

WSSU board chair lands part in movie

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD
THE CHRONICLE

Thomas E. Terrell Jr., recently switched gears from reading law cases to reading a movie script. Terrell, a Greensboro attorney and chairman of the board of trustees at Winston-Salem State University, will appear in the upcoming horror film "Cabin Fever," which is set to be released Sept. 12.

In the movie, Terrell will play the part of a physician who treats five friends — all of them recent college grads — for a mysterious but deadly illness they came in contact with during a weekend getaway in a remote cabin.

The movie stars up-and-coming young actors Jordan Ladd, daughter of Cheryl Ladd, star of television's "Charlie's Angels"; Rider Strong; Cerina Vincent; Joey Kern; and James DeBello.

Terrell, who handles zoning cases in Guilford County, works for Smith Helms LLP law firm in Greensboro. He



Actress Cerina Vincent in a scene from "Cabin Fever."

Photo courtesy of Lion's Gate Films

has been a member of the WSSU board of trustees for the last four years.

The movie was filmed throughout the Triad, said Terrell, including on his family's 900-acre farm in Trinity, over the course of about a week. A High Point production company told the film crew about the Terrell farm as a potential location for the shoot. The farm, which has been in the

Terrell family for almost 50 years, boasts nearly 300 cows.

"They allowed me to get behind the camera and observe the filming," Terrell said. "There's a scene where a pig is slaughtered in a barn that I helped to build."

The farm's rustic features and vast land, said Terrell, are what he believes made the location so appealing to the film producers.

"The places where they would film (on the farm) were very accessible to trucks and equipment and cameras and lights," Terrell said. "It's filled with beautiful woods and hills and fields."

During filming, Terrell said, he got to know the director, Eli Roth, who then asked him to play the doctor role in a few scenes.

"I love the stage. I love

theater, but my work has never given me a chance to pursue my interest," Terrell said. "When the opportunity came, I readily accepted. I thoroughly enjoyed it. I would have played anything they asked...It was that much fun," Terrell said.

The rest of Terrell's family got in on the act, literally, with his brothers Richard and Bill along with some friends landing roles as bluegrass performers in the film as well.

"I took all of the cast and crew to a rather seedy place where my brothers play bluegrass, and for these citified Californians it was the neatest thing they'd ever seen or done. They liked it so much they asked several of the musicians to be in the movie," Terrell said.

Although Terrell is not a fan of horror flicks, he said he does plan to see this one at the movies. He said he has no plans to apply for a Screen Actors Guild card or to pursue other acting gigs on the side.

"I would love to do it again. I would love to do something like this again in a moment," Terrell said.

"Cabin Fever" will premiere at the Carolina Theatre in Greensboro on Sept. 6. Several of the leading actors will attend the film's opening.

Meals will try dinner fund-raisers

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Meals-on-Wheels is recruiting hosts and hostesses with the most to entertain for a good cause. From now until the end of the year, people can host an Edible Evenings dinner party to generate funds for the volunteer food network.

Meals-on-Wheels brings hot food into the homes of more than 600 elderly Forsyth County people who are unable to cook for themselves. More than 100 seniors, some at risk for malnutrition, are on a waiting list to receive meals on one of the 48 routes.

Be it a small gathering of close friends or neighborhood block party, a rookie grill master or certified chef, guests of the parties are each asked to bring a donation. All money raised will go toward the senior clients who are on the waiting list.

Invitations and party favors will be provided to those who host the dinner parties. The goal is to raise at least \$40,000 through Edible Evenings.

To sign up as a host, call 748-5932 or visit www.EdibleEvenings.org.

Victory's partnerships maximize customer benefits

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Officials with Victory-Masonic Mutual Credit Union say innovative partnerships with different Winston-Salem organizations have enabled the credit union to give its members a high level of customer service.

"We are continuing the credit union's 50-year effort to extend affordable financial services to consumers in the Winston-Salem area, particularly African-American and Latino members. Victory is constantly looking for new ways to help people realize their dreams and enjoy a better quality of life," explained Lafayette Jones, Victory board chairman.

Jones has volunteered at the credit union for more than 13 years and took over as chairman, an unpaid position, about 6 years ago. The credit union has nearly 2,000 members, and Jones said Victory is committed to proactively forming new partnerships throughout the community so it can get the resources needed to offer members more wealth-building services.

Victory enjoys a number of diverse alliances. It has a six-year partnership with Truliant Federal Credit Union that has resulted in technical support, computerization and staff training. This translates into a new branch in the 5 Star International Market on Waughtown Street, the new Bill Paying Center where members can electronically pay bills of up to 100 different vendors at Victory, such as J.C. Penny, Sprint PCS, Duke Power and Dish Network Direct TV. There is a bilingual staff to service the growing Latino members. In exchange, Victory offers loan services to Truliant customers.

Victory and the Babcock Foundation have teamed up to train members how to launch a successful business. The Babcock Foundation awarded Victory a two-year grant of \$150,000 to empower members with practical business tools. Graduates can then help continue the cycle of fueling economic growth, especially in the black community and create new jobs.

Victory has joined forces

with the Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) by securing a \$310,000 grant. Now Victory members can get up to 97 percent loan to value on first-time home purchases and free training on how to buy a new home.



Jones

The N.C. Minority Support Center distributed a \$2 million grant to the state's community credit unions. Victory received \$400,000, which also funded new mortgage programs, staff training and informational pieces about services available to all Victory members.

"No one is born knowing how to best manage finances. We're here to create the ideal environment where members can use and control their own money in order to improve their economic and social condition,"

said Jones.

North Carolina has 24 community-based credit unions and member's savings are federally insured for up to \$100,000.

Victory came on the scene in Winston-Salem April 18, 1946, and filled a financial void for African-Americans by offering low-interest loans and a good return on savings. A group of visionaries from Winston-Salem's black community, including William M. Nesby, Robert A. Miller, O.A. Brown, Rev. Harry A. Smith, and others secured the community-based charter from the state of North Carolina. Victory became the first black-owned and operated

credit union in Forsyth County servicing anyone living or working within a 50-mile radius of Winston-Salem.

Other benefits from these partnerships include: free credit counseling and budget management, helping members re-establish their credit and ATM services with several surcharge-free cash points in Winston-Salem.

According to Jones, these changes are a natural progression and Victory will continue finding better ways to service this community. "Working with our members to help them achieve their dreams...this is our greatest partnership."

Liberty

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Local Initiatives Support Corp. (LISC) and the Winston-Salem Foundation. But business owners along the street say the fruits of the CDC's four-year effort to improve Liberty have been few and far between.

Jerome Gadson opened the Golden Stag Lounge the same year the CDC was formed. He said the street is in desperate need of a makeover. Gadson is a big critic of the panhandlers and prostitutes who work the street.

"I deal with an older crowd, and sometimes the older crowd is scared to come out to my business. People need to feel safe when they come out," Gadson said.

Shaw said the refocused CDC has given itself five years to turn around Liberty. A large part of the changes will involve convincing businesses already on the street to do a little sprucing up. Shaw said officials will especially make a push to service station owners along the street to get rid of abandoned cars and other eyesores. Plans also include recruiting new businesses and promoting the area through annual events such as street festivals.

The CDC plans to open an office on the street, and the organization is behind a proposed fresh market that may open in a few weeks near the intersection of 14th and Liberty streets. The barren space also would be a great spot for street vendors along Liberty to all converge to sell their wares, Shaw said.

Shaw knows a thing or two about how a vitalized Liberty Street is supposed to look. He owned a service station on Liberty from 1967 to 1984. Shaw said the Liberty Street that he and Williams remember can be



Photo by Kevin Walker

Christopher Astrop looks at a map of Liberty Street after last week's news conference for the Liberty CDC.

brought back to life, but it won't be easy and it won't be cheap. The CDC hopes to use a combination of public and private dollars to help fund its dreams.

City Council member Vivian Burke said the city owes it to Liberty Street — which the city's airport, calls home — to put it higher on the priority list. In recent years, the city has sunk millions of dollars and lots of energy into the heart of downtown. Burke admitted that the boom on Fourth Street has come at the expense of Liberty and other areas of the city.

"I surely do not think that we have been as generous when we think about Liberty Street," she said.

Burke has encouraged the CDC's new board and leaders to attend City Council and

Finance Committee meetings to aggressively lobby for their cause. Burke said she believes the desire is there on the council to support the CDC's effort. There are also long-dormant plans to create a business/industrial park off of Liberty Street, near the airport that Burke said she also supports.

"Where there is an airport, we should make that a very nice part of our city," she said.

Williams is keeping his fingers crossed that all the talk about change is just not lip service. He has heard grandiose dreams for Liberty Street being tossed around many times before. He is optimistic but guarded.

"It will be a good thing — if they do what they are talking about," he said.

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