

6B

## REGIONAL

## Maya Angelou's poetry moves into a musical arena

By Paul Nowell  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WINSTON-SALEM - The stirring poem Maya Angelou delivered at Bill Clinton's inauguration nearly four years ago has been set to music and will be performed here for the first time this weekend.

Angelou will step up to the microphone as she did on that

chilly Inauguration Day in 1993 and this time will narrate the musical composition based on her poem, "On the Pulse of Morning."

Despite her impressive resume as a poet, dancer, actress, playwright, civil rights activist and educator, Angelou says she'll be nervous when the curtain goes up Saturday night at Wake Forest University.

"I always get butterflies," she said this week in an interview at Wake Forest, where she is the Reynolds Professor of American Studies.

"Since Dawn (A Tone Poem for Narrator, Chorus and Orchestra based on Maya Angelou's 'On the Pulse of Morning') will be premiered by the Winston-Salem Piedmont Triad Symphony at

Wait Chapel on the Wake Forest campus.

The 8 p.m. performance is part of Wake Forest's "Year of the Arts" celebration, which also will feature appearances by soprano Beverly Sills and the Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble.

Angelou, who once said poets were not valued in this country, was surprised when a lot of people told her that they



Angelou

watched her deliver her poem on the steps of the U.S. Capitol.

"I'm happy to say a number of poets' voices are now being heard," she said as she sipped her

morning coffee in her comfortable office, which contains some of the awards she has won, including two Grammys.

Dan Locklair, the university's composer-in-residence who wrote the arrangement, proposed the idea of putting Angelou's poem to music to his longtime colleague.

"She gave me nothing but warm support," he said.

## Figure it out

S.C. program introduces kids to math

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLESTON, S.C. - Algebra plus civil rights multiplied by a little time and patients equals success for black students - that's the message of The Algebra Project Inc.

About 20 community leaders and educators met Saturday to figure out how the project could get off the ground in South Carolina.

Bob Moses, who started the program, says math skills are becoming crucial to economic security and equality. However, minorities and whites from low-income families sometimes miss out on more challenging math courses necessary in a high-tech world.

"I didn't see where algebra had anything to do with civil rights," said Dave Dennis, a former lawyer from Jackson, Miss., who has been working with Moses on spreading the project in the South.

But Moses convinced him by pointing out that while literacy was a big issue in the past because it was connected with the right to vote, technology is creating more challenges now.

Part of the problem is not what is being taught, but how it is being taught, Dennis said. "We were brought up to memorize," Dennis said, but the focus should shift to more analytical skills.

Those who avoid or fail algebra cannot go to more advanced courses, college or higher-paying jobs. "Algebra is not a difficult course, but it's a gatekeeper course," Dennis said.

"I think it helps kids to learn in a different way," said John Gee, a student shown in a project videotape.

## Act of faith in Concord



FILE

Liberty Primitive Baptist Church pastor Harry Love III, examining damage to the sanctuary in August, hopes the community will help support fund raising activities to repair the building

## Church starts fund raising drive

By Herbert L. White  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

A Concord church is trying to raise the roof - literally - for its place of worship.

Liberty Primitive Baptist Church is starting a fund raising campaign to rebuild its sanctuary, damaged Aug. 8

when the roof collapsed on the

structure. Donations to repair the church totaling \$6,000 have come from Concord and surrounding communities, but more is needed, said pastor Harry Love III.

"We may be small in number, but we are committed to rebuilding our church at its present location," he said.

Worship services have been

held at temporary locations since the roof's collapse at the church, located at 656 Central Ave. in the Shankletown community. Liberty Primitive's 200 members have been supportive of efforts to raise money for repairs through several activities, and Love is confident their work will be rewarded.

"I would be hard-pressed to

find a group of people more dedicated than these," he said. "However, this is not an easy situation to overcome and we can use as much assistance from the public as possible."

To contribute, mail checks or money orders to Liberty Restoration Fund, 6522 Heatherbrook Avenue, Charlotte, N.C. 28213-6039.

## Districts declared illegal

Nine don't pass court test in S. Carolina

By Robert Tanner  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBIA, S.C. - Nine of South Carolina's legislative districts have been ruled unconstitutional because race was the major factor in drawing them, but federal judges said they can be used for November's elections.

Similar rulings in other states and the U.S. Supreme Court in recent years are changing what had been long-held views about the way the federal Voting Rights Act should be implemented.

Challengers applauded Monday's ruling as a message to "stop playing the politics of race." While lawmakers who lost say it won't have a big effect, defenders of the status quo say it will turn back the clock to a Legislature run by white males.

Six state House districts and three state Senate districts out of 170 were declared unconstitutional. The House districts were redrawn in time for the 1994 elections but the Senate districts were not approved until last year.

"They were created with race as the predominant factor," the judges wrote in a brief order.

Because ordering new elections would create so much havoc for the public and candidates, the judges said the districts could remain until new lines are drawn for the 1998 election.

"We should endeavor to avoid disruption of the election process by making unreasonable demands," the judges ruled.

If legislators fail to come up with a plan that wins U.S. Justice Department by April 1, the judges said they will redraw the maps.

The case was heard by U.S. District Judges Joseph Anderson and Matthew Perry and by Judge Robert Chapman of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

The judges agreed unanimously that the six House districts were unconstitutional, but Perry dissented in declaring the three Senate districts unlawful.

Those who challenged the districts argued that an overemphasis on race politically polarized the state by race, rather than giving minorities a way to elect candidates of their choice, as the 1965 Voting Rights Act envisioned.

"This sends a strong message to the Legislature to stop playing the politics of race," said attorney Dick Harpootlian, a white Democrat who argued that House districts were drawn with race as the overriding emphasis.

Steve Bates, executive director of the state chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, predicted the ruling would return the state to the days when the Legislature had no black lawmakers.

## Gaston grooming to help people with HIV at fund raiser

By Herbert L. White  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Good grooming can help people suffering from HIV and AIDS.

The Gaston Cosmetology Association will sponsor the fourth annual Grooming For Life Cut-A-Thon Oct. 12 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Gaston Mall.

The cut-a-thon is a fund raiser for the Patrick Fund, a program of the AIDS Council of Gaston County, which provides emergency assistance to HIV-infected men, women and children who need medical care, clothing, rent, food and other essentials. Clients from the Gaston County Health Dept., Gaston Hospice and House of Mercy have received \$15,000 from the Patrick Fund.

Haircuts are \$7, haircut and blow dry is \$10. Manicures are \$10 and acrylic nails are \$25. At 2 p.m., an auction of arts, crafts and other items, including sports collectibles will be held and raffle winners will be chosen at 4 p.m. for a 25-inch color television and an expenses-paid trip to Las Vegas.

The Patrick Fund is named after a Gaston County resident who died of AIDS at age 23. At his death, Patrick's family requested cash memorials to establish a living tribute to him, and in 1990, the fund was started by the AIDS Council. All donations are used to help people living with HIV and AIDS.

For more information, call Glenda Carpenter or Patsy Smith-Walters at 824-3702.

## 2 LC students had excellent summer

By Carol Meeks  
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

SALISBURY - Two Livingstone College students spent their summer immersed in academics.

Sequita Morris, a biology major from Dallas, Texas, spent the summer at the Medical Education Development program at UNC-Chapel Hill. Sharon Corpening, a Salisbury native, went to Australia as a recipient of the International Research Training Program Grant.

Morris made the decision to participate after considering other possibilities for study, including the Rockefeller University SURF program and Baylor/Rice University's Pre-Honors Summer Enrichment program. Morris, one of several students selected from East Coast colleges, said the UNC program was the best choice and required the most work.

"I have always set standards of excellence for myself and the standards of the MED program showed me that I was capable of more than I ever conceived," she said. "I worked harder

than I have ever worked, and that's saying a lot."

The MED curriculum consisted of courses in biochemistry, gross anatomy, histology, physiology and microbiology. The grueling pace of the program required 12-14 hours of study per day during the week and 18 hours or more on weekends. Students faced tests on three or four subjects every Monday.

Morris was fascinated to cut cadavers and correctly identify major arteries, veins and nerves and the organs they supply.

Corpening was the only student representing Livingstone. Her fellowship covered educational costs in Australia, including tuition and fees, insurance, meals and lodging and transportation. The grant offers undergraduate students in biomedical and behavioral sciences a chance to study at the University of Wollongong.

Corpening, a single mother of two adult children, said: "This was one of the best experiences I have ever had in my life. I had been told a lot of negative things about Australia before I went, but I found the people to be very friendly. I really did learn a lot in my studies and in my living experiences."