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Lineup of events set to celebrate Black History Month

Summary: The Black Student Union at the University of Minnesota, Morris will sponsor a variety of activities throughout February to commemorate Black History Month.

(February 2, 2007)-The Black Student Union (BSU) at the University of Minnesota, Morris will sponsor a variety of activities throughout February to commemorate Black History Month. The BSU kicked off this celebration with the film, “Ruby Bridges,” shown February 1 in Edson Auditorium. Following the film was a discussion on affirmative action.

Nate Giles, BSU vice president, said, “BSU is not an exclusive group or meant only for blacks. We are trying to increase campus awareness of black experience in America and the world. That is one reason we showed the film, “Ruby Bridges.”

BSU will host their annual date auction at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 15, in the Student Center Turtle Mountain Café. Student volunteers will be “auctioned,” and may sign up at the BSU-sponsored tables in the Student Center or until the end of the auction. Dates then will escort their bidders to the BSU Semi Formal dance to be held at 10 p.m. Friday, Feb. 16, in Oyate Hall. Proceeds from this event will go toward funding of future BSU events such as performer Darryl Van Leer and members of the hit reality television show “Black. White.”

Van Leer, a highly acclaimed one-man show actor, will perform at 7 p.m. February 21 in Edson Auditorium. His most popular performance, Power on Earth, features Van Leer portraying eight characters, from former slave Nat Turner to former Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall.

BSU hopes to bring actors from “Black. White.” to campus during the annual World Touch Cultural Heritage Week held at UMM in March.

Giles invites all students on campus to BSU meetings, which are held every Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Multi-Ethnic Resource Center. Meetings usually consist of discussions on race, segregation or other issues that may arise, but are not exclusive for this purpose. Often, meetings will begin by planning for a campus-wide activity, followed by volleyball at the Regional Fitness Center.

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