

NUBIAN MESSAGE

Sentinel of the African-American Community

February 15, 2005

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Unity among blacks still a struggle

Jerry L. Blackmon II
STAFF WRITER

People of color are supposed to be unified by default; united in struggle against a world determined to do them in. But the black community, says Dr. Savitri Dixon-Saxon, a counselor at N.C. State, is just as fragmented as the rest of the country.

"Is it something pathological or negative about us that makes it hard for us to come together as a group?" Saxon asked the packed Multipurpose Room at Thursday's "Black with Envy, Why are we so Divided" discussion sponsored by SAAC and Phi Beta Sigma fraternity.

The problem, she said, has to do with the very thing that should bring black people together - racial identity. "You all know and you have seen people who are at different places with their blackness," she said.

The idea of racial identity is tied to the concept of



Jerry L. Blackmon II • staff

Dr. Saxon ponders a question at the forum Thursday night.

"race salience," the idea that not everyone places the same value on the concept of race.

"Some people seem more or less evolved - some people seem more or less willing to say that being black or African-American or a per-

son of African descent has any impact on them. Some people will deny it altogether - those people that we call being in a pre-encounter stage," she said.

Saxon said there are four stages people of color go

through when learning to cope with race. The first stage, pre-encounter, is typified by people who refuse to admit race is a factor in their lives, she said.

"Yeah, being black doesn't affect me," she said. "If I

work hard, I can get what I want - I can relate to anybody." Saxon said that was her attitude when she graduated with her bachelor's in communication in the '80s. But she said she was in for an encounter with reality, the second stage.

"At the time, I definitely thought the tonality of my voice and the way I presented myself was acceptable to everyone." She said she went in for a job interview at a local television station. "They said 'can you do something, something with your hair, something with your makeup, so you'll look less ethnic?'"

"That was probably one of my first experiences that made me aware of my race's impact on special environments," she said.

Her experiences in the workforce ushered her into the third stage of racial identification, immersion.

"If it wasn't black, I didn't want nothing to do with

SAXON see page 2

YBE forum tackles white privilege, talks recent ethics controversy

Aniesha Felton
STAFF WRITER

Hot topics, white privilege, Nubian Message and African-Americans speaking on behalf of the whole population of black people were a few of the topics discussed at the Young Black Entrepreneur's (YBE) meeting on Tuesday.

Beginning the on and off again discussion—debate—dialogue was the "controversial" Johnathan Brunson article in sister publication, Technician.

"The article made him appear like a mad, angry black man," said Tamekia Allen, a junior in political science. "I know Johnathan, so for him to come off that way, I knew something was wrong," she said.

Echoing Allen, Roy Maynard, a senior in biological sciences, said that the article made Brunson come off as an irate, disgruntled person who was unhappy with the readership of the paper.

A whirlwind debate ensued when a writer from Technician inferred from Brunson's article that he called non-Nubian readers racist and then proceeded to write a response to the article.

Brunson, wanting to "set the record straight," took action. The original version of the article was published in the Nubian Message. After reading the original and comparing it to the other publication, some, including Shameica Gardner, were dis-

The Search for a New Director

AACC Director Candidate **Dr. Lawrence Potter**

• The four finalists for director of the AACC will be visiting campus over the next month. Each week, we will profile each candidate and publish an in-depth interview to give the community a closer look at who will be the Cultural Center's driving force.

Johnathan Brunson
STAFF WRITER

"I am very passionate about what I do," is how the second candidate for the African-American Cultural Center director search approached his presentation.

Lawrence Potter, director and associate professor of Africana Studies at Western Michigan University, shared his ideas and vision for the AACC on Friday.

In regards to his feelings of the AACC Potter had this to say.

"The African-American Cultural Center is a space defined to enhance the community and identify contributions of African-Americans," he said. "The Center should focus on identity, education, and stewardship; in addition, we should move forward, identify programs and broaden aspects of the Center," Potter said.

With ambitions of building coalitions and bridges, as well as bringing structure, internships, co-ops, and job opportunities, Potter added "must-haves" to the list of things the Cultural Center will have if he becomes the new director.

"The Cultural Center will have a leader with a vision; scholarship and scholarly forums; cultural programs; resource development; and col-



Dr. Lawrence Potter
Ph.D., University of Missouri-Columbia

• M.A., University of Missouri-Columbia
• B.A., Stillman College (magna cum laude)

"Fighting is not always the answer; look to creativity."

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it. If it wasn't black clothes, I didn't wear it. If it wasn't a black car, I didn't drive it. If it wasn't a black person, I didn't talk to it. If it wasn't a black song, I didn't listen to it. If it wasn't written by a black author, I didn't read it," she said.

But that stage didn't last long. "I got into environments where I started associating with people who belonged to other races, and started seeing people weren't so bad," she said.

Saxon reached the fourth stage of her racial identity development when she encountered black people who she said disappointed her.

"Every black person is not always good," she said, "and every white person is not always bad. And this thing I was doing, only being influenced by black people, was not necessarily good for me."

Complicating the problem of racial identification is the differences in socio-economic background and experiences among black people, Saxon said. Today African-Americans are exposed to a far more diverse society than ever before, and not all black people have the same cultural experiences.

The majority of the black community is composed of low to middle income families, but it's the exact opposite in a university environment, especially on predominantly white campuses.

"It would be even more different if you were talking about some place like Duke. On predominantly white campuses, about three fourths of the African-Americans are from middle-to-high-income families," she said. "About a quarter of them come from middle- to low-income families."

It's difficult for blacks from the two different

groups to understand each other, she said, because their experiences are so different. African-Americans in college don't have the information about the politics and the economics and the social concerns of the larger African-American community.

"A lot of the things that become the common agenda in another community are not a part of the agenda or an obstacle to them because they have the money to overcome those things," Saxon said.

African-American people who are middle to low income are aware of the concerns of the larger community, she said. They also are very familiar with the language and the customs and the culture of the larger community.

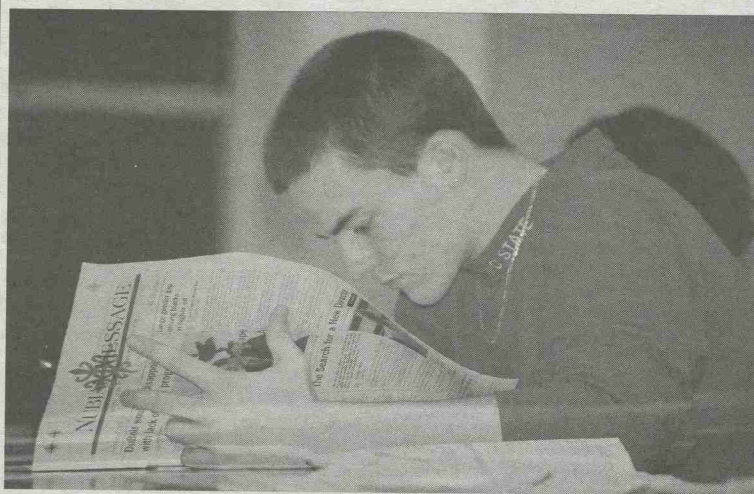
"People of high socioeconomic status are more likely to live in interracial or predominantly white environments," Saxon said. "This means their primary reference group is not African-American people."

That leads to these blacks feeling uncomfortable around other African-Americans, she said.

"If you don't hang out with 'em, you aint gonna feel comfortable with 'em. If you hang out with 'em, you gonna feel comfortable with 'em," she said, and asked whether the audience enjoyed her Chris Rock impression. "But you know what I'm saying."

Saxon said it's also time for blacks to stop looking for a new icon.

"You listen to talk radio today, and you hear all kinds of people saying 'where's the next Martin', 'where's the next Malcolm', 'where's the next Jesse. I say: where is the next Dorothy Hop. Where's the next Sojourner Truth. Where's the person who is a voice and can unify African-American people?'"



Technician's Viewpoint editor Jason Eder reads a copy of Nubian at the YBE meeting.

Jerry L. Blackmon II • staff

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mayed at the differences.

"There is no mistaking the fact that the story was manipulated," said the senior English major. "I have taken journalism classes, and it is unethical to change the writer's original intent," she said.

On behalf of the other publication, Jason Eder, the opinion editor and senior in electrical engineering, defended the changes by saying that portions of Brunson's article were cut if it did not relate to his first paragraph which talked about race being a factor in 2005.

"What we did is very standard, you cut what is not related to the first paragraph," he said. "We didn't cut to portray a certain message, we cut what didn't pertain to his topic of passing out Nubians," Eder said.

After much discussion of the article differences, Tiffany Price, commented that it was just an opinion and that it shouldn't be understood as the opinion of the whole African-American

population.

"I guess that it's just the nature of the beast, if an African-American at State says something pertaining to African-Americans, it is understood that every African-American feels the same way," she said. "I, for one am not happy that I must always be the sole student in my class to speak for the African-American race, but I have to accept the fact that I represent more than Tiffany Price," said the senior in social work.

Taking a turn into a more serious topic, Allen, the acting moderator asked, "What is white privilege and does it exist?"

"White privilege isn't a conscious thing," said Gardner. "People who do not have it are cognizant of it because it is absent from their lives," she said.

Daisy Buitrago, a junior in textile and apparel management, commented that white privilege is alive and well.

"When I walk into an interview, I'm not only worried about my credentials, but I'm worried about whether the color of my skin will cause me not to get the job," she said. "A white person is only concerned about their credentials and resume," Buitrago said.

Differing in opinion, Eder, said that white privi-

lege is a concept and doesn't exist until one talks about it and make it a reality.

"White privilege isn't inherent," he said. "It isn't something you are born with; it is something that is definitely socially-constructed."

"I believe people were created equally, however there are some people who don't feel that way. But because, white privilege is man-made, it can be changed," he said.

In response, Price said, "It is a fact that it exists just like when you get any and breathe, white privilege exists; it's just that the privileged don't know it," she said.

"If you are part of a group that is 'superior,' you will never understand it," Tyra McGrue, a senior in social work said.

"You believe it is a concept only because you were born into white privilege. It's just like having a silver spoon in your mouth, you don't know anything different because you were introduced to it as soon as you came out of the womb," McGrue said.

The meeting served as a sounding board for race issues facing the entire N.C. State community. Many students had the opportunity to voice their opinions concerning race issues on campus.

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laborative partnerships," he said. "These are essential to a productive and effective cultural center," he said.

After saying that the function of the AACC is the recruitment and retention of students, Potter elaborated on his views and plans for the students.

"I am here to serve the students," he said. "I value student input, and I have much in store for them."

"I plan to publicize and reach out to the student body

more. I plan to bring more students to the Cultural Center through outreach, campus radio and extra credit assignments; I want to build relationships with students, they are the reason the AACC exists," Potter said.

Potter concluded by saying that the AACC should be shared by other groups for cultural enlightenment, but continue to keep its name.

"If you change the name, you cannot expect people to appreciate the culture," he replied.



NUBIAN MESSAGE

Sentinel of the African-American Community

372 Witherspoon Student Center
Box 7138 NCSU Raleigh, NC 27695

Johnathan Brunson | **EDITOR IN CHIEF**

Xavier King CULTURE
Jacqueline Indula FEATURES
A. Michelle McLean MIND, BODY & SOUL
Martia Sharpe NEWS

Aniesha Felton | **EDITOR IN CHIEF**

Keitris Weathersbe OPINION
Shameica Gardner COPYDESK CHIEF
Adam Attarian CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER
Keon Pettway WEBMASTER

EDITORIAL/ADVERTISING

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WEBSITE

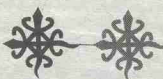
919.515.1468

response@nubian.ncsu.edu

www.nubianmessage.com

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OPINION

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February 15, 2005 • Nubian Message

'Pub'-ing Nubian

Sometimes it seems no matter what this paper does to improve itself, someone is waiting in the wings to tear it down again. The "why" is as transparent as the intentions of those who would do it in.

Johnathan Brunson tried to explain why with his typical blunt candor in what turned out to be his final column for Technician: race still matters. It matters at N.C. State; it matters in Raleigh, N.C. It matters in North Carolina — it certainly matters in the South — and it still matters in the United States, this one supposed indivisible nation under God.

This is Black History Month, so perhaps it would be beneficial for us to take a look at black history.

This editorial is always written anonymously, but what I'm about to write is true for many other African-Americans on this campus.

My great-grandmother just recently died; she was born in 1904. Her great-grandmother was a slave. Her grandmother was a slave. Her mother was a slave.

She grew up in a world where the law required her to enter through the back door. She lived in a world where interracial marriage was illegal. Her daughters had to march in the streets, were attacked by dogs, and ravaged by high-pressure fire hoses just to give her the basic rights most of us now take for granted.

And this, mind you, was not 1760 or 1860. This was 1960 — barely 40 years ago.

Now that's just on my mother's side of the family; they all come from Pennsylvania. My father's side of the family is a completely different story that's still being uncovered.

My paternal line has been traced back to an African who was brought to Mississippi in bondage in the 1700s.

So exactly how ludicrous does it sound to tell me that race doesn't matter?

This is part of the reason why we continue to do what it is we do. There aren't that many African-Americans in this country who fully understand their own history, and even fewer who comprehend the full ramifications of that history.

Nubian is here to assist in the process of un-miseducating them, and along the way, we're giving all comers insight into the African-American community at NCSU and beyond that they would not otherwise have.

That's why we're so surprised that our efforts are being blocked at every turn.

We recently approached Technician with the idea of reaching out to those in its audience who haven't yet been exposed to Nubian by bundling a copy of Nubian with Technician some day soon.

We were told we had two options.

Wait for Technician to be delivered to campus whatever morning we decide to do the bundling, and insert Nubian ourselves.

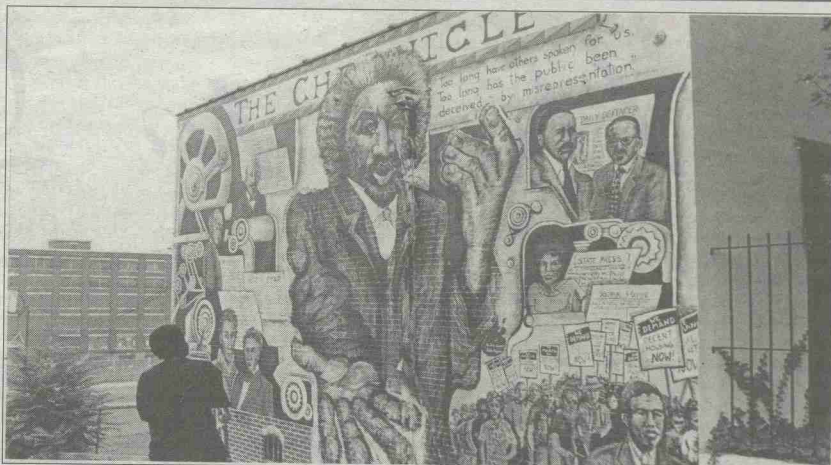
Or, we could pay Technician the same rates they charge Sports Illustrated for bundling, and hope that the two Technician bundles that held the thousand or so Nubians would be distributed to bins where students would actually pick them up, since there is no way of determining where those two bundles end up.

So much for the myth of the constituents of the Student Media Authority being one big, happy family, I guess. The campus wants to see Technician and Nubian work more closely together, but our hands are slapped whenever we reach out.

Why is that?

— 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.
response@nubian.ncsu.edu



Valentine's, a pagan holiday

• Minister Hatchett explains one of the many different stories about the origin of Valentine's Day and why observant Christians shouldn't celebrate it.

This pagan idolatrous day of celebration, like many others, always seems to have some kind of Christian ties to it. Well, the root determines the fruit.

Valentine's Day was not founded to honor the martyrdom of "Saint" Valentine.

It was originally a celebration to honor false gods. Feb. 14, the day we celebrate our Valentine's Day, began as a pagan holiday in honor of Juno, considered to be the queen of the Roman gods and goddesses. She was also known as the goddess of women and marriage.

Other mythological and false gods associated with this day are Pan, the god of music, fertility and lust, and Cupid, an ugly perversion, who could supposedly deliver lust at first sight with a shot of his arrow. The most modern celebration associated

Fred Hatchett
COLUMNIST

with this day is Lupercalia Day in the late 1500s.

The ritual of making goat-skinned thongs and hitting women with them to make them fertile was the ritual practiced in homage to the god Lupercus. Without going into much detail, I wanted to give enough background information to

demonstrate that this is not a Christian tradition.

"Saint" Valentine was killed for performing marriages, against the Roman emperor's order, as a result of the relationships formed from these pagan rituals and practices. So his martyrdom was based on his disobedience of the law of the land in that day.

Today, "Saint" Valentine is honored by fornicators, adulterers and above all greedy individuals. A man's martyrdom is used to generate 2 billion dollars per year. It is said that the two most promi-

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'Melting Pot' theory flawed

• What happens when you put peas, carrots, corn and potatoes in a pot? The same thing that happens when you put people of different ethnicities together.

We have long heard that this great country is a "melting pot." We have been told that America is one of the greatest countries because of its respectful nature in regards to cultural diversity.

To illustrate the nature of the melting pot, I will present an analogy. For my example, I have chosen mixed vegetables that you ate at home and at school that consisted of carrots and peas as a representation of this false doctrine.

Both the carrot and the pea are in the vegetable family and have no providence or superiority except for an individual's preferential nature of taste.

Good and true mixed medley vegetables consist of carrots and peas that in essence taste like the characteristic nature of itself, but has been seasoned and flavored by a hint of the other.

The carrot in essence still tastes like a carrot



Chad Martin
STAFF WRITER

but you can taste that it has been cooked along with the pea. The pea in essence is still a pea, yet you can tell it has been hinted with the carrot.

The school's mixed vegetables however have been assimilated instead of integrated. The carrot in essence, tastes like a

carrot and nothing else. The pea or whatever else that has been incorporated in that mix taste just like the carrot. This is the overbearing nature of Western culture.

It seeks to unify the country through the indoctrination of assimilation, which in turn endorses dehumanization and enculturation. It has astonished me that the pea, like the minority population, has in fact lost its flavor in the American school system.

Paulo Freire, author of "Pedagogy of the Oppressed," said, "Education has two motives. It can indoctrinate someone into a state of oppression

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MIND, BODY & SOUL

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How to Love

the Black Man

the Black Woman



A. Michelle McLean

MBS EDITOR

Ladies, it takes a woman with great strength to love our brothers. Not saying that they are difficult to love, but, like loving us, it requires precision.

Moreover, we often find ourselves wading through the misconceptions and obstacles that may go along with black men and building and maintaining meaningful relationships. Those obstacles often impede our efforts and progress in loving and caring for the unique yet versatile beings that our men continuously prove themselves to be.

Regardless of how disparagingly society may project us and our relationships, we should work diligently to make our love succeed and withstand the negativity that is perceived by us all.

So, while evaluating current or potential relationships, keep these things in mind when contemplating or sustaining healthy and committed relationships with your black men.

Encourage him. Help him to believe that he can do anything that his mind can conceive. Keep him uplifted. Remind him that he is a beautiful, splendid black man that has too much to offer the world to settle for less than what he deserves.

In your journey together, know the importance of a black woman's support. By suggesting this, I'm not implying that you assume the submissive, passive role, but provide him with strength as well as emotional and spiritual support. With that, he may find it in himself to strive for and fulfill his ultimate potential.

Additionally, acknowledge his struggle as a black man. Because we

live in a society that constantly attempts to alienate, belittle and oppress our race, the black man is often offered the shortest straw of the bunch. So I can, to some degree, empathize with the frustration and anger that they go through.

This, however, cannot be their scapegoat, but should be their inspirations to defy the odds as well as the enemy. Be persistent and positive right with him. He will love and admire you for it for the rest of your lives.

Allowing him room to be and to express himself is also a must. Give him space to think and to grow, for if you smother him, he may withdraw and become distant.

In addition to that, don't try to change him. I feel that a lot of times, upon the beginning of a relationship, women intending to change their mates ruin the relationships before they start. I say, if you need or want to change the man that you're with, he's not the man that you want or need to be with in the first place.

It should not go unsaid that expectations are essential. In any relationship, individual and joint expectations ideally exist. Individuality, yours nor his, does not negate this. Expect him to be the best person and man he can possibly be not only for you, but for himself.

Saying that, let him be a man. Enforce those expectations because in them are roles that he should accept and fulfill. It's timeout for grown men taking on a boy's position or mentality when it is convenient. If he applied for the man's position, accept nothing less. Let him be a

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A. Michelle McLean

MBS EDITOR

Black love is one of the most complex yet most sought after aspects of the black relationship. It has been and will, seemingly, be the one thing that we as black people continue to strive to have and experience.

Until we get right — meaning to rid our relationships of disrespect, heartache and neglect — this phenomenon will continually be a trial and error-type experiment that will, hopefully, assist us in our individual journeys toward growth and the ability to love and be loved effectively.

I'm almost certain, black men, that you all have either loved a black woman in the past, love one now or anticipate loving one in the future. Even experiencing unromantic love for a mother, grandmother or sister has demonstrated or taught you something about loving a black woman.

Whether you have chosen to use those lessons in your romantic relationships, many of you at least understand that it takes great skill, patience, sensitivity and wisdom to love a black woman ... to love period.

Well, as a passionate, intelligent, ambitious, and loving black woman (who has been dealt with and experienced black men and relationships), I strongly believe that loving a black woman is a lot of work. However, it is worth every second, especially if it is done willingly and wholeheartedly.

For those of you desiring to perfect your game and to better love the black woman, I feel that the advice that follows will be highly rewarding for you as well as the black women that want to be and are destined to

be loved by you.

First of all, be honest. Lying gets neither one of you anywhere. Telling the truth from the beginning saves time, frustration and tears. For many women, being honest could be the difference between healthily letting go of lost causes and empty relationships that aren't meant to be, and having an emotional breakdown. Also, always look her in the eye. If you can't do that, something's wrong.

Allow her to express herself. This involves paying attention to what she has to say. When we ask for that listening ear, understand that it is not to gain validation for what is said, but for a release or a desire to engage in intimacy that doesn't involve the sexual. You must remember that open and equal communication is one of the key components to a healthy and satisfying relationship.

Be able to pleasure her intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually. Don't sell yourself short by limiting yourself to knowing her only on a physical level. We women are more than just breasts, thighs and backsides. We have minds, spirits and hearts that need stroking as well.

Your positive presence and contribution to her life will be absolutely integral to her overall growth. Nonetheless, in this journey, realize that you don't have to remedy everything ... and we're not expecting you to.

Make your woman feel beautiful. Accept and appreciate those curves and extra goodies that society has falsely predetermined undesirable or unsexy. Let her know that you relish what God has given her. Compliment her on that shapely, not-

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Snazzy colors get that 'do' done right



Melissa R. McLean

STAFF WRITER

Along with fashion and make-up trends, women's hair color seems to change with the seasons. Every color of the spectrum becomes fair game when it comes to what makes a woman feel new and improved. From classy brunette and sleek black to fun-loving blonde and shocking red, there is a great shade that compliments every woman.

The decision to color one's hair must begin with some basic knowledge about the different types of color. You should speak with a qualified hair colorist for tips and recommendations, but there is basic information available beforehand.

There are several technical terms about hair color with which you should be familiar. Semi-permanent color pertains to color that contains a small amount of peroxide and no ammonia. This type of

color will only darken hair and, over time, can fade. Although the roots must be maintained, this is the least damaging process of coloring.

Demi-permanent color will only darken hair also, but is great at covering gray hair. With this coloring, roots will need to be retouched every four to six weeks.

This color contains peroxide, but does not contain any ammonia. However, permanent color contains both peroxide and ammonia and will make hair lighter or darker. This type of color will last until your hair grows out, but roots will need to be retouched every four to six weeks, just as demi-permanent.

Highlights and lowlights are very popular processes among women. Highlights are created using permanent color or bleach to lighten random strands of hair. Just the opposite, lowlights uses demi-permanent or permanent color to darken sec-

tions of hair. Both processes can be used to blend gray hair and should be repeated every three months.

Now, on choosing the best shade to color your hair. According to "Ladies Home Journal," a woman's natural hair color and skin tone are the most important factors for choosing the most complimentary shade. As a general rule, it is best to only darken or lighten two or three shades from your natural hair. If your skin is dark, it is suggested to go with rich shades like chocolate.

For olive-skinned women, avoid blonde shades because they make the skin look pale and washed out. For the fair-skinned, warm, golden shades or shades that contain the words "beige" or "ash" are best suited. Avoid red or orange tones if you have ruddy or rosy skin. Golden shades with highlights

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The Spot

Exploring the spicy side of health

Is it the earlobe? The sides of the neck? The collarbone? Or is it the crease where the thigh and hip meet?

The Spot ... it could be just about anywhere, actually. The particular spot that I'm referring to, though, is my spot, the place where you can find the answers to those questions that you've been dying to ask or wondering about, but were too shy to pose.

The spot is a place that will feature some of the juiciest, most tantalizing topics concerning relationships and sex. Sex is an aspect of health many are too squeamish to face or are not willing to face honestly. Oh yeah, it will be discussed, so get ready.

In The Spot, I will touch on a number of subjects ranging from the benefits of sex, to knowing the difference between sex and making love. I will also talk about relationship issues such as the platonic friendships between men and women as well as love, romance, and dating the plus-size woman — cause it is definitely a plus.

Believe me when I say that this will be a satisfying treat. Luckily for you, I'll be providing you with second, thirds, and fourths. This column will be a bi-monthly addition to the Nubian Message where I will deliver sizzling, yet thought-provoking material for your fun and enjoyment.

Now, for those of you who feel that this column may be inappropriate or not fit this publication, I offer this advice: don't read it. It may not be for you or strike your fancy, but it will strike somebody's. So just skip it and go to another article. It's as simple as that. Besides, there's something in here for everyone.

Additionally, we should all realize, and then acknowledge that sex is a part of life. It's, to some degree, how we got here, and it's natural. And to be quite honest, it is one of the spices of life.

Now, I could name a million spices that exist in the world...and there are enough where everybody can find his or her favorite one. So, if this column does not satiate your appetite, chase it down with a glass of water and pick another spice... It's as easy as pie ... apple pie.

Most importantly, I am in no way promoting or condoning unprotected sex or any other risky behavior. I'm just adding a little flavor to the pot. We are all responsible adults who are capable of making our own decisions. Please don't assume that I am attempting to influence any of yours.

Just take it for what it is intended to be. Fun ... and nothing more.

For those of you who are game for a little spontaneity, you have definitely found the right spot. So make this your favorite spot ... because it is the place to be.

Until next time...



Mama Boom Boom

Everything you always wanted to know, and then some.

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man.

Nonetheless, on a lighter note, do the simple things that make him feel loved. Make him feel wanted. Men want to be desired just as much as women do. Pay attention to him. Don't neglect his needs. They are important, too.

Just keep in mind

that if you don't give him the things that he needs from you and the relationship, he may go elsewhere to receive them. That would be just plain ugly and unfortunate. So, ladies, if your game is looking a bit weak, step it up.

Wow.

response@nubian.ncsu.edu

PAGAN from page 3

nent days of the year for a girl to lose her virginity is prom night and Valentine's Day.

If it were a true Christian-originated celebration, these things would not be expected. But since the root is evil, then so will be the fruits.

What has destroyed more nations than pride, money and sex? These are the three deadly adversaries which Satan uses anytime he wants to shift the balance in

mankind's disfavor.

Pride brought black domination of this world to an end. Sex and money have brought down the likes of David, Samson and Solomon. May I remind you of Psalm 51 where David repents and gives the model of true repentance.

Christians have bought into this tradition not knowing where it came from or what it really means. There is only one God capable of giving men and women the true and proper ways in which to express themselves to

one another.

God gave us the sex drive, but not to abuse it. Whenever anyone dabbles in this day, they are dabbling with idolatry. If anyone celebrates this day, it should be the married who can rightly carry it out to its fulfillment of sexual intercourse.

Please do not, however, take this as a Clintonesque approval of and defining sex as only the act of coitus. My whole purpose is just to let you know what you are celebrating on Valentine's Day. Almost all tradi-

tions in this country are practiced without question. As Christians, we need to stop being ignorant of Satan's devices. Free will does not supersede God's will.

Why allow a Pagan tradition to place you in a position to sin? Be wise, be smart, and live holy by not tampering with the Devil's creations.

So this Valentine's Day, consider your ways. There is HIV and possibly your virginity on the line for a day designed for you to give glory to Satan.

MELTING from page 3

and dehumanization, or it can help to liberate."

The American school system has historically denied the importance of other cultural contributions that have enhanced and made this nation what it stands as today.

Brown versus Board of Education helped to level the playing field of education, but one of the worst things that the African-American culture could have done was accept assimilation instead of integration.

Assimilation seeks

to drown out the importance of your voice, stance or culture, like the school's mixed vegetables. Integration seeks to unify a standard of excellence that equivocates culture diversity, and promotes humanization.

I published a poem in 2000 that summed up the American assimilation story from the African-American perspective.

I'm going over scriptures from hidden and mystical mountains, drinking from everlasting youth fountains. Realizing that I wasn't integrated, but artificially inseminated, and facsimile

assimilated.

It's 1857 and I'm dreading Scott's decision, day that will live in infamy and a testimony to me of the dominant culture's jealousy. The Native Americans have been persecuted for years, but there's a bigger fear. Imagine a trail of tears for more than 400 years.

The Jews were almost distinctly extinct with the exception of "Schindler's List," but to the black man it's Holocaustic bliss, rather than to be treated like less than 3/5's of a man by the United States Congress.

The difference

between the African and the African-American is that the African was colonized but still was tied into his roots, while the African-American was stripped from his.

Youth, I'm trying to kick knowledge to the truth. I want reparations to build up our own black nation, a state within a state. You left us without a home to call our own. Now you won't even give us a loan, won't even affirm the action of throwing us a bone. I want reparations.

HAIR from page 4

are best.

Before your hair can be colored, it is wise to not wash your hair one to two days if you are using permanent coloring. Your hair will be protected by its natural oils, and the color will adhere to the shaft more efficiently. For semi-permanent color, the hair must be clean because only the surface of the

hair is being coated.

Now that the hair is colored, it must be maintained to keep the color looking great between colorings. Do not wash your hair for 24 to 48 hours. This is especially important when using permanent color since the hair shaft is opened during the process.

When you are allowed to wash your hair, use special products that are made gentle enough for color-

treated hair. There are special conditioners that are used to heighten your hair color whether it is treated or not. Gold conditioners keep blond tones bright, lavender takes away brassiness, and red warms reddish-brown, red, and dark hair.

Use cool water to wash hair because water that's too hot tends to fade the shade. Blow-dry sparingly so that your new shade

will not turn dull or brassy. The sun can oxidize your color, so protect your hair from the sun by using a leave-in conditioner with sunscreen. Coloring looks great, but it can weaken hair and cause breakage. Regular conditioning is a must.

If a new shade is desired, remember to stay within two to three shades of your natural color and touch up the roots regularly.

WOMAN from page 4

size-eight-figure.

Everybody can't conform to that stick figure physique. So, hold on to those bootylicious hips ... firmly and happily.

Be romantic. It's okay, really. It won't threaten your manhood, especially if you are secure. For those worried about your thugship: be more concerned about keeping that woman that has or will potentially change your life. There are things that your woman can give you that your homeboys

cannot. Remember that.

Spoil her. This is a cruel world, so love hard. Spontaneity is a plus, too.

Provide her with support in every aspect of her life. Give her strength when and where she lacks. It's all about the balance of two people and how they complement one another. It's about loving even when the other is not at his or her best.

Respect her for who and what she is and what she is capable of offering not only to you, but to the world.

Cultivate her seeds of greatness.

Know that love is not supposed to hurt. This means that any bruise, physical or emotional, is not an expression of love.

Loving someone with your fist or harsh words only destroys the spirit and/or the person.

Finally, let us love you. Don't pull away. Not every woman has ulterior motives. So quit searching for one where there is none. Only the Lord knows the extent of how women have been hurt.

A lot of times that

hurt has resulted from you not surrendering to love (especially when it is staring you in the face).

Many men confuse commitment and love with the compromising of the self. They are not equivalent.

If you never surrender to love, you'll never truly experience it.

We just want to love you, and for you to respect and celebrate us, free of pain, strife and misunderstanding. Just try it. You may just enjoy it.

John Legend: mellow

Daisy Buitrago
STAFF WRITER

"Come on and go with me" sets the pace for a CD of mellow, passionate and free music that can set a wonderful atmosphere at a Valentine's dinner. The CD's opening line comes from its "Get Lifted" title, crafted smoothly by John Legend.

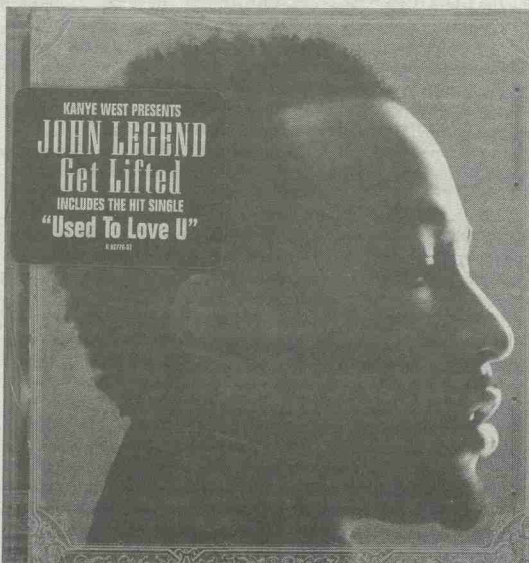
Released Dec. 2004, Legend's CD began crawling to popularity and at this time is being talked about quite frequently. Beware though because this fourteen track disc is straight R&B, even though there is a cameo by Kanye West on one track. For as low as \$7.99, this CD is worth the dollars and the extra cuddle time with your Valentine sweetie.

A talented pianist, Legend graces all tracks with his piano and vocal skills. This male embodiment of Alicia Keys is all about relationships on this CD, ranging from happy moments to sad breakups, like "Used to Love You," the popular radio jam.

"She Don't have to Know" is about a relationship that Legend and a woman have with each other while trying to hide it from their respective partners. These lyrics lay upon a framework of maracas, some guitar and a heavy bass line to give a sassy, yet mellow feel to the song.

The track "Ordinary People," is a lovely ballad accompanied by nothing but piano that truly encompasses love at its deepest. "We rise and we fall/ and we feel like just walking away/ I still want you to stay," is a verse that can bring tears to the eyes when hearing Legend's emphatic voice singing to his woman.

He describes a turbulent relationship that seems to be on and off, yet there is love to give hope. He emphasizes, "This time we'll take it slow," to explain that he is willing to try what he must to make it work with this woman. This undying determination powered by love is a quality that has become virtually



nonexistent in today's society, so seeing someone else bring it back with song is heartening.

"Let's Get Lifted" exhibits the power and range of Legend's voice. This man can sing higher than many women, yet still sound powerfully masculine, almost reminiscent of Lenny Kravitz. Touching along the sentiments of being lifted, on "So High," Legend croons "We can't get much closer to God than where we are" to depict just how high in spirits he is due to his love.

He refers to their happiness with many phrases, such as "cloud nine," "among the stars," and his "shoes scraping the sky."

Finishing off his serenade, Legend tells his girl, "Let's go to the moon, baby." Cymbals, triangles, organ and piano keys sparkle throughout the song to give it a heavenly quality. Maybe Legend would agree that paying tribute to a woman through words is a romantic maneuver that can't fail on Valentine's Day (hint: this is for all the brothers out there trying to have the ultimate V-Day date).

With the collection of touchingly beautiful tracks, there is

one that sticks out quite sorely. "Number One" features Legend trying to justify his cheating behavior to his girl because, "You know I love you/ there's no one above you."

Even West's little spotlight is disappointing as one finds him rapping, "But you know I love you/ He told me you was his favorite," referring to his genitals, explaining that he lets them do the thinking because he's not strong enough to fight it.

It's obvious by the light-hearted beat and the chorus singing so cheerfully that the song is meant to be fun, however it adds little dimension to the album. The song is just not respectful to women, which is ironic considering he caters to the female audience throughout the rest of the CD. Luckily, for all those not interested in the song, the "skip forward" option is available on all CD players.

Now down to the bottom line: This album is worth the money and is a guaranteed Valentine's Day winner.

Book review

THE THIRD LIFE OF GRANGE COPELAND

Rhonda A. Gordon, reviewer

Spiritual enslavement, hopelessness and the search for identity. These are only a few themes brilliantly developed in Alice Walker's "The Third Life of Grange Copeland." The novel follows Brownfield, son of black tenant farmer Grange, and shows how his father's actions impact his life.

Brownfield's earliest images are of the fear his father instilled in his mother. Living on land owned by a white man put Grange on edge every day of his life and it was evident in the way he belittled his wife and ignored his children.

Convinced that life in Georgia will never get any better, Grange heads north, abandoning his family and his first life. After he's gone, Brownfield's world is turned upside down. His mother falls into a depression and commits suicide. Blaming it on his father, he vows to never be like him.

He grows up and marries a respectable woman named Mem, who put her faith in his ability to provide for her. When Brownfield faces the same setbacks as his father, Mem gets a job and becomes the main breadwinner and strips him of the last thing that made him feel like a man.

Unable to provide for his wife, Brownfield sabotages Mem's job and squanders her money away. He then comes up with a way to keep her from working: keep her pregnant. Just in case she thought she was better than him, he began to beat her on a daily basis, disfiguring her until it becomes fatal.

While Brownfield is imprisoned for his wife's murder, Grange returns from his second life in New York, finding that blacks suffer the same humiliating experience there. He is the only person available to take custody of Ruth, Brownfield's youngest daughter. He soon realizes that it's too late to save Brownfield because he's already given up on the world. But as long as he can keep Ruth away from Brownfield, Grange has a third chance to find fulfillment in life and break the cycle of pain and hopelessness.

When Alice Walker published her first novel in 1970, it received a lot of criticism. Black people protested that it made black men look like uncaring, abusive animals. Those who supported her pointed out that Walker has accomplished a great feat in making people aware of the struggles black men, women and children go through.

She brought to light that parents are supposed to create better worlds for their children, not deprive them because of bitterness. She brought to light that America sometimes emasculates black men and keeps them searching for ways to be a man.

Walker does not tread lightly on any of these issues and her graphic displays might be hard for some readers to swallow.

Grammys Dazzle

Daisy Buitrago
STAFF WRITER

Another Grammy Awards Show has come and gone, and with it came many wins, losses, fashion do's and fashion don'ts. As with any other celebrity awards show, the evening began with Hollywood's List of "Who's

Who" on the infamous "red carpet."

Every celebrity that graced viewers with their presence, glamorously walked the red carpet in style; nothing too flashy and "nothing" that would make parents send their children to bed early.

Then of course there were those who must have forgotten to get a second opinion before leaving the house, like Gwen Stefani and

her army of Harajuku girls. After the red carpet, the 47th annual Grammy Awards Show commenced.

Everyone from Beyonce and Jay Z to Maroon 5 and Garth Brooks gathered in the Staples Center in Los Angeles to see and be seen. The show was hosted by Queen Latifah who delivered a performance as well.

Categories included in this year's show were: "Best New Artist," "Best New Album," "Best Song of the

Year," "Best Dance Album" and "Best Rap/R&B Album" to name a few.

Maroon 5, an alternative group, beat Kanye West for "Best New Artist," who surprisingly took his loss very well. However, West did manage to pick up an award for "Best Rap Song, Jesus Walks" and "Best Rap Album, College Dropout" beating albums by LL Cool J, Nelly and Jay Z.

Alicia Keys won "Best R&B Album of the Year,"

"Best Female R&B Vocal" and You Don't Know My Name won "Best R&B Song."

Other artists that picked up gold included: Nora Jones, Usher, John Mayer, Los Lonely Boys, Brittany Spears and Prince.

Some categories not quite as popular as the ones previously mentioned included: "Producer of the Year," "Best Score Soundtrack Album for a Motion Picture,"

GRAMMY see page 7

Special awards

"Trustees Awards," which were given to people who have made significant contributions to music in fields

This year's performers included Usher and James Brown, John Mayer, Lynard Skynard, Tim McGraw, Keith Urban and Gretchen Wilson, Kanye West and Joss Stone.

HANDS from page 8

The Civil War portion highlighted many of the African-American men that fought in different regiments and cavalries during the war. It was also stressed that it was not Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation that freed the slaves, but rather the 13th Amendment which abolished slavery in the

Finally, the Present Day part of the series was a mock episode of the Oprah Winfrey Show featuring: Marion Jones, the world's fastest woman, John Singleton, a famous black director, Lisa Leslie, a member of the Los Angeles Sparks and Bernard Harris, the first African-American male in space.

SOMOS from page 8

Many of the stu-

During one of La Raza's performances, sophomore Oscar Faria, one of the emcees for the evening, even offers to "rescue" a young lady that sits in the back helplessly without a partner to

They have begun a tradition, a legacy that will go on a lifetime.

RACE from page 8

"I don't think that

After going back

Our society will continue to "brown" whether people approve or not. As time goes on and as more people begin to realize and understand this concept, the easier it will be to accept the idea of interracial relationships.

Read it. Read it. Read
it. Read it. Read it.
Read it. Read it. Read
it. Read it. Read it.
Read it. Read it. Read
it. Read it. Read it.

I'm thinking about moving off-campus. • I need \$\$ for books. • I'm planning a Study Abroad trip. • Mom & Dad are strapped for cash. • What if tuition goes up?

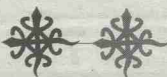
Concerned about next year?
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Filing Date:
March 1, 2005

Complete a FAFSA at
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Call: 919.515.2421
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AACC Events

AACC DIRECTOR FORUMS

Janet Howard, M.Ed.

Feb. 16, 2005, 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Multipurpose Rm. AACC

Dr. Fred Hord

Feb. 22, 2005, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

375 AACC

ΔΣΘ Week

SUNDAY, Feb. 13

Love the Lord

Martin St. Baptist Church

11 a.m. - until

MONDAY, Feb. 14

Love the Lord

Delta's Kisses and Condoms

on the Brickyard

12:13 p.m.

TUESDAY, Feb. 15

Be Happy With Your Body:

YOGAlates

Multipurpose Rm. AACC

7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 16

Love Your Money:

Tax Relief Workshop

Multipurpose Rm. AACC

6 p.m.

THURSDAY, Feb. 17

Our Kind of People:

A look at elitism and the

state of black America

Multipurpose Rm. AACC

6 p.m.

Estrellas light up Stewart



Andrea Hernandez

SPECIAL TO NUBIAN

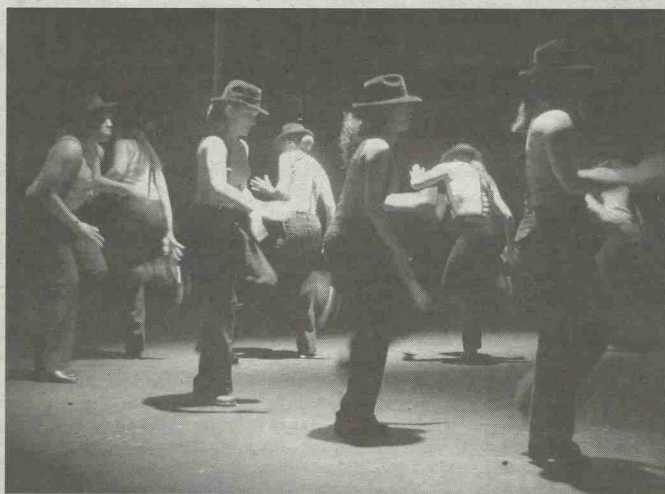
Heart, emotion, passion, culture — Somos ... Estrellas. Mi Familia and the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers put on the second annual Latin American cultural show titled Somos ... Estrellas (We are Stars) last Wednesday.

The show was a spin-off of last year's inauguration of Latino culture "Somos ... We are." This year's show paid tribute to many deceased Latino artists that influenced the culture through their music, literature and dance.

Legends such as Tito Puente, Celia Cruz and Selenia were commemorated by organizations such as La Raza de Mil Colores, Latinas Promoviendo Comunidad/Lambda Pi Chi Sorority, Inc. and Mi Familia among others.

The show incorporated a combination of vocal artist, guitarist, modern and typical dance performances, poetry and stepping. The acts strived to encompass the diversity of both the culture and its people.

Among the acts performed was a poem entitled "Nuestra Cultura" that encompassed the diversity of Latino culture. The poem spoke of stereotypes among Latinos, feelings of pride, deception and love for the culture. The uniqueness of the poem came from the idea that each participant would write



Tiffany Key • staff

Scenes from Somos Estrellas in Stewart Theatre.

their own stanza representing what culture was to them

"What am I? Allow me to alliterate my ancestry:

"A ... An activist and always above average academically. Annihilating any adversity and achieving all ambitions. I am ... African-American.

"P ... Politically PIP ... Providing Positive Perspective Per Problem, Passionate, Pro-Active, Pro-Choice, Pi

Chi I am ... Puerto-Rican, Afro-Boricua, Páque usted lo sepa" was the stanza written by Mercedes Marshall, a senior in textile and apparel management.

Amanda Davila, a sophomore in zoology was this year's cultural chair, "It is important to have Somos because it helps educate people about our Latin culture. I decided to be chair because it

SOMOS see page 7

Black or White

Does it matter?



Shauna Guyton

STAFF WRITER

It's hard to believe that there used to be a time when interracial relationships were prohibited in the United States. As recently as the late 1960s, there were still 17 states that had laws against black/white marriages.

However, today it is not all that uncommon to see a black male walking around the mall with a white female or vice versa. Whether people realize it or not, these mixed relationships have had a great effect on many different cultures.

Sociologists predict that the percentage of white Americans will decrease due to the constant intermixing of the races. Evidence of this can already be seen. It's not all that unusual to see a white child with kinky hair or what many people deem "black features."

Although interracial



Elizabeth Myers • courtesy

An interracial couple enjoys a night on the town.

relationships are a lot more common now, these types of relationships are still not seen all that often at N.C. State.

While interviewing different students at N.C. State, it is evident that there are different opinions on interracial relationships.

Three black males and

two black females were interviewed and asked whether they had dated anyone outside their race, whether or not they would marry one and how they felt about interracial relationships altogether.

Ryan Prather, a fresh-

RACE see page 7

Young students get hands-on history lessons



Shameica Gardner

STAFF WRITER

The College of Humanities and Social Sciences Multicultural Association of Students in conjunction with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated hosted their annual "Hands on History" program on Saturday.

Alexis Forman, a senior in political science and president of CHASS-MAS, initiated the event. "Alexis contacted me, telling me that she wanted to work with us and do something for Black History Month. We were looking for something for the children, and it was a perfect fit," said Natarsha Roberson, a coordinator for the YMCA. The students' age ranged from five to fourteen, with a total of nearly 20 children.

Donald Holden, a sophomore in political science initiated this year's theme of "A

Passage through History."

We put this on as a whole fair at my high school in Wilmington. It went really well and I wanted to do it here, but on a smaller scale," he said.

Holden said the original program was a fair which included art booths, music stations, and food sampling stations.

The Hands on History's program theme, "Lest We Forget," took the children on a journey through not only African-American history, but American history.

The program was broken down into seven major time periods in history: Africa before invasion, Slavery, the American Civil War, Reconstruction, the Harlem Renaissance, the Civil Rights Movement and the Present Day.

Darlene West, a fresh-

HANDS see page 7