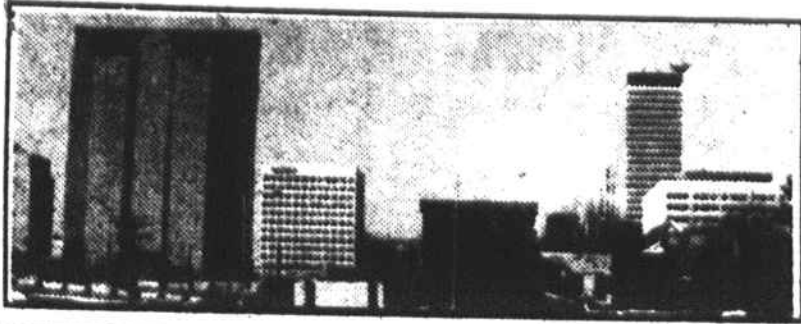


Community News B1



Haiti exhibit shows global ties among blacks

By ROBIN BARKSDALE
Community News Editor

Dana Frida gained a new sense of pride in her race after viewing the current exhibit at the Delta Arts Center. She said that the detailed history of Haiti being shown at the center opened her eyes to just how important black people were to the histories of several countries.

"It was quite educational to me. We were the first set of slaves in Haiti. We took the place of some of the Indians," she said. "To find out more about how we were treated and what we accomplished was very interesting."

The exhibit, "Haiti: The First Black Republic and Its Monument to Freedom," is on loan to the center from the Smithsonian Institution as part of the museum's national traveling exhibition service. The visual display presents an overview of Haiti's historical background from the days of Christopher Columbus, through a Haitian slave revolt and the country's

"If we could lay our hands on things we have made, monuments and towers and palaces, we might find our strength and our pride in terms white men as well as black men can understand."

-- Henry Christophe,
King of Haiti

eventual independence.

The revolution in Haiti is history's only recorded instance of a slave uprising that resulted in the establishment of an independent nation. In 1791, a battalion of slaves launched a battle against their colonial oppressors. Twelve years later and 200 years after their initial enslavement, Haiti became the first black republic. To safeguard its new independence, the Haitians built a series of fortresses. The center of that network is the Citadelle Henry, which has become a monument to the freedom of slaves.

The Delta Arts Center exhibit depicts Haitian generals' proclamation of independence, the unloading of human cargo, the country's French period and tributes to Toussaint L'Ouverture, the leader of the slave revolt in Haiti.

Ms. Frida said that she was most impressed with the depictions of the Citadelle because it is recognized as one of the most brilliant structures in the world.

"The Citadelle is like the pyramids. It gives us pride to know that they were built with our own hands," she said. "The pyramids and the Citadelle are very important structures and we built them. That means a lot to me."

UNESCO and the World Heritage Foundation have ranked Haiti's Citadelle with the Cathedral of Chartres and the Acropolis of Athens as major treasures of the world.

The island of Haiti is located about 750 miles from Miami and is approximately the size of the state of Maryland. Ms. Frida said that even though Haiti is not a part of this country, its residents' accomplishments are universal.

"Haiti is important to us because it is a part of our heritage. A lot of people say 'I'm not from there,' but our ancestors come from there and we should be interested in it," said Ms. Frida. "It's always good to know as much as possible about our past. That's how we deal with the future. In Toussaint L'Ouverture and King Henry Christophe, Ms. Frida said, Afro-Americans will find heroic traits that they can be proud of."

"Those two men are two more blacks for us to be proud of," Ms. Frida said. "We didn't just start doing great things. They did some cruel stuff to us back then but we've still managed to accomplish things and that's some of what I learned from this exhibit."

Annette Scipio, the center's director, said that the Haiti exhibit was selected because of its strong educational potential. She said that the Smithsonian exhibit, which will be on display at Delta Arts through July 31, fit in nicely with the center's purpose of providing exposure to various cultures and arts.

"The Smithsonian has whole exhibits on various areas. I liked to look at them for the things that might be applied to blacks," she said. "Our mis-



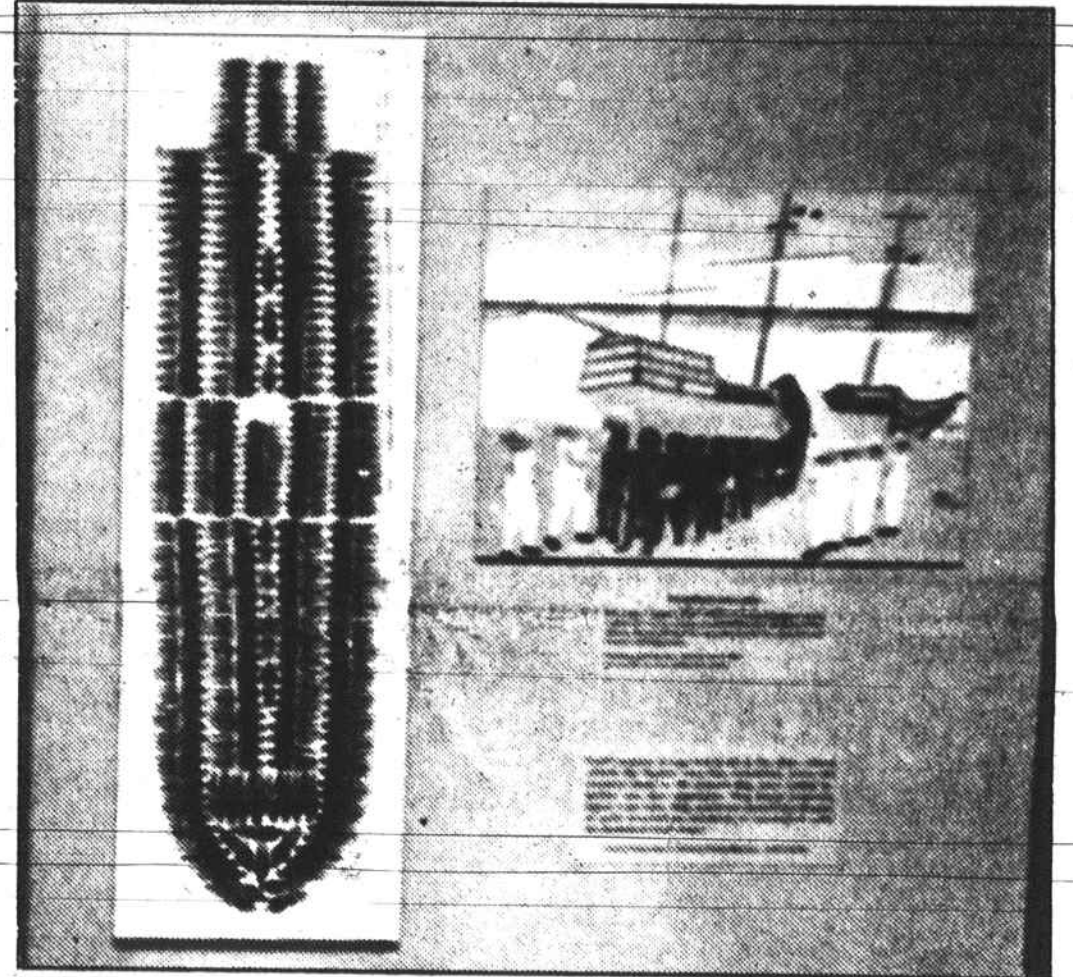
photos by Mike Cunningham



sion is to provide programs in the arts and humanities. This is an historical exhibit and history is one of the ways we can provide insight."

In addition to the exhibit at the Delta Arts Center, there will be a second exhibit on Haiti at the Sawtooth Building July 15 to Aug. 20. Ms. Scipio said that exhibit, "The Many Faces of Haitian Painting," will provide more of an artistic view of Haiti.

"They're two separate exhibits on similar themes," she said. "July seemed to be a good time for us to do an educational theme."



The First Republic

At top, Dana Frida discusses some of the pieces in the Haiti exhibit. She said the display highlights more people that blacks can be proud of; the Delta Arts Center Haiti exhibit includes information on prominent members of the slave revolt, pictured at left, and on the landing of the first slaves in Haiti, above.

The Sawtooth exhibit will feature works from the collection of John and Vivian Hewitt. The couple began collecting art by Afro-American artists more than 30 years ago and today they have gained a national reputation as collectors.

There will be a lecture and opening reception featuring Mr. and Mrs. Hewitt Saturday, July 15, at 4 p.m. at the Sawtooth Building.

The Delta Arts Center exhibit is on display Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from noon to 4 p.m.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FRIDAY, JULY 7

The Greater Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce will sponsor a public issues forum at 7:30 a.m. The topic is "The Business Community in an Election Year." On Nov. 7, Winston-Salem voters will go to the polls to elect eight aldermen and a mayor. Participants will help determine the issues in the election and identify those of particular importance to the business community by speaking out at the forum. The forum will be held in the chamber board room on the 16th floor of the Integon Building, 500 W. Fifth St. The meeting is free and open to all Chamber members. Coffee and donuts will be served.

SATURDAY, JULY 8

Queens of Olympic Chapter #620 Order of the Eastern Star, Prince Hall Affiliated will have a yard and bake sale in the parking lot of the East Winston Bojangles from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. A variety of crafts will be available.

MONDAY, JULY 10

The Comprehensive Epilepsy Program will conduct a seminar on "Caring for the Child with Seizures" at the YWCA at 6:30 p.m. The program will cover basic medical information on seizures including first-aid, seizure medicines and the common side effects and preventive

Please see page B2

SOCIAL NOTES



Maya Angelou recently stirred festival audiences in the British Isles.

Author Maya Angelou finds festive British Isles audience

Author, poet and actress Maya Angelou has found an enthusiastic audience for Afro-American poetry in the British Isles.

Ms. Angelou, the Reynolds professor of American studies at Wake Forest University, was the featured poet at the Glasgow, Scotland, Mayfest and participated in the Exeter, Devon festival in England.

Both events were in May and were "smashing successes," she said. "The poetry was just beautiful-

ly accepted."

She met with the same enthusiasm in 1987, when she was the featured poet at the Edinburgh, Scotland festival.

"I read black American poetry to an international audience," she said. "Russians, Chinese, Irish, who had never heard the poetry before. They went wild!"

Ms. Angelou read her own works as well as those of James Weldon Johnson, Paul Lawrence Dunbar and Langston Hughes.

Carolina Streetscene '89 seeking applications for festival participation

Carolina Streetscene '89 has announced that it is now accepting applications from artists, crafts people and traditional crafts and folk art demonstrators and exhibitors.

Scheduled for Sept. 9 and 10, Carolina Streetscene '89 has formed committees which are now looking for artists who wish to participate in

one of the three following areas of the festival:

Artscene: Deadline for these applications is Aug. 1 for eligible media and fees.

Folkscene is an opportunity for those craftsmen who wish to

demonstrate their skills or the process leading to their finished product. According to organizers of the area, "We're looking for jewelry makers, blacksmiths, even barrel makers who will demonstrate how they make whatever it is they sell or may do for a hobby that has a strong tie to folk heritage."

Craftscene is for craftspeople interested in selling their hand-made wares.

Anyone wishing to participate should send a postcard listing the area of interest, their name, address and medium to Carolina Streetscene, 305 W. Fourth St.