CALL FOR PAPERS

AfroGEEKS
from technophobia to technophilia

DEADLINE: March 1, 2004

The Center for Black Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara, invites submissions of papers for an upcoming conference, AfroGEEKS, that examines the rapidly-shifting relationship between issues of Blackness and technology.

In recent years, African Americans, especially, have been portrayed as poster children for the digital divide discourse. Though rarely represented as full participants in the information technology revolution, Black people are among the earliest adopters and comprise some of the most ardent and innovative users of IT (information technology). African diasporic people's many successes within new media and information technologies are too often overshadowed by the significant inequalities in technology access which ultimately produces the racial digital divide.

But there is more to this important and timely topic. We are interested in proposals that consider the following topics:

- Structural barriers to IT access that specifically impact Black communities
- Effective models of innovative IT use and adoption in Black communities
- The influence of traditional science education on Black youths
- Technophobes and Luddites in the Black community
- Computer gaming in the Black community
- Black popular music culture, such as sampling and turntablism, within the IT economy
- The place of Blacks in the IT industry
- How categories of hi-tech and low-tech mastery get determined and circulated
- Black IT leaders
- Recent legislation regarding the telecommunications industry and universal access to IT
- The responsibility of the government and IT businesses to minority communities
- IT issues on the African continent and for African diasporas outside of the U.S.
- Events of September 11 relative to Blacks' position in the IT economy
- The Geek identity problematic
- From IT Consumers to IT Producers
- Black virtual communities
- Black blogs
- Blacks and military-based IT training
- Becoming AfroGeeks
- Proposals addressing related topics welcome

The conference will be held May 7-8, 2004, at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Proposals should be limited to two pages and should include an abstract of not more than 350 words. Proposals should be submitted to:

Dr. Anna Everett, Director
Center for Black Studies
University of California
Santa Barbara, CA  93106

For more information, e-mail ctr4blst@omni.ucsb.edu or call (805) 893-3914
www.afrogeeks.com