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**CHRONICLE**

The Choice for African-American News

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2001

**Family says movie hit too close to home**

*'The Last Brickmaker' was billed as a fictional story; family of Black says otherwise*

BY FELECIA P. MCMILLAN  
 COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

When the CBS network aired the movie "The Last Brickmaker in America" on Sunday, Sept. 23, members of the Black family made sure they saw it. Dolores Black McGee, Willis Black and Evelyn Black Terry, the grandchildren who grew up in the late George Henry Black's home, have much to say about the value of this recent release.

The plot of the movie revolves around an elderly man who must cope with the loss of his wife and the fact that his profession as a brickmaker is obsolete. He finds new purpose in his life by becoming a role model to a 13-year-old white male in the fictitious town of Springfield.

The movie was produced by Nasser Entertainment. A representative from the company could not be reached by press time.

Three months ago, the family received an anonymous phone call from someone who alerted them that a movie was being made on the life of their grandfather. They were told that the movie was being filmed outside of Charlotte, N.C. McGee called the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce. She could tell that the person she spoke with was very excited; McGee was told that her name would be forwarded to the proper person so that that person could contact McGee. No one from Nasser Entertainment ever called.

When members of the family went to the film site, they found out that that day was the final filming day. Sidney Pottier, who played the part of the elderly man in the film, had already left the site. Toward the end of their visit at the film site, the producer appeared and claimed that the movie was not about the life of George Black. When family members contacted Nasser Entertainment, they were told the same thing.

However, McGee and her family see some parallels between the life of the brickmaker in the movie and that of their grandfather. An anonymous source from the filming site sent the family a copy of the script along with a note saying that the family may want to get an entertainment lawyer on the case.

"Everyone who saw the movie was disgusted by it. I want them to know. There were too many coincidences in it. It was the dumbest looking brickyard I had ever seen," McGee said.

McGee noticed three parallels between the movie and the life of her grandfather. First,

See Black on A5

**Local travelers get some reassurance**



CHUCK KENNEDY/KRT

Workers from Choice Hotels, a hotel trade association, welcome travelers at Reagan National Airport after the resumption of limited passenger service Oct. 4.

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
 THE CHRONICLE

Kevin Gibson has seen firsthand the effect the Sept. 11 attacks have had on people here.

His job at Wachovia involves helping coordinate travel arrangements for fellow employees at the bank. "People have been very apprehensive (about flying), but I feel it's changing a little bit now. People are starting to feel more relaxed about it," Gibson said.

Getting people back into the once-friendly skies was a primary purpose of a travel information session held Friday at downtown's Wachovia Park Building. A similar event was held in Greensboro the day before the Winston-Salem session.

Gibson joined a few dozen others to hear from a diverse slate of travel professionals, ranging from rental-car agents to the director of Piedmont Triad International Airport (PTI).

"We want to bring as much clarity as we possibly can to the current travel situation," said Nancy Dunn of Aladdin Travel, which sponsored both the Greensboro and local sessions.

Since terrorists hijacked and crashed four jetliners a month ago, rumors about hasty practices implemented by airlines have been as persistent and pervasive as fear among travelers.

See Travel on A5

**An Early Start**



Susie Nance, left, and Alma Joyce were among the many who did some early Christmas shopping at the SECCA Santa event held over the weekend. For more on the event, see C1.

**Parks: My God is love**



Photo courtesy of the Corcoran Gallery of Art/ Washington, D.C. "Portrait of Gordon Parks," Johanna Fiore, 1997

BY FELECIA P. MCMILLAN  
 COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

Gordon Parks is a Renaissance man. For more than 60 years, he has charmed the world with his views on the universe. Although Parks, now 88, is best known as a photojournalist, his creativity enables him to serve as journalist, essayist, autobiographer, biographer, novelist, poet, film director, screenwriter and composer.

He was the first African American to work for "Life," "Vogue," the Office of War Information and the Farm Security Administration, and one of the first to write, direct, produce and score a film. For Parks, the source

of his many gifts is his will to change the world with his vision of beauty.

The Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art (SECCA) will present "Half Past Autumn: The Art of Gordon Parks" from Oct. 20 to Jan. 13, 2002. The exhibition displays 219 photographs that Parks produced between 1940 and 1997. His works will enlighten several galleries at SECCA with his color photographs, portraits, his 18 books, music, film and poetry.

Parks' childhood grounded in love of family gave him roots and wings. When he grew up in Kansas, he was his father's 15th

See Parks on A10

**Give peace a chance, some say**

*Voices opposing war have been few and far between but are now becoming louder*

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
 THE CHRONICLE

Total peace is no longer a possibility since the United States and its allies began military strikes on Afghanistan Sunday. But more and more people are keeping their fingers crossed and praying that in some way a peaceful resolution to the nation's battle against terrorism can be reached somehow.

County Commissioner Walter Marshall was one of the first people locally to call for peace. He did it quite vocally and publicly at a commissioners meeting about a week after the attacks. Marshall refused to vote for a resolution that condemned the attacks against America and called for support for President Bush because the resolution contained nothing about peace.

The resolution was developed by the National Association of Counties, an umbrella group for boards of county commissioners throughout the nation.

He says he has had no negative reactions from residents since he voted against the resolution. Marshall was the only dissenting vote; the board's only other African-American and

See Peace on A4

**Candidates get grilled at forum**

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
 THE CHRONICLE

A candidates forum held Tuesday night was designed so that candidates seeking city offices in November would have very little leeway to address their opponents. Instead organizers sought direct answers to a diverse list of questions that mainly dealt with environmental and neighborhood issues.

Many of the candidates, however, maneuvered the questions to sling arrows. Others took the long way around questions, which were phrased in no uncertain terms, using answers to talk about issues unrelated.

The forum was sponsored by several community groups. All 16 people seeking city elective posts next month (14 for aldermen and two for mayor) were invited to attend. Twelve showed up, including the men vying for the city's top elective position.

Jack Cavanagh, the Republican incumbent mayor, said that there at least 50 things he has accomplished over the last four years - rejuvenating downtown and keeping taxes low are among them. The mayor used some of his time to talk about his opponent, Allen Joines, who worked for the city for 30 years, most recently as a deputy city manager. Cavanagh said Joines, through his experience with the city, is good at doing what he is told to do. Cavanagh said he, on the hand, is a leader, at one point even saying that he feels God has directed him to run the city. The mayor criticized Joines as well for what he called making promises that, if kept, will take the city backward.

"My opponent has promised everything to everybody," Cavanagh said. Joines stayed on message for the most part, answering each question directly and with uncanny insight. Joines was so in tune with the issues raised that Cavanagh jokingly asked Joines whether he had received the questions beforehand.

Joines talked about how proud he is of the coalition he has built among racially and politically diverse people. He said the coalitions will come in handy if he is elected.

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