

HAWS

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Lawrence's reign began soon after the HAWS board of commissioners voted to fire Marie Roseboro Oct. 12, 1998. Roseboro had served as executive director, or interim executive director, since January 1997, when she replaced Art Milligan, who left the agency for a job in the private sector.

When the board fired Roseboro, it cited a lack of financial finesse on her part as one of the reasons. In her administration, the most glaring example of financial problems at the agency occurred when a \$28,000 check was accidentally sent to a tenant.

In some cases, the audit points to Roseboro specifically, though not by name, questioning her on two financial matters.

According to the audit, HAWS did not properly document the purpose for a \$10,000 payment it made to a local private school, which has since become a public charter school. The Chronicle reported in October 1998 that an internal audit at the agency had also questioned the payment to LIFT Academy, which serves at-risk students.

A document from the school asking for funding listed 60 LIFT students who lived in public housing communities, but HAWS staffers found that only 12 LIFT students lived in public housing, according to the audit.

The money given to LIFT was charged to the agency's Public Housing Drug Elimination Program budget, but the audit states the payment to the school was not in accordance with the Drug Elimination program.

The payment also gave the

appearance of a conflict of interest because Roseboro was a member of the school's board of directors, the audit states.

Roseboro's phone number was no longer in service Tuesday when The Chronicle tried to contact her for comment. But she told a local television station Monday that she hoped the release of the audit would bring some type of closure.

The audit also claims that HAWS reimbursed travel expenses totaling \$20,152 that were not properly supported from January 1997 to November 1998.

"The travelers were paid for expenses for which they did not submit bills or invoices documenting the nature of the expenses," the audit states.

The audit found that the executive director during that 23-month period, Roseboro, was reimbursed \$984 for costs that appeared unnecessary.

"The executive director rented an automobile for two trips...These costs appeared unnecessary because the executive director was assigned...a HAWS automobile," the audit states.

To prevent such problems from happening in the future, the audit recommended that HAWS' administrative staff receive training to ensure that documenting procedures are followed in terms of travel and credit card use, among other recommendations.

Lawrence said he saw many of the problems coming and began to make changes even before he got wind of HUD's findings. He said he has already made some changes to the travel policy, and a policy change concerning the agency's procurement policy was made in February.

The audit found that the agency did not take steps to ensure "free and open competition" for three of the seven procurements that were tested. The procurements included contracts for lawn services and consulting contracts that totaled nearly

\$200,000.

In some cases, the audit states, the agency did not "advertise or otherwise seek competition" for contracts, bids and quotes for services.

Lawrence said strides have also been made in installing the air and heating units. The agency is installing 60 to 67 a month now, he said.

Lawrence freely admits that he's glad the audit is over. Having auditors at the facility proved trying for the agency's staff, he said. He added that he doesn't believe the audit will have a serious lasting effect on the agency, although it comes on the heels of what's been a tumultuous year for HAWS.

"No agency or executive director wants any type of stigma...but it's certainly not going to put a damper on what we do here."



Lawrence



Andrews

Book

from page A1

August - guests did hover over a table showcasing a few of the 250 photographs that will be featured in the book.

Many of the photos that will be used in the book were provided by local residents.

The late Joe Bradshaw was singled out during the reception for collecting and cataloging number of photos and memorabilia during his lifetime. After the well respected, local African American historian died, his family donated many of his items to SSAAH.

Some of the book's most stunning black and white photographs were blown up and mounted on easels throughout the reception hall. One such picture featured Larry Leon Hamlin - a local theater actor, director and producer - and the cast of one of his earliest plays.

Another picture showed a group of female nurses on the steps of the now defunct - but legendary - Kate Biting Reynolds Hospital. Though several decades old, the picture is still sharp, capturing the stark contrast between the women's spotless, white uniforms and their beautiful black skin.

Such nostalgic images will run throughout the book's nine chapters, which will cover everything from sports and athletics to business and entrepreneurs.

But though it is being billed as a picture book, it will not be without text. Three educators with ties to Winston-Salem State University teamed up to write the words that will fill in the blanks that the pictures leave.

All of the authors are members of SSAAH's board of directors. They say one would be hard pressed to find anything like their book in bookstores or libraries today.

"There is not a lot of information on African Americans locally," said William Rice, a Winston-Salem native and retired WSSU professor. "You would find very little information about the presence of African Americans."

The Moravian community has been able to leave such a lasting legacy here because they were very emphatic about preserving their history, Rice said. Because everyone's history is so important, African Americans, as well as other racial groups, should follow the Moravian example, he said.

"If you look at the Moravians, they were very meticulous in terms of their record keeping. That has not happened, to my knowledge, with African Americans..." he said.

The book, though, is a more than adequate start. Starting with the misery of slavery and stretching to the triumphs of the civil rights era, the book will take readers on a saga through a century that is nearly extinct.

Rice, Lenwood Davis and James McLaughlin each wrote three chapters. During the latter

half of the reception - after a handful of local notables called for a greater focus on black history in Winston-Salem - the men each presented a short slide show, briefly describing pictures from their respective chapters.

The images were brand new to the younger people in the room. Many of them sat silent and bewildered. But for the older set, the slide show jogged memories of places and faces they'd seen many times before.

When a picture of the old Lafayette movie theater was shown, it drew a sequence of head nods and hand claps from the crowd. Long gone now, the Lafayette, Dunbar and Lincoln theaters used to be the only places where blacks could take in a movie.

After the reception, one of the book's authors said the disappearance of black businesses over the years is a sad irony. In most cases the mom and pop grocery stores couldn't compete with the supermarkets and the forces of urban renewal and integration left many black companies in their wake, said Davis, who wrote the chapter on businesses.

"You'll really see a demise of black business over the years...It really is a shame," Davis said. "We made strides but we weren't able to continue because of factors we had no control of."

Davis says he hopes the book will serve as a motivational tool for young people. He wants them to see all the black entrepreneurs this city produced.

Some stories may be so mind-blowing that they may seem like fiction to young people, like the creation in the early 1900s of the Safe Bus Co., the largest black-owned transportation company in the world at the time.

"We will see that we, at one time, owned a variety of companies, (some) that they would never think of...They'll see that they can do other things besides the traditional (jobs)," Davis said.

McLaughlin said he hopes the book will help people see history not in bits and pieces but as a whole.

Among the chapters he wrote is one on entertainment. McLaughlin said even he was amazed to learn that internationally known performers, like Count Basie, brought their acts to the Twin City. They played in legendary concert halls like the Pepper Warehouse, and the performers brought out all of black Winston-Salem.

During his portion of the slide presentation, McLaughlin spotlighted a number of entertainers who were born here, from actress Jackie to Rolanda Watts, a former talk show host and journalist.

He also spoke about a number of not-so-well known local musicians, who in many cases sang, played or danced their way around the world.

"It will let young people know that there were African American performers before M.C. Hammer," McLaughlin said.

Understanding the music and

entertainers of bygone eras will be deja vu for many young people, he said.

"Everything that is going on now comes from what happened back then...It's all cyclical."

Members of SSAAH are anxiously awaiting the first printing of 2,500 copies of the book from the publishing company. Also eagerly awaiting the books are the more than 500 people who have already placed orders for it in advance. A table was set up at the reception to take advance orders; it saw a steady stream of visitors and cash

during the event.

The city/county school system is snatching up 25 copies of the book. A book will be placed in the libraries of each of the system's high schools and middle schools, Pam Frazier, the coordinator for the African American Infusion Project, said at the event.

Lewis said SSAAH is negotiating with several bookstores to carry the book. Thus far, Special Occasions is the only bookstore slated to carry it, Lewis said.

Proceeds from the book will be

used by SSAAH to help continue its mission of encouraging and stimulating interest in local black history. To that end, the group will mainly use the funds to help catalog, restore, preserve and store the many photographs, articles and memorabilia it has collected over the years.

The group is not shy about trying to sell the book. In a century where history has often been one-sided and slanted, SSAAH

believes the book is a missing link. "We are great people. We have (always) been great. We have just been left out," SSAAH member Virginia Newell said.

The price of a regular copy of the book is \$34.95. A limited edition of embossed, leather-bound books are available for \$100. To order an advance copy of "African Americans in Winston-Salem/Forsyth County: A Pictorial History," call Mel White, 721-7364

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