

Parks-related events



Gordon Parks "At the Poverty Board," 1967

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art (SECCA) is gearing up for one of its most eagerly anticipated exhibits ever. "Half Past Autumn: The Art of Gordon Parks" will kick off tomorrow with an opening reception at SECCA, located off Reynolda Road, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Parks, now 88, was scheduled to make an appearance at the reception but SECCA officials now say that Parks cannot travel on the advice of doctors.

The reception is free and open to the public. Those who cannot make the reception can catch the exhibit, which will feature some of Parks' most memorable photographs from over the last half-century, from Oct. 20 through Jan. 13.

Several screenings of Parks' films will also be held in conjunction with the exhibit.



Parks

"The Learning Tree," Parks' coming-of-age classic that was the first major Hollywood film headed by a black director, will be screened at The Arts Council Theatre, 610 Coliseum Drive, on Saturday at 2 p.m. General admission is \$9; the cost for students and seniors is \$7. Dale Pollock, the dean of the film school at N.C. School of the Arts, will lead a dialogue

about the film after it is shown.

• On Oct. 25 at the NCSA School of Filmmaking, Parks' movie "Shaft" will be screened at 7:30 p.m. and at 3 p.m. on Oct. 28. Admission is \$5 for students and \$7 for the general public.

• "Leadbelly," Parks biopic of legendary bluesman Huddie Ledbetter, will be shown Nov. 1 at 7:30 p.m. and on Nov. 4 at 3 p.m. The movie will be shown in SECCA's McChesney Scott Dunn Auditorium. Admission for students and seniors is \$5; admission for the general public is \$7.

• On Nov. 15 at 7:30 p.m. and on Nov. 18 at 3 p.m., "Solomon Northup's Odyssey" will be shown at SECCA. Made for PBS, the film tells the true story of a black man born free and living with his family in Upstate New York. The same admission prices apply.

The Chronicle has new e-mail addresses

The Chronicle has new e-mail addresses. Press releases, news items, letters and columns can be sent to news@wschronicle.com. News items and other information can also be sent directly to T. Kevin Walker, The Chronicle's managing editor, at

kwalker@wschronicle.com or to Paul Collins, The Chronicle's copy editor, at pcollins@wschronicle.com. A general mailbox is currently being developed for the advertising department. In the meantime, ads and information regarding advertising can be

sent to the advertising director, Fannie Henderson, at fhenderson@wschronicle.com.

The Chronicle's old e-mail address will continue to be operational for a few more weeks, but the staff is advising that readers and advertisers use the new addresses.

Winnie Mandela to appear in court for fraud and theft

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PRETORIA, South Africa — Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, the controversial ex-wife of former President Nelson Mandela, is being charged with fraud and theft involving nearly 1 million rand (\$110,000), investigators said Monday.

Madikizela-Mandela, the head of the African National Congress Women's League, is to appear in court today to face 60 fraud charges and 25 charges of theft, investigators said, according to the South African Press Association.

A warrant issued for her arrest has been suspended pending the court appearance, SAPA reported.

The charges stem from a scam involving the use of Madikizela-Mandela's signature to fraudulently obtain bank loans, investigators said.

The total amount obtained through fraud was 930,000 rand (about \$102,000), as well as about 10,000 rand (\$1,000) from theft, investigators said.

Ady Moolman, a broker also charged in the case, is accused of obtaining bank loans for nonexistent women's league employees using Madikizela-Mandela's name and letterhead.

Madikizela-Mandela was quoted as telling The City Press newspaper Sunday that it was odd she was being charged because she is the per-

son who first reported the crime.

She was quoted as saying that the charges are part of a campaign being waged against her by enemies within the ANC "to perpetuate what was started by the apartheid regime."

Prosecutors did not return a phone call from The Associated Press seeking comment Monday.

Madikizela-Mandela is expected to apply for bail Thursday from the Special Commercial Crime Court in Pretoria.

An anti-apartheid hero, Madikizela-Mandela is wildly popular with many poor urban blacks. However, she is also a figure of controversy often

criticized by President Thabo Mbeki and senior ANC officials as a self-promoting insubordinate whose administrative disinterest has led to the deterioration of the women's league.



Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, the ex-wife of the former South African president, has had many run-ins with the law.

Victims of violence speak out against capital punishment

The state leg of the Journey of Hope tour will wrap up at a mass anti-death-penalty rally in Raleigh this weekend

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

After his grandmother was savagely murdered in the mid-'80s, Bill Pelke never thought that he'd be an opponent of capital punishment, let alone leading a worldwide effort to halt the punishment.

But as co-founder and president of Journey of Hope, that is exactly what he is doing these days. Like Pelke, others involved with Journey of Hope have been directly affected by violence but have transformed their initial outrage into a strong passion to do away with capital punishment. The program has made stops at colleges, churches, rallies and town meetings throughout the United States and several countries in Europe.

Tuesday night, Journey of Hope came to Wake Forest University as part of a statewide tour sponsored by the Carboro-based People of Faith Against the Death Penalty. Richard Groves, the pastor of Wake Forest Baptist Church, was instrumental in starting a local chapter of the group last year.

"We do not have to kill...When the state kills, they kill in my name and they kill in your name," said Pelke, who once enthusiastically supported the death sentence given to a 15-year-old girl who stabbed his grandmother to death. The Gary, Ind., case gained national and international headlines at the time because the girl was one of the youngest females on death row ever.

Pelke remembers the day he changed his mind about capital punishment. It was Nov. 2, 1986, after Pelke said he felt that his grandmother, who was a very religious woman, spoke to him. The next day, he began corresponding with his grandmother's killer. His change of heart gained widespread media attention and he eventually found himself in Italy, where support against the death penalty is especially high.

Indignation from Italians and the Pope led to the girl's sentence being changed to a 60-year jail term. But Pelke decided that his fight was not over. He purchased an old bus, which he named "Abolitionist Movement," and set out to speak to the nation about the inequity of capital punishment.

"There are no rich people on



Bill Pelke, holding the microphone, answers a question from an audience member as George White stands by him.

death row. They are poor," Pelke said, pointing out one of what he says are many troubling issues with the punishment.

Pelke believes that he was driven to support the punishment at first by the rage he felt over his grandmother's death. He says he thinks that is the case with many people who have lost loved ones to violence.

"A lot of people want the death penalty as a way for revenge," he said, "but there's no healing in that."

Journey speakers vary from location to location. Regular speakers include a man who lost his daughter in the Oklahoma City bombing. Tuesday, Pelke was joined by George White, who was wrongly convicted of murdering his wife nearly 20 years ago in Alabama — even though the assailant, who has never been apprehended, shot White several times as well.

Prosecutors wanted the death penalty in White's case, but a judge sentenced him to life in prison instead. Before his ordeal, White said he had never really weighed the death penalty one way or the other.

"I knew there was a death penalty, but it was somewhere out there," motioning with his hands. "It wasn't really real to me."

White said his strong faith in

God has made him a death penalty abolitionist. He admits that once he detested the prosecutors who put him behind bars and the man who killed his wife and shot him several times. White says he has moved past those feelings now.

"I absolutely oppose the death penalty for every reason and in every instance," White said. "I believe in holding people responsible, but that's not the issue."

The state-tour for Journey of Hope will wrap up Saturday in Raleigh at a convention for the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty.

People of Faith Against the Death Penalty and other abolitionist groups have been encouraged by the passage of several moratorium resolutions by local governments in the state, including one passed by the Winston-Salem Board of Aldermen last year.

But Andie Wigodsky of People of Faith Against the Death Penalty says the frustration comes from the fact that people are still being put to death even though people are talking more than ever about issues related to capital punishment, such as class and racism.

"All of these different issues are being talked about, but we are still executing people," she said. "We need to stop executions and talk about these issues."

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Understanding Islam

The Winston-Salem Human Relations Commission is sponsoring a town meeting to help those who would like to know more about Islam in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks.

Thursday, Oct. 18 at 7 p.m.
Board Chamber (Room 530)
City Hall South, 101 E. First St.

Speakers:

- Dr. Charles Kimball, Professor of Religion, Wake Forest University: "A Historical Perspective"
- Iman Khalid Griggs, Community Mosque of Winston-Salem: "A Spiritual View of Islam"
- Dr. Katy Harriger, Professor of Political Science, Wake Forest University: "Civil Liberties and Arab-Americans"
- Anon Abour & Sammy Zitawi: "The Arab-American Perspective"

Parking is available on the street and in the parking deck on Church Street across from City Hall South.