

Black Emphasis Week highlights - Feb. 12 - 15

Calendar of events

By Anne White

Black Emphasis Week, a Meredith tradition since the early 1970's, will be held February 12 - February 15.

Dr. Sandra Thomas, Vice-President for Student Development, sums up the purpose of Black Emphasis Week as follows: "Black Emphasis Week is designed for all members of the Meredith College community, particularly the non-black students and faculty, who wish to learn more about black culture and history. It is also a time for us to focus upon the importance of our minority student population on campus, for we feel that our black and other minority students are an important dimension of the Meredith College community. We both value their presence and appreciate their leadership and contributions."

The first Black Emphasis Week was organized by Black Voices in Unity, a chartered organization of black Meredith students which, in 1982, officially became the Association for Black Awareness (ABA). All black students at Meredith are automatically members of ABA. This year's officers are Ivy Murrain, President, and Tamani Anderson, Secretary-Treasurer. Dr. Brent Pitts, a French professor at Meredith, is this year's advisor. Meetings are held regularly; though not mandatory, there is usually 100 percent participation.

ABA's purpose is to promote the Meredith community's learning and awareness of black culture and history; Black Emphasis Week spotlights this purpose. In charge of this year's Black Emphasis Week are co-chairs Tanessa Gradford and Audrey McQueen, along with Rhoda Sowers, Director of Student Activities.

Below is a calendar of events for Black Emphasis Week 1984.

Sunday, February 12

7:30 P.M. and 10:00 P.M., Cate Auditorium: The movie "Ragtime" will be shown. Though chosen as one of the College Center Association's regular line-up of films, "Ragtime" was scheduled specifically for Black Emphasis Week. *Films Inc. 1983 Movie Catalog* describes "Ragtime" as follows: "...a kaleidoscope of the people, passions, times and crimes at the turn of the Century." Admission is 99 cents at the door; the public is invited.

Monday, February 13

10:00 A.M., Jones Auditorium: A special convocation will be held in recognition of Black Emphasis Week. Professor Sonia Sanchez, a black poetess, editor and playwright, will speak on "The Role of Black Literature in the History of the Black Society." (Please see the article on Professor Sanchez, page 6).

11:30 A.M., President's Dining Room: Professor Sanchez will join faculty, staff, and students for an informal luncheon and conversation before she addresses a topic at 12:00 noon. A buffet will be available for which a fee will be charged at the door, or lunch may be purchased in Belk Dining Hall and brought downstairs. Everyone who plans to attend is asked to make reservations through the Office of Student Development (ext. 350) so that seating arrangements can be made.

Tuesday, February 14

7:30 P.M., Cate Auditorium: "The Discarded People," a poignant film about the apartheid system's effect on black Africans, will be shown. Admission is free; the public is invited.

Wednesday, February 15

10:00 A.M., Jones Chapel: A special worship service will be held in recognition of Black Emphasis Week. The message will be given by Dr. Thomas Grissom, black minister of Salem United Methodist Church in Harlem (please see the article on Dr. Grissom, page 7). Special music will be provided by the Shaw University Gospel Choir. A reception will follow the service.

7:30 P.M., Rehearsal Hall, Jones Auditorium (downstairs): Myrna and Friends Dance, a Durham-based dance troupe, will perform interpretive dances combining modern, jazz, ballet, and Afro-American techniques, in a concert designed specifically for Black Emphasis Week. (Please see the article on Myrna and Friends Dance, page 6). Admission is free; the public is invited.

The success of Black Emphasis Week depends on the participation of students, faculty, and staff. All ABA members are especially encouraged to attend each event and sit together in front to be recognized. Let's all join together in the spirit of this special week to make Black Emphasis Week 1984 the best ever!

Professor Sonia Sanchez

Our visiting professor for Black Emphasis Week 1984 will be Professor Sonia Sanchez. Below is a reprint of a biographical sketch of Professor Sanchez from Lordly & Dame, Inc.

"Nationally and internationally known to millions as Sister Sonia Sanchez, the black woman poetess, editor and playwright, Sister Sanchez rose to prominence in the 60's as a strong voice in the wilderness of North America, calling for its black man's and black woman's return to Black consciousness.

"A graduate of Hunter College in 1955, the Alabama born sister went on to open up the frontier of Black Studies at San Francisco State College (1967), where she helped engineer the first Black Studies courses in this country. She has taught at the University of Pittsburgh, Rutgers University and City College. She conducted the first courses on Black English and the Black Woman and introduced them as fields worthy of scholastic endeavor.

"In 1971, Sister Sanchez

went on to teach a course on the Black Woman at City College and in 1972 taught courses in Black Literature and Creative Writing at Manhattan Community College and Amherst College. In 1972 she received an honorary doctorate degree in the Humanities from Wilberforce College in Ohio. She is presently an Associate Professor at Amherst College."

"Sister Sanchez has many of her works published and distributed throughout 75 anthologies all over the country. These works have also been translated into Spanish, French, Italian, German and the Scandinavian languages."

"Her articles and writings have appeared in the TRANS-ATLANTIC REVIEW, THE MASS. REVIEW, PRESENCE AFRICAINE, THE AMSTERDAM NEWS, N.Y. TIMES, MUHAMMAD SPEAKS, etc."

"One of the first Black woman playwrights widely recognized, Sister Sanchez' play, SISTER SONJI, gained international recognition and was

performed by the Joseph Papp Shakespeare Theatre in New York. Her first record of poetry was produced by Folkways and is entitled A SUN FOR ALL SEASONS."

"During the past four years Sister Sanchez has read her poetry and lectured widely in over 200 colleges in the United States and the Caribbean, on the subject of the "Coming of Age of Black Studies", "The History and Role of Black Women in America," and "The Role of Black Literature in the History of the Black Man."

Professor Sanchez will speak on "The Role of Black Literature in the History of the Black Society" at the February 13 convocation at 10:00 A.M. in Jones Auditorium. Also on February 13, she will address a topic during a special luncheon at 12:00 noon in the President's Dining Room. Students, faculty and staff are invited to both events. Don't miss this rare opportunity to hear and meet Professor Sanchez.

Myrna and Friends Dance

Myrna and Friends Dance, a Durham-based dance troupe, will perform in a concert of interpretive dances for Black Emphasis Week 1984. "Myrna" is Myrna Munchus-Bullock, a black Meredith senior majoring in dance and religion. She teaches jazz and Afro-American dance, has performed extensively across the U.S. and

abroad, and has won many dance scholarships, most recently in summer of 1982 with the American Dance Festival. Joining Myrna in performing for Black Emphasis Week will be five members of her troupe along with two other dancers from Greensboro. Performing for Black Emphasis Week has become a tradition for Myrna,

and she and her troupe are looking forward to the concert.

Everyone is invited to the concert, which will be February 15 at 8:00 in the Rehearsal Hall of Jones Auditorium. Admission is free. This is Myrna's final performance at Meredith before she graduates. Come be a part of this special evening.



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Good
Luck
to
all
candidates!

SPRING
FLING



MEREDITH ANGELS

'SKY'S THE LIMIT'

APRIL 29, 1984

FROM 1:00 TO 6:00

WANTED:

People to help on Tuesday nights with TWIG layout. Pay reasonable. For more info, call Linda at 828-2079 or Amy at 828-4360.