

# Alliance

an association to further the common interests of the members.

Fall 1992

## Can You Step to This?

Joe L. Perry III

Ten Greek fraternities and sororities across the Midwest proved that they had rhythm, style, and pizzazz, stepping to funky beats during the Neak Frasty Step Show on November 14. The Step Show, often called a Stompdawn, was sponsored by the brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Although the rhythmic moves of each group were different, a general sense of pride was evident among each group as they sought to put their "best foot forward."

Nearly 1500 onlookers, including friends and family, were on hand to watch and support their favorite group. After the Alphas warmed up the audience with a brief demonstration, groups including newcomers Delta Upsilon fraternity and two-year veteran sorority Kappa Alpha Theta took the stage.

Each performance was a display of coordination and energy. When the smoke finally cleared, the brotherhood of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., of Central Missouri State, earned first place in the male compe-



**Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. of Central Missouri State displays rhythm, timing and grace during the Neak Frasty Step Show.**

tition. KSU's Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., captured the glory in the women's competition.

The outcome of the efforts put into the production was a testament to leadership at every level as each group put forth total commitment and a desire to win. According to Laverio Richardson, a member of Alpha Phi Alpha, "The Step Show

was very successful, we worked hard and it paid off. We're striving to be even better next year." After the show closed, a party was hosted by the Alphas in the Brandenberry Complex. Step organizers prompt students to watch for "Who Runs The Show," a step contest planned for next semester.

## Audience Basks in Play's Emotion

Joe L. Perry III

"Lou, you've got to let yourself feel sometimes." Those were the words Gremmer (Anita Mc Allister) spoke to her grandson Lou (Jeff Efford) in Leslie Lee's "First Breeze of Summer." And feelings were exactly what the cast provoked from its audience on October 29 -31 in the Purple Masque Theater.

The performers of Ebony Theatre transformed a gloomy, somewhat cramped theater into an amazing arena of emotion, laughter, and tears. Leading roles were portrayed by veteran actress Anita McAllister, Jeff Efford, and Tammy LaShaye Gant. The production was ably directed by Margaret DeBrown (AKA 'Ret) who used her theatrical prowess to help budding members of the cast shine. Theater and music major Sifredrick Rivera of New York University lent his acting talents while in the area.

Within 21 days, DeBrown and stage manager Jeneena Hubbard along with 14 eager cast members set forth an autobiographical sketch of African

● See AUDIENCE, Page 2

## Conference Urges Students to Make Democracy Work

Patty Armendariz

The windy city was again the place to be during early October. Seventeen members of the Hispanic American Leadership Organization (HALO) attended the tenth annual United States Hispanic Leadership Conference in Chicago, October 9-11.

More than 3,000 people attended the conference, making it one of the largest conferences of its kind in the nation. Sponsored by the Midwest/Northeast Voter Registration Educational Project, the leadership conference was held in McCormick Center Hotel. The conference theme, "Making Democracy Work," held true to its promise of establishing a sense of communal empowerment.

Focusing on leadership development and growth within Hispanic communities, the conference stressed the necessity for Hispanics to participate in the political process and become more representative through-

out all levels of government in the US. Students harkened to words of wisdom and practicality from speakers of national prominence.

Among several keynote speakers, Dr. Alicia Cuaron, executive vice president of Source One Management, Inc., advocated that her

audience preserve its Hispanic heritage, particularly that of Mexican origin. Former San Antonio mayor, Henry G. Cisneros spoke resoundingly of the importance of electing a Democratic president. Dr. Samuel Betances, professor of sociology at Northeastern Illinois University,

broadly addressed issues of race, economics, and history.

Practical avenues to learning were found in topical workshops. "Re-gaining the Lost Generation" and "Civil Rights and Voter Registration" ignited an urgency to recapture a three-decade-old movement that held promise for each American citizen. Other workshops reiterated a need for role models and career awareness.

Given the upcoming elections, students and others were impelled to "get out and vote."



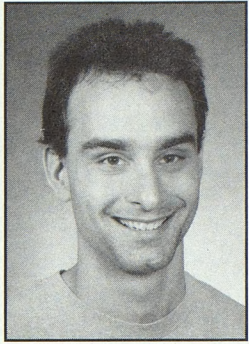
**HALO students attend banquet at Chicago conference.**

### Inside This Issue

'Chop' Draws Concern ..... Page 2

ASIA Gains Prominence .... Page 3

Pageant Spotlights Talent .. Page 4

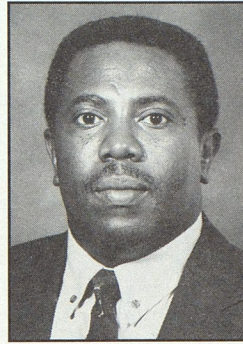
**Student Profile:****Dominic A. Ferone***Eunbok Kristina Kim*

A senior in mechanical engineering, Dominic A. Ferone has epitomized the meaning of "busy." Ferone has held several leadership positions in the Native American Student Body and the American Indian Science and Engineering Society while employed on campus and maintaining high academic honors.

As the president of NASB in 1989, Ferone helped the group reorganize and resurge. Ferone's goal was to involve as many of the sixty Native American students enrolled at K-State during that period as possible. Actively involved in AISES for three years, Ferone graciously admits re-

ceiving much more than he bargained for. He said, "AISES helped me more as a person than as a student. Being a member allowed me to meet and become friends with a lot of people." Ferone contends that student involvement in organizations can hold a good deal of value. "Don't shy away from student clubs," he stated. "They should not be channelled as just another class but viewed as fun, not work."

Originally from Chapman, Ferone came to K-State unclear of what his academic focus would be. He has since nurtured a strong commitment to the engineering field. As graduation looms closer, Ferone said, "I now have a deeper conviction that a person can indeed make a difference in his/her chosen field of study." He will depart the university with a personal conviction still intact, "Leave this place in a better condition than when I arrived."

**Faculty Profile:****Alonzo White***Eunbok Kristina Kim*

Alonzo White, known to many as "Al," is the director of Human Resource Services at K-State, chairperson of the Black Faculty/

Staff Alliance, and co-advisor of the student organization Minority Business Students in Action (MSBIA).

Prior to coming to K-State in October of 1990, White worked in several human resource management positions within the University of Colorado system. After obtaining a master's degree in management from the University of Colorado, he embarked on what he described as "a good career opportunity" at K-State.

Maintaining an active profile on

the campus, White is a member of several committees, including the National Strategy Task Force and the Board of Regents for Benefits. As co-advisor of MBSIA, he seeks to use his professional expertise by helping multicultural students prepare for career opportunities. Seeking to motivate students, White is especially concerned that they learn the "ins and outs" of obtaining employment, particularly how to prepare for an interview.

As a multicultural faculty member, White sees a need to have more courses taught in the area of diversity. He stated, "Not all learning can be done in the classroom. We need to interact more with each other and with non-multicultural students and faculty as well." White would like to spend more time interacting with students but finds himself very busy with work and frequent trips to Colorado to visit his two sons.

**Speak Out****Native Americans Want Understanding About the 'Chop'***Darren Geimausaddle*

While White America celebrates the "Age of Discovery" and the Quincentennial, we, the indigenous people, have our own version of history to tell. As we continue to mourn the sixty to seventy million souls lost to disease and genocide, we continue to struggle against racism and oppression in this country.

Born out of ignorance and fear, racism or learned hatred was essential to the formation of this country.

The genesis of the world's greatest seat of civilization was founded upon pious claims of cultural superiority. From the European's standpoint, the untamed subhuman savages deserved no kindness. Thus, the image was born. It is an image that has perpetuated to this day and seen on numerous commercial products as well as mascots for various sports teams.

The tomahawk chop is an extension of this image. The mascots, plumed in chicken feathers and war

paint, exhort millions to partake in the symbolic desecration of a culture alien to them. To some, mainly non-Indians, the chop is innocent of any demeaning and/or degrading symbolism. But symbols speak out in different voices to different people. The chop symbolizes the pathetic state of humanity and demonstrates indifference and disrespect for cultures different from one's own.

The usage of stereotyped images such as mascots sends a message to young minds. Children learn to mock

and belittle other cultures at an early age. On the first day of my arrival to Manhattan, a grade school child asked, "Do you still kill people?" Amusing? Or the beginning for a lifelong custom of racism?

An opposing response to this issue is, "If sports teams that are named after Indians are offensive, then we should change the name of everything named after Indians." Renaming every street, city, and river isn't the point, relearning racist attitudes is.

**H.A.M. on the Move***Arleen Baiges*

Celebrating its cultural splendor for the second time in one calendar year, Hispanic Awareness Month (H.A.M.) was acknowledged once again in October. Wishing to keep the local celebration in synch with regional and national celebrations, the planning committee set the stage for the fifth annual observance in October, falling on the heels of Racial Ethnic Harmony Week. The month was co-sponsored by the Hispanic American Leadership Organization (HALO), the Latin American Studies Program, and the Latin American Student Organization (LASO).

Prospective activities were approached from the standpoint of broadening campus awareness of

Hispanic culture, as well as increasing the Latino perspective of the K-State community. Students received support from as far away as Puerto Rico. Among the wide range of educative opportunities for the community were lectures on free trade with Mexico, women and the labor market, and the Caribbean migration issue.

Martin Espada, a Puerto Rican poet and author of several books, gave the keynote address on October 21. The recipient of the PEN/Revson Fellowship and the Patterson Poetry prize, Espada read excerpts from several publications including his most recent work, "Rebellion Is in the Circle of a Lover's Hands." He also participated in a writing technique workshop.

Argentina, Columbia, Mexico,

Peru, Panama, and Puerto Rico were a few of the countries represented at the crafts exhibition in the Union Courtyard. A "Vegigante" mask from Puerto Rico, a Mexican "se-rape", and Peruvian copper plates were among the items on display.

The Puerto Rican Folkloric dance group and Puerto Rico Baila performed two contemporary dances, Plema and Danza. Salsa and Merengue, more popular dances, were also performed in the Courtyard. On October 16, Caribe, a Kansas City-based band, stirred up a delectable musical palate at Boulevard's, a local club in Aggieville. The Latino Night Masquerade Party in the Union Station brought the celebrative period to a close.

**Audience****CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

American culture. The play was a reflection of Lucretia Edward's life and the effects that actions she took as a girl had on her children and grandchildren. Young Lucretia was played by Tammy LaShaye Gant.

Although the production was a debut for several of its young actors, the ingenious characterizations of the entire cast delighted those in attendance. When asked what their immediate reaction was when they first assembled for the production, the response was unanimous. There was an immediate cohesiveness among the cast and stage crew alike. The outcomes were believable role playing and a distinct dedication to the production.

# ASIA Gains Prominence at KSU

*Sherri O'Dell*

Well into its second year of existence, Asian-American Students for Intercultural Awareness (ASIA) has planted a strong foothold as a viable multicultural student organization at K-State. Though administrative changes have occurred within the organization over the past two semesters, ASIA's membership has skyrocketed. Boasting over twenty-two active members (almost triple the original membership), ASIA attributes its apparent success as a group to a combination of unity and a strong sense of organization. This propensity was evident as Asian-American Awareness Month rolled around in November.

Asian-American Awareness Month took off on November 10 with a martial arts demonstration in the K-State Union by the Korean Martial Arts and Fitness Center, located in Aggieville. The demonstration was a perfect prologue to a self-defense workshop for men which was instructed by Diana Tarver the next day. The keynote speaker for the month was Professor Evelyn Hu-DeHart, director of the Center for Studies of Ethnicity and Race in America, from the University of Colorado-Boulder. Hu-DeHart's topic, "From Yellow Peril to Model Minority: Asian-Americans and the Columbus Legacy," provided a unique prospectus of Europe's influence on a minority population which

is often overlooked.

Japan was among the Asia countries highlighted during the month. Kyoko Mizuno, KSU instructor in Japanese, presented a workshop on Japanese culture and customs. A Phillipino folk dance was performed by an eight-member troupe comprised of individuals from the local community. Members in the audience, including KSU Student Body President Jackie McClaskey and Assistant Dean Bernard Franklin, were chosen from the sidelines to join in a traditional dance called 'tininkling.' Asian-American Awareness Month ended with a fashion show which displayed traditional dress from Korea, China, Viet Nam, and the Philippines. A dance featur-

ing a wide range of musical selections followed in Union Station.

November was also marked by Homecoming. ASIA participated in homecoming events, taking first place in the window painting event and second place overall for campus organizations. Besides homecoming events and celebration activities, ASIA also lent a hand to the community by helping the Flinthills Breadbasket put together Thanksgiving baskets for needy families within the community. December will find the group sponsoring a local family during the Christmas holiday. Next April ASIA will attend its national conference.

# Picnics Welcome Back Students

*Patty Armendariz*

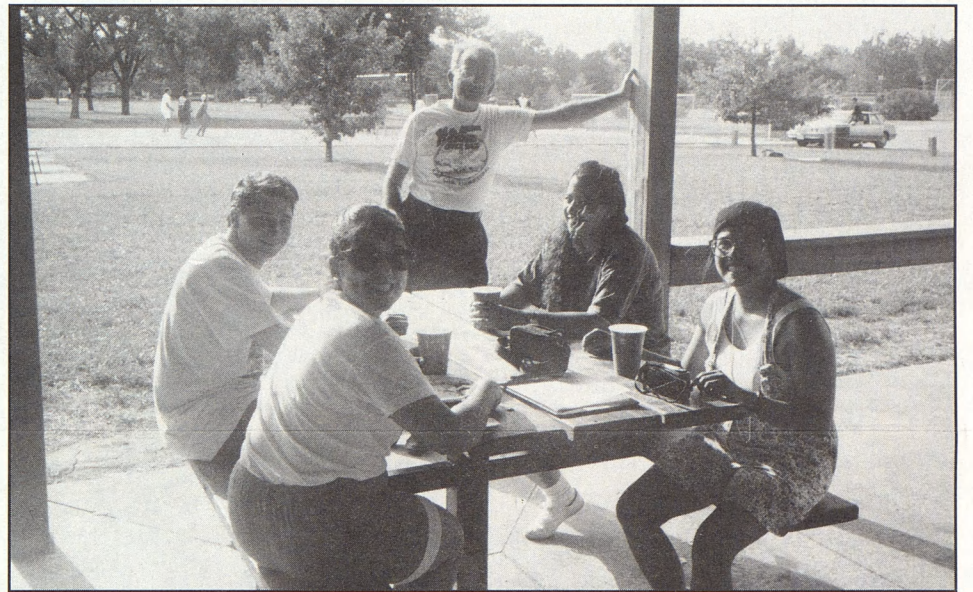
Students returning to campus after summer vacation were able to renew old friendships and develop new ties during picnics hosted by multicultural organizations. Working collaboratively, leaders planned each activity in such a way that members of each organization could attend respective activities.

Creativity played a major role in the AISES Annual Welcome Back Picnic on August 28. Sponsored by American Indian Science and Engineering Society, students converged at Tuttle Creek Reservoir to tell stories of summer jobs and experiences, ideas, and goals. Friendly rivalry was evident as two teams battled against one another for the year-long bragging rights of the volleyball court. Discovering they had failed to brought along a spatula, members banded together and constructed a spatula just in time to turn the first hamburger. "We improvised quite nicely", stated AISES President Judy Chavarria, "by using the a soda can lid and a stick to turn hamburgers on the grill."

The Black Student Union (BSU) hosted its annual "Welcome Back Picnic" during the early afternoon hours on August in Manhattan's City Park. BSU provided an abundance of food and entertainment for its membership. On hand to give their support to the group were KSU President Jon Wefald and other university staff. The success of the picnic could be measured by the huge volume and assortment of food. According to BSU Vice President Derrick Hardin, "We really appreciated everyone coming out to support us and look forward to similar support in the future."

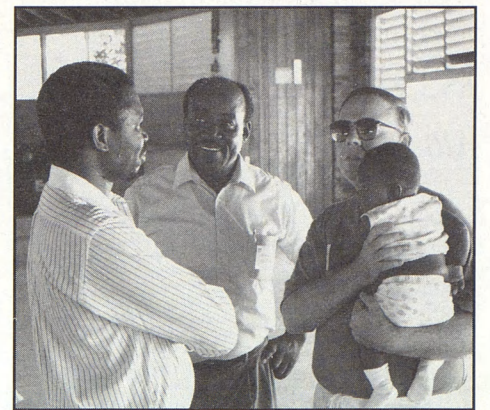
The Hispanic American Leadership Organization (HALO) directed its late afternoon efforts to hosting a "Welcome-Back Spread" in the same location. Along with a large dose of camaraderie were good food and games, particularly volleyball. Dr. Doug Benson, co-advisor and modern language professor, commented, "It was really good to see everybody. The atmosphere was nice and loose."

Community and university leaders convened at Triangle Park to com-



**HALO picnic welcomes new and old members.**

memorate Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s famous "I Have a Dream" speech. The Manhattan Community Harmony Association coordinated the event along with four other university and community agencies. Community leader Sue Haas stated, "Reverend Mac Charles Jones, internationally recognized peace activist, was an inspiring keynote speaker. The whole evening was enthusiastically received by those participating."



**BSU picnic draws university support.**

# Season of Thanks Celebrated Around the World

*Eunbok Kristina Kim*

Seasons of thanks often coincide across the world relative to cultural significance. Kwanzaa, a Swahili word meaning "holiday," is an Afro-centric religious festival created in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga. Celebrating Afro-centric principles of living and not heroic figures, the festival begins on December 26 and lasts for seven days. Each night a candle is lit to represent seven basic values: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith.

Kitchen God, a celebration observed by many Chinese families, takes place a week prior to New Year's Day. The traditional farewell to Tsao Wang, Prince of the Oven and the lord who watches over the hearth, antedates Confucianism and Buddhism. A week later, they welcome back Tsao Wang with great ceremony for good thoughts, good deeds, and vanquish the evils of the world.

Hanukkah is a religious observance Jewish families will celebrate on December 19 through eight consecutive days. Based on the Jewish calendar, Hanukkah changes from

year to year. Also known as the Feast of Lights, Hanukkah commemorates the victory of the Jewish people over Greek domination as well as the cleansing and restoration of the Temple. Believers acknowledge the miracle of the burning lamp which contained only enough oil to last one day but which burned seven days longer.

Traditional Mexican cities and villages participate in Posadas ceremonies which begin on December 16 and last for nine days. This observance represents the biblical story of Mary and Joseph. Their scarce for lodging in Bethlehem is reenacted

each night with solemn processions, prayers, hymns and festive parties.

Saint Lucia's Day is celebrated by many Swedes on December 13 which is the shortest day of the year. The eldest daughter of the family is adorned with a wreath of evergreens, lighted candles and a long white gown with a red sash. Regaled in this manner, she carries a tray laden with coffee and traditional saffron buns to members of her family.

Traditionally, Americans begin seasonal celebrations on December 24 to honor the birth of Christ followed by gift exchanges and a Christmas feast on December 25.

# 1992 Racial/Ethnic Harmony Week

*Phil Anderson*

Kansas State University's fourth annual Racial/Ethnic Harmony Week was held October 4-12 and, from the perspective of observers, was built positively on the success of previous years.

The week began with the rousing B.B. King concert, which provided a classy start for a busy week. Manning Marable was the keynoter and proved to be a man of keen insight and dynamic presence. His presen-

tation, "The 1992 Election and Beyond," filled Forum Hall and challenged all who were there with the seriousness of underlying social problems in this country. Will Roscoe fascinated his audiences on two occasions with research on the third gender and cultural survival in Native America.

The Union Program Council contributed to the week by scheduling the Kaleidoscope film "Daughters of the Dust," a story about a somewhat isolated American cultural group who

spoke Gullah. The Convocation Lecture Series included a stimulating speech with slides by H.J. DeBlij of "Good Morning America" fame entitled "The Breakdown of the Nation-State."

Numerous KSU talent contributed their expertise, including President Wefald with a stirring Kickoff Luncheon address, Bernard Franklin's leadership during the open forum on what has happened at KSU since the Rodney King Verdict, English Professor Tom Murray's workshop dis-

cussion on "Linguistic Harmony," and Veryl Switzer's reminiscences on "Changes in Diversity at KSU Over the Years."

The closing event, the annual Harmony Walk, was organized by Amy Miller and Shirlyn Henry Brown and began with greetings from President Wefald and Ruth Ann Wefald. The walk culminated after a brisk song-filled walk around campus and a stirring salute to the efforts of many diverse souls by Bernard Franklin.

## Students Shine During 1992 BSU Pageant

*Joe L. Perry III*

On the evening of October 3, five multi-talented students showcased their talent and knowledge in the 1992 Mr. and Ms. BSU Pageant. As part of Parents' Weekend '92, the Pageant gave African American students at K-State an opportunity to 'strut their stuff' before a crowd of nearly two hundred parents, students, and community visitors. John Kitchings, president of the Black Student Union, commented: "The pageant is the perfect opportunity for students to express their cultural pride and knowledge. In turn, guests and families of the performers take pride in knowing that the contestants are not afraid of sharing their talents with others."

While some acknowledge the tenuous pursuit of the title of Mr. or Ms. BSU as a natural evolution for their

talents, more often than not, others are skeptical of presenting them before an audience. "Anyone who stands up and says, 'I want to be Mr. or Ms. BSU,' is a winner to me," said

Shirlyn Henry Brown, one of the coordinators of this year's pageant.

Acting as the mistress of ceremony, Sapphira (aka Anita McAllister) mesmerized the audience with the

velvety expertise of a professional. Prior to becoming a graduate student in theater education, Sapphira worked as a radio and tv personality in Birmingham, Hampton, and Grambling.

Ta'Lisha Nicole Byers, junior in education, entranced the judges and the audience with a powerful monologue on suicide. Byers' provocative performance and poise won her the title of Ms. BSU 1992. Howard James Burnett, Jr., freshman undecided, won the Mr. BSU 1992 title by singing a moving rendition of "Jesus, the Center of my Joy." The winners of the local competition will represent K-State at the Big Eight Conference on Black Student Government in Lawrence next February. Combined with the outstanding talents of the other contestants were community groups such as Strictly Mellow and United Black Voices.



Former Ms. BSU Michelle Redmond (right) presents 1992 Ms. BSU Ta'Lisha Byers.

## KSU Community Orients New Students to Campus

*Alliance Staff*

Entering unfamiliar territory can present a real challenge for even the most seasoned cosmopolitan. In an effort to acquaint newcomers with the K-State community, a number of university faculty, staff, and students were available on August 29 to see that students got off on the "right foot."

The Freshman Orientation for Students of Color can be viewed as an early retention effort by the university for its 1447 multicultural students. Developed in 1988, the Task Force on Minority Student Retention explored factors that impede multicultural student retention and found that students often perceive K-State as having a "chilly climate." Some students of color did not feel especially welcome in their new environment and thus did not develop a sense of community.

Acutely aware of some of the pitfalls encountered by students of color on predominantly white campuses, the Multicultural Affairs Office reintroduced a time-honored appara-

tus that indeed sends a message of welcome. Dr. Mordean Taylor-Archer, assistant provost for multicultural affairs and social work instructor, was instrumental in staging the Freshman Orientation for the forty individuals in attendance. Taylor-Archer stated: "We understand what happens to students who do not get essential information at the outset of their college experience. Our goal is to connect students with our numerous human and academic resources as quickly as possible."

Nearly twenty-five seasoned faculty, staff, and students provided expertise in specific areas. Charlotte Olsen, director of Educational Supportive Services and orientation organizer, pointed out several beneficial study habits for new students. "Incoming students are often shocked by the contrast in study habits needed in college as compared to high school," Olsen said. "Learning to use small blocks of time and to break study assignments into small segments can help students tackle their college work."

Several upperclass students were also anxious to share hints on student survival. Judy Chavarria, president of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES), hoped to "let students know that there are organizations on campus to support them with on and off-campus pursuits." Paul Bridges, president of Asian-American Students for Intercultural Awareness (ASIA), sought to inform students of the leadership opportunities available within ASIA.



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