

State and Local

Black History Month chance to learn more about blacks

By **BOBBY FOSTER**
Reporter

Black History Month is an opportunity for all people to look at the past as a guide for studying race relations, says Kimberly James, chairwoman of the MSC Black Awareness Committee.

"Black History Month is an awareness tool, not a celebration tool," James says. "It's a chance, especially for non-blacks, to become aware of contributions made to society by blacks."

Under the theme " '86 and Beyond: A Direction for Black America," BAC will present four programs over the next three weeks for the local community in recognition of Black History Month.

Black History Month began as a week-long event but was expanded later in order to cover a broader range of people and subjects.

One reason for this is because schools across the country generally don't teach black history beyond well-known figures such as Martin Luther King and George Washington Carver, James says.

"In high school they would make an announcement at the beginning of the week over the public address system that it was Black History Month," James says. "That was about it. Maybe a quote."

Robin Burrell, a member of BAC, says she remembers the same thing.

"An announcement was about all there was in high school," she says. "But every black kid had it in the back of his mind."

Most black children learn about black history in the home, James and Burrell says. So Black History Month is seen primarily as a tool to increase the awareness of non-blacks, they say.

Both James and Burrell had parents who were determined that their children would be aware of their history and of black leaders.

"It is not a 'sit down and let me tell you about this person' type of process," James says. "It is a gradual, day-to-day process that goes on in every home."

"Many people think the extent of our heritage is Martin Luther King marching so a black lady could sit at the front of the bus. It's more than that. It's an everyday feeling."

Black History Month is a way to teach blacks and non-blacks alike about those not so famous black leaders, James says.

Among those she named were John Johnson, publisher of Ebony and Jet magazines; Miamu Baraka, a black militant poet who wrote during the civil rights movement under the name of LeRoi Jones; and Barbara Jordan, a former congresswoman from Houston.

"The history of the black culture and its leaders is so vast," James says. "We are all ignorant in many ways of what all there is to learn."

Burrell says that today when it seems stereotypes might be softening, it is good to know what racial relations were like 30, 20 or even 10 years ago.

James says that a gradual relaxation of racial tension can create a tendency to forget past differences.

"That can work for and against us," she says. "Being aware of the past can put race relations in focus today."

For example, she says, true prejudice is a lot easier to spot.

"Prejudice is out there," James says. "But today it is subtle and a lot more sophisticated."

"You have to realize that difference doesn't imply inferiority, just difference."

Dr. Charles King, director of the Crisis Center in Atlanta, said three years ago in a speech at A&M, that Black History Month is not a white event or a black event, but a people event.

King, whose lecture then was titled "Shouting Down Racism," will return to Rudder Theater Tuesday at 7 p.m. The lecture is co-sponsored by MSC Great Issues and is the first of four remaining events scheduled by Black Awareness.

The second event will be a formal dance Feb. 22 at 8 p.m. in the College Station Hilton's Bluebonnet Ballroom. Tickets are \$20 per couple and are available at the MSC Box Office.

"Regency!", a five-man acappella group representing Afro-American music and the sounds of the 1950s and 1960s, will perform in Rudder Theater on Feb. 25 at 7:30 p.m. They are co-sponsored by BAC and MSC OPAS. Tickets will be \$3 for students and \$4 for non-students. They will be available starting Monday at the MSC Box Office.

"Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope," a theatrical production featuring the Charles Gilpin Players of Prairie View A&M, will be presented March 4 at 8 p.m. in Rudder Theater. Tickets will be \$3 for students and \$4 for non-students. They will go on sale at the MSC Box Office starting Feb. 24.

In Advance Faculty Senate will meet

By **SONDRA PICKARD**
Staff Writer

The Faculty Senate will continue discussion on the core curriculum proposal at a special meeting Monday at 3:15 p.m. in 601 Rudder.

The proposal was last debated at the senate's January meeting, but because of the slow amendment process, it was decided that a designated meeting be held for continued discussion on the subject.

Under the proposal, which has been before the Senate since 1984, undergraduate students will be required to take, in addition to state and University requirements, six hours each of speech and writing skills, math-

ematical/logical reasoning, cultural heritage and social science, as well as eight hours of science.

Also, the core curriculum committee recommends students be required to complete one computer course, unless they have completed at least one course before entering the University or can demonstrate proficiency on an examination.

It also proposes students be required to take two semesters of a foreign language unless the student has had two years of foreign language in high school or can demonstrate proficiency of a second language.

A final vote on the core curriculum proposal cannot be taken unless announced at a previous meeting.


Attorney says love triangle did not exist

Associated Press

LIVINGSTON — The attorney for a former school principal accused of killing a football coach because they allegedly were rivals for the affections of a school secretary denied Thursday a love triangle was the motive for the slaying.


In opening the case for defendant Hurlley Fontenot, attorney Dick DeGuerin told a Polk County jury a love triangle involving Fontenot, Laura Nugent and football coach Billy Mac Fleming did not exist.

Instead, DeGuerin said defense witnesses saw a silver and black van in the area where Fleming last was seen. He said another witness would testify that Fleming earlier was seen with two men in a similar van.



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