

Black Issues Forum

▲ African-American youth speak up

What should society be doing to help African-American youth get on the right track to success and self-esteem? Young people themselves have very firm ideas about what their families, schools and communities should be doing.

They speak out in "African-American Youth: Un-leashing the Potential," part of the *Black Issues Forum* series, airing Wednesday, May 6 at 8 p.m. The five panelists, ranging in age from 15 to 22, spark lively conversation on topics such as families, peers, crime, education, and the future.

Panelists include:
 • Waleed Bilal, age 18, a senior at Pine Forest Senior High School; Wayne Hodges, 18, a freshman at Fayetteville State University; Jimonique Simpson, 22, a senior at Fayetteville State University; Nichole Strayhorn, 17, a junior at E.E. Smith Senior High School; and Jamal Waites, 15, a student at Lewis Chapel Junior High School.

Moderating the panel are Lloyd V. Hackley, chancellor of Fayetteville State University, and

Valeria Lee, host and moderator of the program.

Family issues begin the discussion. Panel members voice serious concern about the disintegration of the family resulting in young people without an identity. To instill in the young a sense of history and identity, Simpson advises adults to "share the struggles" they themselves went through.

When asked if parents really understand the world facing today's youth, the panelists respond with a call for more real listening between parents and children. Crime within the African-American community greatly concerns members of the panel. In the words of Bilal, crime by the young is a "a call for attention."

Simpson believes the crime rate is due to the common perception that crime is "a means of getting out of poverty . . . They don't see the system working for them and they don't see themselves in the system." The panel believes that family structure would help remedy this problem.

When asked by moderator Lee what is missing in the community for African-American youths, the unanimous response, voiced by Strayhorn, is role models.

To alleviate this problem, young people suggest more successful African-Americans be visible in the community; that schools offer more African-American history; and that the media portray a better image of African-Americans.

Despite the current situation, the panelists are full of hope for the future. Although the economy, voter apathy, and lack of domestic spending are key issues for them, they believe things will get better and that their generation can be the instrument of change.

As stated by Hodges: "We send people to the moon because it's there . . . If they can launch a billion dollars into space, they can launch a billion dollars into the ghetto."

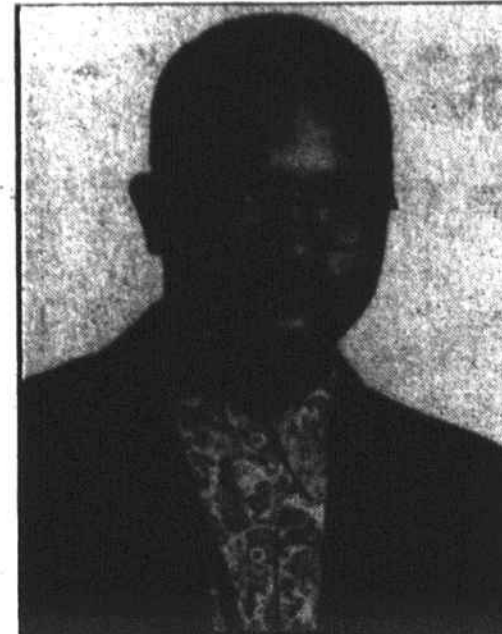
North Carolina Public Television is the program service of the University of North Carolina Center for Public television, which operates 10 stations throughout the state.



Lloyd V. Hackley



Waleed Bilal



Wayne Hodges



Jimonique Simpson



Nichole Strayhorn



Jamal Waites

Study claims *The Cosby Show* may have desensitized whites to blacks' problems

By JEFF DORN
 Associated Press Writer

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (AP) — By featuring a wealthy black family, *The Cosby Show* may have desensitized whites to the problems of many other blacks, according to a study funded by actor Bill Cosby himself.

The situation comedy aims to avoid black stereotypes by depicting a wealthy black family.

But it actually desensitizes whites to racial inequalities, because it shows blacks enjoying the same opportunities as whites, the study says.

"If black people fail, then white people can look at the successful black people on *The Cosby Show* and say they only have themselves to blame," said Sut Jhally, a communications professor at the University of Massachusetts.

Jhally and colleague Justin Lewis have written a

200-page study on the social effects of the NBC show. The study is to be published in a month.

The show, seen by more viewers than any sitcom in U.S. television history, will broadcast its final episode Thursday.

The researchers said Friday they picked the show, which began in 1984, because it was the first all-black program to avoid racial stereotyping. Cosby plays a wealthy doctor with a lawyer wife.

When they began, the two professors at the Amherst campus wrote to Cosby, who holds a doctorate in education from the University of Massachusetts.

He responded with a \$16,500 grant.

The professors interviewed about 200 people of varying economic and racial status in the Springfield area. They watched the show in homes and answered questions about their impres-

sions.

The professors said nearly all the whites they interviewed believed affirmative action is no longer needed.

The professors called that attitude "enlightened racism."

"Most white people accepted that America has had a kind of racist past, but the present of the Huxtables and their spinoffs really seems to send a message to white people that black people can make it if they try," Lewis said.

Cosby couldn't immediately be reached for comment, but David Brokaw, a Los Angeles publicist who has worked with Cosby for 17 years, disputed the study's findings.

"He was really trying to present the lives of people who happen to be black, but it's the lives of people," he said.

Lewis said of the blacks he interviewed almost all liked the show.

Rap music case headed to court

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A corporation charged with selling obscene materials to minors in an unofficial sting operation aimed at 2 Live Crew's "Sports Weekend" recording will fight the charges, an attorney said Thursday.

Paul Cardinal of Trans World Music Corp. based in Albany, N.Y., said company officials were investigating facts of the case and they did plan to contest the charges.

A Musicland store was also charged with selling obscene material to minors. A spokeswoman for Minneapolis-based Musicland Group Inc. said in a statement that the charge was without merit and she had no further comment.

City Councilman Steve Exon and anti-pornography group Omaha for Decency claim 2 Live Crew's recording is obscene and shouldn't be sold to people under age 18. Nebraska law prohibits distributing pornography to juveniles.

Exon and the Omaha group conducted an unofficial sting operation April 11, sending four youngsters, ages 13 to 17, to nine stores to buy the recording, which bears the voluntary music industry label: "Parental Advisory Explicit Lyrics."

Many stores won't sell recordings with that warning to anyone

under 18, but Exon said the youngsters purchased the recording from six stores. He said he encouraged the prosecution.

Assistant City Prosecutor J. Michael Tesar said a May 5 arraignment was scheduled in each case in Douglas County Court.

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Lawrence exhibit at Diggs thru June 13

Art is not always pretty or easy on the eyes. When art speaks to us of our history here in this country, the courage and struggle must also be seen with the oppression, race

world for his depiction of the African-American experience from the Civil War to the civil rights movement and beyond. His paintings are more than a chronicle of

the Phillips Gallery in Washington, D.C. Lawrence devoted most of his career to producing various historical series depicting the black experience, beginning with heroes such as Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman and Toussant L'Overture.

The exhibition, "Jacob Lawrence: An American Master," concentrates on the artist from 1977 to 1990 and features both prints and paintings. Two series dominate the exhibit: the eight-part "Hiroshima" series done in 1982 as illustrations for a special edition of John Hershey's "Hiroshima," and Lawrence's recent series, "Eight Sermons of the Creation from the Book of Genesis." In this series, the artist has continued his career-long practice of painting in gouache on hardboard.

Lawrence has been extremely effective in reaching his goal to achieve "universality, clarity and strength" through his paintings.

In conjunction with the exhibition, Dr. Richard Powell, professor of art history at Duke University will give a lecture and book signing at the Diggs Gallery, Wednesday, May 6, 1992 at 7:30 p.m. called "Climbing and Clarifying the Genius of Jacob Lawrence." This lecture is free and open to the public.

The Diggs Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The gallery is free and open to the public.

ARTS REACH



By REGGIE JOHNSON

riots and misery. One African-American artist working today finds the humanity of our experiences and depicts in his works both the good and bad of our lives. His work has a healing warmth to it and evokes more "pride than pity, more cheer than bitter rage."

The exhibition at the Diggs Gallery on the campus of Winston-Salem State University "Jacob Lawrence: An American Master" presents 24 prints and 11 paintings created between 1977 and 1990 by internationally-recognized artist, Jacob Lawrence. The exhibit will be shown from April 21 through June 13.

For nearly five decades, Jacob Lawrence has been widely regarded as one of America's most important artists. Hailed as the greatest 20th century storyteller in paint, Lawrence is known throughout the

history. His eloquent images have portrayed a concern with everyday reality and the dignity of working people, affirming all human efforts toward freedom and justice.

In September 1990, Lawrence was presented the National Medal of Arts by President George Bush. Recent honors include election to the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, receipt of the 3rd annual Great Black Artist Award from the NAACP and the receipt of the College Art Association's Artist award.

Professional success began for Lawrence in 1941, when at age 24, he had a much praised solo exhibition in New York. His first show presented a 60 panel series of paintings chronicling the black migration from the South to the North. The series was purchased by the New York Museum of Modern Art and

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saturday, may 16, 8:00 pm

lawrence joel veterans memorial coliseum
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< stanley jordan

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