



# Afro-Times

Year 2002-2003



A New Legacy Begins

## Northern Region Election Conference

As students prepare to return to school from a long and exciting winter break, the United Black Student Unions of California has even more good news. January marks the New Year and also preparation for the state conference. This year's Election Conference will be held at the highly acclaimed **Santa Clara University on January 25<sup>th</sup>**.

The Election Conference is a time for students to see old friends while meeting new ones, but most importantly voting for new Regional Teen Officers. This year's theme, "**The Power of Our Future Starts With the Light of Today**", is quite enlightening and calls all students to recognize and act on their full potential. Before all the fun and games begin there is some important information that schools need to be aware of. The cost of attendance is **\$10.00**, a small price for an exciting conference. This fee includes not only the cost to attend, but also a delicious lunch. Please be aware that the last day to pay the fee is **January 17<sup>th</sup>**, so it would be wise to start collecting the money now. In order to prevent any hassle, the Officers ask that your money be paid on time. In order to run for an office, a completed petition form, picture, and recent high school transcript must also be sent by January 17<sup>th</sup>. In addition if your BSU would like to submit pictures or stories to the journal, be sure to submit an extra \$5.00.

More details will follow, however Santa Clara University is located at 500 El Camino Real. Directions will be sent to your Black Student Union or can be found online. **On January 25<sup>th</sup>**, registration will begin promptly at 8:30 am. The Election Conference will end around 3:30 pm. We are hoping for a

huge turnout. Remember to submit all of your fees to the UBSUC by January 17<sup>th</sup> at the following address: UBSUC PMB 631204 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue San Mateo, 94401.

*[Written by Michele Bradley UBSUC Northern Region Sergeant-at-Arms]*

## United Black Student Unions of California State Conference (UBSUC)

The time of year that we have all been waiting for will be here before we know it. In case you can't figure it out, I'm talking about the three days when we all leave the comforts of our homes, and our parent's watchful eyes, and we head off to the UBSUC State Conference. This leadership convention takes place on March 21, 22, and 23, 2003 - beginning Friday afternoon and ending mid-morning Sunday. This year's conference takes place in central region territory at the Burbank Hilton. The hotel is located at 2500 Hollywood Way, Burbank, California 91505. Check-in time is 3:30 P.M. on Friday and checkout time is 11:00 A.M. on Sunday. In order to attend this conference each participating school must have its conference registration and any unpaid region and state fees turned in before Feb. 28, 2003 to this address: UBSUC, PMB 631, 204 East Second Ave., San Mateo CA 94401. Of course there is a fee to attend the conference but it is well worth it.

### Conference Finances



For a hotel room containing four people, the cost is \$940.00 or \$235.00 per person. For a room containing 3 people the cost is \$255 per person; 2 people the cost is \$280.00 per person; and a room containing one person is \$330.00. (The

per person cost includes the \$25.00 individual registration fee.) It is advised that each person attending the convention bring extra spending money because there will be various vendors selling their products. Unfortunately theft has been an issue in the past, so it is advised that no one bring anything too expensive, or irreplaceable.

### The Arrival

Now that we've gotten past all of the technical and business aspects of the conference it's time to focus on what takes place. On Friday a fun and laid-back atmosphere can be expected. Friday is the only day that "respectable street clothes" are allowed (sorry, beanie/caps/do rags or scarves cannot be worn). Friday is a long night, we will have many different icebreakers, giving everyone a chance to get to know one another. There is a multi-cultural showcase also known as a talent show where students are given their chance to shine. Regional cheers are also performed this night, so everyone start thinking up new ideas so that the Northern Region can be the best.



### Saturday Morning & Afternoon

On Saturday it's a whole different ball game and it is time for business. Street clothes are no longer allowed (respectable or not); business attire is now required. So everyone get out your suits and come looking sharp. Everyone should be prepared to listen to keynote speakers and to attend the various classes that are being



offered in order to help us become better leaders.

### Party Time

After all the business is taken care of during the day, Saturday night a formal event takes place. Everyone dresses up, and try their best to "look the best" for a formal dinner dance. There is a short program that includes a speaker, awards, entertainers then the "DANCE". The evening will be very entertaining and exciting and we may have the tendency to let the excitement get the best of us, but let's be "cool" with the "no dirty dancing policy" besides we're going to be looking too good to be getting all sweaty and stanked-up by somebody else. So let's give the advisors a break so they can get their groove on, on the dance floor too.



### It's Time to Go

Almost far too quickly Sunday comes around. On this last day the gospel choir performs, a senior peer speaker will say some

words of enlightenment and encouragement, and the graduating class of 2003 is given their Rights of Passage. With this everything comes to an end and we all must say our farewells and look forward to 2004!

### What is State Conference all About

State conference is a time where we all come together and learn about our culture and ourselves. It is about helping young African-American students and students of all ethnicity be the effective leaders, who will pursue their goals and careers while facing many challenges and in turn help out others who are around them. At the conference there is a time to play and a time to be serious. I believe that everyone who attends will leave with new ideas that will make him or her a better and well-rounded person. Attending the conference will help us to realize that "**The Power of Our Future Starts With the Light of Today.**"

*[Written by Eryn Reeder, UBSUC Northern Region Treasurer]*

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### Dress Code for State Conference

For those of you who have attended State Conference before, you know the rules of dress code during the workshops and at the dance. For those of you who do not know, I want to let you know right now so that there will be no confusion when State Conference comes around.

State Conference is a place of business where we are learning yet still having fun and getting positive things accomplished. Since it is a place of this nature, we need to be dressed according to what is going on that day.

Check-in is Friday, March 21st even though you will be in your traveling attire, you would want to come dressed looking like the leaders you will be projecting on the remaining days of the conference. Be respectable - Ladies, no low-rider pants with the "t" showing from your thongs. Men, wear a belt to help hold your pants up. And ladies and gentlemen no caps, beanie's, do-rags, or scarves are to be worn anytime during the conferences.



On Saturday during the morning and early afternoon, the workshops begin and the attire for attending these is business/church clothes. For the young men, we want you to look good in either a suit or some slacks with a nice button up dress shirt with a tie. And please let's have the waistline of your pants above the butt. Of course your pants do not need to be fitted, but let's not have it where you have to hold them up while walking. We want to see our young black men looking all fine and professional. Now for us ladies, there exists a lot of confusion on what is "acceptable." We have experienced many situations where girls were sent back to their room to change for not being dressed according to the dress code.

First off, your blouse needs to be high enough at the collar so that you are not showing all of your cleavage and long enough at the bottom that you are not showing your stomach and backside. Second, your dresses or skirt lengths need to be no shorter than right above the knee. There was the question last year on whether you can wear "business" pants suits, yes, as long as it is not stretch/spandex and body-tight. We want to look decent and dignified.



Later in the afternoon on Saturday, we have a free time. Remember to continue to respect the reason you are at the conference and apply the dress code from Friday night. When we come back after free time it is time to prepare for the dinner/dance. Before entering the doors of the ballroom there is a dress check. Guys you may want to be in tuxes and suits (without all that sagging). Ladies attire is what I need to go into a little more detail with. Dresses should have sleeves or thick shoulder straps. If your dress has no straps or it is a spaghetti strap, then you must wear a shawl throughout the dance. This is a formal dinner/dance so it is preferred that you wear a long gown. A tea length dress is also okay (the length comes to about mid-shin or right above the ankle). Ladies, let's remember to dress according to our body size we can't all wear strapless or spaghetti straps.



Along with reiterating the dress code of the dance, behavior expected of us also needs to be addressed. At the dinner/dance, our behavior needs to be that of mature young adults. We are there to have fun and enjoy ourselves but we also need to have respect for our self and others. Let's dance respectfully, we look too good not to.

Sunday we have a morning program that is like church service. We are expected to dress as if we are going to

church and behave in the same respectable manner as we have throughout the whole conference.

### The Importance of Business Attire

There will always be some student who will question or have difficulty grasping why there needs to be a dress code, my question for you is "Why wouldn't you dress this way?" We are at this conference doing a good thing and there are people staying at the hotel who will be watching us. My reasoning for dressing for success is not only for my own dignity but to show other people that I have respect for myself. We all do and when those people look at us we

want them to be like "Wow, look at those young kids doing their thang and working together." There is a stereotypical view placed on us, young African-American teens, that we can't do anything right and we are just rowdy and uncontrollable. We want people to look at the United Black Student Unions of California and be amazed at how well dressed we are, how well mannered we are, and how united (in a positive manner) we can come to be. It is some thing to be proud of. [Written by MyLin Stokes, UBSUC Northern Region Secretary]



### The Beginning of A New Legacy – Talent Show

Do you have talent - Do you love performing in front of your family and friends - Would you like to be awarded for your talent? Well your chance is coming soon. Your Northern Region Student Officers of 2002-2003 are planning a talent show to take place soon after the State Conference. We are still in planning stage – We will let you know the location, date, and time – We Need To Hear From You. **ARE YOU INTERESTED?** We hope to make this an annual event where students from participating schools will perform their best to take back to their school a trophy that says "UBSUC New Legacy Talent Champion." This is how it will work: there will be four categories (1)Step/Dance, (2)Music, (3)Drama/Poetry/Comedy, (4)and Other, everybody will get a chance to shine no matter their talent. Auditions will be held via video-tape [returnable at the end of the talent show]. Everyone's a winner - awards will be distributed to all participants. 'The Beginning of a New Legacy' is a fundraisers devised to raise money for scholarships as well as to help participating schools earn money for their BSU. Participating schools will sell tickets on behalf of the Northern Region, and then receive a percentage of total money raised (percentage will be determined by ticket sales minus expenses).



This is the Beginning of a New Legacy. Let us hear from you soon.

Hit us back at our email addresses:

Mylin Stokes: [dolfinlvr04@attbi.com](mailto:dolfinlvr04@attbi.com);

Karla Brown: [parliakb@hotmail.com](mailto:parliakb@hotmail.com)

Or call Ms. Brown at (650) 589-7871 and leave your name, school name, and most importantly your telephone number.

It Begins. Peace. [Written by Nafesah Muhammad UBSUC Northern Region President]

### Farewell To Our UBSUC Northern Region Officers who are Seniors, we wish you well!

*Michele Bradley, Christian Brothers High –Northern Region Sergeant-at-Arms*

*Isaac Ricard, Sacramento High – Northern Region First Vice-President*

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Hi! My name is **Adeeshela Hannah** and I am a senior at S.R. Martin College Preparatory School in San Francisco. I am also your **Northern Region and State Second Vice-President** and have held this office for the past 3 years. I have been an active member of the United Black Student Unions of California since November of 1999 (9<sup>th</sup> grade), but I wasn't elected into office until 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Being involved in the UBSUC has been a great experience, I have grown tremendously, and I've learned to stay focused, and that has allowed me to have a clear idea of where I am headed.

My senior year has been a major challenge, with preparing for college, continuing to maintain my office in the UBSUC, and keeping my grade point average high, but I've managed to stay on top of it and meet all my goals. I work hard because I know that with the faith I possess all my hard work will pay off. So with this I encourage you, my fellow BSU sisters and brothers, to keep up the good work, keep the faith, and never give up.

Love Always

Adeeshela Hannah, Your 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

UBSUC Northern Region and State Officer 1999 - 2003  
"Keep the Faith."