



# NUBIAN MESSAGE

Sentinel of the African-American Community

January 18, 2005

Vol. 12 | Edition 12

## Brazille: Democrats 'gone fishing,' but don't despair

Aniesha Felton

STAFF WRITER

Peppered with sarcasm, sweetened with anecdotes and spiced with truth telling, Donna Brazille stirred up listeners at the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration.

Brazille, political strategist and chair of the Democratic National Committee's Voting Rights Institute, heralded Martin Luther King Jr. as a teacher, motivator and a man born before his time at the N.C. State's Office of Diversity and African-American Affairs sponsored event.

"He taught us to build

bridges and to stand with others," she said. "He taught us how to apply the scripture to real life, and personally he taught me to stay humble and grateful," Brazille said.

Reminiscing, Brazille took the audience to a Louisiana raining cats and dogs day in 1968.

Going to a vigil, unbeknownst to her parents, eight-year-old Brazille stood outside a church and listened to the moans and groans of the parishioners as they paid tribute to their leader and sang "This Little Light of Mine."

Upon her return home, Brazille had the opportunity

BRAZILLE see page 2



Jerry L. Blackmon II • staff

Donna Brazille, Democratic Party leader and activist,

## NAACP Chair Talks Politics

Johnathan Brunson

STAFF WRITER

"What's up brother," could be heard and handshakes and hugs could be seen by dressed down NAACP elders, as a diverse crowd entered into Witherspoon Cinema to hear Julian Bond speak on racial matters and politics at the Brotherhood lecture on December 17th.

Bond, chairman of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) who also aided in the formation of Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), addressed in his speech, "2004: A Race Odyssey." The speech covered

how the body of politics continues to avoid race, how America continues to celebrate MLK day while disillusioning his dream and vision, the contradictions of war, issues of healthcare among minorities, and the issue of legacy."

Opening his speech with, "This election proves history never ends," Bond acknowledged that the government is held by one side which is overwhelmingly Republican and that he remembers the days when the president picked the Supreme Court and not vice versa.

"Despite more Blacks in positions among politics, there are more problems than ever

BOND see page 4



Chad Austin • NCSU News Services

Julian Bond, chairman of the NAACP, speaks at Brotherhood Dinner.

## Students 'chill' during break

Aniesha Felton

STAFF WRITER

A 25-day vacation from exams, WebAssigns, group presentations, papers and professors was enough time for some N.C. State students to work, play, travel, and set New Years' resolutions.

Kevin Patterson, a junior in accounting and manager for the women's basketball team, traveled to Washington DC, Jersey City, New York City, and Nashville while on his break.

"Although I spent a lot of my Christmas vacation traveling, I really had fun, especially in NYC," he said. "Being in NYC during New Years was crazy, but what was even crazier were their

stores," Patterson said.

Turning 21 on December 30, Patterson vowed to party harder than he did last year, but not too hard that he neglects his studies.

For this year, Patterson hopes to make all A's for the spring semester and garner a summer internship in his major.

While making good grades is important for Arsenio Bell, he has his sights on something higher. "Plain and simple, for this year I want to restore my relationship with God," said the freshman in accounting.

Over break, Bell read the Bible daily, and when he wasn't reading he was writing poetry-this of which is related to his second resolu-

tion.

"I really want to get a record deal this year," he said. "I spent a lot of my break writing poetry, flows and lyrics," he said.

While Bell rattled off his activities over break and resolutions, his friend Chris Williams used one word to summarize his break and his New Years' resolution.

"Chill."

"All I did in Wilmington during my break was chill with my family and friends. My resolution? To chill even more this year," said the freshman in biological sciences.

Williams, after being coerced by Bell, added that

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## Honoring King, 2005



Jerry L. Blackmon II • staff

Members of Shaw University's Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity carry a banner commemorating Martin Luther King Jr., their fallen brother, during the morning march, part of Raleigh's MLK commemoration festivities.



# WHAT'S GOIN' N?

wgo@nubian.ncsu.edu

## Dance Visions

Dance Battle in the Ballroom in Tally on Jan. 22 at 7 pm.  
Cost is \$3.00

## MLK Service Challenge

Saturday, 22nd at Talley Student Center  
11:45 am - 4:30 pm

## SAA-PAMS Quiz Bowl

February 26th in the Multipurpose Room.  
Sign your team up today!

## Freshman Honors

Freshman Convocation Awards Ceremony  
January 25th at 6pm in Witherspoon Cinema

## J-Board Applications

Judicial Board Positions Applications can be found in the Student Government Office.  
Due date is February 2nd

## Pan-Afrikan Planning

BSB Pan-Afrikan Proposal Meeting  
Thursday, 20th at 6pm in Talley

## Go to Ghana

Ghana Study Abroad interest meeting Wed. Jan. 19, 6:30-7:45 p.m.  
Rm. 356, AAC

## SAAC Meeting

First meeting of new year. Thu. Jan. 20, 6 p.m., Rm. 356, AAC

## Get your event here.

There's no charge to run a notification about your event in the What's Goin' On section. All you have to do is e-mail us. Limit submissions to 25 words or less, please..

## BRAZILLE from page 1

to tell her eight brothers and sisters about the vigil as well the opportunity to choose the switch by which she would be whipped.

"I couldn't believe it, I got whipped because I did something for MLK," she said. "I got whipped for standing for something," Brazille exclaimed.

This was the beginning of Brazille's political career.

Brazille went from ensuring that her city got a playground as a youth to petitioning for recognition of King's birthday to eventually working on campaign staffs for many Democratic presidential candidates.

Brazille, an avid Democrat, commented that she was happy to be in a "red" state and hopes that North Carolina will turn blue.

"I have a blue heart, a blue spirit, a blue soul," she said. "I'll keep coming to red states until they turn blue," she commented.

She added that the Democratic Party serves the public and that if the party tries to become more republican-like, it will suffer.

In response to the Republican "reign" in Congress, she proclaimed that the Democratic Party is not dead, "we've just gone fishing."

Brazille commented that not only does she want to see a Democrat in the White House, but minorities. "I hope that one day there will be an African-American, a woman or a Hispanic in the oval office," she said. "If we continue to fight for our dreams, we will get there. If we believe in what we are fighting for, anything is possible," Brazille said.

Looking at student body president, Tony Caravano, Brazille said that he should be groomed enough to run in year 2028 or 2032.

"I'll be 70, but I'll be okay. As long as I have my social security check where I can get my hair done, I will be all

right," she said jokingly.

Continuing in politics' talk, Brazille stated that the show must go on in Iraq. She commented that since the United States broke it, now they have to fix it; however, she did advocate that George W. Bush, Jr. bring home the troops.

Brazille had a few more items on her to-do-list for Bush. "First, we need to reduce the disparities in education; we need to ensure that every child has a head start in life," she said. "We also need to stop playing games with people's lives."

"We need more jobs. We need more people owning homes. Owning a home nowadays for people is a dream deferred," she said.

In addition, Brazille stated that hate crimes, racism and racial profiling need to be eradicated. Politicians should not focus on polls, but work for the people. And that courage needs to resurface in America.

"We're still not free," she said. "It is time to reclaim the dream and work together," Brazille said. Part of Brazille's idea of reclaiming the dream is by getting rid of signs.

Brazille commented that she is notorious for asking constituents if they have to use the bathroom, and that if they do, why not use the exclusive Congress "Members" only bathroom.

"We need to have one set of rules for everybody, let them use the good bathroom" she commented. "King would have given everybody a seat at the table, he didn't believe in exclusion," she said.

Brazille continued by saying that King stood by those who had been disposed of and that persons seeking change must be that pebble or rock willing to be thrown in the water so that we can ensure that history would flow and the world would change.

After paying tribute to Shirley Chisholm, the first



Brazille greets President Tony Caravano.

Jerry L. Blackmon II • staff

African-American woman in Congress and Barack Obama, Brazille concluded by saying that the Gore-Lieberman election, of which she was campaign manager, was stolen from the Democrats and herself.

"It is one thing to lose, but to have something taken away from you is hard," she said. Brazille found solace in Galatians 6: 9, "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

Political Science majors, Amanda Ford and Ervin Johnson both commented that they were thankful that they came. "She is amazing, simply put," said senior, Ford. "Her life is inspiring, her works immaculate and her book is a must read," she said.

Ford added that Brazille's life and stories demonstrate

that anybody, at any age, can be active in the fight for progress or change.

Echoing Ford, Johnson commented that Brazille was very effective in getting the message across that anybody can induce change and that anything is possible.

"Her speech was entertaining and encouraging," he said. "Just listening to her gave me the feeling of empowerment... I am a black man and I can do anything if I work for it," Johnson said.

Jose Picart, Vice-Provost for Diversity and African-American Affairs, commented that it was pleasant to see how Brazille wove her family and friends into her stories and then commenting that it was refreshing to see a speaker whose life reflects their beliefs.

# NUBIAN MESSAGE

Sentinel of the African-American Community

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## WINTER from page 1

he wanted to do the right thing, have at least a 3.0 semester and to be nicer to the ladies.

For Jorge Rivera and Charles Watson, work was the order of the day. Rivera, a senior in mathematics education, worked at a photo shop in Fayetteville, NC and Watson, a junior in accounting, worked at Best Buy in Henderson, NC.

Wanting to enjoy his break more, Watson quit his job during the busiest time for the store. In addition to working during their break, Rivera and Watson share the same resolution...to hit the gym.

Watson, after three years

at NCSU, entered the gym for the first time ever this semester.

"I thought it was about time for me to start working out...you know, it never hurts to be in good shape," he said.

Rivera, who reluctantly left the gym to student teach, also hopes that this year brings a teaching job, no speeding tickets, more quality time with his nephew and less procrastination.

With almost 50 days until Spring Break, students stated that for now they are invigorated and that they will, with best efforts, try to keep up their resolutions past the first month.

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January 18, 2005 • Nubian Message

## New Horizons Inspires

**Ronald A. Foreman**  
SPECIAL TO NUBIAN

Dynamic. Exciting. Boisterous. Invigorating. Musical. Energetic. Sought-After. These are just a few descriptions of N.C. State's New Horizons Choir.

An ensemble of the N.C. State department of music, New Horizons Choir is a mixed chorus that specializes in the performance of contemporary gospel music and Negro spirituals.

In addition, the group performs a repertoire of various styles by black composers. Throughout the academic year, New Horizons performs a schedule on and off the campus and has traveled as far north as New York and as far south as Florida.

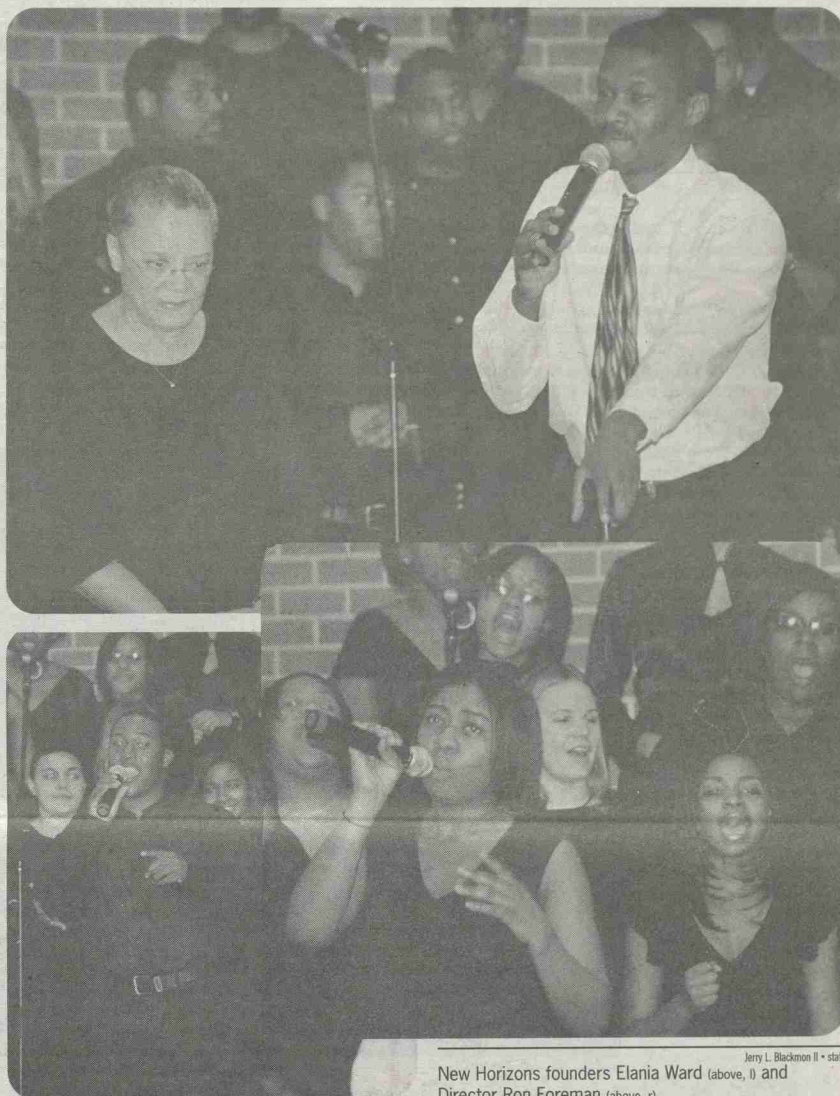
During the spring of 1977, a small group of students approached Ms. Eleania Ward, assistant director of music, to start a gospel choir on campus. The choir was officially formed the following semester under the direction of classically trained Ward and gospel enthusiast, Ronald A. Foreman.

The charter group consisted of approximately 34 members. New Horizons' name is credited to Mr. Milton Bliss, who has since retired from the music department, and it signified "A New Beginning at N.C. State."

The goal of the group was to provide an outlet for those students at State who were away from their homes, sometimes for the first time. It was a program where they could continue their spiritual growth.

They could bond with others that had similar interest as their own. The choir quickly grew in popularity and attracted students that represented all aspects of the university.

Being at N.C. State — a city unto itself and often larger in population than the towns and cities where many of its students were from — alone and away from home, New Horizons provided an



New Horizons founders Eleania Ward (above, l) and Director Ron Foreman (above, r).

NEW HO see page 5

## Raleigh commemorates King

**Aniesha Felton**  
STAFF WRITER

To commemorate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the city of Raleigh hosted an annual march and an observance at the BTI Center.

In 33 degree weather, more than 200 people marched near the capitol building in downtown Raleigh singing "We Shall Overcome," "Amen," "This Little Light of Mine," and "We are Soldiers."

One woman called the diverse crowd of blacks and whites, Hispanics and Asians, young and old, church members and fraternity and sorority members "beautiful."

"I can't describe it, it is just beautiful to see how mixed we are today," said Meryl Ashley, a retired worker from NCSU. "There used to be a time where you would never see this much of a mixing of races and ages unifying, but that just shows how one man made this possible," she said.

Ashley continued to say that we

have come a long way, but according to one gentleman, not far enough.

"One on a scale of one to 10, I would say that we are a 6 on reaching King's dream," said Thaddeus Terrell. "We still need vast improvement in the areas of education, unity, and racism," he said.

With a horn player leading renditions of "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing" and "Amazing Grace," the march began on Edenton St. For one young boy, King represented so much.

"Martin Luther King represents the struggle of African-Americans," said 11-year old and Helping Hands Project member Nicholas Purvis. "He broke down many barriers so that we could be equal and have all the rights that we should have had in the first place," said the Zebulon middle schooler.

Observers ended their journey at the BTI Center where, at noon, Raleigh held its 24th annual King ecumenical observance.



King observers in Raleigh march on the BTI Center.

Jerry L. Blackmon II • staff





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## MIND, BODY &amp; SOUL

January 18, 2005 • Nubian Message

## Sex Crazy?

give abstinence a try

 **Christina W. Johnson**  
STAFF WRITER

"Protect yourself" and "wrap it up" are just a couple of the advertising gimmicks to encourage youth to protect themselves from the dangers of unwanted pregnancy and contracting harmful and even deadly sexually transmitted diseases.

Condoms are not only being passed out in school but churches as well. I feel that just as much of an effort needs go toward teaching youth about abstinence.

It is in God's plan for our lives to wait until marriage, but this argument is constantly ignored in teachings of condom usage, how to prevent early pregnancy and contracting an STD. Well, what about protecting yourself emotionally and spiritually. They don't teach that in sex education.

You don't see that much on commercials. Although resisting the human desire to engage in sexual intercourse can be one of the hardest things to do abstinence is 100 percent effective.

Abstinence is refraining from sexual intercourse until marriage. Although practiced by few, its benefits are great. A person practicing abstinence will never have to worry about getting pregnant without being married, ever contracting a sexually transmitted disease or worrying that they have slept with someone that does not care about them or is just using them.

When that person does get married, just think how great their wedding night will be, their spouse will never have to worry about being compared to past partners, and they would have already lead by example for their future generations.

I don't want anyone to think I feel sex is just completely bad, in fact I think it is one of the most beautiful gifts God has given us. However God has intended sex to be between a husband and a wife. God does not want it this way just to make our lives more difficult, but because he knows that it is best. God does not want us to have to deal with any of the worries of sex before marriage but to have the luxury of enjoying it worry free within our marriage.

Condoms, birth control pills or even the Depo-Provera shot are simple methods to protect us from the negative physical aspects of premarital sex. Along with sex comes different emotions and feeling that "patch" or anything else for that matter can't protect us from the decisions that we will have to live with for the rest of our lives as a result of sexual intercourse.

Abstinence, unlike birth control or STD prevention methods will protect you in all the aspects of your life and your future. It is time to teach the full story about sex. It is time to learn that abstinence can be the way to go and although difficult; its benefits are truly worth the wait.

I am not trying to tell anyone what to do. I am just trying to enlighten people with the fact that there is more to protecting yourself than just wrapping it up and simply protecting yourself physically. The message I want to convey is that abstinence is a good and often ignored option.

## Depression

demystified

 **Miranda N. Houston**  
STAFF WRITER

What does it mean to be depressed? Depression is a mood disorder and considered to be a medical condition. It is said to be hereditary and is usually triggered by stressful situations or lack of social support. It has the propensity to reoccur. Women tend to be diagnosed or have depression more often than men but men tend to commit suicide as an outcome of depression.

Depression is classified according to severity and duration. For example, a person might be diagnosed as having mild, moderate, or severe depression with an acute (sudden) onset or experience chronic (ongoing or long lasting) episodes of depression.

Depression happens for at least two weeks and includes five or more of these symptoms: Having problems with concentration, remembrance, and/or making decisions.

Change in eating and sleeping habits, loss of interest in things use to enjoy, difficulty going to work or taking care of daily responsibilities.

Dealing with feelings of guilt and hopelessness (cause to wonder if life is worth living), slowed thoughts and speech, or no speech, and preoccupation with thoughts of death or suicide.

According to Psychology Today 34 million people identify themselves as African-American and out of that, six percent are affected yearly. African-Americans only receive treatment at a rate only half that of whites. Only seven percent of black women who suffer from depression get help compared to 20 percent



Jerry L. Blackmon II • staff

You heard it here first: singing promotes good health. At least that's what New Ho says.

DEPRESSED see page 5

## Learn to cope with life's woes

 **Kyle Alston**  
STAFF WRITER

If there is one thing that people do not like going through, it is personal trials. The idea of suffering or going through a personal storm can bring about a lot of mental pain and anguish.

However, if you have the wherewithal to endure your periods of suffering with a positive attitude, you will find yourself coming out on top. Don't worry, you can make it.

Tests and trials come to make us strong. During your tests and trials, you can learn many things about yourself, and as a result, have the opportunity to grow and to mature.

For the Christians out there, here are some encouraging verses of scripture. Romans 5:3-5 says: "And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience. And patience, experience; and experience, hope. And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."

In life while going through personal storms

and hard times, there comes a time when you will ask yourself whether will give up or keep pressing forward. With that question comes the testing of integrity.

No matter how hard life gets, never give up on hope. You may be dealing with difficult courses in your studies, but never give up or admit failure. You may be dealing with negative people, they too will pass. Stay encouraged.

The Apostle Paul said in II Corinthians 4:17, 18, "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."

The prospect of eternal life and happiness kept the Apostle Paul and those who worked with him from giving up and fainting. They found afflictions to be light, and the glory of heaven to be a far more exceeding weight.

Their faith enabled them to make this right judgment of things. Unseen things are eternal,

SUFFER see page 7



## NEW HO from page 3

instant, spiritually-minded society.

The choir was a soft place where one could come and leave the rigors of academia for a couple of hours, be rejuvenated, uplifted and ready to go back and face the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

"I remember many days of wanting to give up — of wanting to let go of everything that I had achieved here at State and returning to my hometown in Virginia," said a member of the choir. "There was one thing that kept me here though. One place where I could go and do the one thing I enjoyed most in this world, the one thing that kept me sane here on campus and that was New Horizons Choir."

Throughout the years the group has grown to be a much sought after performing ensemble. Having appeared on WRAL-TV's "Spiritual Awakening" many times has afforded

the group invitations from the community at large.

While the reputation of the group has grown immensely, the most crowning achievements are the lessons students in the group take away from their experiences. A spirit of excellence sets the tone for rehearsals and the group's performances.

As a student on this campus in 1977, the members were taught that they had to be better at what they did than other students. While this lesson may still be applicable in today's world, the focus has changed slightly. Everyone must be better at what they do because they are 'called' to do the best at that which they put their hands to.

In the choir's infancy, they were "the new beginning at N.C. State," but today New Horizons choir is "a continuing tradition."

## BOND from page 1

before for Blacks," he said. "Longer hours, lower pay, and fewer gaining access to proper health care are just a few of these pertinent problems," he said.

When addressing the war in Iraq, Bond summarized his views with, "America is known for its lying, stealing, and killing."

Bond continued by saying that the war has increased the fight abroad in Iraq and that war abroad stole rights at home. He finished by saying, "America can talk of war and peace, but not race and sex."

Addressing more of the racial matters portion of his speech, Bond delved into the topic of affirmative action saying that affirmative action has been criticized because it

worked, but legacy has occurred for years and has not been an issue of debate.

"President Bush inherited 'white privilege,'" he said. "President Bush argues about his diverse cabinet, but yet he opposed the University of Michigan's fight for diversity," Bond noted.

After mentioning the courage of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the nine young women and men who integrated Little Rock, Arkansas, he concluded with remarks about how the NAACP is one of a few organizations focusing on social change.

"Together Latinos and Blacks can make a powerful force in the stand for equality in America," said Bond.

## DEPRESSED from page 5

of the overall population.

Why do African-Americans suffer from depression? They are in contact with a heavy amount of trauma, stress, poverty and violence. The black community suffers from depression because we see and are involved in more aggressive atmospheres than any other group. We live in constant poverty, which leads to pervasive and continual stress. This type of stress can lead to physical manifestations in the body, such as headaches, hypertension, and lower back pain.

In African-Americans the manifestations are signs or symptoms of a greater problem. And that problem is depression. People don't admit to having feelings of despair or even entertain the idea of possibly having a mental illness. Why? Because they've come to believe that it is our responsibility to put up with the trials and tribulations placed on our shoulders to bear. Also, for the black American it is another way that can be and has been used to negatively stigmatize and degrade us by society.

What is the remedy? First and foremost, seek help! We as a people need to understand our limitations. We can't bear the weight of the world on our shoulders and it's not our responsibility! We need to establish what is right and beneficial for our betterment in a society that makes it a policy to marginalize the black community.

Second, we need to start taking care of each other. Formulate support

groups for areas of need in our community. We need to teach and encourage respect among each other. For example, stop hating someone's success and achievements. We need to look for mentors and role models in all area of life within our community.

Third, we need to encourage and support entrepreneurship in our society. We need to circulate finances continually throughout our neighborhoods that we may rise above the poverty level. We need to teach effective life skills that we may learn and know how to cope with the adversities in life. We need to be taught technical, vocational, and professional skills that we may have comparable skills to function in ever changing society.

Finally, we need to rebuild our culture. We need to celebrate the accomplishments of our community. We to redefine and redevelop our sense of self that others may know who we are and what we represent. We need to accept our differences from others and encourage those differences. It is what makes us special.

Our quest for integration and the process of assimilation into the majority culture has lead us to a world where we dominate in having the rate of this disease or that disease. And through it all we have yet to achieve respect, understanding and acceptance. Therefore, we must learn to accept and appreciate what we have been created to be, and then we will no longer be just black and depressed in America.

## NAS from page 8

which plays along with the God's Son theme.

Spitting off, "Like Paul, Michael and Matthew, Peter, James and Andrew/ Phillip, Simon and Judas — I'm disciple of music/ Street beats is the main thing minus the traitor/ And I'm not a dictator, I'm the righteous..."

Nas exhibits his creative analytical skills of how his loyalty to music resembles the loyalty of Jesus' disciples. Taking in the information surrounding the origins of the album title, it can be safely assumed that this album is meant to be a tribute to the craft.

The construction of this album is ingenious; it seems as if Nas leaves no base untouched, covering past, present, and future with his tracks. For the past, he takes it back to a bluesy jazz feel, paying tribute to his father and the blues influence upon hip-hop on the popular radio hit, "Bridging the Gap." His artistic wordplay on, "Getting Married" leads the listener to believe he is expressing his love for his music, but when Nas says expressly, "Sike, this ain't about music, y'all know who I'm talking to," it is finally confirmed that he is speaking about his upcoming marriage to his current love, R&B artist Kelis. The powerfully melodramatic "Live Now" featuring female lyricist, Scarlett, cries out to the community, urging listeners to "Live now nigga, there's no promise of a second time around, put it down" because death is the unavoidable future for all.

There are some other noteworthy tracks such as "A Message to the Feds," "Sincerely," "We the People." Eerily sad violins and other assortments accompany the prayer like inspirational words Nas gives to blacks regarding law enforcement. A couple bars encompass the following: "A message to those who trapped us up, from federal guys who backed them up/ We never will die, we black and tough."

Speaking to those who have been wrapped up with the law and are try-

ing to survive after the encounters, Nas strives to encourage brothers and sisters to get back up from the devastation and succeed in life.

A beautifully written lullaby, "Me & You" is dedicated to Nas' daughter, Destiny.

Showing his softer, paternal side, Nas croons, "See daddy just wanna show you/ All the heartache I go thru/ For you/ This world of mine I give it all to you." In this song, as in others, the poetic dedication to his life, love, and talents flows from Nasir's heart through his mouth.

Most of the songs on this CD are fairly positive, uplifting stories, however, as strong as the track assortment is, there are still a few songs that were obvious fillers such as "Virgo" and "The Makings of a Perfect Bitch."

In "Virgo," Nas describes a female encounter saying, "Homegirl made a knot out of the cherry stem/ Tongue skills, yea I like that/ Now we on the right track."

Tracks like this are full of nothing different from the usual filth that the majority of mainstream rappers put out. And "The Makings of a Perfect Bitch" is an absurd piece about Nas having the power to create a perfect woman utilizing a scalpel surgery technique.

The demeaning words, "I'm her daddy, I'm her messiah, I'm god/ Cause I injected obedience and loyalty in her heart/ Know you mad cause you with a bitch that nag you to death/ I smack mine on the ass and she breathe her first breath" paint a sexist attitude upon Nas.

This album would have made an even stronger impact as a one disc album, minus the fillers. Even with the handful of necessary verses, the album Street's Disciple is sure to become a classic remembered years from now, so if you don't have your copy be sure to get one as soon as possible.

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## A mission for the message

The questions: why is this newspaper on campus, when is the newspaper coming out, what is its purpose and how long has it been out are only a few questions raised by some students and faculty on N.C. State's campus.

Some consider the newspaper as being "radical" or just an "advocate for black people." These assumptions are true to an extent.

We, the staff of the Nubian Message are here on campus with a purpose. Our purpose is to first and foremost is to report news that effects the African-American community, and to do this as fairly and as accurately as possible. We are also committed to remembering our history and those persons who unified and contributed to the Nubian Message.

It was never planned out by student media for the Nubian Message to be a newspaper on N.C. State's campus. The Nubian Message came into existence by African-American students dissatisfied by the Technician being insensitive to positive images of black culture and the poor coverage of minorities.

It took two years before N.C. State allowed the Nubian Message to be an official newspaper paid for by student fees.

Currently, we are in the process of developing a mission statement for the Nubian Message. We will seek input from the African-American Student Advisory Council (AASAC) and Society of African American Culture (SAAC). Both organizations have come together in the past in an effort to support the Nubian Message.

The Nubian Message is a paper for the African-American community. The Nubian Message is here to celebrate black culture, its heritage, speak factually about the black community rather it is considered "politically correct" or not.

We also want to ensure that information about the African-American community is accurate, pure and insightful. The Nubian Message is also here to serve as an outlet for other minorities present on campus whose voices often go unheard.

We take heed to the Akan symbol of Ghana West Africa, "Sankofa," which literally means "learning from the past to build the future." We take heed to our past and will make sure to remember those black students on campus who came together to bring the Nubian Message into existence.



*—from the desk of the Talented Tenth*

The unsigned "Talented Tenth" editorial is the opinion of the Nubian Message's editorial board and thus its responsibility.



Dr. Terrence Roberts of "Little Rock Nine."

Adam Altman • staff

## "Down Low" living hits home

ONE HAS TO BE blind or deaf not to be aware of all the hoopla that was generated when D.L. King went on his oratorical crusade to spread the word about the "down low" dilemma that is putting the lives of black men and women in danger.

For those who missed his coming out in 2001, King is on a mission with his book, "On The Down Low: A Journey Into the Lives Of 'Straight' Black Men Who Sleep With Men." He seeks to educate black America about the lives of men who desire secret homosexual affairs while maintaining seemingly normal marriages or heterosexual relationships.

King seeks to educate and possibly save the lives of African American women who are oblivious as to why women of color account for almost 64 percent of HIV cases reported in the U.S. and why African Americans as a whole make up almost 72 percent of the new HIV cases reported.

In light of the facts, my confusion is not in the turmoil of homosexuality versus "down low" lifestyles. I am confused by the apparent hypocrisy of it all. At the cornerstone of African American life as we know it has been the strong influence of spirituality and the black church. So, WHY IS THE MOST HISTORICALLY SPIRITUAL CULTURE IN THIS NATION THE PRIMARY FOCUS OF HYPOCRITICAL HOMOSEXUAL PRACTICES?

It's not so much the fact that there is a steadily growing number of black men on the down low and engaging in homosexual practices, but that they are being unfaithful to their wives, lying to their communities and basically showing the world that infidelity is acceptable in our culture.

Something is terribly wrong, because this situation is overtly contradictory to the history and livelihood of a people who have used religion as our primary lifeline in a nation where we are unjustly oppressed by the color of our skin. Our only reprieve is being traditional in religious beliefs.

In a recent study of African American men who have inconspicuous relations with men while maintaining heterosexual marriages and formalities, 41 percent claim that homosexuality is a sin. This

proves my point that the contradiction is astronomical.

The majority of African American men were either raised in or exposed to the black church, and are aware of its public disdain upon homosexuality.

However, we are living in a day and time when just this past year the T.D. Jakes Christian conference "Mega Fest," took place in the same city and on the same weekend as "Gay Pride."

King suggests that there are "down low" men in the black church and out of it for that matter who believe that homosexuality is a sin but do not consider themselves homosexual because they have wives and girlfriends.

Is this denial or a matter of defining homosexuality? I will let you be the judge of that. But, anyway you slice this situation of "down low" living, it is fatally impacting the African American community on a large scale.

When 32 percent of "down low" men have HIV and they are infecting heterosexual women, that fine line becomes a major issue in the livelihood of African Americans. King contends that he is attempting to save the lives of many African American women, the largest group of new cases of HIV/AIDS, who did not know that this subculture existed.

I believe that the black church and community played a major role in the creation and masking of this subculture, because as King said, "It's a culture [homosexuality] I do not want to be part of. In Chicago you can't be black and gay on the south side. You can't live in your community. You can't go to church. You can't join a fraternity. You can be black, or you can move out."

In practice there is no tolerance for homosexuality in the black church, but in reality most black churches have an openly homosexual choir director, piano player, or usher that everyone knows about. Despite the fact that the black church is vehemently opposed to same sex marriages and homosexual relations, it never enforces these views upon its own members so that when there are occurrences of it no one is bold enough to speak out.

I praise authors and activists like King and E.

LOW see page 7



Jay Johnson  
COLUMNIST



## Continental Wisdom

*I've been hanging out with this guy for a while, and I am curious as to what I should look for to see if he's a keeper or if I should just move on? — anonymous*

Look for signs. Is he a gentleman? Is he consistent? Can you actually see yourself being happy in a relationship with him? Or do you know if he even wants to be in a relationship with you? If you can truly answer yes to all of these, then I would say the best thing to do is to address your feelings to him. Does he know that you've been having these thoughts about him? If you have been hanging out with him for a "while," then by now you should know enough to decide for yourself whether or not he is a keeper. Take it slow, no need to rush. Evaluate your time spent together, sit down with him to determine whether or not a mere friendship should be kept, or a relationship should be established. Good luck, and let us know how it goes!

*I'm tired of this same guy trying to talk to me. I'm not interested, but I don't want to be mean. What would you do to get him off your back? — anonymous*

For starters, don't be afraid of being honest. If you are truly not feeling this guy, there are ways to say it to him nicely. For example, "I am flattered by your interest in me, but I am just not interested." Now...that doesn't sound mean at all. Your tone and the way you say it depicts how it may sound to him. Stay calm, and just simply say what you feel. In the end, he will have no other choice but to respect your wishes.

### LOW from page 6

Lynn Harris who have brought these situations to light, warning women and men alike of the dangers of living with men on the "down low" and the dangers of HIV/AIDS on our community.

However, I am confused as to the stance of the church. Whenever something is taboo there is little talk within the church itself but always big talk outside. I know I say this a lot, but even the bible says that "My people perish for a lack of knowledge," and this ignorance is what has led to the horrific statistics that I have mentioned as well as the continual degradation of black familial structures and our commu-

nity as a whole.

Don't think that is not affecting us at the collegiate level. The CDC has not only connected "down low" men with the rise of women contracting HIV, but health officials also announced that over the last four years there were 84 new cases in North Carolina alone of male college student with HIV, of which 73 were Black and 27 were "down low." My opinion is just that, my opinion, so you can take it or leave it; but I raised this question to increase knowledge not to condemn, to educate yourself or pay the price of ignorance.

### DUMAS from page 8

Jacques Chirac, mandated that Dumas' body be exhumed and buried in the Pantheon of Paris, the cemetery where France's most honored citizens, such as Voltaire, are laid to rest.

In his speech given at the reburial ceremony, Chirac said of Dumas, "With you, we dream," with his works made into over 200 films, and translated in almost 100 languages,

Dumas leaves a legacy of not only pride, but triumph.

Whether one has curled up with their favorite battered and torn copy of "The Three Musketeers," or watched Leonardo DiCaprio strut his stuff in "The Man in the Iron Mask," we have all honored Dumas. For although we may not have known him, by reading his books and watching the movies, we pay tribute.

# Wolfpack men suffering crisis of confidence

Marcus Gibbs  
SPORTS EDITOR

The 2004-2005 season was supposed to be an exciting one for the N.C. State men's basketball team. Ranked number 19 in the country at the beginning of the season, the Wolfpack looked to be one of the nation's most solid teams with high expectations and good talent in both the front and back court. After going 8-0 at the start of the season, the Wolfpack has lost multiple games in a disappointing manner. However, thus far State has yet to pinpoint where the problem is and how they can salvage the season. At this moment, State has more questions than answers.

With the return of the pre-season player of the year candidate, Julius Hodge, the expectations of this year's Wolfpack basketball team were very high. State then had a centerpiece for the team to go along with the young freshman talent that came in this year. With the addition of a proven solid point guard in Tony Bethel, this year's Wolfpack team looked to be a force to be reckoned with in the ACC once again. Week after week for the first eight games, the Wolfpack was dismantling teams by 30 or 40 plus points.

The team seemed to be solid and appeared to gel together very quickly. Things looked good for N.C. State during their winning streak as they appeared in the top ten in the college polls very early in the season.

Many people questioned the strength of the Wolfpack schedule so early in the season, thinking it was the reason for State's early success on the hardwood. A game that could have silenced all doubters of this team was their meeting against the talented Washington Huskies basketball team. With the game being at Washington, the Wolfpack would surely be tested in a tough environment while playing against a talented team. Most Wolfpack fans know the result of that game, the first disappointing loss of the season for the Wolfpack, losing by four in a hotly contested game.

No problem, State lost to a good Washington team, but they were competitive. The only disappointment was the loss and not the Wolfpack's performance. The team bounced back with a



Men's Basketball Coach Herb Sendek

Jerry L. Blackmon II • staff

key victory over BYU that was too close for comfort, but nonetheless a victory. There was another win against the University of Columbia that was, once again, very close.

The swagger that the Wolfpack team had earlier in the season had somewhat diminished within a couple of games. Following those close victories were disappointing blow-outs by St. John's in New York and West Virginia at the RBC Center. As of late, there have been more disappointing losses. There was a one point loss to Miami who played State for the first time as an ACC opponent and a tough game against Duke in which the Wolfpack gave the Blue Devils another win.

Coach Herb Sendek said after the game, "I think we had some opportunities in the first half to have a lead greater than three points and we did not capitalize in the fashion that would have given us a greater margin going into the half." With this being said, Sendek knows how good this team is capable of being.

There is something about this Wolfpack team that makes them feel they are not performing to the best of their abilities.

"I was thinking we should be up by more than that because we were playing so well," said Wolfpack forward Ilian Evtimov.

This is good, because the Wolfpack knows they have to raise their level of play in order to be the team they know they

can be.

Where does the problem rest within this N.C. State basketball team? The wins by the Wolfpack were terrific, but the losses were at times competitive and at other times an embarrassment. If there were such a thing as a positive or negative loss in a game, that would be what N.C. State had experienced so far in this season. The one point loss to Miami, the loss to Duke and the close loss to Washington could be positive in the fact that the team was competitive and played well.

On the other hand, the negative losses could be the ones handed to them by West Virginia and St. John's, where there were many turnovers, and places in the game where the team had not scored in up to 14 minutes. There is no doubt that the injuries of Tony Bethel and Julius Hodge were key in some of the Wolfpack's losses, but the word team refers to more than one or two players, it refers to a number of players. Therefore the others need to pick up the slack where it's needed.

Underneath all the questions and doubts about this Wolfpack team at this point, there is no question that the team is good, but are they capable of getting things together in time enough to be winners once again in ACC play and to make a run at the NCAA tournament this year? That remains to be seen.

### SUFFER from page 5

seen things are temporal. By faith we not only discern these things, and the great difference between them, but by this we also take our aim at unseen things.

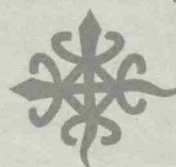
"The sufferings are small and short, and concern the body only; but the glory is rich and great, and concerns the soul, and is eternal," said the late Matthew Henry, a well-known

commentator concerning the bible.

Do not fear having to suffer, especially in these last days. If you treat suffering right and respond to it the way God wants you to, your suffering will not have been in vain, and it will help bring out the best in you.

We suffer so the suffering can produce fruit in due time. If we allow suffering to accomplish its purpose, it can bring forth patience, joy, wisdom and matu-

rity. After one has endured his or her time of suffering, he or she will have a testimony and can therefore glorify God and encourage others who are facing their own times of suffering.





## 'Coach Carter' delights empowers

**Ivory Harris**  
STAFF WRITER

Since when did basketball become more important than education? This is the message of the new Paramount film, *Coach Carter*. Samuel L. Jackson plays the role of Coach Ken Carter, the Richmond High School basketball coach who takes overwhelming criticism for locking the gym, and benching his entire basketball team for not fulfilling the team's academic performance contract.

The team was undefeated after coming from a 4-22 record the previous season. Several parents and even administrators were outraged by the requirements of the coach's contract. The contract required them to have at least a 2.3 grade point average when the state of California requires a 2.0.

Players must also attend and sit in the front of their classes, and they must wear a tie on game day. The administration was reluctant to share student's grades with the coach. When Carter began to badger teachers and the principal about their failure to deliver, he's told he is there to coach, not teach.

They then question Carter's ability to help the team because only 50 percent of the students at this particular school ever graduate high school. In a school where athletics are valued higher than education, and in a community where black males are 88 percent more likely to go to prison than to college, Coach Carter attempts to show the players and the community that basketball is not forever, but education is.

Carter's take no prisoner's attitude teaches the group of young men what it means to have respect by always using "sir" when talking to anyone, teamwork, by tutoring those who have a lower GPA than yours, and drive, by seeking out the unconquerable.

The team pays harsh consequences for not abiding by certain rules. One thousand suicides, 500 push ups and doubling the numbers for each minute a person is late, are just a few ways Carter disciplines the team.

This is an excellent film for any young adult. Teen pregnancy, abortion, drugs, gun violence and family involvement are a few of the sensitive issues of being a student-athlete Coach Carter focuses on. At times the film can seem long and overly drawn out.

The media tends to hype up the role of Ashanti, who plays a smaller role than what's promoted on television. Watching the team play, makes you feel like you're at an actual game.

You feel like you're one of the fans in the gym cheering for the team as well. Ladies, you might find that there are some exceptionally good looking players on the Richmond Oilers team.

Guys, you can definitely step you A-game up in the gym by taking a few notes from the plays and drills that are ran on the court. This is a movie worth seeing, and adding to your DVD collection.

The film also co-stars R&B female artist, Ashanti, Robert Richard (UPN's *One on One*), Debbie Morgan, (Love & Basketball, The Hurricane), Antwon Tanner (The Wood, Sunset Park) and Rick Gonzalez (The Rookie).

So if you're looking for a great movie, with excitement, empowerment, comedy and a great message, check out Samuel L. Jackson in *Coach Carter*. This movie opens in theaters January 14 and is rated PG-13.

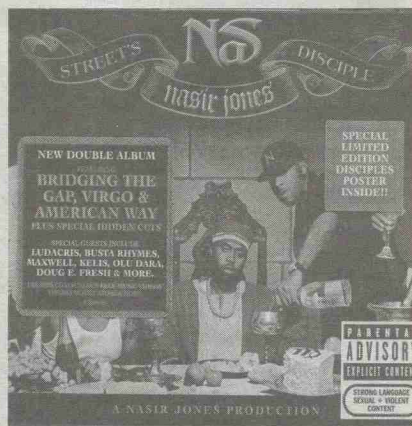
## Post 'God's Son,' Nas strikes again

**Daisy Buitrago**  
STAFF WRITER

Just when you think that *God's Son* is the pinnacle of the man's career, he comes back hitting even harder! The most controversial and thought provoking album out on the shelves at this moment bringing that lyrical soul fire to urban ears is none other than Nasir Jones aka Nas CD *Street's Disciple*. And this is not just personal opinion, many other sources are reaffirming his status such as urban websites and our very own local hip-hop radio station, K-97.5.

However, there was some negativity from an individual on K97.5 during the discussion of the hottest albums out. One gentleman said that Nas was getting way too political and lofty on his newest endeavor. What?? In other words, Nas is trying to bring his people up by exposing them to subjects we as minorities lack exposure in. People, please do not remain in ignorance like the speaker on K97.5 wishes to do, instead take Nas' album up as entertaining yet insightful ear candy.

Nas is known for providing many informative pieces for rap in the form of stories and poems delivered over fairly simple beats. Even Toledoblaze.com wrote that, "Nas has always been considered one of the more socially conscious rappers in the game, as well as one of its top lyricists". Released November 30th of last year, *Street's Disciple* is a double disc containing 25 tracks that



Nas' latest CD: *Street's Disciple*

reaffirm why the "BraveHeart" is a top lyricist. Circuit City has listed this album as a best seller every week since its release and the All Music Guide gives it a rating of 3 1/2 stars out of 5.

"*Street's Disciple*" the title track of this CD clearly illustrates the meaning behind the title,

NAS see page 5

### Black History Rewrite

## Alexandre Dumas

**Shameica L. Gardner**  
STAFF WRITER

"All for one, and one for all," an affirmation shared by adults and children alike. From children dressing in homemade costumes, to teens forging life-long bonds of friendship, at one time or another we have all spouted the phrase from the famous *Three Musketeers*.

However, what many do not realize is that the phrase espoused by many is the creation of a black Frenchman, Alexandre Dumas. Dumas was born July 24, 1802, the son of General Thomas Alexandre Dumas who was black, and Marie-Louise Elizabeth Labouret. Alexandre's grandmother, Marie-Cessette Dumas, was a black slave in what is now called the Dominican Republic.

General Dumas died when Alexandre was only four, leaving the family nearly impoverished. However, Dumas' mother would tell him stories of his father's bravery, which led to love of action-adventure novels.

At the age of 20, Dumas moved to Paris and obtained employment at the Palais-Royal. During his time in Paris, he



Alexandre Dumas

began writing articles for magazines as well as plays for the theater, and his first play was produced in 1829 at the age of 27.

The following year he wrote a second play which was so successful that he was financially able to work at writing full-time. The following year saw the ousting of the old king and the reign of Louis-Philippe began. However, as France began reorganizing and becoming industrialized, Dumas took advantage of

the changing times.

Dumas wrote his first novel in 1838 entitled, *Le Capitaine Paul*. Dumas married and actress, Ida Ferrier, in 1840.

Dumas went on to write some of the most famous works in literary history. These works include: *The Three Musketeers* (1844), *Twenty Years After* (1845), *The Vicomte de Bragelonne*, a four part series the last of which is *The Man in the Iron Mask* (1848-1850), *The Count of Monte Cristo* (1844), and many others.

When Napoleon Bonaparte took power in 1851, Dumas fled the country to Brussels, Belgium and then to Russia due to creditors because of lavish spending habits. From there, Dumas moved to Italy in 1861, and then returned to Paris in 1864.

Although wildly successful, Dumas was not exempt from racial discrimination which he wrote about in short stories that addressed both race and colonialism. Dumas died December 5, 1870. He was buried in his hometown of Villers-Corotterets until November of 2002.

The president of France,

DUMAS see page 7