

# Bill Cosby will headline May fundraising event for N.C. A&T

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Comedy legend Bill Cosby will headline a fundraising event for N.C. A&T State University later this spring.

"An Evening with Bill Cosby" will be held May 9 at 7 p.m. in the Guilford Ballroom at the Sheraton Four Seasons in Greensboro. Tickets are now on sale for the event, which will feature live music and a special performance by Cosby. Table sponsorships start at \$1,000. A limited number of individual tickets are available for \$125 per person. The event will benefit and support the University's scholarship initiatives.

Since becoming A&T's chancellor last year, Dr. Stanley F. Battle has set as one of his priorities new scholarship initiatives that will provide increased financial support for merit scholars.

"An Evening with Bill Cosby" is a showcase event that will help highlight the university's vision of making scholarship funds available for the best and brightest students," Battle said in a statement. "Dr. Cosby has made it his business to support all institutions but has been a champion for Historically Black Colleges and Universities throughout this country. We look forward to this event and are excited about the support we continue to receive from our community."

Cosby is one of the most recogniz-



Chancellor Battle

able faces and names in American entertainment. The 70-year-old Philadelphia native got his start in the 1960s doing stand-up at clubs throughout the country. His big break came when he was casted in "I Spy."

Generations of young audiences know Cosby from children's television show "The Electric Company," on which he starred for its first two seasons. He created the animated classics "The Adventures of Fat Albert and the Cosby Kids," and was featured in a series of popular kid-friendly commercials for Jello.

Cosby's biggest entertainment success was "The Cosby Show," a hit NBC sitcom that ran from 1984-1992. The show, which Cosby created and

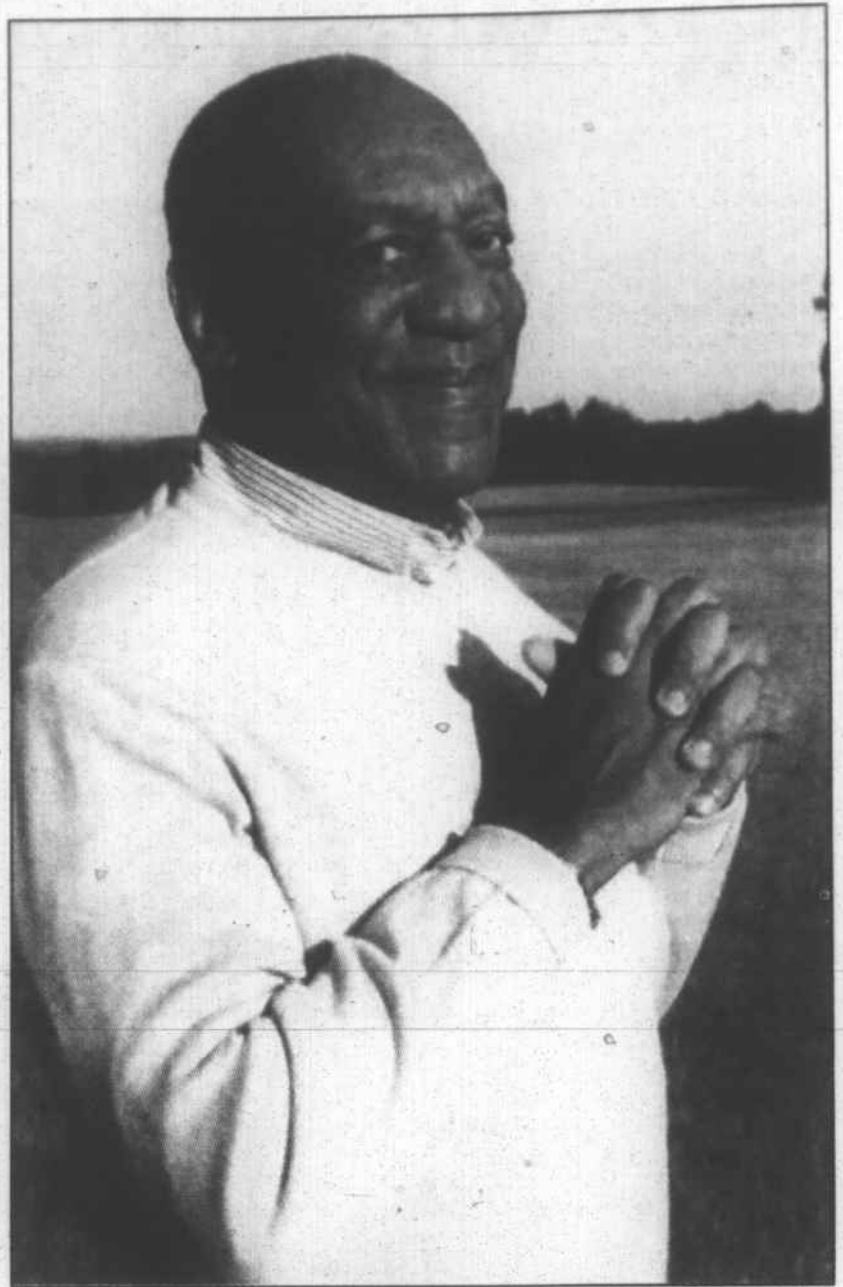
produced, broke new ground by portraying professional African-Americans in a non-stereotypical manner.

In recent years, Cosby has made headlines for his statements on the state of African-American culture. He has been criticized by some and applauded by others for coming down on the black community for what he says is a lack of focus on education and low morals. Many of his views are outlined in "Come on People: On the Path from Victims to Victors," a book he recently authored with Dr. Alvin F. Poussaint, a professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School.

Cosby has practiced what he preaches in terms of education. He was already a mainstream celebrity when he returned to school to earn an undergraduate degree from Temple University. He received his master's and doctorate degrees from the University of Massachusetts.

Cosby recently lent his name to a collaborative educational program, the Cosby Kids Initiative, at N.C. A&T and Guilford Technical Community College. The program aims to enhance the academic performance and related areas of targeted students in fourth, sixth and eighth grade.

For ticket or additional information, call 336-433-5570.



Bill Cosby's career spans half a century.

Photo courtesy of A&T

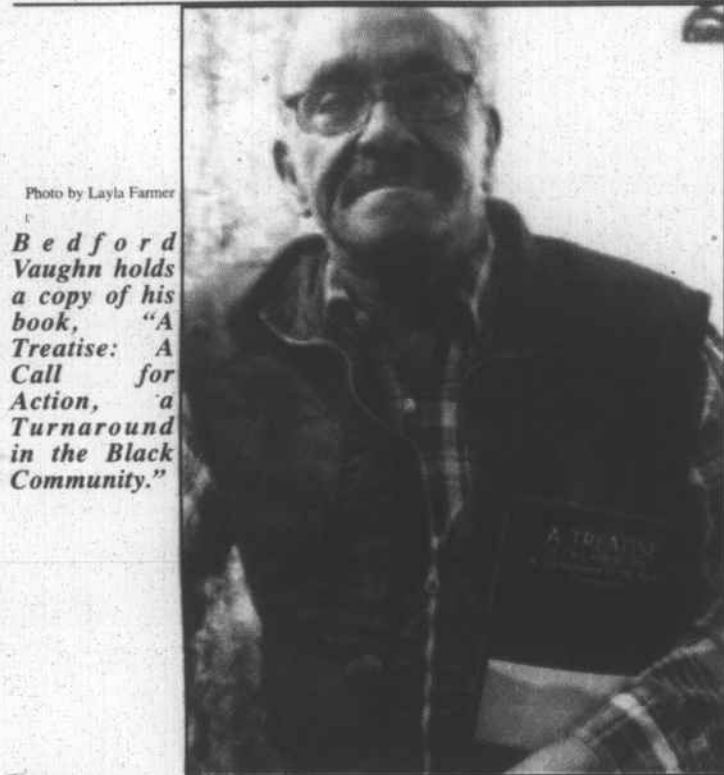


Photo by Layla Farmer

Bedford Vaughn holds a copy of his book, "A Treatise: A Call for Action, a Turnaround in the Black Community."

## Vaughn

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"A Call to Action" is deeply personal to Vaughn. Photographs of his own family serve as illustrations for the 82-page work, which is dedicated to Wilhelmina Vaughn, his wife of 56 years.

"I'm not a writer," he confessed, "but the ideas are good and it's heartfelt and it's based on fact and some significant experiences."

Education is an important component in securing an upward mobility for the black community, Vaughn asserts. Moreover, it is the burden and responsibility of the parents to see to it that their children are receiving the best education possible, he says.

"Our children will only get an education if we decide we want them to have one," he

declared.

Published in 2006, "A Call to Action" landed Vaughn an interview on C-SPAN the following year. But Vaughn says he doesn't care about the publicity.

"I didn't write this book to sell a book; I wrote this book to get some action," he said.

Churches, sororities, fraternities and countless other community-minded organizations must be dedicated to the cause in order for real change to take place, Vaughn says.

"I'd like for every church in town have a mentoring program," he said. "There's room

for every church to look outside its walls and start doing things in the community."

A cohesive, multi-organizational effort is needed for African Americans to move in a more positive direction, he contends.

"It's going to take everybody and every group (to make a change)," he commented. "Every organization has to take some responsibility - otherwise organizing is a waste."

The couple moved to Winston-Salem late last year and is quickly settling into their new home. Mr. Vaughn, an actor and a theater buff,

says he is excited to be in the birthplace of the National Black Theatre Festival. He has already joined the local NAACP and is working to boost area mentoring programs.

He is currently working on his third book, tentatively titled, "Answering the Call for Action," which he hopes to publish later this year.

"A Call to Action" is available at Body & Soul. For more information about the book, or to contact Vaughn, call (336) 788-3960 or e-mail him at bbv@redshift.com.

## Bass

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was able to secure more than \$82 million and the signing of eight new laws to help improve the state's Foster Care System.

Committed to serving the 47th Assembly District (47AD), Bass created the People's Council, which is made up of four Commissions (Education, Environment, Small Business and Health) in order for constituents to get involved in the political process. The Commissions also host events and activities in the district to provide information on key issues affecting 47AD residents.



Nunez

Before Bass began her political career, she founded and ran Community Coalition. As executive director, she built a community based social justice organization in South Los Angeles to empower residents to get involved in making a difference. Today, the organization is considered a model to engage the community throughout the country.

California's next Assembly Speaker grew up in the Venice/Fairfax area. She is the only girl of DeWitt and Wilhelmina Bass. Her father worked as mail carrier and her mother, who once owned her own beauty salon, was a stay at home mother. Bass grew up with two older and one younger brothers. She is a true Los Angeline graduating from Hamilton High School, Cal State Dominguez Hills (BA - Health Sciences) and University of Southern California School of Medicine (Physician Assistant

Certificate).

Bass married Jesus Lechuga and had a daughter, Emilia Bass-Lechuga. After their divorce, Bass and Lechuga collectively raised Emilia and her siblings, Bass' four step-children. All of them are still a major part of her life. Emilia grew up with a lot of surrogate aunts and uncles who worked with Bass at the Community Coalition. She grew up to be a beautiful, passionate woman who wanted to

follow in her mother's footsteps to help others. After marrying the love of her life, Michael Wright, Emilia continued to study to be a civil rights lawyer. Emilia's passion for life continues to be a motivation to Bass in her personal and professional life.

"I'm excited to be a history maker," states Bass. "It's an honor that my accomplishments will inspire others to get involved in the process to make change a reality."

### NOTICE OF A CITIZENS INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOP FOR THE PROPOSED REPLACEMENT OF BRIDGE NO. 322 OVER 20TH STREET ON SR 1725 (UNIVERSITY PARKWAY) IN WINSTON-SALEM

TIP Project No. B-4745 Forsyth County

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) will hold the above Citizens Informational Workshop on Tuesday, April 8, 2008, between the hours of 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center, 2001 Pittsburg Avenue, Winston-Salem, 27105.

Interested individuals may attend this informal workshop at their convenience during the above stated hours. Department of Transportation representatives will be present to answer questions and receive comments from the public about this project. The workshop is being held to present the purpose and need for the project, as well as alternatives being considered.

This project proposes to replace Bridge No. 322 with another bridge on a new alignment. The new bridge will be built in construction stages alongside the existing bridge.

Anyone desiring additional information may contact Ms. Natalie Lockhart, Project Development and Environmental Analysis, Bridge Unit, 1551 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1551, phone (919) 715-5508, fax (919) 715-1501 or email: nlockhart@dot.state.nc.us.

NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled persons who wish to participate in this workshop. Anyone requiring special services should contact Ms. Lockhart as early as possible so that arrangements can be made.

The Chronicle March 13, 20, 27, and April 3, 2008

# Keep Rollin'



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