

FOR RELEASE:

IMMEDIATE

Mailed: Jan. 12, 1987

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio - The Black Studies Program of Youngstown State University will celebrate "Remembering Our Past to Cope with Our Future," with a month-long schedule of activities during Black History Month.

Some highlights of the 17th annual program include lectures by Barbara Gardner-Proctor, founder and owner of Proctor and Gardner Advertising, Inc.; Wallace Terry, author of Bloods, An Oral History of the Vietnam War by Black Veterans; William "Sonny" Walker, vice president of the National Alliance of Business; and Dr. Yosef ben-Jochannan, author, lecturer, Egyptologist.

There will also be an exhibit by local black artists; an exhibit on P. Ross Berry, contractor for the brickwork of many Mahoning County buildings; a workshop on "Understanding the Black Community"; Thomas Meloncon's play, The Diary of Black Men, and an awards dinner.

All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise indicated in the schedule.\*

National Black History Week was inaugurated in February of 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. Emphasis is placed on what blacks have thought, said and done to correct the myths of the past and prepare a pathway to the future.

-MORE-

Add One

Sarah Brown-Clark, associate professor of English and acting director of Black Studies at YSU said, "Our aim is to demonstrate the contributions of African-Americans to the development of civilization, emphasizing these contributions to impress and inform all segments of the population.

"These programs provide a basis for cultural interaction out of which will come a more positive approach to the future," she added.

An exhibit entitled "Portraits, Paintings, Jazz," featuring YSU art professor Al Bright and local black artists Gladys Peters-Freeman, Bill Dotson, Michael Green, Joe Willie Smith and Patricia Watson, will be held Jan. 28 - Feb. 21 in the Kilcawley Center Art Gallery. A special artists' reception will be held from 6-8 p.m. Jan. 30 in the gallery. The exhibit is sponsored by the Kilcawley Center Art Gallery. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Friday; 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday; and 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday.

The exhibit, "P. Ross Berry: Master Craftsman, Capturing the Opportunities of Freedom," will be held Jan. 31 through Feb. 28 at the Arms Museum, Wick Avenue, just north of YSU. Sponsored by the Mahoning Valley Historical Society and the Arms Museum and Library, the exhibit depicts the life of P. Ross Berry.

Born a free black man in 1835, Berry was a highly regarded mason and bricklayer. During the Civil War, he was the contractor for the brickwork of virtually every major building constructed in the Mahoning Valley.

Ms. Brown-Clark will speak at Black History Month's opening ceremonies on Monday, Feb. 2, in the Ohio Room of Kilcawley Center. Her topic will be "Lest We Forget." The Ursuline High School Gospel Choir will perform.

A workshop entitled "Understanding the Black Community" will be held from 8:15 a.m.-4:15 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 4, in the Ohio Room of Kilcawley Center. It will be led by local professional human services leaders.

Add Two

Barbara Gardner Proctor, founder and owner of Proctor & Gardner Advertising, Inc. will lecture on "Boxing with a Halo" at 8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 9, in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center. The lecture is sponsored by the YSU Special Lecture Series.

Proctor specializes in marketing corporate concepts for such clients as Kraft, Inc., Jewel Food Stores, and Sears Roebuck & Co.

President Reagan, in his 1984 State of the Union address, referred to Proctor as an example of one of the "heroes of the '80s." She is also featured in the Smithsonian Institutions' "Black Women: Achievements Against the Odds" Hall of Fame.

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Bloods has been called the best book written on the Vietnam War by Parade Magazine, which nominated it for the Pulitzer Prize. It has also been honored by 45 mayors and governors who proclaimed "Wallace Terry Day." Time Magazine named it one of the 10 best books of 1984.

Terry has held exclusive interviews with Lyndon Johnson, Jimmy Carter, Walter Mondale, Martin Luther King and Malcolm X, among others. He has appeared as a news analyst and interviewer on Meet the Press, the Today Show and Good Morning America.

Wallace "Sonny" Walker, vice president of the National Alliance of Business, will lecture on "Black America in the Year 2000" at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13, in the Ohio Room of Kilcawley Center.

A favorite and widely-quoted convention speaker and seminar leader on such subjects as race relations and socio-economic development, Walker addresses more than 50 key groups in the U.S. each year.

Add Three

The National Alliance of Business is a non-profit corporation founded in 1968 to generate private sector jobs for disadvantaged unemployed persons and to reduce structural unemployment. The organization helped design the Job Training Partnership Act.

The Storytellers: A World of Music and Stories, will perform at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18, in the Ohio Room, Kilcawley Center. Hailing from Detroit, the group performs and briefly tells the origins and development of their many musical instruments.

Thomas Meloncon's play, The Diary of Black Men, will be performed at 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20, at the Star Palace (formerly the Star Theatre) in downtown Youngstown. The play is sponsored by Honorable Productions in conjunction with Maceba Affairs, Inc.\*

The annual Awards Dinner, sponsored by the YSU Black United Students, will be at 6 p.m. Feb. 21 in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center.\*

Dr. Yosef A. ben-Jochannan, author, lecturer, Egyptologist, will lecture on "Examining the African Past to Sustain the Present in Preparation for the Future" at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 27, in the Lecture Hall of DeBartolo Hall in the final Black History Month event.

The author of 28 published books, sixteen unpublished and a six-volume encyclopedia on Africa, ben-Jochannan is chairman of Alkebu-Lan Foundation and Alkebu-Lan Books and Educational Materials, an all-African business in New York City's Harlem.

He was formerly chief of the African desk of the United Nations Education Scientific Cultural Organization (U.N.E.S.C.O.) and has taught at Pace College, Columbia University-Teachers College, City University of New York-Hunter College, and others.

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