



# NUBIAN MESSAGE

Sentinel of the African-American Community

February 6, 2004

Vol. 11 | Edition 12

## SAAC's 'day on' focuses on helping helpless

 **Aniesha Felton**  
NEWS EDITOR

On a crisp Saturday morning, the gleaming sun shined on five ladies of the Society of African American Culture as they began their commitment to a day of service.

Providing an alternative to N.C. State's MLK Service Challenge, SAAC paid homage to Martin Luther King's vision of people helping people by volunteering at a passage home off of Hillsborough.

"Because the campus-wide MLK Service Challenge only allowed 75 participants, we felt compelled to have other community service activities lined up for others who wanted to pay tribute to Martin Luther King in their own unique way," said Bimettiah Killens, a junior in psychology and president of SAAC.

Killens commented that King was very active in the community and that's a standard to which SAAC aspires, however, she also noted that honoring King is not the only reason SAAC planned its own service challenge.

"We only hope that what we do today contributes to a grander cause, such as a better community, but SAAC has always been committed to serving the community, so giving back is nothing new," she said. "Matter of fact, working at the passage homes is an on-going project, something we do at least once a month — it's not a once a year



Jerry L. Blackmon II • staff

SAAC president Birnetthia Killens, junior psychology, commemorates Martin Luther King's birthday by volunteering to clean a passage house in Raleigh, N.C.

### A DAY ON

## Monica Leach honored for community service

 **Aniesha Felton**  
NEWS EDITOR

She may work hard for the money, but Monica Leach, an assistant dean in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, sings more to the tune of I work hard ... to play hard.

While her play time may go unheralded, her works haven't — Leach is the 2004 recipient of the John R. Larkins Award.

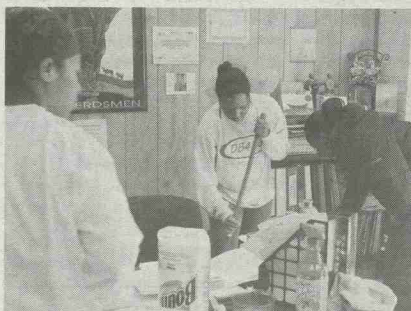
"I was very shocked," said the animated Leach. "When my name was called, my husband jumped up and I was like, will you sit down. He had to push me to get my award, it was, oh goodness, so unbelievable," she said.

Established in 1998, The Larkins Award is given annually to a state employee who has made "tireless and remarkable" contributions in the advancement of human and race relations in their community and place of work.

Leach, now in her eighth year at N.C. State, has helped to make CHASS one of NCSU's most diverse colleges. She also conceptualized CHASS-MAS, CHASS Multicultural Association for Students, in 1996. This organization provides students with opportunities to grow through forums, community

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Jerry L. Blackmon II • staff

Nubian news editor Aniesha Felton pitches in.

## 'Unity Card' aims to retain black money

 **Aniesha Felton**  
NEWS EDITOR

With constant talk about the black community not supporting their brothers and sisters, one man has come up with a way that could possibly quiet all that talk, financially anyway.

Anthony Quinones, CEO of the "Unity Card" program, spoke to a group of students about

how they can recycle black dollars within the community.

Quinones said that African Americans spend so much yearly, that if African Americans were one country they would be the eleventh richest country in the world.

"African Americans spend \$600 billion dollars yearly. That's a lot of money," he said. "The

 **Aniesha Felton**  
NEWS EDITOR

If you are among the thousands of students selected to receive the Diversity Climate Survey, take a few minutes and fill it out. You'll be helping advance the cause of diversity and openness on campus, and assisting in shaping the agenda of the Provost's office.

The Diversity Climate Survey, commissioned by the office of the Vice Provost for Diversity and African-American Affairs office, is a survey that assesses how students feel about N.C. State and its diversity. With hopes of a high return rate from students, Jose Picart, vice provost of diversity and African-American affairs, says that those who took the survey will have their voices heard.

"A main reason we have the survey is to let us know how the students are feeling about diversity and what they are thinking about diversity and what they are saying about it," he said. "We



Adam Attarian • staff

Vice Provost for Diversity and African-American Affairs Jose Picart.

want to know their concerns because if they're not comfortable here, then we want to know so that we can do our job better," Picart said.

Picart said that once the data is collected and analyzed, he and his staff will prioritize the concerns and begin dealing with the issues.

"I'm getting tired of only finding out what the issues are, I want to actually do something about," he said. "Based on the

data, I will immediately address those items that are most concerning to groups; I admit, I can't fix everything at once, however I will do whatever is in the best interest of the students and N.C. State" he said.

Concerns that will receive immediate attention, according to Picart, are those from groups who feel physically threatened, who feel disrespect-

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UNITY see page 6



## WHAT'S GOIN' N?

wsa@nubian.ncsu.edu

### STUDENT MENTORS

Multicultural Student Affairs is looking for mentors to help support the incoming freshman class. 515-3835 for details. Deadline: Feb. 20.

### KWU CLOTHES DRIVE

Need to get rid of some of those clothes you haven't worn in more than two years? Well you are in luck. KWU is currently collecting clothing to aid the Raleigh Rescue Mission.

Drop off centers include:

Bragaw  
Avent Ferry  
North Hall  
Tucker  
Sullivan/Lee  
Witherspoon  
Tri-towers  
Wood Hall

Clothing Drive ends  
February 20th 2004

### FREE TAX PREP

You can get your taxes down for free by Masters of Accounting Students, Faculty advisors and other qualified students.

Dates and Times:

Nelson 1130, 10-2pm  
on all days.

Feb 7

Feb 14

Feb 28

### END OF THE LINE

### LEACH from page 1

service, and field trips. Leach also is involved in a variety of programmatic initiatives in the college and also organizes the Dean's Student Advisory Council and has inaugurated the CHASS Success Project, a retention initiative which monitors the progress of students through forums, advising and post-graduate opportunities.

"I love what I do, I am so student-centered, their well-being is so important to me," she said. "I do what I do for the students. They bring me so much joy; they keep me humbled, open-minded and young."

"To see the students as freshmen or at symposium and then to see them at commencement is a feeling that is indescribable," she said smiling. "I just pray that they have learned from me as much as I have learned from them," she said.

Leach, a native of Slidell, La., says that it has been etched in her from childhood to always give back to the community.

"It is our responsibility to take care of the community in which we live as well as to help someone along the way," she said. "Throughout my life, I have been taught to help others because knowingly and unknowingly, someone has

helped me," she said.

Leach added that she did not make it here alone. "I am here because of my parents, aunts, cousins, grandparents, my Delta (Delta Sigma Theta Sorority) sisters, professors, people who have paved the way for me that I will never know, the whole kit and caboodle," she said. "They saw things in me that I couldn't see, and because they hugged me, while also pushing me, I am where I am and who I am today."

In her "play" time, Leach serves as vice president of the Chatham County Habitat for Humanity, President of the Leach Educational Fund, a 29-year old non-profit organization which provides scholarships to students. She also chairs the annual Bishop Leach College Fair held in Chatham County for middle school and high school students; she is an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, a high school mentor, and an active parent at Pittsboro Elementary who has an eye on the PTA president



Dr. Monica T. Leach won the 2004 John R. Larkins Award for community service.

position.

Although Leach has initiatives to work on, a website to develop, trips that need to be taken to spread the news of CHASS across the United States, she still finds time to play basketball, softball, and spend time with her 5 year old son, Jalen who could "make me die if he doesn't give me a kiss before he goes to school" and her husband, Jimmy.

With a shero in Johnnetta B. Cole, president of Bennett College and a favorite quote stating: "Education is the single most consistent and powerful instrument for the advance-

ment of an individual and a people," Leach says that she is one part of the whole which wants the best for NCSU and that her winning the award benefits everyone.

"Me winning this award means a lot because finally people are looking at universities as places where there are people who work endlessly to promote diversity," she said. "It's not only public service organizations that do this kind of work, to be honest, it's good to have the unsung heroes, those who work in the trenches, to be recognized," she said.

### SAAC from page 1

project," Killens said.

Ashley Washington believes that what they are doing is perfect for celebrating King's dedication to service.

"He was so selfless and that is what our projects are based out of," said the senior in microbiology. "I could be in bed right now, but there's something bigger to be accomplished besides me getting more sleep."

"I am very privileged compared to a lot of people, so I feel it is a necessity for me to give back, not only to N.C. State, not only to African

Americans, but to give back to those who aren't as fortunate, I am their advocate, and I feel that everyone who has the chance to give back should," she said.

While at the passage home, the ladies cleaned offices, something that Killens said might seem minute to others.

"When most people think of volunteering, they think of working at soup kitchens or working with children; there's not many people who would be proud to say that they cleaned windows in the freezing cold or dusted other people's desks, but there were

people who marched with King that did the 'dirty work,'" she said. "I don't see cleaning as the dirty work, I just refer to it as the behind the scenes work," Killens said.

Portia Overton, a senior in biochemistry, said that she was not bothered by cleaning offices and applying lemon pledge to desks because it was all for a good cause.

"It doesn't really matter what the task is, as long as I'm helping others or a cause. That's all that matters," she said. "I just want to look back on my life and say that I helped a lot of people in my day. This is important because when I

am old, this will be one way I measure my success in life," Overton said.

Echoing Washington in saying that she could have stayed in bed, Munje Foh said that projects and challenges such as these are worthwhile and crucial to participate in, even if you have to meet at 8:45 in the morning.

"King wanted us as a people to prosper, and in order for us to prosper, we need to help us," said the senior in chemistry and political science.

## NUBIAN MESSAGE

Sentinel of the African American Community

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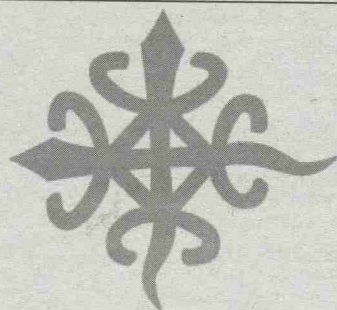
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Only with the permission of our elders do we proudly produce each edition of the Nubian Message.  
Dr. Yosef ben-Yochannan • Dr. John Henrik Clark • Dr. Leonard Jeffries • The Black Panther Party • Mumia A. Jamal • Geronimo Pratt • Tony Williamson • Dr. Lawrence Clark • Dr. Augustus Mclver Witherspoon • Dr. Wandra P. Hill • Mr. Kyran Anderson • Dr. Tracey Ray • Dokta Janet Howard • Dokta Toni Thorpe and all those who walk by our side as we continue to make our journey to true consciousness.



### 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.



## For the kids' sake: keep black bucks in black hands

Last year African-Americans spent over \$600 billion.

Based on this spending alone, were African-America a country, it would have the eleventh biggest economy in the world. Studies have shown, however, that less than five percent of that money was spent in our community.

Many African-Americans make excuses like they do not know where black businesses are to explain why they don't support establishments owned and operated by members of their own community. If you didn't make the meeting where Anthony Quinones spoke about his "Unity Cards" business, you missed out on a 101-caliber lesson on how African-Americans can network and make it possible to save money and know where black businesses are.

Some African-Americans may wonder why it is so important to spend money within the black community. Take a look at the Nation of Islam as a prime example. Money within that subset of the larger community regularly changes only from one black Muslim's hand to another's, and because of this the Nation is awash with financial resources which can be used to help their families, aid the Nation itself, and address concerns involving black issues.

Wealth is power. Bush wouldn't stand a chance of ever getting elected legitimately if he didn't spend millions of dollars during the presidential campaign. Professional athletes, and CEOs who command the purse strings of their companies are other examples of people who have enough money available to bluntly and very directly have their concerns addressed.

In order for us to strengthen the black community and leave a strong, powerful legacy for our children to inherit, it is crucial that our money be spent and continue circulating within our own community.

As Quinones asked at the presentation: "why do you think that there are 70 year old African-Americans working in fast food restaurants?" The answer is that the generation before them left nothing behind to sustain their children. And this isn't simply money in its purest form, it's money in terms of scholarships and other financial incentives and assistance mechanisms which could enable African-American youth — the next generation of the African-American community — to succeed.

Of course you want to make a difference now, so make that first step by taking your money to a black owned business, and patronize that business as often as possible.

Together, we can all work to strengthen our community by keeping our dollars at home.

— from the desk of the *Talented Tenth*

The *Talented Tenth* editorial is the opinion of the Nubian Message Editorial Board.

## Dear women who complain good men are in short supply ...

I listened in on a conversation between three black females recently who were arguing that black males these days are not about anything positive and thus decided there are no good men left.

I felt offended, especially due to the fact that I strive to be a Christian man who loves God and respects women. At first, I was going to bust into the conversation and respond on behalf of the good brothers out there, letting them know that we do exist, blah blah blah... but, instead, I took pause and didn't say a word.

What came to mind instead was a question: what was their point in arguing that good black men don't exist? Was it the fact that they knew I was the only black male within earshot and they wanted to prod me into saying something so they could vent the feelings of hurt or betrayal they may have experienced from males in their past?

The funny thing is, at the end of their conversation, one of the females answered her cell phone and I could tell from the conversation that there was a guy on the line. She told him to hold on because she had another call, and when she spoke to



Johnathan Brunson  
OPINION EDITOR

the next person, she said another male's name. Now I'm not going to assume that she tries to play males or anything, but as a male watching this female have intimate conversations with two guys, it seems she's not in the best position to claim that good guys do not exist.

After class one day, I was walking with two females, and one of the females commented that because good guys are humble and quiet, it's hard to know who they are. She also commented that in the club, guys are there for one purpose: to holler at girls and try to hook up with them for sex. So my question to her was if she knows who the good guys are, what is she doing about it? Why is she still just talking about them and not out there pursuing them?

Another female I spoke to told me a guy she knows on the

basketball team has a girlfriend, but came by her room and was trying to have sex with her anyway. She told me that most guys who try to get at her are athletes, and they usually are just trying to have sex with her. She also said that most of the good guys are "crossing over" to date white women.

I could not figure out how she came to this conclusion aside from believing stereotypes spouted by Ebony magazine and countless television shows which peddle the same sort of misinformation about African-American men. It is simply not true that all successful African-American men date white women. Brothers such as: Morris Chestnut, Will Smith, Blair Underwood, Denzel Washington, Michael Jordan, Ahmad Washington, Samuel L. Jackson, Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds, and Chris Rock — just to name a few — are examples of black men married to strong black women. She later commented that she is going to "cross over" to interracial dating because there are no good black men left. I challenged her argument by countering that she and I are good friends and

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## A letter to the few good 'brothas' left out there on campus

• Nubian columnist Sonya Turner outlines what she's looking for in a good man.

They are among the most beautiful creations on earth — intelligent, lovely, and talented in their form. They can positively dominate anything that they seek to take on; they can effectively stimulate the minds of those around them. Their personalities and character are as vast as the talents they possess — from physical to spiritual to intellectual...

Who am I talking about? My black brothas. Angie Stone said it best — "there is no one above ya." Unfortunately though, many of them accept and settle for less than what they deserve. And sadly, I feel that many of them do not recognize the wonderful potential inside of them. I see this in not only a select few males, but in the vast majority of the men in our black community. Many black men are put down, and confronted with sta-



Sonya Turner  
COLUMNIST

tistics and stereotypes everyday about reasons why society has already labeled them a failure. They are automatically judged, despite what society may claim, on their age and race before they even being to take advantage of any opportunity.

But despite all of the negative clouds that float around our black men, there are still a few things that they can do for themselves to keep their personal image as positive as possible. Here are five things that I, a female, like to see in a guy.

HE HAS HIS OWN PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD: Nothing to me is more powerful than a man who is devoted more to his per-

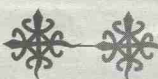
sonal relationship with God, than anything else. When a guy has that personal relationship, there is a peace and joy that no one can take from him. He does not focus on approval from friends, but from God.

HE HAS GOOD SELF-ESTEEM AND HE CAN ACCEPT COMPLIMENTS WITHOUT DOUBTING THEM OR GETTING A BIG HEAD: I enjoy complimenting and speaking words of encouragement to people — especially guys. So when a guy has good self-esteem, it tells me that he has taken time to learn and accept who he is as an individual. To me, when a guy accepts and loves himself, I believe he is more willing and open to accept and love a woman.

HE IS POSITIVE: I hate seeing a guy put himself down. When a guy is positive about his life and circumstances — regardless of whatever may be going on with him personally — I feel he will attract positive things and people to him. I feel that any guy is

BROTHAS see page 7





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## MIND, BODY &amp; SOUL

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## AIDS: pandemic threatens North Carolina; MBS is launching special series to confront issue at NCSU and beyond



A. Michelle McLean

MBS EDITOR

Did you know that only about 12 percent of the United States' population is African-American? I'm sure you did, but did you also know that African-Americans accounted for half of the new HIV diagnoses reported in the U.S. in 2001? HIV/AIDS is, in fact, the leading cause of death for those aged 25 to 44 in the black community. Were you also aware of the fact that many of the new AIDS cases diagnosed are among African-American youths?

According to the most up-to-date statistics available from the Centers for Disease Control, 43 percent of new AIDS cases reported in 2001 were black men. African-American women accounted for almost 64 percent of new HIV cases in 2001. A CDC study revealed that African-American women between the ages of 16 and 21 were seven times as likely to become infected with HIV than their white counterparts, while African-American men were four times as likely to become infected. Over the past few years, the expected occurrences of HIV/AIDS diagnoses has dropped for every race except African-Americans. It has been estimated that African-Americans will account for 60 percent of AIDS diagnoses in 2005.

Has any of this gotten your attention yet? These numbers may seem exaggerated and somewhat unreal. They may be startling and hard to believe. What they represent, however, is a reality that many people in our own community have to face and struggle with every single day.

AIDS. Just the mere utterance of this small, but complicated word conjures an array of reactions, thoughts, and opinions.

Why is this? Is it because we're so educated about and well-versed on the subject that we feel we have a right to speak out about it without reservation? Or is it because some of us only think we are well-educated about the subject?

Because of society's infinite number of clueless "experts," every day countless communities deal with denial, fear, intolerance, and ignorance about a disease that requires immense knowledge that is not being eagerly or seriously sought.

So many speak out about AIDS without really understanding the disease. Because these self-appointed experts either know too little or simply don't know enough, they make a plethora of irresponsible and inappropriate assumptions.

AIDS has been stigmatized as one of society's last taboos. It has been extremely difficult to discuss it openly and rationally, particularly within the African-American community. The truth is that we have hidden the existence, ignored the importance, and stifled the discussion of AIDS in our homes, schools, workplaces, and commu-

nities for too long. Despite the fact that an abundance of education, promotion, and support programs specifically targeting AIDS are constantly being made available to us, I believe that the disease continues to be denied the urgency it rightfully deserves.

AIDS has become a pandemic that is rapidly destroying the lives of our people, here at home and abroad. It affects us not only on an international level, but also nationally and locally. AIDS is not just a crisis needing only to be dealt with in a far away place. You may see the AIDS epidemic and how it has wretchedly crippled the villages of Africa, but this problem is closer than we may think. It has found prey all across the United States, and even North Carolina. Right here in the Triangle, in fact. As a result of the spread and diagnoses of AIDS, the fatality rates for blacks are the highest in society. It has become one of the leading killers of black men.

So the issue at hand does, in some way, involve you. If you are a black man or woman, or know a black man or woman, this concerns you. If you are African-American, period, this concerns you. For these reasons alone, get involved with acquiring and spreading as much knowledge as you possibly can. Become conscious of what is really going on. Don't let denial, fear, ignorance, and intolerance regarding this issue go on for any longer. It's time to become more educated, aware, sensitive, and tolerant of the situation facing us. It's time to put away the apathetic, careless, and judgmental attitudes and opinions. Believe it or not, we are all in this together. We, without a doubt, need each other to somehow change.

I am, therefore, asking you to engage in the forthcoming series devoted to AIDS awareness. In succeeding issues of the Nubian Message, our goal is to provide you the most necessary and pertinent information about this pressing issue we can manage. I personally feel that it is highly necessary to share any and every thing I know and learn during this meaningful and life-changing exploration of a problem so serious for our community and the world.

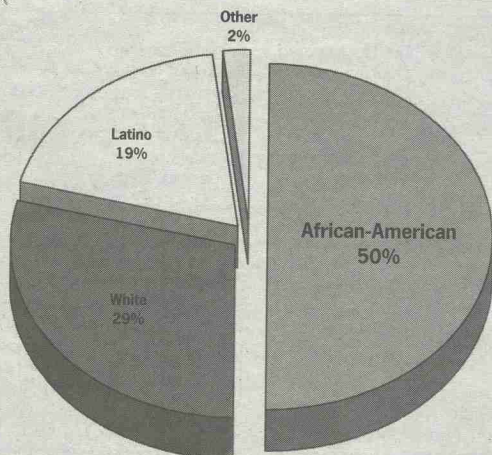
Among the several topics I envision for this upcoming series, I plan to report the bare-bones facts and information imperative to allowing our readers to better understand AIDS and its many underlying and subsidiary problems as well as addressing misconceptions about AIDS. In addition to that, we will take an in-depth look at both the history and causes of HIV/AIDS along with treatment options while addressing treatment disparities that should concern all people of color. The Nubian Message also plans to discuss, with intensity, the disturbing and exasperating impact the disease has had on society from local, national, and global levels and perspectives.

I sincerely encourage and challenge you to become involved in this important series.

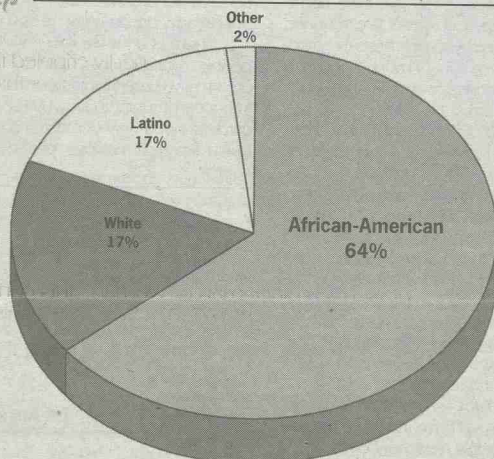




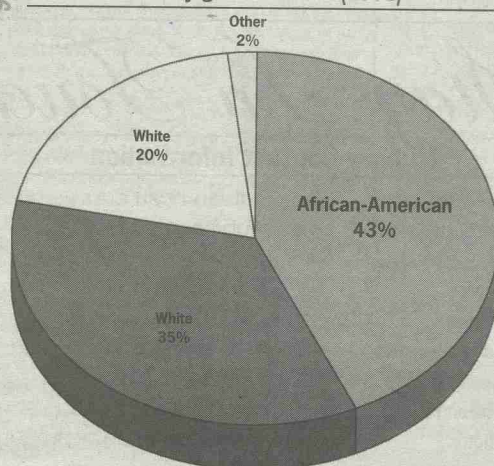
HIV infections by race (2001)



HIV infections by gender — female (2001)



HIV infections by gender — male (2001)



CDC, HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, 2001.

## AIDS STATISTICS

## How much do you really know about AIDS? Find out.



1. People age 25 and under account for what percentage of all new HIV diagnoses in the United States?

- A. 40% B. 15%  
C. 50% D. 25%

2. It is impossible to find HIV in:

- A. semen and vaginal secretions B. blood  
C. breast milk D. air

3. Which of these do not aid in reducing the risk of spreading HIV to someone else?

- A. using birth control pills, diaphragm  
B. abstinence  
C. using latex condoms or female condom  
D. all of the above help reduce the risk

4. You can become infected with HIV by:

- A. hugging someone infected with HIV  
B. using the same toilet as an HIV-positive person  
C. being bitten by a mosquito  
D. sharing eating utensils or drinking glass  
E. none of the above

5. One might begin showing positive signs of being infected with HIV:

- A. within a year  
B. in 10 years or more  
C. within a few months  
D. any of the above

### True or False

Only those who are gay males or drug users should worry about becoming HIV-positive.

America's youth between the ages of 13 and 25 are becoming infected with HIV at a rate of 2 per hour.

There are medicines available for HIV-positive women that can reduce the chances of passing the virus to their offspring.

AIDS is an incurable disease transmitted primarily by unprotected sex or by sharing needles (used for drugs) with someone who has HIV.

New drug treatments exist that could possibly lower the number of deaths from AIDS in the United States and allow people with the virus to live longer.

Answers on page 6

# AIDS

CONFRONTING A BLACK PANDEMIC

# infection rates are rising in NC.



## Picart puts students first

from page 1

ed, uncomfortable being themselves, and those who feel their contributions are not being valued because of their "uniqueness."

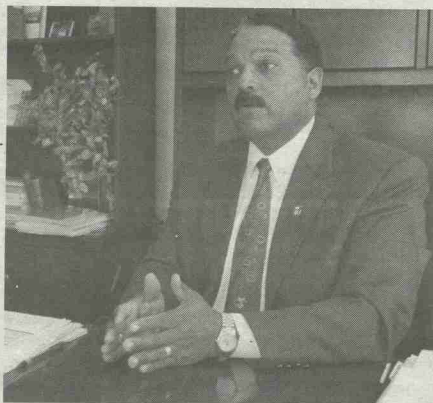
"It is part of my job to make sure that everyone feels safe here and that all minorities are highly visible at State," he said. "Ideally we would like N.C. State to represent what the state of North Carolina looks like; we can get there, but it's going to take students, faculty, and my staff coming together as one and working it out," he said.

The African-American population in North Carolina is approximately 22 percent according to the census bureau; NCSU's African-American population is 10 percent. According to Picart this is very notable.

"I know that 10 percent isn't a lot, and I'm not saying that this percentage shouldn't increase dramatically, however N.C. State is doing very well compared to other colleges," he said. "Of course we need to increase all of our historically underrepresented minorities here at State, but what we have now surpasses many colleges," he said.

According to Picart, if a college has a population of African-Americans that is as low as six percent, they are considered very diverse.

Picart commented that he feels good about the diversity at NCSU, partly because of what he has heard from others. He says that generally people feel good about diversity



Adam Attarian staff

Dr. Jose Picart answers the tough questions.

ty and that they feel the numbers of minority students, faculty, and staff are adequate for a predominantly white university.

While Picart feels good about diversity, he admits that it is challenging.

"Diversity isn't all about positivity," he said. "Is it tough, can it get argumentative? Of course, but it's that way it is...everywhere. You can live with people you love and it gets this way, diversity isn't different. If you want to accomplish something, you have to take the hills and the valleys," he said.

Picart said that through the students, NCSU will become a welcoming bed for diverse populations.

"Just by filling out that survey, students have positively impacted future students," he said. "We desire to create a climate where once a student leaves N.C. State, they will want others to come here. We want to create a climate where everyone feels welcomed, valued, and respected. Through voices of students today, will we be able to create that climate," he said.

## 'Unity Card' keeps black money in black community

from page 1

sad thing is that the black-owned stores only receive about five percent of that."

To put this in perspective, Quinones asked the group what is the relationship between \$45 dollars and a Big Mac. After a host of answers, Quinones said that if the black community spends \$45 dollars, the black community receives just enough money in return to pay for a Big Mac.

Quinones said that "advertising is killing our small businesses." He said that because these businesses can't afford quality advertising, they are suffering.

His solution: the Unity Card.

This card provides low-cost advertising for businesses, while providing card holders major discounts at these stores.

"It's a way of recycling black dollars to the black community," he said. "It helps businesses get their name out there in a cost-effective manner, and for those who purchase the card, it saves them a lot of money because of the various discounts that each business offers," he said.

Quinones commented that there is a new black opposition to black businesses: by the time African-Americans learn the rules of the game and start catching up, "they" (White America) make new rules. He said that with the "everchanging" rules African-Americans will always be lagging behind and that it is the responsibility of the black community to help black businesses stay afloat. "The best way we can do that is to spend money at their stores," he said.

He also said that African-Americans still have the slave mentality and that this must cease to exist.

"We built this country, with our hands, with our sweat, and with our tears; we have a lot to be proud of, but

it seems sometimes as if we're scared to go out and prosper like God has destined us to do," he said. "In order for us to prosper as a people we need to support one another, mentally, physically, emotionally, and financially," he said.

Quinones made it known that he is not preaching hate towards other races and that he encourages loving one another, but he said that African-Americans should also love themselves and their community. He told the group that his sole purpose was to unify and empower the black community, and through this card this can partially be accomplished.

"We need to make a difference, we need to stop just talking about issues and begin dealing with them," he said. "Supporting our black businesses is really a movement to help our community and a way to help us achieve our dreams and us achieving our dreams brings unity," he said.

"There is a lot we can do for our people, our schools, and our children if we keep more of our money in our community, that's why I see this card, as not a way of making money, but a way of making change," he said.

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. C | FALSE |
| 2. D | TRUE  |
| 3. B | TRUE  |
| 4. E | TRUE  |
| 5. D | TRUE  |

Le Answers

## Questions & Answers

with: Vice Provost Jose Picart

**Nubian Message: How do you deal with the criticism that you are spending too much of your time on diversity and not the second part of your title?**

Picart: I spend about 70 percent of my time in meetings with African-Americans and bettering their resources and opportunities. I am wholeheartedly committed to the AACC and African-Americans. I do the very best that I can for fundraising to increase resources, I am working with colleges to see how we can bring in more minority students into their colleges as well as faculty and staff.

**NM: How do you respond when people say that you're 'not black enough'?**

Picart: I've never been black enough for some, while there are others who say I'm plenty black. If being black is working hard, being strong, and trying to advance your people, then I would have to disagree with those who say I'm not. My skin color has always indicated that I was part black, and because of it I was discriminated against, however like those African-Americans or Puerto Ricans who have encountered discrimination, it made me stronger and made me have a greater sense of pride in who I am and who my ancestors were.

**NM: What would you like to put your signature on?**

Picart: I want to say that because of my staff and I, there is a noticeable increase in historically underrepresented minority students, faculty, and staff represented at NC State. I want to see a very, very strong culture center and I want to see that the programs I am initiating now will be the products of a more diverse university

## Stay In Touch

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**SPOTLIGHT** from page 8

**Interview with Troy Neal**

**NM: When was Reni Records started and who started it?**

Troy: "It started back in September 2001. Andrew Seed and I founded the company. We started with four members — myself, Demarcus Williams, Reggie Hall, and Andrew Seed. We started pushing out commercial mix tapes in the music industry and being entrepreneurs the first year we worked on the label. It was basically a learning experience for us all the first year: learning more about the business part of the music industry."

**NM: I noticed your company's motto quotes "Rebirth of Hip Hop," what does this motto mean and what about Reni Records is different than Bad Boy or any other record company?**

Troy: "What our motto means, is that we're bringing diversity back to hip hop. Hip hop is culture within the music. We are trying to bring different things to music. There is a song for everyone on our albums. We talk about everyday life in our music. Hip hop is more than just radio, BET, and MTV. All of our artists have say and the executive power within the company. This is non-traditional itself within most record companies."

**NM: Where do you see Reni Records in five years?**

Troy: "I see us doing what we doing now, but on a larger scale. Hopefully, we will be known more statewide, on the East Coast, or even known worldwide."

**NM: What advice do you have for those with goals of making it big in the music industry?**

Troy: "Evaluate and see what you really want to do. Be ready for late nights, getting out of your comfort zone, and working hard. Read and study as much as you can about the music industry. The music industry has a creative side, but there is a business side of music as well. As artists: focus on continuing to get better. Be happy working hard."

**NM: How are you working on distributing and advertising your label and artists' record sales?**

Troy: "We are doing a lot with media: trying to be seen and heard in newspapers, get on TV shows, and get booked on hip hop shows. We do a lot of street marketing things such as sell our cds in areas and keep our music playing to be heard in our cars or use other ways to be heard. We post flyers in areas and basically do as much as we can not to have to rely on anyone else with our distributing."

**NM: How many artists do you have and what do they bring different to hip hop?**

Troy: Two artists (Arkitek and Jyronimo) and D.J. Lil D. Arkitek (CEO of Arkitek Constructions, school of producers) - "Anybody can relate to his music. He is modest, very talented and makes good beats."

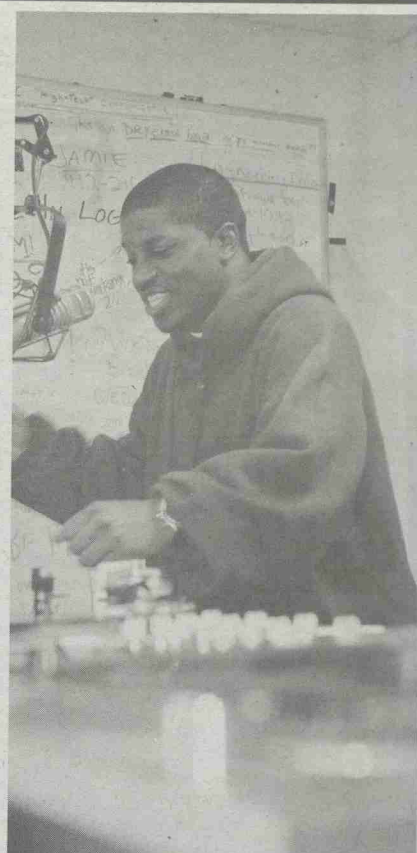
Jyronimo (Executive VP of Reni Records): "It is easy to relate to him as well. He is very intellectual and very educated. Right now he is pursuing his masters in Computer Science. He is a person that exemplifies being intelligent and in tune with his culture as well."

**NM: What do you feel about the current state of hip hop?**

Troy: "I feel commercial hip hop is in a state of emergency. In terms of profits, hip hop is making more money than it has ever made. It is successful right now in monetary terms, but because commercial hip hop is doing so well right now, many people with power in the music industry are trying to exploit it for their own gain. It is hard for artists to really put their hearts into their music, because those in power are trying to make artists assimilate to whatever is making the most profit in terms of music at the time. This destroys culture and is negatively affecting our African-American youth."



Troy Neal, founder of Renaissance Records



Reggie Hall, aka Arkitek

**SISTAS** from page 3

she knows I'm striving to be positive, so why is she just overlooking me?

The truth is that most of us "Good Black Men" are overlooked because, while most black females may not want to admit it, they are simply not ready for us black males who have our [stuff] together. Too often, we hear black women say that black men are not ready for them, but how many black women out there are not ready for good black men themselves?

I spoke to a female who was honest with me. She told me she does want a good guy one day when she's ready to get married, but right now she's not ready for a good guy. She said many black women feel the same way, but

rather than admitting it, they want to cover that truth about them up so as to act more positive than they are actually ready to be.

I see examples of this often at my dorm. Frequently, I see black male athletes bluntly saying disrespectful things to females, yet they still they flock to those males' rooms. I see black males screaming off the balcony, "hey shorty," "come here girl," "ohhh," and any disrespectful term they can think of to get females' attention, and many of those same females I later see hanging with those same males.

To those females who know they are not ready for a real relationship, do me a favor and stop walking around talking about what you want in a relationship, when you know you're not ready for a real relationship. Also a

word of advice to those females at parties or clubs supposedly looking for a good man: if you're walking around in clothes that disrespect your body, understand that men are visual creatures. More than likely any of us who approach you are going to approach you based on assumptions we've made about the revealing body parts we see you flashing around the party scene.

Of course I understand that all women want attention, but don't say you want to be respected by men when you date the men who disrespect you. If you don't really want a good man, just admit it, and stop whining that a good man is hard to find. We're here, you're just not looking for us.

**BROTHAS** from page 3

too handsome (in his own way) to be so negative about the world around him.

HE IS BUSINESS/SUCCESS MINDED, BUT NOT TO THE POINT TO WHERE HE IS TOO STRESSED TO RELAX EVERY NOW AND THEN. It is important for a guy to have positive goals and plans for his life. That is great. But please do not seclude yourself and only think about business all the time. Relax. Give yourself and the others around you a chance to breathe.

HE LOVES TO LAUGH: This is important. Laughter is healthy and fun, but you would be surprised at how serious some guys look all the time. Laugh a little. Life is too short to take

everything so serious. When a guy laughs, it almost appears to me like he is comfortable with himself, and the people around him, and that is a good thing.

When a guy lacks one of these things, it may surprise you, but it hurts me as a female because I love to see a black man prosper and feel good about himself. So when they don't, it not only affects them, but everyone around them. My advice to any guy who is reading this would be to assume the role of the excellence that you were created to fulfill, disregard ignorance, and enjoy life while doing it.

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February 6, 2004 • Nubian Message

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## Troy Neal and Reggie Hall

Johnathan Brunson

Keon Pettitway

STAFF WRITERS

Whoever said that the collegiate experience is far more than academics was right on target. Some students get primarily the academic experience of the collegiate life, while others combine academics, extracurricular activities, and a focused attitude to use as weapons for success and greatness.

N.C. State's own Troy Neal and Andrew Seed chose to take the second route. In 2001, the two entrepreneurs created Reni Records. On Thursday, Reni Records released the debut album from "Arkitekt," also known as N.C. State business management senior, Reggie Hall. In an exclusive interview with Neal and Hall, Nubian A&E got the inside scoop about Reni Records.

**NM: What is the name of your album?**  
Arkitekt Featuring Zills

**NM: What is your album cover saying to potential buyers?**  
Arkitekt: A lot of people know me as Arkitekt based on me being a producer of my own music. Zills is more of me expressing the "MC" part of my music.

**NM: What does Reni Records have that other record companies don't?**

Arkitekt: "We have pure love for music and culture itself. All of us in Reni Records grew up on a lot of hip hop music, everyone within Reni Records have direct contact with each other, and we all have a knack on putting out songs with each other." We are business oriented, but we are close and more family oriented within Reni Records."

**NM: How much time did you put into your album?**  
Arkitekt: "Recording took around 12 months"

**NM: What kind of challenge do you face between juggling being a student and an artist?**

Arkitekt: "Schoolwork and planning to graduate, writing and producing music, RA duties, basically trying to master my time management scheme between the two, and being up a lot of late nights. My class schedule load was lighter than usual this semester, so that made the focus on the two less stressful."

**NM: I know you produce most of your own beats for your songs as well as write your own lyrics, what benefit does this offer you as an artist?**

Arkitekt: "It can work positively or negatively as far as versatility. It saves money compared to me having to seek other producing sources. It gives me more creative freedom."

**NM: What influence do you want to have on the youths listening to your music?**

Arkitekt: "I want the youths to understand (that) school and the business world do not have to separate them from hip hop music. I feel TV kind of blinds the youth. You can step outside of the negative aspects of your community and make power moves within music and culture itself as well."

**NM: What advice do you have for up and coming artists in the music industry?**

Arkitekt: "If you really want to play a major part in music, stick with it. Keep doing what you're doing, stay diligent and strive with discipline. Make your music based more on your own desire and be happy with your music. Stay motivated."

## History of the Black Church

part 2

Last week we began our exploration into the history of the black church in America. In honor of Black History Month, this week we will continue our examination of this institution in Part II of IV.

In Part I, we learned that the first black church in America was founded in 1794. We also found that the A.M.E. church was established in 1816. Another key issue found in Part I was the separation of the Baptist church over slavery in 1844.

Religious gatherings by slaves without the supervision of whites were strictly prohibited prior to emancipation. However, many bondsmen worshiped in secrecy. As we discovered in Part I, many historians refer to this as the "invisible institution." After the Civil War, the "invisible institution" resulted in a huge increase in the congregations of black churches. Almost any organization can benefit through the strength of numbers. However, this is not the key issue of the black church in relation to the African-American experience during the era immediately following the Civil War.

The former slaves, known as freedmen, were now afforded a life that included unrestricted socialization among their own people, but plantation life had eliminated the relations of ancestral clansman and the family structure.

This new life of religious freedom was not devoid of obstacles. There was a caste system among blacks. Since all blacks were now considered free, unlike life on the plantation, the status of house worker or field hand did not impact one's social position. A different class structure was established. The free blacks prior to emancipation and those of mulatto ancestry held a higher status among the black population. Social status regulated worship. Most blacks congregated in Baptist and Methodist churches. Even these churches discriminated on the basis of the "intensity of blackness."

Many newly freed slaves were very emotional and high spirited. These individuals incorporated dancing and the singing of spirituals into their worship services. An educated bishop of an A.M.E. church in the South said, "We must drive out any



Michael Harrell  
HISTORIAN

such heathenish mode of worship or drive out all intelligence and refinement."

Most black churches, by 1875, had absorbed the changes. They had either been

successful in preserving their worship style or had been transformed into a high-energy house of worship. It is also important to remember that many new black churches were founded during Southern Reconstruction. These churches were usually established with a predetermined worship style.

The black church served as the backbone of the family during this period. The father of a slave child, at best, was merely a visitor under the plantation system. After emancipation, the church fostered a sense of leadership and a positive family life among African-American men.

Many black ministers founded schools for black children during this period. This was of great importance to any black youngsters who dreamed of upward mobility. Public funds for the education of black children were almost nonexistent. The largest portions of the resources to establish schools came from black churches and northern philanthropists.

The church also served as a place of refuge and hope in a hostile world for many freedmen. Discrimination of their own race and oppression of another contributed to a rough beginning of organized religion for many former slaves. The black church was able to emerge from this period with great success. The church offered religious support, education and socialization to the former bondsmen.

The black church will begin to secularize as we examine its role in part three of this series which will focus on the early twentieth century.

## Rising Stars

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Troy Neal &amp; Reggie Hall



Jerry L. Blackmon II • staff

Troy Neal (l) founder of Renaissance Records and talent Arkitekt (r) prepare for a WKNC radio show.