

News

Harambee presents race issues Nov. 16

Annie Crandall
Staff Writer

A round-table discussion with issues related to race and race relations in the 21st century U.S. will be presented by the Africana studies program and Africana Studies Club at UNCA.

"The only way to solve people's problems is to discuss the issues surrounding the problem. The only way to get there is to have everyone speaking his or her mind and partaking in the discussion," said Andrew Hainsworth, a junior political science major. "Perhaps our talking about these issues will get people to at least think about it."

After the success of Harambee last year, which encompassed many different issues, this year's event will include several speakers. Guest speakers include Jim Pitts, vice chancellor for public partnerships and special programs, Heon Lee, assistant professor of sociology, Sarah Judson, assistant professor of history, Gina Fedock, a junior women's studies major, Marcus Bethea, a sophomore sociology major, and Hainsworth.

"The focus of this year's topics will include our guest speakers telling their individual experiences. They will show us how they have built their own relationships," said Hainsworth.

In an e-mail, Pitts said he comes to the discussion informed by

nearly six decades of life experience as a black male. He was also a former university professor and scholar specializing in the study of race, class and gender.

Pitts said he intends to present several examples drawn from the contemporary civil rights era, as well as his own examples from life experience. Pitts has been the speaker at numerous humanities program lectures, although this is his first appearance on a Harambee panel.

Students will learn that race identity is not biological or genetic, according to Pitts.

Instead, it is "socially generated and durable because it serves a powerful status and powerful interests," said Pitts in the e-mail.

Lee said he also takes a stance on race as a historically constructed concept with particular purposes. Lee will also raise a few questions of his own.

"In the 21st century, who should define race and in what way?" said Lee in an e-mail.

Lee also said in the e-mail that race discrimination is "arbitrary

in nature, having been defined by the dominant group."

Hainsworth said he is willing to talk about important individual relationship problems.

"There are not many organizations that have discussions with professors, and to promote change, you have to promote new ideas," said Hainsworth.

The Africana Studies Club has about 60 members, according to Hainsworth.

"We are doing a mock of the Organization of African Union. Each student represents a different African country, and it is getting very interesting," said Hainsworth. "We are hoping that the group (will) be looked at as an elective course in social science."

Hainsworth said he encourages people to come to the meeting and be vocal about their ideas.

"Each person has the right to say what they need people to know," said Hainsworth. "We need to listen to those who do speak."

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- Andrew Hainsworth, a junior political science major.

Child



PHOTO BY JASON GRAHAM

Sam Kaplan, professor of mathematics, holds his son during an exam review for one of his classes.

Resuscitation training is probably about an hour to an hour and a half."

"We will know how to take care (of the kids) so (parents) will not have to worry as much," said Erin Lesley, an undeclared sophomore. "We are going through the emergency training so we will know how to take care of little cuts, big cuts and choking."

Some of the babysitters said they are concerned about their safety, and that is also discussed as part of the training.

"There are going to be people who we have never met before, but you know you have trust because we are all in the same community," said Lesley. "I am really glad my phone number is not going to be on the Web site."

"Everyone should have a safety plan," said Smith. Babysitters "have to set up a meeting with the parent, and, obviously, we are going to teach and encourage them

to have (that meeting) in a public place."

The option for babysitters to meet clients in the director's office will be offered often, to make sure nothing goes wrong, according to Smith.

"That sets of a sense of validity to the process," said Smith. "If everything feels comfortable, you start to babysit."

Chancellor Jim Mullen wanted to offer a child-care program to students, according to Lesley.

"He wants to offer somewhere for students and faculty to turn to," said Lesley. "Maybe having it so that if a student has a class and child, they could bring the child to campus."

Mullen appointed his wife, Mari Sullivan Mullen, Smith, Sarah Bumgarner, director of the first-year experience program, and several students to look at campus-based child care, according to Smith.

"There are many great, interested and committed people working on child care, but they have been doing it on a volunteer basis," said Smith.

Plans are underway to find a site near campus for a UNCA child-care program. It is expected to take 18 months to complete, according to Smith.

"With the BC, we are looking to help meet the needs of our students, faculty and staff while that process is happening," said Smith.

The BC members are dedicated and enjoy being around children, according to Penland.

"I like watching kids develop and have new experiences," said Penland. "It helps the parents and it is fulfilling to work with kids. It is nice for the kids if they have someone who can be there for them and they do not get juggled around with everybody."

"I volunteered over 600 hours of community service doing things with and for children," said Jones. "I like kids, and I like to meet new people. This is a way to make money with something you like to do."

The students are also working on other ways to make the UNCA campus fit for families. BC is also going to be helping with future family-friendly events on campus such as doing more events with Underdog Productions, according to Smith.

"I would like to do two or three of those events in the nice weather and get the families here playing," said Smith.

Educational workshops dealing with nutrition, health and safety tips and infant's and toddler's brain development could be organized for parents, according to Smith.

See the child care Web site at <http://rocky.unca.edu/childcare/>

Union

tools of beginning in a union," said Godwin. "The union gives collective bargain rights and leverage with the management to get better pay, benefits, sick-leave, and a say in schedules."

Unions provide a vehicle for workers to collectively express their feelings, create unity for the working class and take a stand against injustices in the world, according to Carr.

The catalyst that caused people at UNCA to organize was a change in workers' schedules to the third shift that occurred without management consulting workers. The change requires workers to come in at 6 p.m. and work until 6 a.m., according to Godwin.

"It is important to break through

some incorrect thinking of members, and create a sense that the union is an organization of workers who are strong with students allies," said Muhammad. "We must establish some sense of being an important part of things national and global."

UE 150 uses petitions, sends delegations of workers to the management and establishes liberated areas at every campus in the UNC system in order for the group to meet, according to Muhammad.

"We have decided we are going to fight to win the right to exist as a union, and we are going to establish some liberated areas for the union to exist," said Muhammad.

Mobilization of UE 150 members

in 15 N.C. cities supported the recent higher education bond referendum, even though workers' needs were not addressed, according to Muhammad.

"We call for administering the bond for better accountability to the workers. In this \$3.1 billion bond, nothing was mentioned about addressing the needs of the workers," said Muhammad. "We believe the role of the union is to help workers raise their issues and to place those issues on the table, whether in the polling booth or with administrators."

Part of the role of the trade union movement is to help workers organize discussions among themselves in work areas, according to Muhammad.

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Forum

that bitterness and partisanship will paralyze the next president," said Clinton to reporters. "We just do not know that."

Some students said the election would probably have some implications on the next president.

"Americans might end up getting a president who is not at all wanted," said Somanna Muthanna, a sophomore management major and international student from Zambia, Africa.

In Florida, with votes in all 67 counties recounted, results show Bush leading Gore by 286 votes, according to the AP.

"We are seeing increasing desperation, and it is not pretty," said Theodore Olson, a Republican party lawyer on ABC's "Good Morning America." "Democrats should stop challenging every deadline and let the results unfold."

In Palm Beach County, Fla. election officials began hand counting the county's 430,000 ballots Nov. 15. In Miami-Dade County, officials completed a hand recount of 5,871 ballots in three overwhelmingly Democratic precincts, giving Gore only an additional six votes, according to the AP.

"One of the big problems is that so many ballots have been mutilated in the first count, and the only way to count them is by hand count," said Sabo. "At the current rate of 14 hours a day counting, the people from Palm Beach said they need at least until Nov. 18."

According to the CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll, conducted Nov. 11-12, Americans favor having Florida officials recount the votes in certain counties by hand, with a margin of 55 percent to 42 percent. Some students said this would perhaps be less accurate and just create more inaccuracies.

"I can not imagine the most modern nation in the world is going back to the basics of counting votes by hand," said Muthanna.

In Florida, tensions are running high as the vote counting continues into its second week. There has been little violence, but there have been small protests by supporters of Gore and Bush around the state, according to CNN.

"All this conflict over an election," said Matthew Wygant, a junior environmental science major. "This election is supposed to determine the future of our country, not cause conflict."

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"I would understand conflicts and violence breaking out in a presidential election in a third world country," said Asako Tetsubayashi, a sophomore computer science major and international student from Japan. "Electing a president is supposed to be for the good of a nation, not be negative for it."

Rev. Jesse Jackson, while in Florida leading protesters in Palm Beach County Nov. 13, said he saw some people being verbally abused and hit with sticks, and a reporter saw one man with some blood on his face. Police say no one was arrested as of yet, according to CNN.

"It was a violent scene and the crowd was out of control," said Jackson to reporters.

In another incident on Nov. 10, Rep. Robert Wexler, D-Fla., had to be escorted by sheriff's deputies after Bush supporters interrupted his interview with CNN on a sidewalk in West Palm Beach, according to CNN.

A crowd waving Bush signs "began swarming him," said Josh Rogin, Wexler's spokesman to reporters in West Palm Beach, Fla. "It was a very unsafe environment."



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