



Community News A10

Speaker: Racial stereotypes, taught by society, inevitable

By ROBIN BARKSDALE
Community News Editor

Racial and gender stereotypes still are very much alive and well and almost everyone buys into them, although some more than others, a University of North Carolina at Greensboro program director recently told a group of Twin City women.

Patty Spates, director of the women's studies program at UNC-G, discussed the existence, implications and barriers of racial stereotypes as they



Patty Spates, director of the women's studies program at UNC-G, said that racial stereotypes, in many instances, have been taught to members of society.

apply to women and minorities during the monthly meeting of the local chapter of the National Organization for Women. Ms. Spates said that few people are truly exempt from the effects of stereotypes because some false beliefs about particular groups of people have become accepted as the truth in society. Additionally, she said, in many cases, individuals are inadver-

tently taught falsehoods by instructors, family members and others who influence their lives.

"None of us is free of stereotypes," she said. "We know what stereotypes are but it's hard for us to sort through them."

To illustrate her thesis, Ms. Spates asked members of the group to complete a true/false questionnaire on the black family. The questionnaire listed such statements as "Most black families are headed by women," "Traditionally, black families have not adopted children," "The majority of AFDC recipients are white," "The black family was destroyed by slavery" and "Polygamy was common in many West African societies."

After completing the form, participants were asked to interact with other group members and find three other members with whom they shared at least nine views. Following the exercise, Ms. Spates, admitting that some of the statements were tricky, presented the correct answers. None of the members of the group, composed largely of Caucasian women, got all of the answers correct. However, the Afro-American women within the group also expressed surprise that, they too, had been misled by some of the com-

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**- Patty Spates,
director of
women studies,
UNC-G**

monly held beliefs about the black family. Before continuing her discussion, Ms. Spates issued several ground rules, which she said must be considered when dealing with individually-held beliefs.

"We all acknowledge that sexism, racism and heterosexism exist. We all acknowledge that one of the meanings of sexism, racism and heterosexism is that we have been systematically taught misinformation about our own group and especially members of devalued groups," she said, noting that the questionnaire and ground rules were taken from UNC-G professor Patricia Hill Collins' "Teaching Sociology." "We cannot be blamed for the misinformation we have learned but we will be held responsible for repeating misinformation after we have learned otherwise....We will assume that people are always doing the best they can...We each have an obligation to combat the myths and stereotypes about our own groups and other groups so that we can break down the walls which prohibit group cooperation and group gain."



photos by Sonja Covington

Members of the local chapter of the National Organization for Women and their guests share perspectives on stereotypes.

Ms. Spates next asked group members to list the characteristics which they felt best described a Southern woman. The group listed such traits as "Southern belle," "gracious," "manipulative" and "fluffy." After the description was complete, she reminded members that they had automatically described the image of a Southern woman usually most associated with a Caucasian female when she had not placed any racial parameters on the list. When she asked for a description of a black, southern woman, members' description included "matriarch," "strong," "ruling," "poor," "gracious" and "hard-working."

"You've sort of excused white women for being weak," said Ms. Spates, when the exercise was complete. "The stereotype of black women is to be able to do everything and your description bears little resemblance to that of the Southern, white woman that you gave me. Consciously or unconsciously, these are the things we carry on in our minds and this is not accidental. The image of the black mammy was portrayed in advertising and it was portrayed on purpose. It was not an accident."

Ms. Spates said that many stereotypes are created by a difference in the world views held by Euro-Americans and minority populations. "Values held by non-Western mentalities and Western mentalities often are conflicting at nearly every point, she said, which more often than not leads to a misunderstanding of the different population."

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

THURSDAY, MARCH 29

• The Phi Beta Lambda Chapter of Phillips Junior College will hold a blood drive from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 4410 Providence Lane, Suite L. For more information call, Sylvia Burts at 759-2880.

• Planned Parenthood will sponsor a parent/son workshop from 6:30 to 9 p.m. The topic will be "Growing Up and Liking It," which deals with changes during puberty. The program is free of charge and preregistration is required. For more information call 761-1058.

• Parkland High School will present a discussion of "IDAC: What is it?" by Drew Bute, sponsor of the school's IDAC Club at 7 p.m. Transportation will be provided from Happy Hills Community Center and from Easton Elementary School at 6:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 30

• Planned Parenthood will sponsor a workshop on "Growing Up and Liking It," which deals with the changes during puberty, for mothers and daughters from 9:30 a.m. to noon. The program is free of charge and preregistration is required. For more information call 761-1058.

• The Winston-Salem Urban League Senior Center is presenting the senior fashion fling and fashion show from 2 to 4 p.m. Fashions will be modeled by Urban League Seniors from Davis Department Stores, the Squire's, Creative Fashions, Keona's Boutique and Anastasia Furs. Music, door prizes and a drawing for \$100 in groceries will be a part of the festive afternoon. A reception sponsored by Hyatt Hotel and Stouffer's Winston Plaza will immediately follow the fashion show. Admission is \$1 and all proceeds will benefit the senior center program fund. Call the Urban League Senior Center at 725-5614.

• Census taker testing sessions will be held at the East Winston Branch Library from 2 to 4 p.m. For more information call 727-2202.

SATURDAY, MARCH 31

• The Winston-Salem Chapter of the National Hampton Alumni Association Inc. will sponsor a bridge/pinochle tournament from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Winston Lake Family YMCA. Proceeds will benefit the scholarship fund. Donations are \$5. There also will be door prizes. The first prize in each category is \$50.

• The Triad North Carolina Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association will hold its first annual "Forget-Me-Not" event from 7:30 p.m. to midnight at the Sawtooth Center for Visual Design, 226 N. Marshall St. Special guests will include Sandra Hughes, Tom Sieg and the USAIR Jazz Orchestra.

SUNDAY, APRIL 1

• The Winston-Salem State University Choir will present its annual spring concert at 4 p.m. at the Albert H. Anderson Center across from the main campus. D'wala Simmons is director; Rochelle Joyner is accompanist.

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Patricia Russell-McCloud to keynote WFU Black Law Students group's first scholarship banquet

Patricia Russell-McCloud will be the keynote speaker at Wake Forest University's Black Law Students Association scholarship banquet March 30.

Ms. Russell-McCloud is former chief of the complaints branch of the Federal Communications Commission's Mass Media Bureau.

The banquet will be held at the Hyatt Hotel at 6:30 p.m.

A native of Indianapolis, Ms. Russell-McCloud is a graduate of Howard University School of Law and Kentucky State University and has studied at Harvard University. She is certified to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court, District of Columbia and Indiana Bar associations.

The Black Law Students Association will present its first scholarship award at the banquet and recognize five students from the class

of 1986 who had the idea to raise scholarship funds with an annual banquet.

They are Lisa Jeffries Caldwell, Joal Hall, Marsha Hughes Grayson, Carol McClendon-Waldron and Jeanette Tyler Peace.

Banquet tickets are available from the Wake Forest School of Law. For more information call 759-5435.



Patricia Russell-McCloud

NAACP recognizes local organization, community service efforts

From Chronicle Staff Reports

Several members of the local community were honored last Thursday at the annual NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet for their contributions to the organization and to the overall community.

Mazie S. Woodruff received the Sara Lee/Charles McLean Award for Community Service.

The award was established in 1985 to recognize people in Winston-Salem and Forsyth County who provide needed services to the local area and who motivate others to improve their own quality of life.

Sponsored by Sara Lee Corp., the award was named for Charles A. McLean, retired field secretary of the NAACP, in recognition of his years of dedication not only to the NAACP but to Winston-Salem and North Carolina.

Mr. McLean's mother started one of the first chapters in North Carolina in 1918 and he obtained his first membership while in high school. He served as field director for more than 28 years.

In accepting the award, Mrs. Woodruff thanked her family for their continued support of the years and accepted the award on behalf of people whom she said work diligently behind the scenes.

"In the spring time of 1990, I cannot stand here and say that Mazie Woodruff won this award. I have not," she said. "God has given



photo by C.B. Harp

Victor Johnson, left, NAACP life membership chair, presents life membership plaques to Elliott Brown Kennedy, Harold L. Kennedy II and Dr. Virginia K. Newell.

me the strength. I want to accept this award tonight on behalf of all those people who work in the trenches. We don't make the headlines. We don't raise a whole lot of you-know-what but we're in the trenches working to make Forsyth County citizens' lives better."

Three local students also received scholarships during the annual event.

Winners were: Crystal F. Newman, a senior at Mount Tabor and the daughter of Patricia Newman. She plans to attend Howard University.

Latandra Vance, a senior at Parkland and the daughter of Rebecca F. Vance. She plans to attend N.C. A&T State University.

Lucretia O. Carter, a senior at Parkland and the daughter of Fan-

netta Gore, plans to attend Spelman College.

The President's Awards were presented to Elliott Brown Jr. and the Rev. Joseph Nance.

Isaiah Tidwell received Corporate Award.

The Community Service Awards were given to Dr. Charles Kennedy and Leon Henry Harp.

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