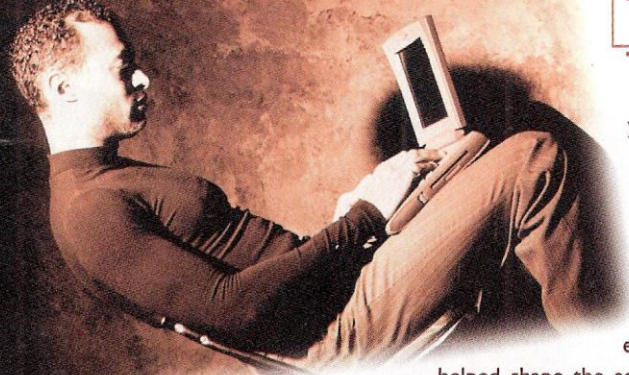


tech trek



The Canada Connection

Toronto's Warren Salmon beams us back to the past with Afrocentric software, and into the future by encouraging our young people to pursue high-tech careers.

"It's not only important that we have access to the technology," says Salmon, 34. "It's also important that content include input from people of African descent." Ashaware, his educational software for children and adults, fits the bill by teaching language arts, science and math while highlighting African, Black-Canadian and African-American contributions to the world. Feedback from the entrepreneur's 9-year-old daughter and "special assistant" Caitlyn helped shape the software. Its title shares his daughter's middle name, Asha—from a West African word for *life*. (To order software, call (800) 565-6228.)

Over at Salmon's Black Board International (BBI) users have tapped into the Web site at <http://www.auraland.com/bbi> as a kind of electronic town hall. As early as 1992, during the L.A. rebellion that followed the Rodney King verdict, people stayed informed via BBI. After a round of construction this spring, folks should again be able to turn to the site for news and to use the service's job bank and events listings.

Says Salmon, "We in the diaspora have to look at supporting one another and creating economic and cultural links. Technology enhances the possibilities." —ERICA PHILLIPS

WARREN SALMON, DAVID JENKINS, SOLEDAD O'BRIEN, COURTESY OF SOLEDAD O'BRIEN

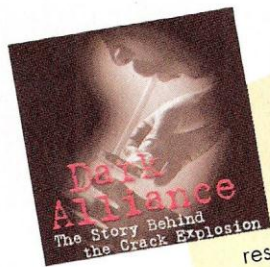
This month's mix:

Afrocentric software,

cool Web sites and

the ascendance of

cyber advocacy



SPREAD THE WORD

With people around the planet joining the Internet daily, cyberculture increasingly resembles a worldwide grapevine: Anyone with a Web site can pitch her two cents' worth to a global audience that's only one mouse click away. As such, major news events from the conspiratorial of crack cocaine in South Central Los Angeles) to the political (Mumia Abu-Jamal) to the inane (Tupac faked death theories) are routinely breaking international ground via the Net.

"It really is remarkable: Someone puts out information and it instantly travels around the world," says Nique Fajors, executive vice-president of the Manhattan-based Internet service provider Digital Telemedia, Inc., and founder of the Afrocentric Web site at <http://www.africanhistory.com>.

"F--- Texaco! Don't fund racism," posted one user on a popular Black Web site. Such word-of-E-mail communication sets an alternative stage for grassroots leverage against corporate racism and other issues, including California's hotly debated anti-affirmative-action law.

"I've heard people talk of the CNN-ization of the world," Fajors says. "I think the Internet is going to be CNN times 100." —MCLEAN GREAVES



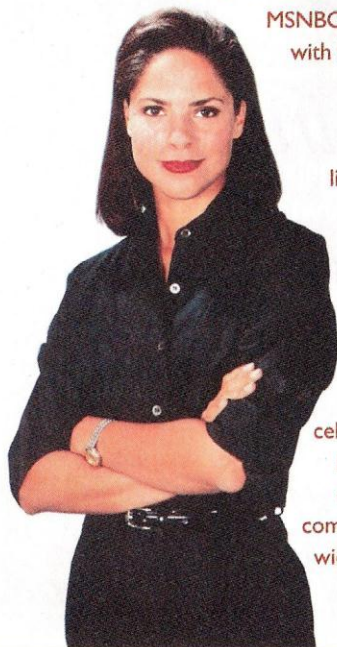
BUZZ: Trim research time with World Book 1997 Multimedia Encyclopedia (IBM, \$79.99); two CD-ROMs with articles from A to Z, video illustrations and 3-D animation.

soledad says...

MSNBC's *The Site* is a nightly techfest with host Soledad O'Brien. (Check local cable listings; visit <http://www.msnbc.com>.)

Here are three sites Soledad likes to visit and why: ●African American Women On-line (<http://www.uoknor.edu:80/jmc/home/gmccauley/black.html>): "A strong personal home page with great links to other sites." ●Word (<http://www.word.com>): "Excellent fiction and nonfiction; it's literary without being snotty."

●Salon (<http://www.salonmag.com>): "They update it daily with a wide variety of articles, including breaking news, music reviews and columns by top writers."



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