

African-American Forum promotes cultural awareness

Racism used to justify inhumane acts, professor says

By ANAS BEN-MUSA

The Battalion

The United States' dominant ideology remains "biologized" - where people's thinking or beliefs are a result of certain physiological factors, a Texas A&M professor of anthropology said Monday night.

Dr. Duncan Earle said, "Biologizing a race is a way of dominating," by which a person judges cultural integrity through biological history.

"Racism of this sort, claiming the difference between individuals are a result of biological qualities, has been used for many centuries," he said. "It's way of dehumanizing certain populations."

Earle described this dehumanization as "Gookification." Earle derived the term from the word "Gook," used during the Vietnam War to describe

Southeast Asians. "You call them 'Gooks', they cease to be humans, instead they are beasts," he said. "Of course, this is something that can be seen in (the history of) U.S. slavery."

"It's a way of dehumanizing certain populations."

- Dr. Duncan Earle, anthropology professor

Biologizing has no scientific basis. A person's beliefs are cultural not physiological, he said.

"It contradicts what we know as scientist's as the unity of the (human) species," Earle said. "Despite the great deal of emphasis that some people place on racial differences, biologically we are extremely similar. People who deal with other groups of a different race, in fact, are not dealing with the race but a different culture."

Earle spoke in Rudder Tower in the First African-American Forum sponsored by Griot Society. The Griot Society is a student organization promoting African and African-American culture.

History of Islam distorted by Europeans, professor says

By ANAS BEN-MUSA

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The history of Islam in Africa has been changed and distorted, a history professor said in his lecture, "Translations of Islamic scholars account of early African civilization."

Dr. Mohammad Sharif said, "There are many historical fallacies that come from the Africanist point of view which says Islam was a foreign invasion of the African continent and the European academia fallacy of Islam, that describes it as Arab cultural history."

Islamic history was believed to be a panorama of Arab dynasties by Europeans and some misguided Arabs, Sharif said.

The fallacies were initiated by the European intellectual community, he said.

"They had two reasons," Sharif said. "The European intellectual community wanted to colonize Africa and strip Africa of its wealth. In order to do that they had to intellectually create the idea that Africa was incapable of self-governance."

He said the history of Islam is where an Emir, or ruler, is checked by jurists.

"Islamic history is a series of repeated manifestations of Islamic government, where the ruler would answer to a body of responsible jurists who govern according to the book of God (the Koran) and the practices of (Prophet) Muhammad in his early community, Sharif said.

"Islam was recognized by Africans as continuation of an ancient way, which Africans have been acquainted with since God revealed his message to the first man, who was in no doubt an African."

Some of the followers of prophet Muhammad were Africans or of African descent, he said.

"From the very beginning of the emergence of Islam in the Arabian peninsula, Africa embraced Islam and Islam embraced Africa," Sharif said.

The lecture was part of the African-American Forum, sponsored by the Griot Society.

Sharif studied at the Ahliah University in Omdurman, Sudan. He is currently at Texas Southern University in Houston.



Campus News Briefs

National group elects local director president

Dennis Corrington, director of Texas A&M University's department of recreational sports, was elected president-elect of the National Intramural Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA) at its national conference in Houston.

The conference featured a number of speakers who relayed the importance of having diverse recreational and wellness programs with a vision toward the future.

Corrington, who has been director of the department for 19 years, will be responsible for 19 of the group's 48 national committees.

Live senatorial debate to air on KAMU-TV

"The Texas Debates," a live, one-hour special that will present the major senatorial candidates in a debate format, will air on KAMU-TV at 8 p.m. Thursday.

The candidates are bidding to replace Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen.

The election will be held on May 1.

Other senatorial candidates will be invited to appear in an additional forum that will air prior to the election at 3 p.m. on April 25.

A&M professor gives annual Abreu address

Dr. Robert Wells, director of Texas A&M University's Albert B. Alkek Institute of Biosciences and Technology, delivered the 1993 Abreu Memorial Lecture at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) at Galveston.

Wells, an expert on DNA structure and gene regulation, spoke on "DNA Structure, Triplet Repeats, and Human Diseases."

The Abreu is presented each year as part of the 34th Annual National Student Research Forum at UTMB.

In addition to serving as director of

the Alkek Institute, Wells holds the Robert A. Welch Foundation Chair at the Institute of Biosciences and Technology.

Wells also is a professor of biochemistry and biophysics in Texas A&M's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Summer clinic to aid students with math

Texas A&M University's Center for Science and Mathematics Education is sponsoring a clinic this summer for students with learning problems in mathematics.

Individual diagnostic testing will be

provided for a limited number of participants.

Following the diagnosis, individual instruction by trained clinicians will be provided for each student in the clinic.

The testing will be scheduled during the latter part of June, with the instructional component occurring during the month of July.

Students from third grade through early high school years whose progress in mathematics has been slower than expected are encouraged to apply.

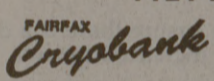
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MATHEMATICS CONTEST

Annual Freshmen and Sophomore MATHEMATICS CONTEST

THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 1993

7:30 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.

Room 317 Milner Hall

It is intended to award at least five prizes:

- \$150 for paper judged to be the best overall
- \$125 for second best
- \$100 for third best
- \$100 for best freshmen paper not among first three
- \$100 for best sophomore paper not among first three

Contest problems will cover topics up through Math 151 (Engineering Calculus I) for Freshmen, and through Math 251 (Engineering Calculus III) for Sophomore contestants.

For purposes of this contest, freshmen are first-year undergraduate students, and sophomores are second-year undergraduate students.

Hooray! Good Job! Congratulations!



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 - After your transcript audit is approved, the entire ring price is paid in cash or by check no later than April 23, 1993.
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