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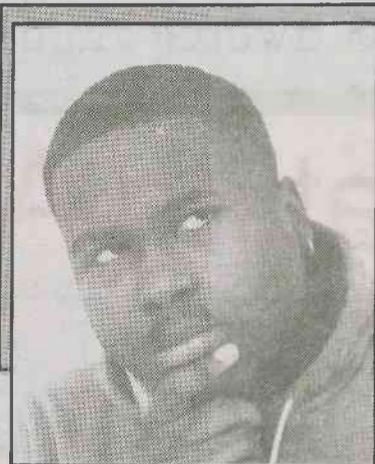
Talk of ECSU:

Do you agree with President-elect Clinton's plan to end the ban against gays in the Armed Services?



Kelsha Bennet, Freshman

"No. Because that would put an imposition on heterosexuals in the military."



**Steve Cooke, Junior
Columbia, N.C.**

"I feel that if a person's personal life does not affect the way that person performs his or her duties they should not be banned by the military."

Sandra Lassiter, Junior

"I feel the ban on homosexuals in the service should be done away with. If you are doing your job the way you should it shouldn't matter whether you are homosexual or heterosexual."



Valerie "Cap" Bouldin, Freshman

"Yes, because in America you have the freedom to be whatever you would like to be. Therefore the military should honor the freedom granted by our Constitution and honor individualism."



GUEST COLUMN

Celebrate African heritage all year long instead of making it a one-night show

By Ursula McMillion

Culture is a hard concept for some to be truthful about. Certain words may exit their mouths, but as the old saying goes, "Action speaks louder than words." Assimilation speaks loudest because it is not natural.

After my recent attendance of the Coronation of Miss ECSU, my gut wrenched with despair, confusion, and anger. Seeing the essence of my culture being appreciated only as a one-night theatrical performance left me knowing more than ever that I've got work to do.

The Afro-centered Americans were there in traditional garb, or shall I say in as much traditional garb as their political positions allowed.

Our illustrious chancellor "enhanced" (Westernized) his apparel with cowboy boots and negated traditional head dress, acknowledging the Euro-centric hats-off indoors rule.

Some of the campus queens and kings just couldn't grasp the idea of wearing ancestral garb and thus draped, (or shall I say dangled?) kente cloth here and there to "assimilate" with the theme.

Some would argue that they had trouble locating African dress but as with anything you love, you will find a way to

ensure its presence and longevity.

I wore a kente kufi to crown my Afro-centered head. (Please note the spelling, a derivative of the spelling of Africa. Tell the Afro-Americans that an "afro" is a hairstyle.) I wore a European black dress because I had lent my traditional garb to a campus queen, in light of her willingness to embrace her culture in its entirety.

Cultural awareness on the campus of ECSU has blossomed since my arrival in 1988. However, cultural apathy among our ECSU Alkebulonian community is non extinct. (Alkebulon is the original name of Africa.)

Students are parading around in T-shirts with the messages of our slain leaders, and being bombarded with political information that does not include their agenda. They are sporting the commercialized "X" without being aware of the philosophies of El Hajj Malik El Shabazz, swinging dreadlocks and brains as mere fads. But how many have really joined the sisterhood and fraternal order for a stronger nation?

Why put on the make-up and garb if you're not going to take action?

Getting all dressed up in African attire and remaining in the same situation is not progressive. What is everyone waiting for—another Marcus, Malcom, or Mar-

tin? When is everyone going to get angry?

We have capable minds, hands, and motives. Sister Souljah, Dr. Na'im Akbar, Dr. Molefi Asante, Dr. Asa G. Hilliard, Dr. Yosef ben Jocannan and many others have produced and are producing the research. Now is the time to act, and when I say act, I don't mean one-night shows of the traditions of our ancestors, but 365 days of action per year toward the emergence of Pan-African community.

The Western Civilization, especially A-murder-ica, has taught us to focus on self. We have lost our communal spirit, our cooperative economics, and our faith in ourselves. We deem it okay to celebrate our ancestry on occasion, but we fail to make it a part of our daily lives.

We are constantly denouncing ourselves and trying to become like the ice man.

Look at icon, Michael Jackson. Do you want your children to denounce their facial features and the color of their skin to be happy? Society made Michael unhappy by sending subliminal messages about beauty and "the way we have to be to be in order to be accepted." Society is sending the same messages to your children.

Look at our situation. Look at the envi-

ronment. Look at your soul.

It is imperative that we face reality and begin to mobilize the masses for social, political and most of all economic change.

When an older sister I once thought was politically correct told me she thought that I was pretty when my hair was chemically straight but that I was no longer pretty because of my traditional braids, I felt as if I was listening to someone scratch the blackboard.

Burning my scalp to look like the Europeans is no longer on my agenda.

I just want a majority of brothers and sisters to get on one accord. Keep your culture alive. Don't be told that you are a Democrat or Republican. Study the philosophies and teachings of Black nationalist Malcom X. Celebrate Dr. Maulana Karenga's African Harvest Holidays. Kwaanza. Digest some serious hip hop. Demand that ECSU mandate a course on The Alkebulonian experience in A-murder-ica. Join CBAC. Shake your locks without inhibition, knowing that your culture is more than a night out.

It's time for change. It's time for a REVOLUTION.

In the words of Bob Marley:
"Emancipate yourselves from mental slavery. No one but ourselves can free our minds...."