

# THE Interior

For Saginaw Valley State College employees. Published by the Office of Information Services. Call 190-1054 with news items.

February 19, 1985

## SVSC PROFESSOR PROVIDES INSIGHT INTO BLACK HISTORY

James Syphers could tell you a few things about Black history that you wouldn't find in a film, book, or news clip.

That's because he was there when history was being made.

Between his childhood in a small New Hampshire town during the mid-thirties and his current position as an associate professor of social work, Syphers has learned to understand some of the things that have made civil rights an issue in this country -- the problems of not being accepted and of being different.

"I grew up stigmatized in the town where I was raised. My father was the town alcoholic and I went to school at the age of five so that my mother could work," Syphers explained. "I was a child in one of only two families on welfare in a town of less than 500 -- where everybody knows everybody and everybody's business."

There's something about injustice and maltreatment -- especially when there's been so much of it in his life -- that just never appeals to Syphers. There are many stories that he can relate in a slow, patient voice. The look in his eye suggests that he hasn't time or sympathy for people who follow patterns of discrimination.

"Anyone who was 'different' was welcome in our home," Syphers said. "It was something I grew up with. That includes tramps who would walk the railroad tracks near our house. When we were on welfare and my father was in jail, we didn't know where we were going to get supper. One time a man came, and we fed him anyhow. But we asked him why everyone came up, and he said there

- BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENTS CONTINUE
- WEATHER POLICY FORUM SET
- FINANCIAL AID DEADLINES APPROACHING

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was a mark on the tree near our field that hoboos would recognize. We told him what a difficult time we were having, and he went down and took the markings off the tree, saying that he understood."

Color, religion, race or status in life made no difference to Syphers. In college Syphers refused to join fraternities because there were clear lines of discrimination that were contrary to his philosophy. He was active in the Student Christian Association, and helped form a chapter of the N.A.A.C.P., which had one Black member. While attending graduate school at Oberlin College, the Rev. Martin Luther King spoke in the chapel in 1956. "They hadn't even settled the Montgomery bus thing. My impressions, as King spoke about non-violent resistance, were that it was right; that it was the kind of thing to be doing and to be involved in; and that it made sense."

Thus, in the summer of 1963, Syphers served as volunteer coordinator to organize the participation of the Pittsburgh area in the Washington D.C. civil rights march. "Participating in the Movement was more important than making money," Syphers said. "So I resigned from my job, and I just didn't worry about it." Syphers was receiving a small fellowship, but it barely covered a mortgage on his home, not to mention living expenses for his wife and four children. Friends helped with some money, but that was hard to live on even in 1963. He stopped payments on the family car, took out the phone in his home, and did whatever possible to get by. His sights were set on Washington.

"We chartered a whole train from western Pennsylvania, and we were the first ones to arrive. So we got off the train, and in

some of the documentaries one of the things you see is 'Western Pennsylvania March on Washington' banners. It made the morning national news.

"People gathered around the Washington Monument, and there was entertainment going on in the morning," Syphers recounted. "There were people everywhere. King was the final speaker, but there were many other good speakers along the way, a few of them more important than King to some groups. But King was the central speaker because of his persuasiveness and speaking ability.

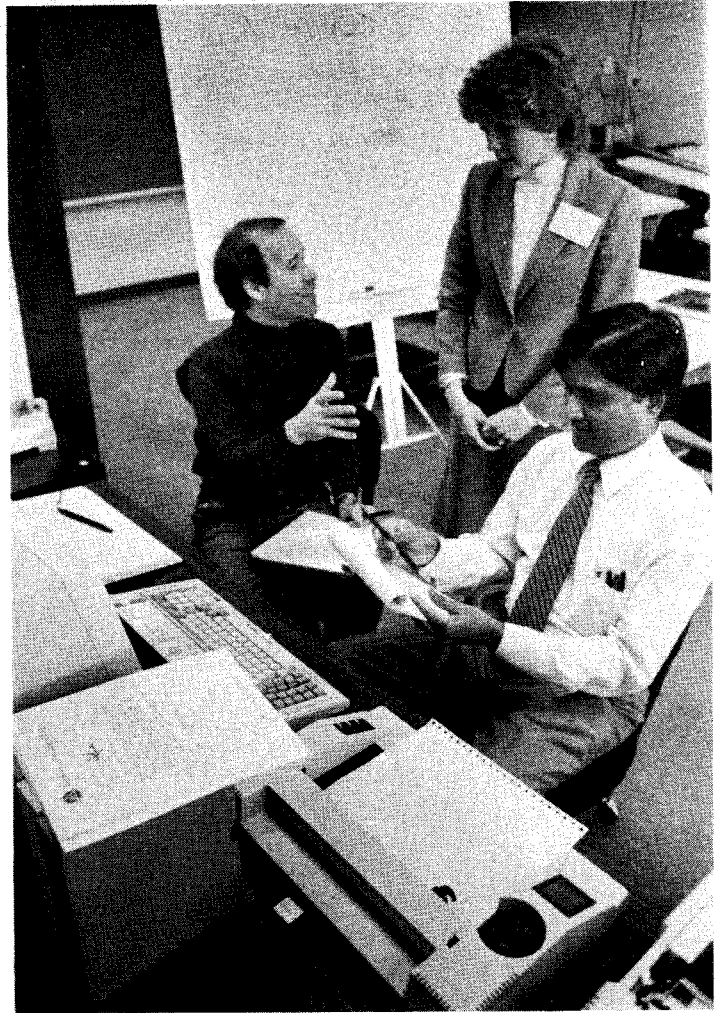
"When you try to move 250,000 people into a space, it takes time. It was a hot day, and early in the morning there were people who had passed out from the heat. There was a picnic atmosphere, with people sitting around sharing food, giving things to one another, caring for each others' kids, helping anyone who was having a hard time. There were commercial vendors selling soft drinks, and lines were sometimes 50 people long. If someone came along who was fainting, they would be passed up to the front. It was a great 'sharing' time."

The impact from the March was very strong, and the resulting political push was the 1964 Civil Rights Act, passed by Congress the following year. Syphers' involvement in the Washington March was completed; however, the FBI was not finished watching James Syphers. "My phones at work and home were tapped for about ten years. You could greet them for the day and go about your business. There was a pay phone about a block away, and even that was tapped.

"They were amazing times. . .really amazing times."

\* \* \* \* \*

**Black History Month** activities continue with a 6:00 p.m. fashion show on Wednesday, February 20, and a soul food banquet on Thursday, February 21 at 8:00 p.m. Both events will be held in lower level Doan. Also included is a musical play featuring the Baraka Actors to be held in the theatre on Sunday, February 24 beginning at 8:00 p.m. Admission is \$1. A motivation workshop in lower level Doan on Tuesday, February 26 at 11:30 a.m. wraps up the month's events. To make reservations for the banquet or the play, contact Doris Parker at ext. 4206.



Hope Mott (standing) with Dr. Mahajerin (left) and Dr. Rahman.

#### STUDENT TURNS TABLES, TEACHES PROFS

Hope Mott, 1982 SVSC graduate, returned to the classroom last week to help conduct a workshop for professors in the electrical and mechanical engineering departments. The group included Eldon Graham, associate professor of engineering and technology, who taught some of the classes Mott took during her undergraduate studies here in engineering technology.

Mott is employed as CADD System Manager at Devtron-Russell, Inc. of Gladwin. She was accompanied by Ed Russell, president of Devtron-Russell, who led the seminar in "Computer Aided Drafting and Design."

The professors learned a program that facilitates drawing of various kinds of designs and gives flexibility in moving portions of a drawing from one location to another. Classes in computer aided design will be included in SVSC's curriculum.

## STUDENT FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS

Faculty and staff should remind current students that applications for all financial aid programs, including the Pell Grant, must be made each year. Forms are available in the Financial Aid office. Applications should be completed and sent to the appropriate processing agency before March 1, 1985. Need Analysis Reports usually take four to six weeks to process, and must be submitted to the Financial Aid office before April 15, 1985.

Special financial aid incentives are being offered by the Army, including cash bonuses, scholarships through the Army College Fund, and payments on student loan balances. Information on other financial aid programs was sent to students in the Student Financial Aid Newsletter in early February. For more information, contact the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid at ext. 4103.

## FACILITIES SCHEDULING REMINDERS

Please allow one week to process forms for any event, and allow two weeks for events with food service. **Telephone reservations will be held for two days only.** A master contract is required for each event except for events with multiple dates, which can be listed across the top of the master contract. Always use a request form when indicated on the master contract, and match times, dates and places with those specified on the master contract. **Do not advertise an event** until the authorized gold copy of the master contract is returned to you. Forms can be obtained from the Facilities Scheduling office in Wickes Annex.

## BRIEFLY SPEAKING

--Openings for the **Tour to Spain** are limited to people who already have their passport and payment ready. For more information, call Dr. Pastor at ext. 4315.

--Campus Ministry is sponsoring an **Ash Wednesday Mass** on February 20 between 11:45 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. in lower level Doan Center.

--Please remind students of the February 20, 2:00 p.m. deadline for the trip to **Daytona Beach** over Spring Break. For details call ext. 4260.

--A pair of **Science Colloquiums** are being held in room 158 of the Pioneer Hall of Engineering and Technology. The first will be Thursday, February 21 at 1:20 p.m. Professor Emmett Leith, from the Electro Optics Laboratory at the University of Michigan, will present "Holography Today." A hologram display session will follow immediately after the lecture. For details, call Dr. Chen at ext. 4137. Next, Dr. William Riley from the Dow Chemical Company will speak on "Rational Design of Pesticides: Applications of Biochemistry" on Friday, February 22 at 1:30 p.m. Call Dr. Dalgarn for information at ext. 4355. Admission to both lectures is free and open to the campus community.

--Measurements for commencement **regalia** are being taken in the Bookstore between 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Deadline for orders is February 25. Call ext. 4277 for information.

--Area high school students will be on campus Friday, March 1 for the **Science Open House**. The open house begins with a choice of registration times at 8:45 or 9:45 a.m. in the theatre. Dr. Kullgren, dean of the school of science, engineering and technology, will present "Wind Machines: Past and Present." Presentations and displays are scheduled around campus. For details, call Kathy Lopez at ext. 4207.

--The **Valley Woodwind Quintet** will perform Saturday, March 2 at 8:00 p.m. in the theatre. Tickets for the concert are \$2 general admission and \$1.50 for students and senior citizens. For reservations, call Bill Wollner at ext. 4389.

--A **Spring Ceramic Show**, sponsored by the Michigan Professional Ceramic Association, will be March 2 and 3 at the YWCA, 3405 E. Midland Rd., Bay City. Saturday's show will run from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 5:00. For information, call Nancy Juntunen at 652-6903 or Jean Trojan at 496-3198.

--The Valley State Employees Credit Union **annual meeting** will be Saturday, March 9 in lower level Doan Center. A social hour begins at 5:30 p.m., followed by a prime rib dinner and dancing. A short business meeting is scheduled. Cost for the evening is \$10 per person, and all credit union members are urged to attend. For tickets, contact Jim Muladore at ext. 4218.

--The Michigan Women's Hall of Fame will be sponsoring a benefit dinner to honor Dr. **Martha Longstreet** Tuesday, March 12 at the Germania Club in Saginaw. A cash bar reception at 6:00 p.m. is followed by dinner at 7:00. Guest speaker will be Lt. Governor Martha W. Griffiths. Tickets to the dinner are \$20, with patron tickets available for \$50. Make reservations by phoning Dr. Rosalie Troester at ext. 4110.

--Employers and educators are being sought for a one-day workshop on **Cooperative Education**. Faculty and staff are encouraged to register for the workshop to be held Tuesday, March 26 in lower level Doan Center. Sessions start at 9:00 a.m. and will conclude at 2:30 p.m. Cost for the program is \$15 per person. For further information, call the Office of Placement and Cooperative Education at ext. 4291.

#### ACROSS CAMPUS

--Dr. **Guy M. Lee**, dean of the school of education, has been re-appointed to the Allocations and Budget Committee by the United Way of Saginaw County's Board of Directors. Lee will serve a two-year term through December 31, 1986.

--Dr. **H.Y. Park**, professor of economics, had a paper titled "An Analysis of Multiplier Effect in Basic Industry" published in the Korean Economic Journal (Vol. 23, No. 3, 1984). The Korean Economic Journal is published by Seoul National University. Park's paper was the only one chosen to be published out of over fifty papers presented at the International Convention of Korean Economists.

#### WEATHER POLICY INFORMATION

President Ryder has scheduled an open forum for the purpose of reviewing the College's weather policy. The forum will be held at 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 20 in Doan Center's lower level. The campus community is invited to attend, ask questions and express their concerns.

A change has been made to the Operations Manual on page 14.3-1 regarding services provided in the event of sudden and severe weather conditions: For emergency sleeping accommodations after 10:00 p.m., call Robin Kapala at ext. 4472.

#### HIGH FIVE

**SVSC men's basketball team** took a major step toward clinching the GLIAC championship Saturday with a convincing 84-73 win over Grand Valley in Allendale. Prior to the showdown game, SVSC and GVSC had identical conference records of 12-1. The Cards host Northwood Institute Thursday before ending the regular season at home against Oakland University on Saturday. A pair of victories would bring sole possession of the conference title.

Meanwhile, the Lady Cards defeated Grand Valley women 84-47. The **basketball** victory marks 48 consecutive regular season wins, including 29 conference matchups, for SVSC. Sunday the women faced a challenge when they hosted Northeastern Illinois. After being tied at 29 at the half, the Lady Cards preserved their unbeaten string with a 62-54 final score. The SVSC women have three conference games left before wrapping up a league title. They will be hosting Northwood on Thursday and Oakland on Saturday before traveling to Wayne State next Monday to close the regular season.

**SVSC's women's indoor track team** wrapped up another NAIA District 23 championship Saturday, tallying 92 points to second place Hillsdale's 85. Filipa Smith and Vera Pruitt were the leading scorers for the Lady Cardinals.

The Cardinal men came in second in the District 23 **indoor track** meet, with Northwood turning in a 189 point performance for first place. Good individual performances by John Robinson, Gary Norton, Brad Abendroth, Mark Broadworth and a first place finish by the mile relay team paced SVSC to 171 points.

#### EVENTWATCH

Feb. 20 ... Weather Policy Forum  
Feb. 20 ... Black History: Fashion Show  
Feb. 21 ... Science Colloquium: Leith  
Feb. 21 ... M & W BB: SVSC vs. Northwood  
Feb. 21 ... Black History: Banquet  
Feb. 22 ... Science Colloquium: Riley  
Feb. 23 ... M & W BB: SVSC vs. Oakland  
Feb. 24 ... Black History: Musical Play  
Feb. 26 ... Black History: Workshop

See monthly calendar or call Information Services for times and details.