and diligently.

Because most student loans are, for the most part, guaranteed by the Federal Government, serious consequences await those who demonstrate problems or negligence in repayment. The collection agencies contracted by the government to harass delinquent debtors usually employ aggressive tactics to get the money they're owed. In order to protect yourself from this potentially serious action, it is important to be aware what could happen if you don't plan well how you're going to pay off your debt.

The number one thing you need to watch out for when you start paying loans back is missed or erratic payments. Credit companies keep track of not only how much you're paying each time you write a check, but also when you pay, how regu-

larly you pay, and whether you've ever paid late. Writing that check a month or three late more than once or twice could destroy your credit rating.

In addition to getting a poor credit record, collection agencies could also garnish your wages. By doing this, collection agencies are guaranteed repayment of what is owed by way of subtracting monthly payments from whatever you earn per month. When this happens, your ability to afford payments and live off what is left does not matter to the collectors! Other repercussions include lawsuits brought against you by the government, harassment by collection agencies, exceptionally high interest rates, and revocation of your driver's license as well as any professional licenses those loans may have originally paid for.

To avoid the troubles of problem credit or to salvage your credit, there are several options to consider. The most popular solution is debt consolidation. This method allows you to make one simple payment once per month while eliminating the stress of dealing with maintaining monthly payments for multiple accounts. Consolidation also helps in completing your repayment in a set period of time. Other ways of recovering from credit woes are engaging in a debt management program, completing a needs assessment, restructuring your budget, and negotiating with the proper agencies to come to a mutually satisfactory payment arrangement.

### EDITOR'S COMMENTARY

## Why we must stay abreast of health issues



**A. Michelle McLean**  
MBS EDITOR

Because October is Breast Cancer Awareness month, I feel it is imperative that the Nubian Message provide as much information as possible about this issue that affects so many African-Americans in many diverse ways.

As an African-American woman, I strongly believe the African-American community should be well educated about the various afflictions that claim the lives of thousands of us each year. Among these, culprits are health problems such as cancers, heart disease, various sexually transmit-

ted diseases and related illnesses. If only we were better aware and more conscious of what we are up against, what the risks are, and how to prevent and protect ourselves from them, the numbers listed in the annual statistics would go down, even if just by a little.

According to the American Cancer Society, approximately 1.3 million Americans will be diagnosed with cancer in 2003. 132,700 of these new cases will be African-Americans, and 61,000 are expected to die.

Breast cancer, in particular, is the most common cancer among African-American women, and it accounts for 31 percent of all African-American cancer cases. Of all cancers, breast cancer is also the leading cause of death with an expected 2,000 deaths - 19 percent of those diagnosed are expected to die.

It is these numbers that give me pause. It is these numbers, ladies and gentlemen, that should draw attention and spur action.

This is why I'm taking it upon myself to make sure that the Nubian properly informs all who will listen by spending several editions discussing breast cancer in the Mind Body and Soul section. By doing this, we hope to contribute to opening our readers' eyes to an issue that is serious and consequential to our community.

In succeeding editions, you will find articles that will provide basic, yet essential information that, while it may seem like common knowledge, is brand new to many people. For those of you who are up on your breast cancer facts and data, please, read anyway as you may stumble onto something that is new and enlightening.

MBS plans to address other,

more complex issues associated with breast cancer such as the relationship between breast cancer and obesity, breast cancer's connection to stress in addition to breast cancer in men. Yes, men can develop breast cancer as well. So, for the guys that have been negligent in reading articles that seemed only appropriate for females and the feminine point of view, now's the time to get with the program and start reading.

Finally, I cannot stress enough the importance of becoming and staying informed. We only get one body, and I think we should do everything we can to know how to protect it. This means that we should continually be at the top of our game when it comes to being aware of the obstacles and issues that may endanger us, be they health related or no.

# Be aware, be very aware: STDs on rise, college students key risk group

 **Davin Van Eyken**  
STAFF WRITER

Sexually transmitted diseases are on the rise in North Carolina.

Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority sponsored a sex education forum last Tuesday night to discuss the ramifications of this touchy subject.

The program was lead by peer educator Tanya Bass who specializes in the study of sexually transmitted diseases. Bass started the program by telling students that there are over twenty-two sexually transmitted diseases.

"No one is immune to possibility of contracting a deadly disease," she said. "Students have been getting infected at alarming rates."

She said some diseases may go unnoticed for extended periods of time. "It's important for African-American students to be informed about what the diseases are and how one can be infected," Bass said.

Bass said college students' rates of infection are rising.

STDs come in the form of bacteria, viruses, and parasites. The bacteria are curable and include diseases such as chlamydia, syphilis and gonorrhea. Bass went on to describe certain aspects of the most commonly known STDs.

Most bacteria can be eradicated if caught soon after infection. Viruses, on the other hand, are treatable but not curable, Bass said. Well-known viral STDs include: HIV, HPV, HSV, and Hepatitis A, B and C. Medicines are available to stop the progression and proliferation of these viruses if they're caught early. Parasites transferred sexually are scabies and crabs.

Viruses and bacteria can be transferred through regular sex, and some parasites can be contracted through the skin.

Most sexually transmitted diseases are spread through bodily fluids. Blood, ejaculate, breast milk and vaginal fluids are common carriers of infectious viruses and bacteria. HPV and HSV can infect the body through the skin and

would appear in the form of warts and cold sores.

Hepatitis-A is transported through fecal matter and spread from one person to another via the ingestion of fecal matter. Another way to contract HPV or HSV would be through anal sex or oral anal sex. Hepatitis-B can be found in the saliva and is transferred through the sharing of intravenous needles. Hepatitis-C is also found in bodily fluids and can survive outside the body for longer periods of time than HIV, which degenerates after it touches the air. Scabies and crabs feed off your skin. Scabies can be found under the skin and crabs are visible.

Symptoms of sexually transmitted diseases may be irregular discharge, abnormal urine coloration and painful urination.

"A man will know if he has gonorrhea or chlamydia because he would feel a burning sensation during urination," Bass said. Women may not know initially if they have contracted either of those diseases because they don't

exhibit any outward symptoms. Sores around the genitalia area also can be indicators of a sexually transmitted disease.

Bass said North Carolina now has of the highest syphilis rates in the country.

Syphilis in its first stage is in the form of a sore. In the second stage, it can cause hair loss and rashes to appear on the skin. Both stages can be treated, but the disease is incurable in its final stage and can cause a breakdown in the nervous system, heart and the brain.

Syphilis and most other STDs can be detected through a simple blood test; students must request an HIV test while being tested for other diseases, however. The Student Health Center conducts free HIV tests on Wednesdays, and charges \$20 for the test every other day of the week.

"Communication is important in relationships, and knowing your partner is a must for some kind of assurance that you're safe from disease," Bass said.

## CANCER from page 4

"There is no clear explanation for the later stage diagnoses," Hicks said, "but some black women do not have a regular source of medical care."

The elderly are at particular risk, Hicks said. "Women over the age of 50 have greater risk for developing and dying from breast cancer."

A balanced diet can help prevent cancer for those who are at high risk.

The American Institute for Cancer Research has published dietary and lifestyle recommendations studies have shown help reduce the risk of cancer.

- Don't eat more than 3 ounces of red meat (a portion roughly the size of a deck of playing cards) per day.

- Limit fatty foods.
- Avoid salty snacks, and use herbs and spices instead of salt as seasoning.

- Men should limit alcoholic drinks to two per day; women, to one per day.

- Do not eat charred food.

- Avoid being overweight. Limit weight gain during adulthood.

- Take an hour's brisk walk (or get equivalent exercise) daily.

"Fitness and Wellness," a guide Hicks recommends to at-risk women, suggests regular self-breast examinations in addition to yearly check-ups by a well-trained professional as good means of prevention through early detection. Self-breast exams must be done properly to notice any changes in the breasts, but they are no substitute for regular mammograms, and routine examinations by a physician, Hicks said.


October is Breast Cancer Awareness month, and even African-American women who have not yet reached the age when breast cancer becomes a significant concern to their well-being should be aware of and understand how the disease could affect their family members and other loved ones.

Your intervention might save your mother or grandmother or aunts life.

2003

## ESSAY CONTEST

# "FAMILY OF THE YEAR"

 (RELAX! IT ONLY HAS TO BE 800 WORDS)

**HERE IS YOUR CHANCE...**  
TO REALLY THANK YOUR PARENTS FOR ALL THEIR LOVE AND SUPPORT...

**NOMINATE THEM AS THE NC STATE 2003  
FAMILY OF THE YEAR!**

**RECIPIENTS WILL BE AWARDED WITH:**


- A \$300 gift certificate for books at the NCSU Bookstores for the spring semester.
- Tickets to Parents & Families Weekend, including invitations to attend "1964" The Tribute. "The #1 Beatles Show in the World" on October 31st and tickets to the NC State v. UVA football game and pre-game party, Saturday, November 1. (Up to 4 tickets will be awarded.)
- Hotel accommodation for Parents & Families Weekend (Up to 2 rooms), October 31-November 1.
- A commemorative plaque presented to you and your family Saturday, November 1<sup>ST</sup> during the NC State v. University of Virginia football game.

Applications are available in the Parents & Families Services Office, 3114 Talley Student Center, and on-line at [www.ncsu.edu/for\\_parents](http://www.ncsu.edu/for_parents).

**Applications are due Friday, October 10<sup>TH</sup>.**

For more information about the award, contact Parents & Families Services, 515-2441. More information about Parents & Families Weekend is available at [www.ncsu.edu/for\\_parents](http://www.ncsu.edu/for_parents)

Sponsored by the NC State Parents & Families Association.



**FAMILY** from page 1

ment by asking whether the changing situation of the family has resulted in a loss of community. Many responded that everyone, not only African-Americans, has become materialistic and individualistic. It was joked at the program that if a neighbor asked to borrow a cup of sugar, the chances of them returning the cup were slim.

Others responded that, particularly in the black community, there is a lot of competition. It was discussed how people are always trying to beat each other.

Faith Leach, a junior in communications, said it is this competition that has caused division in the African-American community.

"We let little things come between us and break us up," she said. "It started with the slave masters separating the light-skinned from the dark-skinned slaves.

"Masters knew that if he could divide the slaves on little issues, such as skin color, then he had power. Today it is not only skin color, but now it's with the way we speak, the way we dress, and the group (sororities and fraternities) we are associated with," said Leach.

The discussion then turned from community to relationships. Williams asked "are the pickings for good black men slim and are women too demanding, strong, and gold-diggers."

The topic of settling and being woman number two emerged. Many responded that African-American women sometimes settle because they feel they can't do any better, considering their options.

Males responded that women carry too much baggage into their new relationship and this puts a lot of strain on the relationship from the beginning. They also voiced that some African-American women come into a relationship looking for love that only a father can give. "I want to be your man, not your father," commented one.

The program concluded with two skits, one about non-successful fami-

ly members asking successful members for money; this spawned discussion about the responsibilities of the successful members to the family, and the second skit ignited a discussion on whether it is the teacher's fault if a child does not succeed academically or the parents, while also displaying a two-parent home that was more "dysfunctional" than a single-mother home.

"I thought the program went well," said Davida Jones, president of the AKA sorority. "It allowed us to evaluate our family structure. We have lost track of our values and we need to go back and see how we were raised; hopefully by doing this, we can raise our children by these old standards and which then could rebuild our families and the black community at the same time," she said.

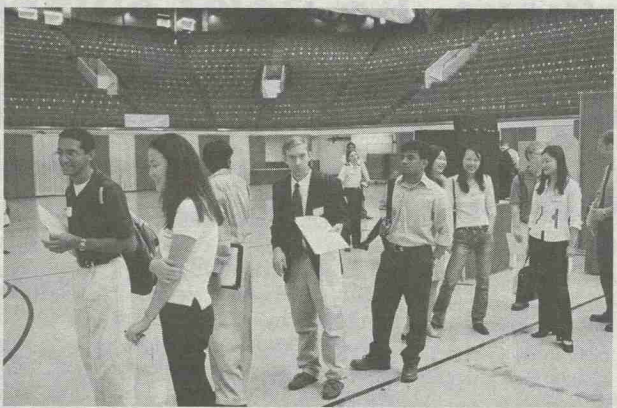
Cassandra Adams, a freshman in business management, found this program informative saying, "It inspired me to check myself and my standards."

Adams also commented that young African-American women should come to support events like these.

"N.C. State won't offer enrichment programs like these," she said. "I learned that there are good black men out there, it's just how you present yourself that will determine who you attract. Programs like these can teach young black ladies so much and we should take advantage of these events that supplement you mentally," she said.

Williams hoped the event let people know that the black family is not dead.

"The African-American family is strong, resilient, and has learned how to adapt to many difficult situations," she said. "Although we are very strong, we still have some weaknesses. By talking about our families and where they have come from, we can make an effort to change the wrongs and make an even stronger family. When it is all said and done, we only have ourselves to rely on in conquering this goal," she said.



Adam Ararian \*staff

Students wait in long lines for chance to talk with potential employers.



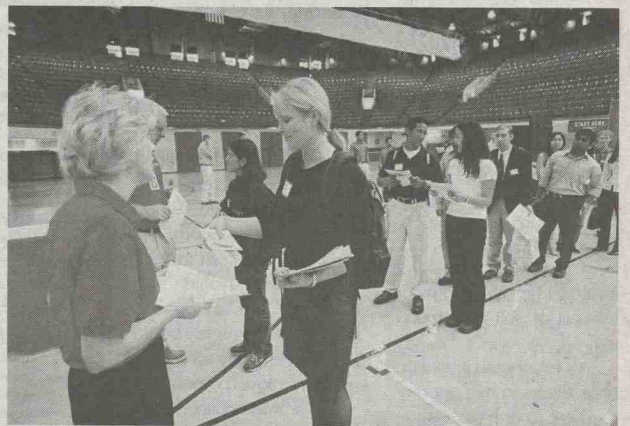
Adam Ararian \*staff

Hundreds of employment opportunities awaited intrepid students.



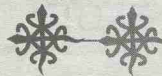
Adam Ararian \*staff

Making the pitch.



Adam Ararian \*staff

Questionnaires at the end of the day.



September 2, 2003 • Nubian Message

## SAAC advocates community service in first meeting

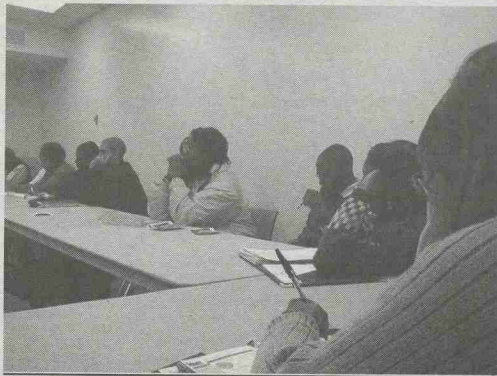
**Davin Van Eyken**  
CULTURE EDITOR

The Society of African American Culture opened its new year with a program on dedicated to getting students more involved in community service.

Ebony Ebron, a graduate student in higher education administration, opened the session with words of inspiration.

"Each of you have been give the wonderful gift of life," Ebron said. "Living for others is what life is all about."

She asked students to say self-affirming statements to introduce her topic of community service. Ebron told the students that community service makes an impact on them as well as the surrounding community.



Students meet in the African-American Cultural Center.

Ebron said there are different levels of community service. Active citizenship implies that African-Americans need to be informed on upcoming events and community issues. She talked about how state legislatures might not be receptive to the requests of students

because students don't vote on a regular basis. She said that being involved in community politics is an important part of practicing active citizenship.

"This is our time to develop our character, so we can serve well," Ebron said. Students' participation in service should be

thoughtful and meaningful.

According to Ebron, service helps a person gain depth of character. She said it's important to have a plan of action and goals while doing community service.

The second part of the program focused on a specific community service initiative, Harriet's House.

Ebron referred the general body to a representative from a program called Harriet's House. She closed her portion of the presentation by stating that students are capable of helping people get through their trials and tribulations.

Harriet's House is a local community service program that helps women who have criminal records get their lives back on track. The program finds jobs for women and helps them get integrated back into the

community; it even assists some women in buying a house.

Harriet House provides services for the homeless. It teaches people how to manage their resources by instilling values and instructing people on the basics of personal finance, balancing check books and spending wisely.

The organization helps children as well by providing enrichment through tutorial and mentoring programs.

Ebron chimed in to speak on the importance of positive black role models in the community. Harriet's House members said they need volunteers to participate in various activities.



### RESPECT from page 3

Screaming matches and cursing is not necessary. Nine times out of ten people will realize that they have been such an ass and they will come back and apologize anyway. Unless of course, they have no conscience.

The next time you feel like lashing back at someone, bite your tongue. Just keep your tongue from flapping. It really makes the other person look dumb if they are upset at you. Remember, it takes two people to hold an argument. You can save your hearing if you just walk away.

I know that nothing pisses me off more than people who sit there and just argue with you without allowing you a chance to say anything. They just cut you off before you say anything. When this happens to me, I just allow this person to rattle on because obviously they love to hear him or herself talk. So let them.

I know I have pretty much been steaming a couple of times, but I some-

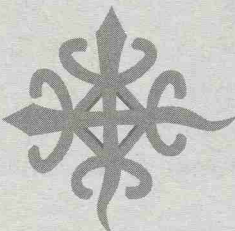
times marvel at my self-control. I have just stared at people sometimes when I knew they were clearly in the wrong because I knew that if I said anything I would fly completely off the handle.

However, there are other ways to let out my anger.

As we all go home this semester, I hope that we can take this to heart. The best gift that you can give your loved ones is unconditional love. Just walk up to one, and tell the person that you love them just because.

We often wait until it is too late to tell people that we love them. Don't allow yourself to wait until it's too late.

Questions? Comments?  
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172 Harrelson Hall

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