

[Back to search result list](#) **The Falconews - Air Force Academy, Volume 15, Number 14, March 16, 1973** — **At Black Culture festival Bill Russell to give keynote speech [ARTICLE+ILLUSTRATION]**

At Black Culture festival Bill Russell to give keynote speech

The Cadet Wing will again present a black culture festival here April 5-8.

Termed "Festival of Black Culture II," the week-long event will provide an insight into black history, culture and problems that have arisen throughout the years.

Keynote speaker for this year's event will be Bill Russell, former basketball great with the Boston Celtics and presently a sports commentator for the American Broadcasting Company.

Russell has the distinction of being the first black athlete to manage a major league team when he managed the Boston Celtics after 13 seasons as a superstar center. In 1968 he was named Athlete of the Decade and Associated Press named him Basketball Player of the Decade.

Friends close to Russell say he is "witty, dedicated to equal rights and human dignity and deplores the violence and separatist attitudes that preclude harmonious coexistence and he resents the dehumanization through classification."

"If I can't be a man," he says, "I can't be anything . . . Those who categorize me deny my humanness. You can't do that without losing some of yours."

Russell's keynote address will be given at 7:30 p.m., April 5, in Arnold Hall Auditorium.

"I believe all the cadets involved here put together a most comprehensive program," remarked C1C Rowe Stayton, Quinlin, Tex., a group commander. "It will be an interesting week and those involved are encouraging everyone to turn out."

On Friday, April 6, at 7 p.m. in the Auditorium a special play, "Journey into Blackness," will be presented by VOICES, Inc., a black acting company. The play will depict historical rendition of the black man's presence in America. This is the first time that a black play has been presented here.

Immediately after the play, a "quiet hour" will be held with notables attending the festival, cadets and guests, members of the acting group and the general public. It will be an informal session with cadet involvement. C3C Fred Terrell of West Palm Beach, Fla. and C2C Phil Walker of Waukegan, Ill. will present poetry readings of black poets.

According to Walker, "We plan on describing the most predominate feelings of Black Americans over a hundred year period, between 1870 and 1970, as expressed in their poems."

On Saturday, April 7, at 9 a.m., a special forum will be held to discuss "Contemporary Issues in the Military." Presently, the forum will be made up of Col.

Billie M. Bobbitt, director, Women in the Air Force and Brig. Gen. Lucius Theus, special assistant for social actions, deputy chief of staff, personnel.

Saturday at 7 p.m. a special event will take place when a queen is crowned Miss Festival of Black Culture II. Candidates for the honor hail from not only Denver and Colorado Springs but from many other areas of the U.S.

After the crowning, MAGUM-BA, a soul group from Denver, will be performing for a dance.

On Sunday, the final day of the festival, there will be religious services in the Cadet Chapel at 11 a.m.

That afternoon and evening there will be a special Allied Arts performance by a to-be-announced soul group.

Throughout the festival there will be an interesting and informative display called "Black Odyssey." The display, which will be exhibited in Arnold Hall, is by George Norman, a native of Detroit. "Black Odyssey" is a series of pictures, captions and poetry depicting black history. Norman also includes African sculpture and other artifacts in the exhibit.

According to Norman, "Black Odyssey" penetrates the important phases of black history and points out the little known, but significant, contributions of the black race."

A sickle cell education program will be presented throughout the festival. All funds and donations gained will be presented to and used by sickle cell research agencies.

Also, Bill Caldwell, guest artist, will talk to cadets about his and other Afro-American artists' works.

"Three major events have been added this year," remarked C2C Frank Murphy of Chicago. "Mr. Norman's display, the queen contest and the black play are all events that have strengthened the festival. We are most fortunate to have them scheduled and I'm positive they will prove enjoyable and educational."

To help those who would like to attend, following is a schedule of events that are annotated to show time, place and denoting what is only open to military members and their guests:

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, April 5, Arnold Hall Auditorium

** 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. — Key-note address — Bill Russell

Friday, April 6, Arnold Hall Auditorium

* 7-9:30 p.m. — Journey into Blackness," a play performed by VOICES, Inc., a black actors organization

Friday, April 6, Cockpit Lounge

** 9:30-12 p.m. — Quiet Hour, and informal rap session with cadets, guests, notables, and interested public

Saturday, April 7, Arnold Hall Auditorium

** 9-10:30 a.m. — Forum — Contemporary Issues in the Military

Saturday, April 7, Arnold Hall

Ballroom

* 7-9 p.m. — Crowning of Miss
Festival of Black Culture

* 9:30 p.m. — 1 am. Dance

**Sunday, April 8, Cadet Chapel
(Protestant)**

** 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. — Black
Religious services

**Sunday, April 8, Arnold Hall
Auditorium**

* 3 and 6:30 p.m. — Allied Arts
Performance

* Military members and guests
only

** General public invited (no
cost)



Russell