

COLORFUL OBSERVANCE



Red ribbons hang outside of the Stevens Center on Fourth Street for the upcoming World AIDS Day observance on Monday, Dec. 1. On that day, from 5:30 - 6 p.m., AIDS Care Service will hold a Reflection Service here. The public is invited to take part in the event.

Visit slated by author who writes of Cuban upbringing and exile

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

As a boy, Dr. Carlos Moore knew nothing but oppression. From the streets and schools of Cuba, where he was ridiculed, beaten and mocked, to his own home, where the he says his mother often showed little more empathy than the streets.

"My childhood was drenched in fear and poverty," he related, "it was horrible." As a man, Moore rose up and has since become one of the most prolific civil rights activists of the modern day—participating in movements all over the globe.

If his life story sounds like it was destined for the pages of a book, Moore would grudgingly agree. His memoir, titled "Pichón: Race in Revolution in Castro's Cuba," chronicles a lifetime of ups and downs, from imprisonment and forced labor camps in Cuba to the 34-year exile that ensued. The book draws its name, "pichón" from the stinging slur Moore's countrymen spat at him throughout his youth.

The book premiered at the Miami Book Fair International in Miami, Florida earlier this month and was an instant hit with the droves of book lovers in attendance.

"I have been getting a very good response so far," he reported. "The books sold out in the first 15 minutes."

Moore was born in Central Lugareño, Cuba, a place he calls "the end of the world," in 1942.

"It was a very, very backwards place," he said, "just like if you were living in the (American) South, one of those places where the whites didn't even know the Civil War ended."

"I grew up being attacked as a black person, but I was not only a black person, I was a black person whose parents came from the Black Caribbean," he related. "Those people were hated."

During the Cuban Civil War in the late 1950s, Moores family fled to America.

By this time, Moore, a teenager, had been indoctrinated with the values of his oppressors. He loathed the coffee colored skin and African features that had barred him from virtually everything he desired in his young life.

Then he met the woman he credits with changing his life: famed poet Maya Angelou.

Angelou, who was sporting an afro at the time, taught Moore to be proud of his rich cultural heritage and not to accept others' characterizations of him. She got him involved in the American Civil Rights Movement, where he met Malcolm X and others whose names were synonymous with the Movement.

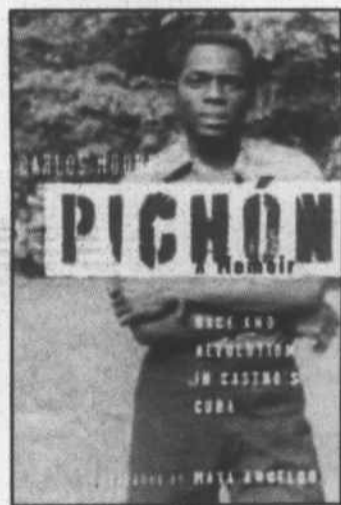
"She would take me home and talk to me ... and it started making sense," he remarked. "She told me, 'You should go back to Cuba and join the revolution (there)' ... and that's what I did."

Over the span of the next



Photo courtesy of C. Moore

Dr. Carlos Moore has penned, "Pichón: Race in Revolution."



King Jr. Drive. For more information, call (336) 724-0334. For more information about Moore, visit www.drcarlosmoore.com.

nearly five decades, the two became great friends, keeping in touch with heartfelt letters and guiding each other through the dark times in their lives.

"Maya is not my friend; she's my mother," Moore said. "She took me under her wing at 16 and never let me go."

Admittedly, Moore, who has lived on four continents and countless cities and towns around the world, has seen his share of excitement and perilous moments, yet he says he was reluctant to write his experiences down.

At the urging of another friend, Alex Haley, best known as the author of "Roots: The Saga of an American Family," Moore finally sat down to write. The book took more than 25 years to complete.

"It was the best therapy I ever gave myself in my life," he said with a laugh.

Since the Miami premiere, Moore, currently a resident of Brasil, has been touring the United States, giving lectures, interviews and book signings. He will be a guest of Angelou's this Thanksgiving. A special book signing event at Special Occasions Bookstore will coincide with his visit.

The Thanksgiving season book signings have become a tradition for Special Occasions, which hosts a different author each year, says Ed McCarter, who co-owns the store with his wife, Miriam.

McCarter says the signings have become a favorite event among his customers, some of whom have already begun to inquire about it.

Carlos Moore's book signing event will be held Friday, November 28 from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. at Special Occasions Bookstore, 112 Martin Luther

News Clips

A&T Gospel Choir seeking alumni to record to CD

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University's Fellowship Gospel Choir is seeking former members to record a CD for its 40th anniversary.

The anniversary celebration/recording will take place April 25-26, 2009. The choir needs 400 gospel choir alumni voices to record the CD.

To sign-up or to request additional information, contact Ron Jones, Alan Bagby or Tonya McCall-Hargett at alumngic@yahoo.com.

Kernersville park receives honor

Kernersville Park's Beeson Athletic Complex received recognition from the National Softball Association (NSA) recently.

Each year, the NSA chooses one facility that operates under NSA guidelines and offers leagues and tournaments while upholding its standards of excellence for this designation.

Beeson Park was selected the 2008 NSA Outstanding Park. Frank Crook, Kernersville Parks & Recreation Softball Field Manager and regional NSA affiliate, accepted the award at the NSA national conference in Florida.

The NSA was established in 1982 by Hugh Cantrell in Lexington, Ky. The full-service organization offers a divisions of play and a levels of competition for youth and adults and demands the highest levels of integrity and responsibility for their organization.

Wake students take awards in poster contest

Four students from Wake Forest University Graduate

School of Arts and Sciences won the top four awards in the second annual UNC Charlotte Graduate Student Poster Competition held on Oct. 28, as part of the seventh annual Charlotte Biotechnology Conference. Two Wake Forest students also finished among the 12 finalists.

The first-place finisher was Paulina Siperinski of Toronto, Canada; Second place went to Neelima Sukumar of Ernakulam, Kerala, India; Sriram Ramanan of Chennai, India, and Catherine Ward of Rockfish, N.C.

Finishing in the top 12 was Jenna DuMond of Livingston Manor, N.Y. Also a finalist was the Liu of Yantai, Shandong Province, China.

Sierpinski was awarded \$1,000, Sukumar won \$500, and Ramanan and Ward received \$250 each.

Williams completes Air Force training

Air Force Airman Tarisha S. Williams has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

During the six weeks of training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization, core values, and military customs and courtesies; performed drill and ceremony marches, and received physical training, rifle marksmanship, field training exercises and special training in human relations.

In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate in applied science degree relating through the Community College of the Air Force.

She is the granddaughter of Erma Grady of Hunt Club Road, Wilmington, N.C., and sister of Shavon Williams of Winston Salem.

Tarisha Williams is a

2008 graduate of R.J. Reynolds High School.

Anderson Alumni Association holiday party

The A.H. Anderson Alumni Association is inviting all Anderson alumni, their family and friends to a festive holiday celebration at the Winston-Salem Urban League, 201 West Fifth Street, on Saturday, Dec. 6 at 8 p.m.

The Anderson Alumni Association has great reason to celebrate another successful year of preserving the legacy of historically black high schools and charitable community service projects, including an after school mentoring program at Diggs Elementary School and a Big 4 Scholarship Fund at Winston-Salem State University.

Association President, Theodis Foster said "As we bring this year to a close we have an ambitious agenda for '09 to serve the community and make local efforts to assist the new administration in reaching the goals of creating employment opportunities, home ownership stabilization, and quality education for all children."

The holiday event will feature good food, old school music, dancing and fellowship with classmates and friends.

For information contact Foster at 336-767-8628.

Christmas play

The Mount Zion Baptist Church Drama Guild will present its first annual Musical Christmas Production, "You Ought To Be Ashamed of Yourself," written, produced and directed by Janice Price, on Saturday, Dec. 6 at 7 p.m.

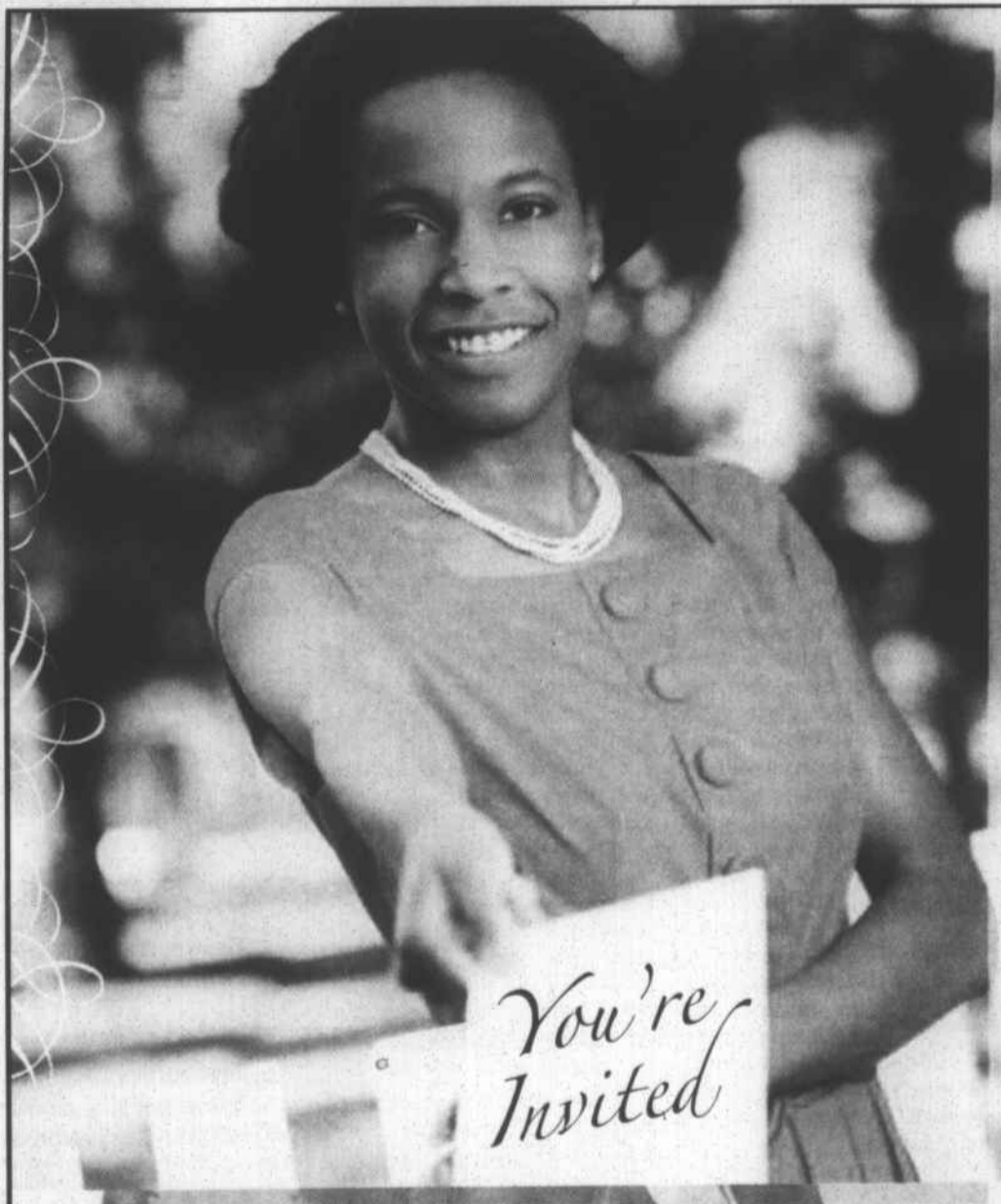
It is about two sisters with opposite personalities who discover the true meaning of Christmas.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free. Mount Zion Baptist is located at 950 File St.

For more information, call 336-682-2281 or 336-722-2325.



Williams



"Coming to Salem College has turned my life around."

Amanda White
- CLASS OF 2008 -

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