Month offers Tones of Black

When you are one of 800 Blacks on a campus of 39,000 students, it's easy to feel lost. In a UW classroom seating 50, it would be easy to feel isolated. There, however, would only be one Black taking notes. Here, the feeling is one that one may find it difficult to lose a sense of cultural identity and be absorbed into a predominately Anglo atmosphere.

To help prevent this loss of cultural identity among Blacks, February will be full of weekend programming for African-American History Month.

The months activities are sponsored by the First World Historical Association, a coalition of groups including the Wisconsin Union Director's Cultural Affairs Area, the African Student Association, the African Students Union and the Black American Law Students Association. Fabu Phillips Carter, one of the months organizers, said the schedule's purpose was to form students about African-American culture.

Most programs will be practically applicable to Black student life, and should help fill what Carter sees as a void in coverage of serious issues in Black life. For the months activities, Wisconsin Union officials should also serve as a medium to bring Blacks from different geographical, social and academic backgrounds together and to share their resources, Carter said.

Last year, the February schedule was known as Black History Month, and programs were held nightly in the Union. This year, the name has been made more specific, and program organizers have pared the schedule to weekends for greater efficiency. Carter said last year's experience showed that such a schedule would be more effective; because there are a larger number of people involved on weekends than midweek.

The months first event will be a performance by Turn Around, a third world band featured in opening ceremonies from noon to 2 p.m. in the Memorial Union's Class of 1924 Reception Room. The band utilizes modern jazz, but also plays other contemporary music.

One of the highlights of the month will come later on Feb. 1, when Louis Farrakhan, a member of the Nation of Islam, speaks on the sociopolitical and philosophical aspects of African American life. The speech will be given in the Memorial Union's Great Hall at 7:30 p.m. and will be open to the public.

Farrakhan began his association with the Nation in 1950, when he began training under Elijah Muhammad. He became minister of New York City's Temple No. 46, and held that post through 1975. In 1967 he was appointed national representative for the Nation of Islam, a post he retains, and from 1964 to 1975 Farrakhan ran the organization's weekly radio broadcasts heard around the country.

The Nation has traveled in Europe, Africa, the Middle and Far East and West Indies, and has made many such world figures as former President Sadam Hussein of Iraq, Tidm Dada, Cuban Premier Fidel Castro and General Mohammad Qadafi of Libya.

Farrakhan has spoken at universities throughout the country, including Harvard, Yale, Michigan State, Ohio State and Columbia University.

The next day, the Black family will be the focus of the discussion for psychologist Wade Nobles and psychiatrist Frances Welling at 7:30 p.m. in the Memorial Union's Class of 1924 Reception Room.

Nobles, who received his Ph.D. from Stanford, has assisted African Americans who have retained their African nature in this country, viewing childhood illness, death and other aspects of life from an African perspective. Nobles is up for a Ford's International Family Research Project in San Francisco.

Welling is the author of the Crest Theory, which is based on the belief that one is more likely to lose a sense of cultural identity and be absorbed into a predominately Anglo atmosphere.

March 2 will be Choir Night, with appearances by ensembles and soloists under the direction of Allen Franklin beginning at 7 p.m. in Mills Auditorium. Singing will be choirs from the Mt. Zion Baptist, the Second Baptist and St. Paul A.M.E. churches; the Student Gospel Choir, the Zion Gospel Voices, the Whispering Voices of Faith and the Gospeliers; and soloists Charrita Treadwell, Cecilia Graham and John Y. Gordon.

Education Night begins the following weekend, at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 8 in the Memorial Union's Old Madison Room. Haki and Sofia Naidubhili will explain the concepts behind their Institute of Positive Education, a Chicago organization that teaches within an African framework. Haki is a co-founder and editor for Third World Press. He has also written several volumes of poetry under the pen name of Dan Lee Low, and recently completed a novel, "Enemies. The Clash of Races."

"Black on Black" will be the theme of a fashion show Feb. 9 at 7 p.m. in Union South. An African and soul food dinner will precede the show, coordinated by Sylvia Dunavant. Milwaukee model Pat Lispay will be joined by local models in an exhibition of African and Western styles. A discussion will follow the evening.

Ouadid Ndonga, an official of the Zimbabwe African National Union, will be the featured speaker Feb. 10 at 7 p.m. in the Memorial Union's Class of 1924 Reception Room. Ndonga serves as district chairman and acting chief representative of ZANU to the Americas and the Oui starring role featured that evening will be a performance by Milwaukee's Kho Thai African Dance Company, directed by Ferne Caulker-Bronson. The evening's program will be coordinated by the African Students Union.

Business will be the topic Feb. 15, when graduate business student Godwin Amaegbe of Liberia talks about the international market in 1221 N. Korean at 7:30 p.m. Business at the university will also come off as a discussion by a panel of local Black businesspeople.

Jazz will be heard all day Feb. 16, with a jazz workshop from 3 to 5 p.m. and a performance by the Hollies Warmly Trio slated to begin at 7:30 p.m. The workshop will be an informal discussion of basic jazz concepts, and an impromptu open jam session may follow if several interested persons bring their instruments. The Warmly Trio, formed by John Y. Deacon, will involve some local instrumentalists. The workshop is on-staff assistance to supplement some of Chicago's finest music. The workshop and performance are yet to be announced.

The next day, Olus and Amed Agour and their Zito Dance Troupe will perform authentic African dances to authentic African music. Their show will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Memorial Union's Great Hall.

The life of one of the great revolutionaries and leaders will be commemorated Feb. 21 at 7:30 p.m. by members of the African Poetry Reading Group. Students and faculty members from the UW Department of African Languages and Literature will present Malcolm X in poetry and dramatic readings. In addition, the film "Malcolm X: Struggle For Freedom" will be screened.

Art and poetry will occupy the Seventh Floor Art Gallery in Humanities on Feb. 22 at 7:30 p.m. Temple University faculty member Sonia Sanchez, a Black revolutionary poet, will read her works from such collections as "Alas Books For Black Women." On the walls around the easel and playwriting will hang a selection of the print work of William Charles Henderson. A 38-year-old professor at Alabama State University, Henderson has worked in design as well as printmaking. He has numerous awards, grants, and commissions as well as listings in "Who's Who in Black America" and "Who's Who in American Society." On Feb. 23, author and professor John Haynes Clarke will be guest lecturer in the Memorial Union's Old Madison Room. The 8 p.m. speech by the author of "The Boy Who Painted Christ Black" will cover the world history of African peoples. Currently a professor in the Department of Black and Puerto Rican Studies at New York's Hunter College, Clarke has extensive background as a journalist and editor, and he has studied the topic of his scheduled speech for many years.

African storytelling will be the main dish for an arts festival and folkloric Feb. 24 at 7 p.m. in the Jane Addams Room at Union South. The stories will be told by students and faculty from the Department of African Languages and Literature. Members of the audience should bring a dish to pass.

The final event of the month will be held on Leap Day beginning at 10 p.m. Black Ball will be held in the Memorial Union's Great Hall, featuring the music of Milwaukee pop/disco band Brothers by Choice. Semi-formal Black or African dress is requested. Refreshments will be served during the evening, and there will be plenty of dance space.

All African-American History Month events will be free and open to members of the university community. Blacks are, once again, especially encouraged to attend.