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January 19, 1996

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EIU TO HOLD AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE CELEBRATION

CHARLESTON -- Art exhibitions, dance demonstrations, lectures, movies, videos, comedy acts, plays, concerts and a beauty pageant are among more than 25 events scheduled in January and February for an African American Heritage Celebration at Eastern Illinois University. This year's theme is "Unity in Community."

A candlelight vigil to honor the life and accomplishments of Martin Luther King Jr. began the celebration.

Upcoming events include an Affirmative Action workshop, "Opening Doors--Diversity at Eastern" on Thursday, Jan. 25, featuring former vice president for business affairs, Charles Colbert, as the luncheon keynote speaker.

The workshop, sponsored by Eastern's Office of Affirmative Action and Cultural Diversity, begins at 8:30 a.m. Thursday. Affirmative Action Director Cynthia Nichols will cover recruiting and retaining minority students and staff, providing services to persons with disabilities, achieving gender equity in athletics and supporting multi-culturalism in the curriculum. For more

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ADD 1/1/1/1

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE CELEBRATION

information, call the Affirmative Action office at 581-5020.

A three-day HIV/AIDS training workshop will be offered from 1 to 6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 26; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27; and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 28 in the Union. It will be taught by Ollie Mae Ray, health studies professor and chair of the African American Heritage Month planning committee, and Southern Illinois University Medical School staff at the Springfield campus. Cost is \$50. Limited scholarship assistance is available. For more information, call Eastern's African American Studies department at 581-5719 or Lynette Drake, Health Services, at 581-7015.

Vince Smith, a Chicago artist whose work explores his African American heritage and the stereotypical images of blacks in the United States, will present a public lecture/slide presentation at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 30, at the Tarble Arts Center located on south Ninth Street at Cleveland Avenue on the EIU campus. Admission is free. His works will be on display at the Tarble through March 3.

The African American Heritage Celebration continues into February with an African clothing exhibit in the north entrance of Eastern's Booth Library through Feb. 29.

On Feb. 2, Bobby Seal, a Black Panther in the 1960s, will talk about "The Role of Activism in the African American Community" at 8 p.m. in the University Union Grand Ballroom. Admission to this and most University Board (UB)-sponsored events is \$1 for students with ID's and \$3 for the general public. For more information, call

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ADD 2/2/2

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE CELEBRATION

UB at 581-5117.

The UB will bring comedians Arceneaux and Mitchell to campus for a 9 p.m. performance Saturday, Feb. 3, in the Union's Rathskeller.

The Illinois Association of Teachers of English, Eastern District, will participate in the 7th national African American Read-In Chain.

The goal nationally is one million Americans reading works by African American writers at the same time. Those interested in bringing a book to share or to read silently should meet in the Casey Room in the Union at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 4. For more information, call Fred Preston at 581-6302 or Jerry Weasmer at 581-6972.

On the evening of Feb. 4, Eastern's Offices of Institutional Advancement and Minority Affairs are hosting an African American Heritage Dinner at 5:30 p.m. in the Union's Grand Ballroom. The Rev. Cyprus Hughes of the Second Baptist Church in Mattoon is the guest speaker. The dinner is open to the public. Tickets are available at the Union Ticket Office. For more information, call Minority Affairs at 581-6690.

Cosmetologist Rose Adkinson will give a lecture and demonstration of African American hair styles from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8, in the common area of Greek Court.

A two-act play by James Chapman about sexuality, womanhood and AIDS, titled "What About Black Womyn," will be presented by the UB

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ADD 3/3/3/3

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE CELEBRATION

Human Potential Committee at 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 9, in the Union Grand Ballroom.

Also on Saturday, UB is bringing musician Rufus Reid to campus for a jazz concert at 7:30 p.m. in the Dvorak Concert Hall in the Doudna Fine Arts Center.

Victor Patterson from State Farm Insurance will give a presentation on "Minority Opportunities" at 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 15, in the common area of Greek Court. It is free and open to students and the public. For more information, call Mona Davenport at 581-6694.

Eastern's music department will bring the University of Illinois Black Chorus to campus on Friday, Feb. 16, for a concert at 7:30 p.m. in Dvorak Concert Hall in the Doudna Fine Arts Center. Admission is \$4 for students and seniors and \$6 for the general public. For more information, call the music department at 581-3010.

Also on Friday, the UB will host comedian Chris Barnes for a 9 p.m. performance in the Rathskeller.

On Saturday, Feb. 17, the UB will present the play, "My Children, My Africa," at 8 p.m. in the Rathskeller.

Eastern's Department of Communications Disorders and Sciences (CDS) is hosting Adele Proctor, a University of Illinois professor, who will present a free, public lecture on "African American Dialects," at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 19, in room 201, Clinical Sciences Building. For more information, call CDS at 581-2712.

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ADD 4/4/4/4

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE CELEBRATION

Eastern's Black Greek Council will present a play on the history of black greek organizations at 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 22, in room 17, Lumpkin Hall. Admission is \$3.50 in advance or \$5 at the door. For more information, call Adrienne Coleman at 581-8193.

On Saturday, Feb. 24 members of Eastern's Black Student Union (BSU) will host a luncheon for parents at 1 p.m. in the University Ballroom in the Union. At 8 p.m. that evening, the BSU will present the Miss Black EIU pageant in the Union Grand Ballroom. This year's pageant theme is "Power, Passion and Pride of Black Women." A coronation dance will follow the pageant in the University Ballroom. For more information, call the BSU at 581-3829.

Eastern's Minority Affairs office is bringing Rob Flot, a motivational speaker on bi-racial issues, to campus Tuesday, Feb. 27, for a public presentation at 7 p.m. in room 17, Lumpkin Hall. He will speak on "Bi-Racial Children: The New Minority." For more information, call Minority Affairs at 581-6690.

The UB will show the following videos and movies: "Higher Learning," 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Jan. 20-Feb. 2, Union Walkway; "Bad Boys" and "Amos and Andrew," 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Feb. 5-9, Union Walkway; "Corrina, Corrina" and "Soapdish," 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Feb. 19-23, Union Walkway; and "Devil in a Blue Dress," 7 p.m., Feb. 23-24, Lumpkin Auditorium.

Rounding out February's calendar of events is an African American dance workshop presented by artist Taran Hampton from Atlanta, Ga. The workshop will be offered at 2 and 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 29, in the Union. For more information, call Minority Affairs at 581-6690.

In March, the Spelman College Glee Club will give a

ADD 5/5/5/5

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE CELEBRATION

performance for the EIU community at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 12, in the Dvorak Conert Hall in the Doudna Fine Arts Center.

Other activities recognizing the contributions of African Americans will be held throughout the year at Eastern.

For information about the activities planned, contact the African American Studies Program at 581-5719.