

A NEWSLETTER OF THE AFRO-AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER



GRIOT

NEW STUDENT EDITION



WELCOME

Welcome back! The Afro-American Cultural Program and the Griot (pronounced Gree-oh) newsletter hope your summer was productive and you are ready to get to work. While you were away, the Afro-American Studies program received a new director; C.B.S.U. (Central Black Students Union) held a planning conference; and the Afro-American Cultural program's radio station—WBML received a new broadcast console courtesy of S.O.R.F.

All of these changes promise to make this year more interesting and challenging than ever for minority students programs.

For those of you who are new students, we would like to extend a warm welcome to this campus and

Don't Waste Your Time

hope that your stay here is as rewarding and brief as possible. By now you have been given enough resource people to last you through your four years of college and probably more. It is up to you to use those resources to your best advantage. The Cultural Program is here to assist you with activities outside of the classroom that will allow you to grow as a whole person. Activities in communications, song, dance and photography, will allow you to pursue your extra-curricular interest and obtain leadership skills as well. For further information on the Afro-American Cultural Program, see the article in this issue. Again, welcome back to all and have a great year.

NOTICE!

Students interested in expanding their writing or oral skills are welcome to express themselves by joining the Afro-American Cultural Program's GRIOT newsletter staff or the WBML RADIO staff as a Newscaster/reporter. We have a particular interest in journalism student(s) or persons who articulate and express themselves well.

There is a *vacancy* for a Dance coordinator. Please stop at the Cultural Center with adequate credentials at 708 S. Mathews-Urbana.

Also, we are actively seeking engineering students with an interest in moitoring the WBML Radio equipment as a minimum wage employee. Preferably a work-study student.

Afro-American Cultural Program

The University of Illinois is a vast academic community with an enrollment near 34,000 students. There is among its 159 major buildings an Afro-American Cultural House, specifically tailored to the life-style and needs of the minority student. "Our home away from home" is a term often used to identify it.

In the house itself, are several rooms for studying, meeting space for organization business, and some tutoring rooms as well. We have a mini-kitchen, and limited printing accommodations for minor publications, announcements, and printing of coming events. Constructed within is a "darkroom" for the photographer. It's a place for leisure or you can engage in a fast game of pool for relaxation. And there is always good music in the air.

"Live" music from our own radio station WBML—soothing the ears of listeners attending the Cultural House, as well as its responsive student audience on the perimeters of the campus.

Student Workshops

The Afro-American Cultural Program understands that academic pursuits do not fill the total needs of college students. Today's minority student also needs creative outlets for self-expression. Outlets that will assist students in reaching their full potential as a total person. To this end, the A.A.C.P. offers a variety of student coordinated

workshops highlighting extra-curricular activities. These activities allow students to pursue artistic and social growth via the communications media as well as the cultural and performing arts. In all workshops, both participants and coordinators are students. Our workshops are as follows:

Our **Communications** workshop is a two faceted entity. The first component is a student edited newsletter called GRIOT (pronounced *gree-oh*). The Griot is published five times a year and focuses on national and local issues affecting blacks on this campus. It has a readership of 1800 to include students, staff and the surrounding community. The second component is in the area of Broadcast journalism. The A.A.C.P. sponsors a radio station, WBML (Black Music Lives), which is transmitted via Cablevision to the campus residence halls and community. This fledgling station is the newest and most promising workshop of the A.A.C.P. Underneath this workshop is also housed, *Blacknotes*: a news and public affairs program which airs not only on WBML but also two other local radio stations. Future plans include expanding the station so that the entire community can pick up the signal.

Both components record and disseminate information pertinent to the Black experience on campus and around the nation from the perspective of the Black community.

Drama is a workshop which deals with Black Theatrical expression. It has a large appeal for minority students and participation is high. It provides students the opportunity to enhance self-expression through basic acting technique exercised in the material of student and professional playwrights.

The **Black Chorus** is a solid group of golden voices and instrumentalists numbering each year between 60 and 80 participants. The choir performs on and off campus locally and has traveled extensively. Their repertoire includes Black Anthems, Spirituals, Gospel, Show tunes, Contemporary Gospel and Original pieces commissioned especially for the choir. They have toured with the U of I Jazz Band, and performed with the likes of James Cleveland, Shirley Caesar, Jesse Dixon, Dannibelle, Mattie Moss Clark and numerous others.

The **Dance** workshop has a full repertoire of ethnic music to which they perform. They have taken the name OMNIMOV which means ever moving. They perform both on and off campus, with a number of between 15 and 30 participants consistently. They hold two major productions a year with mini-concerts in-between.

(Continued on back page)

Cultural Events

Reprint from La Carta, August Edition

The Illini Union Board's Cultural Events Committee consists of four divisions: Black Programs Committee, Latino Programs Committee, Copacabana, and the Cultural Performance Series. These programs are aimed at promoting the social, cultural, educational, and recreational development of the many cultural groups at the University of Illinois and in the campus community. Cultural Events projects inspire unity and pride within the cultural community as well as provide for positive exposure to individuals from differing cultural communities. These events build an appreciation for the spirit and traditions of each culture.

Through the Cultural Events Committee, students have more opportunities to learn practical managerial and leadership skills associated with the organization and production of the committee's activities. Students also develop the ability to work with other individuals toward the completion of a common goal and in doing so can establish many friendships amidst the IUB structure. Cultural Events Committees

enable students to gain experience in a positive environment which promotes exposure to and interaction with all cultural communities on campus. The Illini Union Board's philosophy is to encourage social, cultural, educational and recreational development within various committees.

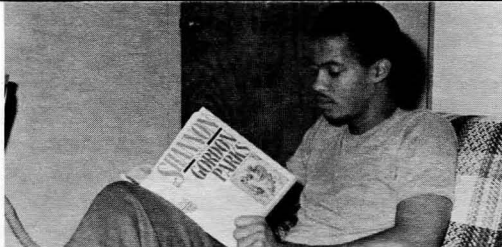
Black Programs Committee, BPC, organizes monthly activities for the Black C-U community. For example, during the 1983-1984 academic year, BPC sponsored or co-sponsored diverse activities: "For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf" (play), The Kuumba Dance Troupe, a writing contest, and assorted movies. BPC also participates in the planning and implementation of events during Black History Month.

The first BPC event will be a movie presentation "Trading Places" starring Eddie Murphy on Tuesday, August 21 at 8 p.m. in the South Lounge and Illini Room C. Alicia Cooper is the 1984-85 Black Programs Committee chairperson. If you're interested in getting involved, please contact Alicia at 333-3660 or drop by the Illini Union Program Department at 284 Illini

Union. Thank you!!!

Latino Programs Committee, LPC, organizes monthly activities for the Latino community. For example, during the 1983-84 academic year LPC has sponsored or cosponsored diverse activities: Floor Master and Non-Generic Mixers (DJ and Breakers), "Zoot Suit" (film), Fiesta Criolla (evening entertainment) and "Short Eyes" (film). LPC also participates in the planning and implementation of events during Latino Week, a major cosponsorship with other Latino organizations and university departments.

The 1984-85 IUB Cultural Events Committee Chairman is Librado Arreola and LPC Chairwoman is Lupe Corona. The first LPC event will be during National Hispanic Week on Friday, September 21, 1984 featuring Mexico Azteca and the first Copacabana general meeting will be on Sunday, September 9, 1984 in the Illini Union Room C at 2 p.m. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Librado or Lupe at 333-3660 or drop by the Illini Union Program Department at 284 Illini Union. Thank you!



Afro-American Related Courses

AFRO 161/ANTH 161				Black Folk Culture		4 hours
	00286	Lect-Disc	3-5	M W	211 Davenport Hall	Jordan
AFRO 199				Undergraduate Open Seminar		1 to 5 hours
	00288	Section E—Emphasis on the Black Experience Lect-Disc	11	M W F	159 Davenport Hall	Bowman
	00289	Section U1—1984: Orwell and Presidential Politics Lect-Disc	6:30-8:30	W	63 Allen Hall	McWorter
AFRO 253/HIST 253				Afro-American History to 1877		3 hours
	00290	Lect	12-1:30	Tu Th	300 Lincoln	Walker
AFRO 259/ENG 259				Afro-American Literature I		3 hours
	00291	Lect	F 2	M W	213 Greg Hall	Fontenot
	00292	Disc	1 2	F	302 Lincoln	
	00293	Disc	2 2	F	374 Lincoln	
	00294	Disc	3 1	F	300 Lincoln	
	00295	Disc	4 1	F	374 Lincoln	
AFRO 298				Special Topics in Afro-American Studies		3 hours
	00296	Section A—Humanistic Perspectives on the Afro-American Experience Lect-Disc	2	M W F	132 Lincoln Hall	Deck
	00297	Section B—Black Chicago and Leadership Lect-Disc	4-6	Tu	102 Lincoln Hall	McWorter
AFRO 327/POL SCI 327				Black Political Participation in the American Political Process		3 hours
	00298	Lect-Disc	1-2:30	Tu Th	315 Greg Hall	Preston
ANTH 161				Black Folk Culture		4 hours
		Same as AFRO 161				Jordan
ENG 259				Afro-American Literature I		3 hours
		Same as AFRO 259				Fontenot
ENG 280				Women Writers: Topic: Autobiography		3 hours
	03539	Lect-Disc	Q 12:30-2	Tu Th	147 English	Deck
ENG 361				Topics in English and American Literature		3 hours
	03565	Section Q Harlem Renaissance Lect-Disc	Q 12:30-2	Tu Th	232 English	Barksdale
HIST 253				Afro-American History to 1877		3 hours
		Same as AFRO 253				Walker
HIST 392				Topics in Afro-American History		3 hours
		Topic: Free Blacks in the Age of Slavery				
	04433	Lect	2-2:30	Tu Th	159 Davenport Hall	Walker
MUSIC 261				University Chorus		1 hour
	05875	Section C: Black Chorus—open to all students Prac	8-10 pm	W	Chos Rhs Krannert Center	Staff
SOC 100				Introduction to Sociology		3 hours
	07562	Section C: Emphasis on the Black Experience Lect-Disc	9-10:30	Tu Th	319 Greg Hall	McWorter
SOC 225				Racial and Cultural Minorities		3 hours
	07580	Lect-Disc	1 pm	M W F	302 Lincoln	Johnson
SPANISH 250				Spanish American Culture Through Its Literature in Translation (no knowledge of Spanish is necessary)		3 hours
	07738	Lect-Disc	10	M W F	1126 Foreign Lang Bldg.	Lewis
THEATRE 263				Theatre of the Black Experience		3 hours
	08117	Lect-Disc	10:30-12	Tu Th	160 Armory	McCauley
PE 101				Afro-American Dance Forms		
		Prac			310 Freer Gym	Brown

History, Purpose, and Goals

The Afro-American Cultural Program has been in operation since September, 1969; as a result of Black student demands. Its unique consistency has been its effectiveness in producing quality programs that are enjoyable to students, faculty and staff, and the neighboring community—free!

The purpose of the program is to develop Black trust, awareness (Political, Economical, Social) unity, and an unmistakable Black image through the idiom of Black Culture.

The Afro-American Cultural Program focus is aimed at the campus community at large and at our Black student clientel. Our Goals are as follows:

- To assist the University in obtaining valuable information about the Black experience so that the University, as well as the entire community, may be offered an objective, accurate interpretation of that experience through the performing arts, classes and seminars, and other appropriate media.

- To assist in the effort of retaining Black students once they arrive on campus by offering extra-curricular activities which encourage discipline, leadership, and positive

self-esteem via student oriented workshops.

- To assist the University community in understanding the relevance, the efficacy, and the strength of the Black experience, and provide a cultural feedback of the experience, in terms which will encourage non-blacks to understand the effectiveness of their own performance.

The Saga Continues?

by Stephen T. Birdine

A sad thing happened as the University of Illinois prepared to defend its Big Ten championship and return to the Rose Bowl. The National Collegiate Athletic Association recently imposed sanctions against the U of I for past violations.

The sanctions imposed on the football program include a two-year probation, a one-year probation on football television coverage (to be imposed in 1985), and a one-year probation on playing in a bowl game.

Those matters aside the Illini prepare to defend their Big Ten championship. Forget last year's 10-1 record, undefeated conference mark, Big Ten title, Pasadena, and the Rose Bowl. The 1984-85 campaign promises to be exciting.

The NCAA sanctions don't appear to have dampened Illini spirits. Mike White's charges will again be entertaining and exciting. Offensively, the orange and blue should have no problem moving the ball. They return quarterback Jack Trudeau, receiver David Williams, offensive lineman Rick Schulte, and running back Thomas Rooks, among others.

Defensively, adjustments must be made to counter the efforts of graduation. Hopefully, defensive stalwarts Dave Edwards and Craig Swoope will team with linebacker Dwayne Pugh and the rest of the defensive corp to form a unit that will be aggressive and opportunistic as last years' group.

This year's task is not made easier by a schedule that has the Illini playing formidable opponents Iowa, Ohio State and Michigan *all* on the road. Yet, through it all, coach White expects his team to fare well. He's pleased with the team's pre-season work ethic and expects it to pay dividends during the season.

All factors considered, the Illini picture looks bright. Memorial Stadium will be filled. A solid nucleus of veterans combines with talented newcomers, and success is anxiously anticipated. Can the Illini repeat? It won't be easy; but you bet they can!



GRIOT

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