

File Photo  
U.S. Rep. James E. Clyburn, who represents the 6th Congressional District of S.C., is one of the most powerful members of the House.



## House Majority Whip to speak at A&T

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

U.S. Rep. James E. Clyburn of South Carolina will be the keynote speaker at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University History Department's Annual Gibbs Lecture, Monday, April 7 at 6 p.m. in Harrison Auditorium.

This event is free and open to the public. Clyburn is the highest ranking African American in the U.S. Congress and the House Majority Whip. He became the first South Carolinian and the second African American to ascend to the third ranking position in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Clyburn is a former history teacher and has served as an employment counselor, and director of two youth and community development programs. In 1968, he became director of a migrant and seasonal farm workers program.

A graduate of South Carolina State University and avid alum, he and his wife Emily have raised over \$1.5 million for an Archives and History Endowment they have established at the school. The University named the campus facilities in their honor. He is also the recipient of 16 honorary degrees.

He launched his political career in 1970 when he ran for the South Carolina House of Representatives but lost. His defeat caught the

attention of then newly elected Governor John Carl West, who asked Clyburn to join his administration. In accepting the post, he became the first African American advisor to a South Carolina governor since post Reconstruction.

Clyburn would later be appointed South Carolina's Human Affairs Commissioner, a position he held for almost 18 years. He gained the reputation of being a fair and firm mediator and consensus builder. But when he ran for S.C. Secretary of State in 1978 and again in 1986, he was again met with defeat.

Then in 1992, he resigned his position as Human Affairs Commissioner and devoted his time into pursuing a lifelong dream of serving in the U.S. Congress - a place African Americans from S.C. had not served in since 1897. He was successful this time around and in January 1993, was sworn in as a member of the United States House of Representatives.

He served as the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus and to a seat on the Appropriations Committee. In 2002, he was elected in a three-way race to serve as vice chair of the House Democratic Caucus, and in January 2006, he became the chair of the Caucus.

In addition to serving as House Majority Whip, Clyburn serves as leader of the House Democrat's Faith Working Group. He and his wife have three daughters and two grandchildren.

## Southside

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paint booth to fix the latter violation. But the problems kept mounting. The Fire Marshall said that Moore needed architectural drawings of the building and an inspection. There was a problem with a leaky pipe that sent the shop's water bill from about \$30 a month to thousands of dollars. Moore said he did not have the estimated \$4,500 it would cost for architectural drawings or the \$3,000 to pay his water bill. The water was cut-off, which resulted in another ordinance violation (businesses like Moore's must have water).

Moore reached out to the community, he says, and several people reached back. An architect volunteered to provide the drawings at no charge; a plumber offered to fix the leaking pipe. But before the work was complete, the ball was dropped and the projects were never done. Moore says that communication broke down.

"I just had all kind of obstacles get in my way, but I keep doing this because doing what I can do, that's touching my heart more than any amount of dollars that you can give me," said Moore.

Even without power, Moore's students are continuing to work on the cars at Southside Rides. Sunshine pouring through windows, doors and a large open garage door provide light for their work. At night, it gets too dark to do anything. The lack of power also robs them of using several tools of the trade like sanders. One of Moore's students, Diego Victor, was sanding a car by hand last Thursday.

Moore's students' spirits are still high, and they still have faith in Moore and his mission.

"He teaches us how to be good and how to be good at something in life," said Ricky Buston, who has been a student of Moore's for five months. "He's a great teacher and he's shown me that it's better to do stuff like this, than be out there in the street thinking crazy and doing crazy (things)."

While his program gets praise, one thing it hasn't got is money. Even though he's declared the education portion of his business the Southside Rides Foundation, a 501c3 nonprofit, it's yet to net him the grants he needs to fund it.

Moore's students also staged a small protest at City Hall last week in hopes of saving the shop. The city and Moore are talking. Last Friday, Dockery and Inspections Director Charlie Norton connected Moore with the architect again.



David Moore stands in his shop.

Photo by Todd Luck

Moore said he plans to get the leak fixed as well and deal with the water bill.

Dockery said it is routine for the city to cut the power when problems persist. But he says he personally admires the work that Moore is doing. Dockery said he hopes the community will give Moore the help he needs to come into compliance.

"Those steps have to be followed. The law states we don't have a choice. We want nothing more than Mr. Moore up and operating," said Dockery "Our job is not done and his job is not done until we get this thing up and operating the way we want it to go."

Both Dockery and Moore agree that Southside Rides would benefit from a staffer or volunteer to help the agency deal with the complex business side of a nonprofit.

For more information about the Southside Rides Foundation, call David Moore at 336-995-2809.

## Circumcision

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tradition and some presumptive ideas cloud the issue of circumcision.

### HIV and the Immune System

The foreskin, removed during circumcision, is more susceptible to minor abrasions that can occur during intercourse. Abrasions provide a route for viral attachment to cells that are susceptible to HIV (and other) infection. The mucous membranes in this part of the penis provide more surface area and potential for a larger amount of HIV to enter the body. For these reasons foreskin is seen by some as a likely way for HIV to be transmitted.

The idea that removing male foreskin can significantly reduce the incidence of HIV transmission from females to males was confirmed through studies in Kenya, Uganda, and South Africa. However, these studies only followed heterosexual men, so there is no evidence that circumcision has protective effects for women or men who have sex with other men. Because all 3 of the studies were

discontinued early, scientists say long-term post-circumcision studies are necessary to determine the effectiveness of circumcision in populations with varying HIV prevalence, and to assess the durability of any observed benefits. Critics argue that if the studies were carried out as planned, both groups would ultimately display identical infection rates.

By the time children born today reach sexual maturity, some argue, there will likely be an HIV vaccine, and short of that, the AIDS epidemic will present a drastically different challenge from the one we see right now. Furthermore, critics denounce male circumcision as a heavy-handed approach for a disease that we already know how to prevent (through abstinence, mutual monogamy, reduced number of sex partners, and correct and consistent condom use).

**Surgical Risks and Cost**  
The AAP policy statement against neonatal circumcision highlights the risks of this procedure. Neonatal circumcision runs some risk of bleeding and infection (not to mention pain). Complications are reported in

less than one percent of newborn circumcisions and a sample of the cases include: wound separation, concealed penis, and urinary retention. Major surgical problems, though extremely rare, have also been reported: urethral fistula, amputation of a portion of the glans penis, and penile necrosis. For adult circumcision, complications are reported at higher rates less than two percent.

Despite the continually growing portion of heterosexual HIV transmission in the US, and in view of new research, the AAP has continued to reaffirm its 1999 circumcision policy. Medicaid reimbursement policies in the US have reflected the AAP stance. Since the original statement against routine circumcision 16 states, including North Carolina, have discontinued Medicaid reimbursement for the procedure, which costs about \$250. Most private insurance in NC continues to pay for circumcision, but mothers are now told to foot the bill by Medicaid if they want to circumcise their baby boys.

**Boys will be Men**  
Parenting responsibilities and difficult choices seem to

begin earlier and earlier as science advances. Whether or not to circumcise may be the first decision parents make on behalf of their son and it is important that any decision to impose surgical risk is well informed. There appears to be limited protective benefits for this procedure but there are potentially greater benefits from genital integrity. Financial costs and medical risks are also involved.

Here in North Carolina proven prevention measures (abstinence, mutual monogamy,

reduced number of sex partners, and correct and consistent condom use) still have a vastly greater impact on AIDS prevention. Culture and religion have a place in the circumcision debate as do science and research. Today, either choice (to circumcise or not) is potentially correct; what is important for parents is that they begin to form their own parenting philosophy, decide how capable they would like to be in discussing sexual health, and realize that their son will experience his masculinity

in a changing world with changing risks.

- Contribution by Aaron T. Vissman, MPH

For further information on this topic, resources in your area, questions or comments, call toll-free 1-877-530-1824. Or, for more information about the Maya Angelou Research Center on Minority Health, visit our website [www.wfubmc.edu/minorityhealth](http://www.wfubmc.edu/minorityhealth).

## Hanes

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the North Carolina School of the Arts, a founding member of the National Council on the Arts, and as founder and first chairman of the North Carolina Arts Council.

Throughout his lifetime, Hanes has positioned arts and culture at the forefront of economic revitalization in Winston-Salem. At 82, he is a champion of the importance of art, culture and entrepreneurship in downtown revitalization.

Today, Hanes is focused on the impact of locally-owned small-businesses and artists communities and on downtown growth and vibrancy. Named Winston-Salem's commissioner of cultural affairs in 2000, he



Rowell

created the Meade Willis Downtown Redevelopment Fund and secured close to \$1 million to be used exclusively for low-interest loans to artist and entertainment venues, clubs and restaurants in the downtown area.

While in Hattiesburg, he

also will meet with city officials, shop, restaurant and property owners, members of the Historic Downtown Hattiesburg Association and the Area Development Partnership.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for our community to hear the importance of downtown revitalization efforts from someone who has devoted his life and resources to using the arts to revitalize economically distressed areas," said Betsy Rowell, director of the Hattiesburg Downtown Association. "Mr. Hanes' commitment is consistent with what we are trying to create in Hattiesburg; downtown as a center for arts, entertainment, specialty retailers and wonderful restaurants full of night life."

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