



The
University of Mississippi

Center for the Study of Southern Culture
University, MS 38677
(601) 232-5993

April 12, 1994

Frutelund Jackson
Nwafor Management Services
3533 S. Calumet Avenue
Chicago, IL 60653

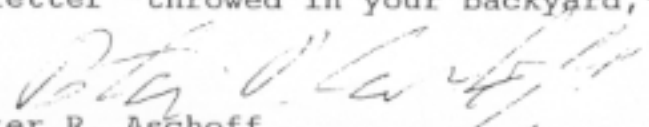
Dear Mr. Jackson:

Please let me take this opportunity to tell you again how much my students and I enjoyed your presentation in my "Anthropology of the Blues Culture" class. It was a wonderful blend of entertainment and information: those students who were forced to miss it because of the ice storm the preceding days have grumbled ever since, while the students who saw you have gloated unmercifully.

Professionally, let me say that your "performance" (or whatever you call such a unique presentation) was as good a one hour exploration of the cultural and historical origins of the blues as I have ever heard. Your presentation was clear and accessible without being simplistic, and the manner in which you discussed the regional traditions and trends at work during the creation of the blues dovetailed perfectly with my presentations to the class. Like my own work, your insistence that the blues can only be fully understood when viewed as a rare window into, and voice of, the African American experience is a position that must be loudly stated at every opportunity if the blues is not to be recreated in a manner which denies its unique origins.

Again, let me thank you for a splendid afternoon and congratulate you on having created a singular program which is an invaluable tool for, in particular, teaching the blues and, in general, for exposing students to the extraordinary and unique historical and cultural sequence that is the African American experience in this country.

A letter "thrown in your backyard," from


Peter R. Aschoff
Department of Sociology & Anthropology, and
The African American Studies Program
The University of Mississippi