



Photo by Tevin Stinson  
**North Forsyth junior Kameron Barr makes a point during part two of the student race relations forum held at Parkland High School on Wednesday, May 18.**

## Continuing the conversation

### High schools continue discussion on race relations, other important issues during forum

BY TEVIN STINSON  
 THE CHRONICLE

For the second time this school year, students from area high schools came together last week to discuss the state of race relations in area schools at Parkland High School.

During the first forum held last September, the Human Relations Department gathered a diverse group of students from public and private schools in Winston-Salem and Forsyth County to discuss peer relationships, perceptions in classrooms, and stereotypes.

This time, students took the conversation to the next level.

Senior at Calvary Baptist Day School and moderator for the event

Logan Short asked the students a number of tough questions that sparked conversations and intrigued the minds of the students. When asked about diversity, North Forsyth senior Diego Garcia said as Americans we should make sure all cultures are recognized. Garcia said, "Lack of diversity leads to lack of inclusion."

"Diversity allows students to connect more," he continued. "That's what I like most about North."

The students also had the opportunity to voice their opinions on House Bill 2 (HB2), the controversial law that was passed in a one-day General Assembly session earlier this year. With the law, North Carolina became the first state to require public school and university students to use only those bathrooms that match the gender on their birth certificates.

"It's not a well-written bill at all," Paisley Magnet School freshman Carine Miller said.

"It's creating more

hatred among people. That's one of the main reasons why it should be repealed."

While holding the mic, Miller, who defines herself as "pro everything for diversity," said HB2 is not just about the LGBT community, but all discriminatory laws across the state.

West Forsyth senior Josh Ballin mentioned the restrictions the law places on local governments. HB2 restricts local governments from having discrimination ordinances that go further than state law.

"This bill can, and will, tear communities apart," said Ballin. "That's what we have to think about when discussing HB2."

After answering a number pre-screened questions, members of the audience were given a chance to ask the students questions before the close of the event. Human Relations Director Wanda Allen-Abraha who helped organize the forum said she was excited to see the students open up and discuss what was on their minds.

"Students today are facing something that older generations can't even imagine," Allen-Abraha said.

"That's why it is important that we have these conversations," she said. "The students made a number of interesting points here today."

Following the forum, students said what they enjoyed most about participating in the forum was interacting with students from other schools and learning how they deal with issues of race and diversity.

Early College of Forsyth junior Izabela Rika said similar forums should be held at each school in the district.

"This generation is very aware of our surroundings and ready to make a change," she said. "Every school should be having this same conversation because every school has their own issues."

"The only way to make a difference is to communicate. That's what is most important."

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Photo by Todd Luck  
**Members of the Happy Hill Neighborhood Association came together to throw a 200th anniversary celebration for their community on Saturday, May 21.**

## Happy Hill celebrates 200 years with event

BY TODD LUCK  
 THE CHRONICLE

The Happy Hill Neighborhood Association (HHNA) held a celebration of Happy Hill's 200th Anniversary at Sims Recreation Center.

The event— which featured, games, food, historic trivia and music— encouraged residents to sign up for the group. HHNA had gone dormant for a few years, but started holding meetings again this year.

HHNA already has big plans. The group is partnering with the Liberian Organization of the Piedmont in hopes of building a community multicultural center that will include a dormitory for students from Liberia attending local colleges.

HHNA is also doing a mentoring program for boys, an intergenerational reading program that brings youth together with seniors, and has plans to bring fresh produce into the community. The group is also supportive of rehabbing the historic shotgun houses, located on Alder Street, into a museum and shop, and the efforts to restore the Happy Hill Cemetery.

HHNA President Amatullah Saleem was

raised in Happy Hill and has lived there off and on. She said when she came back to Winston-Salem in the 1970s, Happy Hill had become a public housing project plagued by drugs and crime. Now that she's moved back to retire, living at Alder's Point, she said Happy Hill now has far less crime but also less sense of community.

"It's now totally different," she said. "However, what is missing is the cohesiveness of the community."

Happy Hill has been many things over the last two centuries. In 1816, Dr. Friedrich Schumann relocated his farm and slaves outside the town of Salem to what would become known as Happy Hill. In 1836, he freed his slaves and paid for them to migrate to Liberia. African Americans eventually settled into the Happy Hill area and created a community that was also called Liberia.

In 1952, Happy Hill Gardens was completed and became the state's first federally funded housing project. The project was demolished in 2004 and Hope VI funding allowed for the construction of new, low-income housing. Alder's Point senior apart-

ments and Providence Place apartments. There are also residents living in Habitat for Humanity homes and other homeowners in the neighborhood.

Happy Hill now has residents of different cultural and economic backgrounds. Bringing them all together is a challenge for the HHNA.

"If we work together, we support each other, we can empower, educate and encourage each other through our trials and tribulations," said Antonia Imes, an HHNA member who lives in Providence Place with her four children.

HHNA past president Edith Jones, pastor of Ecclesiastes Deliverance Center and owner of R-U Happy Child Care on Liberia Street, grew up in Happy Hill in the 1930s and returned to the neighborhood 17 years ago. She said in her youth, Happy Hill was a close-knit community, where neighbors looked after each other's children.

"It was really great growing up," she said. "I have no complaints."

HHNA members said they're hoping to make it a great place to grow up for the children who are there now.

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