

Annual Campus Film Festival Features African Films

By Kaspar Stromme

As a part of the "Cultures of Africa" program, this year's annual campus film festival will consist of a series of African feature films and documentaries.

All the films are produced by African directors, and take place in various African countries. Some are presented in English while others are presented in their native language, with English subtitles for those of us not fluent in languages like Moore and Wolof. Eleven screenings will be held between January 21 and the end of the semester. The films deal with a variety of issues, but share one common factor - they are all produced by Africans. There are many films around about Africa, but only a few are actually produced by Africans.

According to one of the program's organizers, Dr. Robert Ginsberg, the

films play an important part in the "Cultures of Africa" program, giving students the opportunity to experience Africa, through the eyes of Africans.

Dr. Ginsberg hopes that by using films more people will be introduced to African culture. While the films are challenging they can also be very satisfying, and "will probably make audiences watch American movies with a more critical eye."

There are still many films left in the program. Since many of the films are rarely screened, this is an opportunity to experience something out of the ordinary. Documentaries are shown at 11:30 in Main 101 and are scheduled for February 20, March 5 and 26, and April 7 and 21. Films are shown at 1:00 in Main 101 and are scheduled for February 18 and March 5 and 17. The screenings are free and open to the public.



African art displayed in the Main Lounge uniquely arranged by Connie Kirker.

Photo by: Diana Miceri

Colorful Decorations Light Up Campus

By Chuck Spector

As part of the ongoing semester long celebration of Cultures of Africa, the campus has been widely decorated with a variety of items representing the entire continent.

The two main people in charge of this project are Bob Ginsberg acting as director, and Connie Kirker who is the assistant director.

The most noticeable attraction, so far, has been along the campus walkways which have been decorated with flags of all the fifty-two countries of Africa. The flags are an attempt to show the different identities and colors that each one of the countries possess, not to mention how they brighten up the campus.

We now have the complete set of

African flags, giving our campus the largest set in the Penn State system, with U.P. only having thirteen of the African flags. In addition to these flags, large three by five foot flags have been hung from the ceiling of the cafeteria and entrance way to the gymnasium.

Connie Kirker will soon be placing small fully colored posters around the campus detailing which flags represent each country. Delco now has a resource that can be shared with other PSU commonwealth campuses and surrounding colleges. This will, in return, help reduce the initial price we paid for these specially ordered items. A special thanks should be given to the maintenance department for doing a great job of hanging these flags throughout the campus.

The yellow banners hanging in the learning center lounge represent four

different proverbs relating to the theme of African culture. Each was made by students from the Art 102 design class last semester. Can you interpret what they symbolize?

The design class also made the boxes hanging over the new Egyptian style area rugs in the main lounge. Each box represents a different African country. The boxes try to tell as much as possible about the countries without the use of words.

More African banners are going to be placed in the main parking lot. They will replace the plain white ones that presently hang seventy feet high along side of the twenty-fifth anniversary banners.

The twenty by twenty foot banner that was used as a back drop for the opening Cultures of Africa ceremony will soon be hung on the side of one of the campus buildings.

Six Full Credit Courses Are Offered On African Cultures

By Don Roberts

In addition to the semester-long activities centering around the "Cultures of Africa" program, Penn State Delco also offers six credit courses on African cultures.

Art History 130, taught by Professor Constance Kirker, primarily focuses on the several cultures of Africa with some emphasis on Oceania and Indian America. Comparative Literature 3, Masterpieces of Literature from Africa, meets every Tuesday and Thursday at 1:00 with Professor Ginsberg to discuss works from Ancient and Modern Egypt as well as Nigeria, Kenya, and other parts of Africa. Professor Betts teaches the many accomplishments and genres

in Black American Literature during his English 139 class.

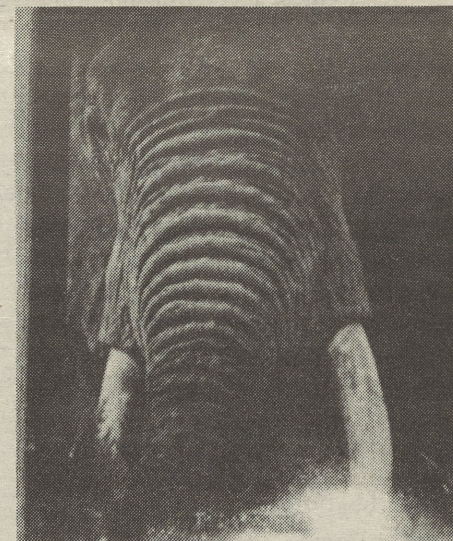
Religion was a strong pillar in Afro-American history. Religious Studies/Black Studies 145, with Professor Stephens, studies this significance by discussing religion's rise from the period of slavery to Martin Luther King Jr. Black studies 100, taught by Professor Harvell, discusses the evolving status of blacks in the 20th century.

Each course on African culture meets the strict requirements and guidelines followed by every university course. These courses, as well as the "Cultures of Africa" program, give a detailed history of Afro-Americans from early times to today.

Photo Exhibit Fills Library

By Andy McIntire

As part of "The Cultures of Africa" exhibit being held here at the Penn State Delaware County Campus this spring semester "Images of Africa",



Rogue elephant by Dr. Ginsberg.

a photography exhibition by Dr. Robert Ginsberg, is being held in the Gallery of the library learning center. The exhibit is open to the public and can be seen on the following dates: January 15, March 5 and 15, and April 30.

Dr. Ginsberg says, "the 'Images of Africa' exhibit gives people the chance to enhance their understanding of the African culture." Along with the exhibit, Gallery lectures by the photographer will be announced.

The Cultures of Africa program is a great opportunity to learn about a culture many of us do not know enough about. The program will run throughout the spring semester so take a little time out of your schedule and check out a worth while experience.

