

# Express Yourself In *Black Ink*

Black Ink invites all students to showcase their talents in a special literary edition of *Black Ink*. We will be accepting poems, fiction, graphic art and other innovative artistic forms.

*Black Ink* will accept entries until  
Monday, February 4, 1991



Look for drop boxes in the Black Cultural Center, the Black Student Movement Office, Lenoir, Chase, Morrison, Hinton James, Craige, Ehringhaus, Avery, Teague, Carmichael, the Campus Y and the *Black Ink* Office (Suite 108-Union)



## Heroes

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70s, black children can see someone who looks like them every Saturday morning. Independent filmmaker Spike Lee also became well-known for making successful films with little money. Lee's first two films *She's Gotta Have It* and *School Daze* became surprise box office hits. By the time Lee produced *Do the Right Thing* in 1989, he had established himself as a legitimate independent filmmaker. Lee's recent film, *Mo' Better Blues* starring Denzel Washington, continues to reaffirm his place in the entertainment industry. So over the past decade, there has been a rebirth of black films made by independent filmmakers. And not only have these films been produced, they have received widespread acceptance among all people in the nation. Black people can go to the theater to see movies produced by them and made for

them. The very fact that a black person can become a filmmaker is inspiring but to do it independently is both exceptional and inspiring.

Several blacks have also become the host of their own television shows. Over the past decade, African-American talk shows and variety shows have become widely-watched across the nation. After years of domination by Johnny Carson and Phil Donahue, black people began to host their own shows. Oprah Winfrey's show became nationally syndicated in 1987 after her nomination for best supporting actress in *The Color Purple*. Winfrey's show has inspired several other blacks to also venture into the talk show realm. *The Jesse Jackson Show* has also received support, which has allowed it to be broadcast in more cities than ever before. Comedian Marsha Warfield has her own half-hour variety show on NBC weekdays. Singer Natalie Cole is the host of *Big Break*, which re-

sembles a black version of *Star Search*. Comedian Byron Allen has his own weekend show that runs in syndication. Arsenio Hall became one of the first blacks to host a late-night talk show in 1989. *The Arsenio Hall Show* has quickly become one of the most widely-watched talk shows on television. These are all examples of black people who have gotten their own shows in 1980s. Black people can look at T.V. and see an African-American discussing today's issues or telling jokes. It is inspiring to see black people making inroads as hosts of nationally-televised talk shows.

Black people have always had to fight for economic, social and political equality. The struggle for black equality will never end until every African-American has the opportunity to experience the American dream. Statistics show that black people are still facing a long road ahead with poverty, high mortality rates and unemployment keeping them from achieving their goals.

However, black people should know that despite all of these obstacles, *hope is still alive*. Black people are overcoming barriers each and everyday. It seems like the blacks that have made it are few, but the fact that they fulfilled their dreams inspires other blacks to dream, too. In the White House, in the NFL and on television, hope is kept alive by people of African descent. Even though one in four black men are in prison, there are also some in Congress and in the mayor's office. African-Americans have succeeded in the midst of people always telling them that they can't succeed. It seems someone is always trying to hold us back. People probably told Douglas Wilder that he'd never become the nation's first black governor, but he did. No one knows how many other Douglas Wilders are in the world. The achievements of modern-day black heroes should inspire all African-Americans to keep hope alive in order to win the struggle for total equality.