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# The Black Perspective December 1982

University of Dayton. Black Action Through Unity

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# the BLACK perspective

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DECEMBER 1982

## *Merry Christmas!*

### **A Celebration of An African Christmas: Kwanza**

by Nate Gundy

Your holidays can be more meaningful this year if you celebrate using themes from our cultural heritage. One of the most festive ways to do this is to observe Kwanza — the Black cultural holiday originated in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, a California professor. Kwanza was first celebrated by Dr. Karenga's cultural organization, Us, and has since been observed by Black folks around the country. A nonreligious holiday, Kwanza was created not to take the place of Christmas but, according to Dr. Karenga, "to reinforce the bonds between us."

Festivities last seven days — from December 26 through January 1 — and focus on what Dr. Karenga calls "the highest values of humankind: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, purpose, creativity and faith.

On December 3, 1982 a celebration of Kwanza will commence at the University of Dayton. This special celebration has been organized by Tonya Taylor. She has requested that the Black organizations on campus on presentations concerning specific aspects of Kwanza. The topics for these presentations are varied and represent the fundamental purposes of the Kwanza concept. The names for the topics are derived from the languages of our Negro heritage.

The Kwanza celebration for blacks has been equated to the Jewish celebration of Hannukah. It is hoped that as black students, we recognize the importance of Kwanza and also its implications in our lives. All black students on campus should participate in this year's Kwanza celebration to promote its true meaning and relevance to our people.

#### **Topics of Kwanza**

UMOJA (Unity) - To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race.

KUJICHAGULIA (Self-determination) - To define ourselves, name ourselves, and speak for ourselves, instead of being defined and spoken for by others.

UJIMA - (Collective Work and Responsibility) - To build and maintain our own community together and to make our brothers and sisters problems our problems and to solve them together.

UJAMAA (Cooperative Economics) - To build and maintain our own stores, shops, and other businesses and to profit together from them.

NIA (Purpose) - To make as our collective vocation the building & developing of our communities in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.

KUUMBA (Creativity) - To do always as much as we can, in every way we can, to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than when we inherited it.

IMANI (Faith) - To believe with all our heart in our parents, teachers, leaders and people and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

## Christmas on Campus

by Elaine Byndon

Over the Christmas Holidays, a relatively new UD tradition was continued — Christmas on Campus. The celebration, which began on December 8, 1964, is still popular after 18 trying and sometimes turbulent years, according to Ms. Eleanor Kurtz of Student Development.

Mrs. Kurtz, who conceived the original idea to begin the celebration felt that, "it was a chance for faculty, staff and students to celebrate the most beautiful time of the year together."

During the early years, the entire campus was involved in the festivities, as each building on campus was decorated by a student organization.

Interest waned for the celebration in the latter part of the 1960's, and the future was uncertain at best. It wasn't until Father Middendorf of the Central Service Committee, had the insight to invite children from the community, that UD realized that Christmas on campus was here to stay.

The next year University Activities Organization brought in busloads of children for the celebration, and recently senior citizens have been included in the festivities.

The celebration has included something for everyone. There was a live petting zoo for the children, a pantomime group for the adults and a water ballet and music for everyone. Christmas on Campus offers an abundance of fun and Christmas spirit for the young and the young at heart. It provides a welcomed change of pace and kicks-off the holiday season.

## December Graduates

by Elaine Byndon

December is usually remembered for the celebrating of Christmas, the wearing of heavy winter coats, heavy snow falls, and as the last month of the year. For nine seniors at the University of Dayton, this December will be remembered as the month they graduated from college.

The following list was compiled with the help of the Human Relations office and James L. Brown. The staff of the Black Perspective would like to congratulate the following graduates and wish them luck in their future endeavors:

**James L. Brown**, Management Technology  
**David Byrd**, Data Processing  
**Deborah A. Fair**, Electrical Engineering  
**Gerald L. Harmon**, Management  
**Gary C. Moore**, Electrical Engineering  
**Darrell W. Russell**, Electrical Engineering  
**Ronald Thomas**, Management  
**Michaele A. Tompkins**, Home Economics  
**Donald R. Williams**, Communication Arts

## Symbols of Kwanza:

Straw Mat:	symbolizes tradition and history because it is an African object (the other symbols can be placed on it)
Fruits:	represents the roots of the holiday
Candleholder:	symbolizes parenthood. Seven candles are placed in it and one is lit on each day of the Kwanza
Corn:	an ear of corn is placed for each child of the household
Gifts:	should be given mainly to children and must include two items: a book end and a heritage symbols such as a poster, african art, a framed family photo or a Black doll.
Unity Cup:	is used for a toast to the ancestors.

## Career Outlook

by James Stocks

Members of the National Black MBA (Master of Business Administration) Association took a long look at the future during their three-day annual conference in New York, and they didn't particularly like what they saw. In the 1980's, it seems, the graduate business degree will no longer be the ticket to corporate success that it once was.

For one thing, there are a lot more of them around than there used to be. Of the 55,000 MBA's conferred by American universities in 1979, 2,129 went to blacks, up from 1,549 in 1976. And the upward trend is continuing, both among blacks and among the general population. This year will bring an estimated 57,000 new MBA's into the job market, about 5 percent of them black, and 1985 is expected to peak at about 59,000 graduates.

With the increased competition, companies are going to be "much more exclusive in their choices", said Leroy Nunery, an official at Northern Trust Bank of Chicago. The run-of-the-mill MBA will no longer guarantee anything more than an entry-level job, he added. "They'll be looking at where you went to school and how well you did."

The long-awaited move by blacks into the executive suite is still some distance away, said Pepsico's Ralph Smith. "It's going to require a broader power base,"

he said. "We'll have to have some people in those inner circles willing to bring us in". He advised minority MBA's to improve their political skills".

Forget the strategy of leap-frogging up the ladder by changing companies every few years. Most companies are paying more attention nowadays to their "homegrown talent", Nunery added. "In this wave of merger mania, it's impossible to get your name known if you don't stay with one organization for a while."

Affirmative action? It won't be much of a factor during the Reagan era. Said one West Coast manager: "Companies pursued affirmative action to keep government off their backs. That's starting to be relaxed now".

A grasp of high-tech areas (i.e. computers or engineering) may be the new key to success, several participants suggested. "An undergraduate background in technology combined with an MBA will provide more opportunity throughout the decade", said Smith.

Under any circumstances, the abiding principle of the business world won't change. "A corporation is a pyramid", said conference coordinator Sarah E. Blair, 29, an investment manager at Equitable Life and holder of an MBA from Columbia University. "There's generally only room for one at the top".

## Traditional and Kwanza Christmas Symbols

Below is a list of some of the symbols that can be found around this time of year. For a new twist Kwanza symbols have been added. The words can be found diagonally, horizontally, vertically and backwards. MERRY CHRISTMAS!

P.S. the words underlined> are the ones to be found in the puzzle.

- |                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Bells                 | Joy                |
| Candleholder          | Lights             |
| Candy <u>Canes</u>    | Mistletoe          |
| Carols                | Reindeer           |
| Christmas <u>Tree</u> | <u>Santa Claus</u> |
| Corn                  | Sleighs            |
| Elves                 | Snow               |
| Fruit                 | Straw Mat          |
| Gifts                 | Unity Cup          |
| Holly                 |                    |

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S L E I G H S D K G I E L S
U A M I S T L E T O E U B E N
N O N Q Z S O H B J N E E N
I C W T C E R B O I L O L A
T U T F A V A J T L Z J S C
Y O I P B L C Y S K L C O K
C A N D L E H O L D E R D Y
U G J E L E N I M G N E H D
P S I S T D H O E P F I G K
Q A M F K H N A C Y D N A C
F R U I T S J L N S I D E P
E I O S M S A N T N G E E U
A K E S B I U R F O J E R C
Y L L O H B T A M W A R T S
    
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CHRISTMAS IS MORE THAN GIFTS

*Submitted by Scott Harris*

*“When you choose to  
love someone,  
Love them for what  
they are  
Not what you want them  
to be,  
Or what you think  
they’ll be.”*

*— C. Kennedy —*

*To be considered in your next relationship*

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# *Pictures from Events gone by:*

*Labor Day Picnic*



*Welcoming of Freshmen by initiation*



*Shades of Black performing at the Black Expo*



*All work and no play even makes UD students boring*



## **Announcements**

### **Martin Luther King Commemorative Program**

The Martin Luther King Memorial Program is scheduled for Thursday, January 13, 1983, in the University of Dayton Chapel. This program will begin at 4:00 p.m., and will feature the UD Gospel Choir, prayer, and an address given by Mayor Richard D. Hatcher of Gary, Indiana.

All UD faculty, staff, students, and members of the Dayton community are invited to attend.