

12-1990

Ebony Voice December 1990

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Respectfully, Crystal Grace

THE EBONY VOICE

The African American Students' League
of La Salle University

Volume 3, Number 2

December, 1990

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List of Activities

Friday, November 30, 1990

Movie Night

George's Lounge 7 PM

Tuesday, December 4, 1990

Black History Month Meeting

Union 308

Tuesday, December 11, 1990

General Meeting

Olney 227 12:30

Tuesday, December 18, 1990

Black History Month Meeting

Union 308 2:30

Coming soon....

Dr. King's Holiday...Celebrate

with us!!

Words to The Wise

Seasons Greetings from the African American Students League! Many of us will be celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah or Kwanza over the next few weeks. Time for a Trivia Question: Where did the celebration Kwanza begin? Did you say the United States? You're right. Kwanza is an African American tradition that is related to the spirit and rituals of the harvest festival. Question #2: What does Kwanza mean? Give Yourself another point if you said "The first fruit". Question #3: When does Kwanza begin? The day after Christmas of course! Kwanza is a seven day Spiritual Fest that begins on December 26th.

I encourage the students over break to celebrate Kwanza. You do not have to go through all of the rituals, but every day think about the seven principles of blackness: unity, self-determination, collective work & responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith. See where these ideas fit into your life.

Happy Holidays !!!

This and That

Contest!! The A.A.S.L. is looking for essays to be in Ebony Voice January concerning why we should/should not have Dr. King's Birthday off. Grand Prize is \$50. All essays are due by 12-14-90.

NOTE OF THANKS...to Thomasena Kweku and Mrs. Kweku for Open House Art Exhibit And delicious food.

Are you on our mailing list?? If not, drop your name, address & phone no. to Union 305 or Box 723 Don't forget your zip code!!

Not going to class on Dr. King's Holiday?? Celebrate with us the entire day!!

African American Students League members have a discount to the Afro-American Historical and Cultural Museum.

Did you do poorly on our pop quiz on Kwanza?? Start studying for the Black History Trivia Night in February!!!

The A.A.S.L. would love to hear your ideas for Black History Month and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday Celebration. Contact Crystal Grace at Box 723.

Would you like to plan our semi-formal? Contact Mary Thomas for more information.

All submissions to the Ebony Voice must be sent to Union 305 or Campus Mail Box 723.

LIFT EVERY VOICE

HOW POEMS ARE MADE/A DISCREDITED VIEW

by Alice Walker

Letting go
in order to hold on
I gradually understand
how poems are made.

There is a place the fear must go.
There is a place the choice must go.
There is a place the loss must go.
The leftover love.
The love that spills out
of the too full cup
and runs and hides
its too full self
in shame.

I gradually comprehend
how poems are made.
To the upbeat flight of memories.
The flagged beats of the running heart.

I understand how poems are made.
They are the tears
that season the smile.
The stiff necked laughter
that crowds the throat.
The leftover love.

FIRST, THEY SAID

by Alice Walker

First, they said that we were savages.
But we knew how well we had treated them
and knew we were not savages.

Then, they said we were immoral.
But we knew minimal clothing
did not equal immoral.

Next, they said that our race was inferior.
But we knew our mothers
and we knew that our race
was not inferior.

After that, they said we were
a backward people.
But we knew our fathers
and we knew we were not backward.

So then they said we were
obstructing Progress.
But we knew the rhythm of our days
and knew that we were not obstructing Progress

Eventually, they said the truth is that you eat
too much and your villages take up too much
of the land. But we knew we and our children
were starving and our villages burned
to the ground. So we knew we were not eating
too much or taking up too much of the land.

They said: You are right. It is not your savagery
or your immorality or your racial inferiority or
your people's backwardness or your obstructing of
Progress or your appetite or your infestation of the land
that is at fault. No. What is at fault
is your existence itself.

Here is money, they said. Raise an army
among your people and exterminate
yourselves.

In our inferior backwardness
we took the money. Raised an army
among our people.
And now, the people protected, we wait
for the next insulting words
coming out of that mouth.

BLACK PROFILE

Ida B. Wells-Barnett (1862-1931)

Editor, Civil Rights leader, Woman's rights Advocate.
She co- founded the NAACP and began the anti-lynching
crusade in America.

Zora Neale Hurston (1901?-1960)

Anthropologist and writer pioneered the study of Black
Folk Culture and was one of the most widely published
women writers in her era.

James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938)

Civil rights leader, poet, diplomat. He was the first Black
Secretary of the NAACP and the co-author of LIFT EVERY
VOICE AND SING.

A.A.S.L. OFFICERS 90-91

Mary Thomas.....President
Tracey Enoch.....Vice-President
Gina Brown.....Secretary
Mariane Ridgely.....Chairperson,
Public Relations
Crystal Grace.....Chairperson,
Black History Month
Ms. Millicent Carvahlo.....Sponsor

The A.A.S.L. wishes you luck on

your finals and a great Holiday
Season.