

AAHC celebrates Heritage and Horizons

February recognizes the African American legacy and the challenges of the 21st century

By Capt. Clifford Colley

African American Heritage Council

The year 2000 has caused many to consider the past while actively pondering the future.

There's something about the finality of concluding a millennium that causes people to reassess where they've been and where they're going. The accomplishments and legacy left behind continues to bring about challenges today. As we as a society prepare for endeavors of the future, let us remember that by collectively working together, we can make a better past, present, and future.

The Charleston AFB African American Heritage Council is proud to announce that

February is Black History Month. In celebration of this month, the council invites all of Team Charleston to continue last year's goals of year-round cultural education as evidenced by our Juneteenth fashion show and November talent show, and to assist the council through active involvement in the local community.

To celebrate February's theme of "Heritage and Horizons: The African American Legacy and the Challenges of the 21st Century," we encourage everyone to share the educational, spiritual, and entertainment venues that Charleston has to offer. February's schedule includes the Gospel Fest 2000, the wing chapel's prayer breakfast, and other community events – stay tuned for a complete listing of dates and times.

Come on out and allow these events to be venue for you to raise your awareness and help promote harmony for all.

Black History Month had its origins in the nited States and was the idea of

African American Scholar and educator, Dr. Carter G. Woodson. Woodson was one of the earlies Black Americans to receive a Ph.D. from Havard University. In 1922 at the age of 47, he gave up his distinguished career as a university professor to dedicate himself to research and writing on the African American experience.

Woodson argued that the African American experience was a worthy subject of study. He also called for a time when the "hidden history and culture" of American peoples could be celebrated.

About Black History Month

In 1926, Woodson declared Black History Week. February was chosen for this week because of the birthdays of Frederick Douglas and Abraham Lincoln.

In the 1970's this call became entrenched as several black organizations and community leaders have banded together to promote the concept of Black History Month.

The celebration of Black History Month is the most enduring legacy of Woodson, a profound scholar of African American History.

(Information obtained through the website www.chebucto.ns.ca.)

Christmas bills hit home

By Kandi Massey

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Now that Christmas is over, we can finally breathe a sigh of relief. Or can we?

True, there are no more sounds of Christmas music and noise from customers arguing over who's going to get the last Pokemon figure. But, since you spent hours picking and choosing the perfect gifts, the postman is now delivering gifts to you...in the form of credit card bills!

So in actuality, Christmas will be around for a while, or at least until you've paid off the debts you've accrued. In some cases, it can take years to pay off those bills, and before you know it, it's the New Year and you're still paying off last year's Christmas debts.

You may ask yourself if it was worth it to buy that \$1,500 computer for your three-year-old when a \$50 child's computer would have sufficed. Now it's going to take a year to pay it off.

What's even worse is when the novelty wears off and the expensive toys that took two pay-checks to purchase are kicked to the curb and are replaced by a noisy pot top and spoon.

Perhaps a card or a homemade gift would have really been the perfect gift. They're inexpensive, but they carry a priceless message. The expression of the true meaning of Christmas - love, sharing and caring - are things money can't buy, and the memories are priceless.

So as you begin to recover from last Christmas, begin now thinking about making the choice to buy that special gift this year. Keep the bills in mind from that expensive gift, and think about the priceless gift from the heart as well. Which one sounds more appealing to you?