



Author bell hooks talks with students during a visit to Wake Forest Tuesday.

hooks: Blacks not taking advantage of leaders

By T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

bell hooks brought her 'in your face' style of feminism to Wake Forest University Tuesday evening.

Her lecture was as diverse as the faces of the hundreds of people who packed the auditorium to hear her.

It covered a vast number of hot button issues; from racism and sexism, to rap diva Lil' Kim's appeal.

But before she tackled those

subjects, she first expressed her delight at speaking at the university that Maya Angelou calls home.

Unlike many African American women, Angelou has always been supportive of her work, even when she did not agree with it, hooks said.

"Other black women have been very harsh toward me in terms of my work," she said. The controversial author and social critic — who writes under a pseudonym and spells her name in lowercase — to

underscore her misgivings about stardom — began her lecture by calling for a return to a "love ethic" in a society dominated by power, success and money.

"We have a negative response to love," she said, walking the stage with a handheld microphone. "I know no one who has embraced love, who has not been more fulfilled by it."

hooks' next two books will deal with the topic of love, she said. The books will be a bit of

a transgression from her past works, which include the Afro-feminist classic "Ain't I a Woman: Black Women and Feminism."

But hooks told the audience that she has always focused on the topic of love, even though it may have been hidden by fierce social commentaries.

"I know a lot of you are saying 'that doesn't sound like that hard-hitting bell hooks,'" she said.

But inklings of that hooks,

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660 West Fifth Street
Winston-Salem, N.C. 27101

First year in blue



Stephen Williams is beginning life as a rookie with the Winston-Salem Police Department. He's the first to admit he has a long way to go. "As perfect as we strive to be, perfect we are not," he says.

Rookie begins new life on force

The following is the first in an ongoing series about Stephen Williams. The Chronicle will follow Williams, a recent graduate of the police academy, through his first months with the Winston-Salem Police Department.

By T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Like millions of adolescents boys, the answer to young Stephen Williams' fascination with law enforcement was found on the toy aisle of a local five-and-dime. There he discovered a variety of cop accessories — from realistic-looking gold and silver

badges, to black holsters.

With a pair of plastic guns and a set of bogus handcuffs, he ran around his family's home chasing imaginary criminals while shouting a-choppy version of the Miranda Rights.

Years later, play time is over for Williams.

The gun he carries today is made of cold, hard steel. The criminals that he pursues are real, with impressive arsenals of their own to prove it. His badge and uniform are authentic, carrying with them an immense sense of responsibility and an oath to protect and serve.

Williams turned his child-

hood dream into a grown-up reality on March 19, as he stood gallantly, with 18 others, to take the oath of office of the Winston-Salem Police Department. The day was the culmination of a nearly year-long process that included a lengthy evaluation by the department and months of strenuous tests, both mental and physical.

But before he would march across the stage to receive a law enforcement training certificate, the 28-year-old would speak before the packed house at Winston-Salem State University's Anderson Center on behalf of all of his classmates.

He was the president of the graduating class.

He thanked those who had spent months teaching his class, a bevy of sergeants, captains, lieutenants and special patrol officers. He thanked newly-installed Police Chief Linda Davis, who sat by his side and other city leaders scattered about the auditorium. While his wife, Angela, looked on from the audience, he thanked the families of all the rookies for their love and support.

During his speech, Williams addressed a perception that many have of police officers. Law

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of his classmates.

ers with whom he speaks, is that the perception of the organization he co-founded in 1966 with the late Huey P. Newton, was and still is wrong. The group's '60s slogan was never "black power" and the Panthers weren't a bunch of gun-toting thugs who had no other purpose but to kill white people.

Their real slogan, he says, was "all power to all people."

"We saw ourselves as defending our constitutional, democratic, civil, human rights to organize our people politically, to unite their votes, to take the majority of seats if we could in terms of political institutions like the city council," Seale said. "That's the way we saw ourselves. We were a political party."

What Seale told the students during a lecture and what he has been trying to tell countless oth-

ers from the mid-'60s to the early '70s was help make blacks more politically aware of their rights while fulfilling needs with free food, clothing and health service programs. The group's 10-Point Platform and Program fought for better housing and education and called for an end to the exploitation of blacks by the government.

These facts, Seale contends, have not been told and greatly contrast the violent images that have been painted of them in the media. Even the 1995 film "Panther," which attempts to tell the story of the group, is discounted by him.

"Ninety percent of what you see portrayed on the screen in that

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No soup or salad?

Four men claim they were refused service at local restaurant

By T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Although Souper! Salad — a San Antonio-based chain of restaurants known for its fresh salads and savory soups — has yet to celebrate its one-month anniversary at its new Winston-Salem location, four black men have already charged some of the eatery's employees with racism, leading to an investigation by the local NAACP.

Frederick Barnes, Denard Williams, Jeff McManus and John Sadler — all employees of ALLTEL Communications — say they were prohibited from eating at the restaurant during a special grand opening event for employees at businesses near Souper!Salad's Hanes Mall Boulevard location.

The restaurant had given out invitations to local businesses, inviting employees in for a free meal on March 26 at the restaurant, which is located in the Pavilions Shopping Center, just a few stores away from ALLTEL.

According to Barnes, he and his co-workers decided to go to Souper! Salad after several ALLTEL managers came back from the restaurant complimenting the food.

Before they reached the door of the restaurant, a female employee asked for the men's invitations.

After they explained to her that they did not have invitations but that they were ALLTEL employees, the employee at the door went to get another female employee who told the men they needed invitations.

According to Barnes, the group asked the second employee why other employees of ALLTEL were allowed to eat without invitations, simply by saying that they were with the company.

But the employee insisted that the four needed an invitation to come in.

"We were just disgusted. It was very belittling...It makes you feel like you are nothing," Barnes said Tuesday. "Why did we have to have an invitation and no one else had to have one?"

As they walked back to their office, the answer to that question became quite obvious, Barnes said.

The ALLTEL employees that were let into the restaurant without invitations were white — save one black female who went in with a group of whites, Barnes said.

Barnes recalls seeing only two other black faces, both females in the restaurant.

He says that outrage over their treatment, led them back to the restaurant to speak with the manager.

To avoid discussing the situation near the entrance of the crowded restaurant, Barnes said they asked the manager if there was a private place where they could talk.

The manager told the four men that she did not have such a place, Barnes said.

Therefore, in a corner of the restaurant, she began to explain to the men that the door greeter was told to do certain things to control traffic, although Williams said there were no other customers coming into the restaurant at the time.

The manager's explanation was interrupted by more explanations from a training manager, David Cannon, who offered them an apology and an invitation to come back to the restaurant at dinner.

The four men declined the dinner invitation. They, instead, asked Cannon for a formal apology and that some type of admonishment be given to the employees who had refused to let them in.

"I think it shattered what little bit of confidence I had left in this society," Williams said. "It changed my whole attitude. My whole outlook...I'm keeping my guard up all the time."

Cannon promised that a formal apology would be issued to the men, but two weeks later, they say they have received nothing.

"We have not heard anything from them, not a word," Williams said.

Williams said that Cannon even admitted to him and his co-workers that the incident was racially motivated, but did not confront his employ-

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Seale still fights myths about Panthers

By DAMON FORD
THE CHRONICLE

Bobby Seale is still on a mission.

Twenty-five years after he stepped down as the chairman of the Black Panther Party of Self Defense, the 66-year-old continues to fight the myths that pervade the minds of the general public about the liberation group.

"You would be surprised how many people out here still today think of the Black Panther Party as a quote unquote 'black militant hate group,'" Seale said to a room full of students at Winston-Salem State University.

What Seale told the students during a lecture and what he has been trying to tell countless oth-

ers with whom he speaks, is that the perception of the organization he co-founded in 1966 with the late Huey P. Newton, was and still is wrong. The group's '60s slogan was never "black power" and the Panthers weren't a bunch of gun-toting thugs who had no other purpose but to kill white people.

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Reno honors students



Attorney General Janet Reno talks with Temeshia Brown, a student at LEAP Academy. Temeshia was one of several students Reno honored during a visit to Winston-Salem. For full story see page A3.