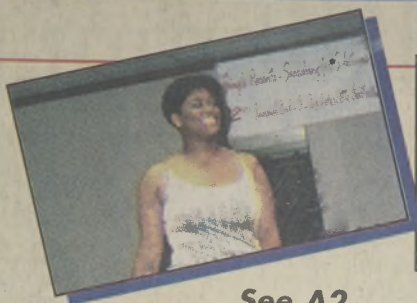


's Howard
es strong
compassion
award



See A2



See B1



See A8



See C1

Locals use poetry
to vent
System staffers to
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THE CHRONICLE

The Choice for African American News

THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2000

ng will LIFT for now

has won a major battle. The war, be fought. Wood last week denied the state of request to dissolve a temporary restraining order that was put into effect after the school announced plans to fight in court a decision to revoke its charter. If the judge had decided to dissolve the order, the state could have moved forward with plans to revoke the school's charter, essentially shutting down the school. Wood's decision means that the school will stay open at least until the end of the school year, by which time a trial date should

See LIFT on A9

l charge ng taken seriously'

Salem man and his bride decided to at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Charley expected was to be slapped in the omments. week after the Adam's Mark and its BE Corp., settled a discrimination AACP and the U.S. Department of eation of discrimination looms on and his wife spent two days at the ark. While they were in the hotel, a l the hotel extended them the court-stay. ound out their check card was over-onal check bounced. l about them overcharging my card anager (Scott Cornwall) said to me, think you're supposed to get some-ite said. "I was very offended by eorge Allison, executive director of or an Adam's Mark employee to ch as that after the settlement proves the lawsuit. e personnel in the Adam's Mark "lesson," he said. "That company

See Adam's Mark on A4



Winston-Salem Urban League president Delores Smith, second from left, shares a laugh with a few of the people on hand last week at the closing ceremony for Rites of Passage Mentor Training.

Photos by Kevin Walker

Speaker says blacks should embrace Africa

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

For an eager crowd at the Urban League last week, Moriba Kelsey shared the great history and traditions of Africa. He talked about the first people on Earth who lived on the continent; he said that its proud people were inventors, kings and queens and that Africa prided itself on the village concept, where every child belonged to every family and ever man and woman were brothers and sisters.

Kelsey juxtaposed his remarks about Africa with a commentary on the state of African Americans. The difference between the Africa that "enslaved" blacks left and the one their descendants live in today is as vast as the ocean that separates the two lands, he said.

But Kelsey told the crowd that it wasn't too late for blacks in this country to embrace their history and African culture.

"Cultures are very interesting things. It takes thousands of years for a culture to develop," he said. "(We have only) been here 400 years. We have not even begun to wipe out (African) culture yet."

Kelsey, the clinical director of the Afrocentric Personal Development Shop in Columbus, Ohio,

was in town to give the keynote speech at a ceremony celebrating the latest batch of adults who completed the Rites of Passage Mentor Training.

The Winston-Salem Urban League has offered the national training program since 1993. Rites of Passage matches adult mentors with young men or women.

Seven years ago, Kelsey taught employees of the local Urban League how to administer the training during a certification workshop at Howard University. Kelsey is also a professor emeritus at Ohio State University.

Before Kelsey began his speech, he asked permission from the oldest person in the room, which at 74 turned out to himself. Asking the eldest elder is an African tradition that instills respect in youngsters.

"It's a tradition that we could use in this country, Kelsey said. Today, he continued, it is often hard to distinguish who are the parents and who are the children.

"If a person is one day older, you have to give them respect," Kelsey said, as many in the crowd showed their agreement with applause.

Kelsey went on to say that

See Mentors on A4



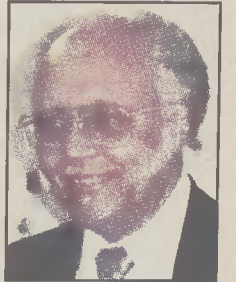
Moriba Kelsey talks about Africa's rich history.



Delores Smith welcomes the crowd to the Urban League.

NBC head calls for reform

BY SHARON BROOKS
SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE



Rev. Shaw

BURLINGTON - For the past six months, the Rev. William J. Shaw has been trying to bridge internal divisions and restore the tarnished image of the nation's largest black church group.

In September, Shaw was elected to the most powerful position in the National Baptist Convention. Recently, he visited the Triad and brought a message to NBC members and supporters.

"I want us to be a convention that is fully accountable to God, to the public and to ourselves," said Shaw, president of the National Baptist Convention. In an interview with The Chronicle before speaking to a full sanctuary at New Birth Baptist Church in Burlington, Shaw said that he is committed to "working towards a cultural change within the life of the convention."

Shaw's election last fall to the presidency of the National Baptist Convention followed the conviction of the Rev. Henry Lyons, who was sentenced to 5 1/2 years in prison. Lyons resigned after being found guilty of swindling \$4 million from organizations and businesses and using the money to live in luxury.

Shaw, who defeated 10 others seeking the NBC presidency in September, campaigned on a platform of reform. He pledged to restructure the organization's management and increase financial accountability. His "VISA" campaign promised to focus the NBC's energy toward "vision, integrity, structure and accountability."

Steps already are being taken to bring about the promised changes, said Shaw.

"We've done two or three things. We have attempted to set the tone for a period of self-emptying, so that there

See Shaw on A4

Gilley may get WSSU job permanently

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Phil Gilley wasn't exactly welcomed to Winston-Salem State University with open arms last summer. The longtime state auditor was handpicked by University of North Carolina President Molly Broad to help the university straighten out its finances.

To some of the school's most vocal alumni, Gilley was the ultimate outsider - a white clean-up man sent to a historically black university to save it from financial ruin.

They also objected to the fact that Gilley reported directly to Broad, not Alvin Schexnider, WSSU's chancellor at the time.

At the time of his arrival, Broad said that Gilley

See Gilley on A5

Festival promotes beauty of diversity

BY PAUL COLLINS
THE CHRONICLE

Tina Yarborough, a dance instructor for Otesha Creative Arts Ensemble, found a receptive group of college-age students - white, black and Oriental - when she began teaching an African dance workshop Friday as part of the International Festival Series at Wake Forest University.

As two drummers from Otesha Creative Arts Ensemble played, Yarborough led the students through warmups and stretches as she began to demonstrate a variety of dance moves. The students imitated her moves, slowly at first, and then picked up speed. Yarborough occasionally shouted to the beats as she danced across a wide area of the floor. She put the students at ease - calling them by their first names, moments after first meeting them. She had an easy laugh.

At one point, she told the students to

imagine themselves as an African village, sticking closely together as the danced across the length of the large floor in the Benson University Center.

During a break, one of the drummers - Hashim Saleh, director of Otesha Creative Arts Ensemble - said the group was founded in 1972 and currently has seven dancers and five musicians. "We travel around the country, colleges, churches," he said. "Five of us are going to West Africa tomorrow (April 1)." The group members will be in Gambia and Senegal for two weeks.

"We're going to study, live with the people, different villages," Saleh said. "It's more educational than anything."

"It's going to be like a spiritual connection," he said.

He said group members will do research on their ancestry while in West Africa and even plan to visit the same vil-

See Festival on A5



Photos by Paul Collins

Otesha Creative Arts Ensemble performs traditional African dance.



Women try out a few African dance steps during Wake Forest's International Festival Series last week.