

Close-Up

Penn: We've got to get saved

By ROBIN BARKSDALE
Chronicle Staff Writer

Can black social workers make a difference in their own communities? Marty Penn thinks they can -- and should.

As president of the local chapter of the National Association of Black Social Workers, Penn says that his organization works to provide services

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-- Marty Penn

directly for the black community.

"We're divorced from the National Association of Social Workers," says Penn, who is employed at the Optional Education Center. "In 1968 some of the black members felt that the national curriculum and policies were not geared to black social workers who had to deliver services in their own communities. We directly focus on the needs of black social workers."

Penn is wary of black service providers who, he says, have forgotten that they are black. He says that reminding these people that they are black is

one of the biggest challenges facing his organization.

"I am really skeptical of people who have a 'Why be black?' attitude," says the outspoken Penn. "If an Oriental comes in here and tells me he's not oriented to Orientals, I'm going to suspect him. If a German comes in here and tells me he's not oriented to Germans, I'm going to suspect him. I'm black-oriented, and I'm not afraid to say so."

"Social workers have got to get saved. We've got to come down off of our high horses and forget about our BMWs for a while and try to save somebody else. We need to be focused on how we, as an ethnic group, can render services to our own people."

Many who hear Penn's words may argue that he is suggesting that white social workers deliver services only to whites and blacks only to blacks. This, says Penn, is not true.

"I can deliver services to my own group better than anybody else, but it does not preclude my delivering services to anyone else," says Penn. "It's only natural that I would be better able to deliver what my own group needs because that's where I came from. I'm not a racist, and anybody who says I am is telling a lie. I'm race-oriented. If I were a racist, I would have a total disdain for the mores, folktales and culture of other people. I have a wholesome respect for the mores, folklore and culture of other groups."



Social workers association President Marty Penn points out major concerns for human service providers (photo by James Parker).

Penn does, however, admit to being race-conscious and says that "anybody in America today who is not race-conscious needs to be isolated in a mental institution."

In identifying major concerns confronting his organization, Penn places the licensing of service

providers at the top of the list.

He says that the National Association of Social Workers is lobbying to require all social workers to be licensed, a requirement which Penn says will not benefit many black service providers.

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Social Notes

'Ain't Misbehavin'' tour to bring musical antics to WSSU

Set in a Harlem nightclub of the 1930s and 1940s, the Broadway hit musical "Ain't Misbehavin'" celebrates the music, personality and high-living style of one of that era's most beloved jazzmen and clowns, Thomas "Fats" Waller.

The play will be presented at 8 p.m. on April 7 at Winston-Salem State University's Kenneth R. Williams Auditorium by Daedalus Productions of New York.

Murray Horwitz, an actor trained as a Ringling Brothers circus clown, suggested to songwriter Richard Maltby Jr. that a show could be drawn from Waller's life and music. From that suggestion, Maltby, whose songs had been recorded by Barbra Streisand, Andy Williams and Pearl Bailey, created "Ain't Misbehavin'."

The show won the Drama Critics' Circle and Tony awards as Best Musical of 1978 and earned Maltby a Tony Award as Best Director.

The play does not tell the story of Waller's life but celebrates his appetite for life. Along with Louis Armstrong, Waller was one of the first black superstars to succeed in the white world.

Critics have said that "Ain't Misbehavin'" celebrates the joyful aspects of living, but with



Jannis Warner's "Big Band" vocalist is stalked by two jealous back-up singers during a scene from the hit Broadway musical "Ain't Misbehavin.'" The national touring company will perform at WSSU April 7 at 8 p.m.

a sense of irony underlying the fun.

Maltby says of the play, "This is not nostalgia. Somehow Waller

is saying something to our audience. A whole philosophy of life; not taking things too seriously ... laughing in adversity as

well as good times and in effect saying 'Do it! Eat that extra meal, drink that extra bottle. Please see page A7

Anniversary plans highlight Best Yet Garden Club agenda

The monthly meeting of the Best Yet Flower/Garden Club was held on Sunday, March 23, at 4 p.m. at the home of Ivey Nell McDaniel.

The devotion was conducted by the club's chaplain, Claudine Cheek, who opened with the national anthem, followed by the repeating of the 23rd Psalm.

The meeting was called to order by the president, Virginia Stewart.

The agenda included reports from various committee members.

Mrs. Stewart reported on the Fourth District Council plans to have the Annual Flower Show June 7 at the Benton Convention. Please see page A9

About Town

Variety-packed affair showcases 1986 distinguished citizens

By ROBIN BARKSDALE
Chronicle Staff Writer

Twin City residents filled the Stevens Center last Sunday night during a gala affair that paid tribute to 26 outstanding community members.

The Sophisticated Gents Inc., a local civic organization, sponsored the Fourth Annual Distinguished Citizens Awards program and officially presented this year's recipients to their families, friends and neighbors.

The honorees included Wayne Corpening, Walter Marshall, Eldridge Alston, James Beaty,



Two members of the national recording group Stroke belt out a tune during last week's Distinguished Citizens Awards program (photo by James Parker).

Freddie "Sweet Breeze" Brown, Robert Dunlap, Sarah Hamlin, the Rev. Carlton A.G. Eversley, Thomas Hooper, Harry James Jr., Wil Jenkins, James Johnson and Martha G. Jones.

Other recipients were David Lash, Lee Faye Mack, Davida Martin, Naomi McLean, Patricia Norris, Lynn Oglesby, Marie Roseboro, C.C. Ross, Ann Simmons, Thomas Trollinger, Garland Washington, the Rev. R.H. McDaniel (posthumous) and Lawrence Joel (posthumous).

The plaque for Joel, the city's Please see page A8

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SATURDAY, MARCH 29

• Mid-Eastern America Enterprises Inc., along with some of the nation's top model and talent agencies, will present "Showcase '86" at 7 p.m. at the M.C. Benton Convention Center. Winners from several of the categories will have videos submitted to "Starsearch." For more information call Horace Fulton at 722-9400, Ext. 252.

• The ONYX Contemporary Ensemble of the North Carolina School of the Arts will present "A Peek Through the Sonic Fence" at 8 p.m. in Crawford Hall on the NCSA campus. For more information call 784-7170.

MONDAY, MARCH 31

• The Central YMCA will offer two courses in Hatha Yoga as part of the spring program beginning today. Evening classes will meet on Monday and Wednesday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., and the morning program will be held from 10:45 to 11:45 a.m. on Tuesday and Thursday. Both programs are scheduled for six weeks. Course instructors will be Shirley Fly and Whit East. For more information call 722-1163.

• An Ebony Affair will hold its "Easter Quest" at 2 p.m. at Bryan Park in Greensboro. Singles are asked to bring an Easter picnic basket. For more information call 784-5237.

TUESDAY, APRIL 1

• The Winston-Salem Rose Society will demonstrate the proper way to prune roses on three mornings beginning April 1 from 9 a.m. to noon at Reynolda Gardens. Other demonstrations will be held at the same time April 3 and April 5.

• There will be a lecture by David Sokol of the University of Illinois on "American Impressionism" at 8 p.m. at the Reynolda House Museum of American Art. The lecture is free and open to the public. For more information call 725-5325.

• Peter Perret, conductor of the Winston-Salem Symphony, will be the guest speaker at the YWCA's Tuesday Night Out program at 7:30 p.m. at 1201 Glade St. The evening will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a fitness class, whirlpool and sauna session and light dinner. The fee is \$7 for members and \$10 for non-members. The cost for the program only is \$3 for members and \$4 for non-members. Reservations are required. For more information call 722-5138.

• Inauguration Week activities get under way today at Winston-Salem State University. Today's theme is "Community Day." For more information on scheduled activities call Marilyn Roseboro at 761-2150.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

• The Atkins High School Class of 1950 will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. at Rupert Bell Recreation Center. Plans will be made for the class reunion on the weekend of Aug. 18.

• Greg Bennett, who serves on the board of directors of the Triad River Runners, will instruct participants in intermediate kayaking at Salem College. The class will meet from 6 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday evenings at the Salem pool. Class space is limited to 10 people; a fee will be charged. For more information call 721-2669.

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

• The Reynolda House Museum of American Art will show the film "Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein" at 9:30 a.m. and the Please see page A9