

Cover to Cover

Adult 'pop-up' strikes chord

By Lyle V. Harris
THE ATLANTA
JOURNAL CONSTITUTION

ATLANTA — Velma Maia Thomas didn't want people to read another book about the horrors of slavery. They had to feel it. That's why she wrote "Lest We Forget," a slim, gift-size hardcover that gives newfound intimacy to the slave experience by using pop-up illustrations usually reserved for children's bedtime fairy tales.

stacked like cordwood for the torturous voyage to America. Turn to page 11 and open a copy of the receipt for Frances, "the Negro woman" sold for \$4,000. Flip the lid on a mock tobacco tin on page 20 and read the faded manumission papers Robert Green carried with him after being freed by his Missouri slave master. More than just a book, it's history you can touch.

out. We went through it page by page, and when I saw the book, I was floored."

So were the 30,000 buyers who snapped up the first printing in a matter of weeks. The publisher has ordered another 15,000 copies, expected to be in bookstores in time for Kwanzaa and Christmas gift giving. The book was also chosen by the New York Public Library as the theme of next year's Black History Month essay contest.

"This book shows us how much we still don't know about slavery," said Regan Ford, 28, after picking up an autographed copy at the store last week. "When you see and touch these documents, it drives home what happened. It's not abstract anymore."

"Lest We Forget" is based on the 1992 "Black Holocaust" exhibit, a traveling display of memorabilia from the slavery era that Thomas organized and curated.

The text of the book is just as animated as its pictures. The words and emotions of slaves spring from the pages in a way that speaks both to adults old

enough to have marched in the civil rights movement and to children for whom Martin Luther King Jr. is little more than a statue.

"I think people are embracing the book because it's so readable," Thomas says. "They don't think they have to have a Ph.D. to get through it. They can sit down and share it with a family member."

Thomas says her book is especially timely because of President Clinton's call for a national dialogue on race, recent attempts to dismantle affirmative action programs, and the imminent release of "Amistad," director Steven Spielberg's movie about a slave uprising.

"We know this nation has never been on our side, so we should not be surprised if affirmative action is steamrolled," said Thomas, setting her large, almond-shaped eyes in a steady gaze. "All the things we've fought for, we haven't been given; but we have to survive because our ancestors survived. There are tests for every generation, and this is ours."

Small and soft-spoken, with

neat cornrows tied in a bun, Thomas doesn't seem the type to wear her agendas on her conservatively dressed sleeves. A mother, minister and graduate of Howard and Emory universities, she carries herself with the scholarly passion of a historian devoted to her research.

"Writing a book like this was never my plan in life; it just sort of came when I was working on the Black Holocaust exhibit," she says. "I became so intrigued by the lives that were half-told. Because you really only see the story from the slaveholders' point of view. It was like (the slaves) were saying to me, 'I have a story.

Will somebody tell this for me?"

Those voices still call out to her, she says, including those of her own family who have been inspiring her to bring their untold stories to life. While tracing her genealogy, Thomas found out about her great-great-grandmother, a discovery that gave the book added meaning.

While researching, Thomas found that her grandmother had been 'appraised' at \$1,800.

"That stops you cold," she said. "Your life is never the same once you see a price tag on someone you know, or who your mother knew: You feel obligated to make a difference in the world."

ERWIN BAIL BONDING CO.
ONLY "5" MINUTES FROM THE JAIL.
CALL TODAY!
335-1180 - 529-0261
or PAGE one of our...
Professional Bail Bonds Staff
• Rosetta Erwin - 558-9083
• Pertanza "TAM" Alim - 672-7522
• Kenneth "TENN" Perinchief 346-6898
212 N. McDowell, Suite 110

Treatment may be dangerous

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The new diabetes drug Rezulin is no longer for sale in the United Kingdom, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration warned that patients using it should be monitored carefully for signs of liver damage.

Both actions followed reports that three people died after being treated with the drug, known generically as troglitazone, and more than 100 other patients suffered liver failure.

Glaxo-Wellcome, which markets Rezulin in the United Kingdom, pulled the drug off the market there Monday because of its potential health risks.

Here, FDA officials said they plan to continue evaluating

reports of liver problems associated with Rezulin, but assured patients that the benefits of taking the drug outweigh the risks of using it to treat type-II, or adult-onset, diabetes.

"FDA has concluded that liver enzyme levels should be measured in patients taking Rezulin at the start of therapy, every month for the first six months of treatment, every other month for the next six months and periodically thereafter," the FDA said in a statement Monday.

The agency said about 600,000 patients in the United States and 200,000 in Japan take Rezulin, which is prescribed with insulin or another drug known as sulfonylurea in patients whose blood sugar levels are not controlled by

other treatments. Japan's Health and Welfare Ministry this week also has warned patients taking Rezulin to have their livers checked.

The FDA and Warner-Lambert, the drug's manufacturer, first announced the link between Rezulin and liver damage last month after getting 35 reports of liver damage, including liver failure that killed one person and led another to get a liver transplant.

The FDA then asked for additional reports on adverse reactions to the drug.

"The agency has now received a total of approximately 150 adverse event reports, including three deaths from liver failure linked to the use of Rezulin in Japan," it said in the statement.

INTEREST FREE 'TIL 1999

ORIENTAL RUGS ON SALE

PERGO \$399 per sq. ft.

CONGOLEUM CELESTIAL \$1299 per sq. ft. in stock

REG. \$8.99 SQ. YD. \$399 per sq. ft. COLORFUL LEVEL LOOP

REG. \$11.99 SQ. YD. \$599 per sq. ft. STUNNING SAXONY CARPET

REG. \$14.99 SQ. YD. \$799 per sq. ft. DURABLE BERBER CARPET

SAVE BIG

"OVERSTOCKED" WE MUST MAKE ROOM - SAVE \$\$\$

EVERY CARPET PRICED TO 60% OFF

CERAMIC TILE 40¢ EACH

OAK FLOORING 21/4x3/4" \$279 per sq. ft.

4517 E. Independence Blvd. (At the corner of Sharon Amity) *OAC, \$300 minimum finance
Abbey Carpet America's Choice at your neighborhood store

MON., WED. & FRI. 9-6
TUE. & THUR. 9-8 • SAT. 10-6
535-7111

An All KIDZ Cast Holiday Production
Brought to you by KID BIZ Productions

An African Celebration
COME AND EXPERIENCE THE BIRTH OF JESUS ON IT'S NATIVE LAND OF ISREAL BESIDE OUR RICH MOTHER LAND OF AFRICA AND THE MAJESTIC JORDAN
Also Celebrating KWANZAA, Our African Holiday!

For ticket information 442-1893

THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE!
Tell everyone you know, that it's going to be...

"A Royal Celebration"
Written by Ms. Sibyl Lee
But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.
1 Peter 2:9

DANA AUDITORIUM
(Queens College Campus)
Two BIG Shows Only!
December 6th (Saturday)
5:00pm and 8:00pm
Awesome Backdrops, Costumes and Stage Props!
All Tickets Only \$10.00

Tour Schedule
• Hickory, NC Dec 7th - 3:00pm (The Arts & Science Bldg. - 324-4906)
• Statesville, NC Dec 13th - 8:00 pm (Statesville High School - 878-9755)
• Salisbury, NC Dec 14th - 3:00 pm (Livingston College Auditorium - 638-5512)

Featuring a surprise visit from our African American "Santa Claus"

This is a "Family Affair"...please don't let your children miss this spectacular production!
Dress Code: Casual, Formal and by all means this is the event of the year to wear your African Attire!

Call 442-1893 for GROUP RATES at the 5:00PM Show!

For Carry Out or Delivery
New Real Deal Pizza
Call us tonight
CALL for Delivery or Carryout
Pizza Hut
1909 Milton Road • 535-0694

CALL US FOR

- Monday Night Football
- Church Events
- School Parties

Lover's Line
PEPPERONI LOVER'S
MEAT LOVER'S
VEGGIE LOVER'S
CHEESE LOVER'S

We are committed to being your neighborhood pizza service

Come visit your MILTON RD. Pizza Hut. We are community oriented providing the best service in pizza delivery
DELIVERY DRIVERS WANTED-GREAT PAY

Demetrius Harris
Manager

Save up to \$3.00
\$7.99 (7A)
Medium
Any Way You Want It!
Choose Up to 5 Toppings, Any Lover's Line® or Supreme Pizza

Save up to \$3.00
\$12.99 (6A)
2 Mediums
Any Way You Want It!
Choose Up to 5 Toppings, Any Lover's Line® or Supreme Pizza

Save up to \$4.00
\$9.99 (9A)
Large
Any Way You Want It!
Choose Up to 5 Toppings, Any Lover's Line® or Supreme Pizza

Save up to \$4.00
\$16.99 (6A)
2 Large
Any Way You Want It!
Choose Up to 5 Toppings, Any Lover's Line® or Supreme Pizza