

Jonsson takes a trip to the Lab. See page 8 — Joe Bob on the wonderful world of fanzines. See page 6

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Friday, February 22, 1991

University of Utah

The Daily Utah Chronicle - Page Five

Celebrate African-American history with poetry and dance

BY SUSAN LEVIN
Chronicle Dance Critic

The University of Utah's African-American students and members of the Salt Lake community will join forces this weekend to celebrate the artistic side of African-American History Month. Organized by Thomas Warfield, a dancer, musician and poet, the loose-knot group will present, "The African-American Experience in Music, Dance and Drama" at the Marriott Center for Dance on Sunday at 4 p.m.

Giselle Mason, a U. dancer; KUER disk jockey Steve Williams; U. athletes and members of the African-American Student Union, will merge to present their version of how the fine arts have contributed to African-American and American history. The program includes poetry, musical improvisation, historical oration, drama, and dance.

Concerning this event, Warfield said: "Black History Month emphasizes not just celebrating Black history and achievement, but Black awareness in terms of the American experience. Many different cultures make up our world. This event works to help integrate one of those cultural experiences."

While the fine arts are the core of Warfield's perspective, he adds that the "song and dance" stereotype of African American's must be broken. The list of the

day's events includes the poetry of Gwendolym Brooks and Langston Hughes followed by some of Warfield's own poems. He said of his poetry, "I am portraying an experience. It is my experience and because I am Black, maybe it is a Black experience." Giselle Mason will perform a dance inspired by one of Warfield's love poems.

The U. African-American Student Union, an organization dedicated to raising the awareness of African-American issues on campus, is also contributing to the event. An African dance piece will be performed as well as scenes from three plays: August Wilson's *Fences*, Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun*, and *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf*, by Ntoke Shange.

Warfield commented, "There has been a tremendous contribution by African American's in literature, art, and classical music. We will also explore musical influence with music written, or made famous through performance by African Americans."

Warfield also said, "Salt Lake City is a marvelous place, though it is isolated. The isolation narrows the scope of experience here." He hopes the event will also provide some exposure to the diversity that actually exists in Salt Lake.

"The African American Experience in Music, Dance, and Drama" will be held at the Alice Sheets Marriott Center for Dance on Sunday, Feb. 24th at 4 p.m. in room 240. The event is free and a reception in the lobby will follow.



CHRONICLE PHOTO/Judd R. Hillman

Thomas Warfield, dancer, poet and U. student is the driving force behind a concert to celebrate African American artistic achievement.