



Diversity Dramatist Troupe members Pam Romero, Charlotte Hamlin and Marianne Anderson Booker (pictured from left to right) demonstrate the harms of racism in society.

Commitment to eliminate racism

BY CORTNEY L. HILL
THE CHRONICLE

The Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) celebrated the National Day of Commitment to Eliminate Racism by holding a luncheon and hosting a drama presentation on Friday, April 27, at noon.

Florence P. Corpening, executive director of the YWCA of Winston-Salem, and other staff members invited the community as well as YWCA members to come and take part in the celebration as the Diversity Dramatist Troupe from the High Point/Thomasville Red Cross performed a skit that explored the usage of racial slurs and how people are affected by them.

The skit was performed by four women of different races, with one facilitating. The skit was about three co-workers on an early Monday morning chatting about their weekend activities around the coffee maker. "Jo," played by Marianne Anderson Booker, talked to one of her co-workers about how she kept her grandkids over the weekend and ranted and raved how they were running around like a bunch of "wild Indians" and that they could not keep their "cotton-

pickin'" hands to themselves.

"Norma," played by Pam Romero, also talked about her weekend activity of planting in her garden. "Chris," played by Charlotte Hamlin, later came into the conversation sharing how she bargained an item from \$200 down to \$150 by saying that she "jewed-down" the item. Norma became offended by this comment and told Chris so. Norma is Jewish, but Chris, who is a white woman, was unaware that the comment was a racial slur. Jo, an African American, also scolded Chris for the comment and walked after Norma.

The purpose of the skit was to allow people to take other races and cultures into consideration and be knowledgeable enough to know when a comment is a racial slur. After the troupe performed the skit, a question-and-answer session was held for the audience. The question-and-answer session brought out many assumptions on different races - for instance, how often times Spanish-speakers are all assumed to be Mexican, how Indians can be offended by the many athletic team names such as the "Red Skins" and how all Asians are categorized as being Chinese.

"Ignorance is the main problem with racism," said Hamlin, director of the Professional Development Training Center at Guilford College. "Don't be afraid to speak up for what offends you just because you might think it may hurt the other person's feelings."

Corpening has been executive director of the YWCA for six years and has celebrated the "Day of Commitment to Eliminate Racism" for four years. "This celebration gave us the opportunity to talk and interact with one another as well as socialize and hear from different races and cultures," Corpening said. She also mentioned how racism is an act of pure ignorance and how not knowing better should not be used as an excuse.

National Day of Commitment to Eliminate Racism was established in 1992 and the YWCA took a stand to nationally and locally position themselves to eliminate racism.

"We are committed to offering special events and programs that will embrace this community's multiculturalism. The YWCA will continue to bring people together to learn about one another and to learn to live together," said Corpening.

Bishop Carr to speak

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

GREENSBORO - Bishop Clarence Carr will be the featured speaker at Greensboro College's annual baccalaureate ceremony on Saturday, May 5, to be held at First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro at 7 p.m. The title of Carr's address, "Learning to Live With Life," is related to the Scripture text Philippians 4:4-13.

Carr, a resident of St. Louis, Mo., and a native of Orangeburg, S.C., received the bachelor of arts degree in sociology from Livingstone College in Salisbury, N.C., and the master of divinity degree from Hood Theological Seminary in Salisbury, N.C. He has received honorary doctor of divinity degrees from Livingstone College and from Hood Theological Seminary.

Currently Carr is the presiding prelate of the Western Episcopal District and the 89th bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. He is the chairman of the Pan Methodist Commission on Cooperation and Union and a member of the NAACP national board of directors. Carr has served in churches in Atlanta, Ga.; St. Louis, Mo.; Hempstead, N.Y.; East Spencer, N.C.; Lincolnton, N.C.; Patchogue, N.Y.; and Roosevelt, N.Y.

Adoption

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county. Some of the children featured in the advertising material will be on hand at the rally, including Eugene Ball, who was adopted at age 14. His adoptive mother, Brenda Ball, will also be on hand.

Austin Caviness of WXII News Channel 12 will host the event. At the rally, Caviness will ask people to participate in the making of a community banner. The rally will also feature music by the Youth Sanctuary Choir of the Macedonia True Vine Pentecostal Holiness Church.

For more information about this event or how you can get involved in adopting, call the Forsyth County Families for Kids at (336) 727-2023.

Carr has won many honors and awards, including Who's Who Among Black Elected Officials; Outstanding Service Award from the Senior Community Service Center in Hampstead, N. Y.; and the Hofstra University Uni-Span Award for Outstanding Leadership.

Greensboro College President Craven E. Williams said: "We are honored to welcome Bishop Carr to our college. He will bring a dignity and a wide perspective on life to our baccalaureate ceremony. His faith is compelling as he speaks to audiences around the nation."

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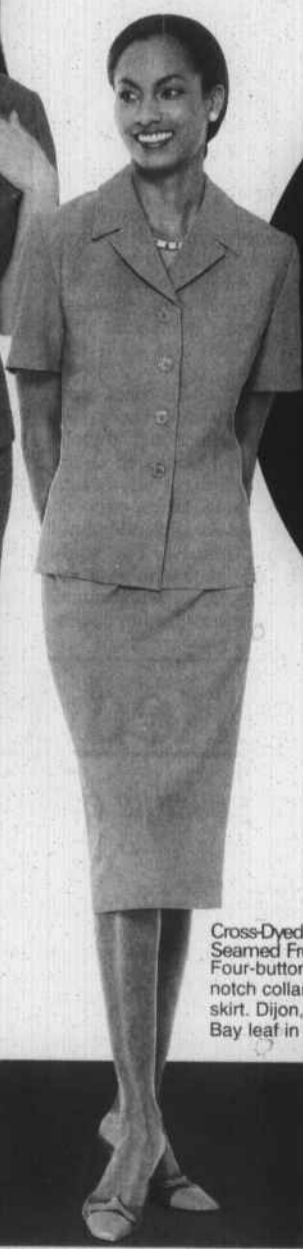
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