

Angelou

continued from page 5

mother's boyfriend. The man was subsequently murdered by Angelou's uncles.

According to The Norton Anthology of African American Literature, the incident caused Angelou to believe her words had the power to kill, and consequently sent the young girl into five years of silence. The anthology conveys that in those years of quiet, the woman absorbed the world around her, finally emerging as one of the most commanding voices in literature.

"I write for the black voice and any ear which can hear it," she has been quoted.

However, Angelou's achievements reach far beyond the

realm of the written word. In addition to her celebrated works of literature and poetry, she has described herself as a dancer, singer, producer, composer, journalist, actor and teacher.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. appointed her Northern Coordinator for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in 1959.

Her most recent book, "A Song Flung Up in Heaven," published in 2002, recounts her experiences during this period and the civil rights movement that followed.

During the 60s, she was a prominent journalist in Egypt and Ghana. She has authored six plays and was nominated for an Emmy award for her role in the television series "Roots" in 1977.

Angelou's 1971 poetry collec-

tion, "Give Me a Drink of Water 'For I Diiie," was nominated for a Pulitzer, and her 1972 screenplay "Georgia, Georgia" was the first original script penned by a black author to be produced.

Though her stories often depict painful experiences, Angelou carries an enduring message of triumph over the odds. These are lessons that attendees are sure to gain insight from.

In Norton's Anthology, Angelou described her work in the following way: "All my work is meant to say, 'You may encounter many defeats but you must not be defeated.' In fact, the encountering may be the very experience which creates the vitality and the power to endure."

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Toxicity

continued from page 5

and Evolutionary Biology Joe Thornton attended the screening to answer questions about PVC and the film. Thornton called vinyl the most environmentally hazardous consumer product on earth.

Despite its toxicity, PVC is used in countless substances, from baby toys to shower curtains. Helfand said she hopes the film will inspire people to seek out less harmful alternatives to vinyl, especially vinyl used in building manufacturing.

"We made 'Blue Vinyl' with the hope that we could produce a fun, effective, heart and mind opening way for consumers, at every class level, to see that they are connected

to people and communities all along the material life cycle of the products that get manufactured, that we buy, that get disposed of," Helfand said. "In the case of vinyl and PVC, and via those human connections — which the industry does not want us to make — change will happen. It already is."

Both Helfand and Thornton stressed the importance that not only individual consumers, but also larger corporations, stop using PVC products.

"We have very limited choices as consumers," Thornton said. "That is why this new idea of organizing people to put pressure on the government and institutions to make environmentally friendly purchasing decisions is

so important."

Helfand stressed the obligation of campuses like the University to set an example and make "green" purchasing decisions.

"I really believe campuses and universities play an important role in changing the way purchases are made," Helfand said. "How many binders are purchased at a university that are made from PVC? Why not purchase something recycled? A university can stimulate the demand for sustainable materials."

For more information on the "My House Is Your House" campaign, visit the Web site www.myhouseisyourhouse.org.

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Mate

continued from page 6

a professor of linguistics and semiotics at the University of Buenos Aires, said that there are many ways to serve the drink. "Tereré" is mate served cold, while "mate cocido" is served hot. Badano emphasized that the serving water should be hot, but not boiling. "Mate amargo" is served without sugar. Orange, mandarin and tangerine peels can also add flavor to the tea.

Visiting Assistant Professor Christian Gundermann, who teaches in the University's romance language department, taught at schools in Buenos Aires and Tucumán in Argentina. He said mate has a strong cultural connection to rural life in the country.

"It's much more common in lower-class environments. You won't find the jet-set class drinking it," he said. "It's a little bit like a country bumpkin kind of thing."

Badano said that while mate is available in larger cities such as Buenos Aires, it is mainly consumed by farmers and peasants.

"Mate isn't an urban tradition. You need time to drink mate — it's a tradition of little cities, not big cities," she said. "It's not a common tradition for people who work in the office."

Traditionally, when people gather to drink mate from a gourd, one person distributes the water, filling up the gourd each time it is emptied. This person is called the "cebador," and Badano said a talented cebador can refill a mate gourd 20 to 30 times and still make the flavor last.

"Pouring the water is like a language," she said. "If you are a good cebador, it doesn't lose the taste."

Gundermann added that consuming mate goes beyond the simple act of drinking.

"In Argentina, there's a strong culture of conversation," he said.

"It's about sitting down and talking together and taking the mate together."

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