

Gary

from page A1

(31), is just over one year old. Since its inception it has been well-received by urban markets and is gaining in popularity. Travis Mitchell, vice president of network operations, said the network tries to offer its viewers more than just entertainment.

"We want to improve and raise the values of our viewers," Mitchell said. "We want to bring quality programming back to the urban market. We're the only network committed to live coverage of the CIAA. We have everything from cartoons to news. We have the only urban gospel hip-hop show and a daily gospel video countdown.

"We have a smorgasbord of entertainment," Mitchell added. "We start our morning with a sunrise ministry which airs from 3 a.m. until 8 a.m."

Gary, along with Holyfield and Felder, who are major partners in the cable television venture, talked with youths and college students in the Triangle area as part of their 15-city tour to promote the MBC network and self-help to African Americans.

"The message we're giving them is you can be whatever you want to be," Gary said. "I speak to young students every week. Part of my message also is no one's going to give it to you, but you can make it."

"You've got to work hard," said Gary, a North Carolina native, whose practice is

one of the nation's top legal firms. "Just know you can do it. If you feel low and you don't have the energy to go on, dig deep, reach down and keep moving forward."

Gary, who recently donated \$2 million to his alma mater, part of which will be used to re-start the school's football program, said it is important for successful African Americans to support their own institutions.

"It's so important," Gary said. "You've got to reach back, give back and try to (help) somebody else along with you. No matter how much money you have, one day it's not going to matter. When all is said and done the only thing that is going to separate you is what you've done in life to help others."

Baraka

from page A1

favorite poet of all times. I asked the students on campus if they would be interested in hearing him perform, and they were really excited that we were able to get him. The Black Arts Movement was such a seminal point in African-American literature."

In addition, the Nocturnal Collective of North Carolina presented a hip-hop performance as an evolving element of the black aesthetic. Monte Smith presented poetry as well in the familiar coffeehouse, cafe, jazz style cadences reminiscent of the 1960s. Baraka listened intently as the young poets expressed themselves and thanked them for their words before he blessed them with his own.

Baraka explained to the students they have a responsibility as educated people to lead in their communities.

"That's your job as educated people. When you come out of here, you ought to be ready to lead. But many of the middle class come here, get smart, and it is hard for them to relate to their own people. We don't even want to have anything to do with the people who sent us here," Baraka said. "Go back to them. Educated people must provide leadership. Learn from the people. Take what they give you, organize it and give it back. If you don't pro-

vide leadership, you are in the way. Don't stand in the way of your own people."

One of Baraka's poems addressed the tragedy of Sept. 11. It is called "Somebody Blew up America." The poem evoked claps, sighs and moans from the audience.

"All thinking people/ oppose terrorism/ both domestic/ & international.../ But one should not/ be used/ To cover the other," Baraka read. "They say it's some terrorist, some/ barbaric/ Arab, in/ Afghanistan./ It wasn't our American terrorists/ It wasn't the Klan or the Skin heads/ Or them that blows up nigger/ churches, or reincarnates us on death row."

Baraka encouraged the youths to "transform America."

"We have a counterfeit president for a fake democracy. Many of the gains we made during the 1960s we have lost. We now have leaders like Colin Powell, Armstrong Williams and Clarence Thomas. Use what you learn to transform society. The revolution does not stop until we transform society," Baraka said.

Baraka distinguished rap music from hip-hop.

"Rap, I know about. That is an ancient term, but hip-hop is a whole culture of things. It seems to be an attempt to combine R&B with rock 'n' roll," Baraka said. "Rap, I

understand, but hip-hop is more vague. What we did in the 1960s with the Black Arts Repertory Theatre, we wanted art that was not only African American in form but also in content. We wanted it to be mass-oriented and revolutionary. Today there is a big contradiction between form and content. People are developing a form that gives popular access, but the content is weak or negative. The industry pushes the weakest content, and the artists are calling women bitches and hoers. They reward people for doing that."

Baraka explained why we still need the blues today.

"The blues are our national memory. Without the blues, you would not know who you are. The blues is your whole biography," he said. "The blues are diverse, but they make up a basic cultural motif...If you had education like some white children, you would learn the history of your own culture. Some of the white children value the Gregorian chants because they studied Bach and other 18th century grooves. Our children need to learn about Blind Willie Johnson, Lightning Hopkins and Leadbelly. They should be taught. That's the problem with being educated. The blues are spiritual. Spirituality has nothing to do with church. It has everything to do with life, the quality of life, and the mind, ideas."



Dr. Gladys Hope Franklin stands in front of the Hampton dorm named in her honor.

Hampton names dorm for retired A&T professor

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

GREENSBORO — Dr. Gladys Hope Franklin White, a retired associate professor at N.C. Agricultural and Technical State University, has a new women's dormitory named in her honor at Hampton University.

Dr. William R. Harvey, president of Hampton University, dedicated the new 40,059-square-foot complex at the university's 109th annual Founders Day program.

"This building couldn't have been named after a better person who has taken ownership in our vision and been a more loyal daughter of Hampton University," Harvey said. "She has let her life do the singing."

White, a staunch supporter of Hampton, has been the recipient of the Hampton University National Alumnus-at-Large Award, the National Hampton Alumni

Association Inc. Trailblazer Award, the North Carolina Hamptonian of the Year, the United Negro College Fund Inc. Distinguished Leadership Award and the Bridge Builders Award.

Although an illustrious Hamptonian, White rendered distinct employment and expertise to N.C. A&T as a reading specialist and as the first director of the A&T Reading Laboratory. In fact, she organized the university's reading program as an enhancement to improve students' reading abilities in the major disciplines. Likewise, she developed, organized and implemented the university's graduate reading specialist major. At a time when funding was tops in science and mathematics, White was awarded a U.S.A. grant for \$45,000 to teach and train teachers how to teach reading. She served as the director of that reading teacher program. White also served

as reading technical assistant for the National Right to Read Program and was assigned to improve school reading programs in the states of Iowa, Illinois, Georgia and North Carolina. Also, she chaired committees in the International Reading Association and was a charter member of its Greensboro Chapter.

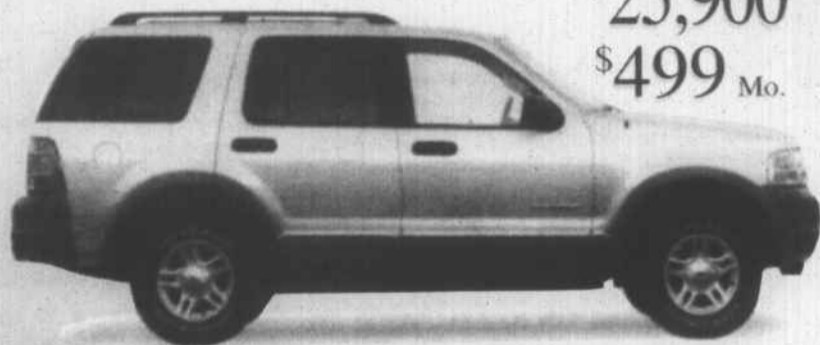
White, a generous supporter of A&T, is still actively involved at the university, where she serves as a member of the Golden Ambassadors and tutors students seeking graduate and professional admissions into universities.

White is married to the former dean of A&T's College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Frank H. White. They have two daughters, attorney-at-law Johnese White Howard of Dallas, Texas, and Dr. Sharon White Williams, full professor at Hampton University.

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