

# Creator of Kwanzaa addresses slavery, racism, civil rights

By Howard Thompson  
Staff Writer

"Come on down to the front," urged Maulana Karenga to a crowd of 100 scattered around the Union auditorium. "Let's have a nice talk."

Karenga, professor and chairman of Black Studies at California State University at Long Beach, spoke Thursday night about African legacy and history.

Noted as the creator of the black holiday Kwanzaa, Karenga also serves as executive director of the Institute of Pan-African Studies and has lectured on black life and history on many U.S. college campuses as well as abroad. He has written several books, including "An Introduction to Black Studies," which is used as the text for the African and Afro-American studies 60 course.

The lecture Thursday, sponsored by the Sonja H. Stone Black Cultural Center and Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, was titled "Meaning and Mission in African History: Culture, Struggle and Achievement."

After a short introduction by Arnie Epps, president of the Black Student Movement, the microphone was turned over to Karenga, who decided he did not need it. He then launched into his dynamic and structured monologue, periodically pausing to ask for response from the audience.

"Everyone must ask themselves three questions," he began. "Who am I? Am I really who I am? And am I all I ought to be?" The first enables one to accept a

position in the forward flow of history, he explained. The second is a question of authenticity and the final of moral and social obligation.

Within this framework, Karenga proceeded to outline major phases and accomplishments in black history. He quoted freely from Marcus Garvey, Malcolm X, Fredrick Douglass, Harriet Tubman and other black historical figures to support his premises of African achievement, community and destiny.

The first period of black history he covered was the classical period, specifically the Nile Valley civilization of Egypt. He singled out Egypt because of its antiquity, authenticity and availability of texts.

Egyptian civilization, Karenga said, embodied the scientific and aesthetic genius, social justice and ethical backbone of African culture.

"Egypt is the only country in history that has had to defend its geography," Karenga added. "European history has taken Africa from Egypt, Egypt from Africa and the Africans out of history." This historical falsification, he said, was due to one aspect of racism. Karenga defined racism in several different ways. "Racism is the act of taking an attitude and turning it into policy," he said. He also identified it as "denial, deformation and domination of history" and "taking white history and equating it with human history."

The second phase of black history Karenga addressed was the holocaust of enslavement. "Slavery is an onto-



Maulana Karenga speaks Thursday night in the Student Union auditorium. DTH/Ion Atkeson

"Europeans lifted Africans out of history and made a footnote in theirs."

He also said the holocaust gave evidence to African durability and adaptability.

The third phase was the reaffirmation of the '60s, the "paradigm of human liberation," Karenga said. "The '60s were a turning point that introduced freedom that Washington and Jefferson could not imagine."

The liberation and organization of the period, he said, was a modern expression of knowledge for service, resulting in humanity being cultivated instead of denied. "Affirmative action is not quotas but a social correction for hundreds of years."

He finished with a call for continued struggle and liberation. "The battle is everywhere: schools, churches and in the home," he told the audience. "We need each other like we need the next breath."

Afterward, in a short question-and-answer session and reception in the BCC, Karenga fielded questions about

racism, curriculum, stereotypes and Clarence Thomas.

He said he felt images created by the Thomas hearings, rap music and movies such as "Boyz n the Hood" perpetuated the view of blacks as primarily sexual and pleasure-driven animals. He also touched on negative images transmitted in the television series "Star Trek." "Why are the two blacks deformed?" Karenga asked.

He also talked about the need for multicultural curriculum. "Eurocentric history portrays Africans as religiously, biologically and culturally inferior to Europeans."

"The only reason Africa is underdeveloped is because its humanity and resources were used to make Europe overdeveloped," he added.

Some in the audience mentioned they felt Karenga's methods encouraged division, a charge he brushed off. "I teach culture, not hostility," Karenga responded. "The source of conflict is not diversity."

## Hearings

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"Only 36 children in the day care are children of UNC students," committee member Andrew Cohen said. "Congress is not supposed to appropriate funds which will benefit children of non-students. We should localize funds only to children of UNC students."

Tyndall Harris, Victory Village treasurer, said the program budget reduction would hurt the center.

"We only asked for 40 percent of the day care program budget," Harris said. "We made reductions so funds could be adequately appropriated to children of UNC students only."

## Phoenix

The committee voted 4-3 with two abstentions to reduce the Phoenix's budget from \$7,454.92 to \$5,000.

The committee said the Phoenix could generate more money on its own because a recent merger between advertising staffs of the Daily Tar Heel and the weekly student newspaper eliminated advertising competition.

But Kevin Schwartz, DTH general manager, said the merger was a joint operating agreement, not an official corporate merger.

"It's a relatively informal operating agreement that merges our business and advertising departments so we're not

out there fighting against each other, duplicating the exact same business procedure that each of us uses," Schwartz said.

## Carolina Gay and Lesbian Association

The committee voted to recommend that congress give the Carolina Gay and Lesbian Association the full \$4,097 requested.

Matthew Stewart, a CGLA supporter, said the committee questioned how the group would use the funds and acted fairly based on the responses. The committee does not make the final decision, though, and the CGLA expects a fight this weekend, he said.

"I think that the Finance Committee made a very reasonable decision," he said. "I think they went about this the right way, and I can only hope that congress will be as civilized. Unfortunately, I'm afraid that they won't be. We just have to be ready."

## Toronto Exchange

Finance Committee members voted to cut all \$2,100 requested for the Toronto Exchange program because members did not think the group involved enough students.

Richard Patten, one of the program's coordinators, said he did not think the group received enough congressional support. "They ignored everything we said, and it seemed like they had their minds made up before we got in there."

## Sangam

Sangam, the Indian student organization, received a \$7,785 reduction in its budget request.

One reason for the reduction was the committee's assertion that congressional funding of social events would be unconstitutional. Sangam's social events include Culture Night, a welcome dinner for freshmen and an international conference.

Rep. Jennifer Lloyd, Dist 27, attacked the constitutionality of student government funding of social events.

"There is no question about the value of these programs. But is it appropriate for congress to fund such a program?"

Sudevi Navalkar, Sangam president, said she wasn't surprised by the decision to reduce funding. "But Sangam is trying to become self-sufficient, and we do try to use the money we generate and pump it back into our expenses."

# Celebrate safely: Condom week promotes awareness

By Sonja Post  
Staff Writer

Raised eyebrows and tiny chuckles were common fare when students heard about National Condom Week, or better yet, when they received a condomgram on Valentine's Day.

Volunteers from the Health Education Division of Student Health Service and Carolina AIDS Resource Ensemble will be selling T-shirts, giving away condoms and sponsoring a dating game this week to promote student awareness of condoms.

Condom awareness began Feb. 6 and Feb. 7 in the Pit. Contraceptive Health Education Counselors from Student Health and volunteers from CARE asked students to send condoms to friends or lovers on Valentine's Day.

Students were surprised and humored by condomgrams.

"I had no idea this was going on," commented Ibez Bandukwala, a junior from Raleigh. "That's a very innovative way to get a necessary message across. It's not irresponsible, since there's an educational pamphlet included."

"They're free," said Raquel Bushnell, a senior from Gastonia. "I can think of a zillion other things I can buy."

"Humor is part of it," said Paula Hall, a junior from King and a CHEC counselor. "It's like a big joke — students stop and want to know what it's about. I don't care if people laugh, as long as it's bringing awareness."

Counselors estimated that about 100 people came by to send condomgrams, and women outnumbered men four to one.

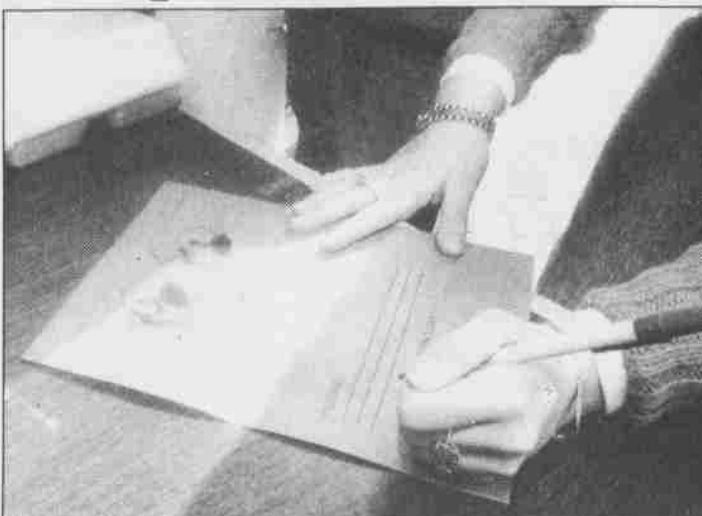
If receiving a condom on Valentine's Day, with or without the roses, didn't raise student awareness, then perhaps the Sexual Knowledge — Mixer of the Millennium — will. The event, in the format of the dating game, will pit volunteers from student organizations against each other at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Union Cabaret.

"We want to educate students about the different options they can exercise in leading a healthy lifestyle," said DeVetta Holman, assistant director at the Health Education Division of Student Health Service.

"The week will elevate student's knowledge about unintended pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS," Holman said. "But it's not a one-shot deal. It is incumbent on us to keep students educationally aware all year."

CHEC counselors are available three to four days a week all year to host programs in the residence halls. The programs include information on AIDS, STDs, human sexuality and relationships.

Awareness is encouraged not only on campus, but also when students leave. Any student who participates in Condom Week by sending a condomgram or attending the dating game will receive a redeemable coupon to submit at Stu-



Condomgram sales in the Pit kick off National Condom Week. DTH/Grant Halverson

dent Health for a free Spring Break survival kit. Condoms are also available at reduced cost in Student Health's Pharmacy.

Condom Week was started in 1978 by students at the University of California at Berkeley. They intentionally planned the week around Valentine's Day to increase general awareness of the week. Now 350 colleges and universities participate each year. Their thrust is to educate students about AIDS and STDs.

Duke University and N.C. State University are sponsoring programs throughout the week as well. Lisa Barber, a health educator at Duke's Student Health, said Peer Information Service for Counseling and Education on Sexuality, a student organization, sold condoms and a kiss for \$1. The package, delivered on Valentine's Day, included a condom, a safer sex and STD brochure, coupons for student health and a Hershey's kiss.

Linda Attarian, a health educator at N.C. State University, said they were sponsoring a program called Healthy Relationships Week. It includes safer sex stations, a condom creation contest co-sponsored by Alpha Omega Epsilon sorority and a party on Wednesday night.

Although you may not have planned for a condom to creep into your Valentine's Day, if received, perhaps it was a healthy dose of reality along with the romance.

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