

FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATE

Mailed January 11, 1988

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio - Black History Month at Youngstown State University this year has as its theme, "Afrocentric Moods and Expressions."

Sponsored by the University's Black Studies Program, it will open Feb. 1 and offers a variety of special programs, including outstanding speakers, concerts and workshops.

All of the events are open to the public and most are free.

Some of the highlights of the 18th annual Black History Month include lectures by national columnist William Raspberry and Academy Award nominee Margaret Avery, concerts by the Boys Choir of Harlem and Gil Scott Heron and Richie Haven, Youngstown Playhouse presentations of "Ain't Misbehavin,'" a YSU community sponsored program on AIDS, a workshop on the black community, a talk show, a film on the black church, and a live music/painting performance by YSU Art Professor Al Bright.

This year's Black History Month is dedicated to Professor Bright, who has returned to full-time teaching. He served as director of YSU's Black Studies Program from its inception in 1970 until last year. Sarah Brown-Clark, associate professor of English, now directs the program.

National Black History Week was inaugurated in February 1926 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, founder of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. The observance has been expanded to the entire month of February.

The purpose of YSU's Black History Month is to focus on the contributions and experiences of black people to provide a basis for cultural interaction and a more positive approach to the future.

MORE

ADD ONE

Opening ceremonies for Black Studies Month will be at noon Feb. 1 in the Ohio Room of Kilcawley Center. There will be an address by Dr. Earnest Perry, chairman of the YSU Board of Trustees, and music by the South High Ensemble.

"Keeping the Faith," a film tribute to the black church, will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 3 in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center. It is being sponsored by the African-American Student Leadership Corp.

The famous Boys Choir of Harlem will give a concert at 8 p.m. Feb. 5 in Stambaugh Auditorium, Fifth Avenue, sponsored by the Youngstown Chapter of Links, Inc. For ticket information, contact Links at 782-6327 or 788-9908.

The 35-member choir, under the direction of Dr. Walter Turnbull, has delighted audiences around the world with a repertoire ranging from classical music to popular songs, gospel, jazz and spirituals. Their performance includes some spirited choreography. The choir was founded in 1968 to provide inner city youth with an opportunity to realize their creative potential.

The lecture by William J. Raspberry, urban affairs columnist for The Washington Post, will be at 8 p.m. Feb. 8 in the Ohio Room of Kilcawley Center. His presentation as a Skeggs Lecturer is part of YSU's Special Lecture Series. Seating is on a first-come basis.

Time Magazine called Raspberry "the most respected black voice on any white U.S. newspaper. He considers the merits rather than the ideology of any issue..." He was a reporter, photographer and editor with The Indianapolis Recorder before joining The Post in 1962 and has won many awards.

MORE

On Feb. 9 at 7:30 p.m. in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley, Professor Al Bright will present his "Live Painting Performance" to the accompaniment of the Richard Bright Quartet, creating a new painting before the audience.

Professor Bright, who has returned to full-time teaching, served as director of YSU's Black Studies Program from its inception in 1970 until 1987. A YSU graduate, he has been a faculty member since 1965 and has received two "Distinguished Professorships." His art works are in a number of permanent collections and he has had more than 50 one-man exhibitions across the country.

A lecture on "AIDS: Could It Happen to Me?" will be presented at 7 p.m. Feb. 10 in the Chestnut Room in a talk show format with audience participation. It is sponsored by the YSU AIDS Task Force and its support groups: The Black Studies Program, Youngstown Area and Warren-Trumbull Urban Leagues, Mahoning County Health Department, Mahoning Red Cross, National Panhellenic Student Council, Black United Students, and the AIDS Minority Educational Network.

Speakers will include Dr. Jacob A. Gayle, assistant professor of Health Education at Kent State University and AIDS Education consultant for the Ohio Department of Health; Dr. Ella Webster, rheumatologist at St. Elizabeth Hospital Medical Center; and Dr. Susan Cojoe, pediatrician at St. Elizabeth's.

A talk show on the topic, "What Do Black Men and Women Expect from Each Other?" will be held at noon Feb. 11 in the Ohio Room, sponsored by the Minority Interest Committee of YSU's Program and Activities Council.

MORE

ADD THREE

Ticket information may be obtained from the sponsors, Honorable Productions of Youngstown, at 783-0808 or 744-8149.

Gil Scott, one of the most diversified artists of the 1970s and '80s, was called "The Minister of Information" by Soul Magazine. He is a keyboardist, poet, singer and teller of truths who says "the songs I sing are just pieces of a dream that I've been building."

A workshop, "Understanding the Black Community," will be from 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Feb. 18 in the Ohio Room of Kilcawley. This informational-motivational program will be led by minority human service professionals.

Margaret Avery's lecture will be at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 19 in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley. She won an Academy Award nomination for "Best Supporting Actress" for her role as Shug Avery in "The Color Purple."

She started out as a teacher and moonlighting pop singer, and has won numerous other awards in the theater, television and movies. Her feature films include "The Fish That Saved Pittsburgh" and "Which Way Is Up?" with Richard Pryor, and "Scott Joplin" with Billy Dee Williams. Between acting and singing engagements, she has lectured at colleges and high schools around the world on the dangers of drugs and alcohol.

There will be 10 performances of the musical, "Ain't Misbehavin,'" at the Youngstown Playhouse, located off Glenwood Avenue.

Based on the gaudy glamor and excitement of a 1930s Harlem night spot, it features the music of legendary pianist "Fats" Waller. The play won the Drama Critics' Circle and Tony Awards as "Best Musical" when it opened a three-year run on Broadway in 1978. Its singing, dancing and struttin' is filled with memorable songs of the early Jazz Age.

MORE

ADD FOUR

Performances will be at 8 p.m. Feb. 19, 26, March 3 and 4, and at 7 and 9:30 p.m. Feb. 20, 27 and March 5. For ticket information, contact the Youngstown Playhouse, 782-3402.

###

NEWS SERVICE

87-214

1a,b,c,d,e,h

EDITOR'S NOTE: There will be a press conference for Margaret Avery at 7 p.m. Feb. 19 in the Buckeye Reception Room, Kilcawley Center. For further information on other Black History Month events and possible interviews, contact Dr. Sarah Brown-Clark at Black Studies, 742-3096.

YSU's BLACK HISTORY MONTH

- Feb. 1 -- Noon, Ohio Room, Kilcawley Center  
Opening ceremonies with Dr. Earnest Perry  
South High Ensemble
- Feb. 3 -- 7:30 p.m., Chestnut Room, Kilcawley  
"Keeping the Faith," a film tribute to the black church
- Feb. 5 -- 8 p.m., Stambaugh Auditorium  
Concert by the Boys Choir of Harlem
- Feb. 8 -- 8 p.m., Ohio Room, Kilcawley  
Skeggs Lecture by urban affairs columnist William Raspberry
- Feb. 9 -- 7:30 p.m., Chestnut Room, Kilcawley  
Al Bright's "Live Painting Performance" with the Richard Bright  
Quartet
- Feb. 10 -- 7 p.m., Chestnut Room, Kilcawley  
Lecture/program on "AIDS: Could It Happen to Me?"
- Feb. 11 -- Noon, Ohio Room, Kilcawley  
Talk show: "What Do Black Men and Women Expect from Each Other?"
- Feb. 12 -- 8 p.m., Starr Palace, Federal Plaza West  
Concert by Gil Scott Heron and Richie Haven
- Feb. 18 -- 8:30 a.m., Ohio Room, Kilcawley  
Workshop on "Understanding the Black Community"
- Feb. 19 -- 7:30 p.m., Chestnut Room, Kilcawley  
Lecture by Margaret Avery
- Feb. 19 -- March 5  
Youngstown Playhouse  
10 performances of the award-winning musical, "Ain't Misbehavin'"

YSU's BLACK HISTORY MONTH

- Feb. 1 -- Noon, Ohio Room, Kilcawley Center  
Opening ceremonies with Dr. Earnest Perry  
South High Ensemble
- Feb. 3 -- 7:30 p.m., Chestnut Room, Kilcawley  
"Keeping the Faith," a film tribute to the black church
- Feb. 5 -- 8 p.m., Stambaugh Auditorium  
Concert by the Boys Choir of Harlem
- Feb. 8 -- 8 p.m., Ohio Room, Kilcawley  
Skeggs Lecture by urban affairs columnist William Raspberry
- Feb. 9 -- 7:30 p.m., Chestnut Room, Kilcawley  
Al Bright's "Live Painting Performance" with the Richard Bright  
Quartet
- Feb. 10 -- 7 p.m., Chestnut Room, Kilcawley  
Lecture/program on "AIDS: Could It Happen to Me?"
- Feb. 11 -- Noon, Ohio Room, Kilcawley  
Talk show: "What Do Black Men and Women Expect from Each Other?"
- Feb. 12 -- 8 p.m., Starr Palace, Federal Plaza West  
Concert by Gil Scott Heron and Richie Haven
- Feb. 18 -- 8:30 a.m., Ohio Room, Kilcawley  
Workshop on "Understanding the Black Community"
- Feb. 19 -- 7:30 p.m., Chestnut Room, Kilcawley  
Lecture by Margaret Avery
- Feb. 19 -- March 5  
Youngstown Playhouse  
10 performances of the award-winning musical, "Ain't Misbehavin'"

FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATE

Mailed January 11, 1988

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio - Black History Month at Youngstown State University this year has as its theme, "Afrocentric Moods and Expressions."

Sponsored by the University's Black Studies Program, it will open Feb. 1 and offers a variety of special programs, including outstanding speakers, concerts and workshops.

All of the events are open to the public and most are free.

Some of the highlights of the 18th annual Black History Month include lectures by national columnist William Raspberry and Academy Award nominee Margaret Avery, concerts by the Boys Choir of Harlem and Gil Scott Heron and Richie Haven, Youngstown Playhouse presentations of "Ain't Misbehavin,'" a YSU community sponsored program on AIDS, a workshop on the black community, a talk show, a film on the black church, and a live music/painting performance by YSU Art Professor Al Bright.

This year's Black History Month is dedicated to Professor Bright, who has returned to full-time teaching. He served as director of YSU's Black Studies Program from its inception in 1970 until last year. Sarah Brown-Clark, associate professor of English, now directs the program.

National Black History Week was inaugurated in February 1926 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, founder of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. The observance has been expanded to the entire month of February.

The purpose of YSU's Black History Month is to focus on the contributions and experiences of black people to provide a basis for cultural interaction and a more positive approach to the future.

MORE

ADD ONE

Opening ceremonies for Black Studies Month will be at noon Feb. 1 in the Ohio Room of Kilcawley Center. There will be an address by Dr. Earnest Perry, chairman of the YSU Board of Trustees, and music by the South High Ensemble.

"Keeping the Faith," a film tribute to the black church, will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 3 in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center. It is being sponsored by the African-American Student Leadership Corp.

The famous Boys Choir of Harlem will give a concert at 8 p.m. Feb. 5 in Stambaugh Auditorium, Fifth Avenue, sponsored by the Youngstown Chapter of Links, Inc. For ticket information, contact Links at 782-6327 or 788-9908.

The 35-member choir, under the direction of Dr. Walter Turnbull, has delighted audiences around the world with a repertoire ranging from classical music to popular songs, gospel, jazz and spirituals. Their performance includes some spirited choreography. The choir was founded in 1968 to provide inner city youth with an opportunity to realize their creative potential.

The lecture by William J. Raspberry, urban affairs columnist for The Washington Post, will be at 8 p.m. Feb. 8 in the Ohio Room of Kilcawley Center. His presentation as a Skeggs Lecturer is part of YSU's Special Lecture Series. Seating is on a first-come basis.

Time Magazine called Raspberry "the most respected black voice on any white U.S. newspaper. He considers the merits rather than the ideology of any issue..." He was a reporter, photographer and editor with The Indianapolis Recorder before joining The Post in 1962 and has won many awards.

MORE

On Feb. 9 at 7:30 p.m. in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley, Professor Al Bright will present his "Live Painting Performance" to the accompaniment of the Richard Bright Quartet, creating a new painting before the audience.

Professor Bright, who has returned to full-time teaching, served as director of YSU's Black Studies Program from its inception in 1970 until 1987. A YSU graduate, he has been a faculty member since 1965 and has received two "Distinguished Professorships." His art works are in a number of permanent collections and he has had more than 50 one-man exhibitions across the country.

A lecture on "AIDS: Could It Happen to Me?" will be presented at 7 p.m. Feb. 10 in the Chestnut Room in a talk show format with audience participation. It is sponsored by the YSU AIDS Task Force and its support groups: The Black Studies Program, Youngstown Area and Warren-Trumbull Urban Leagues, Mahoning County Health Department, Mahoning Red Cross, National Panhellenic Student Council, Black United Students, and the AIDS Minority Educational Network.

Speakers will include Dr. Jacob A. Gayle, assistant professor of Health Education at Kent State University and AIDS Education consultant for the Ohio Department of Health; Dr. Ella Webster, rheumatologist at St. Elizabeth Hospital Medical Center; and Dr. Susan Cojoe, pediatrician at St. Elizabeth's.

A talk show on the topic, "What Do Black Men and Women Expect from Each Other?" will be held at noon Feb. 11 in the Ohio Room, sponsored by the Minority Interest Committee of YSU's Program and Activities Council.

MORE

ADD THREE

Ticket information may be obtained from the sponsors, Honorable Productions of Youngstown, at 783-0808 or 744-8149.

Gil Scott, one of the most diversified artists of the 1970s and '80s, was called "The Minister of Information" by Soul Magazine. He is a keyboardist, poet, singer and teller of truths who says "the songs I sing are just pieces of a dream that I've been building."

A workshop, "Understanding the Black Community," will be from 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Feb. 18 in the Ohio Room of Kilcawley. This informational-motivational program will be led by minority human service professionals.

Margaret Avery's lecture will be at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 19 in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley. She won an Academy Award nomination for "Best Supporting Actress" for her role as Shug Avery in "The Color Purple."

She started out as a teacher and moonlighting pop singer, and has won numerous other awards in the theater, television and movies. Her feature films include "The Fish That Saved Pittsburgh" and "Which Way Is Up?" with Richard Pryor, and "Scott Joplin" with Billy Dee Williams. Between acting and singing engagements, she has lectured at colleges and high schools around the world on the dangers of drugs and alcohol.

There will be 10 performances of the musical, "Ain't Misbehavin,'" at the Youngstown Playhouse, located off Glenwood Avenue.

Based on the gaudy glamor and excitement of a 1930s Harlem night spot, it features the music of legendary pianist "Fats" Waller. The play won the Drama Critics' Circle and Tony Awards as "Best Musical" when it opened a three-year run on Broadway in 1978. Its singing, dancing and struttin' is filled with memorable songs of the early Jazz Age.

MORE

ADD FOUR

Performances will be at 8 p.m. Feb. 19, 26, March 3 and 4, and at 7 and 9:30 p.m. Feb. 20, 27 and March 5. For ticket information, contact the Youngstown Playhouse, 782-3402.

###

NEWS SERVICE

87-214

1a,b,c,d,e,h

EDITOR'S NOTE: There will be a press conference for Margaret Avery at 7 p.m. Feb. 19 in the Buckeye Reception Room, Kilcawley Center. For further information on other Black History Month events and possible interviews, contact Dr. Sarah Brown-Clark at Black Studies, 742-3096.

YSU's BLACK HISTORY MONTH

- Feb. 1 -- Noon, Ohio Room, Kilcawley Center  
Opening ceremonies with Dr. Earnest Perry  
South High Ensemble
- Feb. 3 -- 7:30 p.m., Chestnut Room, Kilcawley  
"Keeping the Faith," a film tribute to the black church
- Feb. 5 -- 8 p.m., Stambaugh Auditorium  
Concert by the Boys Choir of Harlem
- Feb. 8 -- 8 p.m., Ohio Room, Kilcawley  
Skeggs Lecture by urban affairs columnist William Raspberry
- Feb. 9 -- 7:30 p.m., Chestnut Room, Kilcawley  
Al Bright's "Live Painting Performance" with the Richard Bright  
Quartet
- Feb. 10 -- 7 p.m., Chestnut Room, Kilcawley  
Lecture/program on "AIDS: Could It Happen to Me?"
- Feb. 11 -- Noon, Ohio Room, Kilcawley  
Talk show: "What Do Black Men and Women Expect from Each Other?"
- Feb. 12 -- 8 p.m., Starr Palace, Federal Plaza West  
Concert by Gil Scott Heron and Richie Haven
- Feb. 18 -- 8:30 a.m., Ohio Room, Kilcawley  
Workshop on "Understanding the Black Community"
- Feb. 19 -- 7:30 p.m., Chestnut Room, Kilcawley  
Lecture by Margaret Avery
- Feb. 19 -- March 5  
Youngstown Playhouse  
10 performances of the award-winning musical, "Ain't Misbehavin'"