

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Tuesday, February 6, 1990

Students celebrate Black History Month

By SEAN FRERKING
Of The Battalion Staff

African-American students at Texas A&M are celebrating Black History Month with a series of events that focus on the African-American's role in American society.

Black History Month, held annually in February, is four weeks of celebration recognizing the achievements of African-Americans in the United States and around the world.

Kevin Carreathers, coordinator of A&M's Multicultural Services Center, said Black History Month increases public awareness by featuring African-Americans and their history.

"The purpose of Black History Month is to educate people about the accomplishments of people of African descent," Carreathers said.

Carreathers said many African-American accomplishments frequently are overlooked.

While most African-American students on the A&M campus are aware of what Black History Month represents, Carreathers said, few others realize the significance of the celebration.

Florence Rice, faculty adviser to the MSC Black Awareness Committee, agreed with Carreathers. Rice said Black History Month celebrates and recognizes the often-ignored accomplishments of African-Americans.

Carter G. Woodson initiated Negro History Week in 1926. Woodson's dream to recognize the importance of African-Americans in U.S. history evolved into Black History Month in 1976.

The month is used by organizations around the area to promote African-American awareness. For example, the Black Awareness Committee and the Opera and Performing Arts Society are presenting The Boys Choir of Harlem on Feb. 15. The concert celebrates the best qualities of the African-American community, Rice said.



Graphic by Norzaini Mufti

She said the boys choir, founded in 1968, is internationally renowned. It is directed by Dr. Walter J. Turnbull and features an ensemble of 35 boys.

In addition to the choir, other events are planned to emphasize the history and accomplishments of African-Americans.

American history from an African-American perspective will be discussed Feb. 27 in a presentation titled "We Are the Dream."

The presentation, sponsored by the Black Awareness Committee, will feature David Smith, a spokesman from the Ford Motor Company. Smith will talk about the future of African-American students and their careers, Rice said.

Another event during Black History Month is Kappa Alpha Psi's first Greek Olympiad. The event, featuring performances by African-American fraternities and sororities from several Texas universities, will be held Saturday in Rudder Auditorium.

For more information on Black History Month programs, call Felicia James at 845-1133.

Center focuses on minorities

By SELINA GONZALEZ
Of The Battalion Staff

Education is the best weapon against discrimination, and Kevin Carreathers, Multicultural Services Center coordinator, is doing his best to arm the students, faculty and staff of Texas A&M.

The center provides activities for A&M minority students and educates other students, faculty and staff of minority students' needs and concerns.

Carreathers worked in the student services department at traditionally black colleges and at private Methodist schools before coming to A&M seven years ago.

"I wanted the opportunity to work at a large major institution and Texas A&M gave me that chance," he said.

Carreathers said his goal is to help people appreciate the concerns and needs of minority students.

"For instance, some faculty may not understand the personal importance of the extended family to some Blacks and Hispanics," he said.

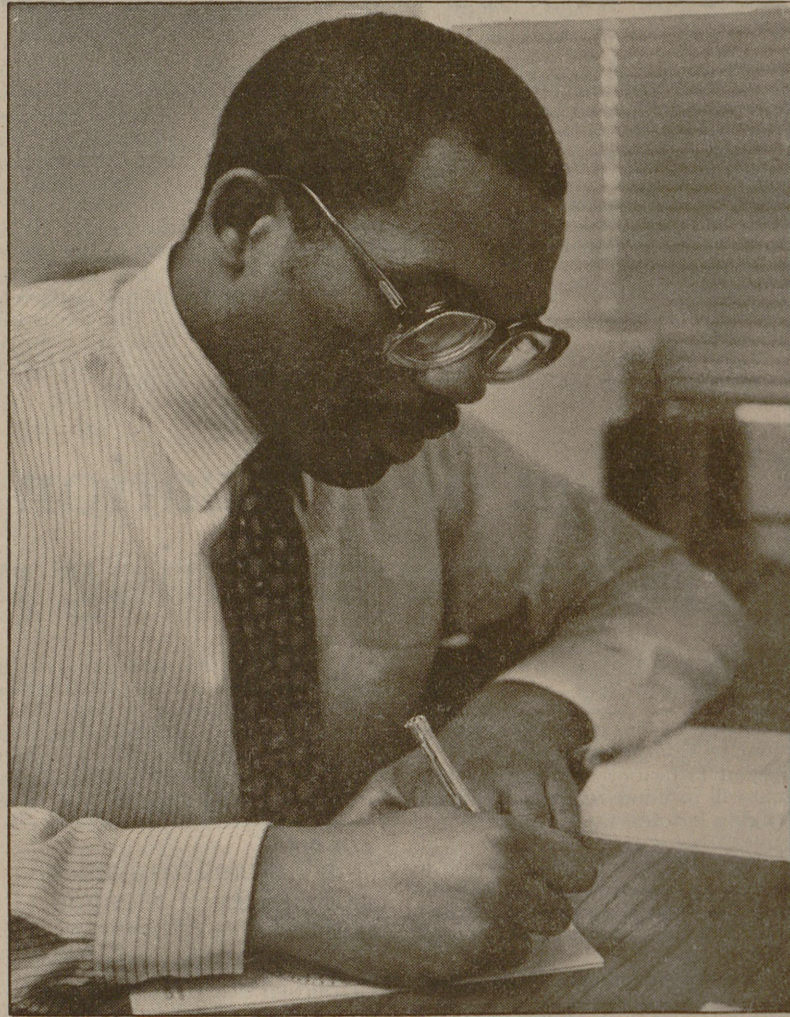
The center works to educate faculty about this importance through workshops and specific programs.

"Sometimes they (faculty) don't understand their (minorities') learning and writing styles and instead of helping them see the differences they try to deny them their freedom of expression," he said.

"Most Blacks and Hispanics are human relational-type people — they're more expressive in their writing and in their language. Sometimes a conflict can arise in a class when the expression goes beyond what is expected."

The center provides many opportunities for minority students to get involved at the University.

"We want to help develop the full potential of all students — academically, personally and socially," he said.



Kevin Carreathers

Photo by Phelan M. Ebenhack

Carreathers said he wants to encourage all students to get involved in student activities by showing them the benefits of involvement.

He said that he plans "to continue striving to make this institution the best for all students to at-

tend."

Students who have taken advantage of the center's services have found it to be helpful, he said.

"It disturbs me that there are a lot of students out there who haven't taken advantage of what

we have to offer," he said. "I have some sound programs in place to help any student."

One of the programs sponsored by the center is the University Awareness of Cultural Tolerance (U-ACT) program. U-ACT works to educate student leaders about the benefits of ethnic diversity and a multicultural environment.

Kevin Buchman, student body president and U-ACT member, said the program focuses on different concerns and needs of minority students. The program unites the Memorial Student Center, Resident Hall Association, Committee for Awareness of Mexican-American Culture, Black Awareness Committee, Student Government, fraternities and sororities.

"Racism is not a blatant problem here at Texas A&M, but wherever it exists, there's a need for education," Buchman said.

Carreathers said that although A&M has succeeded in retaining minorities, there is still work to be done.

"We have a good program here, but until we look at this issue of retention from a systematic and functional point of view, we will still have some trouble," Carreathers said.

"We brag about our retention rate as being the top in the state, but we're only talking about the freshman to the sophomore year," he said. "The true retention figure is the graduation rate."

Discrimination does occur both inside and outside of the University classrooms, Carreathers said.

"Minority students in a class could be extremely frustrated when they never get called upon after trying to be recognized by raising their hand," he said.

Students also have witnessed racial slurs in and out of the classroom, he said.

Carreathers said about 1,200 African-Americans and 2,700 Hispanics attend A&M.

Frats, sororities sponsor events for Black History Month

By DAPHNE MILLER
Of The Battalion Staff

In recognition of Black History Month, the four African-American service fraternities and sororities at Texas A&M will sponsor special events.

Eight African-American service fraternities and sororities exist in the United States. Four of those are recognized at A&M.

Alpha Phi Alpha will host an African and African-American history program at the end of the month. The program will focus on chapter alumni who contributed to the Civil Rights Movement.

Terris Burton, a senior marketing major from New Orleans and Alpha Phi Alpha president, said his fraternity hosts programs and provides services throughout the year.

The fraternity hosted the Miss Black and Gold pageant in January and took under-

privileged children to a symphony last week, he said. They provide other services such as tutoring elementary children and cleaning highways.

"Our fraternity's motto is 'First of all, servants of all, we shall transcend all,'" Burton said. "We try to instill that in the minds of our pledges."

Alpha Phi Alpha's local chapter consists of 26 members and was founded Sept. 15, 1985, by Kevin Carreathers, who is the coordinator of the Multicultural Services Center. Faculty adviser is Dr. Carlos Hodges, a surgical resident in veterinary medicine at A&M.

Famous alumni include Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., entertainer Nat King Cole and Jesse Owens, 1936 Olympic gold medalist in track.

Kappa Alpha Psi will have its annual Kappa Week starting Friday and continuing to Feb. 18. The week includes a Greek

Show on Saturday to raise money for scholarships for high school seniors. The Greek Show, similar to a talent show, will involve Greeks at A&M, Lamar University, Stephen F. Austin State University, Southwest Texas State University and the University of Texas.

Eric Lewis, president of Kappa Alpha Psi and a senior bio-engineering major from Houston, said he wants to reiterate that the Greek Show is not limited to black fraternities and sororities only. The show is for all Greeks.

"During Kappa Week, we re-emphasize brotherhood by getting together and hosting public parties," Lewis said. "Our fraternity focuses on promoting achievement."

He said they promote achievement by giving food to the needy, tutoring, cleaning highways, participating in the Brazos Valley Big Event and giving scholarships.

A&M's chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi was founded on Feb. 7, 1987. Famous alumni include Thomas Bradley, mayor of Los Angeles, Wilt Chamberlin, former L.A. Lakers player and Gayle Sayers, former Chicago Bears running back. Faculty adviser is George Worton, director of affirmative action at A&M.

Alpha Kappa Alpha, a black sorority, will have a black history program Feb. 28 and will donate a picture of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to A&M.

Demetra Andrews, president of Alpha Kappa Alpha and a senior marketing major from Houston, said sorority activities include adopting a school, visiting senior citizens' homes and participating in the "Big Hug" to raise money to build homes for runaways.

Alpha Kappa Alpha has 18 members in

its chapter at A&M and was founded April 14, 1985.

Phylcia Rashad of "The Cosby Show" is an alumna. Faculty adviser is Djuan Young, financial aid counselor.

Delta Chi Theta's focus is to engage in cultural, educational and public service activities. They participate in activities such as Big Sister Program, in which each girl "adopts" an elementary school child. They also have a ball to raise money for scholarships. Another activity is the Can Dance where the admission price to the dance is two canned food items.

President of Delta Chi Theta is Tina Harkins, a business analysis major from Danville. Faculty adviser is LaVerne Young, a coordinator in the education department. Famous alumni are actress Lena Horne, poet Nikki Giovanni and Camille Cosby, daughter of actor Bill Cosby.



MSC JORDAN INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AWARENESS PRESENTS

THE CHANGING ROLES OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN

Tuesday, February 6, 1990 7:00 p.m.
Room 308 Rudder

Speakers:

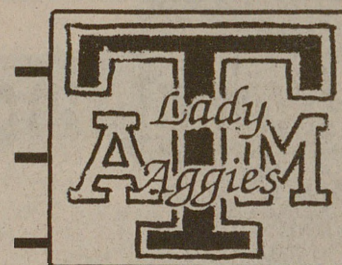
- I. Dr. Galiz Kuruoglu, Lecturer at the University of Texas Oriental Languages Department speaking about Middle East Women.
- II. Dr. Katherine Dettwyler, Professor, Department of Anthropology, Texas A&M University speaking about the Women of Mali, Africa.

INTERNATIONAL FACULTY LUNCHEON

February 6, 1990, 11:30 - 12:30
MSC Cafeteria Conference Room 110
(Near the cash registers)

Speaker:

Dr. Mike Messina, Assistant Professor, Department of Forestry Science speaking about New Zealand.



LADY AGGIE BASKETBALL

R.H.A. ATTENDANCE CHALLENGE II

Texas A&M vs. T.C.U.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH @ 7:30 P.M.
G. ROLLIE WHITE COLISEUM

THE RESIDENCE HALL THAT BRINGS THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS TO CHEER FOR THE LADY AGGIES WINS A

FREE PIZZA PARTY

COURTESY OF PIZZA HUT!

SUPPORT YOUR HALL AND THE LADY AGGIES!
(WINNERS OF CHALLENGE I — McINNIS HALL)

★ PRESIDENT MOBLEY ★
WILL BE THE GAME'S HONORARY COACH!