START YOUR QUEST FOR THE PULITZER PRIZE

JOIN THE STAFF OF THE VOICE

PROGRESS A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

A History Of Black Scientists-Inventors Contributions To American Technology

Norbert Rillieux was awarded a patent for his "Evaporating Pan" in 1846 which revolutionized the sugar industry. The son of a slave mother and master of a sugar cane plantation, he was born in New Orleans, Louisiana in 1806. Rillieux was educated in France, majoring in engineering at L'Ecole Central in Paris. I 1830, after graduating, he became - at age 24 - the school's youngest instructor.

Upon his return to New Orleans in 1943, Rillieux noticed that methods for refining sugar from sugar cane and sugar beets were still crude, back-breaking and dangerous. At that time sugar was produced by a difficult process called "Jamaica Train." Gangs of slaves would pass the sugar cane from one container to another with long ladles. The juice thickened during the process and was crystalized in the last pan, where lime was added to surface impurities.

Rillieux devised what he called the "multiple effect vacuum pan evaporator." He used several enclosed vacuum pans connected by the pipes that led juice and steam from one container to the next. The partial vacuum also would save fuel because the juice would boil at a lower temperature. After several unsuccessful attempts to build a fully operational evaporator, Rillieux finally constructed an evaporator acceptable to the U.S. Patent Office. The Rillieux Evaporator Pan was soon in great demand and in use on plantations in Louisiana and the West Indies, where it increased sugar production while greatly reducing the sugar industry's operating costs.

Norbert Rillieux

(1806-1894)

Two Black Universities To Help Develop Solar Cells

Howard University and North Carolina A & T State will join Brown University, Cornell University and Rockwell International in an effort to find new techniques for developing gallium-arsenide thin films to be used to make photovoltaic solar cells.

The Department of Energy has awarded a one-year contract for $999,870 to Rockwell International to direct a program aimed at developing new crystal growth techniques, performing materials research, and developing processing techniques.

The overall goal of the program, which will be carried out by Rockwell's Science Center and four university subcontractors, will be to develop thin film solar cells that have a conversion kilowatt. Current laboratory thin film gallium arsenide cells have a conversion efficiency of approximately 6 percent.

The project permits significant involvement of minority universities in DOE's photovoltaic research program. Besides directing the laboratory work at Howard and North Carolina A & T, Rockwell personnel, with the aid of faculty from Cornell and Brown, will also provide lectures and specialized instruction in solar cell technology at both schools. The program is expected to stimulate expanded photovoltaics research capabilities at the two universities and will help faculty and students gain additional expertise in photovoltaic technology. The project is funded through DOE's Solar Technology Program.

DEAR EDITOR:

MY NAME IS _____

AND I AM INTERESTED IN JOINING

THE STAFF OF THE VOICE. MY

INTERESTS ARE _____

AND _____

MY LOCAL ADDRESS IS:

_____

(Please bring by the office of THE VOICE, located in the Rudolph Jones Student Center)

ROTC CORNER

Allen R. Chavis, "Class of 80," distinguished himself at Air Force ROTC Summer Camp by achieving a superior rating from his Field Training Officer. Cadet Chavis was rated best in his flight for ability to command and drill on the parade grounds. In addition, Allen placed first in the standing broad jump during the camp Field Day competition. He earned a Marksmanship award for firing 94 out of 100 hits with the .38 calibre pistol.

Allen went to camp at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California. He reported that he got homesick initially, but the hard work and physical training took over his mind and he soon got over his misery. He feels the experience was well worth the energies expended and he's glad he went. While at Camp, Allen performed in several functional positions, including Flight Commander. As commander he was responsible for getting them to and from appointments. He also acted as counsellor and instructor. He was rated as outstandingly effective in both functions. Look for Allen on campus this fall. He will be sporting the Air Force Blue.