

Fund raising priority for UNC Cultural Center director Horne



PHOTO/DAN SEARS

Gerald Horne, director of UNC-Chapel Hill's Sonja Haynes Stone Black Cultural Center, is trying to raise money for the center's \$7.5 million building.

By Liz Lucas
SPECIAL TO THE POST

CHAPEL HILL— One month into his tenure as director of UNC-Chapel Hill's Sonja Haynes Stone Black Cultural Center, Gerald Horne knows what will top his agenda: fund raising.

As the man destined to lead the move from the existing 900 square-foot facility in a small corner of UNC's Frank Porter Graham Student Union to a planned building off South Road, Horne has a major task before him. But

rather than being daunted by the difficulty of raising the remainder of the estimated \$7.5 million needed for the new building, Horne says the challenge is part of what attracted him to the job.

"I've been in academia for too many years," says Horne, chuckling as he perches in an office filled with cartons of yet-to-be-unpacked momentos and books. "I've always had the desire to become involved in some sort of building of an institution, something that goes beyond teaching and writing. This offered an oppor-

tunity to build an institution — literally to build the center — to help it raise the funds.

"It's very exciting, the prospect of what potentially we could do with the center in terms of education," said Horne, who assumed the post Jan. 1. "It may actually represent a new stage in the evolution of education here because, as we see it, this center would not only be a boon to the campus, I think it would be a boon statewide. Some of the things we could do with the center in terms of education, in terms of appropriate

programs and the like, would benefit this entire region."

The existing center, which opened in 1988, compares favorably with others around the nation, Horne says. Its popular programs include a cross-cultural communications institute, a "Communiversity" program that mobilizes undergraduates as mentors for area youth and the "Blacks in the Diaspora" lecture series.

The center has been a lightning rod for friction at UNC, with some white campus leaders saying a free-standing facility would foster segregation. Black students countered with demonstrators supporting the center. Administrators agreed with them, provided the facility be built with private funds. So far, more than \$1.84 million has been pledged for the new center, ranging from gifts as small as \$10 to pledges as large as \$1 million from NationsBank. A blue-ribbon team including poet Maya Angelou; Deloris Jordan, mother of basketball star and UNC alumnus Michael Jordan; Charlotte businessman Jack Tate; former UNC-CH trustee chairman Robert Eubanks; and

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Farrakhan visits So. Africa

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dictator Gen. Sani Abacha, and Libya, where he met with Moammar Gadhafi.

Mandela defended Farrakhan's contacts with leaders who have been accused of trampling on human rights. The president said he himself would meet with Abacha as soon as the Nigerian leader released jailed political dissidents and embraced democratic reform, and called Gadhafi a supporter of the anti-apartheid movement.

Farrakhan has long had ties

to Gadhafi. Such links, along with his fiery rhetoric, have earned him criticism in the United States. But his part in organizing the Million Man March on Washington was seen as a bid to shake off his militant reputation and emerge as a black leader with wide support.

During the march last October, Farrakhan extorted black men to take responsibility for their lives and for combating the effects of racism and to treat women with respect. At around the same time, he said he wanted to

meet and exchange views with Jewish leaders.

Farrakhan's arrival in South Africa, originally scheduled for Saturday, was delayed because aviation authorities in Zaire grounded his private plane's crew to rest, saying they had had too many hours in the air, according to Pan Africanist Congress spokesman Bongani Sibeko.

The Pan Africanist Congress, a small black militant group whose influence has been waning since the 1994 elections, was Farrakhan's host in South Africa.

NAACP

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were unopposed in the November balloting by delegates to the NAACP state convention.

Henry Pickett, president of the Raleigh/Apex chapter, was elected third vice president, and Gina Pettis-Dean of Charlotte was elected youth advisor, beating Mary Reid. Z Ann Hoyle of Hickory beat incumbent treasurer James Florence.

The vote totals were close, with about 184 delegates casting ballots and only 8-10 votes difference between winners and losers. For example, Woodard beat Waddell 96-88 and 96-83.

Pickett and Hoyle said they

wanted to take the organization in a new direction.

"Sometimes when we do not make changes, people possess positions, which in turns equals possession of the organization," Hoyle said last month. "It is not their fault. It is the fault of those around them who don't make the commitment to make the proper changes to keep life in the organization."

Mary Reid, who lost the youth advisor race to Pettis, filed the complaint, alleging ineligible youth delegates were allowed to vote. Only 22 votes were cast in the youth election. Reid got four votes.

Penn held a hearing at the state NAACP headquarters in Greensboro on Dec. 30. He told The Post then that he is following organizational procedure and would make a rec-

ommendation on the validity of the complaints to a committee of the NAACP national board. That committee makes a final determination.

Children to be focus

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will focus on African American children.

"Despite the horrible effort of government in Washington to take us back 60 years, to destroy the safety net for children, a lot of people around the country are working on behalf of children," Edelman said. "The Black Community Crusade is an opportunity for everybody to do something."

She said the conference will focus on problems affecting black children, including

introducing them to modern computer technology and the Internet, the Information Superhighway.

"We need to give people hope," Edelman said. "We need to let them know people out there are doing things. It does make a difference when people organize and fight back for children."

Also on next week's agenda are sessions on the criminalization of the black male and a new State of the Black Child Report.

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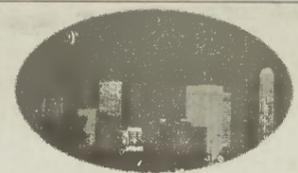
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