

OPINION

THE CHRONICLE

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Celebrating
40
Years
of
Community Journalism

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Our Mission

The Chronicle is dedicated to serving the residents of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County by giving voice to the voiceless, speaking truth to power, standing for integrity and encouraging open communication and lively debate throughout the community.

The Good, The Bad and The Amazing

The National Black Theatre Festival (NBTF) ended last Saturday (Aug. 8) and won't be back until 2017. During the weeklong event, The Chronicle staff and people in the community made random observations about the event, which was founded in 1989 in Winston-Salem.

Here are some of The Good, The Bad and The Amazing:

The Good

*The play "Sassy Mamas" sold out before the festival started. It was the first time in the festival's history that a play had sold out before the festival started.

*Several places were available to help people get tickets quickly to the plays that were not sold out.

*Winston Salem State University and Mayor Allen Joines put on a great reception on Sunday evening before the NBTF started. The stars were accessible and eager to take photos with those who attended.

*Actress Jackée Harry, a native of Winston-Salem, attended the NBTF for the first time. She was in the production "Black Stars of the Great White Way."

*The Gala proceeded pretty much on schedule, unlike some years past, when talking by the celebrities ran much longer than scheduled. Music was played to let them know they needed to end their comments.

*During the week, actors and actresses spoke their minds about issues they cared about, including supporting black theatre.

*The North Carolina Black Repertory Company, which produces the festival each year, announced movement toward a National Black Theatre Hall of Fame and Museum. An initial campaign in 2016 will provide seed money for detailed planning and design for the hall.

Celebrities will be inducted every year the Festival is held. This should attract more people to Winston-Salem during the week and increase the Festival's economic impact.

The Bad

*The food service during the Gala on Monday night was terrible. The wait staff served people late, and the amount of food provided was not worthy of the \$262 price paid for the evening.

*Tate's Craft Cocktails downtown on Fourth Street closed during the NBTF.

The Amazing

*During the first performance of 'The Glory of Gospel' on Thursday night, a scene from the musical portrayed the Civil Rights Movement. During the scene, the entire cast began to sing "Lift Every Voice and Sing," which is the Negro National Anthem. As the ensemble began to sing, one person in the audience stood up. Then slowly as the song progressed, it appeared everyone in the University of North Carolina School of the Arts Stevens Center stood up. Then, during the singing, some members of the cast began to quote the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. As they did, members of the audience were quoting along.

*A play that had just been performed at the Carl H. Russell Sr. Community Center on July 30 and 31 to a standing-room-only crowd was one of the plays read during the NBTF. The playwright, Ronnie Stockwell, was accessible. He is a teacher's assistant in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools system. The reading of "Meet Me at Mama's House" was part of the Frank Silvera Writers' Workshop Readers Series for the NBTF.

The NBTF won't be back for two years. In the meantime, the North Carolina Black Repertory Company will still be here and will still need our support.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Anderson High 1970 class reunion 'outstanding'

[This was the last class before integration.]

To the Editor:

From the dias to the dinner to the dance floor, the reunion of the [Anderson High] 1970 class was outstanding. The Anderson Center was filled with fun, memories and good fellowship.

The honorees included Mrs. Marian Brower, the wife of the principal in 1970; Mr. Robert Brower Jr.; and other family members.

Former teachers were also honored, including Mr. James Rousseau, Mr. Walter Farabee, Mrs. Mary Grissom and Mrs. Flonnie T. Anderson.

Keith Byrd Entertainment provid-

ed classic sounds from the '70s. Bill Jackson provided a memorial yearbook from the 1970 annual. A candlelight memorial by Patrice Scales recognized classmates and former teachers and staff from the 1970 class.

Linda Flynt and Patrice Scales served as moderators.

Bishop Dr. Franklin Hanes blessed the occasion.

A letter from Mayor Allen Joines congratulating the class was presented by Linda Flynt.

Wayne Ledbetter, who served as an outstanding treasurer, also gave remarks.

Words from the class of 1970 were given by Fleming J.A. El-Amin.

The comments from honored guests and classmates were heartfelt and brought back memories to be

treasured.

The dance floor rocked to the sounds of the '70s as classmates moved to the rhythms of yesterday.

The planning committee of Rudy Anderson, Wayne Ledbetter, Fleming El-Amin, Linda Flynt, Patrice Scales, Paulette Moore, Gloria Flynt, Denise Harris, Gregory Davis, Ernest Nichols, Donald (Jermaul) Wallace, Marilyn Gilliam, Jacob Hughes and Laverna Sutherland are to be commended for bringing the 1970 class back after 45 years.

J.R. Reed provided memorable photography for the class.

Fleming El-Amin
Winston-Salem



Submitted photos

Above, members of the 1970 Class of Anderson High School gather at their recent reunion.



At left, the teachers that were honored at the reunion are sitting as members of the Class of 1970 at Anderson High School look on.

We Welcome Your Feedback

Submit letters and guest columns to letters@wschronicle.com before 5 p.m. Friday for the next week's publication date.

Letters intended for publication should be addressed "Letters to the Editor" and include your name, address, phone number and email address. Please keep letters to 350 words or less.

If you are writing a guest column, please include a photo of yourself, your name, address, phone number and email address. Please keep guest columns to 550 words or less. Letters and columns can also be mailed or dropped off at W-S Chronicle, 617 N. Liberty St., W-S, NC, 27101; or sent via our website, www.wschronicle.com.

We reserve the right to edit any item submitted for clarity or brevity and determine when and whether material will be used.

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