

GRIOT

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In the records of West African history, the "GRIOT" (pronounced "gree-oh") was the honored name bestowed on wise and knowledgeable storytellers entrusted with the crucial task of documenting tribal histories and genealogies.



12TH ANNUAL HIP-HOP EXPLOSION

BY: ANGELICA RILEY

On one Saturday night in November, the Lincoln Center resounded with the sounds of stomping feet, chanting, hip-hop music, and a cheering audience. Dressed in their finest attire, the crowd was attracted by the 12th Annual Hip-Hop Explosion hosted by Black Student Alliance in Fort Collins. The show was hugely successful, drawing in a larger audience than last year.

"It's been a good turn out, we sold our show out at about 4 o'clock today," said Black Student Alliance executive Quill Phillips.

The Hip-Hop Explosion is a step show featuring multicultural Greek sororities and fraternities. Performers and spectators came from all over the U.S. to join in the cultural celebration. The master of ceremonies was comedian Lewis Johnson, from Black Entertainment Television (BET) and Comedy Central.

"What I'm most excited about is for all the sororities and fraternities to jump off, and compete and step. Really, they put a lot of effort into their performances," said sophomore Marcus Bellaire, a member of Black Student Alliance.

In this step show, four



Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Winners of Hip-Hop Explosion.

sororities and two fraternities competed for a cash prize of \$1,200. Each group dazzled the audience with flashy outfits and rhythmic moves. Some groups used props, such as canes and swords, while others soothed the room with soulful song. The prize for best sorority step team went to the ladies of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. And the winning fraternity was Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

The art of "stepping" is a complex mixture of folk tradition and popular culture. It consists of synchronized movements where the body replaces the drum. The dance includes stomping, singing, speaking, chanting,

and drumming. Stepping is a historical tradition that began with African American Greek sororities and fraternities. The form has become so popular that it is now performed world wide.

The 12th Annual Hip-Hop Explosion successfully kept the step show tradition alive here in Fort Collins.



16TH ANNUAL ABCC CONFERENCE

BY: MARLON BLAKE FRESHMAN, HEALTH AND EXERCISE SCIENCE MAJOR



Left to Right Top Row:
Dr. Molock, Aaron Green, Marlon Blake, Andrea Hart
Bottom row:
Chantel Reed, Sharmayne Syas, Simenah Menso, Rashina Shambe
and Dr. Fred Hord; Executive Director of the ABCC and Director of
the Black Culture Center at North Carolina State University

In November of 2006, the 16th annual Association for Black Culture Center conference was held in Raleigh, North Carolina and was hosted by North Carolina State. The topic of this program was "Centering Black Culture on 21st Century Campuses." I, Marlon Blake, attended this program along with Dr. Jennifer Williams Molock, Chantel Reed, Aaron Green, Andrea Hart, Rashina Shambe, Sharmayne Syas, and Simenah Menso.

The ABCC conference is an opportunity for students around the United States to attend workshops that would help them become better leaders at their respective schools. One of this year's workshops, titled "No", was a DVD on Black men's violence against Black women. Other interesting workshops included "Respecting Women", "Race Relations: Hurricane Katrina-One Year later", "The Black Dollar: Has Our Obsession Gone Too Far", and "Where is God" among other informative programs. The Greensboro Sit-in was an especially notable film about the 1960s. The movie discussed how sit-ins at the Greensboro area started a

change in the United States. These sit-ins then spread to different parts of our country. Besides movies and workshops, there were many great speakers. Christopher Martin, Dr. Nell Painter of Princeton University, and Haki Madhubuti were just a few of the speakers.

ABCC was first founded in 1987 by its Executive Director, Dr. Fred Lee Hord. As the first director of the Center for Black Culture and Research at West Virginia University, Hord introduced the idea of a new organization that would promote networking with Centers at an American Council for Education conference in Washington, D.C. When he moved to Knox College, he gained administrative acceptance to host an inaugural national conference. In 1989, the first ABCC conference was held at Knox College.

Knox College supported the ABCC in a number of ways. It became the conference's National Headquarters in 1994 and hosted the fifth anniversary conference in 1995. It also gave staff support by providing an Administrative Assistant, Terry L. Duffy,

work-study for students, and made various other contributions. In addition, Knox produced the biannual newsletter, "Nommo", the ABCC brochures, the ABCC Kuumba Programming Series booklet, and renovated a suite of offices which the ABCC shared with Knox College's Black Studies Program. The ABCC National Headquarters is now located at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, North Carolina.

ABCC is a growing organization with members and affiliates in all fifty states, with more than 120 cadre centers, and a number of multicultural centers. ABCC is even seeking to expand in the Caribbean and West African regions. The organization is increasingly involving HBCUs, community colleges, museums, and community centers.

The ABCC conference was an amazing program to attend. Our group from Colorado State University learned many things about ourselves and about how to make our office much better. We hope to attend more of these conferences in the future.

The 2007 conference will be held on November 1-4 at the University of Missouri - Columbia.



Representing CSU at ABCC.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY CELEBRATION

BY: SHELBY TUCKER SOPHOMORE, TECHNICAL JOURNALISM MAJOR



One of the greatest experiences I've ever had has been working in Apartment Life at Colorado State University. It has given me the chance to work with people from all over the world, learn about their culture and share mine with them. One very important part of my culture that I was lucky enough to share with the international residents of Apartment Life, was the life and work of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Many of our residents were not taught about the Civil Rights movement, and had no previous exposure to Dr. King. So as part of my job in Apartment Life, I helped plan an event to educate both our international and local residents about Dr. King.

On January 14th we held a potluck program, entitled "From Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to You: Taking Action in Our Community", focusing on the work Dr. King did to promote equality for all Americans. We did this by discussing the trials that he went through living during the Jim Crow era. We watched his entire "I have a Dream" speech, and talked about things that we can do for ourselves and our community to promote tolerance and equality. We vowed not to tolerate racism in anyway, which includes jokes. We ate fried chicken, mashed potatoes, pasta, rolls, and rice; we ended the night singing Happy Birthday to him, and eating birthday cake.

The next day I helped with the Fort Collins Celebrations (of which I also helped plan). The event entitled "Courage to Build a Community of Social Justice" provided opportunities for our community to learn about volunteer work. We heard a speech by Dr. Norberto Valdez (an anthropology and ethnic studies professor here on campus), and musical performances by George Jackson III, Emily Fehler and the Lab School for Creative Learning. Throughout the event we

kept in mind that this was a "day on not a day off" and that there is still a lot of work we have to do in order to create a world where equality (not race or religion) is the most important thing.

As a student surrounded by so many cultures and beliefs, Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a time for me to not only learn but to share my experiences with others, and for them to share theirs with me. I can look past their skin color or beliefs and see them as individuals. I believe that is the point of Dr. King's message.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day reminds us of times that have changed as well as the things that still need changing in the present. This year's celebrations worked towards achieving change for the present and the future.

ON VOICES OF SURVIVAL

BY: ENJANEK LEWIS JUNIOR, FASHION AND DESIGN MAJOR

She is from Rwanda. He is from Poland. She is a younger female. He is an older male. She is a mother. He is a father and a grandfather.

As many differences as there are between the two, they still have one thing in common. Both were victims of genocide. David Gewirtzman grew up during the Holocaust, while Eugenie Mukeshimana grew up during the Rwanda

genocide. While both experienced these life changing events in different parts of the world, they still went through many similar situations.

Mukeshimana talked about her experiences as a young Tutsi and the brutal genocide that occurred in 1994, lead by the Hutus. She expressed her feelings about the United Nations standing by and watching. She told stories of having her first child and

hiding under children's beds for weeks at a time. After making it through the rain, she overcame her past and set out to say to the world, "Don't just stand by and watch."

Gewirtzman, born in Losice, Poland, grew up in the Losice Ghetto and in labor camps. He hid for years in caves and in other people's homes. He stated that if it weren't for some of the people they knew, he and his family may not have

survived. He is now married to another Holocaust survivor and is happier and thankful than ever.

**A program for
Holocaust
Awareness Week**

February 27, 2007



BLACK HISTORY MONTH OPENING CEREMONY

BY: AARON GREEN SOPHOMORE, ECONOMICS MAJOR

"When you control a man's thinking you do not have to worry about his actions," The founder of Black History Month, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, once said. As a people, we must uplift each other as well as to never forget who we are, or where we come from. Year after year, American's recognize February annually as Black History Month. A month dedicated to promote and enhance the awareness of African American contributions in the United States. In 1926, Dr. Carter G. Woodson founded Negro History Week as an initiative to bring national attention to the contributions of black people throughout American history. February is a very important month because so many influential events happened during that month:

Feb. 23, 1868 W.E.B Dubois, an important civil rights leader and co-founder of the N.A.A.C.P was born. Feb 3, 1870 the 15th Amendment was

passed, granting African Americans the right to vote. Feb 12, 1909 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was founded. And on Feb 1, 1960 was a civil rights movement milestone; four African American college students in North Carolina, known as the Greensboro Four, began a sit-in at a segregated Woolworths lunch counter. These are just a few historically significant events.

The Opening Ceremony of Black History Month, February 1, 2007 was kicked off with excitement.

The Director of the Office of Black Student Services, Dr. Jennifer Williams Molock, recognized 81 years of African /African American contributions. "It's not just about African Americans, but a celebration for everyone. Praising all great black contributors," remarked Dr. Molock during her profound speech. Dana Hiatt, Director of the Office of

Equal Opportunity and Diversity (OEOD), spoke about focusing on continuing the legacy of excellence through the support of diversity and continuous learning from one another. There were speeches from the ASCSU President, Jason Green; a proclamation by the Mayor of Fort Collins, Doug Hutchinson; a dance selection called "I Have a Dream" from the multicultural dance team Phantasia; and an introduction of Nevil Shed, a participant of the 1966 NCAA Championship team, Texas Western. Closing remarks by Black Definition's president, Javon Baker, touched on this year's theme of "Continuing the Legacy of Excellence; To Educate and to Celebrate." This year's Black History Month Opening Ceremony was full of passion, excitement and energy.

Black History Month is recognized in the month of February, but black history should be celebrated every day.

I encourage all those who attended this year's programs to continue to come out and support all student organizations throughout the month of February and the rest of the year.

COMEDY SHOW

BY: ANGELICA RILEY

On Saturday night, February 10, the Lory Student Center Theatre shook with laughter.

The cause of all this mirth was Black History Month's "Comedy Show". Thanks to Black Definition and the Association for Student Activity Programming, the program was very successful.

The show was hosted by comedian Darren D.S. Sanders, and featured Big Sean Larkins and Damon Williams from Black Entertainment Television's

ComicView! The comedians told jokes on topics ranging from falling asleep in class to passing gas.

Students were very entertained by Saturday night's show. "I just loved it," said Javon Baker, president of Black Definition.

Even members of the audience who were picked on by the comedians had fun.

"I always watch ComicView and I noticed

that the comedians always try to get on at least one person in the crowd," said sophomore Stephan Gilling. "I thought thank God that's not me. But then it actually happened to me. I wasn't mad. I still had a good night after that."

The show was a lot of fun and was a great event to kick off Black History Month with.



Damon Williams



Darren D.S. Sanders



Left to right: Darren D.S. Sanders, Javon Baker, Damon Williams, Sean Larkins

ABOUT THE NEGRO BASEBALL LEAGUE

BY: MARLON BLAKE



Left to right: Sharmayne Syas, Ogenna Agbim, Rashina Shambe, Javon Baker, Byron Motley

On February 7, 2007 I attended a Black History Month program entitled "The Negro Baseball League: An American Legacy", presented by Byron Motley. Motley's father is the oldest living baseball umpire from the Negro leagues. Motley told us about his father's unique umpiring style. He described how his father would jump high in the air while calling someone out in the game.

Mr. Motley shared with us many interesting facts about the Negro Baseball League. The founding father of the league was Andrew Foster. Foster started the Negro Baseball League hoping that it would join with Major League Baseball, which at that time was for whites only.

There were many teams in the Negro Baseball League, including the well known Kansas City

Monarchs. This team was the longest running franchise in the Negro league, playing from around 1920 to 1962. The Monarchs were the New York Yankees of the Negro league, winning many championships. The Monarchs are best known for sending the most players to Major League Baseball after Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier. They sent players such as Satchel Paige, Ernie Banks, Elston Howard, Hank Thompson and Willard "Home Run" Brown.

The Negro Baseball League was the third largest owned black business in the United States. Forty percent of its players had a college education. The players usually competed in the south and during the off season they would take courses at historically Black colleges. Also, the Negro Baseball League was the first U.S. baseball team to play in Japan, a year before the Yankees did in 1923. Furthermore, the Negro Baseball League was the first to use shin guards and helmets.

In 1931, the Kansas City Monarchs were the first to play a baseball game at night (the owner thought he could make more money at night, since people would be home from work at that time). And unknown to most people, there were women in the Negro Baseball League: Toni Stone, Mamie "Peanut" Johnson, and Connie Morgan. Toni Stone was inducted into the hall of fame for being the first woman to play competitive baseball.

There were many great people who participated in the Negro Baseball Leagues. The most famous player of them all was Leroy "Satchel" Paige. He is known as one of the best pitchers in the history of baseball. When he made it to the major leagues he was banned from using some of his pitches because no one could hit them. At one point Paige was the highest paid baseball player in both the Major league and the Negro league. In 1948 he helped lead the Cleveland Indians to a World Series Championship.

Another player, Josh Gibson, was one of the best hitters to ever play. It was said that he hit over 900



homeruns in his career. The Negro league did not keep records then, so the exact number is unknown.

James "Cool Papa" Bell was known as the fastest player in the game. It was said that he beat someone while running backwards. Bell was so fast that he could run around the bases in under 12 seconds.

Effa Manley was the first woman to own a baseball team, the Newark Eagles. Whether the Eagles were on or off of the field, she always made sure that her team was on top of its game. She was crowned the "Queen of the Negro Leagues."

This program was very informative and taught me much about the Negro Baseball League. Byron Motley showed us that he was continuing the league's legacy of excellence.

CUPID CONNECTION

BY: ADRIA ROBINSON JUNIOR, ENGLISH MAJOR

The day before Valentine's Day, the Xi Eta Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated held our traditional Valentine's Day program known as Cupid Connection. The program's purpose was to engage in productive discussion about the many aspects of love and relationships. The unique feature of this program was that the discussion was not a

lecture or panel dialogue, but a discussion executed as game show entertainment.

The game had two segments: one young man chose between three young women and vice versa. The fun was in the mystery- none of the contestants knew who were participating in the game, so it was very unpredictable. And just like all other game shows, there

were plenty of prizes!

All the contestants and audience members who shared their experiences in love and relationships received anything from gift certificates to special discounts from restaurants and establishments all over Fort Collins.

The discussion was the most important part of the event. We conversed

about how many students meet the person they will spend the rest of their lives with in college.

Our hope was that everyone has a great time at this program but our goal was to educate the community and raise awareness about the social issues and what it takes, this day in age, to maintain positive relationships.

PLAYER FROM LANDMARK TEAM SPREADS INSPIRATION

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2007
 BY: SARA REED
 COLORADOAN
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Action. Take it to achieve goals and take it when opportunities arise.

That was some of the advice Nevil Shed, a member of the 1966 Texas Western University men's championship basketball team, gave to the hundreds who gathered to hear him speak Thursday night in the Lory Student Center Theater at Colorado State University.

Shed, who was part of the first team to start five black players and win an NCAA championship, was the keynote speaker for CSU's Black History Month celebration, which kicked off earlier in the day. She addressed the packed theater after a showing of "Glory Road," a movie released

last year depicting the team's journey to the championship.

"You have to believe it can be done," he said during his address. "All we ask is that, if you have the chance, go out and take it."

During the team's championship run, Shed said he didn't give much thought to the implications of what they were doing.

"Little did we know we were opening the eyes of society," he said.

But little by little, doors started to open for black athletes at other schools. Shed said that, when he started college, there were only 13 schools open to him.

She spoke of perseverance and turning negatives to positives.

"We were called bad names; we were spit on," he said. "We said, 'Let's show these people that we are not what they say we are.'"

We are not on a glory road, but on a road to glory, Shed said, and that journey never ends.

"Every step I take on my road to glory is a strong, firm step toward my success," he said. "In this life, if you are blessed with another day, work to make that day a little bit better than yesterday."

Freshman Judy Osuala said Shed's message of taking what you have and giving to others is what struck her most.

"Push forward with all

the privileges you are given and use them to your advantage," she said. "Be proud of what you're given and share with others."

Working for your success and taking charge of your life is another message Osuala said she walked away with.

"It's valuable to hear that message," she said. "People don't necessarily take control of their situations."

During his address, Shed said his life is "to be continued," something that resonated very deeply with sophomore Irene Nissen.

The idea that the work, the walk along the road to glory, is never done was very powerful, she said.

Shed's address also

"Every step I take on my road to glory is a strong, firm step toward my success," he said. "In this life, if you are blessed with another day, work to make that day a little bit better than yesterday."

underlined the power and importance of perseverance, Nissen said.

"You go through a lot in your life and you have to persevere," she said. "You have to live your life and work hard. Don't give up just because something is wrong."

EMMETT TILL, THE UNTOLD STORY

BY: MARLON BLAKE

On Friday, February 16th, the black history movie of the week, "The Untold Story of Emmett Till", was shown. This movie tells the story of the late Emmett Till. It chronicles Emmett's tragic last few days of life in Money, Mississippi.

Emmett Till was born in July 1941. When he was 14 years old, he traveled from Chicago to Mississippi to visit his family for the summer. One day after sharecropping in the fields, Emmett and some of his cousins went to a local store in Money, Mississippi. After leaving the store, Emmett whistled at a white woman who worked there.

A few days later two men came to his uncle's house, intending to kidnap Emmett, "scare" him a little and then return him. His uncle pleaded for them not to take Emmett. But this was the last time that his family would see him alive.

A few days later Emmett's body was found in the Tallahatchie River. He had been beaten until his body was unrecognizable. Till could only be identified by the ring he wore, given to him by his father who had passed away several years earlier.

The funeral of Emmett Till was highly publicized. Till would have been buried in Mississippi, but officials asked for the body to be returned to his mother in Chicago. When she received the body, it was said that when the box was opened, you could smell the body from three blocks away.

Thousands of people attended Emmett Till's funeral, which was an open casket ceremony to show the world. In 1955 two men, J.W. Milam and Roy Bryant, were accused of committing the crime. They were both deemed not guilty by an all white jury. However, after

"It is important who you interact with because it affects your perspective on the world."

being tried for the murder twice and both times being deemed not guilty, Milam and Bryant confessed to the crimes. Even so, nothing was done to them because they were protected under the double-jeopardy rule.

Nearly 50 years later, Till's case was re-opened despite the death of the two main suspects. Now, the department of justice is looking into other people who might have been involved with the murder of Emmett Till.



This movie conveyed a powerful story that plays a pinnacle role in American history. The Emmett Till case opened the eyes of many Americans. This case is still a living legacy that will continue to impact us for a very long time.

THE POWER OF OFFENSIVE WORDS

BY: TYRONE REESE SOPHOMORE, PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR

On Monday, February 19, Blane Harding, Director of Advising and Recruiting for the College of Liberal Arts, presented "Offensive Words through Images: Niggers, Coons, Boys, and Tigresses." The presentation was part of this year's Black History Month celebration.

The message Harding strongly emphasized was that words have power. Even though, we think we can change the meaning of a word or "take it back," words have meanings behind them and hurtful ori-

gins.

"Sticks and stones can break my bones but words will always hurt me," said Harding.

Harding used images from comic books, literature, film, board games, and advertising to show the socialization of racism and discrimination. All of the words discussed were considered ethophaulisms, which are disparaging nicknames, explicit group devaluations, and irrelevant ethnic names that are used for differentiation and exclusion.

Words have the power to dehumanize, control, possess, degrade, devalue and exclude others. The histories behind many offensive words were used as a way to keep power.

Harding showed how these words still impact us today. In today's language there are words that are considered less offensive or politically correct. However, these words still have connotations that refer to black people and other ethnic groups negatively. Examples of these words include "ghetto", "inner city/

urban youth" and the expression "that's ghetto."

The overall message to this program was that offensive words carry tremendous power and should not be used. When an offensive word comes to mind, find a better word.

"Sticks and Stones can break my bones but words will always hurt me."

THE SUCCESS OF CHIEF YARBROUGH

BY: ANGELICA RILEY

"I'm actually living my dream. I'm doing exactly what I wanted to do when I was a little kid," said CSU Chief of Police, Dexter Yarbrough.

Chief Yarbrough was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. Even as a young child, he knew that he wanted to work in law enforcement. Growing up, he was inspired by African American police officers who came to his elementary and high schools. Yarbrough even had the opportunity to build lasting relationships with these officers.

Yarbrough said that his qualifications and abilities ultimately got him into the police department. He worked with the Chicago police for 15 years. Life was far from boring during that time. One time, Yarbrough and his partner were able to make an arrest by following footprints in the snow.

He also he worked as a body guard for Oprah Winfrey for five years. "That was extremely exciting," Yarbrough said. "It was a great experience".

In 2003, Chief Yarbrough became the Chief of Police here at Colorado State University. And in 2004 he began to teach in the sociology department. He said he came here looking to experience a new environment. "I felt I could come here and make a difference in the lives of students, faculty, staff, and other people in the community."

And since 2003, Yarbrough has made a big difference in the community. In 2007, he received the Best Teacher Award.

To find success, Chief Yarbrough has had to overcome many difficulties. "Unfortunately we still have the sting of preju-

dice in the air, but I am happy to say that I have faced them head on and risen to the occasion," he said. Yarbrough said that he is disappointed when people refer to him as the "black chief" instead of just "chief of police". "I don't just represent the black people here, the few of us that there are. I represent everybody. I am just the Chief of Police."

But Yarbrough has not let difficulties stop him from achieving his goals. He attributes his success to hard work and good role models.

Yarbrough looks to his ancestors for their strength and perseverance during their struggle through racism and slavery. "I strive to be successful in honor of them,"



AFRICAN AMERICAN MEN MOVING

BY: MARQUES BELLAIRE
SOPHOMORE, CRIMINOLOGY/CRIMINAL JUSTICE MAJOR

I attended "The Untold Truth, African American Men Moving Forward" presentation by the Chief of Police, Cf. D. Yarbrough. A native of Chicago, Chief Yarbrough received his bachelor's degree from Western Illinois University. It was in school that he noticed and was confounded by the fact that there was almost nothing about African culture and lives in history books.

In his presentation, he defied the myths and told the reality of the African culture. "Black men and women were the creators and rulers of great civilizations in Africa well before the development of European societies," Chief Yarbrough said.

He spoke about the lives of great African achievers

such as Hannibal, Shaka, Mansa Kankan Mussa, and Affonso I. These and other great Africans invented many significant concepts such as monotheism, mathematics, astronomy, philosophy, poetry, and medicine.

"Truth be told, Africans were highly involved in European civilization," Yarbrough said. Africans introduced rice, cotton, bananas, food preservation techniques, and more to the Europeans. They also showed them chess, the guitar, mathematics, and medicine. They even taught them that the world was round, not flat. Furthermore, Africans were involved in trans-oceanic travel long before the first oceanic voyage by Europeans. Why haven't we been notified about

this in text books?

Another powerful topic that Chief Yarbrough brought up was the minimization of African contributions. Europe was jealous of the great knowledge that Africa possessed. So the people of Africa were discredited and enslaved because of hatred and racism. Millions of Africans were forced into bondage where they survived inhumane treatment and conditions. During the slavery era, it was the African slaves that built plantation houses that are still standing today.

Today African Americans face negative stereo-

types of how we are criminals, dumb, poor, lazy, and violent. But these stereotypes are far from the truth. We must look back to our heritage and reflect upon our ancestors' perseverance and strength. Only then can we stand on their shoulders and excel for the future. "We are proud, smart, strong, and the future," Chief Yarbrough stated.



Picture courtesy of Chief Yarbrough.

LITTLE SHOP OF PHYSICS 2007

BY: KRYSTLE CLAYTON SENIOR, ETHNIC STUDIES MAJOR



Left to right: Marion Blake, Sharmayne Syas, Dr. Mollock, Quill Phillips, Dominique Kelley

On February 24, 2007 thousands of parents and children flooded the ballrooms of the Lory Student Center for the 16th Annual Little Shop of Physics. This hands-on science outreach program is designed for students of grade levels K-12 and beyond.

The theme this year was “It’s All Up in the Air” and students were able to see and participate in all types of experiments that deal with how the air works around us. Students were able to do everything from make clouds in bottles to launching hamsters through the air to find out how air pressure works.

The program is run by professors, researchers and volunteers from the CSU community. A group of students were able to volunteer on behalf of Black Student Services for a memorable experience.

“I have heard about this program but had never

been to it before,” said Adesuwa Elaiho, a sophomore Nutrition and Food Safety major. “I think it’s cool that there are so many kids who are able to get excited about science because I don’t see that a lot.”

Even though there was a centralized theme for the event, there was definitely more than just air to learn about. There were also table displays of some notable inventors and their inventions. Some of the featured inventors were Albert Einstein and notable African American inventors Lewis Latimer and Lonnie Johnson. Latimer invented a method of making carbon filaments for the Maxim

electric incandescent light bulb. Johnson invented the popular 1990s toy, the Super Soaker.

This is a great event that gives children the opportunity to get excited about science. If interested please sign up to volunteer next year, it’s fun for the adults too.

**For more information:
Please visit
little-shop.physics.colostate.edu**

AFRICAN SPIRITUALS DRUM CONCERT

BY: CHANTEL REED SENIOR, SOCIOLOGY MAJOR

The program “African Spirituals and Drum Concert”, sponsored by ASAP, held on March 8, 2007, was a very inspirational, uplifting, and reviving celebration.

It was a time to let your limbs be free as you listened with what felt like “virgin ears”. What I mean is that many times in life we get so busy that we forget to listen to the subtle things that merge together to make the sounds that we hear every day. So much of our lives are bombarded with noise that we fail to notice the faintest of sounds.

I felt that here, we were able to listen to the combination of voices, drums, and other

natural instruments. The irony was that even though these sounds came together to make one, we were able to dissect each one of them and give tribute to the uniqueness of each sound.

The group’s presence was amazing. They addressed both Africans and African Americans coming from the native land to our coerced homes. The implementation of Negro Spirituals that were sung renewed my sense of culture, tradition, and ancestral connection.

Nights such as that can only be described as celebrations. Simple celebrations are enjoyable, but celebrations

of culture, history, and conjunction with individuals who identify with a different culture, are even more essential because they bring about unity, understanding, and much more. That’s exactly how I felt the night of “African Spirituals and Drum Concert”.



ATTENDING CSU IN THE 1960'S

BY: ANGELICA RILEY



Left to Right: Angelica Riley, Carl L. Williams

The 1960's was a time of great civil upheaval in the United States. It was a time of the British Invasion; the term and assassination of President John F. Kennedy; the assassination of Malcom X and Martin Luther King Junior; the Vietnam War; and the Civil Rights Movement.

And in the 1960's, Colorado State University was much different than it is today. Civil Litigation Attorney, Carl L. Williams was a student at CSU during that tumultuous time. "This is the first time I have been here since I have finished my degree requirements in 1964," said Williams.

Williams was pleasantly surprised at the positive steps that CSU has made toward appreciating diversity. "[Back then] there was nothing like [Black Student Services] here! And there were no black history or literature classes. The few of us, who were here, were mostly on athletic scholarships, except for me."

Williams said that the number of African American students at CSU in the '60s was very small. "I don't remember any gathering of black students at that time exceeding the number of students [about 7] sitting at this table," said Williams as he sat in the Office of Black Student Services.

In the fall of 1962, Carl

Williams came to CSU as a political science major. He remembered being the only black student in his classes.

Finding a dorm to live in was very difficult for Williams. He was told, two weeks after admission, that there were no residence halls available and that he would have to find a place to live in town. About a week before classes, Williams went searching for apartments with his father. At every place they looked at, they were turned down. Because he could not find a place to live, Williams was offered a temporary room with about ten other students. As rooms became available, the students would leave. "I was the last one to leave!" said Williams.

Williams eventually moved into Aylesworth Hall. He discovered why it had taken so long for him to get a room. When the Residence Assistants had heard that Williams was coming to Aylesworth, they had a floor meeting to decide if it was OK for Williams to live there. To find a roommate for Williams, they had to ask for a volunteer.

Williams also recalled some of the people who came to give speeches to the students. People like George Rockwell of the American Nazi Party, and George Wallace who said, "segregation now ...segregation forever," were invited

to speak.

It took a lot of hard work to get pro-civil rights speakers to come. After Williams and a few allies protested, Dick Gregory, an African American comedian and civil rights social activist, was invited to speak.

Despite the racism and difficulties during the 1960s, Williams persevered and succeeded. "It didn't stop me from graduating," Williams said. He did very well at CSU, graduated from law school, and now practices law.

After 43 years, Carl Williams came back to visit CSU. He was very pleased with what he found. "I was overwhelmed, simply taken away with the display of energy, camaraderie and commitment in the Office of Black Student Services. There was, of course, nothing like it during my years at CSU. For the first time since leaving CSU, I now have a sense of bonding and belonging to CSU. I definitely intend to visit CSU again," Williams said.

"[Back then] there was nothing like [Black Student Services] here! And there were no black history or literature classes."

30TH ANNUAL BIG XII CONFERENCE

BY: SHARMAYNE SYAS FRESHMAN, OPEN OPTION MAJOR



The trip started bright and early on a Thursday morning. By 8 a.m., we were on our way to Lincoln, Nebraska for the 30th Annual Big XII Conference. We were tired yet pumped for this highly anticipated conference. Along with plenty of sleep and snacks, we prepared our new chant so we would be ready for roll call at the opening ceremony.

We finally pulled up to the hotel in Nebraska and unloaded our things. We found and met students from another school. They were also excited to experience the upcoming weekend. As soon as we freshened up from the long trip, we caught a bus that took us to the University of Nebraska at Lincoln for the opening ceremony. During roll call we were able to represent Colorado State University. Then we enjoyed a



Left to right: Javon Baker, Vice President of BSA, and Dallawrence Dean, President of BSA, holding the Non Big XII Council award.

My Brother's Keeper?" This workshop was designed for African-American women on college campuses, and focused on the responsibility that sisters have with brothers and each other. "How to Lead, Motivate, and Persuade Hard Headed People" was a workshop where we learned the secrets used by the world's top communicators for saying what you mean so you get what you want, when you need it most. By the end of the day, students felt inspired and had higher expectations for their organizations.

Saturday began with breakfast, a speaker, and new workshops. The workshop, "Lovology: The Study of Love," discussed the foundation of our life and asked the question, do you know your self worth? The students attending this workshop discovered that love is the way to internal validation. You can't expect someone else to love you without you loving yourself first. Another workshop held on this day

was "Hip Hop goes to School." This was about rap music becoming a multimillion dollar industry, and how very few people know the history of Hip-Hop culture which produced rap music. This presentation was multimedia based and covered the environment from which Hip-Hop was born.

The weekend was full of networking and team building with other black student governments. I feel that Colorado State University was represented very well, walking away with the Robert Page, Jr. Outstanding Non Big XII Council award for the second year in a row. Next year we are hoping to bring the same award home again. Next year's Big XII Conference will take place at Oklahoma State University. We will be showing up with a much bigger crew and higher expectations! I learned a lot about being an effective leader and I hope every member of Black Student Alliance will take advantage of attending a Big XII conference during their time at Colorado State University.



Top left to right: Aaron Madonna, Dhenlais Brooks, Aaron Green, Sharmayne Syas, Brittany Sango, Rashina Shambe, Alisha Zellner, Sheree Monae Van Buren

speaker and a comedy show. The first night was filled with laughter and it gave us the chance to see what other schools around the country were represented.

The next day started with a speaker and then many inspiring workshops. One workshop title was, "Creating the Unstoppable Leader, That is You." This interactive, open, and honest workshop was about developing the necessary skills needed to develop leadership for the 21st Century. Another workshop offered on that Friday was titled, "Sistas.... Am I



Left side: Vanessa Masell, Sam Alemayehu, Rashina Shambe

Right side: Brittany Sango, Carmen Verdum



WHAT IS HE THINKING?

(WRITTEN TO "SONG CRY")

DHENLAIS BROOKS

FRESHMAN, JOURNALISM AND SPEECH COMMUNICATION MAJOR

What is he doing?
Please tell me what he's thinking.

What is he doing?
Actually you don't have to tell me.

I know he's not thinking!

I know he's not thinking when he puts up a front.

I know he's not thinking when he acts like he's tough.

But he still does it,
Acting like he's got his head up

When in reality we know this little kid had enough.

I know he's not thinking because he talks too much.
I know he's not thinking when he dances in the club.
You see this boy, acting a role, of a lifeless soul
Pretending he's cool with kids so he doesn't have to walk alone.

5 people standing with him, but he's standing alone.
He's standing alone.
He's standing alone.

This boy is standing there dreaming.
You know he's not a baller but his dreams are undefeated.
And then the people ask,

what the hell are you thinking?
He smirks and he giggles.

Then they say NEVERMIND, we know he's not thinking,
We know he's not thinking,
We know he's not thinking,
We don't care what he's thinking, but they do.....

They wonder why he stands and looks lost,
Like the employees at a job, when they can't find a cause.
And why his friends a parallel, meaning their paths never cross.

And why he holds his cell, knowing girls will never call.

Man what is he thinking?
He needs to give it up
Man what is he thinking?
NO SERIOUSLY HE NEEDS TO GIVE IT UP!

SERIOUSLY? Ok I'm gonna tell you what I'm thinking.

I'm thinking I'm the man and no one could ever touch me.
I'm always looking down because I see no one above me.
Confident in my thoughts, and confident in my dreams,
Confident in my words, let me tell you what I know.

Let me tell you that that I'll never ever not hold the door,
But let me tell you that my thoughts will never ever cross with yours.

And let me tell you, you will never ever know what I'm thinking.

So you and your friends can keep asking the same question,

What is he thinking?
What is he thinking?
What is he thinking?





EDITOR'S NOTES

"FOR COLORED GIRLS" AND REFLECTION BY ANGELICA RILEY



Left to right: Chris Linder Director of Women's Programs and Studies, Dr. Jennifer Molock, Quill Phillips, Angelica Riley, George Jackson III, and Antonette Zanders at a "For Colored Girls" performance.

For Women's History Month, on March 28th and 29th, I took part in a staged reading titled, "For Colored Girls who have Considered Suicide when the Rainbow is Enuf," written by Ntozake Shange. The performance was directed by George Jackson, III and read by Antonette Zanders, Quill Phillips and myself.

"For Colored Girls" is a choreopoem, which is a written work meant to be read by an ensemble onstage. This poem illustrates the lives and frustrations of black women. Shange's work is empowering and can speak to women from all

cultures and backgrounds. It encompasses a variety of themes and moods, spanning from harrowing and sad to beautifully funny.

Being a part of this experience was very moving for me. It made me realize the importance of rediscovering my roots. Speaking of rediscovery, my uncle once told me that every person in an older generation is like a book. Each of these people have a wealth of knowledge and experiences that we, younger people can learn from if we only take the time to build relationships with our elderly relatives

and friends. Every time we listen to stories about trudging through the snow to get to school or struggling through a war, we are flipping through pages of their lives.

College is a time for personal development as well as academic learning. I think that it is important to remember those who came before us, in order to move towards a successful future. Like Newton said, "If I have seen further, it is by standing upon the shoulders of giants."

THE BIG MOVE BY JESSICA BAUMANN

So school is almost over and most freshmen have experienced life in the residence halls. While I have never lived on campus, I'm sure it is a great experience.

Some students prefer to live in the residence halls. However, other students may be seeking other options. If you are careful about budgeting, and you know how much money you are willing to spend, you can find a comfortable and affordable place to live.

Most off campus students pay between two to three thousand dollars for housing, unless they're trying to live by themselves. That's a

great deal!

Making the move from the residence halls to an apartment can be strenuous, but if you plan ahead and do some research, you'll have your own pad for a good price.

For all of you who are looking for an apartment, the time is now! Management signs leases for the fall way in advance and some are already booked up. It's good to also make sure you know who you are rooming with and if your future roomies are a good match. There's nothing like having a roommate you're stuck with for a whole school year. Of course you could always get out of your lease but

then you have to deal with legal issues, and that's never fun.

Make sure when you do find a place that you like, you look over the lease so nothing sneaks up on you during your stay, and that the apartment has the necessities you need and want, like: furnished or non furnished, washer and dryer, dishwasher, fireplace, number of bedrooms and bathrooms, balcony, residency accommodations (pool, weight room, clubhouse, etc.) and parking.

A housing fair was conducted on March 21st to give students the opportunity to check out

housing around town and on campus. Places like Rams Village, Rams Pointe, Rams Park and Cambridge Village were there to tell people about their apartments as well as to give out snacks and prizes, like a free application fee or a month of free rent.

Wherever you choose to live make sure you take the time look, discuss things with your roommates, and stay within your budget. Happy Hunting!

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

BY: DR. JENNIFER WILLIAMS MOLOCK



Greetings!

I hope that you have enjoyed this issue of *The GRIOT*. We have had a busy semester thus far and a long winter! Wow, for those of you who like the snow I am sure you were thrilled to see it over the winter break and then again when school started back and then again in April! Whew! I thought we would never see the ground again! But it all worked out and Colorado received much needed moisture.

We began the semester in celebrating the life of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with a community-wide celebration. Then during the 81st National Black History Month celebration, our campus community theme was, "Continuing the Legacy of Excellence" we celebrated our past, present and our future. I have included an excerpt from my thoughts during the Opening ceremony for Black History Month 2007.

"...Today, this month and throughout the year, we continue the legacy of excellence paved before us. We pay homage to the great ancestors on whose shoulders we stand. We acknowledge that the great

continent of Africa is not only the place where men, women and children were stripped of their identities and captivated into slavery, but it is also a place where great Kings and Queens ruled...so we humbly salute past and present great African/African Americans such as poet, Gwendolyn Brooks; former President of South Africa, Nelson Mandela; tennis champion, Arthur Ashe and the late great god-father of Soul, James Brown. We honor the legacy of actors, Ossie Davis, Ruby Dee, Denzel Washington, Sidney Poitier, Halle Berry, Angela Bassett and Forrest Whittaker. We are thankful for the political leadership of General Colin Powell, Barak Obama, Jesse Jackson, Adam Clayton Powell and Shirley Chisholm. We applaud the efforts of Marcus Garvey, leader of the Niagara Movement (predecessor of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People), we salute Nation of Islam leader, Malcolm X. We are inspired by Marian Anderson, the first black woman to perform at the New York Metropolitan Opera; we are encouraged by the tenacity of Dr. Mae Jemison, the first

woman of color to go into outer space. And we are thankful to Dr. Charles Drew for performing the first open heart surgery. We praise the work of Dr. W.E.B. DuBois, scholar and founder of the NAACP, to Crispus Attucks, the escaped slave and the first man to be killed during the Boston Massacre. Civil Rights giants, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, Ralph Abernathy and Julian Bond.

We appreciate the children who came before us and paved the way, such as; Ruby Bridges who at six years old helped to integrate the New Orleans Public Schools and to Emmett Louis Till who at 14 years old was mutilated in rural Mississippi, to the four girls who were killed in an Alabama church at the peak of the Civil Rights Movement.

We pay tribute to poet Laurette, Maya Angelou, to revolutionist, Angela Davis and Stokely Carmichael and to the audacious Oprah Winfrey. We appreciate the sacrifices of great sports legends such as Hank Aaron, Muhammad Ali, Jesse Owens, Wilma Rudolph, Tiger Woods & Venus and Serena Williams.

Then this weekend Super Bowl

Sunday the world will witness a historical event never seen before. When two African American football coaches, Tony Dungee, Indianapolis Colts and Lovie Smith with the Chicago Bears will face off. And no matter what the outcome an African American coach will win Super Bowl 41! (which we now know was won by the Indianapolis Colts)

These are but a few of our nation's great African/African American "heroes" and "sheroes" for the list is too numerous to name them all! And lastly, we salute you and the over 550 African/African American students, faculty and staff at Colorado State University. Because one day others will stand on your great shoulders as leaders of our community...."

Dedicated to Excellence,

Dr. Jenn



"I hope that you have enjoyed this issue of *The GRIOT*."



Summer Session 2007

Focused . . . Flexible . . . Friendly!

Enjoy summer school at Colorado State University. The campus atmosphere is friendly, laid-back and hassle-free. It is a good time to focus on one or two classes. New in Summer 2007 are the Language Immersion Courses, three-week intensive courses in Beginning Arabic, Chinese, and Spanish (L180A, L180C, and L180S). There are over 500 courses offered in 4- and 8- week terms (with several mini-courses available), giving you the flexibility to work and make other summer plans. You can complete a prerequisite, knock off a required course, or improve your GPA.

The summer terms are as follows:

- May 14 – June 8 First 4-week Term
- June 11 – July 6 Second 4-week Term
- June 11 – August 3 8-week Term

The *Summer 2007 Class Schedule* is available at these locations: Lory Student Center; Center for Advising and Student Achievement; Registrar's Office; and Admissions Office. Those who are unable to pick up the publication on campus can call 491-1590 to have the schedule mailed to their home address. Students can also visit the summer session website for the listing of all courses, registration information, and information about the variety of programs and activities that takes place at Colorado State University in the summer.

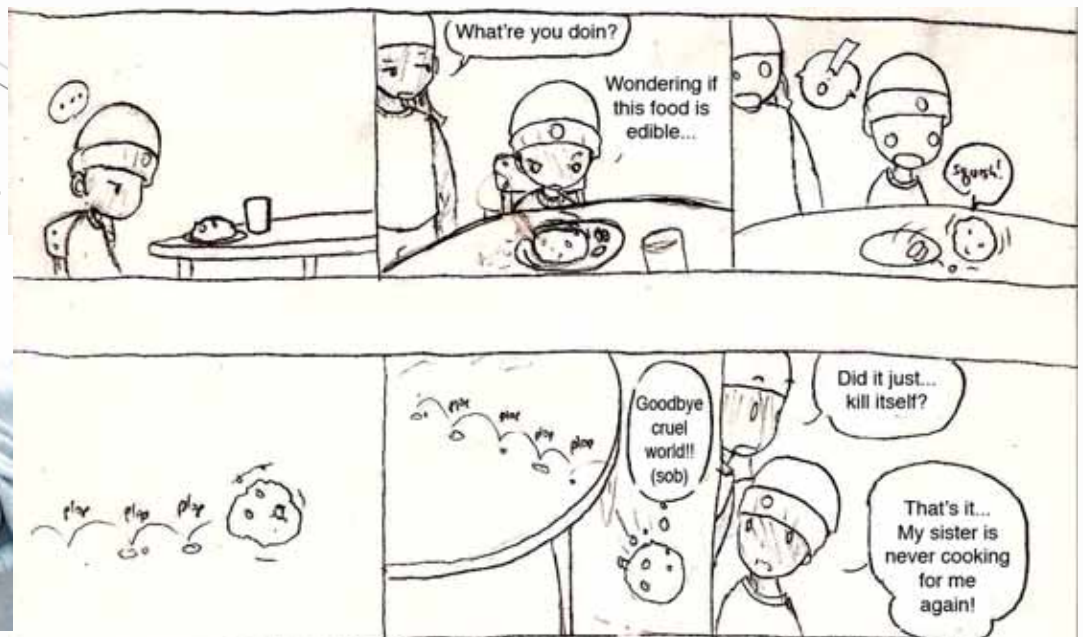
www.summer.colostate.edu

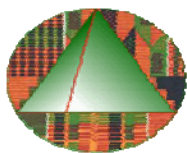
BRAIDEN

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Emerson Brooks

Sophomore, Technical Journalism Major





Black Student Services

Summer Office Hours: 7:30-4:30

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JUNE 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 Father's Day
17	18	19 Juneteenth	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Black Issues Forum Begins	29	30 Black Issues Forum Ends