



Nubian Message

April 28, 2004 • Volume 11 • Issue 18

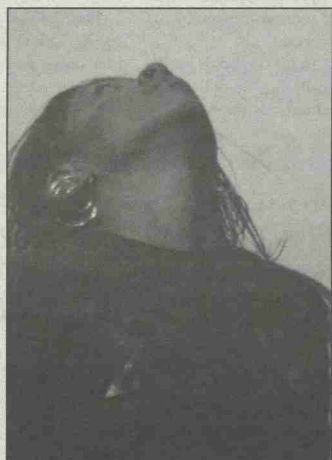
Pan-Afrikan Week

A L O O K B A C K

The North Carolina State Pan-Afrikan Festival is a tradition that began 33 years ago to attract potential African-American students to the university.

Each year this festival, sponsored by Black Students Board, a committee of the Union Activities Board, along with the other African-American organizations on campus, serves to inform, educate and celebrate African-American culture and African heritage.

In this issue we take a look back at what made the 2003-2004 festival special.



Crossing the color line

A couple shares their experience in inter-racial dating

[Ed. Note — The names in this article were changed to protect the identities of the students.]

BY TASHIMA J. GARNER
Guest writer

It was a normal breakfast at Clark Dining Hall where friends could relax and discuss the latest school news. No one could have predicted that romantic sparks would fly between two strangers, especially two strangers of different ethnic backgrounds. Rebecca, who is Jewish and white, and Jamaal, an African-American Christian met when a mutual friend introduced them.

A year and a half later, Rebecca recalled the shirt he was wearing that really sparked her initial attention. She smiled from ear to ear, looking up at Jamaal as he looked away, blushing through his mahogany complexion.

"It read One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish. It was so cute. That's what caught my attention."

"We became friends and after four months of dating, we made it official," Rebecca said, smiling. "I remember we watched 'Eight Mile' and spent practically the whole night together just talking and watching movies."

Rebecca, a middle school language arts and social studies education major, and Jamaal, a chemical engineering major, both had dated "outside their race" prior to becoming involved.

However, this was their first interracial relationship here.

For Rebecca, it was her third interracial relationship, and for Jamaal, only his second. For Rebecca, her relationship with Jamaal is by far her most serious, but it hasn't been necessarily easy.

Rebecca discussed how she felt threatened by black women because she felt as if deep down she wonders if Jamaal may want to be with a black woman or wish that she herself were black. She worried not so much whether black women approve of her relationship or not, but more so how Jamaal interprets it. On the other hand, she doesn't care how white people view her relationship at all.

"I've gotten into fights with black girls over black guys," she said. "I even had my hair pulled by a group of black girls my first year here for being around black guys."

Rebecca recalled these types of incidents before her relationship with Jamaal, but endured some upsetting incidents on her own.

"I have never noticed it when I'm with you, but I used to get really upset. I would cry because it upset me so much. Even laid back events like Talley parties were a constant nightmare for me because black girls would be so mean to me," Rebecca said.

Even with all these problems, Rebecca said she was still more comfortable around Black guys and other black people in general.

"I understand where it comes from. It makes me feel bad when black girls make comments like 'why you gotta steal all our black men?' cause I can see where their perspective is coming from," said Rebecca.

Jamaal on the other hand, had a different take on their relationship and how others view it. He takes a more nonchalant approach to the situation and said he felt it was more humorous than serious. The shocked looks don't bother him.

"High school was just like State. I'm used to seeing it happen," he said.

Jamaal said he had never known a white person to say anything negative about his relationship with Rebecca, and all the responses he had ever heard were either neutral or positive.

He said, his friends' feelings are the most important.

"We've always debated about it, but never really

argued about it," he said. "I can kinda understand where they are coming from. It's nothing new; it's been going on since the beginning of time."

However, Jamaal's friends were not so accepting of his relationship in the beginning. It got to the point where Jamaal kept his friendship in a totally separate sphere from his relationship. The two hardly ever intermingled. However, over time, as they got to know Rebecca as a person, they became more accepting of their relationship.

Both Rebecca and Jamaal seemed surprised that interracial dating was even still an issue in this day and age, considering how long interracial dating and interracial affairs have been taking place within the United States. But, they both agreed that it still doesn't stop some people from being ignorant and expressing their dislike for interracial couples.

Pair Research Center for the People and the Press conducted a survey in 1999 that found that 70 percent of whites and 82 percent of Blacks approved of interracial dating. In addition to this, 77 percent of non-whites and 60 percent of whites voiced approval of interracial marriage.

Both Rebecca and Jamaal agreed that the public's viewpoint of their relationship had affected them in both positive and negative ways. To Rebecca, the negative obstacles had affected their relationship in the past and were almost detrimental to their relationship, but she and Jamaal learned how to deal with it together.

Attending a white institution versus a historically black college or university makes dealing with these negative obstacles an easier task, according to Rebecca and Jamaal. Jamaal said he felt that being at NCSU is definitely easier to cope with compared to attending a historically black university, where he is sure their relationship would have been a lot more controversial.

"It would be rough," said Rebecca.

As if dealing with the public isn't enough within itself, coping with families can be just as difficult for some people to handle. For Jamaal, his mother didn't approve of his relationship with Rebecca in the beginning for personal reasons that went beyond Rebecca, but she has now become accustomed to their relationship.

"My mom doesn't care now," he said. "If she had her choice, she would probably prefer for me to marry a black woman."

For Rebecca, this is one of the hardest realizations she must deal with to be with Jamaal.

"That's what concerns me. (My mom) probably would prefer him to date inside his own race."

Rebecca understood his mother's feelings, because in her Jewish faith, marrying within your religion is very important. However, Rebecca said she feels it is more important to marry someone you truly love.

Rebecca's parents, on the other hand, reacted completely differently by learning about Rebecca and Jamaal's relationship.

"My parents love Jamaal," she said. "They want us to get married!"

Rebecca said even if her parents had not approved of her relationship with Jamaal, she still would have dated him anyway because she makes her own decisions when it concerns who she dates.

"I've dated white guys in the past that my parents didn't like," she said laughing.

With all these different perspectives, outlooks, and obstacles in their relationship, Rebecca and Jamaal discussed if and how it made their relationship harder to maintain or if they didn't see them as a problem.

"If you look at it in a microscopic view it does, but in general it doesn't. When people actually come up to you that is what determines how it affects the relationship. What their approach is determines it," Jamaal said.

That approach can sometimes be curious and respectable, or it can be rather blunt and rude.

One of those blunt and rude moments occurred when Jamaal said he had been asked if he was denying his heritage by being involved with a white woman.

"If you are an educated person, you would know that that is not the case," he said.

"I don't think you could say they're 'denying their heritage.' I can't look at you and say 'oh, she has a white boyfriend.' You have to talk to me and debate with me to know if I am denying my heritage."

Rebecca said she felt offended by this sort of conclusion some people draw without getting to know her as a person and drawing ignorant conclusions toward their relationship and overall character.

"If they know me, they know you're not denying your heritage. I would never separate him from his heritage. I love learning about heritage and I have a very profound respect especially for African-American heritage and culture," said Rebecca.

"I understand the issue of wanting to maintain the distinction of the race. That's what's the hardest for me. What is more important is that we overcome race and we love each other. You're still gonna have problems if you date within your own race and that's what comforts me."

Rebecca and Jamaal went on to discuss the issue of seeing "color" when they looked at each other and if they didn't really see it as a factor.

"I really don't. Only in the sense that it is so beautiful. I just see a beautiful person," said Rebecca smiling.

"The thought is always somewhere in the back of my mind that she's not black," said Jamaal.

"I love him and he's black," said Rebecca. "I've never had that thought, 'I love him, but he's not white.'"

Finally, both Rebecca and Jamaal asked themselves if it's just too much work or if they just expected it along with the other challenges that come along with a relationship.

"It never seems too much to bear. I would put up with anything. I have

complete unconditional love for Jamaal," said Rebecca. "They could hate me and I would still love him. I know what I want and I will put up with anything to have what I want. That's just me."

Both of them agreed that their relationship can survive these trying times and dealing with life's stresses comes along with anything that's worth salvaging.

"I'm sure we could deal with it because I know how to deal with it," said Jamaal.

"We love each other enough to handle things," said Rebecca. "It's a human relationship. The problems we have are just like the problems other couples have. Stuff like that is human, not racial."

"I truly believe that you love who you love based on who that person is," she continued. "I still believe that if you love someone, that love is the most powerful thing."

"I don't think you could say they're 'denying their heritage.' I can't look at you and say 'oh, she has a white boyfriend.' You have to talk to me and debate with me to know if I am denying my heritage."

*Jamaal,
chemical engineering major*

Are students ready for the workforce ?

Soft skills are now important for job market

BY ROBERT WHITE
Editor-In-Chief

For over a century, students have entered the halls of N.C. State University, expecting to gain the skills necessary to enter into the professional world. But students graduating in the 21st century are facing serious problems with the wave of corporate outsourcing overseas and rising unemployment here at home. Corporations are now asking students to be as well prepared in soft skills, such as communication and flexibility, as well as the hard skills, such as computers and design.

Students today must begin to ask themselves a question: is NCSU preparing them for the job market?

NCSU's mission statement says the university is an environment that provides students with "a mastery of fundamentals, intellectual discipline, creativity, problems-solving and responsibility." The university does this by offering extracurricular activities, lectures and seminars as well as courses. And faculty members said the believe the university gave students basic understanding in their subject area and overall did "exceptionally well" in preparing students for the workforce.

Research data from the university supports some of the university's claims that it prepares students for the workforce. In a survey of 2003 graduates, at least 84 percent of those who responded obtained their first full-time position within their first six months of graduation. From the same group of students, more than 76 percent felt they were prepared for the job market. NCSU also had statistics that compared

professional preparation versus actual importance to alumni's current position. The statistics showed that in areas such as work attitudes, communications skills and professional development graduates rated NCSU's preparation in those areas as low. Graduates thought those skills were very important to their professions, but the university did not emphasize those areas.

Employers want graduates entering the job market to learn more soft skills to stay competitive. Soft skills or "people skills" are skills such as teamwork, adaptability, creativity and problem-solving. Unlike technical skills, soft skills are not required to do a specific task. Employers want employees to have the technical expertise but also the soft skills to deal with their co-workers and clients. It is often the well-rounded employees who become successful in the workforce.

NCSU is a leader in preparing students for careers in technology, industry and scientific study. College graduates need more than knowledge of software programs and design techniques. Students with the soft skills will succeed longer in the workforce.

Students need to get the message earlier.

NCSU offers a variety of courses, seminars, leadership opportunities and activities to prepare students for the job market. The university needs to encourage students to use these resources to help them obtain the soft skills they will need for the job market. NCSU needs to place more emphasis in the area of soft skills to truly prepare students for the workforce. Students who master the soft skills such as good communication skills, initiative and flexibility will be the ones who are successful in today's changing job market.

Let our voices be heard

We have forums scarcely throughout the school year discussing the topic of diversity. Who are these forums benefiting: the faculty or the students? Which students' voices are being heard and unheard during these forums? Diversity is the main talk of N.C. State faculty and administration every semester, but there remains talk with no actions.

Is NCSU applying this concept of diversity to the African-American community on campus? Every semester, the Nubian Message seems to be under assault and talk of self-segregation among students in campus housing. African-American students often catch the negative talk of diversity and voices often go addressed during these forums as well as the public sphere of NCSU.

NCSU claims that diversity applies to all students, but all student voices are not being addressed positively on this campus. Many African-American students do not attend these diversity forums because they feel that their voices remain silenced in this atmosphere.

We challenge the University not just to speak about diversity but to be about diversity as well.

If most students know little about workshops pertaining to diversity on campus, diversity is not applying to all students on campus. Instead of African-American student's voices being silenced, we challenge the university to awaken African-Americans and other voices on campus in ways in which represents all students and not just the overwhelming white majority of students on campus. -from the desk of the Talented Tenth

Unity, a lesson missed in Pan-Afrikan Festival

BY JOY JOHNSON
Staff Writer

As I reflect back on Pan-African Week, it's clear to me that the African-American community missed the purpose of the week's activities.

Although there were many performances, parties, and other Pan-Afrikan events, the fact is the unity that this week was meant to bring was still not present. It is evident by the lack of full participation that there is still dissension among our African-American community here at N.C. State.

I recently had the opportunity to hear from Karl Mack, vice president of the NAACP in Seattle, which is still one of the most racially-divided cities in the nation. He said African-American history has been purposely taught in our school systems starting in 1492.

If our generation believes that our ancestors were only slaves at the hands of thieving oppressors, what will we believe to be our own potential? We must look pre-1492 and remember that our people have one of the oldest civilizations in the world. As a generation, we must remember that we descended from kings and queens, tribes of African people who were the first astronomers, mathematicians and architects. And even more recently, African Americans who were integral in world changing inventions like Mark Dean with his patents on the development of the personal computer, the 12 African-American physicists who worked on the Manhattan Project, and many more

African-American innovators who are still on the cutting edge of technological innovation.

Mack reminded me that our generation continues to treat each other as if we are still in a slave mentality.

As I walked around campus this week, I noticed African-American students not speaking to one another and not even acknowledging one another's presence.

Again I ask: how far have we really come, if we still cannot love one another for just one week?

If we do not recognize the excellence that characterized our people thousands of years ago, how can we ever reach our full potential in today's society?

I am only asking that our community be unified not just for Pan Afrikan Week or the equally as short Black History Month, but for the future.

Long ago, Africans capitalized on building for eternity and we have traded this mentality for a "get rich quick and alone" methodology. If we are to grow in the richness of our heritage we must capitalize on the unity and excellence of those before us.

African-Americans on this campus still have a chance to make a difference in the progression of our people by just living your life in a way that would please our ancestors. Do the little things: speak to each other. Support African-American businesses, attend Black Students Board-sponsored events. And, finally, live in the excellence of the kings and queens whose ancestry you are a part of.

Nubian Message

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

Dr. Yosef ben-Yochanan • Dr. John Henrik Clark • Dr. Leonard Jeffries • The Black Panther Party • Mumia A. Jamal • Geronimo Pratt • Tony Williamson • Dr. Lawrence Clark • Dr. Augustus Mober 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.

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GYE NYAME

"except for God"

A symbol of the supremacy of God. This unique and beautiful symbol is ubiquitous in Ghana. It is by far the most popular for use in decoration, a reflection on the deeply religious character of the Ghanaian people

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MR AND MS PAN AFRIKAN FESTIVAL

Kristen Morgan
Franz Dorestant Jr.

PAN AFRIKAN AMERIKAN IDOL

Ian Wise

FIRST RUNNER UP
Corey Williams

STEP SHOW

MEN

First place
Alpha Phi Alpha
Fraternity, Inc

Second place
Phi Beta Sigma
Fraternity, Inc

WOMEN

First place
Zeta Phi Beta
Sorority, Inc

Second place
Alpha Kappa Alpha
Sorority, Inc

FREESTYLE FANATICS

Lil Dee Dee

BIBLE TRIVIA

Alpha Iota Omega
Christian
Fraternity, Inc

Photo by Austin Dowd
Rowlette Simmons
and Jaclyn Ellis of
Alpha Kappa Alpha
perform at the Step
Show on April 2.

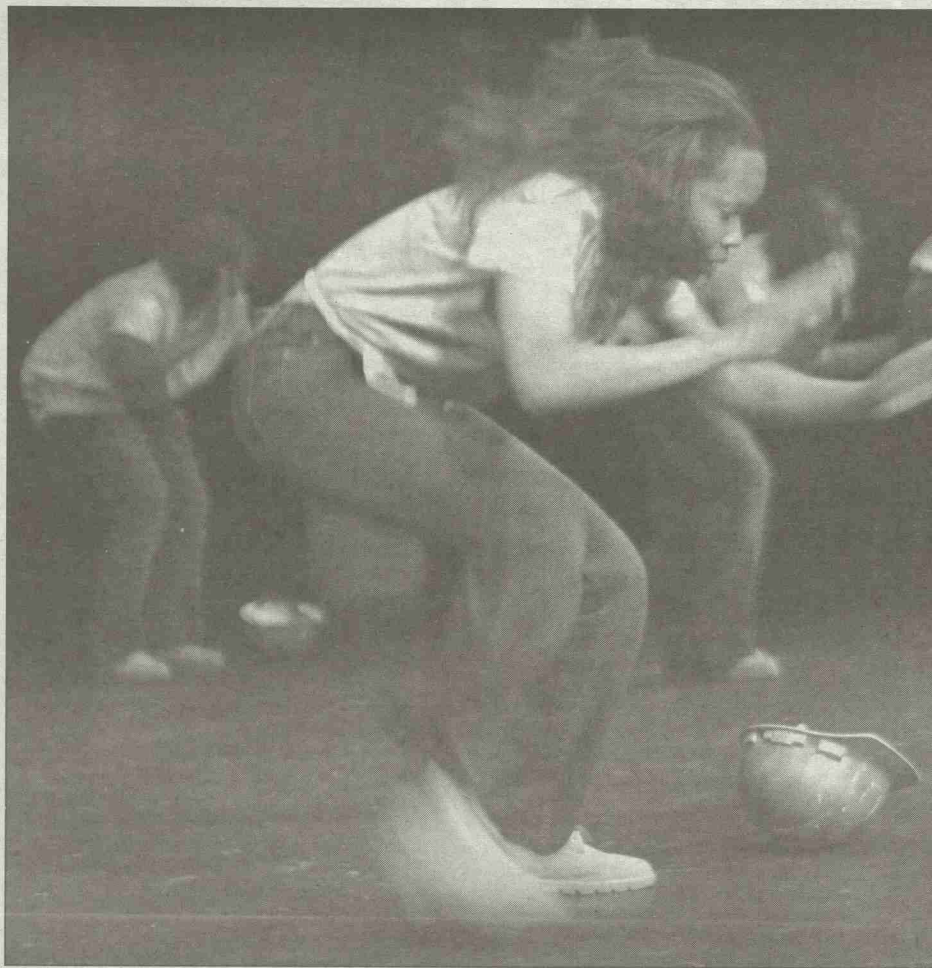
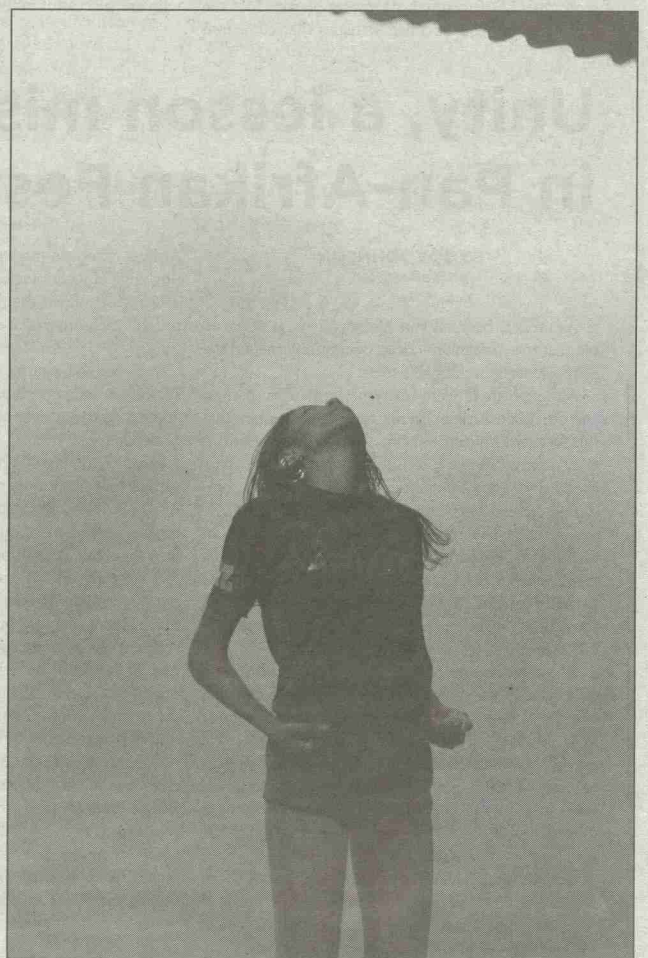


Photo by Austin Dowd
Antwan Lee participating in the relay race at the
Field Day on March 27.

Photo by Austin Dowd
Sister of Sigma Gamma Rho at the Step Show on
April 2.



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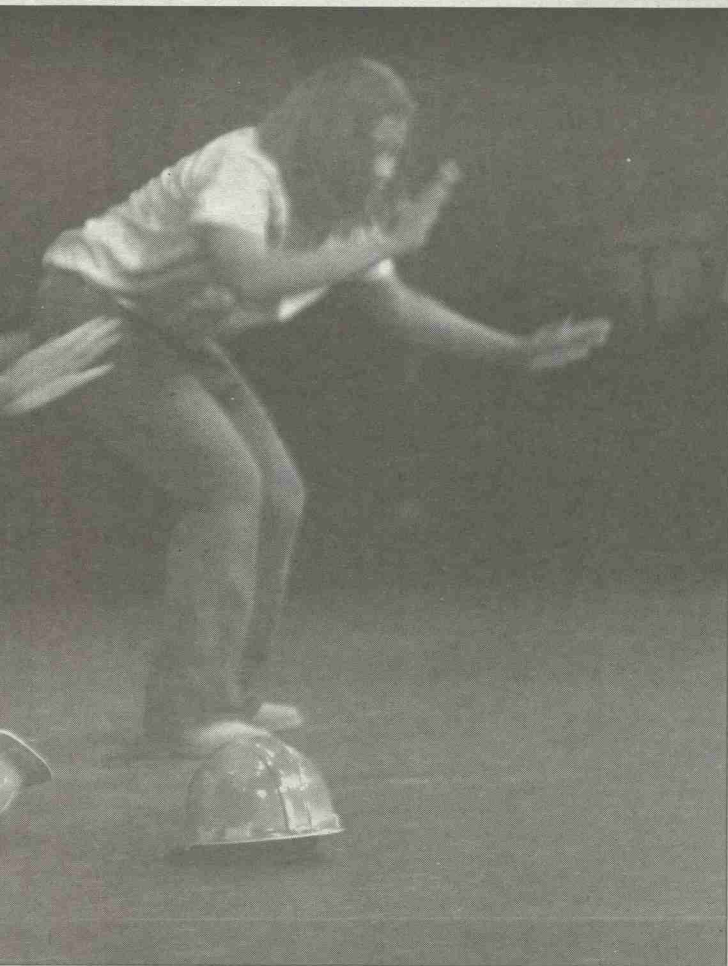


Photo by Austin Dowd
Judges Leny Moore and Virgil Moore, for the Bible Trivia on March 28.



Photo by Austin Dowd
Jaclyn Ellis and Faith Ohuoba of Alpha Kappa Alpha rehearse for before the Step Show.

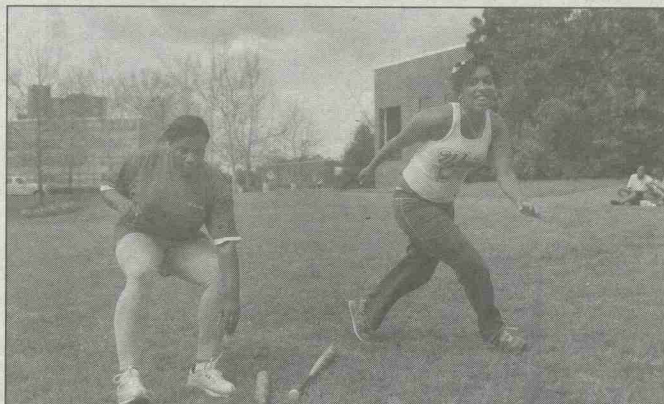


Photo by Austin Dowd

Davida Jones and Mariah Thorpe participate in the relay race at the Field Day on March 27.

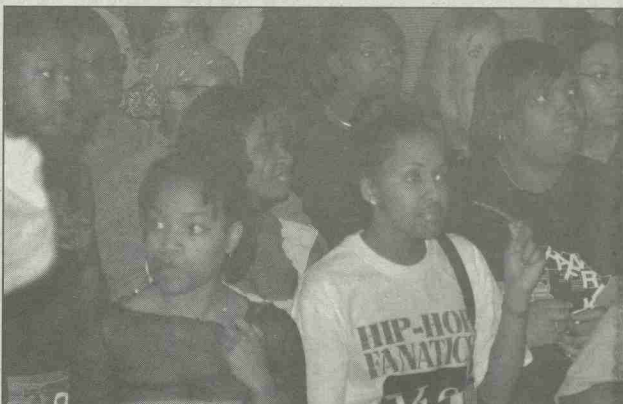


Photo by Melih Onvural

Students enjoy listening to Renaissance Records perform during the Hip-Hop Fanatics show on March 26.

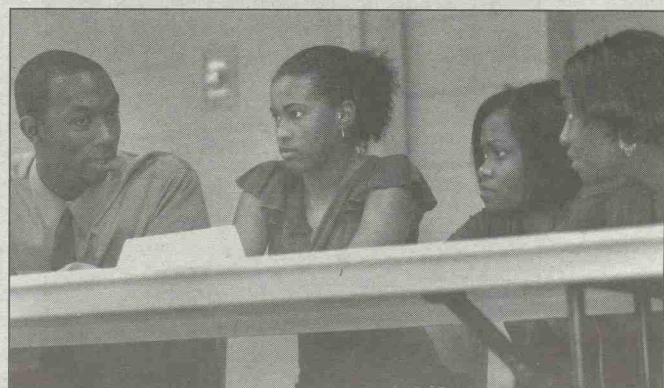


Photo by Austin Dowd

Jeremy Ashe, Tonya Jones, Victoria Moultrie, Chelsea Ngongang. The team for SAA-PAMS at the Bible Trivia on March 28.

Dyson's lecture

Scholar talks in depth about current state of Black America

ANIESHA FELTON
News Editor

At times you would have thought you were at a comedy show, while other times you thought you were sitting in church.

The Michael Eric Dyson lecture, a SAAC sponsored event during Pan-Afrikan week, featured topics that ranged from hip hop today to old and young respecting one another to affirmative action to the internal dimensions of black identity.

Michael Eric Dyson, a scholar, cultural critic, and Baptist minister, told the audience that there are competing black dualities in one body.

"Blackness is hard in its definition," Dyson said. "The black identity is captured within a multi-faceted cluster of so many things; it not only includes the cultures of Africa and North America, but it also involves the culture of South America, the Caribbean, and Europe," he said.

Dyson also stated that there is a colossal stress on how the new generation defines blackness. He said that the parents of the current generation put up with W.E.B. Dubois as a way to define blackness, but the new generation looks to Snoop Dogg, and this is not acceptable.

Dyson said that there is tension between the younger and older generation because the older generation doesn't know what interests the younger, and younger doesn't know how they got here, something Dyson refers to as Afronesia.

"The older generation is disconcerted with the fact that the younger generation doesn't know the struggle that the older person had to go through to get them where they are today," he said. "They were called 'boy' and 'girl' by young white children until they were 75 years old."

"The older man gets upset because the younger generation is complacent, they don't take advantage of their blood-shed rights, and they don't care to ask or try to understand from whence they came," he said.

While stating this, Dyson also said that the older people never cut the younger generation any slack. He joked that some of the older people who fuss and complain about the younger generation not appreciating the struggle didn't participate in the struggle themselves. "Where's your picture with Martin Luther King? Oh, you had to work the day of the march," Dyson said sarcastically about the "complainers."

Through rhyme and song, Dyson assessed the state of hip hop saying that "it is the single definer of our generation" and that this is both scary and "a good thing."

"I'm glad we have hip hop, for it lets me know what the youth are thinking about, but when I hear 'ass so fat you can see it from the back,' it makes me wonder...is this all they are thinking about," he said.

After stating that it is hard for enlightened artists such as Kanye West, Common, Mos Def, and Lauryn Hill to sell records because they don't use profane language or suggestive lyrics, Dyson delved into politics.

Commenting that terror didn't begin with 911, Dyson said that terror has been around for centuries and is still going on.

"Terror, we haven't involved in terror for a long time, beginning with the Native American being terrorized by Englishmen," he said. "For a more recent incident of terror, just walk down the street and pull out your wallet; you'll get shot 41

times and hit 19; I don't know about you, but I define that as terror" Dyson said.

Dyson added that the "US of Amnesia" slept with terrorism saying, "daddy Bush was in bed with Bin Ladin and was a key defender of Saadam Hussein."

Dyson criticized the younger Bush for speaking against affirmative action when he himself was rewarded for it. Dyson commented that it is a shame when you flaunt to the public that you were a "C student" but still was able to go an Ivy League school.

"It is blatant that he got into Yale because of his father, if this isn't a form of affirmative action, I don't know what is," Dyson said. "Affirmative Action is solely about opening doors and allowing persons who historically have been denied to participate fairly and equally," he said.

Dyson added that there are many white students who sit in class turning up their noses at minorities who attend a predominantly white school thinking they only got in because of affirmative action; he said that these students need to recognize that they're probably mediocre themselves and that the minority may have more of a right to be sitting in that chair at that school than they [Caucasians] themselves. Dyson admitted that he still doesn't comprehend why blacks have to be geniuses and women have to be over-qualified to assume high positions, and this will always be a mystery.

After sing-alongs to "Have You Seen Her," "I Ain't Too Proud to Beg," and "Always and Forever," after the jokes about homosexuals being able to get married because they deserve to be miserable too, and after numerous imitations, the lecture concluded with Dyson commenting on how the black community needs to treat one another and answering a few floor questions.

Dyson said that the black community needs to uplift one another and not tear each other down. Dyson commented that it is the black woman where he sees the most degradation and that this is the reason he wrote "Why I Love Black Women."

"Black women are being dissed by the outside and inside world," he said. "She is being criticized for having a big butt and big lips by the outside world, and being called a chickenhead and trick by the inside world."

"Black men say women are bossy...okay, I gotta admit, that's a good point, but the beautiful thing about their bossiness is that it shows they are truly giving creatures who care about your well-being," he said.

Dyson ended saying that Bush needs to be put out of the White House, that he, himself, is a paid pest, and that the purpose of a cultural center is to educate a suppressed group about themselves because they weren't allowed to "exist."

Comedy show gives festival attendees a chance to laugh

BY ROBERT WHITE
Editor-In-Chief

Pan-Afrikan festival featured a variety of events for students. Students got a chance to laugh at the Madd Laughs Comedy Show, featuring comedians Shang, Cocoa Brown and Finesse.

Shang began the show with own brand of comedy, talking about almost every popular entertainer especially R. Kelly and Michael Jackson. Shang also said Missy Elliot look like Halle Berry. Shang began his bet by comparing ugly girls and ugly friends of girls to the Gollum character from "Lord of the Rings," a comment which received a applause from the audiences.

Shang also focused on relationships. Shang asked the women in the audience to respond to his pick-up lines. He also talked about current hip hop albums. Shang said DMX made the only song that was feminine and masculine at the same time referring to the song the rapper's hit song "Who We Be." He also spent part of the show criticizing policies of Bush. In a brief moment the comedian actually jumped into the audience and rubbed on an audience member. Shang ended his performance with a humorous poem that kept the audience laughing.

Shang Forbes is a comedian from Brooklyn who graduated from Carnegie Mellon University. He has appeared on BET's "Comic View" and HBO's "Def Comedy Jam." He also appeared on "The Jamie Foxx Show" and "The Parenthood" and recently released his CD, "Shangry."

"I thought Shang was funny. He just used the N-Word too much," said Norman Phelps, a senior in aerospace engineering.

Cocoa Brown's performance started with her talking about living in Los Angeles. She was also joking about the skinny women in the audience. Brown's commentary ranged from her life on the West Coast and to Alicia Key's deep voice in her hit single "You Don't Know My Name."

Brown even ranted on women who use beauty products to enhance themselves, products which she described as "an extension is just an extension of your personality."

She also talked about male celebrities particularly A.J. the co-host of BET's 106 & Park comparing him to the alien from the movie "Predator" and ended her segment by talking about sexual situations on a college campuses.

Cocoa Brown was featured on BET's "Comic View" from 1998-2003. She has performed at numerous universities and comedy clubs across the country. She has also been featured in two motion pictures "Blue Moon" and "A Long Journey Home."

Next on stage, was Finesse Mitchell, a graduate of the University of Miami, began his first season on NBC's "Saturday Night Live" this year. Mitchell was born and raised in Atlanta and has performed on BET's "Comic View" and appeared on NBC's "Late Friday." Mitchell talked about everything from his days as a undergraduate to his stint on Comic View.

Mitchell began his act by noting the differences between white college students and Black college students and continued by discussing his own sexual exploits. He also managed to call out one of the member of the audience and use him in his routine. He also talked about T.V. shows and life as a Saturday Night Live cast member.

Students seemed to like the three-hour show although many agreed it was a little long.

"They talked about a lot of real life situations that college students can relate to," said Toni Mabrey, a senior in animal science.

"I thought Finesse was funny because he did not have a written script. He just went on stage and freestyled it. That's how I knew he was a true comedian," said Kenya Thompson, a senior in zoology.

Other Pan-Afrikan events that educated, uplifted, entertained

ANIESHA FELTON
News Editor

DANCE VISIONS

They wildly vibrated to the beats of the African drum. They leaped and they kicked and they turned. They were on the ground, in the air, and everywhere in between. And then they slowly, one by one, exited the stage...and that was just the beginning.

On Thursday, Dance Visions held their 27th Annual spring concert during Pan-Afrikan week. In a more than half-packed Stewart, Dance Visions moved to the music styles of hip hop, reggae, gospel, and Latino.

Following "In My Heart," a tribute to Africa, dancers in street clothes moved to Kelis' "Milkshake" which was then followed by a dance duet by junior Rowlette Simmons and Jaclyn Ellis. "Secret Affair" featured Michael Jackson's "Keep It in the Closet" and was highlighted by an intense fight scene over junior Joshua Cason.

After Britney Spear's "Me Against the Music" and a ten minute intermission, in a high-energy performance, dancers moved to Beyonce's "Yes" and Missy Elliot's "Pass that Dutch" in the segment titled "Love, Life, and Liberty."

While "Tickle My Fancy" captured the audience's attention because of its 1920 flair and girls-dancing-with-girls choreography, "Wasted Time" could have been the most captivating performance that evening.

The Sunmolu Hamilton choreographed piece narrated the tale of three wives who yearn for their husband's attention, but is neglected on account of their husband's mistresses. Frustrated, the wives argue with their men, which then leads to the men grabbing hold of their wives and slowly sexing them to the ground. At the climax of the dance, the wife, the husband, and the mistress are all in one room, of which then the wife kicks the husband out, and with no remorse the mistresses take the husband's hand and leads him off stage.

After guest VaZquez African-Caribbean Dance Company performed the salsa and meringue, the concert concluded with more Latino sounds as the Dance Visions members individually showcased their talents.

NEW HORIZONS CHOIR

Dressed in black, the New Horizons Choir celebrated Pan-Afrikan week by singing praises to God.

New Horizons declared that Jesus was a rock in a weary land if He at any time picked you up when you were down or stepped in on time when you were down to your last dime.

After declaring Jesus a rock, incorporating Usher's thunderclap and Lil Kim's "Crush on You" beat, New Horizons then sang "Who is Like the Lord?"

Although after the singing of "The Best is Yet to Come," "You Know What's Best," and "God Has Many

Great Things In Store For Me," the concert was to have concluded, New Horizons sang the popular "The Presence of the Lord Is Here," followed by "Make A Joyful Noise" and concluded with "Take me Back" which featured alumni of the choir.

STUDENT GLOBAL AIDS CAMPAIGN

One sex partner easily turned into twelve, during Student Global AIDS Campaign's (SGAC) Aids panel.

"You never know who or how many your 'one and only' has slept with," said Chris Ousley, and AIDS lecturer and physical education instructor. "When you engage in sexual acts with your partner, you are essentially having sex with all their previous or maybe even partners-even current."

SGAC, an organization which junior Tracina Williams and senior Giovanni Seawood founded, contributed to the Pan-Afrikan festivals by a health fair and by having a panel discussion on HIV and AIDS an epidemic that is sweeping through the African and African-American population.

Among the topics discussed were how can HIV be contracted, an idea of its origins and the importance of safe sex. When asked, what is the most important thing college students need to know about HIV, Caressa McLaughlin answered "factual information."

"This has to be the best thing college students can do for themselves and for others they need to educate themselves on HIV and AIDS they need to grab hold of factual information and share it," Ousley said. "Students need to know how one can get it and where to go to get help. They also need to drill in their heads that any type of unprotected sex, whether anal, vaginal, or oral is dangerous," she said.

Ousley also said students need to know that anyone can get HIV, and that it is not present only in certain groups.

Ousley said getting people to care when they're not affected is very difficult. McLaughlin agreed.

"People only want to know about HIV when it affects them and personal level-whatever it be themselves a friend or a family member," she said.

Ousley added that when a person finds out that their

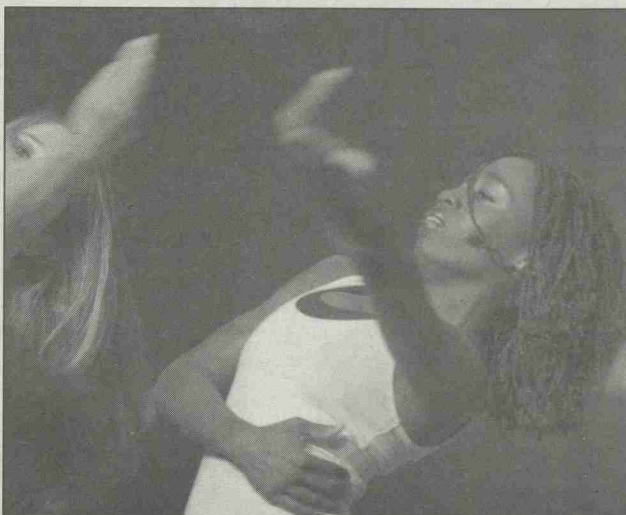


Photo by Rob Bradley

Nancy Zagbayou dances in Dance Visions Spring concert on April 1.

family member or friend has contracted the disease they instantly ask how they got it. "When I tell them how they got it, if it is 'immoral' the inquirer will say 'well that's what they get--they shouldn't have been doing that in the first place,'" Ousley said.

After the expected questions were asked the floor was opened to the medium sized audience. The first question consisted of "How is AIDS related to the US population?"

"The community of color is disproportionately affected," said McLaughlin. "These communities are hesitant to talk about HIV because it brings up discussions of drug-use and different kinds of sex-this sometimes causes them to be complacent," she said.

McLaughlin also said that AA were slow to respond to the HIV and AIDS epidemic-this being a possible reason for a high number of incidences.

Another question from the audience consisted of an African male student asking "Why does America even have an AIDS problem. He stated that in Africa AIDS is rampant, because they don't have the luxuries, medical, living, or financially as America. "America makes a big deal over AIDS, why?"

"Sex is very, very popular in our culture and when we found out that you could possibly die from it, we wanted people to know about it-that's why there are so many books, pamphlets, Web sites, and commercials about it," Ousley said. "We make a big deal over it because you can actually die from doing something that is very popular and common to everyday life," he said.

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get in the way of me performing my job and acquiring other vendors."

A Black Enterprise article says that racism is evident even in the world of fashion. Rarely do we see a black designer acknowledged. And while the percentage of black fashion designers is relatively low, there are literally no successful black designers in the high fashion field. Big surprise? Not really. Black designers say that people aren't quick to accept them as

high fashion designers because a certain lifestyle is associated with their garments. When people look at expensive high fashion, they think "rich" or "high class". Society isn't ready to associate high fashion with the African American population. Therefore, this view contributes to the racial barrier in fashion design.

"I'm pretty sure breaking into the industry will be tougher because of my skin color, but one should take all of the punches thrown at them and make themselves better," Bush said. "I wouldn't currently

be an NCSU student if I didn't take my own advice." If you're an African American student aspiring to be a fashion designer, there are a couple of things you should consider doing when starting your career. Experts advise getting a job with an established label first. It doesn't matter whether the label is black or white, as long as it's successful. Once you've done that, work to develop the designs that reflect current trends and SAVE MONEY!!! You'll need lots of it when launching your own line.

You can also start out by

exploring other career possibilities in the fashion industry as well. Some designers look into becoming buyers, retail merchandisers, and/or sales representatives. Bush opts to do just that.

"I would like to start out as a merchandise buyer for a large company...or maybe even for television shows or movies. After that I want to begin my own line of clothing, accessories and lingerie."

Regardless of your race, becoming a fashion designer is attainable. It's all a matter of getting your foot in the door and

having the financial backing needed to produce your own fashions. Sure the field is competitive, but it's not impossible to conquer. If you have the talent and the drive, breaking into the world of fashion won't be as hard as

"People will try you regardless of what you look like. Just let them know up front you don't go for that," Bush said. "Basically, all a designer really needs to be is creative and not afraid to change current fashion trends into something new and better."

Fashion designers on the rise

Students going into the fashion industry

BY MIQUEL PURSER
AND CANDACE BROADIE
Guest Writers

While N.C. State may not be the first educational choice of fashion design hopefuls across the country, it is becoming increasingly popular. The university is making improvements in the curriculum and developing the course of study available for fashion scholars in attempts to become comparable to places such as the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City.

Sarah Hayes, a junior at NCSU, is an Art and Design major. She is working toward a future career in costume design. Hayes hopes to design and create clothes for television shows and movies. She believes that her courses here are providing her with a good base for a costume design career.

"The classes I'm taking at the College of Design are extremely beneficial because they provide me with an outlet to get my creative juices flowing and exercise my thought," says Hayes. "I love the fact that nobody's telling me exactly how I should design something. I am able to express myself as an individual."

"Students at other schools, such as FIT, don't have access to the technology we have," says Genevieve Garland, a professor at the College of Textiles responsible for the fashion studio. "We evolve with the changes in the fashion industry."

While fashion institutes may be the current favorite for aspiring designers, NCSU offers more educational options to students, not just a focus on sketch and fashion illustrating. The College of Textiles has technology that is unique to this campus. Some of the technology is rated the best in the entire country.

"We have a 3-D knitting machine that knits garments without seams. We are even lucky enough to have a body scanner," Garland says. A body scanner is a method of technology used to measure a person's exact clothing size. Many apparel companies incorporate these measurement reports into the process of determining their sizing scales.

Students hoping to study fashion are encouraged to apply to the College of Textiles and major in textile and apparel technology and management. For students who are not admitted to the College of Design, this is a good option to take advantage of. The course of study for a TATM major includes not only apparel development classes, but also consists of retail management and international trade courses. These business-oriented courses provide students with a good knowledge base for owning and running a business within the fashion industry, in case they decide to take that route instead of actually designing clothes.

Students who want to pursue a definite career in fashion design have several options. If admitted to the College of Design, they can minor in design studies while majoring in textile and apparel management.

Students can also major in art and design at the College of Design. If desired, a design major can minor in Textile Technology, taking more technical courses that focus on knitting and weaving. Pursuing this course of study will provide a fashion design hopeful with a knowledge of the actual creation of clothes and a familiarity with fabrics.

Hayes said he believes the course of study at the

College of Design is becoming increasingly comparable to an education at a fashion institute, and has faith that her education at NCSU will take her where she wants to go.

Another educational path available to fashion design hopefuls is the Anni Albers Scholars Program. The program is a partnership between the College of Design and the College of Textiles and provides students with educational grounding in both design and textile and apparel technology.

Completion of the program provides Anni Albert scholars with two undergraduate degrees: a bachelor of science in textile technology from the College of Textiles and a bachelor of art and design from the College of Design.

An education acquired through the distinguished dual-degree program combines "professional skills in design with extensive technological knowledge." The curriculum from the College of Textiles includes courses in textile technology, operations management, textile chemistry and computer technology in textiles and apparel. The curriculum from the College of Design provides instruction in studio-based art and design, concentrated upper-level studios focusing on design process and creative problem solving.

Vanessa Wells is a senior in the Anni Albers program. She was accepted into the program last year, and while it will cause her to graduate two years later than expected, she believes it a sacrifice well-worth the benefits.

"The Anni Albers program is a very well-rounded program. For example, once a month we visit an art gallery downtown so we can get out in the community and see how art is being used," Wells says. "It's a really great program and I've had a wonderful experience."

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SO WHAT'S NEXT?

Fashion designers basically have two main options for employment. They can either be self-employed, often designing for individual clients on a more personal level. They can also be employed by apparel manufacturers, designing clothes that will appeal to the mass market.

If you're a designer hoping to be self-employed and create your own line of clothes, you better make sure you have at least \$50,000 in your wallet. That's approximately how much it will cost to simply create samples of your designs. The actual production of your clothing line will be an additional cost.

Despite the initial expenses, the results will likely pay off in the long run. According to the "Occupational Outlook Handbook," the demand for fashion designers is becoming increasingly stronger due to the consumer desire for "new fashions and fresh styles of apparel." Consumers are always ready to spend their money on fresh, new designs.

A FRESH NEW LOOK

One of the most recent fashion genres to emerge

is hip-hop urban wear. This evolution began in the 1980's with the breakthrough of Karl Kani, an African-American designer who refers to himself as the Godfather of Hip-Hop Fashion.

In today's fashion world, several African-American celebrities and music artists are cashing in on the development of the urban wear genre. Rapper Sean "P. Diddy" Combs launched his highly successful clothing line, Sean John, in 1998. In 2001 alone the estimated total revenues for Sean John totaled to roughly \$250 million. In 1999 rapper Jay-Z followed in Combs' footsteps with the launch of his urban-wear line, Rocawear.

This emergence of a new genre has opened the door for other African-American designers to get their start in the fashion world. These designers, such as Phat Farm founder Russell Simmons, are making their mark on fashion. As a result, they are leading the industry to become diverse.

DIVERSITY BY DESIGN

Only a small percentage of fashion designers are African American. They sometimes find it harder to survive in such a competitive field for reasons beyond their control. Not only do they have to worry about the competition and finances, their skin become an issue as well.

Sophomore Janza Bush is an African-American aspiring fashion designer. Even as a college student looking to break into the business, Bush has already encountered some things that white aspiring designers might not merely because she is black.

As a textiles apparel management major, Bush has taken a number of measures thus far to increase her chances of becoming a successful fashion designer. She started out learning how to sew at a young age.

"When I was younger I actually began making Barbie doll outfits and altering clothes I already had in my closet because my mother taught me how to sew," Bush recalls. "Then I took sewing classes in high school."

Some of Bush's designs will be included in the "Rebirth" show- a spring fashion show put on by the African American Textile Society. Bush also contributed to the 2004 Black Finesse fashion show held on April 6. She has helped create many pieces for Black Finesse Modeling Troupe.

Bush utilizes her abilities as a fashion coordinator for Black Finesse. Some of her duties include sharing new fashion trends and styles with the members

of the troupe, contacting vendors to sponsor fashion shows, and creating outfits for certain scenes and competitions. She uses this position to hone her skills as an aspiring fashion designer.

"The responsibilities I have as fashion coordinator have taught me to be very responsible," Bush said. "I would never regret taking on this position because it has forced me to try new things and get people to say yes. I'll definitely need that experience if I am going to market my designs in the industry."

Though Bush is taking appropriate measures in getting her career off the ground, there is still that question of whether her efforts will pay off despite her race.

"I've come into contact with many different types of people. Some turn their noses up automatically because of the group's name," Bush said. "But ignorance won't

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*Janza Bush,
sophomore in textile apparel management*