

Features

Historic tour displays black struggle, history

By **CONNIE RINGGOLD**
Staff Writer

A handful of Penn State Delco students took a special journey Feb. 16 — a journey back through time.

Even though there were few in number, that didn't stop us from visiting the First African American Blacks in Wax Museum in Baltimore, Md.

I didn't know what to expect when I got there but, when I walked in the door I saw the statues of great leaders in history such as: Harriet Tubman, Langston Hughes and Malcolm X.

There was an exhibit entitled the slave ship. On this ship there were different cabins that held the sick and elders, girls and women and men and boys.

We saw the skeletal remains and the tortured remains of malnourished bodies. Another scene showed a decapitated head of a man in his mid-30s. The head sat on a tub, as if warning others who may consider disobeying.

There was also a wall full of tools of the slave trade: shackles, whips, hammers and other objects that were used to capture and subdue slaves.

As you walked further down the poorly lit corridor, you see the display of the rebellious slaves where they overpowered their captors, and sought revenge for their brutal treatment.

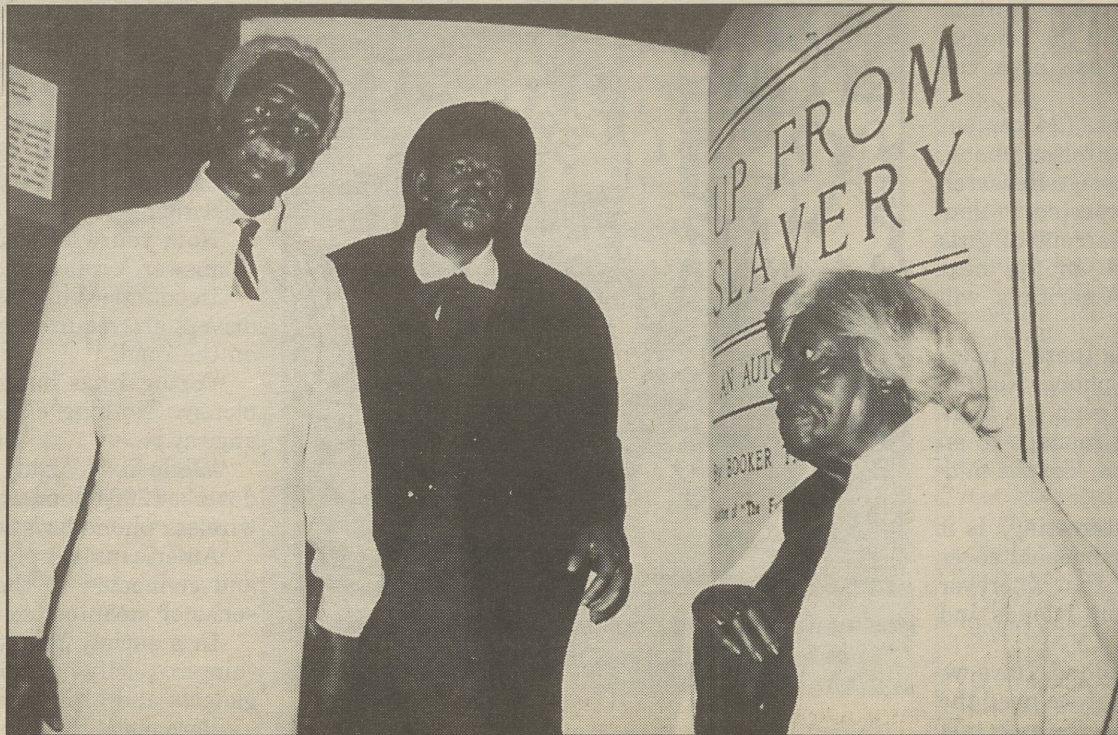
The most gruesome sight was a mutilated bloody corpse of a woman hanging from a tree. A white man stands in front of her, cutting her stomach open and removing the baby from its mother's womb.

All you could do was stand and stare in disbelief.

Elmer and Joanne Martin started this museum back in 1983.

With the intentions of opening the first ever African American wax museum they had a few objectives in mind:

- to stimulate an interest in



CONNIE RINGGOLD
Above, Booker T. Washington and his autobiography, 'Up from Slavery'. Below, black children say they are not afraid of Klu Klux Klan members. At right, a slave in shackles on a ship to America



African American history by revealing the unknown facts about the struggles our ancestors faced

- to use great leaders to motivate
- to clear up myths of racial inferiority.

Some know this museum as the most dynamic cultural and educational institution museum.

You can walk through this 30,000-square-foot exhibit and witness the remarkable



accomplishments that have earned some of these great leaders a spot in the museum. You can see how slaves were taken from their homes in Africa and taken to the new land where they were sold, raped, whipped and mistreated.

I talked to Rachel Robinson a student that went on the trip to see what her take was on the Blacks in Wax Museum.

"It was very educational," Robinson said. "It covered a lot of issues that the text books don't cover."

Before I visited the museum, I too, was uneducated about my past.

I was taught what the teachers wanted us to know and I researched all I could on my own.

After I visited the Blacks in Wax Museum, I began to see into my ancestors past. The pain, the horror and the bondage they went through.

I can truly say that this experience has left a lasting impression on me.

If you want to visit the museum on your own the address is: 1601-03 E. North Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21213. It costs \$6 and it is open to the public 364 days of the year.

My opinion: The trip is well worth it.



DENZEL WASHINGTON
Stars in 'Hurricane'

Food and film: Great festival combo

By **DANIELLE ROSSI**
Staff Writer

What? Where? When? Penn State Delco's annual Film and Food festival that's what.

There will be a celebration in memory of Black History Month. All are welcome to attend and enjoy the viewing of Denzel Washington's, "Hurricane."

"Hurricane" is the story of Rubin Carter, a boxer wrongly imprisoned for murder. Be sure to be there on time the film begins at noon Feb. 27.

Are you wondering, who can watch a movie without food? Well, no need to worry. Free food will also be available. Indulge in mouth-watering traditional soul food provided by friends, staff, and students.

Let's stress again that the film and the food are free.

So don't forget to mark your calendar.

Come show your support during this celebration of our history.

The Film and Food Festival is Tuesday, Feb. 27. It runs from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the large conference room, in the Commons building.

March: Month to celebrate women's HERstory

For those of you who do not know, March is Women's History Month.

Granted, we should show appreciation to women throughout the entire year, but during this month we are able to celebrate women, their struggles, accomplishments and what they have done to improve our society.

We're lucky enough to attend a University where they feel strongly about women and are willing to edu-

cate the student body on many aspects of Women's History.

There are a few events planned for Penn State Delco students, faculty and staff. Check out the list and mark down a few on your calendar.

- Poet Carolyn Wright will speak at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, March 1.

- Sister Talk / Brother Dialogue with Stephanie Renee and Crew from Creator's Child Production, Inc., starts

at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, March 15.

- Book Discussion Group, sponsored by the Bookstore first discussion facilitated by Christine Ziemba. The book to be discussed: "Sister of My Heart" by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni. Discussion begins at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 20.

- Bishop John S. Spong, retired Episcopalian bishop who ordained the first woman and the first homosexual,

will speak at 12:30 p.m. Friday, March 23. A book signing follows at 1:30 p.m. in the campus bookstore.

- Commission for Women Luncheon. Local talk show host Susan Bray will be the guest speaker at this event that begins at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, March 29 in the large conference room in the Commons.

-Compiled by Anthony Kozlowski