

Ball State University



BALL STATE UNIVERSITY - MULTICULTURAL CENTER

Cultural Times 2012

What is the MADNESS happening in March?

National Women's History Month is an annual declared month worldwide that highlights contributions of women to events in history and contemporary society. March has been set aside as this month in the United Kingdom and in the United States. In India, this month is celebrated in October and corresponds with the celebration of Persons Day, which is October 18.

In 1981, responding to the growing popularity of the event, In 2001, Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) and Rep. Barbara Mikulski (D-Maryland) co-sponsored the first Joint Congressional Resolution proclaiming a "Women's History Week." This week was well received, and soon after, schools across the country began to have their own local celebrations. The next year, leaders from the California group shared their project at the Women's History Institute at Sarah Lawrence College. Other participants not only became determined to begin their own local Women's History Week projects, but also agreed to support an effort to have Congress declare a national Women's History Month.

- Library of Congress

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January : Perspectives Discussion January 18th

Topic: “Color Coordinated: The Art of Adjusting to the Color of Your Skin “

Students gathered to address mind boggling questions such as: Will I offend them? Will I seem racist? Was I politically correct? These are questions people ask themselves while engaging in conversations with people from different races and cultural backgrounds.

This discussion focused on “code-switching” and how one does it knowingly and unknowingly based on the color of his/her skin. The group concluded that code-switching is matter of adapting and not conforming in order navigate your way through the social and political arenas of this world. One students stated, “Don’t limit yourself to one face.”

January: Heritage Film Series January 25th



Students, faculty and administrators viewed *Into the Arms of Strangers*, the remarkable story of the rescue operation, known as the Kindertransport. It contained the stories of children, rescue workers, parents, and others who survived the terrible massacre known as the Holocaust. It was a provoking yet inspirational experience for all who attended the program.

Black History Facts

- C.B. Brooks invented the street sweeper in 1896. It was a truck equipped with brooms.
- In 1897, Alfred Cralle patented the first ice cream scoop.
- In 1911, Nathaniel Alexander was the first to patent the folding chair. His invention was designed to be used in schools, churches and at large social gatherings.

Unity Week Recap

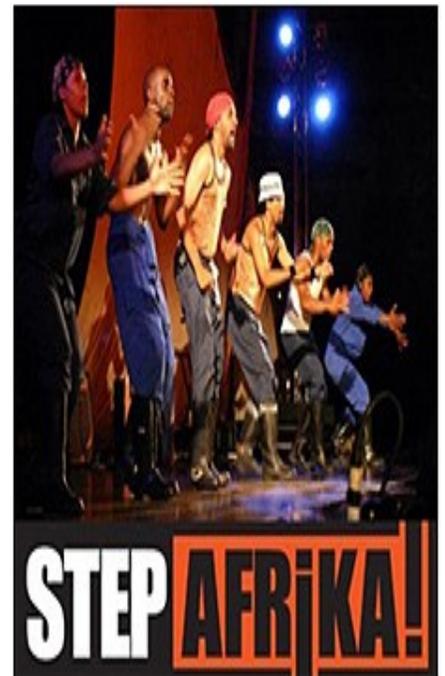
Unity Week was celebrated on the Ball State Campus. The week of events commenced with Dr. Martin Luther King Day breakfast and Unity March. A Day of Service occurred with an evening service as the finale. At the end of the week, Mr. and Miss Unity were crowned at Pruis Hall. The pageant was filled with dance, talent, and celebration. Congratulations to Mr. and Miss Unity 2012, Javonte Anderson & Sarah Mitchem!



In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Ball State University welcomed Michelle Bernard (a political analyst, author, and media commentator) to speak on the topic “A Uniquely American Dream.” On January 17th at 7pm in Pruis Hall, she highlighted many political issues, but more importantly, she challenged all in attendance to think critically about voting and advocating for those who are deemed poor and less-fortunate than others in America.

Black History Month Kick-Off

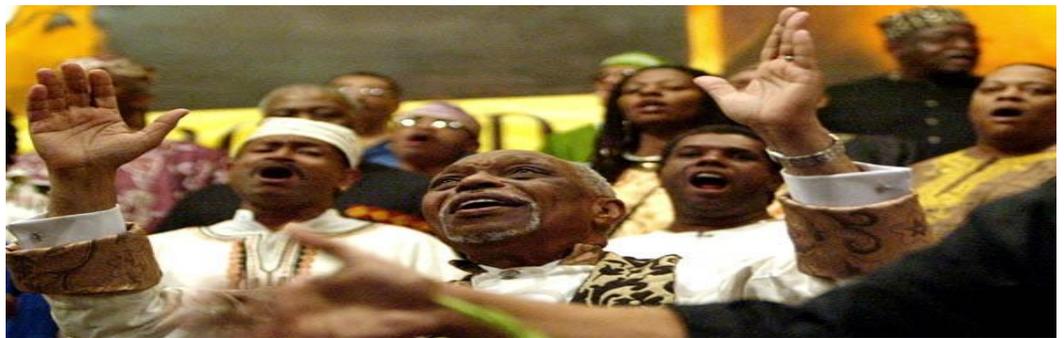
On January 31st at 8pm in Pruis Hall, the Black Student Association, Housing and Residence Life, Office of Institutional Diversity, Student Government Association and Multicultural Center joined forces to bring Step Afrika to Ball State’s campus. Step Afrika is the first professional dance troupe in the world dedicated to the tradition of stepping. Founded in December 1994, the company is critically-acclaimed for its efforts to promote an understanding and appreciation for stepping and the dance tradition’s use as an educational tool for young people worldwide.



February: Perspectives Discussion February 15th

Topic: "Sexuality in the Black Church"

For decades the Black Church has played a key role in shaping the ideals and practices of sexuality within the Black Community. Issues of homosexuality, lesbianism, fornication, and promiscuity have been debated, causing major controversy and denominational splits within the Black Church. Students discussed various perspectives of sexuality from those who grew up in the Black Church or were affected by its affiliates.



February: Heritage Film Series February 29th



The Black Student Association and the Multicultural Center joined forces to show *February One*. This documentary tells the story of four remarkable young men who initiated the lunch counter sit-ins in Greensboro, N.C on February 1, 1960. It is based on first-hand accounts and rare archival footage, documenting one volatile winter in Greensboro, NC that challenged public accommodation customs and law in North Carolina. This sit-in served as a blueprint for the wave of non-violent civil rights protest that swept across the South and nation throughout the 1960s.

