

Voices of Africa Rock the House

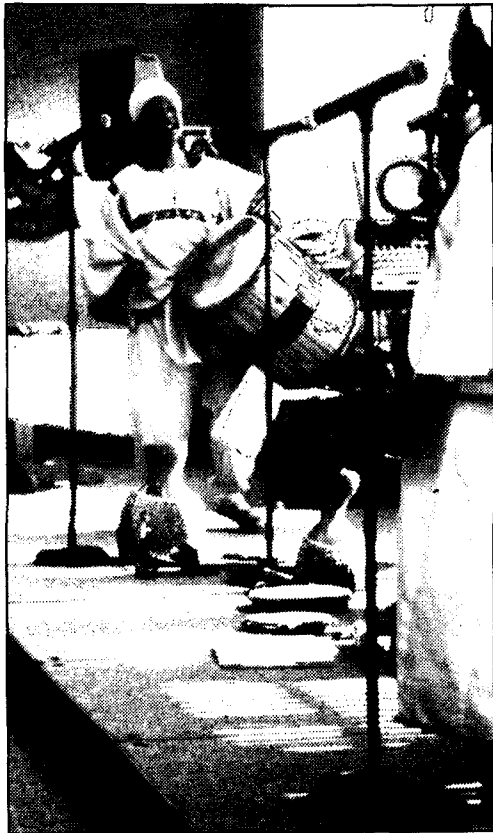


Photo by Cathie McCormick Musser

Nana Baakan Agyiriwah, managing director and founder of Voices of Africa.



Photo by Cathie McCormick Musser

Voices of Africa share the making of the Sekere, a traditional West African instrument.

Continued from Page 1

According to Agyiriwah, music in West African cultures includes the entire community. "If you can walk you can dance; if you can talk you can sing," Agyiriwah said. As a timely example, she recruited the audience to clap a rhythm while the troupe pounded out complicated complimentary beats on handmade gourd instruments.

While the audience clapped and the drummers drummed, Agyiriwah taught. "Rythm is a pace," she said, "this is the same rhythm, but different beats."

Workshop attendee Mary Prah, a PSH student majoring in Business Management, thoroughly enjoyed the show. She attended the workshop as a student in Dr. Dorothy King's Social Problems class. Prah was glad she was required to attend. She liked hearing about the instrument construction methods and enjoyed Agyiriwah's wit. "She was funny. She got everybody involved," Prah said.

Prah's Social Problems class has attended all the PSH events celebrating Black History Month. "This was the most entertaining," Prah said.

Prah added that it's easy to miss the many similar opportunities on campus. "Most people don't see them on their own, without a kick from a teacher."

Voices of Africa also performed in the Auditorium later on Feb. 23. Both performances were co-sponsored by the Office of Minority Affairs and a grant from the Student Activity Fee Fund.

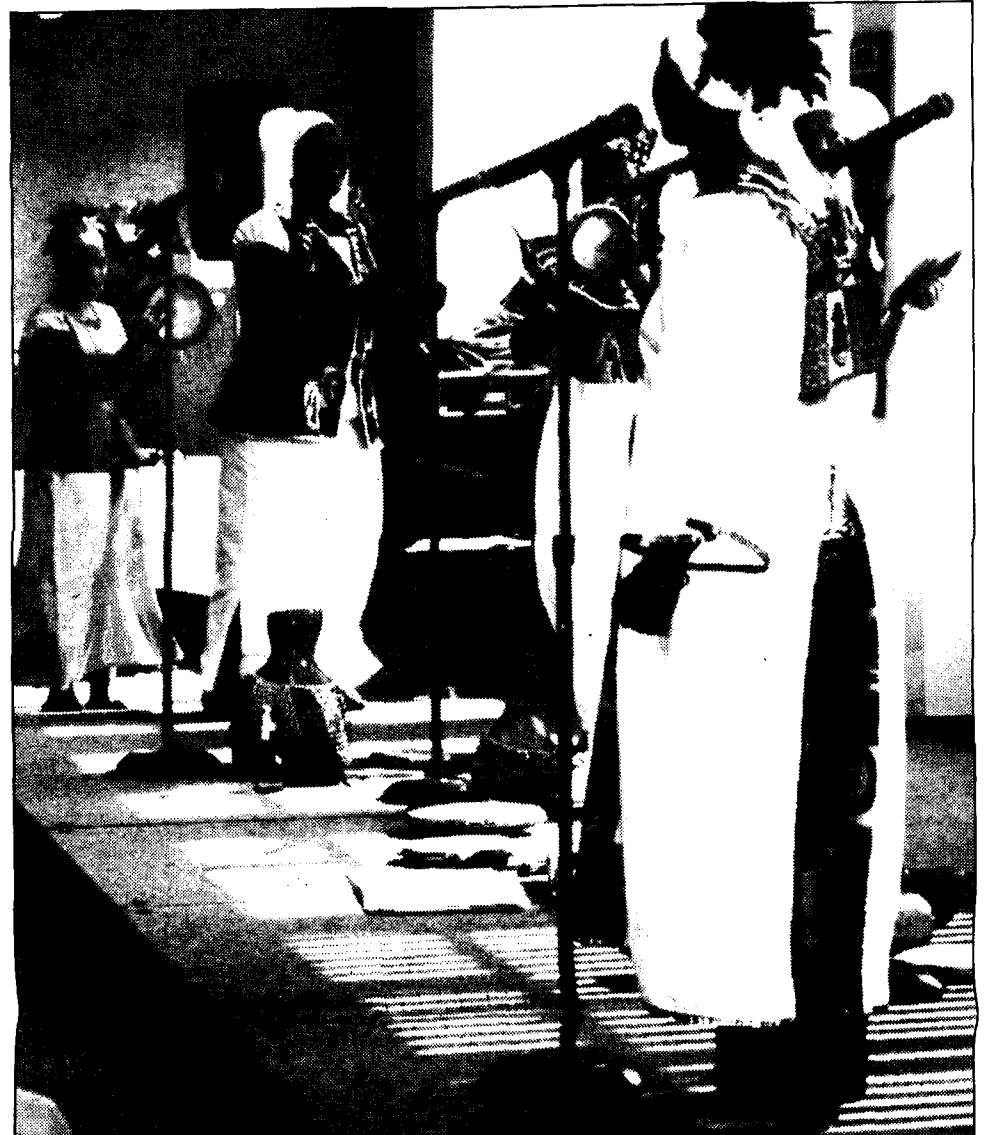


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Voices of Africa combined humor, music and cultural education in a fast-paced workshop celebrating Black History Month.

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