



Fall 11-4-1994

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### Recommended Citation

Aaron, Bob, "IWU Slates Women of Color Week Activities, Nov. 7-11" (1994). *News and Events*. 6271.  
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November 4, 1994

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## IWU Slates Women of Color Week Activities, Nov. 7-11

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Women of Color Week, Nov. 7-11, will be marked at Illinois Wesleyan University with five events, including a guest speaker who has written a landmark book on Africana womanism, a faculty-student panel discussion, and a film.

Here's the lineup of events:

- **MONDAY, NOV. 7**--Clenora Hudson-Weems, of the University of Missouri-Columbia and author of "Africana Womanism: Reclaiming Ourselves," will speak about her book at 8 p.m. in the Main Lounge, Memorial Student Center, 104 E. University. A reception will follow Hudson-Weems' presentation.

- **TUESDAY, NOV. 8**--A faculty-student panel discussion on "Women of Color in Higher Education" is scheduled for 7 p.m., in the Davidson Room, Memorial Student Center. Among faculty slated to participate in the discussion are Teodora Amoloza, associate professor of sociology and director of the International Studies Program; Diana McCauley, associate professor and chairperson of education; and Pamela Muirhead, associate professor and chairperson of English.

- **WEDNESDAY, NOV. 9**--The film, "La Historia Oficial," will be shown at 7 p.m. in the Audio-Visual Room of Sheean Library, IWU Quad. The film focuses on the plight of the women of the Plaza de Mayo in Argentina, whose children have disappeared, victims of the country's upheaval.

- **FRIDAY, NOV. 11**--Tsehayeb Hebert, a multitalented performer and dancer, will be the featured act at 7 p.m. in the Memorial Student Center's Main Lounge in a coffeehouse-style environment.

The Merwin Gallery also will host an exhibit of artworks by four women artists. The exhibit is "Recent Works"--Sheila Allen, Michele Bollinger, Kathleen French, and Marya Roland. It will run until Dec. 4.

These events are free and open to the public.

(more)

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Hudson-Weems is an associate professor of English at the University of Missouri-Columbia. She has developed the concept of Africana Womanism since 1985. Her use of the term, Africana, refers not only to continental Africans but also to people of African descent worldwide. Last June, she described Africana Womanism this way to the *Virgin Islands Daily News*: "It means acting authentically. Black women, coming from an African cosmological background, have always been family-centered as opposed to female-centered--because we are well aware of our destiny as women."

In a January, 1994, article in the *Columbia Missourian*, Hudson-Weems characterized the feminist movement as "a racist movement of upper-class white women who wish to escape from the home place to the workplace, while Africana women have been in the workplace throughout history."

Many of her concerns surround black-on-black violence, racist injustices, and other ills, noting in her *Virgin Islands Daily News* profile that "Race, class, and gender . . . I deal with it in that order. I have to salvage my race."

Joyce Ladner, Howard University vice president, said: "Hudson-Weems examines the perceptions women in the African diaspora have of their historical and contemporary roles. It is within this comparative framework that the work advances the state of knowledge on the lives of women of color."

For more information about Women of Color Week programs, contact: Sara Misna, IWU Women's Issues chairperson, at 309/829-7232.