



Nubian Message

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Matthews kicks off AACC programs

Senior Vice President at the university as well.

**MARTIA SHARPE
JOHNATHAN BRUNSON**
Staff Writers

Last week, the African American Cultural Center kicked off its initial program featuring Dr. Frank Matthews.

AACC had organized the lecture Tuesday, September 28, where Dr. Matthews, co-founder and publisher of Black Issues in Higher Education spoke provocatively and encouragingly to those in attendance. Dr. Matthews gave the audience several points of advice to practice and succeed in undergrad they include:

?Widening out, get out of your comfort zone and meet new people

?Practice being the person you want to be: check out yourself, be what you want to be, take advantage of every cultural event at NC State

?Study hard and take advantage of tutorial services on campus

?Take chances: think of what can I do well?

?Treating others with dignity and respect

?Being as culturally engaged as possible

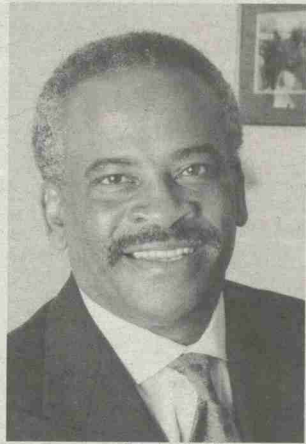
Matthews said that he wishes that people had told him valuable things of that sort when he was in undergraduate school. Throughout the lecture, he shared that he is also the co-founder of Community College Week magazine and Co Matthews and Associates, Inc. In 1988, he was named Senior Scholar in Political Science at George Mason University and is the Assistant

“Great people never take themselves seriously. They always look for opportunities to help others” said Matthews. An important word of wisdom he gave to students about following a dream is to “Do it for yourself, do not follow people.”

Dr. Matthews encouraged Black students to save, save, and save. Matthews commented, “even if you can afford that nice car, don’t buy it, wait and it will be worth it.” He spoke about rappers with the luxurious things being only a small minority of the rich and he concluded “Don’t fall for the bling bling foolishness. Don’t believe the hype.”

Not long after the lecture ended, a reception for Mr. Matthews took place in Witherspoon. Select students and faculty were given the opportunity to enjoy his company. As everyone sat in fellowship and embarked upon an elegant meal, dressed for the lovely occasion, the beautiful melodies from the voices and music of Soulfire rang throughout the room. Their live performance completed the calm atmosphere with Mr. Matthews and student leaders in the midst.

The dinner came to a close with a short question and answer session, where a few of those who were present asked Mr. Matthews questions. He gave extensive, yet engaging responses to the questions and comments of hip-hop’s messages and embracing other cultures, while maintaining the African-American cultural identity. Matthews feels that a lot of the messages in hip-hop are negative and degrading to black women



Frank Matthews
Courtesy Photo

and that it should be used to reach the hip hop generation in a positive way. He even wondered how an artist such as Ludacris was allowed to come and perform at our campus. In response to African Americans embracing other cultures, yet standing out, he said that it is a reality that the Hispanic culture is rising up and we as blacks will have to get used to it. Hispanics have become the minority and are doing some of the same jobs we as blacks had to do. He mentioned the

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Students discuss issues at town hall meeting

SHAUN WILSON
Staff Writer

On Thursday, Sep. 30, the African American Student Advisory Council (AASAC) hosted a town hall meeting for faculty and students in order to discuss issues pertinent to them.

The meeting, which started at 7:30 p.m., began with several presentations by AASAC members that informed the attendants of several projects with which AASAC is involved, including the chancellor search, budget cuts to the African American Cultural Center, and limited funding for the Nubian Message.

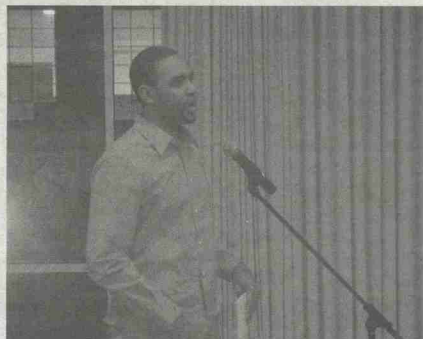
AASAC which was established in 1989, is comprised of representatives from 42 African American organizations on campus. It has three goals:

To advocate for the education of African American students about their African cultural heritage in order to promote and uplift an African centered consciousness, to develop the leadership potential and the academic and professional development of all African American students through the reflection of the seven of *Nguzo Saba, and to identify and address the needs and concerns of African American students through unity action and effective communications.

The first presentation was an introduction by Sunmolu Hamilton Samuel in which she stated that the purpose of the meeting was for the African American Community to voice its concerns.

After several presentations, the floor was opened up to the audience for questions and comments. The cli-

max of the meeting came when Hamilton Brown gave a brief speech expressing his disgust of the low gradua-



Student Body President, Tony Caravano speaks at AASAC Town Hall meeting.

tion rates and complacency of African Americans.

“What’s the problem?” asked Brown, as he urged students to be proactive about issues concerning African Americans on campus.

Proactiveness was perhaps the underlying theme of the meeting, with several questions asked concerning what steps would be taken to ensure that changes would be made.

While some attendants raised questions about AASAC’s efforts to make change, the question was

returned to the audience. Tony Caravano, our student body president, feels that change will occur with collective efforts by an entire community, and not a handful of constituents. In addition he believes that there should be less talking and more action. “When you have issues call, email...right away. We talk too much” said Carvano

Other topics discussed were the \$3000 budget cuts to the Nubian Message, the tuition increase and AIDS awareness on campus.

The town hall meeting is one of the first steps taken towards addressing the needs of African Americans on campus. According to Deandra Duggans,

Co-President of Black Students board, events like the one on Thursday will help alleviate a lot of problems.

“The town hall meeting was very necessary to inform students and

hear from students. It won’t solve every problem but it is a good start,” said Duggans

While the majority of the seats in the ballroom were filled, others, like Shannadora Hollis, expected a bigger turnout.

“While the turnout at such an important event within our community, it wasn’t as good as it should have been, it is my hope that the individuals in attendance walked away from the event sensing the urgency and need for unity within our community,” said Hollis.

STUDENTS ATTEND CAREER FAIR

DAISY BUIRAGO
Staff Writer

How often is it that one finds representatives from BMW, Nationwide Insurance and the Newport News Police all under the same roof looking to entice N.C. State students? Not often at all, but on September 27 and 28 the annual Minority Career Fair took place in the Reynolds Coliseum, where these companies and many more could be found accepting student resumes and explaining internship possibilities to eager ears. The doors to the career fair are not just limited to minorities but open to all.

Many students could be seen attending the career fair on both days. Students who attended found it worthwhile, even if they did not manage to obtain an immediate internship. After examining several booths, Jay Bettis, a junior in Chemistry, commented, "I think one of the most informative companies was Phillip Morris, it's shocking to know that they own so many other unrelated companies such as Kraft, Nabisco, and Seagrams".

The career fair also served as a wonderful community service volunteer for students. Volunteer opportunities to become an ambassador during the scheduled events were made available through Union Activities Board and Black Students Board. Becoming an ambassador entailed duties such as covering a company's booth while representatives went to lunch, helping representatives set up and break down and providing representatives with beverages when necessary. Another perk for ambassadors was being able to converse with representatives on a more personal level while sharing their resumes.

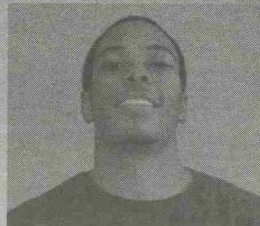
However, the Minority Career Fair had its minor downfalls. Even though the career fair claims to encompass jobs open to all majors, the variety of employers could still be improved upon. Stopping by a few booths, it was quickly observed that most of the companies were looking for engineering or computer science majors. Few companies were unselective about what majors they wanted their interns to possess. Also, internships were mostly available to juniors and seniors, while curious freshman became disappointed when they realized they would not qualify for jobs yet due to their classification. Travis Blackwell, a junior in Math Education, realized this downfall, saying, "This is a great opportunity for students entering the work force shortly after receiving their diplomas to explore possible job opportunities from big name employers."

Students from the College of Design and the College of Textiles were especially at a loss when exploring the companies present and what they had to offer because there were little or no companies available to represent these fields.

There is always room for improvement though and as the Minority Career Fair progresses, it will be sure to add more companies to its list and diversify in order to continue aiding students as best as possible.

ALUMNI PROFILE

ROBERT WHITE
Editor-In-Chief



Thomas Eatmon
File Photo

Name: Thomas J. Eatmon
Classification: Graduate Student
MAJOR: Public Policy
Hometown: Durham, North Carolina

Some N.C. State students upon the eve of their graduation often wonder what they will do next with their degree. In 2002, Thomas J. Eatmon was faced with the decision of what to do with his chemical engineering degree. After an encounter with a recruiter at career fair, Eatmon decided to join the Teach for America.

Teach for America is a program that places recent college graduates as teachers in low-income rural or urban public school systems for two years. The purpose of the program is to eliminate the disparities between the qualities of education in low-income areas with that of education in wealthier areas.

While in Teach for America, Eatmon taught seventh grade science at James S. Deady Middle School and Ortiz Middle School in Houston, Texas.

"My first year [I worked at] more than anything trying to get on the same page as my students. It was a culture shock," said Eatmon. Eatmon explained that his first year he was assigned James S. Deady Middle School a predominantly Latino school. Eatmon explained he had a hard time adjusting to the language barrier because some of his students were the children on Spanish-speaking immigrants.

After overcoming the initial challenge of the language barrier, Eatmon faced the task of raising the low test scores of his students. According to his statistics, 60 percent of his students were below grade level in the science. In order to increase their scores, Eatmon created a classroom economy in which students would earn fake currency for good attendance, behavior, and performance. When report cards were issued, the students would receive prizes or extra credit points by purchasing them with the fake currency Eatmon said the strategy was very effective at both schools. Eatmon said one of his most memorable moments was teaching soccer. He mentioned many of the classroom troublemakers were on the soccer team and he was also able to influence their behavior as their coach.

"I was able to use soccer to turn around their behavior in school," said Eatmon.

Eatmon said the influence of his high school environmental science teacher, Eric Packenham influenced him to go into teaching.

"To a lot of my students (I thought) I could be Mr. Packenham and do the (same) things for them he did for me," said Eatmon.

Eatmon encouraged students especially African-Americans to pursue careers in which their work is meaningful and helps others in the community. Eatmon added that Teach for America is the good place to start.

He also encouraged math and science majors not to be scared of careers outside of the traditional corporate careers of math and science majors.

Eatmon was very active as a student at N.C. State. He was a resident advisor in Metcalf Residence Hall in 1998. Eatmon was head counselor for the Summer Transition Program in the College of Engineering in the summer of 2002. He was also the Opinions Editor for the Nubian Message during the 2001-2002 school year and a member in Knowledge, Wisdom and Understanding throughout his college career. Eatmon noted that his experiences also encouraged him to a career in academics. Eatmon's term in the program ended earlier this year. He earned his masters degree in education from the University of St. Thomas in Houston, Texas and is currently pursuing his doctorate degree in public policy at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

For more information on Teach for America
Go to:
www.teachforamerica.org

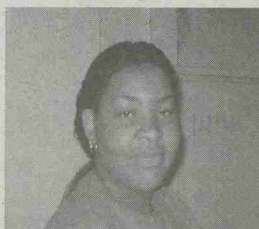
WHATS ON YOUR MIND?

Question: What IS YOUR PERSPECTIVE ON HOW FEMALES ARE PORTRAYED IN THE MEDIA?



ROSHAUNDA MCLEAN
Sophomore, Psychology

"I feel that everyone has a right to free expression and women have a right to choose how they want to be portrayed. I personally would not ever pose nude, but that's my choice. Because of the freedom of the press, the media has the right to show whatever they want."



SHANEQUA MAX WELL
Sophomore, Communications

"Females are portrayed more now as sex symbols in videos today. You cannot look at any music countdown and not see a woman showing majority of her body."

FEMALE INDECENT EXPOSURE IN THE MEDIA

JOY JOHNSON
Columnist

Over the summer, I took my 10-year-old nephew to see a movie involving one of his favorite Disney stars and I spent the majority of the time covering his eyes and ears. I realized that over the past decade there has been a wave of increased explicit use of sexuality in the media to market everything from body wash to jewelry to comedy variety shows. It was not until the appearance of females dressed in skimpy ensembles that the ratings for comedy shows like *ComicView* went through the roof. Herbal Essences sales almost tripled when they started the "ooh...ahhh" campaign with the sexually suggestive moans and groans in their latest line of commercials. The most obvious example of indecent exposure is of course the videos seen on shows like BET's *Uncut* which pervert femininity in forms and fashions which are not socially nor morally accepted in America. I've never been one to be condescending towards those who choose to dress "fashionably seductive," but it has gotten to the point that I cannot turn on the tv, walk past a clothing store or read the school's newspaper without seeing more of the female anatomy than I would like to see over the course of the day. I feel as if, it is one's personal prerogative as to what they would like to wear, however, I do believe it is a matter of how one values and

respects himself and the example they set forth for the next generation. Feminists make major noise about the female exploitation seen in the media today, and mothers across the nation are enraged at the way in which women are being portrayed as prizes and play toys for men to manipulate physically and socially, even in PG rated media. This distorted, misogynist portrayal is especially dangerous in many African-American homes in which our kids are being television-taught values and social behaviors which are the original responsibility of the parents. I believe this is an integral part of the plight of young Black America; there are young African-American males and females living vicariously the lives that they see being depicted on MTV and BET.

The tragedy is the thin line separating reality from fantasy in these young, impressionable minds. What happened to the days when black song writers and singers belted about being "Young, Gifted and Black," having "Black Power," and "Healing the World." What happened to advertising gimmicks that were wholesome and funny, rather than sexually suggestive and indecent? Our generation doesn't even remember those days much less the time when people expressed through media a positive cause; the media was an avenue to express relevant issues and opinions as opposed to mindless extrinsic entertainment. I have come to realize that the bottom line of the matter is that sex sells, and in our capitalist society we have adopted the Machiavellian philosophy of "the

ends justify the means." Since the media is the major avenue through which people determine which cars to buy, which companies to work for, which clothes to wear and even their political affiliations, there must be a force by which the effect of media can truly be felt by the public.

Despite the conservatism that this country exudes, the use of sex in the media has made millions for advertising, film and music industries because it catches the attention of those both for and against its use. I believe that the

African-Americans in the media have been made the voluntary scapegoats in this argument, simply because we are the most ostentatious example of the use of female indecent exposure to do one principle thing, SELL. Of course, most females think this indecent exposure is morally wrong, but there is also a large population who feel that it is practically acceptable. My opinion on it is this: this is a matter of personal values and respect for one's self, so why complain about female indecent exposure and exploitation in the media when you wear nothing around campus? You must BE the change you wish to see. Don't talk about it, BE about it!

LET US, BEGIN TO VALUE "US"

KEITRIS WEATHERSBE
Opinions Editor

When you look into the mirror every morning, what do you see? If your answer is like mine, you see a reflection that represents something, or maybe someone. You represent your ancestors that came before you and who laid the foundation of this country in which you live. They fought hard to gain the opportunities that others had. They stood together when faced with adversity, and lifted each other when one cradled the ground. Yet, do we represent our ancestors well? Do we honor and respect their traditions and ways of life? Do we take into consideration the struggle that was needed in order for us to exist? Or do we lack the understanding of the importance of "community" or "togetherness"? Take the time to ask yourself these questions, and maybe you will realize how important these areas were to our ancestors. The same should still be important today.

Take the time to explore those in which you coexist. Especially your "sisters" and "brothers." We need each other, especially now, when our country is on the path to elections, and when the fate of African-Americans is at stake. The empty promises which those

in high political offices push our way should only bring us closer together as African-Americans.

Instead of degrading each other, we should uplift. How many of us have seen each other out in public, and for no reason decided to degrade them. Of course, I am guilty of it, and plenty of you are too. My point is, when we see one of our own being successful, we should congratulate and appreciate, instead of the contrary. That's why we develop enemies within our own race. Simply because we won't take the time to appreciate our people.

Valuing "us" will bring our community to the place it should be. Less of our men being seen in prison, and more in the classroom. I am not at all putting our African-American brothers down, I am just pointing out the fact that some value needs to be placed in our community. Despite all the hardships that we as African Americans have had to face, I think there is one remedy to the issues that plague us here in America: we must value "us." I know you're probably tired by now of hearing this phrase, but it is important that you listen and take heed to it. This phrase could save our community. This phrase could bring us closer together, even though we are very close to being torn apart. This phrase could even allow us to become first instead of staying last. So, take value in your African American community. If you don't, no one will.

Nubian Message

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GROUP EXPLORES RACISM IN EXPERIMENT

XAVIER R. KING
Culture Editor

"Don't Hate the Playa Hate the Game" was held on Wednesday evening in Witherspoon Student Center by the College of Humanity and Social Sciences Multicultural Student Association. CHASS-MAS is an organization ran by student leaders that are in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, the goal for their last event was set in part to attack racism and the emotions felt that are attached toward the victims. "Don't Hate the Playa Hate the Game" was a recreation of society and its social structures and how racism is not caused and continued by just one person, it takes an entire society to recreate prejudices and stereotypes toward other groups of people. Participants in this event endured what many races and cultures endure in real life on a daily basis when trying to advance themselves in today's economic struggle.

"I wanted to bring this event here after we had seen it at a Conference this summer and we thought that NC State's student body would very much benefit from it just as we did," said Alexis Forman, President of CHASS-MASS.

As a participant in this field experiment, the forms of discrimination that are thought of by different races seem to be what is truly running our country's economic future. Not being able to have access to resources that will be of great value in the long run, therefore suppressing a race and/or culture from opportunities, are the exact things that keep particular races oppressed. The participants had to go to different mock reality establishments and inquire about things that they wanted or needed as a service. They were subjected to racism, discrimination, rude comments or were granted the service or resource. Although the participants did not know why they were being discriminated against, he or she would soon find out in the discussion section.

After majority of the participants were upset at the remarks that were being made towards them, the leaders of this program sat everyone down and told them exactly why they were not able to acquire the services as they

wanted to. Once everyone found out why, they realized that they had been labeled since they walked through the door, and then the discussion of racism in our society became "the debate." The discussion almost immediately accused the "media" for the constant fuel in racism and the negative affects that has come behind such practices. Not only accusing the media of showing stereotypical roles, but also discussing how those roles are the only roles that many closed minded and unaware people see on a regular basis and form their opinions based on what they see as usual behavior for African-Americans and other cultures.

For those who attended this program, they left with an understanding of why racism, discrimination and prejudices arise and how it can be eliminated.

"This program and the reality of it brought racism back to its roots and it every well hit home with me," said Roshanda McLean a sophomore, majoring in Psychology.

With enlightening events, such as "Don't Hate the Playa, Hate the Game" from CHASS-MAS and other organizations here on campus, maybe the student body will be able to understand what every culture here on campus goes through and the effect it has on its victims.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE AACC



Ms. Toni Thorpe, AACC Program Coordinator
Katina Gracien

AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER Press Release

The African American Cultural Center chose the 2004-2005 theme: Changing the Landscape of Society: African American Creative Genius, to answer students' request for visits from contemporary African Americans scholars, thinkers and developers who have landmark contributions. The year started with Mr. Frank Matthews, co-founder and publisher of Black Issues in Higher Education. Mr. Matthews spoke to the campus community, CHASS, COM and CEd students in a focused session and a small group of students who requested interviewing time. Despite a tight schedule Matthews also made time to talk with Interim-Chancellor Barnhardt. The African-American Cultural Center wants to schedule as much focused time as possible for conversations between and among guests, students, staff and faculty.

The Center has two programs scheduled in October: Heritage Day Oct. 23 and the book discussion of Some Things I Thought I'd Never Do Oct. 27. Dr. Levi Watkins, author of "From Integrating Vanderbilt Medical School to Implanting a Defibrillator: One Physician's Journey to Fulfill His Dreams", will visit November 9. Janet Howard, the Center's Interim Director, added that she applauds the students' outstanding response to the Matthews' visit and anticipates similar attendance and active participation from partnerships and collaborations with students, faculty, staff and university community. The semester will wrap up with a co-sponsored program celebrating Kwanzaa with guest speaker Mr. Charles McDew in December.

Hispanic Heritage Month at NCSU

DAISY BUIRTAGO
Staff Writer

September 15 through October 15 is Hispanic Heritage Month, so for everyone with Latino blood, pride, or just plain admiration, this is the time to represent. Knowing that many will be curious as to what exactly this month represents, Mercedes Marshall, senior in Textile and Apparel Management and president of Lambda Pi Chi, captures the essence of Hispanic Heritage Month "Hispanic Heritage month isn't about bringing each other down, it is about celebrating and building unity through our common bond of heritage. One thing people have to realize is that it's not about where your parents are from, where you were born, dividing yourself into a percentage of latina-ness or even how much of your country's paraphernalia you own. It's about how you identify yourself. You don't

have to be a walking billboard of your country, or need to be born there for your country to be born in you. And purity of blood lineage doesn't justify anything because all of Latino America is of mixed race and to deny that, is to deny who you claim to be.

On September 11 and 12, La Fiesta del Pueblo, was a pre kick-off to the activities that have occurred and the ones that are yet to come. On September 17, the Office of Hispanic Student Affairs, located in Pullen Hall, held an open house for students and faculty where they could discover just what N.C. State had to offer in terms of programs and services for Latinos on campus.

Also, every Wednesday during this month, at 1 pm in the brickyard, faculty and students are encouraged to dress in yellow tops in order to display their support of Hispanic Heritage month as well as any Latino blood they may have. Several faces representing Latino based organizations, such as Mi Familia, have been seen in the brickyard wearing their yellow apparel, such as Jocelyn Lopez. "La Raza has a lot planned for some upcoming events and when we come out we are going to explode!"

said Lopez. La Raza del Mil Colores will be performing at the upcoming Miss Black and Gold pageant on October 19. This is just one example of what was talked about in order to delve into the Latino culture upon the Atrium's entrance.

On September 23, Lambda Pi Chi sponsored Cultural Connections night at North Hall which entailed free Latino food, quick demonstrations of Spanish music and dance, and conversations about Latino contribution to the mainstream culture we call.

If one has not been able to attend any of these events and would like to savor some Spanish flavor entertainment, there is still hope. "Somos...", translated as "We are...", is an upcoming program full of music and dance that will occur October 21 from 6-10 pm. Slated to take place at Stewart Theatre, advance tickets can be obtained by calling 515-1100 or stopping by Ticket Central in Talley. For more information on this festive program, please email Daisy at nrun2000@aol.com.

DEFINITION OF A "THUG"

DEANDRA DUGGANS
Columnist

Over the past week, the term "thug" has been tossed around ever so loosely and has made me rethink what exactly this term means. In the Technician, one of the writers referred to Ludacris as a "thug." He made it clear that he was appalled that the university would choose to bring this "thug" to NC State, using what he deemed as "evidence" from some of Ludacris' lyrics. Although I have many words for Mr. Onorio, some of which I have already addressed to the Technician, I will not feed into his ignorance any longer by stating how wrong he is about the entire situation because this was proven on Friday night. However, I would like to further discuss the meaning of the word "thug," which, over the years, has been misemployed and redirected to the wrong individuals.

What exactly is a thug? According to Webster's Dictionary, a thug is a "brutal ruffian; assassin; gangster; killer." We as African-Americans may call each other and ourselves thugs, but not in the capacity that our white counterparts or other members of other cultures may use it. I hate to pull the race card, but it's all about the black image in the white mind. The word "thug," when used by some, has a negative connotation. For example, when Onorio used this word to describe Ludacris, he was solely going off of appearance and the lyrics of his music. He knew nothing about Ludacris, except that he made a few songs with questionable lyrics. He generalized one person based on the media's depiction of our culture- a culture that is so much more than a few explicit words and images found in some music. Is a "thug" described by the clothes he/she chooses to wear, if he has braids, dreads or a clean cut, or if he chooses to use expletives in his speech? No! Although I disagree with the use of this word in all existences, if at all, a "thug" should be characterized by his actions. The many young African-American men that walk around this campus vary in appearance, from sporting cornrows to dreads, to the clean-cut look. The apparel is mostly the same across campus, clearly influenced by the hip hop culture. So, since we dress like these rappers and listen to their music, does that make us any less of a person, anymore violent than the next, or any less educated than our peers? Again, my answer is NO!

It seems to me that anytime someone uses the word "thug," they are referring to an African-American male, when in fact this word can go across color lines. Remember, it was not two African-American males who shot and killed people in the parking lot during the NC State game and, at the concert Friday night, I did not see African-American students being pushed up against walls by the police for failing to cooperate. I never hear anyone using this word to reference anyone other than an African-American or another minority. Hip-Hop breaks color barriers and many people of all races listen to the music and partake in the culture, as evident at

the concert on Friday night and anytime you stroll through campus and hear what is being played in a lot of people's cars. I wonder if someone would refer to these individuals as "thugs" too. Baggy jeans, long t-shirts, cornrows, the use of slang, and hip-hop music says NOTHING about the type of person someone could be. It doesn't present any proof of wrong-doing, it doesn't show their education level, their ability to succeed, whether they are well-mannered or not, or if they are even a devout church-goer. It would be wrong and unfair to generalize people by saying that anyone who listens to country music is a southern red neck and a racist. I do not uphold that generalization because I know that it's not true, and it's unfair to judge someone based on the music they listen to and how they are portrayed. It saddens me to see that after all of these years, although we have come a long way, we still have a long way to go. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said he had a dream that one day we will "live in a nation where [we] will not be judged by the color of [our] skin but by the content of [our] character" and it seems this has yet to be attained.

So I will take a noble stance and use a positive meaning for the word. A word that is used to degrade our people can be flipped around as a means to uplift. My definition of a thug would be "anyone who is doing what he/she needs to do to make it." I could call every single African American student at NC State University a "thug" for the things that we are accomplishing and the goals that we are trying to reach. All of us are here despite whatever obstacles we may have faced and are facing at this very moment. Despite the elements against us, we have found a way to be here and many of us are willing to sacrifice anything in the name of prosperity. On some occasions, you may hear me say, "I respect his/her gangsta..." However, I am not using this as a negative implication. When I say this phrase, I am usually referencing the person's persona, or the way they carry themselves, the perseverance they withhold, the things they are accomplishing, and the manner in which they go about doing so.

However, regardless of whether we use this word positively within our own community, the truth still stands that the media will depict us in a light that they see fit. No matter what strides we make as a people, they will always find a fault. I believe that African-Americans take too much of the blame such as violence blamed on our music. When it is truthfully subject to the individual. I listen to hip-hop daily and never has it made me want to go out and hurt someone. Regardless of where I grew up, never have I let my environment justify the person that I am. Despite the many deviations that the media may choose to portray, not everyone becomes a product of their surroundings. When people start looking past irrelevant representations and look toward the real individual, we can all breathe easier.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP AT N.C. STATE

TONY MOSES
Columnist

With the upcoming elections and the ongoing struggle of cultural diversity on NC State's campus, many students, both undergraduate and graduate, are looking towards our student leaders for answers. When asked if I feel if our student leaders represent us well, there is only one answer I feel is most appropriate, YES!!

Earlier this week, the African American Student Advisory Council held a Town Hall Meeting in the Talley Student Center Ballroom in which such issues of leadership were discussed. Led by Miss Faith Leach, Mr. Lock Whiteside, III and other members of AASAC, this Town Hall meeting made those in attendance realize that we do indeed have dedicated students fighting hard to correct injustices seen on NC State's campus. Also in attendance were Student Body President, Tony Caravano and Will Quick, who is the President of the Student Senate. Both spoke on behalf of the Student Government.

To further discuss student leaders, there are many organizations in which student leaders are held in high prestige and do a good job at representing their respective organizations. Robert White, who is the Editor-in-Chief of the Nubian Message, and Johnathan Brunson, who is the Managing Editor both do an exemplary job at promoting the Nubian Message and such related materials. Other student leaders who represent their organizations in addition to those listed above include: Yashika Jones (Peer Mentor Program President), Tyrone Davis (President of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.), Courtney Simpson (President of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.), Carlos Goins (President of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.), Mesha Covington (President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.), Nicholas Curry (President of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.), Rhonda Gordon (President of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.), Tammy Montgomery (President of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.), Keon Pettitway (President of Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc.), and Deandra Duggans and Joshua Cason (Co-Chairs of Black Students Board), just to name a few. These students have

dedicated themselves to continuing the great legacy of their organizations set by those before them and they are doing a great job so far.

Although one may not be given the title of President, Vice-President or serve on the Executive Board of a club or organization that does not mean that they are not student leaders. Other student leaders many people tend to look over are your Resident Advisors. These dedicated students serve as a mentor and a guide to their residents. They also act as a liaison between campus events and the students in which they are RAs for. Mentors through the Peer Mentor Program are student leaders. They stand to show the dedication and the commitment it takes to keep the retention rate among African-Americans increasing. Both Orientation Counselors and African-American Symposium Counselors are all seen as student leaders, as they are the first people incoming freshmen meet and get to know. In the summer of 2004, NC State hosted its first LeaderShape Institute; this seven day event was held at the 4-H Camp in Columbia, NC and was filled with many events to help foster leadership in students. I view these 60 students, including myself, as student leaders as they took the advantage to increase their leadership skills whilst getting to know more people and establishing a network of other leaders to rely on.

Overall, the student leaders who were chosen to or who decided to be leaders are doing a pretty good job. They are representing a large body of people and they are changing the campus for the better.

For more info on student leadership opportunities, you may visit the Center for Student Leadership, Ethics, and Public Service in Talley on the 3rd floor. Also, applications for LeaderShape 2005 can be obtained by going by the CSLEPS office in Talley. Applications to be an Orientation Counselor can be obtained online at www.ncsu.edu/orientation. If you are interested in becoming an African-American Symposium Counselor, you should contact Dr. Tracey Ray or Mrs. Stacia Solomon, both located in the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs. To become part of a club, it would be a good idea to talk to the president or another member of the club and let them know that you have interest in joining.

Mind, Body & Soul

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How to Help Fight HIV and AIDS

NAPSM
Press Release

Members of African-American communities are doing more to protect themselves, their families and others from HIV and AIDS than many people realize.

Not only do these people work as doctors, researchers and educators, many have volunteered to participate in clinical trials geared toward developing a preventative vaccine against the disease.

The trials, which pose no risk to participants, are still going on and need many more volunteers. Doctors say it is especially important that African-Americans and Latinos participate to ensure that any vaccine that is eventually developed will be effective in treating everyone.

"HIV and AIDS infect almost 40 million people worldwide, and in the United States, 40,000 people contract HIV each year," said James Wagoner, President of Advocates for Youth, a national, nonprofit organization that creates programs and supports policies that help young people make safe, responsible decisions about their sexual and reproductive health. "Half of these new infections occur among young people under the age of 25-and the majority of these young people are African-American or Latino."

The National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) at the National Institutes of Health runs a number of programs meant to teach people about the importance of participating in trials. If you are interested in volunteering, call 1-800-448-0440 or visit <http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/hivvaccine.htm>.

"Thousands of clinical volunteers, scientists, and health professionals are working hard to find an effective HIV vaccine, but the vision will only be realized by years of research and community involvement," says Anthony S. Fauci, M.D., director of NIAID. "Volunteers are urgently needed from the African-American community, especially young women and young men who have sex with men."

Doctors working toward an HIV/AIDS preventative vaccine say their ultimate goal is to develop a substance that "teaches" the body's immune system to recognize and protect itself against HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Ideally, the vaccine would be given to uninfected people and would keep them from becoming infected.

Even if people can't volunteer, doctors say it's still a good idea for them to learn about the importance of HIV vaccine research. To learn more about this issue or others related to sexual and reproductive health, visit <http://www.advocatesforyouth.org>.

A vaccine against AIDS may be in the works, thanks to courageous African-American volunteers and others who show their support wearing an upside-down ribbon.



Diabetes: Know Your Risk

NAPSM
Press Release

Diabetes is one of the nation's greatest health concerns, affecting more than 1.5 times more African Americans than whites of similar age. Further, the total population with diabetes is expected to double in the next 25 years.

Novo Nordisk and the Entertainment Industry Foundation have joined forces in Diabetes Aware, a national campaign to educate the public.

"Hopefully through our efforts, we will empower people to better understand what it means to live with diabetes and not be afraid to seek help," says actress Halle Berry, who is featured in one of the campaign's public service announcements.

Here is what you need to know about your risk:

- Diabetes is associated with obesity, family history, older age and gestational diabetes (which occurs during pregnancy).

- African Americans and Hispanics are at increased risk of developing diabetes.

- A simple Fasting Plasma Glucose (FPG) Test at your doctor's office is all it takes to determine whether or not you are living with diabetes; a fasting glucose level of 126 mg/dL or above (confirmed by a second test) means you have diabetes.

tes.

If you're living with diabetes:

- Regular monitoring of blood glucose levels is critical to know if your diabetes is in control. Blood glucose levels consistently above 126 mg/dL are considered "out of control."

- Diabetes not treated properly can lead to serious and potentially fatal complications such as blindness, kidney damage, heart disease, amputations and stroke.

Diabetes is a disease in which the body does not produce or properly use insulin. Insulin is a hormone that is needed to convert sugar, starches and other food into energy needed for daily life. There are two types of diabetes:

- Type 1 affects people who cannot produce insulin, and most often strikes children and young adults. This form accounts for five to 10 percent of all cases of diabetes.

- Type 2, the most common form of diabetes (90 to 95 percent of cases), occurs when the body continues to produce insulin, but at a low rate. Lifestyle changes, such as diet, exercise, losing weight and taking oral medications can prevent or delay the onset of type 2 diabetes.

For more information about diabetes, talk to your doctor and visit www.diabetesaware.com.

New Student Orientation Recruiting Students for 2005 Orientation Counselors

Interested students must have a minimum GPA of 2.5 and should plan to attend an informational session.

Tues. Sept. 21	10:00-10:30am	Poe 209
Weds. Sept. 29	9:30-10:00am	WN 129
Thurs. Oct. 7	11:30am-12:00pm	Poe 532
Mon. Oct. 11	3:30-4:00pm	HA 136
Wed. Oct. 20	2:30-3:00pm	T 126

www.ncsu.edu/orientation

RETRACTION:

The Nubian would like to apologize for a mistake made in the September 21, 2004 issue, in the Mind, Body, & Soul article, Students Walk For AIDS. The organization, **Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.** was in attendance and helped to sponsor the walk for N. C. State students. Please excuse our error.

MATTHEWS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

that he faced to change his company's name to something more global and diverse. In the end, Ms. Howard closed the reception with a presentation to Matthews on behalf of the AACC. He was presented with a work of art shipped from West Africa with a personalized message engraved on the back.

The final event featuring Mr. Matthews was a press conference held in Witherspoon, Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. Through a small group of about seven participants great questions were raised and accordingly, Matthews discussed the issues very well.

The misconception of black colleges was brought to the table and Matthews agreed that there is a misunderstanding of HBCU schools being inferior. He said, "That is why there is a need for black journalists".

As far as the question of motivation for black students to want to excel and succeed, Matthews responded saying that people of earlier times were running from bad situations to their dreams of something great. Matthews encouraged those in the room to read and study history to gain a better understanding of black history and different people's drive to success. There needs to be a "motivational mindset" of staying focused and not being distracted, said Matthews. He said the problem is "we've forgotten what we're running from," "I can't stop; I've got to keep running," Matthews said in closing.

NUBIAN MESSAGE PUBLICATIONS SCHEDULE

FALL

SEPT. 8, 15, 22, 29

OCT. 6, 18, 27

NOV. 3, 10, 19, 24

SPRING

JAN. 19, 26


FEB. 2, 8, 16, 23

MAR. 2, 23

APR. 6, 13, 20, 27

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Arts & Entertainment

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CIAA MAY FIND A NEW HOME

MARCUS GIBBS
Staff Writer

No more battle of the bands? No more cheerleading exhibitions? The city of Raleigh could be asking those questions in 2006. One of the most exciting collegiate basketball tournaments maybe leaving Raleigh after the 2005 season. The Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) is awaiting bids from several cities, including Raleigh, to host its annual basketball tournament. This tournament, over the years has been an attraction for much of the African-American community. Predominantly black populated colleges face off for the bragging rights of being the conference champions and earning an automatic entry into the NCAA basketball tournament in this annual event.

A huge success in Winston-Salem, the CIAA tournament was moved to Raleigh in the year 2000. The city of Raleigh and the CIAA agreed to two three-year contracts that would hold the tournaments at NCSU's RBC Center through 2005. During that time span, the CIAA tournament has been the biggest sports money maker for Raleigh. The fanfare continues to grow, and CIAA Commissioner, Leon Kerry, is proud of the fact that the fans are coming within the week of the event to see the tournament. Another thing to be proud of is the increased fan support over the years. Attendance went from over 90,000 in 2003 to over 100,000 last season. "The tournament brings a lot of people who do not normally visit Raleigh to visit the city," said NCSU junior Eric Eastland. "One of best things about the tournament is the game itself." Like we have seen over the years, fan participation will work very well in Raleigh's favor in attempting to have the tournament return to the city no matter the reason.

There are approximately five cities that are vying for a bid to host the CIAA tournament. Richmond, Virginia, Washington D.C., and Atlanta, are expected to send in their proposals before the deadline this week. Raleigh and Charlotte are the frontrunners for now. Competition to host the tournament is nothing new between these two cities. In the year 2000 the same two cities were the top choices to host the tournament and with the RBC Center being practically a new arena, it edged out the older Charlotte Coliseum which was then, the home of the NBA's Charlotte Hornets. The RBC Center had more fan capacity and more luxury suites than that of the Charlotte Coliseum.

This year is different for Charlotte. With a new arena built for the newest NBA franchise, the Charlotte Bobcats, the city of Charlotte will be more of an attraction. Good news for Raleigh CIAA fans is that the newly built Charlotte arena still has a smaller fan capacity than the RBC Center, and are about equal in the number of luxury suites which will make the decision harder. Between the five cities expected to send their proposal to host the tournament, Raleigh has the second largest capacity, next to Washington D.C.'s MCI Center.

The main point to finding a good host city is to find a place that will generate lots of money to split between the twelve schools of the conference. When the money is split between the schools, it is used as scholarship money. The more money generated due to the tournament, the more money that is put towards scholarships. The presidents and chancellors of all twelve CIAA schools will vote on which city will host their tournament from 2006-2008. The final proposals from the cities that wish to host the tournament were sent in on Monday. The city of Raleigh undoubtedly hopes that the CIAA will make the right decision once again.

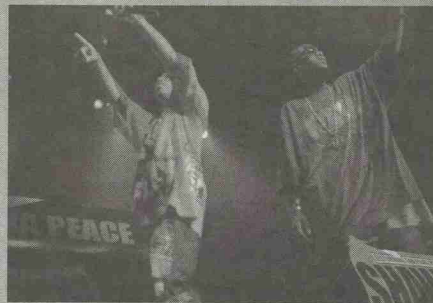
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LUDACRIS PERFORMS AT PEP RALLY

DAISY BUIRAGO
Staff Writer



Ludacris (left) and Lil Fate(right) performs at "Pack How!" concert and pep rally.
Courtney Evans

Stand up. These infamous words of Ludacris could describe the actions of the crowd during his performance. Many people, students and general attendees, could be found standing on their seats at any moment, while concert staff with beaming flashlights would walk the aisles periodically urging fans to get down. Before all this, there was a totally different atmosphere due to miscommunication.

On Friday, October 1, doors to the concert were advertised to open at 7:30 p.m. and the concert to start at 8:00 p.m. But what many failed to realize, was that the pep rally had not yet occurred, and would start at 8:00 p.m. The line in front of Reynolds was ridiculously long in anticipation to see the Atlanta star. Since there was no security overseeing the lines, there were many line-cutting antics occurring. Arguments could be heard among the anxious crowd. It was ironic to consider that there are more police officers and line regulation going on at a Talley party than at a concert with a top rap performer. When the doors finally opened, people were scanned for weapons one by one, but if a person set off the scanners they were not searched. They were simply waved in to show their tickets. One student, Stevie Davenport, a sophomore in business, voiced her concern saying, "this could have been a potentially hazardous situation if anyone happened to get upset and decide to use a weapon. They could have easily brought one in[side]". Luckily, nothing of this nature was observed.

Then, as everyone had begun to get comfortable in their seats and ready to get hype with Ludacris, the pep rally began to ensue to most of the crowd's disappointment. Chuck Amato spoke, N.C. State's cheerleader's performed, and there was even some type of skit that attempted to captivate the crowd for a few minutes, even among the loud boos of the crowd. Finally, the pep rally was over, and yet, there was no Ludacris on the stage. After a couple of minutes of stalling, by continuously pulling out raffle tickets for random prizes, the announcer admitted that it was not her fault that Ludacris was not present yet. Feelings of tension were made palpable throughout the building as people began to ponder the possibility of Luda not showing up. So when Ludacris finally arrived in the building at 9:45 p.m. and took the stage at 10 p.m., the crowd began to sigh with relief.

As soon as Ludacris took the stage, the crowd began to scream and climb on their seats in frenzied excitement. Appearing in a bright orange tall tee bearing the airbrushed words, "F*ck Bill O'Reilly", and donning fresh cornrows on his head, Ludacris easily enthralled his crowd. Taking it back to his first with, "What's Your Fantasy", coming back to the present with "Stand Up", and even attempting to cater to the females with, "Splash Waterfalls", Mr. Bridges paraded the stage energetically with his whole DTP crew standing in the background. Just as everyone suspected, he jokingly complained about the heat of the non-existent AC in Reynolds Coliseum a few times. For less than a full hour, due to a performance by a new North Carolinian group signed to his label, Ludacris managed to keep his crowd hyped and on their feet as everyone confidently predicted he would. Complaints from most fans were that the actual performance from him was not long enough and that it was too hot. But there were no degrading remarks upon Luda's choice or delivery of songs.

Brian Dunn, sophomore in accounting, gave his overall feelings, stating, "I thought 'Cris gave an energetic performance that livened up the crowd. However, I was pretty aggravated that it took so long for Ludacris to even start performing".

Many students seemed to share this overall sentiment as they expressed hope for even bigger and better Homecoming concerts in the future. Until then, many N.C. State students will remember the night they stood up for Ludacris.