

Patterson

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store flavor," said Patterson, a product of the Cleveland Avenue Homes public housing community who can vividly recall making after-school candy runs to the corner store.

To make the store even more appealing to the community, Patterson is putting in place the final pieces that will allow Rebecca's to take EBT (food stamp) cards and WIC vouchers.

Patterson, whose law practice has allowed him to live the American Dream, says money was not his main motivation when he decided to open the store. He sees it as another one of his community service efforts.

With prices substantially lower than those of gas station convenience stores, Rebecca's is meeting a need, said Patterson, who recently organized the first-ever reunion in Cleveland Avenue Homes.

"We have pretty much whatever you would need here," said Patterson, who plans to open a laundromat in the vacant ground-level of the store's building.

Patterson is familiar with the community. His church, Tabernacle of Faith, is near the store. Members of his church family and blood family will man the store, which will open each day from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on most days (Monday - Friday). The fact that the store will serve as a very visible tribute to his mother is also more important to Patterson than any profit he may make.

By all accounts, Rebecca Patterson was an amazing



Lance Patterson inspects the store's candy rack.

Photo by Kevin Walker

woman. A single mother, she raised four boys with limited resources and in communities where young black men easily fall victim to violence or the criminal justice system.

"I never knew what it was to be hungry," said Anthony Patterson, one of Wayne Patterson's older brothers. "My mother made sure that we always had what we needed."

Anthony Patterson says the family was devastated when its rock became ill in the late 1980s. Rebecca Patterson was diagnosed with a heart ailment that quickly snowballed. She passed away in 1991. Anthony Patterson, who

lives in Virginia, says when his brother told him the name of the new store, he was touched.

"The tears just started to fall; I could not help it," he said.

Wayne Patterson, the youngest of Rebecca Patterson's boys, is the pride and joy of his family and many of his former neighbors in Cleveland Avenue Homes. He was in college when he received a call from a neighbor informing him of his mother's death. Heartbroken but determined to make her proud, he completed his undergraduate studies and then went on to other academic pursuits, including earning his law

degree.

"I am so proud of my brother," Anthony Patterson said. "I have been there at all of his graduations."

Mayor Pro Tempore Vivian Burke, who helped the Patterson family cut the ribbon to open the store, believes that Rebecca Patterson would also be proud of her baby boy.

"I know Ms. Patterson is smiling down," said Burke, who praised Wayne Patterson for being a good Christian and a family man who is rarely seen without his wife, Tamica, and their four children.

Patterson heard the name Vivian Burke spoken around his home long before he ever met the longtime City Council member. Rebecca Patterson was an avid supporter of Burke, who has represented the city's Northeast Ward for three decades. One of Wayne Patterson's most lasting memories of his mother is pushing her in her wheelchair from Cleveland Avenue Homes to the then-Kennedy Middle School so that she could vote for Burke.

Sales were brisk during Rebecca's Store's official first day of business. Many shoppers were drawn by the grand opening special - 25-cent hotdogs from the store's self-serve hot kiosk. The day was doubly special for Patterson. It was also his 40th birthday. While he insists that it was coincidental that the store's debut and his birthday fell on the same day, his wife thinks it happened for a reason.

"She said 'Rebecca birthed you 40 years ago today, and today you are giving birth to Rebecca's Store.'"

Poets

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associate professor of English and director of the Creative Writing program.

Darrell Stover, director of the N.C. Humanities Council's Museum on Main Street and program; "Hollerin from This Shack" author Grace Ocasio;

artist and quilter Carolyn Beard Whitlow; haiku poet L. Teresa Church; and poets Gideon Young and Crystal Smith will also take part.

Organizers say attendees will be inspired, uplifted and sustained by the collective artistry of words and wisdoms. The authors will have book signings and interact with attendees afterward.

The Obsidian Journal, which McKoy edits, and Moore's African American Writers' Collective are co-sponsors of the program.

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

Morehouse

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of Harrell's prized students who had once served as student director. Dr. Whalum, more commonly known as "Doc," served Morehouse College and the Glee Club with the continued tradition of excellence until his passing on June 9, 1987.

In the fall semester of 1987, David E. Morrow, who graduated from Morehouse in 1980, assumed directorship of the Glee Club. Morrow was a prized student of "Doc" and a gifted scholar who graduated Phi Beta Kappa and as his class valedictorian.



Morrow

The Glee Club has performed the national anthem with Natalie Cole at Super Bowl XXVIII and at the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games held in Atlanta. In 2008, the Glee Club recorded the spiritual "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" for Spike Lee's movie "Miracle at St. Anna." In October 2009, the Glee Club, as part of the Morehouse-Spelman Chorus performed with Aretha Franklin for the 88th Birthday Tribute to the Rev. Dr. Joseph Lowery. In August 2011, the Glee Club performed for events leading to the dedication of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Monument on the National Mall.

The group has also performed internationally, including in West Africa in 1972, Russia in 1996, Poland in 1998 and South Africa in 2008. The current members come from all over the United States and from nations around the world. While many members are music majors, the singers come from majors in all divisions.

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Moments of a Doomed Construct [detail], Stephanie Linar, 2007-08, mixed media. Photo courtesy of the John Michael Kohler Arts Center

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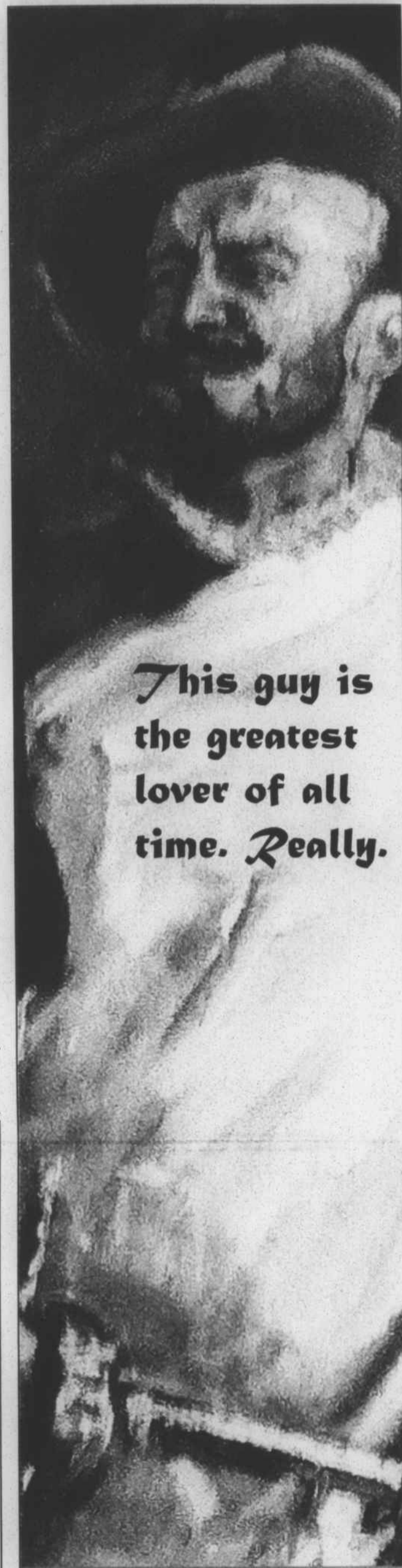
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