

Chronicle Profile

Climbing the theatrical ladder

By AUDREY L. WILLIAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

John Moore has made a lot of strides in his life, but probably the biggest one to date is his appointment as director of development for the Shakespeare Festival in High Point.

Moore, 31, or "Moe" as he prefers to be called, is the first black ever to hold such a position with the Festival, which happens to be one of the most celebrated and influential arts organizations in the state. As part of the Festival's arts management team, Moore is required to raise \$200,000 in contributions of the \$600,000 unearned budget.

His experience and study in the theater stretches from the East to the West Coast. Although he never really got his professional acting career off the ground, Moore was offered his present position in High Point in February because of his studies in theater management and theater experience. Being a first, however, is nothing new to the Winston-Salem native.

"I've been first in three or four situations," he says, "so it was really nothing new to me when I took the job at the Shakespeare Festival. "What was of concern to me was that I knew was going to be asking white folks for money.

"I wondered how they would feel about a black man asking them for money for a predominantly white organization," Moore says. "The Festival had no problem with it, though. I was the one with the concern."

Other firsts in his life include being the first black fellow ever hired full-time by the National Endowment for the Arts in Washington, D.C., being named

the first black to make Who's Who at Sangamon State University in Springfield, Ill., where he attended graduate school, and being the first black male professional ever to work with the Chicago Arts Council.

A 1971 graduate of Parkland High School, whose name often appeared on the honor roll, Moore says his academic curriculum then consisted mainly of "hang-outology and girlies." After graduation, he entered Morgan State College (now University), where he majored in theater, joined the Ira Aldridge Players, became active in the city's community theatres and pledged Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

In search of an acting career, Moore left Morgan, degree in hand, and headed for San Francisco.

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-- John Moore

There, he joined the West Coast Black Repertory. Not long afterwards, Moore went to New York and landed a part in the Broadway chorus of Scott Joplin's opera, "Tremonisha." When the play's stint was over, he was without a job.

"The bottom fell out in the arts," he says. "I couldn't find any work. Everything got dry, so I came back to North Carolina."

Moore then landed a job as a youth coordinator for the Hayes-Taylor YMCA in Greensboro. Again, he packed up and moved to Washington, D.C., where he worked with the National Endowment and the YMCA there. He also got married, but within



Winston-Salem native John Moore is no stranger to being first, so becoming the first black administrator with the Shakespeare Festival in High Point was no big deal to him (photo by James Parker).

two years, the marriage was over. Once again Moore returned home and landed a job in Raleigh, where he worked with the North Carolina Cultural Arts Coalition -- then it was on to Sangamon for his master's degree in arts management.

Still, Moore never really pursued an acting career, at least not in the way most do. Only on an occasional invitation by the Flonnie Anderson Theatrical Association or Larry Hamlin's N.C. Black Repertory will he even attempt to recite a line of any play

nowadays. The fact that he never came to national or international fame doesn't seem to indicate that his laid back persona is the least bit bothered by his mediocre stage success.

"I possibly gave up a bit fast," he says, as he tugs and struggles with the necktie his mother coaxed him into wearing for the interview. "I felt like I was more deserving of going through the school of hardknocks for five years. I didn't want to wait tables.

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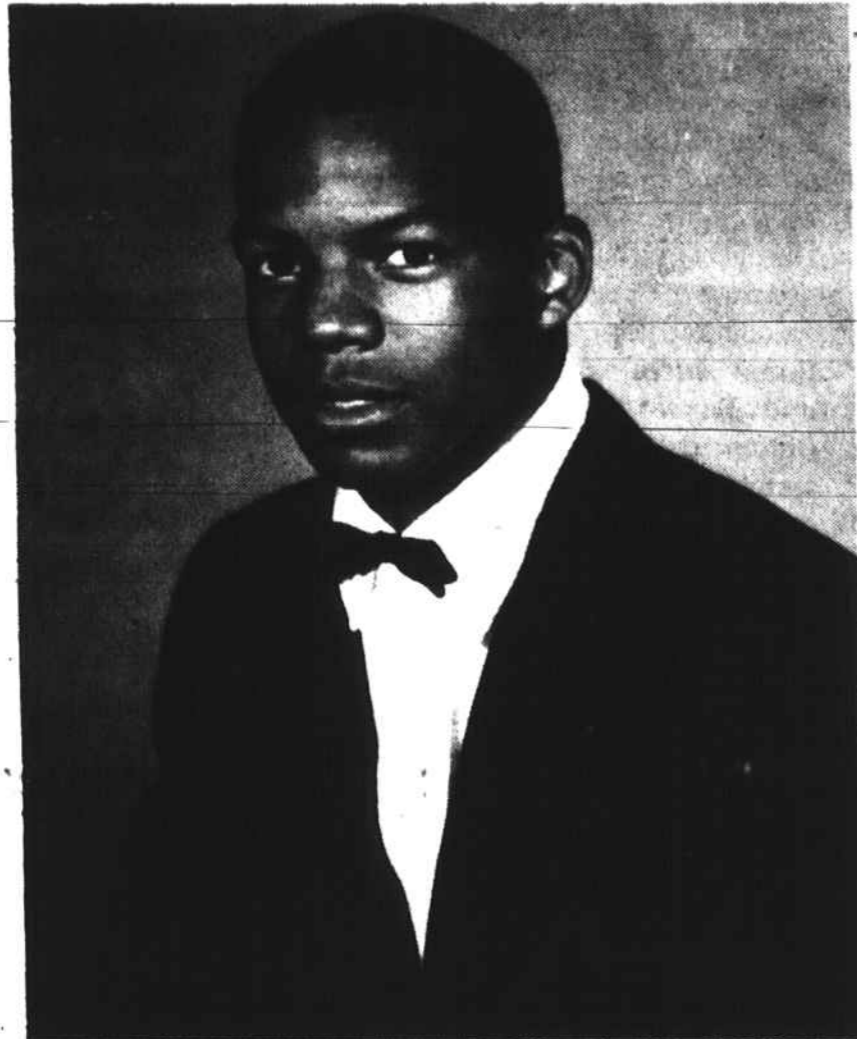
Scholarship awarded

Kevin L. Grady, son of Mr. and Mrs. George R. Grady Sr. of 3005 Colgate Drive, is the recipient of the Gregory Davis Scholarship at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

The scholarship is awarded annually by Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity to students exemplifying leadership, dedication and academic achievement.

Davis, who is blind, is a professor of Afro-American studies at UNCC and is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi.

Grady, an accounting major at UNCC, is a 1983 graduate of East Forsyth High School.



Kevin L. Grady

Flower Niche Garden Club plans trip to see outdoor drama in Cherokee

The Flower Niche Garden Club held its monthly meeting Saturday, April 28, at the home of Mrs. Gloria Goore.

Early bird winners of potted plants were Mrs. Leola Sadler, Miss Louise Smith and Edythe Williams, president.

The agenda included the reading and approval of the

minutes, the treasurer's report, the distribution of tickets and the duty roster for the June 2 standard flower show. The club is making plans for a trip to see the outdoor drama "Unto These Hills" in Cherokee on June 16.

Members attending the club meeting were Mrs. Bessye Dobson, Mrs. Vi-

vienne Conley, Mrs. Carolyn Boyd, Mrs. Gwendolyn Greene, Mrs. Marian Wooten and Mrs. Bernice Davenport.

After the meeting, group members participated in a leisure walk through Reynolda Gardens to view the blooming tulips, other flowers and vegetables.

Club hosts breakfast

The Columbian Heights Friendly Club held their annual Easter Monday Fellowship Breakfast on Monday, April 29, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dock Grier.

After breakfast, members participated in a fellowship hour.

The next scheduled meeting will be held May 12 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H.B. Oliver.

Members present were Mrs. Edyth Williams, president; Mrs. Thelma Jeffries, Mrs. Ellsworth Bonner, Mrs. Ellen Campbell, Mrs. Ila Davis, Mrs. Maggie Green, Mrs. Verna Grier, Mrs. Jessie Mills, Mrs. Sara Oliver, Mrs. Vera Sadler, Mrs. Katie Woods, Mrs. Mattie Dewberry and Mrs. Louise Davis.

Bob Jordan for Lieutenant Governor

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Bob Jordan with Campaign Vice Chairman, Sen. Bill Martin (D-Guilford)

- Bob Jordan has worked to make sure that minority citizens and lower income persons are a working part of the governmental system.
- Bob Jordan has worked extremely hard to create new jobs and opportunities for all of North Carolina's citizens.
- Bob Jordan supported the Martin Luther King bill that resolved his birthday being observed as a bonafide holiday.
- Bob Jordan has worked all his life to make better, the Carolinas educational system, while serving on the Board of Governors he supported strongly our Black institutions of higher education.
- Bob Jordan has been endorsed by several groups including the political action committee of the N.C. Social Services Association, the AME Methodist and the AME Zion Churches.

"When you help elect Bob Jordan as your next Lieutenant Governor, you will be investing your vote in a better future for yourself and all of the citizens of our great State."

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DEMOCRAT
On May 8th

Paid for by the Bob Jordan Committee

Barger reports to Cherry Point

Marine Pfc. Lisa A. Barger, daughter of Martha A. Pierce of 621 Second St., has reported for duty at the Marine Air Station in Cherry Point.

Marine Lance Cpl. Raymond T. Vanhoy III, son of Raymond Vanhoy Jr. of 4070 Tangle Lane and Dorothy L. Vanhoy of 755 Anson St., has completed an Aviation Radar Repair Course.

The 16-week course was

conducted at the Marine Corps Communication/Electronics School in Twin Palms, Calif. The course was designed to provide students with technical instruction on the AN/TPS-22 Radar System and associated equipment used by the Marine Aviation Units.

Marine Lance Cpl. Casanthia E. McCutcheon, daughter of Mingel and Bernice D. McCutcheon of 5031 Butterfield

Dr., has reported for duty with 1st Marine Aircraft wing, Marine Corps Air Station Futenma in Okinawa, Japan.

Navy Dentalman Recruit Terri L. Symmes, daughter of James D. and Colleen Symmes of 4250 Bower Lane, recently completed the Dental Assistant Basic course at the Naval School of Dental Assisting and Technology at the Naval Station in San Diego, Calif.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE MAY 8



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