



MSS Flash

Volume 6, Issue 4

February 2006

Multicultural Student Services

New Liberian President Takes Office

Liberia's Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf took office as Africa's first elected woman president on January 16, 2006, pledging to break the country's history of corruption and violence that spread war to neighboring states.



"By their votes the Liberian people have sent a clear message that they want peace. They want to move on with their lives," she said in her first speech as leader of a nation left without basic services like water and power after a 14-year war that killed up to 250,000 people and ended in 2003.

The colorful, open-air inauguration was attended by US first lady Laura Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, signaling US backing for Africa's oldest republic, founded in 1847 by freed slaves from America.

In the span of over 180 years, the relationship between United States and Liberia has gone from one of parental nurturing to one of self-interested assistance to one of increasing disengagement. There are many views on whether the U.S. should have become more involved in the Liberian civil war, and how much assistance the U.S. should be providing to Liberia now.

Newly inaugurated Johnson-Sirleaf vowed to tackle a national debt of \$3.5 billion and to fight rampant corruption, which experts say has fuelled decades of instability.

Johnson-Sirleaf said: "To our sister republics - west, east, north or south of our borders - we make this pledge: under my administration, no inch of Liberian soil will be used to conspire and to perpetrate aggressions against your country."

First Lady Bush praised Johnson-Sirleaf for her maiden speech, saying women around the world would be proud of her, and stressed Liberia's special relationship with the United States, which spent over \$840 million last year on the African nation.

"Liberia was started by freed slaves, African Americans founded Liberia," she said. "They feel a special fondness for the United States."

Weary of their country's recent history of conflict, chaos and destruction, Liberians have high expectations both for the new president they call "Mama Ellen" and for the superpower across the Atlantic they look upon as a godfather.

Sources: www.tvnz.co.nz
www.pbs.org/wgbh/globalconnections/liberia

Inside this issue:

VocalEssence: WITNESS	2
MLK Breakfast	2
Black History Month Events	2
February Events at UST	3
Cultural Events and Conferences	3
Black History Month Quiz	4
Save The Date	4
FLASH CASH	4



Valentine's Day Fun Facts



192 Million Valentines Day Cards are exchanged annually making Valentine's Day the second-most-popular-greeting-card-giving occasion. (This total excludes packaged kids valentines for classroom exchange)



Nearly **60 percent** of all Valentine's Day cards are purchased in the 6 days prior to the observance, making Valentine's Day a procrastinator's delight!

Source: Hallmark research

Black History Month: VocalEssence Presents WITNESS

The Story of Spirituals in Dance and Music

In 2006, WITNESS features a major commission: "Truth", a choral ballet based on the story of Sojourner Truth. She was born into slavery as Isabella Baumfree in 1797 but when freed changed her name to Sojourner Truth and became a passionate advocate for Black freedom, women's rights and temperance in the years leading up to the Civil War. The ballet describes her dramatic spiritual conversion from slavery to freedom as she is transformed from Isabella to Truth.

<http://www.vocalescence.org/>

"Truth" will feature eight dancers, the 32-voice VocalEssence Ensemble Singers and an ensemble of ten instrumentalists to create a seamless fusion of music, words, and dance.

You don't want to miss this one!!

Join MSS and HANA for this VocalEssence performance.

Sunday, February 19, 2006
Ordway Center for the Performing Arts
Show starts at 4 pm

Tickets will be available at the Box Office Feb 1-13th .

Seating is limited so get your ticket fast!

- Transportation from St. Thomas to the Ordway will be provided. Please contact MSS for more information. (651) 962-6460 or multicultural@stthomas.edu

Honoring the Legacy of a Servant: 16th Annual MLK Breakfast

In celebration of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the United Negro College Fund and General Mills Foundation sponsored the 16th Annual MLK Breakfast January 16, 2006. This year's theme was *Honoring the Legacy of a Servant*.

The 2006 keynote speaker was one who had the honor to witness the servitude of Dr. King first hand, Congressman John Lewis.

Lewis spoke about his experience as a

young man first inspired by, and later good friends of Dr. King. Congressman Lewis believes the legacy left for us by Dr. King is the inspiration to serve others.

"He inspired us to serve; to forget about our own circumstances and get involved with the circumstances of others," Lewis comments during his address.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had the power to bring all types of people together to do good; young/old, rich/poor, black/white.

In addition to the keynote address given by John Lewis, the crowd also enjoyed breakfast and entertainment from Steven Daniels and the Shiloh Baptist Church Choir.

To view the program, including Congressman Lewis' speech visit:
<http://www.tpt.org/mlk/>

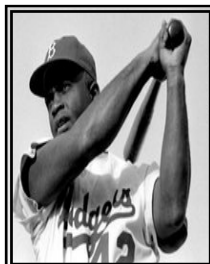
"Dr. King inspired us to serve; to forget about our own circumstances and get involved with the circumstances of others."

Black History Month Events

Mixed Blood Theater Presents: **Jackie Robinson**

The scene is the locker room in Ebbets Field, home of the Brooklyn Dodgers. The year is 1956 and Jackie Robinson is preparing for the 7th game of the World Series. Jackie is trying to be alone as he prepares for this game. He suddenly discovers a young boy hiding in the locker room. Jackie does not get angry with the young boy. He lets him stay and answers his questions. What follows is an exciting review of Jackie's life and career.

Wednesday, February 15th
 4:45 pm OEC Auditorium
 Reception with food will follow the play!
 Sponsored by: MSS and ULC



Notes at Noon: Performance by Galen

Come and enjoy the beautiful, smooth, and melodic sounds as this extraordinary flutist gets us through the lunch hour.

Musicians, feel free to come through with your instrument as Galen will allow time for you to JAM with him!

Tuesday, February 23rd
 12-1:30 in Scooters
 Light snacks will be served
 Sponsored by MSS & STAR



February Events

Black History Month Film Series Part I: *February One*

Wednesday, Feb 1st
11:30- 1pm Scooters

Chili Feed

Thursday, Feb 2nd
12 pm Foley Plaza

Black & White Welcome Back Dance

Friday, Feb 3rd
8 pm Scooters

Fanamanic Men's Basketball Game

Friday, Feb 3rd
8 pm Arena

Trip to St. Paul Winter Carnival

Saturday, Feb 4th
Sponsored by STAR

Multicultural Monday

Monday, Feb 6th
12-2 Commuter Center

Black History Month Film Series Part II: *At the River I Stand*

Wednesday, Feb 8th
11:30- 1pm Scooters

Dinner and Ice Skating

Friday, Feb 10th
Depot in Minneapolis
Sponsored by STAR

Fanamanic Women's Basketball Game

Saturday, Feb 11th
1 pm Arena

Spring Activities Fair

Tuesday, Feb 14th
11:30 am MHC Atrium

Valentine Day Party

Tuesday, Feb 14th
7:30 pm Scooters

Snow Tubing Trip

Thursday, Feb 16th
Sponsored by STAR

Comedy Sportz

Friday, Feb 17th
7:30 pm OEC Auditorium
Sponsored by STAR

Up Til Dawn Fundraiser

Friday, Feb 17th
9:00 pm Field house
all proceeds go to St. Jude's
Children's Hospital

Black History Month Game Show

Saturday, Feb 18th
7:00 pm OEC Auditorium
Sponsored by STAR

LINKAGES

Tuesday, Feb 21st
12-1:30 pm
Topic: Relationships and Culture

Step Show

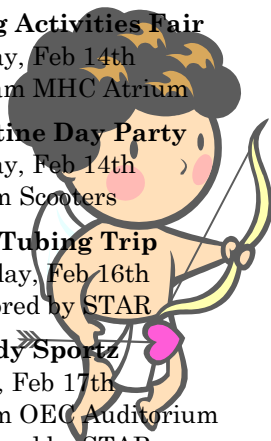
Tuesday, Feb 21st
7:00 pm Scooters
Sponsored by STAR

Etiquette Dinner

Wednesday, Feb 22nd
6:30 pm MHC 304
Sign up in the Box Office

Mentor Network

Tuesday, Feb 28th
12-1 MHC Fireside



Cultural Events & Conferences Around Town

Pan-African Student Leadership Conference

"The Future of Pan-Africanism: Political, Social, and Spiritual Responsibilities"
February 22-25, 2006

Minnesota State University, Mankato

For more information call: (507) 389-6125

Chicano Latino Conference 2006

Tirando Paredes~ Bringing Down Walls
March 9-10, 2006

Minnesota State University, Mankato

For more information, or to get on mailing list contact:
Guadalupe Quintero (507) 389-2811 or
Guadalupe.Quintero@mnsu.edu

Black History Month Hip Hop Festival

February 11, 2006
2:30- 8:00 pm Alumni Hall Building
Gustavus Adolphus College
For more information call: (507) 933-7449

International Conference on Hmong Studies

"Impact of Globalization and Trans-nationalism on the Hmong"
March 10-11, 2006

Concordia University, St. Paul

For conference registration or more information visit:
www.csp.edu/hmongcenter

18th Annual Multicultural Forum

The Diversity Advantage: Maximizing Performance by Investing in People

February 14-15th St. Paul RiverCentre

Register Online: www.stthomas.edu/cob/multiculturalforum
Questions? Call 651-962-4018

Teatro del Pueblo's Fifth Annual Political Theatre Festival

Dedicated to the Struggles of Latina Women
February 16-26, 2006

For more information on the Festival and student matinees call:
(651)-224-8806 or visit www.teatrodelpueblo.org

CHALLENGE YOURSELF
CHANGE OUR WORLD

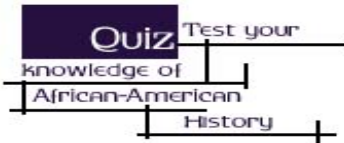


Multicultural Student Services

Mailbox #5006
2115 Summit Ave
St. Paul, MN 55105

Phone: 651-962-6460
Fax: 651-962-6655

Website: <http://www.stthomas.edu/multiculturalservices/>



African-American quotes of note

February is Black History Month. See if you can match these famous African-Americans with their quotations.

- "The best art is political and you ought to be able to make it unquestionably political and irrevocably beautiful at the same time."
B. Frederick Douglass (1817-1895)
- "No greater injury can be done to any youth than to let him feel that because he belongs to this or that race he will be advanced in life regardless of his own merits or efforts."
C. Toni Morrison (1931-)
- "That little man says that women can't have as much rights as men, 'cause Christ wasn't a woman! Where did your Christ come from? From God and a woman! Man had nothing to do with Him."
A. Booker T. Washington (1856-1915)
- "If there is no struggle, there is no progress."
D. Sojourner Truth (1797-1883)

ANSWERS
1. C, 2. A, 3. D, 4. B

Source: "Famous Black Quotations," by Janet Cheatham Bell (Warner, 1995)

We welcome submissions to the MSS Flash. Submission deadline is the 20th of each month and can be sent to: multicultural@stthomas.edu

Save the Date

Community Dialogues

Topic: Race & Racism

March 2nd 11:30am -1 pm & March 6th 3- 4:30 pm

Join us for an opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue and probe for deeper levels of awareness and perhaps discover new ways of building a stronger community.

Jane Elliot Lecture

Adaptor of the Blue Eye/Brown Eye Exercise

March 2nd JRC Room 126 7:00 pm

"The Anatomy of Prejudice" explores the problems of racism, sexism, ageism, homophobia, and ethnocentrism, and the responsibility shared by all of us for illuminating them in and eliminating them from ourselves and our environment.

**** Heritage Week is Coming March 6-10th!!!****

FLASH CASH

Students, there is still time to apply for the following scholarships!!

Phillips Family Foundation Scholarship

The Phillips Scholars Program supports potential leaders with outstanding academic credentials who intend to dedicate a portion of their lives to community service. Applicants must be a junior during the 2006-07 school year, have a GPA of 2.75 or higher, and an aspiration to serve disadvantaged people. For more information on this scholarship visit: www.mnprivatecolleges.org/fund/phillips.php

MinnesotaJobs.com Scholarship

Scholarship program to help future Minnesota employees get the skills they need. The scholarship amount is \$1000. For more information or to apply visit: <http://minnesotajobs.com/scholarships/>

For more scholarship information visit Student Financial Services: www.stthomas.edu/financialservices