



# Black History Month celebrates, remembers

Spotlight aims to paint positive yet truthful view of African Americans

By Laura King  
Staff Reporter

*"The celebration tends not to promote propaganda, but to counteract it by popularizing the truth. ...for what the world needs is not a history of selected races or nations but the history of the world void of national bias, race hate and religious prejudice."*

— Carter G. Woodson

One man's efforts to give African Americans a time to celebrate their history and recognize their achievements led to the creation of Black History Month in 1976.

Carter G. Woodson is the father of Black History Month, which is being observed this month.

Greg Williams, an education specialist for African-American students at UNL, said Woodson wanted to change the misrepresentation and dispel the myths about blacks and black history.

"Slavery left many people with the perception that blacks were inferior," Williams said.

People need to know about African-American struggles today and in the past, he said.

James Anyike, author of "African American Holidays," describes in the book ways to celebrate each week of Black History Month.

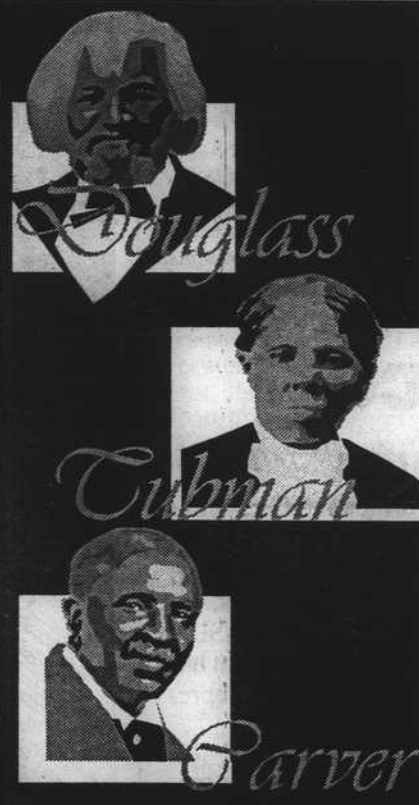
During the first week, he wrote, people should focus on the contributions of Africans to world history. Attention should be given to the fact that all races came from

## Events this month

The following events are scheduled as part of UNL's observance of Black History Month.

- Today — Students serving food at the City Mission, sponsored by the Black Law Students Association, 4:30 p.m., Law College.
- Feb. 21 — Soul Food Dinner at Selleck Hall. Free for all students living on campus.
- Feb. 22 — Black Student Government Big 8 Conference, Oklahoma City. Participants from UNL leave Feb. 23.
- Feb. 23 — Dr. Rev. M. Combs speech at the Law College, 4-8 p.m.
- Feb. 23 — "African Americans and the Great Plains" symposium begins at the Ramada Inn. Registration from 4-6 p.m. at the Ramada, 7-7:30 p.m. at the Nebraska Union. Opening session in the Ballroom, 7:30-9 p.m.
- Feb. 25 — Black History Theatre Dinner and Program at the Malone Center.
- Feb. 27 — "The Dos and Don'ts of Interviewing and Networking," at the Culture Center, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Source: UNL Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs



African ancestors, he wrote. With this tribute, respect for African heritage and commitment to the Africa's future is shown, he wrote.

During the second week of February, Anyike wrote, memorial programs should be held to remember the millions of Africans who died as a result of slavery, lynching and race riots. Children of African-American families must be told about their

ancestors who died fighting for freedom, he wrote.

During the third week, African Americans should recognize important people in African history, such as inventors, athletes, entertainers and artists.

John Harris, special assistant to James Griesen, the vice chancellor of student affairs, said Black History Month was a time to say to African Americans, "This is who

you are. These are people like you who have done something."

A Rites of Passage program is part of the last week of the month. This training, which takes youths about 16 into adulthood, may be an opportunity to pass on family, religious and cultural values, according to Anyike.

Harris said students should not rely on others or the university to educate them about African history during February or the rest of the year.

"The university should be mindful of all cultural communities and show an effort to provide resources, enhancing the achievements of all students," Harris said.

Williams said Black History Month gave African Americans a sense of identity and a sense of history and achievement.

"By seeing these African-Americans who have achieved so much, blacks can gain the self-esteem to also achieve," he said.

Both Williams and Harris said they hoped to see the time when there was no need for a Black History Month because it would be a part of all history.

Harris said he did not expect UNL to be responsive to more diversified curriculum because it was not historically an African-American institution.

"At historically Black institutions, Black History Month is not an issue," Harris said.

But the responsibility of diversifying curriculum does not belong solely to the university. Harris said anyone who thought programming that enhanced, taught and shared a that culture was significant should step up.

"It would be nice if UNL responded, but the responsibility is mine," Harris said.

# Residence hall rate hike has some students up in arms

By John Fulwider  
Staff Reporter

Some students returning to the residence halls next year aren't happy about the \$60 increase in room rates.

Ryan Olson, a freshman general studies major, is one of them.

"It's not right that people who don't even have computers have to pay for the whole thing," Olson said. "I don't even own a computer."

Some students were not aware of the increase, which would pay for improved access to HUSKERnet in the residence halls. Others did not understand what the improvement involved.

Jenn Elliott, a sophomore psychology major, said she would like to have improved access, but she couldn't use it because she also didn't have her own computer.

"I think it's kind of unnecessary," she said. "Are they going to provide me with a computer to hook up?"

Olson said he planned to move to an apartment at the end of this year. He said the rising cost of living in the residence halls, including the planned increase, was a large factor in his decision to leave the halls.

"It's cheaper to move into an apartment than it is to live in the dorms," he said.

Other students said they felt the housing

office had broken its promise to them not to raise rates for returning residents.

Douglas Zatechka, former director of housing, said the increase was justified because it was a system-wide improvement. Increases in returning students' rates are allowed, he said, when such an improvement is made.

Zatechka said new residents would shoulder most of the increased costs. Of the \$205 increase for new residents, he said, about \$90 would cover their share of the network access improvement.

Diane Peterson, a sophomore pre-physical therapy major, thought the housing office should have surveyed residents to see if they wanted improved access to HUSKERnet.

Zatechka said there wasn't enough time to do a survey of individual residents. Residence hall governments were surveyed, he said, and they wanted the improvements but at the lowest possible cost.

Peterson also said she wondered whether the \$60 increase would be just for next year or if it would continue into other years.

Zatechka said room rates would not go up after next year, barring an unforeseen circumstance.

"The plan is not to keep that jumping every year," he said.

The NU Board of Regents will vote on the new rates at their meeting on Saturday.

# ASUN ballot referendum seeks union project input

By Melanie Brandert  
Staff Reporter

When students vote in next month's ASUN election, they won't just be electing next year's executives and senators.

They also will vote on whether to support the proposed expansion of the Nebraska Union using student fees.

A referendum asking students if they would back the proposal will be placed on the ballot.

A preliminary copy of the referendum was approved by ASUN senators on Feb. 1. A final copy was completed this week.

The first part of the referendum will ask students what they would like included in the proposed expansion. A list of nine possible businesses that could be housed in the union will be provided for students to choose what services they would want.

The second and third sections ask students if they would support the

proposed expansion using a 20 percent increase in mandatory student fees each semester to pay off the bonds that would be used to complete the project.

ASUN President Andrew Loudon said the referendum was necessary because the plan needed to have student input.

"We need to get a good indication of how students feel about the union expansion," he said. "The best way to do that is through a referendum."

James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs, said he thought the referendum would play a major role in determining whether the expansion project would be approved.

"The vote of those who come to the polls in the spring elections will be an important indicator of student support, but it won't be the only gauge by which we'll judge student support for the project," he said.

Because most students would not receive the benefits of an expanded and renovated union, administrators were planning to defer a student fee increase until the project was completed, Griesen said.



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