

NAACP chapter hopes to make a difference

MARVIN ARTS
FOR THE WICHITAN

The NAACP at MSU is looking to make a name for itself.

The NAACP stands for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

MSU biology major Dominique Calhoun has been the NAACP president for a year and a half.

"This year is really our coming out year. Since our charter, nothing has really occurred," he said.

The NAACP has planned various activities for the semester. It plans to offer a mentoring program through Sam Houston Elementary, in which eight different student organizations on campus are helping. Omega Delta Phi, Sigma Lambda, Delta Sigma Theta and Kappa Alpha Psi are among the organizations that are helping. The NAACP is also hosting a forum called "The Awakening" which will discuss and analyze racism and stereotypes that all races face within society. Next semester during Black History Month, they will honor all important Black Americans, past and present.

The NAACP and Black Student Union will work together on a lot of events throughout the semester. The Black Student Union is more of a social organization, and the NAACP is more of a political organization.

"The NAACP was established to maintain and reduce social oppression," Calhoun said.

MSU lacks African American professors only four are here on campus out of 140 total professors.

"MSU prides itself on how the classroom sizes to professors are equivalent to about 32 to 1," he said. "There are currently four black students on campus to the six hundred black students here at the school."

"This is an alarming figure," Calhoun said.

The NAACP plans to try to find out the exact reason for the lack of black professors.

"We plan on going to the administration to find out the exact demographics of this university in retrospect to others in the state to understand where we stand," he said.

Political science chair Dr. Ernest Dover is advisor to the NAACP.

"Dr. Dover is a great advisor," Calhoun said.

Members of the NAACP are also members of other student organizations on campus. These members of other student organizations include the Black Student Union, Greeks, sororities and the University Programming Board.

The NAACP chapter works very closely with other college divisions in the state of Texas.

Calhoun plans to build a good solid foundation for the organization. "I plan to give the NAACP a structure that is fool proof so that when I leave, the ideas and the plans of the NAACP will always be the main focus," he said.

Calhoun is hoping that his ex-

ecutive council gets to experience going to a regional conference this year, so they can bring those leadership skills back to MSU.

"We will attend the Southwestern Black Student Leadership Conference, and the state NAACP conference," he said. The NAACP state conference is paid for by the state through fundraising. The SBSLC is held at Texas A&M University in College Station every year.

"A lot of young black students, especially male, fall victim to racial stereotyping," Calhoun said.

Calhoun feels when a black student, on the first day, goes to class wearing a tall-tee, with a grill in his mouth and wearing Jordan's, it gives a bad impression.

"Others view those type of students suspect immediately," he said.

Calhoun feels his job as president is a difficult one.

"My difficulties as president is the same as any other president, but the only thing is that it is hard to get young black American to accept the fact that crisis we faced still exist today," he said.

The NAACP currently has 13 members and looking to continue to build on that. The NAACP is looking to build a strong membership foundation.

"We base our membership through flyers, and word of mouth," he said.

Minority graduates in the spring of 2007 will have a graduation appreciation night. This event will honor all minority graduates.

Dominique Calhoun hands out free T-shirts as part of the NAACP's effort to encourage students to vote. Students wore the shirts yesterday as they marched to the polls.



ADRIAN McCANDLESS
| THE WICHITAN

Election spurs march to polls

AMBRA NEALY
FOR THE WICHITAN

The MSU chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People hosted a voters rally early this week in Sunwatcher Plaza to urge students and the Wichita Falls community to vote in the statewide midterm elections that took place yesterday.

The rally took place on Monday and was followed up by a procession to the polls located in the Harding Administration building. Their slogan "Value our Vote and Vote our Values" served as the proponent for the rally in which the NAACP urged students and citizens to let their voices be heard.

"It's important for people to vote, for me it is a matter of self defense and self respect," said Lakendra Stubbs, a senior sociology major and member of NAACP.

Dominique Calhoun, president of the NAACP chapter at MSU, said that the organization felt that

as election approached, their goal was to ensure that the public was well informed about where the candidates for elected offices stood on the issues.

Members actively prepared for weeks gathering information on candidates and their platforms, hosting forums and meetings weekly to discuss the issues prior to the rally.

"We even had our own campaign slogan 'Arrive with 5,' encouraging every registered voter to bring five more registered voters with them to the polls," Calhoun added.

In efforts to jump start the rally and motivate voters, the organization gave away T-shirts with the "Arrive with 5" mantra on them.

"Having this rally was the best way for our organization to help our community understand and become an active part of the election process. Hopefully our efforts will have made an impact in our community, having possibly empowered some individuals that may not have believed that their vote can make a difference," Calhoun said.

Gospel

"It has been discouraging at times. Getting a group of dedicated people has been the hardest. People come and go. But things are coming together. We have to encourage ourselves," McFarland said.

In spite of its hardships, the choir has sustained its vigor, rehearsing every Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Fain Fine Arts music hall.

McFarland hopes that the choir

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will outlive her time at MSU.

"I want it to keep going."

In the meantime McFarland is happily pursuing her first love.

"You can do so much with a song. The art of music, it's crazy."

For this hardcore Whitney Houston fan, spirituality stems from music. And melody. And rhythm. And soul.

New way to call in sick

McCLATCHY TRIBUNE

We've all been there before. In need of a mental-health day. In need of a couple more hours to sleep off that horrible hangover. Or just plain in need of a day away from thinking.

But who wants to wake up at the crack of dawn to avoid talking to the boss and pretend to sound sick?

Now you can plan in advance and leave the early mornings to a message service _ call in sick from any place at any time.

Alan and Jill Lougher of West Palm Beach, Fla., launched call-in-sick.com Oct. 1 as a "cool gimmick" to promote their new business, a message broadcast system.

Four days later, their Web site was swamped with requests.

"I think everybody's been in that situation where they don't want to go to work the next morning," says Alan Lougher, 34. "For me, it was usually the day before when I knew."

A 2005 survey by Harris Interactive shows men were about twice as likely as women to call in sick when they were actually fine. It also shows that one in four men had faked sick that year, and parents with children younger than 18 weren't any more likely to call in

sick than their co-workers.

Call-in-sick.com is easy. Call 561-214-8030 and a young woman talks you through the process.

"So you wanna call in sick, huh?" the taped voice says.

The service allows the caller to record a message and even re-record to get that perfect sick-sounding tone. Pick the day and time you want the call delivered, dial your boss' phone number and the message will be delivered.

If the boss has caller ID, it will show the number from whatever phone you dialed the service.

Best of all, it's free to users in the United States and Canada.

Alan Lougher estimates his site receives 10,000 hits a day, from all over the world. He hopes the interest will translate into customers for his real business, Group2call, which allows callers to contact friends, customers and co-workers with one phone call. For example, a Little League coach can cancel practice with one call to the entire team instead of making individual calls to each team member, Lougher says.

But that's not all. The Loughers are introducing ubreakup.com.

"It avoids the awkwardness of breaking up with somebody," Alan Lougher says. "It's (breaking up) the old-fashioned way but with a new twist."



HERSHEL SELF | THE WICHITAN

Jack G. Shaheen spoke in Akin Auditorium Monday as part of the Artist Lecture Series.

Shaheen

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type becomes fixed in our minds it becomes imbedded and we resist change."

Now is a particularly good time to face the issue, he stressed. In a time of war, the media plays a vital role in the way Americans see the rest of the world, particularly Arabs and Muslims, he said. He urged the audience not to become apathetic.

Shaheen said that he was raised as a Christian.

"Growing up as a boy in my home no one ever spoke indifferently of people no matter what culture they were

from though I did notice differences in cultures," he said. Shaheen said he has always been sensitive to stereotypes.

The first time he ever felt discriminated against was at the University of Pittsburgh, he recalled.

"As a professor my roots played a role," he said. "I was seen as the Arab professor and all my research and teaching was considered propaganda rather than a means to educate."

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