“For Colored Girls . . .

Who Have Considered Suicide

When The Rainbow is Enuf”
Theatre Program Expanded

By Gayle Smith
Formerly known as the Black Drama Workshop class, it has now expanded and redeveloped into the African Theatre Arts Workshop and a program specifically designed to include the total community titled African Community Theatre Arts Program (ACTAP).

With a 12 year history in black theatre, working with Portage County residents and varying organizations during this time period, the Department of Pan-African studies developed ACTAP.

Dr. Edward Crosby and Fran Dorsey of the DPAS are co-founders of the program. "Most of northeastern Ohio is devoid of any programming that is relative to black theatre arts which produces positive cultural events."

"Most of Northeastern Ohio is devoid of any programming that is relative to black theatre acts..."

said Dorsey.

A lack of participation from university and community residents throughout the years has been the basis for ACTAP's survival. "The program is going to survive even if it only survives in my mind," said Dorsey.

Many black on campus do not participate in ACTAP productions, partly because they feel it is not valid, according to Dorsey. "I'm not going to let a lack of participation affect ACTAP because it was a lack of participation that built the program," said Dorsey.

Receiving a grant from the Ohio Arts Council to further develop the program has made it possible for ACTAP to renovate the theatre in Franklin Hall located on the ground floor. "They see the reverence in black theatre arts for the state of Ohio," said Dorsey.

Presently still rehearsing in the DPAS, for the play Ebony Woman II, Dorsey plans to have all renovations completed for this play and others to follow.

"To participate in an ACTAP production one needs very little experience or requirements, except for being able to audition. "People should be prepared to audition if they're going to sing, dance, or read poetry or prose," said Dorsey.

Commenting on the talent most people have, Dorsey remarked, "often the talent is there, it's just latent and people aren't aware of what they are capable of doing." "Of almost every production done in the last year and a half 75% of the participants in those plays had never been on stage," said Dorsey.

The Mbary Mayo players, a combination of students and community residents, are the nucleus of ACTAP. Acting skills are not only needed, talent does not stop there. Writers, artists, technicians, musicians, singers, dancers and any skill one has to offer expressing creativity can be used.

Working together collectively, ACTAP is involved in depicting positive cultural experiences as portrayed through theatre arts. "We are also out to make black artists accountable to the black community, and we're interested in overcoming blaxplotation theatre which is just as dominant today as it was 50 years ago," said Dorsey.

Three major components to ACTAP are the African Theatre Workshop dealing with the technical aspects of the production, the Mbari

Drama Production Involves Talents of Many

By Gayle M. Smith
Consider being black for one moment; I mean really black. Living in hard times, working twenty-four hour days, having children and losing them, loving, being loved, and sometimes not getting that love in return.

Consider reality in a nutshell while at the same time opening your eyes to the universe and experiencing its vastness.

Now imagine that your life is not your own to guide, to rule, to shape and for those who have - consider seeing "For Colored Girls who have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Enuf". Colors, outstanding in this play, were Red, Purple, Yellow, Orange, Blue, Brown and Green. Each lady captured the essence of the colors worn.

Yet the women were portraying blackness in all its fullness, richness and uniqueness. Beginning with birth, the actresses present a feeling of total freedom in the movement of a jazz dance which enhances the quality of New Life.

Continuing into childhood with all its carefree moods and games the characters emerge into adolescence right before your eyes. Bringing with this time period the confusion and excitement of entering womanhood. Facing womanhood with its fears, uncertainties and the added burden of reality these colorful girls shed new light on the life of black women, their men and the world surrounding them.

Different aspects of life as seen through the eyes of these young ladies are revealed to the audience. You feel and experience the turmoil, traumas and rejection of each character. Sharing in their happiness as they dance and sing to express this joy.

The cast includes Zenobia I. Brown as the lady in Red, Kristi E. Boyd in Purple, the lady in Yellow, Carolyn Cox, Cynthia A. Hamilton in Orange, in Blue, Marilyn M. Matheus, Suzanne Thomas in Brown and Cheridan M. Westmoreland as the woman in Green.

Photos by Daniel Stitt
Perhaps Chaka Khan will do a benefit in honor of it. It is possible Stevie Wonder will write a song about it. Maybe it will slip Diana Ross’s mind though. Not that it will pass right by without notice remember February. Black History month.

Don’t worry, no one is asking you for the last dollar or march for a cause, all it requires is a little of your time.

A little of your time to look back and remember a lot of time in the history of black people. For everything blacks have achieved someone died or was persecuted.

A little of your time to recognize all the years it took black America to get as far as it has. (and it is still not all the way there yet.)

As a part of KSU’s predominantly white campus, you probably wonder where you fit in when you graduate. But just for a moment let us gain strength in the traditions which those whom came before us.

For the business or political world, let us gain strength from Thomas Bradley, Maynard Jackson, and Richard Stokes, one of the first black mayors of major cities.

For the literary or artistic types, let us gain strength in Phillis Wheatley, Paul Laurence Dunbar and James Baldwin, some of the country’s greatest black writers.

For the most athletic of us, let us gain strength from Wilma Mays, Wilma Rudolph and Jesse Owens.

Let us all take pride in what blacks have contributed to our society. Garrett A. Morgan’s gas mask and traffic light, George Washington Carver’s painting and studies, and Daniel Hale Williams — the first doctor to perform heart surgery.

It is amazing to think how little of us are enlightened or how much we have forgotten about our black heritage. If we could only spend time in this institution of higher learning on expanding our awareness or ourselves and our culture it could only help to serve us better when we enter society.

All right, so some of you may be thinking, “I’ve heard about Martin Luther King and Malcolm X all my life; I appreciate what they did, but they are dead now and we as blacks need guidance today, in the here and now.”

Let us not forget that history is not just stories from so long ago. History was a part of today. History is always being made, and significant history can be made today just as it was 25 years ago. History was made January 1978.

There are a disturbing amount of negative activities that have been occurring on black America over the last few days. They have recently exploded in Miami, with the brutal beating death of Arthur King. What a shock to a black man, by five white police officers, and the senseless, unprovoked beating of a black youth in the Atlanta area.

I would like to discuss a couple of topics a little closer to home. First of all, a short time ago Judge James Barbo was found guilty of various sex violations while performing his elected duty. This led to the judge’s removal from office and a brief jail sentence. A sentence that amounted to only two and a half months of a one to fifteen year sentence. This is where the puzzlement begins. I am puzzled because we live in a society of laws and justice, “justice for all”; but continuously contradicts itself in practice, a law that is binding for a group of people, misused his authority over and over again, and was not found guilty of any sex probation? ” The only problem I have with the decision is that the man and his wife seem to suffer from black. Barto’s attorney argued that the victim, who was a police officer, and his family and his judge were thinking of the punishment. But what about the women he used (most being black). The courts made it clear that these were not just simple acts of lust but were willing to participate in the sexual acts with the judge in order to get favors from his court. This kind of justice must stop if blacks are truly going to advance to a level where we are seen as equal.

Even more astonishing than the Barbudo case, is the tragic death of Akron University student, Rhonda Toney. Miss Toney, a freshman from Cleveland, majoring in chemical engineering, returned to her room one night and was met at the door by her white roommate and several of her friends, one being a male named Tom Baumgartner. Eventually all the females left to return to a party taking place at a local bar, thus, leaving Baumgartner alone with Rhonda. According to police reports, Rhonda stated that they held a light conversation for a brief period and then she offered Baumgartner some coffee to aid his intestinal condition. A few minutes later he threw Rhonda on the floor and raped her. Due to the condition that Rhonda had had since she was in grade school, she was able to sufficiently defend against her assailant.

After Baumgartner left, Rhonda was able to call the police. She was treated for rape and questioned by the police, who released her on a $500. signature bond.

Six days after the rape took place, Rhonda was found lying on the first floor restroom of the Gardner Student Center. An ambulance was called, but Rhonda was pronounced dead on arrival at Akron City Hospital, Thursday, September 28, 1978.

The most astonishing event to take place after the rape and death of Rhonda is that she was the one who suffered the worst. Tom Baumgartner was originally charged with murder and since Rhonda could testify, he couldn’t be brought up on the charges. Baumgartner thought we had an exceptional black girl who would be able to see her 21st birthday. A woman who had great potential, to see all her dreams, and expectations washed away in a river of senselessness. Who is to say that it would have accomplished in her lifetime had she lived. But I am glad to say that the good did indeed die young.

Warren A. Love
Black Organizations Offer a Variety of Cultural Events

By Francetta A. Hicks

A lot of people think that most black organizations are purely social in nature. A dance in Eastway, a dance or two in the Student Center, and maybe a dance in Oscar Ritchie Hall?

Well, contrary to popular belief, black organizations do have cultural overtones. As proof some black organizations have provided their tentative schedules for the Spring semester.

Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, is continuing the Oscar W. Ritchie Scholarship Fund from last semester to increase the amount of money available for financial assistance, for the coming school year. Brothers and pledges of Alpha Phi Alpha will give voluntary time to aid in the progression of black people in the Ravenna area. Also to be presented by the brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha will be Media in the Message, a program designed to expose some of the advantages and disadvantages of being a black media personality.

The tentative guest speaker will be Brother Leon Bibb of WKRC T.V. in Cleveland, Ohio. Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity, will plan to socialize with the elderly at the Nursing Home on Loop road, during the month of March. The Brothers will plan such activities as background, checker and card games with the elderly. Also during the month of March, Kappa Alpha Psi, in conjunction with Alpha Phi Alpha, will stage a basketball game in the University School gym. Proceeds will benefit the United Negro College Fund. The event is to be publicized by WKSR, WKSU, and WDMT radio stations, WJW T.V. station, the Daily Kent Stater, and a multitude of on campus publicity. The Brothers of both fraternities urge maximum student participation. Kappa Alpha Psi will sponsor a dance in April to benefit the United Negro College Fund. Sigma Gamma Rho sorority, will set up tables in the Student Center, to take donations for Sickie Cell Anemia, during February. In March Sigma Gamma Rho national celebrates Sigma Week. This week is dedicated to emphasizing their motto "Greater Service, Greater Progress." Activities will be announced. Other activities for the Spring will also be announced.

Delta Sigma Theta sorority, will give its annual Peppermint Ball, February, in the KSU ballroom. Proceeds will go to the United Negro College Fund. Tickets will be $2.00 in advance and $2.50 at the door. This year’s ball will include an extra feature, a deserving male of Kappa Alpha Psi, to accept donations for the Anderson "Sug" Hollowman and Roosevelt Mark Scholarship Fund. Zeta Phi Beta will also give a dance in March with proceeds going to the United Negro College Fund. A March of Dimes Drive is also scheduled for March by Zeta Phi Beta. A toy donation for the Y.M.C.A. Day Care, formerly the Kent Day Care, woman’s awareness program, and a raffle with the proceeds going to the Anderson "Sug" Hollowman and Roosevelt Mark Scholarship Fund, is planned by Zeta Phi Beta. Phi Beta Sigma fraternity, is sponsoring a Black Awareness Program, to inform the student about the Learning Development Office, the Financial Aid Office and the Pan African Studies undergraduate office has to offer them, and what each is about. Phi Beta Sigma is also involved in an Easter Party with the Progressive Education Program (PEP) school children. The Annual Scholarship Banquet, presented by Phi Beta Sigma, in remembrance of their two deceased brothers. Anderson "Sug" Hollowman and Roosevelt Mark, will be held in April. A student of East Technical High School, Cleveland, will be the recipient of a certificate awarded at the banquet. Upon beginning at Kent he/she will be given a check for $300.00 Both Hollowman and Mark were alumni of East Technical.

The affair is co-sponsored by Zeta Phi Beta sorority and Sigma Sweethearts.

The Esquire Club will present a Big Brother's Drive in April. Tables will be set up in the Student Center and Oscar Ritchie Hall, to inform people of the need to interact and volunteer with fatherless and motherless children. The Esquire Club will sponsor a raffle with donations going to the Portage County Big Brothers/Big Sisters Agency. First prize is a 10-speed bike; second prize - dinner for two; third prize is a pair of concert tickets.

The Gentleman Quarterly Club is sponsoring "Black Oldies" movies starting February 24 with "Cooley High." There will be 6-8 movies shown throughout the semester every other Tuesday.

For further information concerning the schedules of these organizations, Contact: Mr. Edgar Wright, Alpha Phi Alpha; Mr. Randy Walton, Kappa Alpha Psi; Ms. Sandra Pyle, Delta Sigma Theta; Ms. Eileen Morrow, Sigma Gamma Rho; Mr. Darrell Hill, The Esquire Club; Mr. Greg Collins, The Gentleman Quarterly Club; Mr. Bernard Jackson, Phi Beta Sigma; and Ms. Antoinette Brown, Zeta Phi Beta.

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By Mark B. Cunningham

Black Aesthetics, "Artists in Residence," are presenting an off-campus art show Sunday, February 1, in the formal art gallery of the Kennedy Center at Hiram College.

Twelve members of the group displayed their art work, which ranged from glassware, ceramics, jewelry, paintings, drawings, textiles and enameling.

When asked if the show would be a success, one member of the organization, Charlotte Williams, said, "definitely. We are proud of our pieces of work."

Black Aesthetics, going into its third year, usually has one art show every spring semester. The next one will be during Think Week here in April.

E. Timothy Moore, advisor for the group and a professor in the Department of Pan African Studies, will be giving a one-man show at Hiram College starting Monday, February 16. He will display his past and present creations in graphic designs and photography.
Area Coordinator Performs Varied Duties

By Yolanda Brodie

Consider Running for the Black United Students Executive Board

By Robin C. Gray

Spectrum Horoscope: AQUARIUS

By Roberto C. Wright

Re: Review: “Take it to the Limit”

By Edgar V. Wright

Area Coordinator performs varied duties

By Patricia Jackson

Consider running for the Black United Students Executive Board

By Robin C. Gray

Spectrum Horoscope: Aquarius

By Roberto C. Wright

Re: Review: "Take it to the Limit"
The African Community Theatre Arts Program presents

Ebony Woman

February 26 - March 1
March 5 - 8
at 8:00 p.m.

Mbari Mbayo Theatre I
Franklin Hall
Kent State University

$2.00 General Admission $1.50 - Students
Senior Citizens

The Fund Raising Book Drive is a program to raise money to buy books for black students, who are unable to purchase books. To be eligible for this program a student must have a G.P.A. of 3.00. They must submit a Financial Aid Award letter, along with an essay of no fewer than twenty-five words, stating the reasons why they need the book, with an application which can be obtained from the ES and BS division of the Department of Pan-African Studies.

Before the books are issued, the students must agree to pay 25% of the sale price of each book.

We expect the student to return the books at the date given on the contract. The penalty for not returning the books or damaging a book will result in paying the full sale price for each book. If the full sale price cannot be paid the student will not be able to use the Loan service the next semester. You will also be ineligible to register for courses during the next semester.

This is the beginning of the program, so everyone will not be able to be served. The program will, therefore, operate on a first-come-first-served basis. This is a start of togetherness and one student tiring to help the next student.

For further information contact Pan-African Studies Department, Oscar Ritchie Hall (ground floor) or call 672-5019.

Theatre, poetry, prose, music and the martial arts will be featured.

Performances will be held at the Murris Taylor Multi-Service Center, 13422 Kinsman Road. Thursday and Friday performances (the 26th and 27th), will be held from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The Saturday performance will be from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Admission is free. For more information call 341-8510.

On February 26th, 27th, and 28th, Blacks Organized for National Development, (BOND), a Cleveland-based Black cultural, educational, and political organization will celebrate Black History month by presenting "Portions of Cleveland's Black Cultural Experience". Three consecutive days of entertainment by some of Cleveland's finest Black artists in the areas of dance, theatre, poetry, prose, music and the martial arts will be featured.

Everyday goes through changes, but sometimes, those changes are so rough and you are confused, come talk with me.

When it seems like there is no one on your side and nothing has come your way, come talk with me.

When it seems like there is no beginning of hope, come talk with me.

Sometimes Society can turn you where you start to dream of what could never be. Don't let it get you down; cope with it, and if you can't, come talk with me.

Think of it as this, there are three shells and you turn over one, it doesn't have success under it, but you have your whole life to turn over the other two.

It's not how many times you fall that counts, but how many times you get up.

If you keep getting up, sooner or later you'll be a winner.

Your Friend,
Alfred L. Walton Jr.
Student Aid Cut?
Reagan Supporter?
Welfare Dropped?
Social Programs Phased out?

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HAVE YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED
********
by
Rev. Ralph Abernathy

Tonight at 8:00 p.m. in the Kiva

“Be a Part of Black History”
THE SPECTRUM

RECOGNIZES

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February, 1981

"Let’s not stop there—
12 Months a year,
You should be Aware"