

CVB tour to explore city's black side

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The Winston-Salem Convention and Visitors Bureau is gearing up for the 2003 National Black Theatre Festival by conducting a VIP tour of Winston-Salem that will highlight African-American contributions and venues on July 16. The tour promises a day filled with tons of sight-seeing of the city's attractions.

"The Umoja Experience: African-American Art, Culture and Heritage" will begin with an African-American walking tour of Old Salem and St. Philips Church followed by tours of the Historic Oak Grove School, Museum of Anthropology, Winston-Salem State University's Diggs Gallery, Delta Arts Center and the Special Occasions Bookstore.

The tour will stop for lunch at Meta's, a Southern cuisine restaurant in downtown Winston-Salem.

According to the bureau, the tour will provide essential information for visitors, newcomers and others who desire the history of this community.

The cost of the tour, transportation and lunch is \$15. Registration forms are due by July 11.



Dozens of people packed the Central Library auditorium for the program.

Reck

from page A1

power." The letter also urged that the United States be more "assertive" in the Middle East.

Reck also cited an even more eye-opening report from 2000, in which the group predicted that changes in the Middle East would come slowly unless there was a "catastrophic and catalyzing event, like a new Pearl Harbor."

"Sept. 11 changed everything," said Reck, who believes that the terrorist attacks gave the Bush administration the thumbs-up from the American people to finally implement plans that were brewing for years.

Reck stopped short of accusing White House officials of knowing about Sept. 11 before it happened, but when an audience member asked Reck about his

thoughts on the theory, he did not not completely rule it out.

"I certainly agree there was a...breakdown of U.S. intelligence. It is hard to believe that such a breakdown could have occurred," he said.

Calling dissenters the most patriotic Americans, Reck urged the audience to not be silent. He encouraged audience members to talk about the chinks in the Bush administration's armor with anyone who will listen. Reck said it may be the only way that those who are not buying what Bush is selling have to get their message out. Although mainstream mass news media, including ABC, have found and reported on the PNAC documents, Reck said for the most part mainstream media seem content with the status quo.

"If we dare to differ and dare to dream, we will be victorious," Reck said.

There was no mistaking that Reck was preaching to the converted. Members of the multiracial crowd, which included several Muslims, already have serious doubts about Bush and America's foreign policy. One member of the audience did disagree with Reck and much of what he had to say. The man called for people on all sides of the political spectrum to stop the name calling and demonizing.

Reck said he is not anti-government or anti-American. He said he's deeply compelled to speak out because the direction in which the country is heading is stealing the democracy on which it was built and not making the United States any new friends overseas.

"I love this country and I think it has tremendous potential, but I have real (concerns) for what is happening in this country," Reck said.



Members of the Broadus family descended on Winston-Salem last week. The family came from all over the country for a family reunion that was held over several days. The reunion included many activities, including a tour of The Chronicle. Here the family takes a minute to pose for a picture in The Chronicle's production department.

NAACP

from page A1

but are illegal and could lead to jail time.

The NAACP gets about a dozen letters each week from the Forsyth County Jail, mostly from young black men who want help getting out of the criminal justice system. Stephen Hairston hopes Community Patrol will help nip the growing problem in the bud.

"If (these young people) don't talk to us now, they will talk to us when they get to jail," Stephen Hairston said.

Community Patrol came to the East First Street area after Stephen Hairston attended a recent neighborhood meeting where several elderly people who live in the area complained about drugs being sold on street corners and late-night gun fire. Stephen Hairston spent more than two decades on the Winston-Salem police force but the Community Patrol is not some type of police force designed to confront wrongdoers.

"We are not here to jump on anyone. My police days are over," Stephen Hairston said.

Community Patrol is in its infancy. East First Street was just the second neighborhood



Stephen, left, and Patrick Hairston walk along 1st Street.

that has been hit so far.

Stephen Hairston and Patrick Hairston, a former NAACP president, make up the chapter's Community Patrol for now.

"Every million miles starts with two steps, and we are starting those steps," Stephen Hairston said.

Other members of the NAACP have expressed interest in walking neighborhoods along with the Hairstons.

Patrick Hairston led the NAACP in the late 1970s through local school integration and high-profile employment discrimination cases. But he said the issues that

Community Patrol is trying to address are just as pressing.

"We need to try to reach these young people now because it will be too late for us to do anything when they get (to the courthouse)," Patrick Hairston said.

Patrick Hairston, who is still active in the NAACP, said the patrols also will give the NAACP a chance to monitor substandard housing and give residents a chance to see what their NAACP is all about.

"We are not going to stop. We are going to be here, there and everywhere," Patrick Hairston said.



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