

# NUBIAN MESSAGE

Sentinel of the African-American Community

January 23, 2004

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## Bernice King, M.L. King's youngest child, urges campus to live with a purpose

**Jerry L. Blackmon II**

STAFF WRITER

It should be our mission in life to die empty, Bernice King, Dr. Martin Luther King's youngest daughter told a near-capacity audience in Stewart Theatre last Thursday.

"The richest and wealthiest grounds on the face of the Earth are not diamond fields and oil wells, they're cemeteries," she said. "So many people died with visions, dreams and ideas inside of them." "A tragedy," she said, because their deaths "robbed us of an opportunity to continue to be our best.

Living life according to a vision and understanding that we are all here for a purpose was King's prevailing theme.

"When I look at the world and the nation and consider all the turmoil between races and ethnicities, what I see is a bunch of folks who don't know who they are or why they were put on Earth," she said.

King believes everyone is born with a vision and life mission that they must accomplish before their time is up.

"Out of millions and millions of sperm you are the one who made it to Earth. You were destined to be

here, you are not here by accident," she said. So she challenged the audience to "be here on purpose. Before you got to this Earth, God had destined you for great things," she said.

But, she said, too many of us make the mistake of ignoring our mission and strive instead to keep things as they are. "Imagine if Martin King had become consumed with maintaining the status quo. We wouldn't be sitting here today," she said.

The principals of the Civil Rights movement were people who understood their life's mission, King said.

"The only reason that King was successful is because he lived on purpose. He lived according to the vision and the dream that God has placed in his heart. And each and every one of us has a dream that God has placed in us," she said.

"What if Rosa Parks decided not to stand up that day?"

"What if Martin King, on the night he was elected to lead the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, allowed himself to consider what this was going to do to my family? He was so focused on where he was going to that he didn't focus on what he was going through," she said.

"He didn't get caught up on what could happen to him, he focused more on what could happen through



Bernice King, Martin Luther King's youngest daughter, addressed a nearly full Stewart Theatre last week. She urged listeners to "live with a purpose."

Rob Bradley, special to Nubian

him," she said. "My father dedicated his life to humanity."

King said she was called to N.C. State because the community has gotten "off track."

"We have gotten caught up in the wrong things so that some of the injustices and evils of our time have

continued to overwhelm and overtake us," she said. "Somethings very wrong with a society that has become so engaged with reality TV shows," she said before rattling off a list of shows that included "Survivor" and

KING see page 2

## WHAT'S GOIN' N?

wgo@nubian.ncsu.edu

### SUNDAY WORSHIP

United Student Fellowship will hold Sunday service at 5pm in the Multi-Purpose Room in Witherspoon. Come out and worship with us!

### AIDS CAMPAIGN

Students Global AIDS Campaign will hold their first meeting on January 26th in the boardroom on the 4th floor of Tally at 6 pm.

### GOSPEL IMPACT COLLEGE TOUR

Sunday, January 25th, OneTem Internship Program will present Gospel Impact: College Tour 2004. The event will consist of an Apollo-style talent show followed by a full-blown gospel concert. Those in attendance will be the New Horizon's choir, One Accord gospel artist Koury Thompson, Ronald E. Avery High Steppers, and a host of others. Doors will be open at 5:30 in Stewart Theater. Tickets are \$5 with a college id and \$7 without. Call Ticket Central.

## Despite raise, lowest-paid employees say they are still near destitution

**Aniesha Felton**

NEWS EDITOR

Aug. 28, 1963 garbage men, custodians, and housekeepers were among the 250,000 fed-up, yet high-spirited, tired, yet energized marchers who trekked to Washington and congregated at the feet of Abraham Lincoln to hear orators advocate for jobs and freedom.

One of their six goals on that sweltering summer day was to make known that they wanted full, fair, and decent employment and wages for all. Forty-one years after the march and Martin Luther King's mythic "I Have a Dream" speech, housekeepers are still looking for the same thing, especially the decent wages.

"The wages aren't great at all, but what can you do?" asked one custodian. "We have families to support, so we have to suck it up and do what we gotta do to survive," the custodian said.

Each person interviewed for this

article requested anonymity.

N.C. State housekeepers and groundskeepers, an overwhelming majority being minorities, are the lowest and most underpaid employees at NCSU.

According to NCSU's Human Resources department, housekeepers have a pay grade of 50 — the lowest grade for employees. This score means housekeepers have a starting salary of \$17,692 and can earn a maximum of \$21,611. Groundskeepers fare better with a starting salary of \$18,418 and a maximum of \$27,278.

One housekeeper commented that it takes almost 25 years before most housekeepers can even reach their maximum.

The housekeeper also comment-

"Housekeepers don't mumble a single word about forming a union because nowadays it is almost a privilege to have a job, so they suffer through the mistreatment, long hours with damaging chemicals and sprays, and measly pay because some pay is better than no pay"

— Custodian

ed that it is due time for a raise because they haven't received one in three years, but that whatever they get, if they even qualify for the raise, will surely not be enough.

Gov. Mike Easley, at the

end of 2003, dedicated \$4.5 million to give employees like campus groundskeepers and housekeepers a small bump in their monthly paychecks.

This gesture, with a goal to make sure no one earns less than \$18,312 a year, is considered noble by housekeepers and others, but they say it is not enough.

"The money won't go far," Dana Cope, the executive director of the

HOUSEKEEPERS see page 7

## King challenges campus to fulfill father's dream

"American Idol." "What is wrong with us? Have we become so numb to life that we would prefer trivial pursuits? We can no longer allow ourselves to be engaged in trivial pursuits.

"One of the greatest tragedies of this generation is that we're trying to duplicate and copy other people," she said, and told the audience that there will never be another Martin Luther King. "Don't set yourself or your children up to be Martin Luther King Jr. because each one of them has a unique purpose, a unique design." She said that even though this generation will not produce a King, there will be scores of people who follow in his footsteps and emulate his beliefs. But what matters most is "how you contribute to the betterment of humanity. If that movement had not happened, where would we be today? Where would we be today if they didn't live on purpose?" she asked.

"It looks like during this time that some of the achievements, the advancements are being turned back ... the clock is being turned back ... and it suggests to me that many of us have lost the sense of vision and purpose for life," King said. "Racism is still present in our society, it's just a little more sophisticated.

"If you're here on this morning, you are not here by accident or coincidence. You have been drawn here by the power of God, and you will be held accountable for everything that will come out of my mouth," she said. "You are here on purpose. This is not an accident, you were brought here for a reason."

She challenged the audience to discover why they are here on Earth, and to understand that "life is not just about how long we live, but how well." Everyone wants to live a long life, she said, but is that making life on Earth any better? We only need to live as long as it takes to fulfill our purpose, she said.

"Can you imagine if we had a world full of people who got that? When I die, I have to die empty. We wouldn't have the fear of one another. I wouldn't have the fear of what you're doing. I wouldn't worry about you passing me on the corporate ladder. I don't have to hoard wealth. Because I know who I am. I know what I'm here to do. And I don't have to be threatened; I can let my guard down."

MLK died empty because he had nothing else to do, she said. He never stopped living on purpose "because of something that happened to him. Most of us stop living on purpose because of something that hap-

pened to us or that we're going thru, she said. "People say 'I don't want to go through it.' What if they [the leaders of the Civil Rights movement] didn't go through it?" she asked.

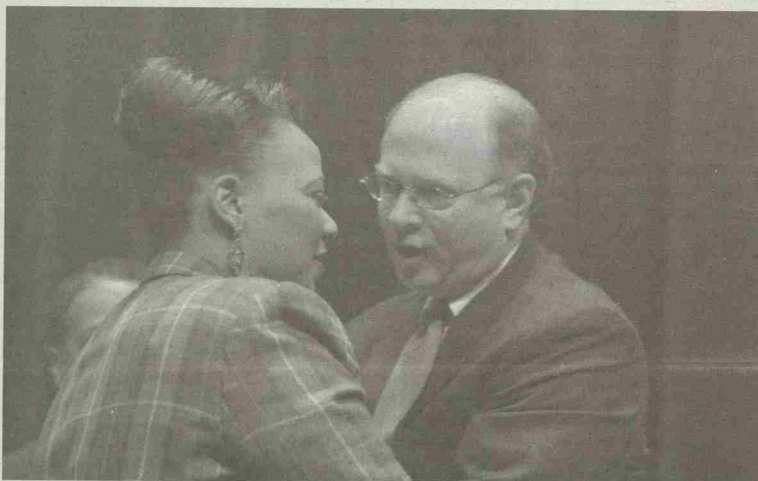
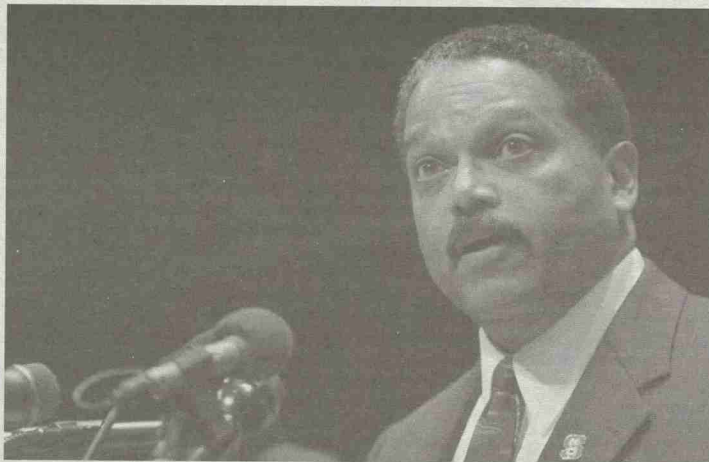
"Have we made as much progress as he was suggesting? Of course not," she said. "If most of us would wake up, dream again, find your vision and your purpose in life," then we would make strides toward achieving the dream.

"When you do that, you'll be in line with who MLK, a man who lived with a purpose," she said. "It's not about me. It's about my brother and my sister. It's about my children's children, it's about the next generation that's coming after me.

"If you get this, it will revolutionize this campus. They won't have to have arguments and discussions about race relations

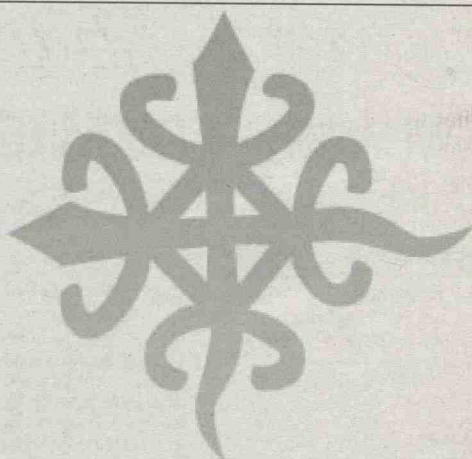
because they have come to accept who you are and they don't have to diminish you so that I can feel better about me," she said.

"Martin King is dead. Rosa Parks has less life in front of her than behind. The state of the world is in our hands. Will you opt to live in trivial pursuit or make the choice to live in purpose?" she challenged the audience.



Above, Vice Provost of Diversity and African-American Affairs José Picart introduces Ms. King. Below, Provost James Oblinger greets the speaker as she arrives on stage.

Rob Bradley special to Nubian



### 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.

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



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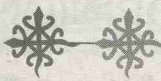
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Only with the permission of our elders do we proudly produce each edition of the Nubian Message.  
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# OPINION

# 3

January 23, 2004 • Nubian Message

## Make fee increases palatable

FROM THE DESK OF THE TALENTED TENTH

Last semester, the UNC System imposed yet another increase of \$300 per year in tuition for N.C. State Students. We've all heard and read about the complementary fee increases intended to pay for better gym facilities and expanded parking decks for students, but what about the food freshmen and unlucky upperclassmen are forced to choke down three times a day? If NCSU can make students fork over more and more money seemingly every semester, we deserve to be able to see and digest where that money is going.

In its dining halls, UNC-Chapel Hill has chefs, large glasses for drinks, Minute Maid juices, rotisserie chicken, and a larger assortment of quality foods available for students.

N.C. State often boasts of being the largest university in the state of North Carolina, but with all the fees we pay, we could at least get some better food.

NCSU should use part of this latest round of fee increases to bring in a third party to manage our dining halls. Indeed, perhaps students would be better served if the university were to explore contracting out campus dining services to a national buffet-style restaurant chain such

as Golden Corral to provide higher quality food to students than University Dining seems capable of providing.

Since students are required to pay so much money for a meal plan, we should be happy with our options when we walk into the dining hall. With Golden Corral running the dining halls, for example, we could have professional chefs who are paid to prepare fresh, well-cooked meals for us — people who are actually concerned about the quality of what they're cooking, compared to most cafeteria employees who are just passing time til their next check on Friday.

If NCSU can constantly tell students that our money is going toward bettering the university, then the administration needs to put our money where our mouths are.

If there is one thing all students on campus pay for and know the quality of, it is the food served at this university. If we are going to pay more money to attend this university, the least it could do is put a little extra effort into bringing our dining options up to the quality of our peer institutions.

## Society's focus on MLK masks others' contribution to Civil Rights movement

Joy Johnson  
COLUMNIST

I have come to the realization that Black History has been reduced to a short schpiel on Dr. Martin Luther King and a series of McDonalds commercials. In the shortest month of February, school-age children all over the United States are taught about the same, standard African-American figures for what amounts to about a half of a school day.

Consequently, all that our children are being taught about their own rich culture in the school systems can be summed up in about five pages and a coloring activity.

Sad enough there are many African-American families who have not taken the time to teach what has been ever so stealthily left out of the miseducation of the African-American child. What about the Barbara Jordans, the Emmitt Tills, the Ralph Ellisons, the Cornell Wests, the four freshman at North Carolina A&T, and even the Assata Shakurs without whom our children would not enjoy even the partial freedom that allows them the high privilege of tracing their pictures of Rosa Parks during Black History month.

I recently read the autobiography of Assata Shakur. Many of today's youth would see her name and won-

der if she was any relation to Tupac, not knowing that she was one of the most persecuted political prisoners in the history of the American penal system.

And for what? Freedom for African-Americans and prisoners. For you! Shakur was falsely accused, imprisoned, interrogated, beaten, tortured, starved, and deprived of medical care and all physical contact for months on end, simply because she was presumed to be a part of the Black Liberation Army.

The BLA in her time was separate from the infamous Black Panther Party, which she was actually a part of. It was presumed that she was a reactionary who fought the injustice against our race by killing state troopers and other whites in authority.

Shakur says she has never fired a gun. Due to her connection with the Black Panther Party and her assumed valuable presence in the BLA she was tracked by the FBI and accused of numerous crimes, the majority of which she was acquitted of because no physical evidence could even place a black female at the scene of the crime.

Still, she was accused of armed robbery, attempted murder, and second degree murder of a state trooper

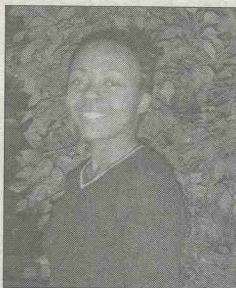
HISTORY see page 3

## Your Opinion Counts

AN OCCASIONAL FEATURE GAUGING STUDENT OPINION AT N.C.STATE.

What would society be like had Martin Luther King not been involved with the Civil Rights movement?

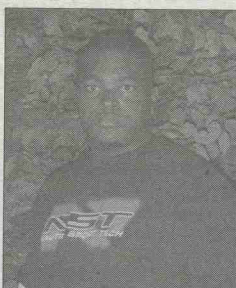
Was it necessary for Malcolm X to have been part of the movement at the same time as King?



Juwanda Alexander, 21  
junior, accounting

"If there had been no King, there would not have been a dream. We would not have a goal for equality that we now strive for, even though we still have not reached that goal today."

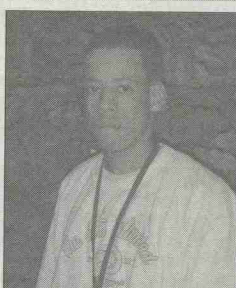
"It was necessary to have both together speaking on the same issue. It takes more than one voice for a nation of people to actually listen."



Erick McFarland, 19  
sophomore, mech. engineering

"There would be less unity between African-Americans. A lot of inspiration would be gone because he inspired a lot of people. There would be more racial tension than there is now in society."

"In situations like racism, there needs to be two people fighting the same fight together. With all the oppression Blacks were experiencing, it takes more than one to fight."



Charles Boler, 19  
sophomore, mech. engineering

"His protest was peaceful and radical and that is what brought us as the people together."

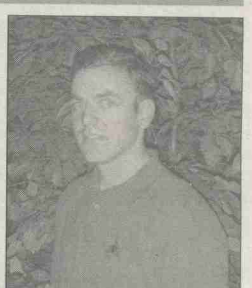
"I think so; the number of Malcolm X followers was amazing. His 'Any Means Necessary' belief let African-American people know we have to do whatever it takes to achieve this vision of equality."



Lisa McEwen, 19  
sophomore, biological science

"I think we would all be struggling for equality today."

"Yes it made a stronger impact because there was two fighting for the same purpose. If Malcolm X came about later than Martin Luther King, there would not have been as much of a strong impact on society as it was."



Nathan Hawes, 20  
junior, electrical engineering

"There would not be as many advances as there has been. He helped all people, all men and women, strive for equal rights. He helped all people. He was a way for some people to express themselves."

"No, because Malcolm X was the opposite of Martin Luther King in what he was trying to express. He was more aggressive in his speeches."

# Are we ready for a black president?

**Deandra Duggins**  
COLUMNIST

Its that time again! Elections are right around the corner and for the next 10 months or so, we are going to see ad after ad, commercial after commercial, and will get harassed on campus about registering to vote.

Usually I get annoyed by all of the hoopla surrounding presidential elections and I ignore them, but this year is a little more interesting to me. This year, two African-Americans candidates were in the running: civil rights activist Al Sharpton and former ambassador and ex-U.S. Senator Carol Mosley-Braun (D-Ill.).

Recently, however, Braun has opted to drop out of the race, but will continue to support former Vermont governor Howard Dean in his run for President. Nevertheless, the fact that she made the attempt will be just as significant. Its very obvious that we are making strides as a people and as a nation, but are we really ready for a Black president?

Early last March when I heard Sharpton was preparing to run for President, I was shocked and skeptical at the same time. When I think of Sharpton, I think of a man whose perm I envy and a man who is blatantly opinionated, but then I started to read information about his platform and campaign, and I realized that he is serious. Though I may not agree with his outlandish tactics and flights of fancy, I agree with his reasons for running for president. Although the likelihood of him winning the post is microscopically slim, it will be an added stepping-stone on the path Rev. Jesse Jackson began in 1984.

Rev. Sharpton said in his declaration speech that he is running to "revive and reclaim our democracy and to make America 'A More Perfect Union.'" He wants to "raise issues that would otherwise be overlooked — affirmative action, anti-death penalty policy, and African and Caribbean policy — and increase political consciousness and awareness." Even if he does not succeed at winning the election, if he succeeds at his minor goals, it would be as imperative. If more African-Americans were educated on politics, they would have no excuses when asked why they have not voted.

According to his personal website advertising his candidacy Sharpton said one of his motives for entering the race is "to provide voting rights or statehood for the nearly 600,000 disenfranchised residents living in Washington, D.C., the nation's capital. It is morally right, rationally sound, economically feasible, legally possible, and constitutionally permitted."

Well I am one of those "600,000 disenfranchised residents living in Washington, D.C." and have lived the fight for voting rights and statehood since I was in junior high school. Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton has fought this war for most of her career and continues to fight — she was instrumental in the struggle to pass legislation to



Former presidential candidate and civil rights activist Jesse Jackson.

change the slogan on D.C.'s license plate to "No Taxation Without Representation."

The fact that residents in D.C. have to pay state taxes when we are not a state is ridiculous. Moreover, the fact that we are the nation's capital and the most prominent symbols of democracy — the White House and the U.S. Capitol — reside in our city should make our vote significant in determining who the next president should be.

Even though Braun is currently out of the race, she had a strong platform. Braun announced her candidacy for the presidential election in a speech given at Howard University in September 2003. In her speech she said, "As president I will give you an America as good as its promise. I will reach out to bring us together to create an American Renaissance, revival and renewal ... I can fix the mess they have created, because I am practical, I am not afraid of partnerships, and I am committed to making the world better for our children." This is another strong platform that I agree with and stand by.

Braun expressed her thoughts on the war in Iraq and stated that she disagreed with Bush's actions, but since it is done we must support our troops. The war in Iraq was a war even "dubya" had no explanation for. This was a personal matter that began between his father and Hussein and he wanted to get revenge. That's the way I see it. Now that all of these reports are coming out stating that the Pentagon received information the night before the attack stating that Iraq wanted to work things out, Bush is looking more and more vulnerable to

blame. Braun has my support because of this very reason and is very qualified for the position, but America isn't ready for that.

America isn't ready for any minority — women, African-Americans, Latinos, Asian-Americans, etc — because people fear what they don't know. No one knows how things would turn out if a woman or an African-American were in office, so people are reluctant to make that choice.

America has been run by white men ever since we declared independence from England, so this is what we are accustomed to. Furthermore, African-Americans have many smaller steps to take before we see one of our own in the front office. How would we win over the Southern states, most of which still fly confederate flags? How will we win the votes of an entire nation when we can't win the votes of our own people? How can we win the votes of our people when most of us do not vote?

Although I support both of the candidates, the truth is inevitable. However strong my beliefs are in Sharpton and Braun's ideologies, I am well aware that there is no chance in either of them winning the 2004 election. I am not being pessimistic, I am being realistic.

Most people do not like Sharpton and disagree with the way he goes about presenting his beliefs. Most people will not tolerate a female having that much power because they feel females are incapable. The stereotypes that plague African-Americans — such as being lazy, debt ridden, and ignorant when it comes to politics — will be the very reasons why we will not see an African-American president anytime soon. I'm sure everyone remembers Cedric the Entertainer's scene in "Kings of Comedy" where he talks about how a black man would act in a press conference, inferring that African-Americans are defensive. Then he talked about the American debt, inferring that African-Americans are not good with money. Although these comments were just for laughs, but in a sense everyone holds these beliefs to be truths because of the evidence that is present today.

Before we see a black president, we have to work our way up. We already have African-Americans in Congress — fewer than we would like, but they are there. Colin Powell is a significant African-American, regardless of the derogatory opinions, Condoleezza Rice is a strong voice in government, and Eleanor Holmes Norton is a prevailing voice for the District of Columbia. But it is not enough. We all need to go out and vote. Even if you do not find yourself checking the box next to Sharpton, your voice makes a difference. We fought hard for the right to vote so we should take advantage of it.

I was too young to vote when Bush was elected, but I am legal and ready now. You better believe that I will utilize my power and you can catch me at the voting booth this November — in Washington, D.C., of course.

## HISTORY from page 3

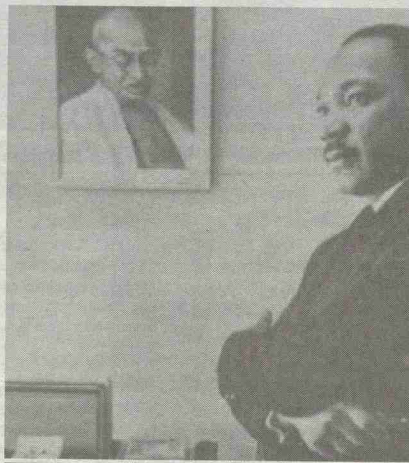
simply because the FBI wanted her to divulge information that would allow them to crush the liberation movement. Not to mention the fact that while in prison she was pregnant and was still put in solitary, chained to her bed and denied adequate milk and other dietary needs of a woman with child.

Her struggle is still our struggle, not only for the rights of African-Americans, but for those of women, of political prisoners, and for the rights of the oppressed. Although, many famous black political prisoners, inventors, scientists, doctors, lawyers, politicians, historians, writers, and visionaries have

been purposely left out of the history books, there is no reason for us as a community not to educate ourselves and our children. Not simply out of rage, but a hunger for the knowledge and freedom that these people were fighting for us to know.

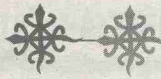
It has been said that our people perish because of a lack of knowledge and this is so true! Through their examples we can be inspired to keep the dreams of not only Dr. King alive, but that of Assata Shakur, Langston Hughes, James Weldon Johnson, Daniel Hale Williams, Toussaint L'Ouverture, Richard Wright, Charles Isbel, and many other Americans whose presence may be forgotten but their

impact is eternally felt. If you don't recognize some of these names, go find out — they may have begun a dream that you desire to fulfill. Take the initiative, learn who YOU are!



Nonviolent resistance.

courtesy African-American Cultural Center



## Self-Esteem *a major facet of beauty*

**A. Michelle McLean**  
MBS EDITOR

In the world, we are taught that beauty or being beautiful makes the person. Our society has set certain standards and stereotypes that many cannot live up to. Society considers tall, thin, and blond to be the gold standard of beauty. When we do not measure up to those standards, we are put over in the sidelines.

To avoid being ignored and put out of competition, we try our hardest to seek physical perfection, in turn to become a part of the in-crowd of society. We cut, pluck, tuck, and alter our natural selves to make others happy.

Unfortunately, the female body image has increasingly become one of the biggest issues facing young women. The way we perceive our bodies and ourselves is a crucial factor in the difference between a satisfying and confident lifestyle and a life spent disliking and resenting a body image that does not conform to someone else's standards of beauty. Body image could become the cause of some extreme personal distress, both psychologically and emotionally, even leading to trauma.

As the American standard of beauty becomes stricter and more demanding, countless women develop distorted images of themselves. The frustration it engenders results from distress over the fact that she has not achieved the ideal "figure." So many women today are so dissatisfied with their body size and shape that they feel they're being forced by society to go to great lengths to develop and maintain that "ideal" body.

Extreme dieting, for instance, has become a vehicle for female self-esteem, self-worth, and self-control.

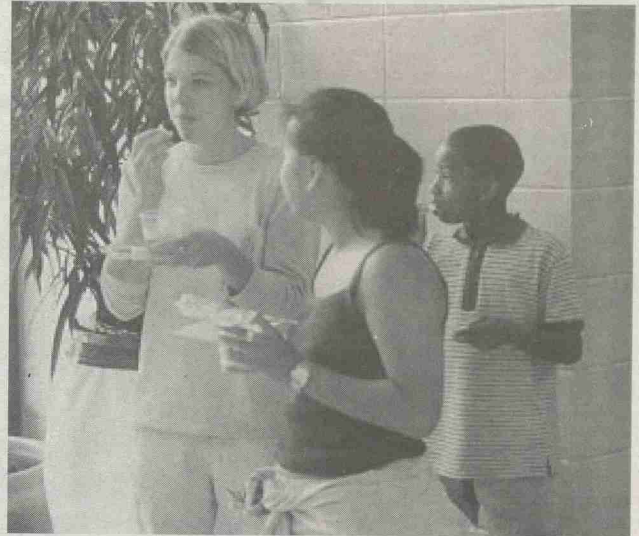
This type of dieting may reflect America's cultural norms that imply women who eat less and weigh less are more feminine and attractive. Societal influences and expectations, especially from the media, are constantly reinforcing those norms.

In the media, the superthin models, the phenomenon of the multimillion-dollar diet industry, and the overabundance of women's magazines are continuously being shoved in the faces of our society's females. These things play a key role in perpetuating female anxiety, putting a damper on females' self-esteem. The influences and expectations greatly and negatively affect the female body image, our perception, and feelings about ourselves.

We as women should remember that it is not society's happiness and approval that we should be striving for. It is self approval that counts. What makes each woman personally happy is the priority. Stress that beauty is being you and loving it no matter what shape or size it may happen come in. It's essential to keep in mind that not only is beauty seen on the outside, but on the inside as well.

For those dealing with self-esteem problems concerning body image, it is important to keep these things in mind:

- Take care of your health; it is a part of loving your body.
- Be your own cheerleader.
- Stop stressing over things that possibly can't be changed. You Are Beautiful.
- Pamper yourself.
- Realize that your body is yours for life.



## Fighting dry skin in the winter chill

**A. Michelle McLean**  
MBS EDITOR

The recent winter chill has taken us by storm this year.

Staying warm and healthy is high on our priority list for surviving the season. In addition to bundling up and maintaining our health, there are some smaller details to which both men and women should pay careful attention. Taking special care of the skin is one of those vital details that we must take into consideration when preparing for and weathering those cold winter days.

Many of us know from experience the toll weather can take on skin. Undereath those layers of clothing, some may find arms and legs that are scaly, elbows that are rough or wrinkles around the eyes that definitely do not come from frequent laughter.

These imperfections result from the central heating, wind burn, and cold, dry air that helps winter steal the natural oils in the skin that help moisturize it. This theft leaves our skin dehydrated, chafed, uncomfortable, and unattractive.

To fight the wind and battle against the wear and tear of the season, follow this advice for taking tender, loving care of your skin.

And these tips aren't intended only for the ladies — don't worry about what your boys will think, guys. Besides, that female whose attention you've been trying to get would pay you no mind if your skin is busted. So moisturize your skin. Here's what to do:

Stop taking those long, hot showers. They strip the skin of its natural oils and leave it dry and hurting. Soaking for long periods of time is also a bad idea. Instead, take baths in moderately warm water and showers at lower water pressures. Don't forget

those bath oils.

Moisturize the skin by applying moisturizers heavier than usual, especially when going outdoors. Choose moisturizers that have a built-in sunscreen and natural ingredients such as almond oil, beeswax, and shea butter. Avoid the cheaper alternatives that contain petroleum and mineral oil — these clog the pores.

Get rid of layers of dead skin by sloughing the skin with loofah sponges and massage mitts. Doing so restores moisture and helps to improve circulation in the body.

Keep the most sensitive areas protected with the proper balms and lotions. Maintain soft lips with lip balms that condition and prevent chapping. Moisturize and massage hands regularly and wear gloves when going out into the cold.

Consume alcohol with moderation. Wine, coffee, and other common comforts tend to dry out the system. As an alternative, opt for herbal teas. Laying off of the alcohol and caffeine will also improve your immune system. Besides, no one wants to walk around looking like they've lived a hard life. So, don't drink like a fish cause it'll be written all over your face...and you won't have to say a word. (Y'all know you remember the rude boys!)

Sleep in. Sleep deprivation robs the body of certain nutrients that aid in having healthy skin, hair, and nails. Sleep is also a natural way to replenish and refresh the skin.

Avoid extreme and prolonged exposure to the sun. Sunburn during the winter season is as possible as it is during warm seasons. To avoid those "visible signs of aging," use moisturizers that include sunscreen.

## Circulation Locations

- D. H. Hill Library
- Avent Ferry Complex
- Talley Student Center
- African-American Cultural Center
- Caldwell Hall
- Vet School
- Fountain Dining Hall
- The Brickyard

# Story of the Witherspoon Student Center: a brief history of the African-American Cultural Center

"AFRICAN-AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER — PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE" SERIES



**Jerry L. Blackmon II**  
STAFF WRITER

There are a few very old buildings on this campus and one would almost expect interesting stories to be tied to them, but occasionally you'll find a newer one with tales attached to its construction that rival, if not match, anything the older buildings could muster.

The Witherspoon Student Center is certainly a case in point.

It all started out simply enough. Back in 1987 Talley, the then University Student Center, was running out of space and falling apart. Campus planners concluded that the cost of complete renovation would be prohibitive contrasted to that of building an entirely new facility and decided to allocate funds for a project of that nature instead. The Student Center Annex was born.

Let the games begin.

"Everything was done in conjunction with student groups," retired building superintendent Larry Campbell told a group of black administrators from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. The administrators were touring cultural centers around the country looking for ideas to govern the construction of their own. "We came up with plans and presented them to the students."

There were three large student groups interested in having space in the new building - Student Government, the Student Media, and the campus' African-American student population.

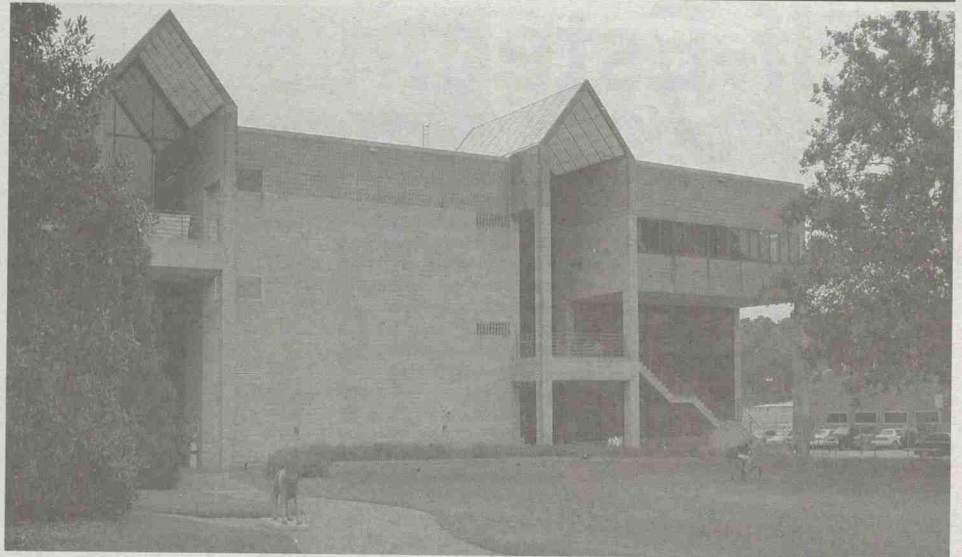
In the early eighties, Campbell explained to the group, there were very few African-American students on campus. "Somewhere between 250 and 300," he estimated. Because the overall population was so sparse, they were looking for a place all their own that would allow them to come together to socialize and network. The Society for African-American Culture, N.C. State's oldest African-American student organization, took the students' concerns to the administration and they were granted space "in the old King building," which consisted of nothing more than a few rooms for meetings and offices in the basement of an abandoned YMCA.

The campus was, even at that time, expanding rapidly and university planners decided the land the old King YMCA building was sitting on was much more valuable than the building itself, Campbell said, so they subsequently tore the building down.

"We were displaced," he said. "And the students weren't happy."

Recently, another large university department had abandoned its office space in favor of newer facilities elsewhere on campus, and the students immediately set their sights on the vacant building.

"The Print Shop's building was being vacated because they were moving into new facilities on central campus and that left us with several options." The West Dunn building was empty, but so was Harris



"Cafeteria," a much larger facility just over fifty feet away from where Witherspoon stands today. SAAC organized the students, they listed their demands and they took over a Board of Trustees meeting to be sure their demands were heard, Campbell said. "They told the board they wanted Harris Cafeteria, and the board said 'no way.'" But they did grant the students space in the building Print Shop vacated.

Very few African-American students attended N.C. State in the early days of the cultural center, but at the time there were already "seven or eight" student organizations "and fraternities and sororities getting started," Campbell said. This demand very quickly overwhelmed the relatively close quarters of the West Dunn building and the Cultural Center began looking to expand again.

The Student Center Annex would have 39,000 square feet of space and three floors which allowed its designers a great deal of leverage with the placement of groups. The three student groups jockeying for space in the building named representatives who had seats on the planning committee with the power to determine the who, what, and where of the design of the building. Campbell and other staffers on the committee decided space would most equitably be divided between the groups if "everyone had roughly 13,000 square feet of space in the building," which allowed all three groups to have a say in what the final floor plan would look like.

The committee developed a preliminary design that put the African-American Cultural Center's art gallery and library on the first floor with office space for the center's administrative offices and student media on the second. They originally put the Center's "Multipurpose Room" — an auditorium with a small stage that plays host to most of the AACCS major activities — on the third floor along with Student Government's senate chambers because of Witherspoon's Cinema.

"We had to make sure the Cinema, Multipurpose Room, and



Above, the Witherspoon Student Center houses N.C. State's African-American Cultural Center, Student Government, and Student Media. Each group was allocated one third of the building's office space when it was originally constructed. Below, the front door to the Cultural Center's third-floor office space.

Student Media's radio station could survive in the same building without killing each other," Campbell said.

They brought the plan to the students and it was immediately rejected. "One student looked at what we had and didn't like the layout. Student Governments on the third floor," Campbell quoted, "they're higher than us."

"I had a solution for that," he crowed, "I moved all the office space to the third floor, the gallery and library to the second and the Multipurpose Room to the first," which ultimately required the committee to call in an acoustic engineer.

Student groups hold parties in the Multipurpose Room at roughly the same time he had decided the cinema would be in use, so they had to make sure no stray sound would leak from one room into the other. "What everyone thinks is a stage in the Multipurpose Room is really an earthen damn," Campbell said. "We dropped the Cinema three and a half feet into the ground and used dirt to create a sound and shock absorbing (barrier) between the Multipurpose

Room and the Cinema."

Problems solved, you'd think, but then the final "preliminary" plans went to the university.

"Next time you get any say (in the design, the building is) already 99 percent complete," Campbell said. "You get the plans back and see all the changes and you say who decided to do this?"

One of the biggest changes Dr. M. Iyailu Moses, the AACCS first director, said she would, in retrospect, make would be to get rid of the windows in the art gallery on the second floor.

Those are there, Campbell explained, "to aesthetically balance the building." Despite the strenuous objections of the committee, university planners put a row of windows across an entire side of the building on the second floor because they wanted to "balance" the design — windows that open onto a room that holds art that would be bathed in sunlight from sunrise to sunset in winter and summer.

## It's so hard being a good girl

 **Sonja Turner**  
COLUMNIST

One time my friend told me about how she and this really cute guy were "friends" and how they hung out together all the time. They talked to each other about everything — his girl troubles, and her guy troubles. And if she ever mentioned another guy's name around him, he would get all defensive and ask her questions and stuff, even though they were not official. I even heard him tell her that he thought she was pretty, had a good personality, and enjoyed hanging out with her.

They seemed to get much closer after that. But then, a few weeks later, he started talking to my friend about this other girl — telling her everything about their conversations, and how much he liked her. Eventually, he and the other girl started going out. Obviously, both me and my friend were like — okay, that girl had a totally opposite personality compared to my friend — hmmm!

What happened? I concluded that apparently he saw my friend as just a pretty girl with a good personality that he literally just liked to hang out with. I guess in his mind, he didn't even consider her as someone that he would've actually tried to go out with.

After that, I immediately started wondering why this happens so often, and I finally reached my own personal answer: I guess in that particular cute guy's mind, my friend was considered a "good girl," someone to talk to, have fun with, chill with, and be yourself — someone who would make some guy happy one day or even be "a good wife" (I've heard it said). But not someone that he would personally want to go out with. That struck me as odd. Why is that? Why did it seem like — in my friend's case — the "good girl" didn't get the guy?

So, I brought the question up in a few conversations with my guy friends, and here are the two answers that I heard most:

"Some of y'all are just too focused on your studies"

OK. I'll accept that. But what

do guys consider too focused. If her agenda is packed with endless papers and projects, I doubt she's going to sacrifice the good grade she deserves because he wants to go out. Example: This guy wanted to hang out with my friend, but he always seemed to ask her on nights before a project or test was due. He labeled her as too focused. I concluded that she was not too focused, but rather had her priorities straight.

Now, some females do constantly study, and I respect them because they are doing their thing. But what about those girls who do make their studies their top priority, and still make time to chill and hang out with their friends? Why do those "good girls" stay single?

"Some 'good girls' don't want to talk to those guys who do like them"

Good point. But let's be real for a moment. I don't know about you, but I cannot feel comfortable around someone that I do not like. Example: Did someone in your family ever try to hook you up with someone that they felt was just so right for you, but you could not stand something about them? They would invite them over, and place you in an awkward situation, and then you were left feeling miserable for however long that person was over there. Yeah...it's kinda like that feeling. If she's not attracted to him, then there is no point in forcing her to like him because it's not gonna happen.

A few other comments included that some are probably shy, and/or they don't hang out or meet new people, they stay in their room all day, or they just have "problems." Well, all I know is that there are several single "good girls" out there, and trust me, they are not all stuffed in D.H. Hill Library or their room 24-7, isolating themselves from the world. Many of them are the girls who guys look at and say "she's cute ..." and then stop there. Or the girl at the party who looks nice, but not outrageous. Or the girl in the dining hall ... Do you get my point?

## 'Unappreciated' and 'underpaid,' housekeepers' plight goes unaddressed

— from page 1

State Employees Association of North Carolina said in a News and Observer article Jan. 3. "Four million dollars is nothing when you're considering roughly 100,000 state employees. The state must spend about \$33 million to give all government employees a 1 percent raise."

An NCSU housekeeper said that whatever Easley gives, it should be appreciated, but that money might not be what housekeepers want or need.

"I think Gov. Easley should have had a forum and asked us what we wanted," the housekeeper said. "Money is nice, but if it's only \$100 dollars a year what is that going to do for us but make us mad and just make us buy an extra pack of cigarettes?"

"I'll definitely be appreciative of what I get, but what I really need is better insurance, and Gov Easley doesn't probably know that there are a lot of housekeepers who would rather have that."

According to a memo from UNC President Molly Broad, only 600 campus employees will receive raises. Housekeepers say they won't hold their breath.

"We have had a fill of promises by almost everyone," said a custodian. "Well just have to see what Gov. Easley does; hopefully he will come through for us because some of us are hurting, we are not 'living,' we are only surviving," the custodian said.

A housekeeper commented that at the end of the month, right before pay day, it is rough.

"If you got kids, and they get sick at the wrong time, it is unnerving because you don't have money to go to the doctor. Our benefits include health insurance but it is sky high.

"You try and do for them [the children], but you can't do like you want. And it hurts. It hurts bad. But that's the way it is for a lot of us. We're glad to have jobs, but it's rough sometimes, especially before payday," the housekeeper said.

Most housekeepers have health insurance and a retirement plan, but the prices that the state requires for housekeepers and groundskeepers to pay for these services are unseemly.

One groundskeeper said that a mandatory prescription he must have costs \$16.25 if he pays for it out of pocket, but \$25 if he uses the state insurance. Another said that he pays \$135 a month for his health insurance, but if he were to utilize the state's insurance plan it would cost \$415 a month.

"I'm a groundskeeper and I can't afford the insurance the state offers us. If I can't afford it, I know that the housekeepers can't afford it," a groundskeeper said. "The sad thing is that the housekeepers are probably the most dedicated employees at NCSU, it's just that they don't get paid what they are worth to the university," the groundskeeper said.

A housekeeper said most people think their job is easy.

"We are so underappreciated, I won't say we're so underpaid because that goes without saying, but people think it is easy. It's not easy to

pick up behind some people," said a housekeeper. "Some of these kids are horrible and nasty, and then you can't even say anything to them for fear you will lose your job. It might look easy to you, but it ain't," the housekeeper said.

Another fear that most housekeepers suffer from is the "u" word — union.

"See that's how things get started, people talking about that union nonsense" said one housekeeper. "We don't like to mention that word because once our supervisor hears that we're talking about it, it can get chaotic."

A custodian explained that housekeepers don't mention anything about unions because they fear they can lose their jobs.

"Unions make companies treat their employees like people, make sure they have good working conditions. They advocate for raises, and better treatment. This takes money, and companies don't want to give that up. If they hear that a group of people are trying to form a union, they will try to coincidentally lay them off so that they won't have to change or give up anything.

"Housekeepers don't mumble a single word about forming a union because nowadays it is almost a privilege to have a job, so they suffer through the mistreatment, long hours with damaging chemicals and sprays, and measly pay because some pay is better than no pay," the custodian said.

SEANC, the closest organization government employees have to a union, is the voice of the state employees. Although some of the housekeepers feel that SEANC isn't doing enough and they need something stronger, they are hesitant to start their own union.

"We're not like those housekeepers at Chapel Hill, we aren't able to get that many housekeepers to be brave," said a housekeeper.

In November, UNC housekeepers along with their supporters, requested that there be an established living wage. The housekeepers, mostly members of the UE Local 150, the N.C. public service workers union, requested the basics: better benefits, salaries that are "livable," and better working conditions, along with worker evaluations for their supervisors and a document outlining worker fairness principles, according to the News and Observer.

NCSU housekeepers agree that those who protested at Chapel Hill probably had housekeepers with the mindset of "we have nothing to lose." One housekeeper said he does: "my job, my house, and my car."

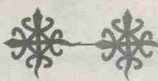
## Publication Schedule

Jan. 23, 30

Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27

Mar. 5, 19, 26

Apr. 16, 23, 30



January 23, 2004 • Nubian Message

### Refiguring Culture

Following the graduation of our esteemed Culture editor Davin Van Eyken, this section will by necessity take on a new direction since he is no longer at the helm to steer it.

Culture this semester will leave most of the "current events" reporting to the news department and instead focus on covering long-term cultural trends that affect the African-American community with an emphasis on helping our readers to understand the unseen and oft unexplored "why" behind the who, what, when and where they'll find on the news page.

Our biggest project this semester will be chronicling the history and exploring the future of the African-American Cultural Center. We're going to try to catch up with the alumni who were the driving forces behind its creation and attempt to explain to our readers why those who undertook the effort to create the Center thought it was a necessary resource for the university.

From explaining the Center's history, we will progress toward examining its present. Sometime this semester we will begin to receive information from the administration about how and when the search for the next director of the AACC will be conducted. Nubian plans to be right there from beginning to end.

This series will hold unfold gradually over the semester, competing for space with Culture's effort to profile every African-American student organization on campus, spotlight students who deserve to have the attention of the community focused on them, and infuse the Nubian with regular, healthy doses of African-American history from our resident historian.

So the changes you see in Culture will be fairly radical, but hopefully they will be for the better.

## History of the Black Church part 1



Michael S. Harrell  
STAFF WRITER

Outside the family, one of the fundamental pillars of the the African-American community is the church. This institution has slowly evolved over the past few centuries into a vital organ which provides many black communities with leadership and positive role models for the African-American community's youths.

Over the course of the semester as we more closely examine and study black history as it relates to N.C. State students and the larger African-American community, I would like Nubian readers to join together in a celebration of the African-American church. We will discover and explore, in this fourpart series, different aspects of the church at different stages of the African-American experience.

The right of religious freedom, which was the key objective of those who landed at Plymouth Rock, was not afforded to Africans who were brought to the "New World." Indeed, this privilege was denied the slaves

for about 250 years. The bondsmen were forced to worship in secret, forming what many historians have called an "invisible institution."

Franklin Frazier's "Negro Church in America" is a concise account of the African-American church. In this text Frazier explains, "It was general that there could be no assembly of five or more slaves without the presence of a white man." This was especially applicable and strictly enforced in regard to religious gatherings. The slaveholders had several reasons for imposing these rules. The most obvious was to reduce the chance of a slave revolt.

Blacks received a Christian baptism soon after they arrived in the New World. However, not surprisingly, some white colonists disapproved. This opposition soon faded upon the adoption of laws which assured that slaves would not be granted any level of social or political equality through baptism.

The slaves of the New World adopted and even embraced the white man's religion. Many of the enslaved had been separated from their tribal culture and kinsman. Crowded revival meetings, with the message of fiery damnation versus hope and salvation that promised to save all from the

displeasure of this earth, seemed attractive to many slaves.

Many slave masters used religious doctrine as a tool. They attempted to justify slavery through biblical passages. White ministers led black congregations. All religious activities of the slaves were regulated by whites.

The first independent African-American church was dedicated in 1794. Free blacks began to form other organizations as time progressed. In 1816, leaders of several African-American church groups unified during a meeting in Philadelphia and formed the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church.

In 1844 the Baptists and Methodist churches separated themselves from one another over the issue of slavery. This resulted in the separation of many congregations. Most white and black Methodist churches tended to be anti-slavery. The Baptist churches tended to favor the preservation of slavery.

After the Civil War, the African-American church really begins to take hold in many facets of the lives of many former slaves. This will be apparent when we examine the period of Southern Reconstruction.

## Curtis Hill

### STUDENT LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Many people often see him speeding across campus on his scooter, but very few people really know Curtis Hill. Hill is currently the chairman of the African-American Student Advisory Council (ASSAC).

The political science major wants to go to law school to become a human rights lawyer after he finishes his undergraduate degree.

Hill shared some of his thoughts on leadership and the African-American Community. He defined a leader as someone who has vision for his/her group.

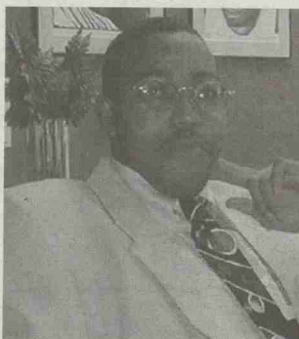
"Without a vision you can't lead the people," he said.

A leader, in his definition, also knows when to step back and take advice.

When asked about increasing African-American involvement in organizations on campus, Hill said "Organizations need to be more open and show that [their organizations] are needed."

Hill believes African-Americans need to get more involved in politics because "everything has a political card."

"By getting more politically involved, African-Americans become



more involved in society," he said.

ASSAC aims to confront troubling issues concerning African-American enrollment, retention and graduation rates it first raised in the university report card it issued several years ago. Addressing these issues will require students to work closely with administration, and Hill sees ASSAC as bridge between the administration and African-American Students.

"It is crucial for ASSAC to be forthcoming with administration to get viable solutions," he said.

## Stay In Touch

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