The Spectrum

A Publication of Black United Students,

Kent State University Volume 5 Number 2, Spring 1988

BLACK TO THE FUTURE
EDITOR'S NOTE

by Kecia Cole

Consciousness! When I came to college I expected to be bombarded with it and surrounded by it. That was in fact the image that the media portrayed and the history books told. I was unpleasantly surprised. Although I searched, I failed to find a true consciousness level here at Kent.

Sure students are aware of the lack of financial support given to them as a direct result of Reaganomics. Sure students are aware of the institutionalized racism that runs rampant on many college campuses. Sure students are aware of the low black enrollment rate and high black attrition rate at Kent State University. Sure. However, those are a mere few pieces of the larger than life consciousness puzzle.

If the African-American is going to succeed now and in the future we need to come into a true understanding of ourselves and of our environment. There are many necessary steps for this ultimate enlightenment'' everything from proper diet to spiritual awareness. True consciousness must come from the inside out. We must be intune with our own self physically and spiritually to have a real comprehension of outside forces.

I do not profess to have all of the answers. I am in fact saying the opposite, because the more knowledge we are exposed to and the more we learn the more we realize how little we really do know.

I believe that as students of this university and of life itself, we must keep an open mind to that which seems different in our eyes. If we, as human beings, would be more responsive to each other and stop judging people on a purely superficial level we would learn from each other instead of fighting one another.

Activism! I have no qualms with those "conscious" individuals that wish to sport their Malcolm buttons, their King buttons and their "anti" buttons. That is definitely a positive move toward consciousness. However, it can't stop there. We must take ACTION on that which we feel to be unjust.

I hope that the Spectrum will serve as an inspiration for students to act. We must realize that we are the leaders of tomorrow. We must always question authority figures and the status quo. We then must recognize the problems existing in the world today and change them. If we do not actively support a plausible solution, we are apathetic and we are part of the problem. In our quest to find the truth we should look to the past for guidance and look to the future for inspiration. Then and only then can we become the leaders of tomorrow and proceed to the future.
Cover Story

14 The Comedienne With a Cause: Bertice Berry

Politics

12 Jesse Jackson: Can He Win?

Profile

9 Blacks in Style at Kent: Terry Harris, Steve Wynne and Marc White

Looking Back

4 Culture Celebrated at Kent: An Overview of Black History Month

Expressions

19 A White’s Perspective of the Black Perspective
17 The Tree of Life
18 Black Americans in the Future

Poetry

21 Kent’s Veteran Poet: Kenyette Adrine-Robinson
23 Student Poetry
KENT CELEBRATES HISTORY AND CULTURE

An Overview of Black History Month

By Eric Beasley

"We have come a long way, but we have a long way to go," Black United Students programmer Sandra Glover said during the closing ceremonies of Black History Month. "We must continue the celebration throughout the year." Glover commented on the need for black people to continue to celebrate their history, their heritage, and their culture.

There were a number of programs throughout the month of February to celebrate black history. The programs included concerts, fashion shows, speakers, and much more. The programs were scheduled by Sandra Glover and other executive board members or BUS, while others were supported by Black Greek Council, and the Pan-African studies department.

Black History Month at Kent State University began with a mass meeting by Black United Students in the Mbari Mbayo lecture room in Oscar Richie Hall-the Center for Pan-African Culture and the site of most of the programs. Some people that spoke were Tommy Jackson; Executive Director of the Undergraduate Student Senate, Dr. Edward Crosby; Chairman of the Pan-African Studies Department, and Wiley Smith Communications and Arts Director of the Pan-African Studies Department.

Later there were programs which focused on the black woman and male and female relationships. The black woman's program focused on the contributions of black women to this society, a contribution which has historically been either ignored totally, or not given the full attention it deserves. According to Obededom Green, President of Black United Students, the topics discussed included what characteristics were individuals looking for in a mate, the role college plays on relationships, and how to sustain a long-term relationship while in college. On Monday February eighth black men were the focus of a program, the thrust of the program was the black male although it included black women. One of the speakers, Brian Washington of the Career Planning and Placement Center, spoke of the need to increase the number of minorities in the scientific, medical, and engineering fields. He also stressed the need to increase the number of black men entering the teaching profession. He said it was imperative to increase the black men in is field so they may serve as role models. Other speakers were Dr. Christopher Williams and Dr. E. Timothy Moore. Williams spoke on the need for Africans and people of African decent to move away from the "me first" attitude and the status oriented values which many have come to hold. And Dr. Moore spoke on the importance of brotherhood among not only fraternity brothers, but all black men.

Members of the Kent, Akron, and Cleveland communities came to hear the nationally recognized social and political activist, nutritionist author, and comedian Dick Gregory speak. Mr. Gregory, through jokes, anecdotes, and revealing eye-opening information, was able to keep the audience's attention for more than two hours. He spoke on the proper role of higher education, the proper role of students in the 1980's, and much more. Gregory commented that his generation made it possible.
for black students to attend institutions of higher education, to gain careers in areas that were previously not available to them, and a number of other advancements; he said that his generation had opened many doors for blacks, but he cautioned that if the students of today do not take a more active role in addressing societal problems that the door would close.

"Dick Gregory is a phenomenal person and terrific speaker. His ability to incorporate facts and humor made for a very educational and entertaining evening," commented Veronica Bradshaw, a sophomore broadcast news journalism major who attended the program help in Stump Theater of the Music Speech building.

Mr. Gregory also told the audience that it was important that they take care of their bodies. He encouraged the audience to drink at least eight glasses of spring water each day and to eat more fruits and vegetables because the human body was not constructed to eat meat. Gregory is frequently asked the question, "if I don't eat meat how do I get protein?" He responded, "The cow doesn't eat meat and it gets plenty of protein."

The excitement would not stop with Gregory, for the very next day students would be both informed and entertained by a theatrical ensemble from Washington D.C. entitled the Pinpoint Theatre Group. The group performed a play which was written by group's creator and manager, entitled 1001 Black Inventors which highlighted the inventions of Black
Inventors, and scientists such as Benjamin Banneker, and George Washington Carver.

The week would close with a program on Friday February twelfth with a program on Black Empowerment. The guest was Jeff Johnson, a Kent State aluminiast and current Cleveland City councilman, who served as President of Black United Students while a student here. The overall point of all the speakers was:

It was no longer enough for blacks, Hispanics, and women to vote. He stated they need to become involved in the political process in a more meaningful manner, they need to procure positions of leadership. They said it is increasingly important that the aforementioned groups aspire beyond the local level; they need to aspire to the Senate, the Governor's Mansion, federal judgements, and the White House, was the general consensus among the speakers.

The array of talented and dynamic speakers did not end there, for on Sunday next the Kent State University community, as well as some people from the Cleveland area and the Akron area were inspired by words of wisdom by Kwame Toure (formerly, Stokley Carmicheal), who gained international prominence when he coined the phrase BLACK POWER while serving as Chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in the 1960's. Mr. Toure spoke about the need to end the social, economic, educational, and political oppression which still wreaks have upon the lives of people of color the world over. He spoke of the need for African and people of African decent to take pride in their motherland "the richest continent on the face of the earth."

Several lunchtime dialogues took place in the student center cafeteria. This time the topic would be male/female relationships. The speaker, Michelle Scott, from the office of Affirmative Action, focused on what college students were looking for in a mate, how to sustain long-term relationships while in college, and the benefits, as well as the negatives, of attempting to have a relationship while in college. Another lunchtime dialogue program featured female/male relationships from a different perspective. The speaker for this program, Dr. Barbara Thomas, of the Dewees Health Center, spoke on stress and sex in relationships.

Questions were a big part of a program when a small crowd exchanged questions and answers for nearly three hours. The program was entitled, "Learning From Our Brothers and Sisters African and African-American."

The speakers for this program included: Dr. Alene Barnes-Harden, Dr. Timothy Moore, and Dr. Meki Temu, who are all instructors in the department of Pan-African studies.

Dr. Barnes-Harden focused on the importance of the family in traditional Africa and how the loss to this traditional tie to Africa has hurt the black community. While Dr. Temu spoke of putting something back into the community from whence one came, saying that awareness of the importance of the community and the fact that one was a reflection of the community instilled in an individual a sense of responsibility. And finally, Dr. E. Timothy Moore spoke on the two-fold topic of the importance of some type of rites of passage a ritual which takes a boy or girl through a training and introduces him/her to manhood/womanhood. He also spoke on, the damage which we have suffered as it relates to our perception of Africa, a perception which is a false "Tarzan mentality, perceiving Africa as being an uncivilized, unproductive, and underdeveloped CONTINENT."

Music would highlight the next phase of programs for Black History Month. The Shadow Vignettes, a jazz group, performed on Sunday February 21st in the University Auditorium and the next day students would be moved and uplifted by the inspiring sounds created by the Total Grace organization of Kent State University, and the Divine Hope organization from the Greater Akron area, who sang gospel songs. Kent State was the final stop for the Shadow Vignettes before concluding their "Flat Earth Tour." The group played song that created images of nightclubs during the Harlem Renaissance, blues singers such as Billie Holiday, and African Folk music.

The music would not stop there. The very next day members of the Kent State community would rejoice in the soul-stirring sounds of gospel music. The program was filled with song and speech, as Tonia Jarrett gave a brief history of gospel music from slavery through the present. With regard to Ms. Jarret's speech, Sandra Glover said "she did an
excellent job."

Glover said the "Total Grace" organization sang traditional gospel song, whereas the "Divine Hope" group performed contemporary gospel songs, gospel songs which are similar to songs recorded by Andre Crouch and the Winans. Glover also commented, "the program was very enlightening." The program was widely attended and appreciated, as the large crowd gave "Total Grace" a standing ovation, and called the "Divine Hope" group back on stage.

Black History month was also of remembrance. On Tuesday February 23rd students would pay tribute to one of America's slain leaders" Malcolm X. The program was co-sponsored by BUS, and the Alpha Phi Alpha, Fraternity Inc. Malcolm X met a violent death on Sunday February 21st, 1965, at the age of thirty-nine.

The program included a videotape of his life and later Dr. Jackie Booker, a professor in the history department, gave an oral presentation on the life and death of Malcolm X. He told the audience of the early life of Malcolm X, then Malcolm Little, and how this life surrounded by illegal activity eventually landed him in jail. He also told of how once in jail Malcolm read books on anything and everything, and of how Malcolm studied from cover to cover the dictionary. He spoke of how Malcolm later became a leader in the Nation of Islam under the tutelage of Elijah P. Muhammad.

Later he startled the audience when he told them of how the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) kept records on Malcolm X from the time he left jail until the year 1972 more than seven year after his death. Dr. Booker indicated in researching the life and death of Malcolm X he discovered that an estimated 1200 documents and been compiled by the FBI, yet less than 300 of these documents are available to the public. It was also mentioned during the program that Malcolm has been viewed as a radical and violent man, however it was brought out that was a false perception of him, and that if people really studied what he said that he often spoke the truth, no matter how he may have said it.

The array of speakers would not end with Dr. Booker. Two days later Randall Robinson, Executive Director of TransAfrica, an anti-apartheid organization would speak in the Kiva. Robinson and Rep. William H. Gray were instrumental in getting the United States Congress to pass anti-apartheid legislation in recent years.

"We are dealing with a police state," said Robinson of the South African government. He spoke of the need for economic sanctions against the South African government, he added that these sanctions need to be on a global basis and not just one or two countries. He added however that sanctions would not be enough. He said that it was going to take an effort on the part of all righteous individuals to help end apartheid. He also stated sanctions would hurt the South African government, however he added as long as this government is getting financial support from companies from the west, particularly companies in England and the United States that sanctions would not be effective. He said that many companies still have a direct, or indirect, financial link to the country. He said many have cleverly hidden these links, so as not to hurt their image. Some of the companies he mentioned include, the exalted IBM, General Motors, Xerox, and Ford.

He commented that black Americans need to become involved in every sector of the decision making institutions of America. He said blacks need to be involved in the Congress, the State Department, the Pentagon, and even those companies which lend a helping hand to apartheid. He said we need to be on the inside in order to be aware of the decisions that are being made and to hopefully be in a position to affect the decisions of these institutions.

The month long celebration would near its end on Saturday, February 27th when students were treated to a fashion extravaganza. The fashion show highlighted clothes which accentuated the African heritage. The designs were created by Marc White, Steve Wynne, and Terry Harris.

On Monday February 29th Black History Month officially came to an end. Sandra Glover expressed a heartfelt thanks to the Department of Pan-African studies, Black Greek Council, all the people who assisted in the programs, and all those who came to the programs. However as Glover commented during the closing ceremonies this should be something we should celebrate each and every day of the year.
Steve Wynne and Mare Shite
photo by Thomas Turney
"Clothes make the man." At first glance this cliche' seems like a rather superficial statement. Isn't it after all our inner being and not our outer self that is truly significant? Or does our exterior self actually mirror our conscious spirit? For many people, clothing style is an obvious extension of ourselves which is more than depthless dress. It is symbolic of our feelings, perspectives and respective heritages. In the African "American community clothing is believed to serve as a medium for unspoken views about black consciousness and black pride, so wearing clothing becomes much more than pseudo status or surface style-it is a statement.

Apparel is important, but even more notable are the visionary designers who manifest their various statements through their clothing. While clothes make the man, men and women are in turn making the clothes. Three young designers that view clothing and jewelry as a vital and symbolic extension of mankind are: Terry Harris, Marc S. White, and Steven J. Wynne. Together they share a common spiritual unity, while still maintaining their anonymity and diversified views. Their philosophies of life are varied and intense, stemming from strong spiritual and political base. Marc, Terry, and Steve are individuals. They are talented. They are at Kent State University, And they are BLACK IN STYLE!

**BLACKS IN STYLE AT KENT**

By Kecia Cole

Terri Harris
Age: 22
Hometown: Shaker Heights
Major: Fashion Design
Favorite designer: Margaretha Ley of Escada

Terri Harris is uncompromising in her views and is pursuing her goals with full force. At a young age she has already set her goals of being an independent designer-a goal that is both attainable and realistic for a woman of color in the 1980's. She is a designer that thrives on creative expression and full control. Her high school love of sewing lead her into the design world and now there is no turning back for Terry. "In high school I took several sewing classes and learned how to design original patterns. Then I started going hog-wild on my own creative designs."

"Never be ashamed of your ideas. Don't alter them at others hands or thoughts. Tailor them to be your own."

- Terri Harris

Although her inspiration comes from "nothing in particular" one can see a strong island influence in her designs. Her exotic floral prints would fit right along with the trends of the upcoming Spring and Summer seasons. However, Terry finds American trends to be dull. "If I want to get any ideas I go to Europe or to South America." Terry's preference of material lies with natural fibers. "I like to work with soft natural fibers." she explains. "Fabrics that are going to enhance the body-keep fluid lines moving."

Terry wants to work behind the scenes of the fashion industry after she graduates so she can learn the ins and outs of the industry. "But eventually I want my own business-somewhere I can be creative without anyone stopping or altering the way I want the finished product to look."

As for Kent State, Terry thinks highly of their fashion program calling it tough and thorough. She does, however, see the need for expansion ideal wise. She also feels that a contributing factor to the low black enrollment rate is the intimidation black students feel. Terry believes that this intimidation should
make them try even harder to get in. The most important advice she gives to aspiring designers is that of not compromising at any cost. Terry says "Never be ashamed of your ideas. Don't alter them at others hands or thoughts. Tailor them to be your own and to speak for who and what you are. Stand by them and defend them."

**Steven James Wynne**
Age: 24  
Hometown: Shaker Heights, Ohio  
Major: Jewelry design  
Favorite designer: Yogi Yamamoto

Upon passing by a pair of dusty old green curtains ready to be tossed out in McDowell Hall, most people would keep walking, not giving them a second thought. Others would think them useless, but not the creative ones. Steven James Wynne doesn’t like to call anything junk. He instead transformed those drab, dusty curtains into a fashionable dress and coat. The utilization of old and otherwise forgotten materials is part of Steven’s unique style.

In his senior year at Shaker Heights High School, Steve saw a slide presentation about the Kent State fashion design school and fashion museum which inspired him to pursue a career in fashion. However, he was soon disillusioned by the school’s conservatism and switched over to jewelry design. "They [the fashion department] weren't really receptive to any type of new ideas, that's why I changed over to jewelry design. It's a lot more liberal—they let you express your views more instead of trying to impose certain standards on you." He feels as though the fashion program at Kent hinders students by imposing a westernized mode of teaching on them. Such a rigid format is not receptive to African heritage at all.

For Steve inspiration comes from just about anything. "First the materials inspire me, I try to use the same materials used in ancient Africa like gold, copper, brass, and silver. I like to make clothing and jewelry that will have some type of spirit reflecting upon African culture."

Another African inspiration for Steve comes from the deep historical meaning of the jewelry. Ancient jewelry that, unlike today, was free of any commercialism. "They used to make pieces of jewelry and give them to friends. You just gave to people because you liked them and then you hoped the piece was something of yourself."

Steve’s advice to aspiring designers is to be true to their fabrics and stay away from unnatural fabrics. He also urges students to research the African culture because they were the first people on earth and they had a unique concept of commercial-free art. "Now whoever has the most money can set the standard of what's 'in'".

"I like to make clothing and jewelry that will have some type of spirit reflecting upon African Culture"  
- Steven Wynne

Eventually Steve wants to be an entrepreneur where he can create a consciousness life of clothing and jewelry. But his aspirations are ultimately very basic and simple. "I just want to live a happy existence, create art and have a family."

**Marc S. White of the Earth**
Age: 24  
Hometown: Shaker Heights, Ohio  
Major: Fashion designer  
Favorite designer: Willie Smith

Marc Steven White is a designer who definitely has a strong message to convey with his clothing. He refuses to conform to the "fluff" or mindless type of style that is so prevalent today. Instead of conforming, Marc wants to change these norms. These norms dictate what can and can’t be worn. These norms also define beauty from basically a European perspective. He says that he would like to "erase the media and commercialists out of Europe that have our brothers and sisters feeling so inadequate because they can never look like that European in the magazine. They can, however, look like that stately king and queen in the history books. We've got to redefine beauty, and throw away all of those powerful contrary influences by raising consciousness," White explains. "I would like to replace the so called beautiful pale faces in the magazines with natural people."

Marc believes that even magazines that were intended to represent blacks, like Ebony and Essence, are a "travesty." "On one hand they're stirring up and arousing consciousness with beautiful articles, but the images are terrible. You've got a bunch of people promoting hair straighteners and skin bleaching creams next to some thorough article that's making a positive statement. It's like negative one and positive one - nothing."
I'd like to erase the media and commercialist out of Europe that have our brothers and sisters feeling so inadequate

-Marc White

As for Marc's long term goals, he definitely wants to get out of Kent. "I want to establish a clientele and start a family unit - which is the most complete part of life. In other words I want a full life." This full life would include the promotion of consciousness raising clothing. Clothing that would set it's own standard for beauty, that would highlight African culture, and that would make a statement.

Call for writers

The Spectrum welcomes stories on local, national and international events. Writers may submit articles on sports, careers, entertainment, personalities and student life.

Artwork, photography, viewpoints, essays and creative stories are also welcome.

To be considered for publication, articles should be typed and double-spaced.

Preference will be given to well-written articles. Judgment is based on content, relevance to KSU students, significance of information, accuracy of facts, writing style and grammar.

Include your local address and telephone number.

A typewriter is available at the Spectrum office, Room 33, Oscar Ritchie Hall. Call 672-2300.
WIN JESSE WIN

Can Jackson Really Win the Democratic Nomination?

By Eric Beasley

"We need a President who doesn’t fall asleep on the job, and knows what’s going on when he’s awake," commented the Rev. Jesse Louis Jackson, currently a candidate for the Democratic nomination for President. Rev. Jackson who in 1984 was not taken very seriously, is currently mounting a strong campaign in his bid to gain the nomination for the campaign in his bid for the Presidency. He is sounding the theme of: WE THE PEOPLE CAN WIN. "Our country is consuming an estimated 150 billion dollars on drugs every year," said Jackson. Drug abuse is one of the many topics Jackson is discussing. He has also spoken on nuclear disarmament, social programs, creating jobs, and several other topics.

Jackson’s 1988 presidential campaign has political experts, the media, and the electorate seriously considering the chances of him getting the nomination at the democratic national convention in Atlanta in July. Jackson has been able to garner a good deal of support from the electorate in the north and northeast, as well as the south and the southwest. He began this process with a strong showing in the Iowa caucus.

He improved his standing with a strong showing on Super Tuesday, winning five states including: Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Virginia. Jackson finished in several other states. Later he won South Carolina, the state which he was born some 46 years ago. He then surprised many political observers when he defeated Governor Micheal Dukakis by a nearly two-to-one margin in the Michigan caucus, Jackson also won the Alaska caucus on March 10, and the Puerto Rico primary later in the month on March 20.

Jackson has been able to do so well because he has been able to get a strong backing from the black community. He has been consistently getting 90 percent of the black vote during the ‘88 campaign. He also has received support from other minorities as well. In Florida he received 18 percent of the Hispanic vote, and finished second in that state.

He has also done so well because he has been able to receive a good portion of support from the white community. Jackson had 22 percent of the white vote in Connecticut, and 28 percent overall, finishing second in the state. Jackson has also received a strong percentage of the white vote in a number of other states such as Maine and Vermont. Jackson was also able to garner 25 percent of the white vote in Wisconsin and 29 percent of the total vote, which made him place second in the state; Dukakis winning with 47 percent of the vote. After Wisconsin Jackson trailed Dukakis in the delegate count, having an estimated 711 delegates to Dukakis’s 738. After the Wisconsin primary Jackson indicated that his campaign was still strong. He stated in an interview on NBC’s Today Show, the morning following the primary, that he had won nearly 10 states, and had placed second in nearly 20.

Throughout the campaign Jackson commented people are focusing on his message rather than his race. He says the things he is talking about are the issues that people are concerned about, like economic violence. Jackson also contends that American companies need to stop taking jobs overseas, saying that our jobs are not being taken by South Koreans and Taiwanese. Jackson explains, "They are being taken to South Korea and Taiwan by the U.S. companies with tax incentives." He believes companies take their industry to these countries because the wages are cheaper and there is no chance for the workers to form unions in these nations, as the military force keeps close monitoring of any efforts to form unions. Jackson has also stated that he will cut tax breaks for runaway corporations that close U.S. plants in order to leave the country. This theme has been very popular with factory workers who have officially lost their jobs, or those who have been laid off for months or even years. It is also very popular with farmers who have either lost their farms or have neighbors in the same predicament. He took this message to Iowa and did quite well in the caucus there in February.

Another issue Jackson has been talking about is the reduction of the amount of money the government spends on nuclear weaponry. Jackson said, if elected, he would cut the military budget by 10 percent. He would also cancel several projects currently underway under the Reagan administration, such as Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), or "Star Wars." Jackson has also said
that he would halt the deployment of new nuclear weapons, and that he would stop flying missiles as well. He also opposes the Stealth bomber, the Midgetman land-based missile, and the Trident D-5 submarine missile. "We have a strong military, but weak leadership. We have guided missiles, but unguided minds...Our leadership has come from the power of our ideas and the force of our example, not from the size of our arsenal," says Jackson. "Any nation that spends 55 cents of every federal income tax dollar for military, and only two cents for education, has to reorder its priorities.

Despite Jackson's improved financial backing and other support, he is not without his critics. Jackson has also come under fire for his views on foreign policy. He specifically has come under fire for his position on spending cost for our allies in Europe. Jackson would discontinue the millions of dollars currently being spent to defend our allies in Europe. "Our World War II allies and enemies are now our economic competitors, yet we spend over $150 billion a year to defend Europe against threats that even the military considers remote," commented Jackson. Jackson points out that forty percent of the American military budget is spent defending Europe.

Jackson has also been criticized for not being specific on how he would solve some of the problems that he states exist. For example he has stated that he would like to spend more money on education. His critics charge that might be a good idea, but question where he's going to get the money for this increased spending on education. First he contends he will generate revenues by increasing taxes. He said he would raise taxes for the rich and that the top rates of 38.5 percent for individuals, and 46 percent for corporations will be imposed. He has also discussed the possibility of borrowing ten percent, or about $60 million, of the public pension fund for the purpose of investing in public work projects these projects would provide jobs which would help build the infrastructure of the country.

"Any nation that spends 55 cents of every tax dollar for military, and only two cents for education, has to reorder its priorities."

The most discussed criticism of Jackson is that he has no experience by virtue of the fact that he has never held any political office. One of the people to speak about Jackson's inexperience as a politician is Tillie Bichanich, who served as Dukakis' Milwaukee county director. She said, one thing I hear is that 'he's never held a political job in his life (and) who wants a preacher for president?' Senator Albert Gore has echoed the same thing. Jackson has responded that his leadership qualities have prepared him to run for the presidency. He often points out that constitutionally he is qualified to run, and also has pointed out that not having held a political office does not indicate that one will not make a good president, conversely he points out that because one has political experience does not automatically guarantee that one will be a good leader.

"Ronald Reagan and George Bush have held political office, yet we have the highest national and trade debts, under these two experienced politicians, ever," adds Jackson.

It is clear that Jesse Jackson is evoking a response to his campaign. Some have responded negatively and some have responded positively. Many political analyst initially did take him seriously, however the electorate has in many areas of the country supported him. This has caused many to rethink the candidacy of Jesse Jackson. It is not yet fully known what influence Jesse will have at the convention. He may be the nominee, he may be on the ticket as the vice-president, or the party may include some of his ideas into their platform. Whatever the Democratic Party decides to do at the convention in Atlanta in July it is clear that Jesse Jackson will be a strong force.

**Words are so unique in that their expressions when spoken, or written, printed, or sung, can either elevate or diminish the awareness and activity of the receiver.**

*by E. Timothy Moore 1988*
THE COMEDIENNE WITH A CAUSE:

Bertice Berry Urges Blacks to Wake-up

by Kecia Cole
Do you think there's a problem? Do you think there's a problem when at least 70 to 80 percent of all black women chemically alter their hair? Do you think there's a problem with black college students who are striving to be a part of a corporate America-one that won't support them in return? Do you think there's a problem when blacks are assimilating into a mainstream society becoming "wannabees" and negating their heritage? Do you think there's a problem with a lack of political consciousness and cultural pride among African "Americans? Bertie Berry, a 27 year old doctoral student, comedienne and activist doesn't think there's a problem-she knows there is.

A woman who was given the nickname "Angela Davis" at her all black high school in Wilmington Delaware has now acquired her own distinct personality. It was in high school that Berry decided to pursue a career in social work. However, after working in a battered women's shelter, she changed her original plan of being a social worker to pursuing the research end of sociology because she felt like she was merely "putting a bandaid on cancer."

Now through the medium of comedy, which she began doing professionally in January of 1986, Bertice Berry is able to spread an extremely vital message to today's African American population. "I feel I can reach a wider audience using comedy," she says.

Bertice urges people to take pride in their African heritage and features. "I think there's definitely something wrong with an entire group of people who feel the need to chemically alter the way they are," she says. Berry is also distraught by the lack of political consciousness on the Kent State campus. "I guess you can't even call it apathy," she explains. "I think with apathy you chose not to do something... here it's as if people don't care to know and are offended by your questioning what they do know. It's like we're all in a cage and some of us are at the edge and realize it and others don't and are oblivious, dancing in the middle...at least when you're aware of something you can work to change it."

"All blacks are beautiful... regardless of the shade, size, or texture it must be embraced"

Of particular concern to Ms. Berry is the problem of black on black prejudice which is the topic of her dissertation and currently in the spotlight because of Spike Lee's controversial film "School Daze." Berry was pleased with the film and felt that it had a very strong message that needed to be told. "I think Spike Lee did an excellent job," she says. "I admire him for having done what he did. One particular subject of this film, colorism, was originally defined by Alice Walker in the 1970's as discrimination among blacks due to skin shade and hair texture. While viewing the movie Berry found the comments made by some audience members to be ironic, and missing the entire meaning of the film. "Before the movie started people were making fun of my locks...I actually had to pray for humility because I felt superior for daring to be different and let it [my hair] grow naturally."

Ms. Berry finds it hard to accept the whole idea of perms and relaxers. "You can't tell me that those 80 percent of black women alter their hair for beauty...the other 20 percent are probably old, incarcerated, or crazy like me. There's something wrong with that attitude." Now that braids and dreadlocks are coming into vogue, more and more questions are being posed about the acceptability of these natural hair styles. As for the common inquiry of: should black women wear braids to work? Berry believes that such a question should not even exist. "The question should be: should black women wear their hair chemically and pour lye in their heads? The same lye that in high school they said not to pour it on your pants because it will eat through your jeans." Many women feel safe now with the advent of no-lye relaxers. However, Berry argues that the new chemical is worse than lye. She decided to "lock up" when a friend in the Virgin Islands suggested it two years ago. "It was a matter of convenience and a matter of the fact that my hair is beautiful," she explains. "I didn't believe it at first but spiritually it takes you to another realm. I feel so much more wholesome and different and changed. It was an outward expression of what I do and who I am." Another expression of who Bertie Berry is and what she is about is her clothing. An entrepreneurial avenue through which Ms. Berry is able to spread her message is an organization called Positive Forces, which she is in along with Bernita.
Berry, (no relation), Andrea Dockery, Marc White and Steve Wynn. Bertice got the idea of making a two-of-kind shirt displaying the face of a slain leader from a Sting song while driving home from New Orleans. One shirt goes to the buyer, while the other will go to a family member of the deceased person.

Bertice believes that entrepreneurship is the only way that blacks will ever see any real wealth. She is also sure that Positive Forces will make a financial profit so they give some of the money back into the community and to worthy causes. "All you need is an idea. If people can become millionaires from selling pet rocks, then the truth should sell as well." Bertice Berry is a woman who is politically aware, spiritually conscious and "on the road to a true understanding." Her message, though rather simplistic, goes over many people's head. Not everyone will refrain from chemically altering their hair. Not everyone will stop buying blue contacts. Not everyone will find enough pride in their own culture so they won't need to "wannabee" part of someone else's. Not everyone will find fault in "Buppyism", (the art of being a black yuppy). However, some will.

Those that will not may at least listen to Ms. Berry, whether it be in the classroom, on stage or one-on-one. She may not be able to change everyone's mind. But maybe sometime in the near future we will begin to see that there is a problem, and we will finally begin to question.
Once upon a time there lived a man, a very strong man with hair of wool and skin of night. This man his name was Blackman and he was the strongest man in the world. The reason why he was the strongest man in the world was because he held the power of life, which was instilled in him by the Tree of Life. The Tree of Life was the secret to the Blackman's strength which gave him courage, power, and love.

As time passed by the power of the Tree of Life began to fade so did the power of the Blackman. The Blackman became so weak his hair of wool started falling out and his beautiful skin of night became wrinkled and gray. The Blackman was losing his soul and he knew that the Tree of Life could not save him. One day the Blackman started feeling his soul rising out of his body and as he looked at the Tree of Life he could see his soul moving into the external form. The Blackman was so scared, he cried out to the sky and he called out for help, he said "Keeper of time and the caretaker of souls please help me regain my strength." Suddenly, the sky became gray and a dark flash of light moved through the heavens and the earth began to tremble, a big hole appeared in the earth and out of it a creature appeared. The creature had beautiful features, such as black hair, and its eyes shined like the stars of night. Blackman was stupefied because he had never seen any creature with such beauty.

The creature walked toward the Blackman and started to speak; "Be hold my beauty Blackman, touch me and you shall feel the power of life, because I'm your very essence your beginning and your end, your weakness and your strength and only I can restore your strength, but you must believe in me Blackman. The Blackman said,"I believe in you creature." the creature looked at the Blackman and instructed him to touch its hand. As the two touched, a bright light filled the sky and the wind began to roar like a lion. Dust from the earth filled the creature and Blackman like a wall of unity and togetherness. Suddenly, everything was quiet, Blackman looked upon himself and he was young again, and he was stronger than ever. The creature turned away and started walking from whence it came and as the creature was walking away it began to speak. The creature said, "Remember, I'm your very essence, your power and strength and when you need me Blackman just call upon me and I shall come. Blackman looked at the creature and said."Thank you creature for restoring my strength and I do believe in you, but if I shall ever need you creature what should I call you. The creature stopped and turned toward Blackman. The creature looked at the Blackman with those star-shining eyes and said "call me your woman, your Black Woman."
In light of the fact that black America has come a long way in our pursuit for both social and economic equality, many of us fail to realize that we still have a long way to go. In acknowledgement of this issue's theme: "Black Americans in the Future," it is imperative to consider the past, and most importantly, the present.

The fight for civil rights, which climaxed on the death of the devoted civil rights leader Martin Luther King, created a strong sense of unity among black people. Whenever the situation called for support, it was given wholeheartedly. Whether it was attending meetings or taking part in a "sit-in," people came. Not only did we find unity among each other through this period, but we also managed to acknowledge, accept, and be proud of our unique identities. We came to realize that we were not an inferior race.

Today that unity and pride is almost non-existent. If Martin Luther King, Malcolm X and others who contributed to the cause were alive today, they would probably be disappointed. There is more conflict among our own people than there ever was in history.

Because the society in which we live is highly competitive and calls for those persons who are intelligent, educated, and skilled, a very prominent "I got mines, you get yours" attitude has surfaced. Those with this attitude who maintain prosperous and secure positions on the social ladder fail to acknowledge the fact that the progression of black America depends upon us all.

They fail to accept the possibility that their secure jobs may fold and that the BMW that sits in their homes may be repossessed just as rapidly as it arrived.

The point is simple. Those of us who are fortunate enough to reap the benefits of higher education should seriously contemplate the idea of helping our own, as opposed to competing with them. Indeed, we will all have to initially work for someone else before establishing our own lucrative businesses, but assisting our own communities should remain an ultimate goal. As a result, the black community will prosper because we will have taken the time to acknowledge our own potential and invest in ourselves. Therefore, the future of black Americans will be both a powerful and positive reality.
A WHITE'S PERSPECTIVE ON THE BLACK PERSPECTIVE

By Dave Durdak

In May of this year I intend to graduate from this university with my degree in hand. God willing (or should I say Crosby willing), the degree will be a Bachelors of Arts in Pan-African Studies. I am definitely not the first individual to take a degree in this field, nor will I be the last. I will however, be the first white person to take this degree from K.S.U., or so I've been told. Ten years have passed and thousands of degrees have been received by white students in various fields since Pan-African Studies has been offered here as a major. (It should be noted that the Institute for African American Affairs has been here for nineteen years, and the Department for Pan-African Studies has been in existence since 1976). And yet after all these years, come May 14, I'll be walking alone. At times I felt quite embarrassed for my race, and at other times I felt rather proud of being a "first." I guess it just ain't too cool to learn about "dem der colored folks." After all, what am I going to do with a degree in Pan-African Studies? This is a question I get all the time from students here. Inside I'm laughing hard at their question. Especially when people are pursuing degrees in such legitimate fields as Latin American Affairs, History, Psychology or Education. As far as I'm concerned I've gotten my fair share of knowledge in these fields. As for Latin American Affairs, Blacks were the first people here. History-well Black History is the root of all History (sorry folks, the history of our world didn't start when Columbus sailed the ocean blue). And as for Psychology-Yeah, I know that too because the white man has thrown every type of Psychology at the black peoples of the world. Education-I know education. There's a whole lot of people in this country who need more of it. Two-hundred million people or so, plus every Republican in Washington.

I don't know what it's like being Black, that's a gift from God. But I do know what the Black peoples of the world have been forced to endure since Christianity was reintroduced into Africa 400 years ago. And I wouldn't be telling you something you already didn't know. I don't know what it's like to be a minority either. I may be one while I'm in Oscar Richie Hall during the day, however, once I walk threw those doors, I'm back in this white world. I can give a textbook definition of discrimination, prejudice or racism, but I've never personally felt these concepts. I didn't chose Pan-African Studies as a major to be different. I chose it because I had bopped around from department to department, in a search for knowledge. Pan-African Studies is where I got that knowledge. I didn't need anyone teaching me something that I already knew. I wanted fresh knowledge, something totally foreign to me, taught from a different perspective. I already had one perspective, now I have two. I've got the best of both worlds mixing around in my head.

I'd like to thank the people associated with the department from "Doc," all the way down to the cat with the pipe(by no means in any ascending or descending order). I'd like to thank you all for fielding my questions in class. I'd like to thank you for the questions you answered out of class. I'd like to thank you for the desk top treats, and all the lights for my smokes. I'd like to thank you all for making me feel at home in my two years taking classes over here, and not treating me like some number off of the computer sheets. To the students, I'd like to say thanks because not once did anyone make any overt remarks to me, or make me feel not welcome in the department.

My years at K.S.U. have had their ups and downs like anyone else's, and I'm glad I've got but a month and a half left here to go. I shall miss the fine people that I've grown to respect within the department. However, I've got to move on and spread the word. It may not be real easy but hey, it ain't nothin' but a thang.
Educate Our Children

PEC needs:
Student Teacher
Student Leaders
Tutors
Drivers and Cook

Get Involved with a Childs Education

Volunteer for the Progressive Education Community School
by Lisa Battles

Her name is Kenyette Adrine - Robinson; Poet, author, educator. The Spectrum would like to give Kenyette a warm welcome back to her alma-mater. She has returned to teach black Writer’s Workshop, a creative writing class offered this spring by the Department of Pan - African Studies. She first taught the course in 1978, shortly after her 1st book of poetry was published, entitled, Thru Kenyette Eyes. Dr. Crosby invited her to teach the class a second time when on of his friends recommended he read Be My Shoo - gar (1987), Kenyette's 2nd book of poetry.

Although she received a bachelors degree in photojournalism in 1976, she never actively pursued the field. According to Ms. Robinson, "I don't have a 'nose for news'... I just didn't want to chase no fires."

She went on to pursue a masters degree in Administration in Higher Education in 1980, and in 1985 received a second Masters in Special Education. She now teaches at the Juvenile Detention Center in Cleveland Ohio and describes herself as a "one -woman special ed. department."

Some of her poems were performed in the play Ebony Woman, and others have been published in Essence Magazine. Right now she is editing a book for New Day press, a division of the Karamu House of Cleveland, Oh. Another one of her projects includes organizing a Cleveland chapter of the International Black Writers and Artists Association.

Her advice to those interested in writing? "Write," she said frankly. "If you're interested in writing for magazines, read magazines, if you're interested in writing poetry, read poetry etc ..." When asked how she got interested in poetry she replied, "In 68' my 1st cousin had a little boy. He was the first boy in our immediate family. I was inspired, so I wrote a poem for him."

Kenyette, says her favorite subject for poems are people, places and things.

Some of her work appears on the following page.
The Truth is Coming

The ape spot syndrome's hitting old white ladies

Melanin coloured pigmentation's seeping up from the depths of prior civilizations

Mutations of lost generations put on/out as slaves

Coming back to show the evolution of rancid yesteryears

The agespot syndrome's symbolic an omen of just how deep color is

The true hue will sooner or later come by shining thru non-melanin because that's how it's meant to be

Check yourself

The 80's Are here Repeating Past times Of pressed Hair, mini Skirts and Golden nappy Locks locking One's brain So that The mind Cannot Develop and Evolve into A total African American

Daily Ups & Downs

Ascending & descending feet puttering upon stone laid sidewalks.

Window shoppers purchasing glances of butts swaying.

Tight pants & baggy pants entice the women & hope for romance.

Night & day couples w/afternoon babies, a neapolitan affair.

Ascending & descending thru quaint cafes, discos & parking lots.

Sun shining bright; strangers aren't enchanting but friends help make things alright when crowds enclose you & you feel the need to be just another part of the everyday ascending & descending.

Don't you, Won't you, please walk my way?

The City

The city be a bitch of a place to be from

Internal strife overlooking artifacts of this' & that's

Pot heads crack heads dirty reds gorilla dreads

The city be a place of many visions

Looking on past today & beyond to-morrow's fantasies

Material dreams brought on ideas of the mortals

The city be a bitch of a place but what can one do with no resources

(find some where? W/in you . . . )

Spectrum, Spring, 1988
Randall Robinson speaking on Trans-Africa

SNAKE

Silver round his neck
Danglin' like a self affirming jewel.
Motherland's callin' him home yet...
University wants his cash
Grandma wants her
And the woman wants him.
Creativity don't come easy in the lily white Ohian snow belt.
Creativity never comes easy.
Bronze placed 'round his waist,
Mirrors tribal ancestry
Like a modern day warrior-at war with the world.
Bill collector's steady knockin',
Europeans ever mockin'

THE CREATIVE BROTHA

But
The motherland's still callin
Still callin' him home.

-Kecia E'laan Cole

FRAT SCATTIN

Pushin and shovin, playing hide and seek
Babe ollin my ass from the spankins I've received
Peepin and creepin not to get caught
Bobin and weavin, my souls been sought
Smilin and grinin while bearin the pain
Cryin and prayin, cause it aint no gain
Hustlin and bustlin for too long a time
Beggin and peddlin, done spent the last time
Smellin and ailin cause I've been tossed
Pimpin and Simpin, cause I've just crossed.

Anthony Miller

APPLICATIONS

Staff Positions
now available for 1988-89
needed are:
Assistant Editor
Photo Editor
Produccion Manager/Graphic Designer
Secretary Receptionist
Staff Writers
Historian Writer
For application forms
or additional information
contact Spectrum room 111 Ritchie Hall
phone 672-2300
IMAGINATIVE

RELAXING

ARTSY TRENDY

INVIGORATING

PROVOCATIVE

GOODTIMES

GREAT MENTALIZING

CRAFTART STUDIO
2ND FLOOR
KENT STUDENT CENTER
JUST WALK IN

FALL HOURS:
MONDAY - THURSDAY
10 A.M. - 6 P.M.
FRIDAY
10 A.M. - 5 P.M.

SUMMER HOURS:
MONDAY - FRIDAY
10 A.M. - 5 P.M.
THURSDAY
KIDZ CRAFTS

FESTIVE

CHEAP THRILLS

HIP