

Museum reminds city, nation of struggles

The Civil Rights Museum will serve to remind Greensboro and the world about the racial injustices of the past.

By Margaret Hair
Staff Writer

On a chilly day in February, 43 years ago, four young black students from North Carolina A&T University walked into the Woolworth's dime store and sat in defiance at the white-only lunch counter.

For years now, community leaders throughout Greensboro have sought to commemorate that day, which sparked similar acts of civil disobedience across the South. Sit-in movements, such as the one that took place here, sought to break down the barriers of segregation. In honor of such an event, construction began December 12, 2002 on the International Civil Rights Museum, which will be located at the site of the old Woolworth's store on February One Place in downtown Greensboro.

When completed, the 51,000 square-foot facility will be home to classrooms, exhibit areas, a Civil Rights Hall of Fame, and a recreation of the original sit-in lunch counter.

One of the main goals of the



Bartow photo

The future Civil Rights Museum will be located against the downtown backdrop of February One Plaza and Elm Street. The location is at the heart of historic Greensboro, a stone's throw away from various attractions such as Triad Stage, the Children's Museum, the downtown Library and a variety of diners.

Civil Rights Museum is to serve as a constant reminder to the children of today of the injustices of the past. History teacher Mrs. Dayle Stephens recalls the importance of the sit-in movement to furthering the battle for civil rights.

"Discrimination, segregation, and prejudice were an evil part of my everyday life growing up in

Greensboro. I joined the Civil Rights Movement in the 6th grade; it was only natural for me to fight against these wrongs. The sit-ins provided the way to express my discontent," said Mrs. Stephens.

Grimsley students are also aware of the importance of the museum's construction.

"I feel that it gives the people

of Greensboro an opportunity to become cultured and aware of the surplus of struggles people overcame for us," said Brandon Jones, a sophomore.

Planners of the museum hope its message extends far and wide. Grimsley teacher on special assignment, Mrs. Jane Higgins, who went to church with two of the four

participants in the original sit-in and marched for the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s, agrees that the subject of the Civil Rights Museum deserves similar treatment.

"I wish it could be on a bigger scale so that people don't forget. My concern is that the kids today in school take a lot of things for granted. I hope that by having the museum, they will see why they are able to do the things they can do now."

The Civil Rights Museum has been in the planning stages for some time, and the project has met various obstacles along the way. Fundraising is a vital element in the creation of the museum, and it has been less productive than project leaders originally hoped. Efforts such as selling bricks from the original sidewalk in front of the store, and receiving a share of profits from artwork published in magazines such as *Ebony*, have not succeeded in raising the tens of thousands anticipated.

Despite bumps in the road, those in charge of the project hope that by this time next year, the outside of the Woolworth building will be restored to what it was visually in 1960, and the inside will be split up into the initial groundwork for exhibits and classrooms. In February of 2005, the museum is set to open, marking the 45th anniversary of the sit-in that sparked change throughout the South.

Environmental Club plants seed of eco-awareness

The new Environmental Club raises awareness about the consequences of mistreating the Earth.

By Rachel Rodriguez
Staff Writer

For all students looking to raise environmental awareness around their school and community, Grimsley's new Environmental Club provides an eco-friendly extracurricular opportunity.

Mr. Rob Lamb, a new environmental science teacher, started the club this year, now known as the "Lorax" after the nature-loving Dr. Seuss character who "speaks for the trees."

The Lorax generally meets after school on Wednesdays or Thursdays in room 423 in the New Science building. Current club members say that the first priority of the club is to involve more students, both as club members and as participants in outreach-style programs designed to raise environmental awareness throughout Grimsley and the Greensboro community. Activities currently in the planning stages include educational forums and projects for Earth Day, which occurs on April 22, 2003, and possibly collaborating with other schools to take on larger projects.

"I would really like our club to get involved with the community," said Mr. Lamb, the club's founder

and advisor. "We want to get together with other schools and environmental groups so that we can deal with bigger issues."

Lorax also intends on revamping the recycling program at Grimsley, which students say has been somewhat disorganized in the past. Although plans for this activity are currently indefinite, the club is eager to involve Grimsley students in helping to make the school cleaner and more pleasant while recycling items that would otherwise end up in landfills. Since the Environmental Club is a new organization, they emphasize that they are open to suggestions from students and would like to get as

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Grimsley stands at head of class

While retaining diversity and size, Grimsley scores well among NC schools.

By Sarah Hampton Cheatham
Staff Writer

On February 20, 2003, the State Board of Education, in association with the North Carolina Education Research Council, released the Grimsley High School Report Card for the 2001-2002 school year.

The report card compares statistics specific to Grimsley with data from the school district and the entire state concerning average class size, student performance, and teachers.

The findings show that Grimsley is far larger than most

high schools, with 1,766 students as opposed to the state-wide average of 1,024. While the course sizes remained similar, there were some discrepancies, most noticeably Grimsley's 26 students per physics class in contrast with 16 pupils on a state level.

The report card also illustrates, with only one exception, a higher percentage of Grimsley youth performed either at or above grade level on required end-of-course (EOC) tests than students on a district or state-wide level. On the English I EOC, 81.7% of Grimsley test-takers scored at or above grade level, compared to 65.6% district-wide. On the physics EOC,

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