

# Exhibit organizer snubbed by county

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oring Womack because rapper Sistah Souljah and activist Angela Davis were among the dozens of speakers who participated in the three-month exhibit that ended in January.

Other speakers included marine archeologist David Moore and Jose Jones of the National Association of Black Scuba Divers; Morris Dees, executive director of the Southern Poverty Law Center; author Derrick Bell; Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Michael Cottman; poet Gwendolyn Brooks; professor Ivan Van Sertima; author Dori Sanders and Harvard University professor Cornel West.

James consulted with Charlotte City Council member Don Reid on Monday. Reid had earlier voiced opposition to

Sistah Souljah and Davis' visit.

"When people elected me to office, they elected my principles, my morals, my faith," James said. "I'm not about to leave it at the door when I walk into the meeting chamber."

James said Sistah Souljah and Davis espoused radical political views which should not be paid for by taxpayers or made in a county building.

Womack spearheaded a drive that raised \$150,000 to pay for speakers and other events surrounding the Henrietta Marie exhibit. No speakers were paid with public dollars. Sistah Souljah was invited, but her appearance was canceled.

Williams wondered if any political view could be made in a public building using James' philosophy.

"What's next," Williams asked. "Is he going to say they

can't walk into the airport, because he doesn't agree with them or that they can't drive on the roads because he doesn't agree with them?"

James said he knows African Americans and others may disagree with his view but, "I am the guy that has got the vote. I and four others, that's what decides what the standards are."

Williams said James' actions was symptomatic of what's happening in county government.

"It really exemplifies the minutia we have to deal with every day," Williams said, noting last month's vote cutting arts funding because of homosexuality. "If she had been anyone else, she would have gotten a tremendous amount of recognition for the work she did."

Bob Davis, chair of the Black

Political Caucus, said James' actions were "par for the course."

"It plays into that same old racist game people are playing," Davis said Wednesday. "It is unfortunate, but it seems we are returning to the days of the '30s and the '40s as far as race is concerned."

The exhibit was Spirit Square's largest ever.

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# Study fostered distrust of medicine

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cerns about the origin and spread of the human immunodeficiency virus that causes AIDS, African

Americans are wary of the medical community.

"It exacerbated a level of mistrust of the system," said Reggie Wilson, executive director of

Charlotte-based Bone Marrow Wanted Inc.

Potential organ donors shy

away from the process because they're "very fearful that if they have a donor card that every effort won't be made to save their lives or they'll be declared prematurely," said Debbie Gibbs, public relations manager at LifeShare of the Carolinas.

Wilson's job is to convince potential donors to join a national registry that provides matches for patients in need of marrow, the soft tissue that fills bone cavities. Marrow transplants are necessary to combat blood-borne diseases, including leukemia. Among the 2.7 million people registered to donate, about 200,000, or 7.6 percent, are

African American, who are most likely to match African American patients.

"We hear rumblings of the Tuskegee study," Wilson said. "A lot of folks are apprehensive about joining the system because the system has been so exploitive."

Despite scientific advances that can prolong and improve lives, African Americans can do more to help the process, Morgan said.

"We must avail ourselves of the opportunity to participate in research so that we truly can achieve medical equality and enjoy the benefits of scientific advances," he said.



Wilson

Charlotte-based Bone Marrow Wanted Inc.

Potential organ donors shy

# Sudan peace accord slammed

By Moyiga Nduru  
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER  
PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

LONDON - Exiled Sudanese opposition leader Mohamed Osman al Mirghani has warned that the peace agreement signed last month between the Islamic fundamentalist government and six rebel groups could ultimately break up Africa's largest country.

He said a clique of avowed separatists, made up of elements from the majority Arab Muslim north and Christian African south, have conspired to split up Sudan into two separate nations.

"We shall take drastic measures to stop the separatists from splitting up our country," he told a gathering of exiled Sudanese here.

Mirghani is the chairman of the National Democratic Alliance, an umbrella body of exiled northern and southern opposition groups not involved in the peace agreement. The accord, which Mirghani called a sham, was signed in the capital, Khartoum, between the government of president Omar Hassan al Bashir and a group of rebels that include the Southern Sudan Independence Movement, the Equatoria Defense Force, the Sudan People's Liberation Army Bahr el Ghazal Group and the Union of Sudan African Parties. If the pact is not abrogated, the signatories will establish a four-year transitional government in the main southern town of Juba to oversee a referendum in which southerners will vote for separation or unity.

"The Sudanese, both from the north and south, are fed up of war and have now decided to resolve their conflict through a referendum," said SSIM's London-based secretary for information, Paul Mabiob. He said he saw no reason why southerners, who began the "war of liberation" in 1955, should not be allowed to exercise their rights to self-determination. Mabiob's view is supported by SIRR Anai Kelueljang, who publishes the London-based Southern Sudan Bulletin magazine. Kelueljang, a renowned Sudanese journalist and poet, said if only Mirghani and his northern colleagues in the NDA had allowed the southerners to

exercise the right to self-determination, the bloodshed which had dogged the Sudan for more than 40 years would have been avoided.

Human rights groups say over a million people, mostly non-combatants, have been killed in the Sudan, mainly in the south, since the current conflict erupted in May 1983. Mirghani, who is based in

Cairo, Egypt, said the NDA plans to resolve the fighting in the south within the context of the Sudanese problem. "It is a Sudanese problem," he said. "Not a southern problem."

This belief is shared by the leader of the mainstream Sudan People's Liberation Army John Garang. Garang, who dubbed the agreement a

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We're Sorry...

In the "Top Senior Supplement", published May 15, *Akeisha Chere Gaither* was listed incorrectly, her father, Frank Gaither, Jr.'s name was omitted, and her GPA is 3.6. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused the family.

-The Charlotte Post Management Team

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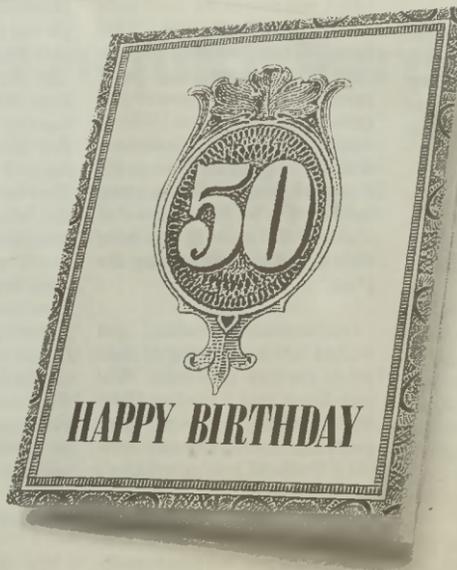


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