The Middlewest influence on African-American culture will be examined during a symposium to be held March 21-22 at Washington University and at the Missouri Historical Society in Forest Park.

The symposium, titled "Black Heartland: The Growth and Development of African-American Culture in the Middlewest," will also focus on how African-Americans have shaped Middlewestern culture. It is sponsored by the African and Afro-American Studies Program and the American Culture Studies Institute of Washington University and the Missouri Historical Society. Gerald L. Early, Ph.D., associate professor of English and of African and Afro-American studies, is project director.

Professors from across the country will present papers on a variety of prominent African-Americans who have played major roles in Middlewestern culture, including writers Langston Hughes, Toni Morrison and Gordon Parks; jazz legends Count Basie and Wyland Wiffterfelter Walker, an athlete and political activist from Ohio during the late 1800s. The papers presented at the symposium will be published in a book next year.

Wayne Fields, Ph.D., associate professor and chair of the Department of English, will open the symposium at 5 p.m. March 21 in the Mayo Auditorium, Simon Hall. He will have an essay on the Mississippi River, titled "River of the Heart."

Other speakers will include William L. Andrews, Hall Professor of English at the University of Kansas, Kansas City, and Toni Morrison — are speaking in Graham Chapel this week, as part of the Assembly Series. The symposium will be free and open to the public.

Turow, an attorney and law professor, was scheduled to give the ODK Honors Lecture at 11 a.m. March 20, followed by a book signing at 11:30 a.m. in the Campus Bookstore.

Award-winning journalist Shortly before 2000 will give the CSAS Symposium/Foreign Language Week Lecture at 4 p.m. March 21.

Turrow wrote the 1987 bestselling novel, Presumed Innocent, which was turned into the 1990 movie of the same name. Presumed Innocent recounts the courtroom drama of an innocent man being tried for murder. Turow himself is a lawyer for the Chicago law firm Sonnenreich Nath and Rosenthal. His second novel, Burden of Proof, was published last year.

Omicron Delta Kappa is a national honor society that recognizes students for their leadership and contributions in the areas of scholarship, athletics, community service, patriotism and the arts. The lecture also is sponsored by the Assembly Series, Department of English, School of Law and Student Union.

One of America's foremost novelists, Morrison won the Pulitzer Prize and the Robert F. Kennedy Book Critics Circle Award in 1988 for Beloved. The novel, published in 1987, also received both National Book Critics Circle Award nominations. Morrison has earned a reputation as a gifted storyteller whose troubled characters seek to find themselves and their cultural heritage in a society that warps or impedes such growth. Her 1977 novel, Beloved, also won the National Book Critics Circle Award. Her other works include Tar Baby, Sula and The Bluest Eye.

Best-selling novelists give lectures

The lecture is sponsored by the African and Afro-American Studies Program, Assembly Series, Association of Students in the Visual and Performing Arts, Germanic Languages and Literatures, International Writers Center and Student Union.

For information, call 889-4620.

Sacred powwow preserves American Indian culture

An American Indian powwow, complete with dance, song and food, will be held throughout the day March 23 in the Women's Building Dance Studio.

The even, which is co-sponsored by the Center for American Indian Studies at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work and the Gallery of Art, is free and open to the public.

The ceremonial program will feature more than 50 American Indians from around the country performing dances and songs continuously from 1 to 5 p.m. and then from 6 to 10:30 p.m. In addition, food and craft booths will be set up. American Indian items that will be for sale include jewelry, blankets, paintings, beadwork and fry bread.

The ceremony will include a warrior dance, which will be dedicated to the American men and women serving in the Persian Gulf; an intertribal dance involving dancers from numerous tribes, among them the Cherokee, Choctaw, Chippewa and Sioux; and a blanket dance, in which the audience may participate.

The powwow is being held in conjunction with the exhibit "Carl K. Wiman: Chronicler of the Missouri River Frontier," which is on display through March 24 at the Gallery of Art in Steinberg Hall. Wiman's paintings, drawings and sketches of buffalo, landscapes and Plains Indians depict life in the pioneer West.

"The powwow complements the Gallery of Art's work in its endeavor to provide unique educational programming in conjunction with its exhibitions," says Joseph D. Ketner, gallery director. "It also complements the University's Center for American Indian Studies' commitment to work with agencies such as the American Indian Center of Mid-America to promote, and preserve the vital traditions of American Indian culture."

The American Indian community in the St. Louis metropolitan area are represented at the powwow. All of the powwow performers will take part in the powwow.

The powwow will begin at 1 p.m. March 23 in the Women's Building Dance Studio.

For information, call 889-6288.

Faculty nominations are being accepted

The faculty Senate Council will consider nominations for the following committees at its April 8th meeting: Assembly Series Committee, Bookstore Advisory Committee, Library Council and University Judicial Board.

Faculty members are free to nominate themselves or any colleague willing to serve if asked. Interested faculty should contact their Senate Council representative or Memory Elm-Lewis at Campus Box 1157.
Computing resource center for faculty opens

Educational Computing Services (ECS) has established a Faculty Computing Resource Center to provide University faculty with access to a variety of computer hardware, software and course construction materials. The center, which opened March 1, is the result of several months of cooperation between ECS, the School of Technology and Information Management, and the Teaching Center.

The Faculty Computing Resource Center is designed to function as a central location where faculty can gain access to computer hardware, software and course construction materials. Faculty interested in exploring possibilities for using computers in their teaching and maybe even have their imagination stirred," said Benson.

"We certainly hope it will encourage faculty members on campus to examine some of the ways in which new technology can assist them in their teaching and maybe even have their imagination stirred," said Benson. The center has copies of award-winning and innovative coursework and related programs from universities around the country. Faculty interested in exploring possibilities for using computers in their teaching and maybe even have their imagination stirred," said Benson.

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Biologists awarded funds to further plant research

Two members of the Department of Biology have received grants totaling $290,870 from the Midwest Plant Biotechnology Consortium to study further the plant research.

Roger N. Beachy, Ph.D., professor of biology and director of the Center for Plant Science and Biotechnology, received $77,910 to develop new methods to deliver new genes to plants, which ultimately will make plants resistant to disease.

Karel R. Schubert, Ph.D., adjunct professor of biology and associate director of the center, received $172,980 to study the insecticidal properties of tropical plants with hopes of transferring those properties to crops through genetic engineering.

The second grant is the result of Schubert's election as a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, which awarded him a travel grant to attend the Academy's annual meeting in St. Louis.

Senior one of 257 women to receive grant

Jean M. Sankey, a senior majoring in biology, is one of 257 women throughout the world to receive a grant of $2,800 from the American Association of University Women Educational Foundation. The organization awarded more than $7 million this year to women in science and technology.

Sankey, for instance, received a grant of $98,586 from the AAUW Educational Foundation, called the Career Development Program, which supports women who have been out of college for at least five years and are re-entering the work force, making a career change, or advancing their current careers. Stipends range from $1,000 to $2,800.

Founded in 1917, the AAUW is the oldest and largest non-institutional source of funding for graduate education of women.
PERFORMANCES

Friday, March 22

Saturday, March 23

Friday, March 29
7 and 9:30 p.m. Filmboard Feature Series Presents "Monty Python's The Meaning of Life." For more info., call 889-5170.

Saturday, March 30

CALENDAR

Thursday, March 21
4 p.m. African and Afro-American Studies Program Symposium, "Black Heartland: The Growth and Development of African-American Culture in the Midwest" opens with "River of Four Centuries." Christ Church Cathedral, 9 a.m. and 9:30 p.m. $10 for seniors and WU faculty and staff; and $9 for students. For info., call 889-6543.

Friday, March 22
6:30 p.m. Women's Tennis vs. Maryville College. Tennis Center. $3 for members, $4 for nonmembers. For more info., call 889-6543.

Saturday, March 23
10 a.m. Men's Tennis vs. Rust College. Tennis Center. $3 for members, $4 for nonmembers. For more info., call 889-6543.

MISCELLANY

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