

# Community News B1

Maintaining a 20-year "Tradition"

## Reynolds High School African-American Homecoming Queen shares crown

By NICIA SMITH-DEERING  
Staff Writer

When halftime ceremonies got underway at the 21st homecoming at R. J. Reynolds High School, a tradition that began in the early 1970's was again followed when the school crowned two homecoming queens, one white, the other African-American. Grace Graceland was crowned as the African-American student who received the most votes from her classmates, and Tarra Denise Hairston.

Ms. Hairston explained the dual selection, during balloting for the homecoming queens, students voted from a list of all candidates' names. "You only vote for one person. And the black with the most votes is Homecoming Queen, and the white with the most votes is Homecoming Queen," she further stated. The dual selection was the result of an attempt to bring the unrest prevalent in the schools during the late 60's and early '70s, according to Robert Deaton, Reynolds High principal. "Back in those days, we were having problems with students at all the schools," he said, "and that balloting was done by members of the school's football team. He indicated that since African-American students and white students held differing views of beauty when it came to selecting a homecoming queen, there was a question of fairness. He said that

the idea of having two queens came from one of the African-American football players who asked why the school couldn't have a Miss Black and a Miss Gold homecoming queen, which, he added, "solved the problem."

Asked whether what has become a tradition will ever be discontinued given the times today, he said, "Not unless the kids want it...We don't place a great deal of emphasis on it...It has been an accepted way of doing it." He said, "Until they want to change it, the tradition will stay. Reynolds tradition is hard to break." But, he again emphasized, "It's their (the students') homecoming, and when they want to change it, we will."

Although not that familiar with the history of two homecoming queens, the 17-year old senior is nevertheless, pleased with her selection. "It's really for that one event. Actually, you don't really do anything. You just have the title Homecoming Queen. I think it is sort of like a popularity contest," Ms. Hairston said. But, she was quick to add that that was not enough to guarantee votes, saying, "Just because you know all these people doesn't mean they...necessarily like you."

Ms. Hairston is very active in the school's performing group, the Dancing Boots. "We perform during halftime at football and basketball games...to provide

halftime entertainment," she said. She also runs track, something she has been doing since she was a freshman, and is a member of the school's Ensemble, a choral group that performs in interschool events.

In her sophomore year, Ms. Hairston was inducted into the National Honor Society. She is also a representative on the Senior Executive, which plans events like the prom, class day, and other senior activities. Winning is a familiar occurrence for her with her accomplishments including the "Academic Excellence Award" in 1988-89 and 1989-90, an award given by Reynolds High School, and recognition in "Who's Who Among American High School Students."

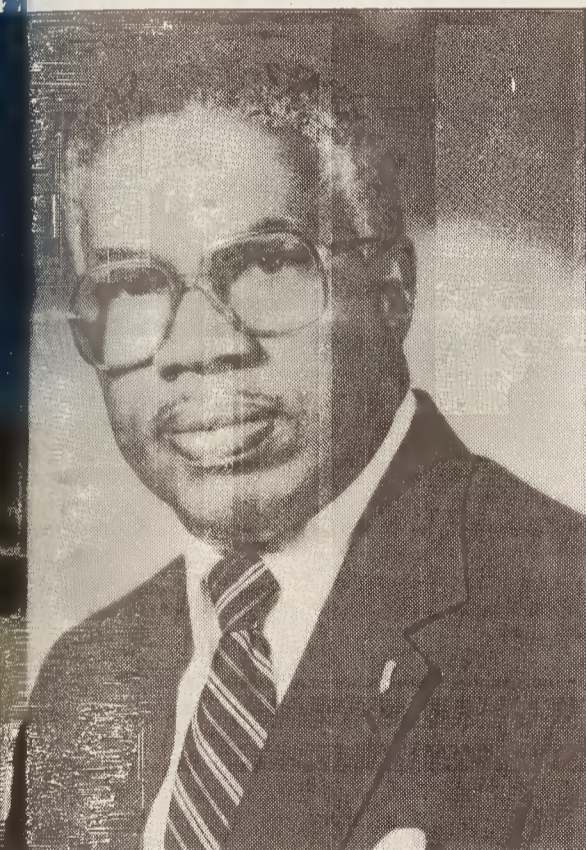
Daughter of Eugene and Ernestine Miles Hairston, Ms. Hairston credits her parents' support of her scholastic and extracurricular efforts. But, she also takes responsibility for what she has accomplished, which is something that she feels that her peers should also do, particularly when it comes to the widespread use of drugs among teenagers. "I think that a lot of people say it's all on the parents. I think that if you have it set in your mind to do (drugs), then that's what you're going to do," she said. "A lot of parents feel like they failed their children if they (the children) get involved in drugs. I wouldn't blame it on the parents. If children have it set to follow the crowd, then they'll follow the



"Dancing Boot" Tarra Denise Hairston was crowned as one of R.J. Reynolds High School's two Homecoming Queens during halftime at the Sept. 21 game.

crowd." Ms. Hairston has not yet decided on a college but is considering the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill or North Carolina State University. Although one of her strongest subjects is mathematics, she is still undecided on what her profession will be.

## McGhee makes ROTC Hall of Fame



LTC. Acie McGhee Jr.

LTC (Retired) Acie McGhee Jr., a retired Parkersburg High School JROTC instructor, will be installed in the ROTC Hall of Fame at West Virginia State college Oct. 12 during Homecoming activities. Colonel McGhee retired at the end of school year 1989-90. He and his wife, Louise, reside in Parkersburg.

Colonel McGhee attended West Virginia State College in 1954. He entered active duty immediately following graduation and served in the U. S. Army for 22 years before retiring in 1976. His decorations include: Legion of Merit; Meritorious Service Medal; Bronze Star; National Defense Service Medal; Armed Forces Reserve Medal with 10-Year Device; Vietnam Service Medal with Four Bronze Service Stars; Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal; Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm; and the Distinguished Service

Medal.

Current positions held by Colonel McGhee are: president of the West Virginia State College National Alumni Association; member of the Board of Directors, West Virginia State College Foundation; president of the Kimball High School National Alumni Association; president of The William and Sallie Carter Family Reunion; and treasurer of the NC/VA Chapter of the KHS Alumni. He is the author of two volumes of *These Little Lights of Mine*, a family history.

During commencement exercises in May 1990, Colonel McGhee was awarded the Third Annual President's Award for Alumni Affairs. He joins his sister, LTC. (Retired) Bernice McGhee, U. S. Air Force, as the only brother and sister in the ROTC Hall of Fame. Their parents are the late Acie and Jettie McGhee. His children are: CPT (P) Cornell T. McGhee, now stationed at Headquarters, TRADOC, Fort Monroe, Va.; Mrs. Rena M. Boggs, San Antonio, Tex.; and Myron B. McGhee, a graduate student at the Interdenominational Theological Seminary, Atlanta, Ga.

Colonel McGhee stated that he attributed his success to the fact that "God always provided the proper combination of enlisted men, non-commissioned officers, officers, and their families to see me through." He is a member of St. Paul United Methodist Church, a life member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and the Prince's Feather Garden Club.

## Ebony Fashion Fair bursts on Twin City

A "Freedom Explosion" will hit the Twin city on Friday, Nov. 2, at 8 p.m. at the Benton Convention Center when the Winston-Salem Urban League presents its 33rd production of the Ebony Fashion Fair Show.

The famed traveling fashion show is produced by the Ebony magazine and is sponsored annually by the Winston-Salem Urban League Guild to benefit the scholarship fund.

Denise W. Johnson, producer and director of the show, personally selects fashions from the exclusive collections of famed designers such as Emilio Pucci, Bill Blass, Bob Mackie, Giorgio Armani, Angelo Fabrice, Halston, and Bruce Oldfield. Denise Johnson, the wife of Ebony publisher John H. Johnson, purchases the most spectacular fashions available for the show.

More than 200 exquisite garments, complete with the latest accessories, will be featured. The show will include 10 female models and two male models. Shayla Simpson will serve as the commentator for the evening.

The Winston-Salem Urban League Guild, an auxiliary of the local affiliate, began sponsoring the show in 1957. Joan Cardwell is general chairman for this year's show; Velma Friende is Guild president.

During the show, Miss Ebony Fashion Fair 1990 will be crowned. The local student selling the most tickets to the production wins the title.

Tickets are available from any Guild member and at the Urban League office, 201 W. Fifth St. A subscription to Ebony, Ebony Man or Jet is included in the ticket price.

## Alpha Kappa Alpha's annual Fashionetta is under way



Kierra Love



Monique Moultry



Nicole Kilgore

The Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority's Fashionetta is once again in full gear. All committees have been assigned, and the ladies have been enjoying the festivities sponsored by the group. The annual event is held to raise funds for scholarships.

Group Number 8, consisting of Sorors Barbara Puryear, Wilma Wheeler, Jeannette Lewis, Eunice Leake, Girtha and Patricia Jeffers, and Eunice Long are again this year sponsoring the Little Miss AKA Pageant.

The children vying for Little Miss AKA are: Kierra Love, five-year old daughter of Karen Robinson; Ashley Boddie, five-year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Boddie; Monique Moultry, six-year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Moultry; Joii Bitting, seven-year old daughter of Patricia Bitting; Nicole Kilgore, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Kilgore; Jerita Joyner, eight-year old daughter of June Miller; and Aja Moore, eight-year old granddaughter of Mrs. Shirley Blackburn.

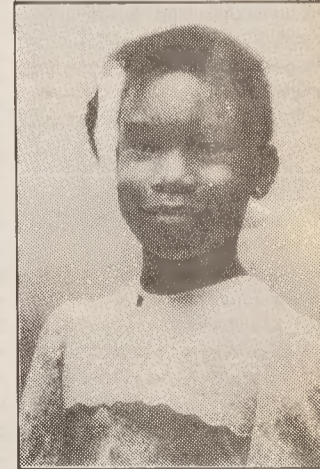
This pageant will be held Sunday, Oct. 14, at 3 p.m. at Bethlehem Center, 520 N. Cleveland Ave. The public is invited to attend.



Ashley Boddie



Joii Bitting



Aja Moore

## Emmanuel Baptist to observe 76th anniversary

The 76th Anniversary Observance at Emmanuel Baptist Church will begin Sunday, Oct. 14-21. The theme is: "For Such A Time As This."

Services on Sunday, Oct. 14 will begin at the 11 a.m. worship with the Reverend John Mendez, pastor, delivering the morning message. The 3 p.m. service will be rendered by the Reverend J.R. Sarrucks and his congregation from St. Stephen's Baptist Church.

Other services will be:

• Wednesday, Oct. 17, 7 p.m. The Reverend H. L. Moore and congregation of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church

• Thursday, Oct. 18, 7 p.m. The Reverend James Fulwood and congregation of St. Mark Baptist Church

• Friday, Oct. 19, 7 p.m. The Reverend B. F. Daniels and congregation of Union Baptist Church

Sunday, Oct. 21, is Commemorative Day, and the special guest anniversary for the 11 a.m. worship

will be the Reverend Wendell Anthony, pastor of Fellowship Chapel United Church of Christ in Detroit, Mich. To culminate the anniversary services at 5 p.m., Bishop Sylvester Johnson and the congregation of Macedonia TVPH Church will be the guests.

The public is cordially invited to attend all services. Emmanuel Baptist Church is located at 1075 Shelmar Drive. The Reverend John Mendez is host pastor.