

ARTS & LIFESTYLE

Of Interest ...

Library to host book talk

As part of the On the Same Page community read, the Central Library, 660 W. Fifth St. will host "From Idea to Publication" on Saturday, Sept. 24 from 1-3 p.m.

It will feature Cameron Kent, whose book "Road to Devotion," was picked for this year's community read, and Kevin Watson of the publishing company Press 53. They will discuss how the "Road to Devotion" was conceived, researched, written and edited and reveal details about collaboration between author, publisher and cover artist.



Kent

Miss Bennett featured in Ebony

Miss Bennett 2010-2011 Chamee Pearson-Stirling is featured in the September 2011 issue of Ebony as one of the nation's top ten HBCU Campus Queens.

She received enough online votes to fall at number seven in the rankings. Pearson-Stirling originally competed against 37 other hopefuls.



Chamee Pearson-Stirling

For a week, voters made their way to Ebony's web site in order to cast countless votes for the queen of their choosing. Each woman was represented by a photo and video that told what it was like to be a queen at her HBCU.

Refusing to let success go to her head, Pearson-Stirling maintains humility by remembering her

source of support. "I would not have been able to do this without my Lord and Savior, my parents and my Bennett Belle sisters," she said.

A recent graduate, Chamee received her degree in biology. Dental School is in this Bennett Belle's future, and she anticipates concentrating her studies in orthodontics. Her long-term goal is to establish her own practice that focuses on low-income families.

Science Café series starts

Winston-Salem has joined the "Science Café" movement that has swept the nation. SciWorks, Reynolda Gardens of Wake Forest University and Sigma Xi (the International honor society for scientific and engineering research) have scheduled another series of talks. The Science Cafés are supported in part by the PBS program "NOVA scienceNOW."

Science Cafés are informal talks given by a local expert at a local gathering place. At a café, participants learn about the latest issues in science, chat with a scientist in plain language, meet new friends and speak their minds.

The talks will take place at Buena Vista Grille, 109 S. Stratford Road in Winston-Salem. Participants are encouraged to enjoy dinner on their own from 6-7pm. The Science Cafés begin at 7pm and will be held in the private room. There is no fee to participate in the Science Café.

The next event will be on Tuesday, Oct. 18, when Wake Forest University's Dr. Miles Silman will discuss "Why Nature is Important for Sustainability?" On Thursday, Nov. 17, the topic "The Meal Pattern Timeline: Viewing Eating Within the Context of Daily Life" will be discussed by UNCG Professor Margaret Savoca.



Sr. Silman

Miss Angola wins Miss Universe

(NNPA/Global Information Network) - Out of a field of 98 contestants, Leila Lopes of the Republic of Angola emerged as this year's Miss Universe.

The competition was held Sunday, Sept. 11 in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Miss Ukraine was first runner-up and Miss Brazil finished third. Previous African winners hailed from Botswana and Namibia.



Lopes

Lopes, a 25-year-old native of central Benguela province, is currently a student of business management.

Her selection by the judges was due in part to her answer during the interview portion of the contest.

Asked what she would change on her body if given a chance, she replied, "Nothing, I'm satisfied with what God has given me," she said. "I consider myself a woman endowed with inner beauty. I have acquired many wonderful principles from my family, and I intend to follow these for the rest of my life."

Asked about racism, the tawny beauty queen answered simply: "It's not normal in the 21st Century to think that way."

In her previous post as Miss Angola, she said: "I work with poor kids. I work in the fight against HIV. I work to protect the elderly, and I have to do everything that my country needs. I think now as Miss Universe I will be able to do much more."

Birthday celebration slated for Hamlin

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The N.C. Black Repertory Company will hold a birthday celebration for its late founder this weekend.

The commemorative birthday event for Larry Leon Hamlin will start at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 25 with a candlelight ceremony at a monument that was recently erected to honor Hamlin at the corner of Fourth and Cherry streets. The candlelight ceremony is free and open to the public.

After that event, activities will move inside to the Rana Loco, 411 W. Fourth St., where Hamlin's life and legacy will be celebrated with live entertainment, dancing, food and fellowship until 8 p.m. Entrance to the Rana Loco event is a donation of \$20 for N.C. Black Rep Guild Members and \$25 for non-Guild members. Proceeds will benefit the Black Rep and its mission to offer quality entertainment and programs.

Sept. 25 would have been Hamlin's 63rd birthday. The Reidsville native died on June 6, 2007 after a long period of illness. When he founded the N.C. Black Rep in Winston-Salem in the late 1970s; it was the first professional black theater company in North Carolina.

In 1989, Hamlin put himself and Winston-Salem on the international map when he founded the National Black Theatre Festival. Every two years since, the Festival has brought stars of stage, screen and television to the city for the weeklong event, which features more than two dozen stage productions from theater companies around the world.



File Photo

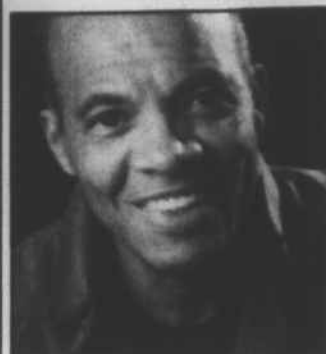
The late, great Larry Leon Hamlin.

Hamlin's legacy is being kept alive by a trio of women: his widow, Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin; Gerry Patton, the executive director of the Black Rep; and Mabel Robinson, the artistic director of the Black Rep.

For more information about the birthday celebration, call 336-723-2266.



J. California Cooper



John Edgar Wideman

A&T seeks submissions for short fiction contest

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

North Carolina A&T State University's Creative Writing Program is accepting submissions for its first J. California Cooper and John Edgar Wideman Short Fiction Prize.

The competition seeks to honor the literary legacy of two of America's greatest writers. Both Cooper and Wideman have authored numerous collections of short fiction and novels among their accomplishments.

According to contest coordinators, both writers have been celebrated for their rich depictions of African-American families via their ability to translate the breadth of Black American experience into poignant tales of urban and rural life. Cooper and Wideman have also labored long in the literary trenches of American literature, and as award winning writers, they each have championed the experiences of Black Americans by dealing with themes of pride, love, family, identity, the effects of racism and a people's will to triumph.

Entrants are asked to submit works of fiction (no more than 7,000 words per short story and only one story per submission). The competition will be judged by a committee of poets and writers. The winner will receive \$250 and have their work published on A&T's web site. Honorable mentions will also be published on the site.

Entries must be post-marked by Oct. 31. The winner will be announced Dec. 1. The competition is open to writers without regard to geographical region or previous publication background. There is a \$15 reading fee per entry. A check or money order should be made payable to NCAT/CWP-Fiction Prize. Writers can submit more than one entry. Each entry must be accompanied by a separate entry fee:

- Entries should consist of four, typed, double spaced, stapled (12 point font) copies of an unpublished manuscript (author's name must not appear on manuscript).
- One cover sheet with name, address, telephone, email, word count and title of story.

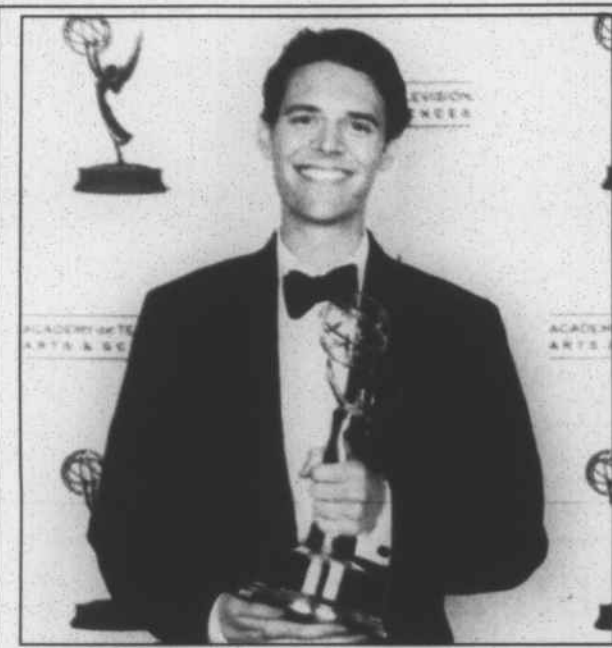
Mail submissions to: Dr. Anjail Rashida Ahmad, Creative Writing Program-Short Fiction Prize, A427 GCB, North Carolina A&T State University, 1601 E. Market St., Greensboro, NC 27411.

For more information, contact Dr. Ahmad at 336-334-7771, ext. 2370, or via email at arahmad@ncat.edu.

And the Emmy Goes to ...

Photo courtesy of UNCSA

Mount Airy native Zach Seivers, a 2006 graduate of the UNC School of the Arts School of Filmmaking, holds the Emmy Award he won last week for Outstanding Sound Editing for Nonfiction Programming for his work on the History Channel's "Gettysburg." A number of UNCSA alumni have ties to Emmy-nominated and Emmy-winning shows.



UNCSA to host 'Nutcracker' kickoff Saturday

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The University of North Carolina School of the Arts is kicking off the holiday season early.

On Saturday, Sept. 24 from 10 a.m. to noon, the school will host a special kick-off event for its annual production of the classic "The Nutcracker" at the Stevens Center, 405 West Fourth St.

While tickets for the production, which will be staged at the Stevens Center from Dec. 10 - 18, won't officially go on sale until Monday, Sept. 26, during the kick-off, fans will be able to purchase tickets; some seats will be available at a special \$5-off discounted price.

The event will feature a variety of free fun activities for the whole family, including holiday refreshments, children's crafts and a chance to have photos taken with "The Nutcracker" characters like the Sugar Plum Fairy, Mouse King, Clara, the Nutcracker Prince and the Snow Queen.

UNCSA's heralded production of "The Nutcracker" has received rave reviews from critics and enthusiastic audiences. Directed by Ethan Stiefel, former dean of the UNCSA School of Dance and now artistic director for the Royal New Zealand Ballet, the 2011 production of "The Nutcracker" remains one of the most-anticipated Triad holiday traditions. Douglas Gawriljuk, a faculty member of the UNCSA School of Dance, will supervise the 2011 production of "The Nutcracker."

Ticket prices (not including \$5 presale event discount) range from \$25 for adults to \$66. There are also special family packs available.

For ticket information and other information, go to www.uncsa.edu/stevenscenter.



UNCSA Photo by Rosalie O'Conor

A number of characters from the production, including the Mouse King, will be on hand Saturday.

Blackout?

Despite huge minority fan base, video game lack characters of color

BY DAMION PACKWOOD
NEW AMERICA MEDIA

The pixelated elephant in the room of the multi-billion dollar gaming industry: African Americans and Hispanics play and purchase video games more than any other ethnic group in the U.S., yet the overwhelming majority of characters in games are young white males.

A recent study by University of Southern California Professor Dmitri Williams found an overwhelming lack of diversity in video game characters. Williams, a social psychologist by training, compared the ethnic diversity found in his survey of 150 games across nine platforms and all ratings to categories contained in the American census.

He found that fewer than three percent of video game characters were recognizably Hispanic and none were playable. Native Americans and biracial characters were non-exis-



PRNewsFoto/Square Enix, Inc.

A promo image for the Final Fantasy video game.

tent. African Americans enjoyed a rate of 10.74 percent, with a big caveat; they were mostly athletes and gangsters.

Columnist Owen Good opined in Kotaku, a popular video game blog, "In an American games industry dominated, marketed to and consumed mostly by white males, discussions of race and class can quick-

ly hit a wall, blocked by insistence that the subject is inappropriate for a pursuit that should be colorblind in basis."

Good says that whites constitute the majority of consumers in the gaming industry is inaccurate. According to The Kaiser Family Foundation, African American youth between the