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Author Alex Haley encourages others to find their "Roots"

By JOELLEN M. LABAERE
News Editor

Alex Haley, the warm and gentle author of the bestseller "Roots," left his mark on OU last Thursday after sharing with the audience his ideas, inspirations and motivations as a writer and researcher.

As part of the program for Black Awareness Month, Haley emphasized the importance of searching for one's roots and encouraged everyone to begin this interesting and challenging crusade.

"There is not anything more important on your agenda than to get in your attic," said Haley to the audience. He suggested they take a weekend or a summer to look through all the relics people usually keep stored away.

"The more generations that come in your family, the more precious these heirlooms will become," said Haley.

Telling stories of his family and creating colorful images, Haley spoke with a comfortable

charm and style that captivated the audience. More than 1,000 people filled the Crockery in the OC, the best turnout so far for a lecturer, said Paul Franklin, the coordinator of campus programs who arranged for Haley to come to OU.

Haley spent a total of 12 years gathering information and writing his book which was published in 1976. "Roots" became the biggest bestseller in the U.S. publishing history with more than six million hardcover copies sold. It has been published in 37 languages.

In 1977 the book was filmed into a 12-hour television mini-series, and Haley commended ABC-TV for taking such a risk on the project.

"'Roots' was a big, big gamble, a big, big experiment," said Haley of the mini-series.

Besides commenting on his book, Haley offered tips to aspiring writers. "Never make the mistake of taking rejection slips personally," said Haley.

(See Haley, page 5)



Oakland Sail/ Sharon LeMieux

Well-known author of the best-seller "Roots", Alex Haley, spoke to a large crowd Thursday in the OC Crockery as part of the Black Awareness Month celebration.

Two Detroit men arrested

Visitors break Hamlin window

By JOELLEN M. LABAERE
News Editor

Two Detroit men were arrested in the Hamlin lobby early Saturday morning (Jan. 26) after they caused a disturbance in which one man pushed the other through a 4th floor window.

The two men, Kent Bowman and Rick Bridges were visiting a female resident of Hamlin and a disagreement

occurred when Bowman tried to calm down his friend so he could be signed in.

"When I arrived at nightwatch, I found Bridges to be very loud and hostile," said Bowman in the police report. "So I went outside with Bridges to try and calm him down so he could come in."

When Bowman tried to talk to his friend, he said Bridges started pushing him and threw a punch at him. Bowman ducked and punched him back, sending Bridges reeling backward into the window.

Bridges said in the police report that Bowman started the fight. "Bowman was upset at me and wasn't going to let me in," said Bridges. "Then all of a sudden he punched at me, knocking me through the window."

After Bridges broke through the window, he got up, cut his hand and came back through the window to pursue Bowman, according to what Resident Assistant Lonnel Coats told dorm students.

Public Safety had been called in twice, the first time

giving Bowman and Bridges a warning. They responded the second time when nightwatch alerted them that a man had been pushed through a window.

Both men were issued appearance tickets and Bridges was taken to Crittendon Hospital for treatment.

According to dorm students, shortly after the incident occurred, Lonnel Coats said he was not satisfied with the way Public Safety handled the situation. Another unidentified student said the general feeling about the incident was that if Public Safety had done their job right the first time (and escorted the two men off campus), the window would never have been broken.

However, Public Safety said this is their typical method of operating in this kind of circumstance. They first issue a warning and will proceed to take further action if a difficulty arises.

Three witnesses filed reports with Public Safety; Lonnel Coats, and two nightwatch attendants, Chris Haut and Sandy Hefner. Lonnel Coats refused to comment to the Sail although he played a prominent role in the incident.

The Sail made a Freedom of Information request for the witness reports and was unable to receive them because there is currently court action pending against the two men. The nature of the complaint involves a disorderly person by intoxication while endangering another person/property or causing a public disturbance.

The two men have been banned from campus and advised not to return until the matter has been settled and the broken window paid for.

New requirements for arts and science majors

By JOELLEN M. LABAERE
News Editor

A new set of distribution requirements has been adopted by the College of Arts and Sciences which will accompany the new university-wide general education program already approved.

These new requirements, effective for the fall 1985 semester, call for all bachelor of arts graduates to take 16 more credits beyond the 32 credits in general education required university wide. This total of 48 credits constitutes almost 40 percent of the total required for graduation. Bachelor of science students will need to complete 44 credits to meet these college and university requirements.

Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Brian P. Copenhaver, said the new college requirements are "a significant step toward a rigorous and effective general education system for all college students." Students who come to OU with good high school backgrounds in a foreign language will be able to enjoy significant rewards. For example, those students who can place out of even one

semester of college-level foreign language will be able to count their next foreign language course twice—to meet both a university requirement and a college requirement. A 300-level course in literature in a foreign language may also be used to meet an "arts and literature" option.

Sheldon Appleton, associate dean of the college of arts and sciences, said although this new set of requirements are more rigorous for the students, it is also more flexible.

"The main winners are the good students," said Appleton. "We're looking at it (the new requirement) as a depth option."

Both advanced and introductory classes may be used to meet the distribution options under this new requirement. A student who has enjoyed a course taken to meet a university general education requirement may meet a college distribution requirement with an advanced class in the same discipline.

The requirement calls for B.A. students to take an additional course in any four of the following six fields: foreign

language; arts and literature; civilization; social sciences; sciences; mathematics; and science. B.S. students must take additional courses in any three of the fields.

"Students will not have to take more courses than they're taking now," said Appleton. The new requirement is geared to provide more options for good students, said Appleton, "the kind we really want to attract and encourage."

A detailed statement of the requirement is available at the Arts and Sciences Advising office and will appear in the new 1985-86 catalog.

INSIDE

Plans for farmhouse renewal moving slowly. See picture on page 3.

Fasttracks liven Mainstage with instrumental entertainment at its finest. See page 7.

Women defeat Ferris State in fierce competition. See page 11.

Champagne proposes action on higher education report

By LYNN TEEL
Staff Writer

University Congress tabled indefinitely last Monday the resolution that would have called for a restructuring of the student activity fee and a student referendum to approve it.

President Mike Carbone said the Carbone-Tomilo resolution was tabled to allow intense discussion on the proposal. An ad-hoc committee — formally titled the 1985 Student Activity Fee Investigatory Committee — will further discuss the restructuring resolution which suggested, among other points, to raise the student activity fee and to provide earmarked funds for the Student Program Board and the Student Activity Board.

The committee, chaired by Matt Tomilo, co-sponsor of the resolution, also will examine and evaluate the findings of the 1983 Student Activity Fee Task Force.

Carbone reported that he is on a subcommittee of the University Committee on Undergraduate instruction. Its task is to compile information and recommend to either not include remedial courses as counting toward graduation or to continue counting remedial courses toward graduation credits. Remedial courses are all Rhetoric courses zero through 99, RHT 103 and 105 and Math 111 and 112.

President of the University Joseph Champagne discussed with Congress his position on the report by the commission Governor James Blanchard established to investigate the future of higher education.

Champagne said the commission's report had many positive aspects, and of the 24 recommendations, all but one had some positive point or merit. The report ran into trouble when it tried to take general principles and make them specific.

The report recommended a five-tier classification of Michigan universities. OU ranked in the report as a regional state college, but Champagne disagreed with this because of the narrow role prescribed to a regional college. OU grants doctoral degrees and this is important to OU students because it is beneficial to graduate from a school that grants doctorates. Champagne

warned that it is necessary to protest the report because if it is fully implemented, high demand programs such as engineering will be concentrated in a few areas throughout the state.

Champagne suggested that student coalitions, students, alumni and their families utilize the power of the ballot box by speaking out and writing to legislators on behalf of this institution.



By SCOTT JONES
Staff Writer

The heart of most car stereo systems is the cassette player. The circuitry and mechanisms of the cassette player are quite complicated internally, but the external controls are fairly simple to operate.

The car cassette player should be well constructed in order to ensure the harsh environment inside the car, not to mention the wear and tear of everyday use. The first part of this two-part article will deal with the mechanical aspects of the cassette player and the second part will deal with the electronics.

Cassette tapes are not all created equal for the different playing times (C-60, C-90, C-120), even though the cassettes may be the same type and brand name. The cassette tape is coated with a substance such as Chromium Dioxide for CrO2 tapes that the music signal is actually stored on. The thicker the cassette tape coating is the better the cassette's ability to store the music. Sixty minute (C-60) cassettes are sonically superior in performance to longer tapes (C-90, and especially C-120) cassettes because the longer tapes have a

Cassette players should be selected with care, skill

thinner coating to fit into the cassette housing.

The longer tapes, especially the C-120's, are not recommended for automotive use because they are notorious for causing jams in the cassette player.

The car player is at a disadvantage to the home system in that it uses only one motor to drive the two reels and the capstan instead of two (while an open reel tape player uses three or more). One motor must be synchronized to maintain the correct speed for the three separate mechanisms. This is done by utilizing a series of gears, belts, and a fly wheel.

As with virtually all other machines the moving parts of the cassette player eventually wear out. With space being at a minimum, many of the features of home decks must either be omitted or crammed into the small chassis that the complete car system has to occupy.

The constant speed of the cassette player is maintained not so much by the motor as it is by the capstan. The capstan is the main mechanism of the transport system.

Since space is limited, knobs for volume, balance, front to rear fader, and station select, are often double up on the same

knob shafts. Locking fast forward and rewind controls are helpful so that one can keep his or her hands on the steering wheel instead of fiddling with the tape deck while driving.

One of the consequences of auto-reverse tape players is that the performance on the B side is sonically inferior to side A. This is due to shortcomings of the tape player and not the cassette itself.

When selecting a cassette deck be sure to choose one that is well designed and constructed since such a model will be more likely to "go the distance" than a budget model.

This doesn't necessarily mean that it has to cost more because many decks are loaded with features that do more for convenience than for performance. This is something that the consumer must decide when choosing a car stereo.

It is wiser to opt for high performance since many "convenient" features such as music search and programmable sequence present the deck with complicated functions that are prone to failure, especially after the first year of use.

Next week's article will concern the electronic capabilities of the cassette player

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*Individuals will be contacted by Friday, February 15, 1985.

*Further questions should be directed to Paul Franklin or Wendy Hoin.

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