

# Kwanzaa Celebrates Seven African American Values

By Rosa Laborde

Have you heard of Kwanzaa? If not it is a cultural observance for black Americans and others of African descent. Kwanzaa was created by Maulana Karenga in 1966. The word Kwanzaa means "first fruits of the harvest" in Swahili. There is no festival of that name in any African society. It is only for blacks in America who came from the many parts of Africa.

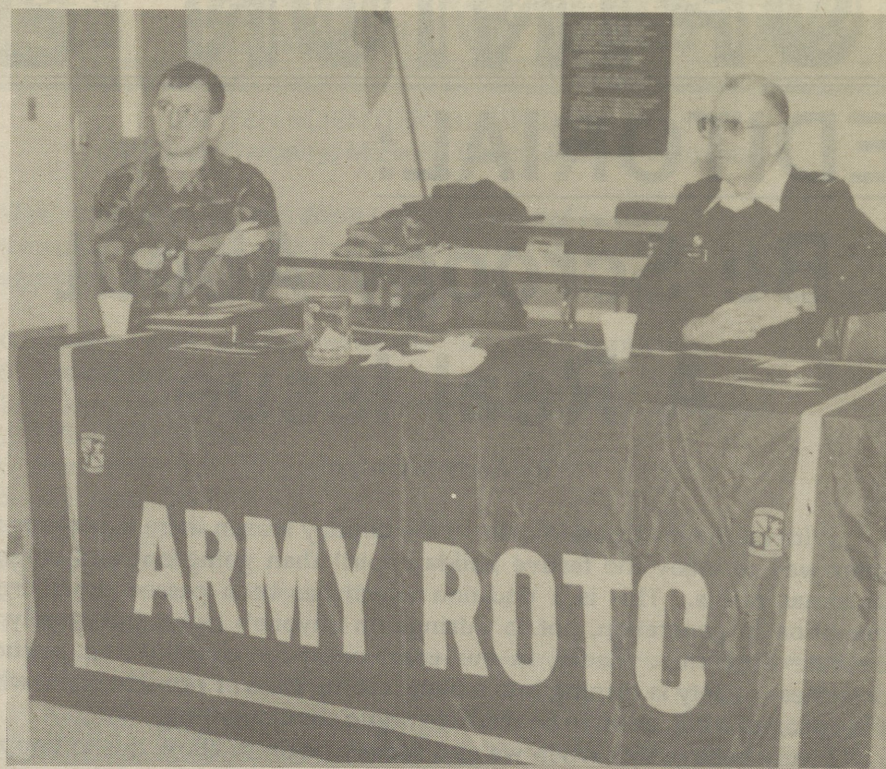
Kwanzaa runs from December 26 to New Year's Day; it does not replace Christmas and is not a religious holiday. It is a time to focus on Africa and African-inspired culture and to reinforce a value system that goes back for generations.

On each day of Kwanzaa, a family member lights a candle, then discusses one of seven principles. The principles are:

1. Umoja (Unity): To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation, and race.
2. Kujichagulia (Self-determination): To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves, and speak for ourselves instead of being defined,

named, created for, and spoken for by others.

3. Ujima (Collective Work and responsibility): To build and maintain our community together, and to make our sisters' and brothers' problems our problems and to solve them together.
4. Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics): To build and maintain our own stores, shops, and other businesses and to profit from them together.
5. Nia (Purpose): To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.
6. Kuumba (Creativity): To do always as much as we can, in whatever way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.
7. Imani (Faith): To believe with all our heart in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders, and in the righteousness and victory of our struggle.



Col. McRae, from University Park ROTC, recently visited Delco. He is accompanied here by Capt. Michael Mavracick.

Photo by: DIANA MICERI

## 13 Great Ideas for Semester Break

By Cristine Phillips

Well my fellow Delconians, winter break is finally upon us. No more midterms, research projects or speeches for three and a half glorious weeks.

But wait a minute, what on earth are we supposed to do with all of this free time? Spare time is not something we busy college students are used to having. What ever are we to do over this prolonged leave of absence?

Fret not friends because I have taken the liberty of compiling a list of activities with which to fill your social calendars. Yes it is finally finished, the one and only official list of "Things to do over winter break."

Consider it just a few suggestions to inspire your

imagination and challenge you to try new and exciting things. (Are you guys really falling for this?)

Anyway, here it is. Whether you do one, none or all of these things remember above all else to have FUN! Have a great vacation....see ya next semester.

### Things To Do Over Winter Break

#### Things to do with friends:

- \* PARTY! PARTY! PARTY! Throw one, go to one, crash one, just be sure to party safe and responsibly.

- \* Go Skiing Try the Vermont Ski Trip sponsored by the French Club Keystone Society or organize your own trip.

- \* Check Out A Local Band/ Concert Don't forget to catch The Influence with Redemption at Alibi's in West Chester December 20 and 27. Check the paper for other shows.

- \* Have A Film Festival Pick a theme (ex: horror, comedy, cartoons), rent some movies, pop some popcorn and call your friends over. Always guaranteed to be an inexpensive but hilarious good time.

- \* Play Group Games Is there any snow?...have a snowball fight. Too cold outside?...go bowling or (dare I say) roller-skating/blading. Want to stay home?...try board games like Pictionary.

#### Day trips to take

- \* Plan A Trip To Philadelphia. Start at the Philadelphia Art Museum

and then hit the Franklin Institute. End the day with dinner on South Street.

- \* Plan A Day At Local Attractions. Pay a visit to the Brandywine River Museum and then finish the trip by exploring Longwood Gardens.

- \*\* Many organizations offer special student rates so be sure to ask and don't forget your student I.D. \*\*

#### Things to do for others

- \* Organize A Food Drive Collect food from friends and neighbors and bring it to the homeless in Philly who aren't as fortunate as we.

- \* Bring Toys To Sick Children. So many children will spend the holidays in the hospital. Help make the season brighter by distributing toys to those children...and get your friends to help.

- \* Donate To A Charitable Organization Donations are tax-deductable and many worthy organizations are in desperate need of assistance. On a local level the Humane Society and Planned Parenthood could both use the help.

#### Things to do alone (or with one other person)

- \* See A Play Or Ballet West Chester College is presenting *The Nutcracker* this season and People's Light and Theater Company will perform the classic *A Christmas Carol*. Check them out!

- \* Take Your Mother Out To Dinner. (Continued on page 4)

**The Lion Ambassadors would like to thank everyone who participated in the Food Drive. They received 2 turkeys, 20 lbs. of potatoes, 3 large cartons of food, and \$50 in cash.**

## Student Services Offers Varied Activities and Aid

By Roger Lee

Students that are having any problems with non-academic affairs can come to the Department of Programs and Student Services, which are located in Main 105 and 106.

According to Director of Student Services Pete Coleman, there are many programs and services offered. Some of the most important programs:

1. Financial Aid:— if you are having difficulty with meeting tuition payments, the Financial Aid office in Room 105 can help.

2. Career Development and Placement Services — advisors, staff, and even a special computer can help you plan which course of study which best suits you. This department also helps your future plans after graduation.

3. Student Activities and Clubs — there are many ways to get involved outside of class. There are

at least 15 clubs and organizations that you can participate with. Mr. Coleman is the Director and Advisor of the Student Government Association, which works with the various student organizations from The French Club to the Karate Club.

4. Social and Recreational Department— helps coordinate performances such as Flamingo Dancers, comedians, and musicians in the Main Lounge. Intramural sports, such as tennis and flag football, are organized here.

5. Conduct and Discipline — if for some strange reason you would happen to get into trouble, Conduct and Discipline Coordinator Pete Coleman would help straighten things out.

6. Freshman Orientation — prospective freshman are given a tour. Freshman get to meet with their respective college advisors, student organization leaders, and observe classes.