

Black History Month

By Ken Stiggers

February means Black History Month and a series of Associated events at Capitol.

February 11th kicked off Black History Month with "Sexuality: Minority and Majority Relations," a program sponsored by the Black Student Union and the Residence Living Program. This program featured Dr. Robert Suggs, Associate Professor of Psychology at Messiah College. Dr. Suggs spoke about minorities in a majority situation, or how the majority uses money and power to control the minority. Also, he talked about how someone who is a minority should handle himself or herself in a majority atmosphere.

On February 15th, guest speakers Cyril Griffith, a professor from University Park, and Roosevelt Green, an admissions officer there, spoke at a panel discussion on the significance of religion in the black community. Three ministers from local churches along with students from Capitol Campus attended the lecture and panel discussion.

Griffith talked about the significance of the black church from the mid-eighteenth century to the mid nineteenth century. Green started where Griffith left off and continued up to the present. Basically, their message was that the black

church has had and will continue to have significance in the black community.

The panel discussion touched on how the early black church served as a learning institution and an outlet for the black community. Also, a solution arose from the panel discussion that the students and community should come together and help the church

play a significant role again in the black community.

From February 10 to 22, the B.S.U. featured an art exhibit by Billy Baker in the Gallery Lounge.

Also, on February 18, the B.S.U. featured the film "Bill Cosby's racial prejudice" along with a panel and group discussion afterwards. In the film, Cosby played the role of a bigot performing a monologue while

expressing every conceivable prejudice about every minority group. After the film the four panelists, who had seen the film before hand, expressed their own attitudes and experiences concerning prejudice. This led on to a group discussion.

On February 19, the Avanti Theatre Group captivated a filled auditorium with the Ntozake Shange production of "For Colored Girls Who Have Con-

sidered Suicide When the Rainbow was Enuf." This choreopoem--poetry performed with music and dance--starred seven women dressed in various colors of the rainbow, telling a series of stories about their relationships with men.

Ending the series today will be the soft rock to acoustic ballads of Kim and Reggie Harris, scheduled for today at 12:15 in the Olmsted Auditorium.

'Colored Girls' looks at black issues

By Annette Childs

The auditorium filled up at a rapid pace, the lights slowly dimmed, and suddenly the colors of a rainbow appeared on the stage. This was the beginning of a captivating choreopoem that the audience would long remember.

On February 19th, the Avante Theatre Company visited Capitol Campus to present a choreopoem called, "For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf," sponsored by the Capitol Campus Cultural Events Committee and the Black Student Union.

A choreopoem is poetry put to music and dance. Ntozake Shange, the author of the choreopoem, set out to sing the

songs of the oves, hopes and possibilities of the black woman in poetry and prose of remarkable power.

The actresses were all dressed in various colors of the rainbow as they emotionally portrayed issues involving marriage, sexuality, pregnancy, inferiority and other real-life experiences which black women confront.

The characters described their personal relationships with men, and each version blended into an on-going storytelling process. By sharing stories about individual relationships with men, the characters gained courage and a new perception of themselves.

The audience, a mixture of Capitol Campus students, professors and community

residents, showed their appreciation through laughter and applause.

Andy Dobbins, a visitor, described the choreopoem as "a thought provoking experience," with characters that he could understand

"It was wonderful," shouted Dr. John Patterson, a professor in the Humanities Division. And John Marchi, an EDET major, simply said, "it was excellent."

"The choreopoem is a good vehicle for black artists because it allows black entertainers to play major roles that they may not get elsewhere," said Jackie Wade, stage manager for the Avante Theatre Company.

According to actress Lennie Daniels, who played the "Lady in Purple," "The language that

the author uses in the choreopoem is blunt . . . and you see the characters in everyday life. Ntozake Shange doesn't write around the issue, she writes the issue."

Carol Terry, the actress who played the "Lady in Pink," stated, "At the end of the show I feel a closeness among the actresses. . . It's like we've unsolved a mystery." She added, "And this is a good feeling . . . a feeling you never forget."

As the performance came to an end, the audience applauded as each actress took her bow. The rainbow, which was a symbol of hope throughout the whole play, maintained its significance even until the end of the performance, as the actresses joined hands and formed a semi-circle that resembled a rainbow.

Top PhDs leave teaching for industry jobs

CLAREMONT, CA (CPS) -- Poor pay and shrinking enrollment are driving PhDs away from college teaching careers and into more lucrative fields, a current study shows, and the trend could mean there'll be fewer talented professors in classes in the next decade.

In a survey of 38 colleges, Howard R. Bowen and Jack Schuster, education professors at California's Claremont Graduate School, found the deteriorating academic climate is persuading top professors and graduate students to abandon higher education careers.

The result, they say, may be a shortage of good college teachers.

"The nagging worries and decreased job security facing professors today are persuading the brightest PhD recipients to seek employment in other fields," Bowen told participants at the recent joint convention of the American Council on Education and the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges in Denver.

While current faculties are "the best equipped for the job

we've ever had," Bowen notes, "the flight of current people in higher education and of young people choosing careers will mean more education openings than can be filled."

There will be as many as 500,000 college teaching positions open in the next 25 years, Bowen says. "And the numbers could be even greater in the next 15 years if conditions in higher education continue to deteriorate."

"The academic community must begin now to compete," he adds. "Recruitment of new faculty is the most important task of higher education."

To entice top quality PhDs into higher education, colleges need to offer competitive salaries, incentives and working conditions, Bowen said in a recent phone interview.

But slipping enrollment could wreck those offers.

"Faculty salaries are controlled by political and economic factors," he says. "Private schools depend on enrollment. So do public schools, but they need their legislatures to offset losses."

"Most colleges are happy

with the professor supply and with new recruits," Schuster adds. "But the bubble is about to burst. The application pool is thin below the top."

In addition, new surveys indicate fewer students are choosing college teaching careers.

In 1966, Schuster told the

Denver convention, 1.8 percent of college grads considered teaching at the college level. By 1979, only 0.2 percent wanted to teach.

Since then the numbers have stabilized, he says, but the number of top students planning to teach continues to slip.

In the fifties, one in five college faculty members were Phi Beta Kappa. By 1969, only eight percent held the honor.

Schuster therefore concludes that while the vacant teaching positions won't go unfilled, the quality of applicants will go down.

