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MAY 2004

**May 23, 2004 National Black Health and Fitness Month**

What does the high incidence of diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart disease in the Black community have to do with who runs and gets elected to office? What does drinking at least eight glasses of water a day have to do with domestic violence, child abuse, and street crime in the Black community? Intrigued? Good, because this week we are making the connection between the choices we make about food, exercise and relationships, and our ability and willingness to stand up and take control of our lives and our community. That's the message SisterNet wants to bring to the community during National Black Health and Fitness Month. To help us with these connections is Ms. Stephanie Cook, a Registered Nurse and SisterNet Volunteer Coordinator, and Ms. Margot Williams, Director of College and Community Relations at Parkland College and Activities Coordinator for SisterNet.

**May 16, 2004 The Freedom Riders**

In 1947, the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) planned a *Journey of Reconciliation* designed to test the Supreme Court's 1946 decision in the Irene Morgan case which declared segregated seating of interstate passengers unconstitutional. An interracial group of passengers met with heavy resistance in the upper South and some were arrested. The *Journey of Reconciliation* quickly broke down. However, a decade and a half later, CORE proposed a new *Journey of Reconciliation*, dubbed the "Freedom Ride". The strategy was the same: an interracial group would board buses destined for the South. The whites would sit in the back and Blacks in the front. At rest stops, whites would enter Black-only areas and vice-versa. The first *Freedom Ride* left Washington DC on May 4, 1961. It was scheduled to arrive in New Orleans on May 17, the seventh anniversary of the Brown vs. Board decision, however they never made it. This week, we will speak with *Freedom Riders* Ben Cox, Ed Blankenheim, and Hank Thomas to reflect upon their experiences in this historic movement.

**May 9, 2004 The Girls of Franklin**

Local history came alive for a group of Franklin Middle School students. This group of Champaign girls has been working outside of the classroom to investigate stories of desegregation right here in Champaign-Urbana. They

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did more than library research. They interviewed community members who shared stories of discrimination and segregation in their schools and in this community. Then, the students took all of their hard work and produced a radio documentary. You'll have a chance to meet these girls and some of the people that they interviewed when we take you calls live on the air. Watch "The Girls of Franklin" a live Black Perspectives special.

#### **May 2, 2004 Women's Human Rights**

Some would say women are more liberated now than ever before, while others would note the increased repression of women's human rights in some Islamic countries and the increasing degradation, violence, and incarceration of Black women right here in the United States. Joining us this week to help us understand the idea of women's rights and human rights are Dr. Ayesha Imam, the Founding Director of BAOBAB for Women's Human Rights located in Nigeria; Assata Zerai, Associate Professor of Sociology and Afro American Studies at the University of Illinois.

### **APRIL 2004**

#### **April 25, 2004 The Politics of Hip Hop**

During the past two decades, Hip Hop music has not only managed to dominant the musical airwaves but it has evolved into an entire culture including music, clothing, and a political state of mind. This week we will explore the politics of Hip Hop with our guests, Dr. Fanon Che Wilkins, Assistant Professor of History and Afro-American Studies Research Program at the University of Illinois and Aisha Durham, Graduate Student in Communications at the University of Illinois.

#### **April 18, 2004 Contemporary Civil Rights Issues**

Do you feel confident that you can hold an articulate conversation with anyone on the current issues of the civil rights movement? If not, you'll want to join our guest, Professor Christopher Edley, co-founder of the Harvard Civil Rights Project.

#### **April 11, 2004 A Conversation with Juilanne Malveaux**

Described by Dr. Cornel West as "the most iconoclastic public intellectual in the country", Dr. Julianne Malveaux's contributions to the public dialogue on issues such as race, culture, gender, and economics are always provocative. This week she will share with us her insights on the war in Iraq, the "unfinished" business of Brown v Board of Education, and the relationship between race and economics.

#### **April 4, 2004 Charles Burnett**

He's been called the least well-known great American filmmaker, and even the most gifted and important Black filmmaker this country has ever had. He's won numerous film festival awards and even the MacAthur Foundation's "genius" grant. Yet, many of us may not know of this week's guest, Charles Burnett, filmmaker and storyteller extraordinaire. Tune in to find out what you might be missing.

### **MARCH 2004**

#### **March 28, 2004 Challenging the Use of Tasers**

A panel will explore community concerns regarding the proposed purchase of 25 Tasers (devices that shoot two electric darts and deliver a charge to subdue suspects) by the Champaign Police Department. The panel will include, Rev. Jerome Chambers, Liberty Temple Ministries Inc. in

Champaign; Cleveland Jefferson, activist, Champaign; Carol Ammons, family counselor, Urbana; and Linda Evans, member of the Anti-War, Anti-Racism Effort, Savoy. The program will include video segments from a recent community meeting at which Champaign Police Chief R. T. Finney spoke and video from the March 23, 2004 city council meeting where the issue was discussed.

#### **March 21, 2004 Jazz Appreciation**

Renowned jazz trumpeter, educator, producer, composer and arranger Cecil Bridgewater speaks with us about Champaign-Urbana's rich jazz history, Krannert's *Jazz Threads*, and his work with jazz greats such as Max Roach, Horace Silver, and the Thad Jones/Mel Lewis orchestra.

#### **March 14, 2004**

Due to WILL-TV's Fund Drive **Black Perspectives** will not air this week. Tune in next week for another show.

#### **March 7, 2004 Democracy in Africa**

If someone asked you what the primary issues are facing the continent of Africa, would you know what to say? Do you have a handle on American public policy as it relates to African relations and development issues in particular? What does the democracy movement in certain parts of the continent look like? Join us to discuss these issues with Alexander Gbayee, former Consul General of Liberia.

### **FEBRUARY 2004**

#### **February 29, 2004 Black Studies Movement**

Do you know the origins of the Black Studies movement and its relationship to the Black Power and Civil Rights Movements? What about its relationship with other ethnic studies programs? If you're not sure, you're in the right place because with us today on Black Perspectives is, Dr. Sundiata Cha Jua, Director of Afro Studies and Research Program.

#### **February 22, 2004 African American Media Representations**

With African Americans spending 2.3 billion dollars annually on entertainment ... we must question: What kind of images are we "buying" and what impact do these images have upon our children? This week, we will explore this issue with our guests Dr. William Patterson (left), Visiting Assistant Professor in Afro-American Studies and Research Program and Dr. Travis Dixon (right), Assistant Professor in Speech Communications.

#### **February 15, 2004 Blacks on White(ness): A Closer Look at**

**Whiteness Studies** *The Center on Democracy in a Multiracial Society* recently sponsored a symposium entitled "After Whiteness: Race and the Visual Arts". During this one day event, keynote speaker Adrian Piper asked, "Now that we know that the concept of race was developed in order to rationalize slavery in the Americas and has no legitimate use, meaning, or reference, how do we deal with the blatant inequities in wealth, status, and opportunities inherited from the fictional concept of whiteness? In particular, how do "whites" who have benefited from this fiction deal with them? On this week's show we will explore the notion of "whiteness" and "white privilege" with our guests Sundiata Cha-Jua, Director of Afro-American Studies and Research Program and David Roediger, Director of The Center on Democracy in the Multiracial Society.

#### **February 8, 2004 National African American Parent Involvement Day**

According to Joe Dulin (NAAPID coordinator), "Every parent wants their child to have a better quality of life than they themselves had. It is the American dream; and for many African Americans, this dream has not been realized as

a result of their child's failure in school. Education is the key to success and parents are educators' greatest allies." Therefore, National African American Parent Involvement Day (NAAPID) was created as a call to action for African American parents to increase their level of involvement in the educational lives of their children. This week we talk to local NAAPID organizers to learn more about this exciting program.

### **February 1, 2004 History of Black Education**

At this moment in history, 50 years after Brown vs Board of Education—in the wake of massive budget cuts in educational funding and the chaotic climate of high-stakes testing—it is important that we remember the stories of African Americans who have “beaten the odds”. On this week's show we will reflect upon some of these stories of triumph with our guests, Dr. James Anderson, Professor of Educational Policy Studies and Dr. Chris Span, Assistant Professor, also in Educational Policy Studies at the University of Illinois.

## **JANUARY 2004**

### **January 25, 2004 Contemporary Civil Rights Issues**

Do you feel confident that you can hold an articulate conversation with anyone on the current issues of the civil rights movement? If not, you'll want to join our guest, Professor Christopher Edley, co-founder of the Harvard Civil Rights Project.

## **SEPTEMBER 2003**

### **September 14, 2003 Update on Champaign Public Schools Unit 4 and Educational Equity**

Host Imani Bazzell talks with Dorland Norris, Dorland Norris, Deputy Superintendent for Achievement and Equity for the Champaign Unit 4 School District. Ms. Norris gives viewers an update on policy, procedural, and programmatic changes taking place in the district since the first agreement between the African American community and the Unit 4 school district regarding long-standing equity and achievement issues was made.

### **September 7, 2003 Affirmative Action in Education –**

Host Imani Bazzell talks with Dr. Denise Green and Dr. William Trent about the Supreme Court's decision last April that upheld race-based admissions policies at the University of Michigan's Law School. Dr. Green is an assistant professor in the Department of Educational Organization and Leadership at the University of Illinois. Dr. Trent is a professor in Educational Policy Studies at the University of Illinois.



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## **APRIL 2003**

### **April 23, 2003 Equity in Champaign Schools**

Host Gladys Hunt talks with Arthur Culver, Superintendent of Schools for Champaign Unit 4 School District, about a variety of issues.



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