

G'boro sit-in museum gets two new leaders

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Following a national search, the Sit-in Movement Inc. has appointed a new executive director and deputy director for the International Civil Rights Center and Museum.

Amelia Parker - a senior management, communications, governmental and international affairs consultant in Washington, D.C. - will serve as the executive director.



Parker

Robert Haynes, deputy director/curator of education for the African American Museum in Dallas, Texas, will be named deputy director. They will assume their positions Feb. 16.

"We are delighted that Ms. Parker and Mr. Haynes have agreed to take on these key leadership roles," said Melvin "Skip" Alston, chairman of the Sit-In Movement Inc. and Guilford County commissioner. "With their wealth of knowledge they will be a great asset to the Sit-In Movement Inc."

Parker served for 10 years

as executive director of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), where she was responsible for the overall management of member and constituent activities, congressional testimony, special events, and public information.

Haynes has worked at several museums, including the African American Museum and Library at Oakland in Northern California, where he served as executive director and senior curator. He was an assistant director and registrar for The Northern California Center for Afro-American History and Life and curatorial aide and docent for the Oakland Museum of California.

Money is still being raised to complete the International Civil Rights Center and Museum, which will be opened in the former Woolworth Building in downtown Greensboro. Four black students from N.C. A&T State University held a sit-in at the Woolworth lunch counter in 1960.

High hopes for Buy Black Weekend

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD THE CHRONICLE

Stephen Hairston, president of the local NAACP, has been busy spreading the word about the Buy Black Weekend so that people will spend their dollars with black businesses this weekend.

Over the last few weeks, Hairston has met with members of the Ministers Conference, the Black Chamber of Commerce and other community leaders who he says have all responded positively to his idea. Hairston plans to dine at Prime Tyme on Clemmonsville Road and do some shopping downtown at Body & Soul on Saturday.

"A number of black busi-

nesses have called me and said they think it's a good idea. I hope everything goes well this weekend," said Hairston.

Hairston proposed the concept earlier this month. A number of black business owners, said Hairston, have complained in recent times of a lack of patronage from the black community.

Bonnie Ferrell, owner of The Agora on Trade Street, would love to see more customers at her downtown dress shop. She hopes the Buy Black Weekend becomes an annual event in the community.

"I sure hope it helps. It definitely could not hurt. We just don't get a lot of black people down here unless there is something special going on (downtown)," said Ferrell.

While Ferrell does have some white customers, the majority of her repeat clientele are blacks. She feels the Buy Black Weekend is necessary for black business owners like herself who aren't able to advertise on a regular basis.

"Most small businesses period just don't have the money to

advertise like we need to and I know that's part of the problem, but what can you do?" Ferrell said.

Traci A. King owns a multi-ethnic, full service salon on Burke Street, The Studio, and she is expecting the weekend to be a financial success.

"I think if we can continue to support these small businesses, then we'll start to see other people step out on faith and try to open businesses themselves," said King. "I'm all for it and I'm glad that the city is standing behind this."

For a list of other black owned businesses in Winston-Salem see page C5.



Hairston

Hunt

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said he would like to see some type of organization formed to help such people.

"There is life after Darryl," Mendez said. "There are a lot of innocent people in prison. We have to find a way to deal with them. Darryl survived because he did have a lot of support and a lot of legal persons involved who made some ultimate sacrifices, but, of course, they

can't do that for everybody."

The Hunt case has many people taking a closer look at the judicial system. Two separate juries convicted Hunt, an African-American, of murdering and raping Sykes, who was white. Hunt spent nearly two decades in prison. He always maintained his innocence, but it took DNA to get Hunt off the hook. DNA taken from the crime scene was matched to another man late last year. The match set the wheels in motion for Hunt's

release from prison on Christmas Eve. Friday, Hunt's ties to the criminal justice system were officially severed after a hearing in which prosecutors admitted that many mistakes were made in the case.

Although Hunt is free, the city, in many ways, is still bound by the Hunt case, which caused a racial divide, with many blacks supporting Hunt and his claim of innocence while many whites thought Hunt did it. Like many people, Mayor Pro Tem Vivian Burke was happy to learn that Hunt was exonerated. But she says the city still has to come to terms with what happened to Hunt.

"It still has a cloud over this city," she said. "A man served 19 years because people did not look at things as close as they should have." Burke, who heads the city's Public Safety Committee, has

asked the Police Department to review how it handled the Hunt case and report its findings to the City Council.

The city has also taken the lead in trying to make sure that the mistakes made in the Hunt case will never be repeated and in trying to put Band-Aids on old wounds.

Mayor Allen Joines recently brought together community leaders and law enforcement officials for a pow-wow about the Hunt case. Mendez, who was among the group, said the meeting was productive. He said the group is looking to incorporate more voices in future discussions, including representatives from the Jewish, Hispanic and Muslim communities.

Joines, who organized the meeting which was held in private, said last week that future meetings and forums will be open to the public.



Mendez

Livingstone

from page A1

tion. In 2002, Livingstone became home to one of only 20 Science, Engineering, Mathematics and Aerospace Academies. In conjunction with NASA, the academies will aim to get more African-Americans involved in science and technology.

Adena Williams Loston - associate administrator for education at NASA - said NASA is depending on school's like Livingstone - one of only two historically black schools in the state with a SEMAA program - to produce the next generation of black astronauts and engineers.

"We look to Livingstone College to prepare, inspire, motivate, energize and produce the next generation of moon walkers," she said. Fittingly, the first-ever black man to walk in space was on the school's campus last week to speak at a SEMMA symposium. Bernard Harris, who made history when he walked in space in the 1990s, spent his time at the school motivating students, telling them that the sky is not necessarily the limit.

"If you are going to dream, dream the biggest dream you can. That is what I did," he said. "God allowed me and us to go from the slave ship to the spaceship."

Lerone Bennett, a social historian and longtime Ebony magazine writer, was also on hand last week to help the school celebrate its birthday. Bennett said he had always admired Livingstone from afar. He also praised the Rev. J.C. Price, Livingstone's founding president, saying he "has always been a fan of J.C. Price," Bennett, who received an honorary degree during the Founders Day ceremony, told students and Livingstone leaders that in a time when "Jim Crowism is masquerading as conservatism" African-Americans should follow in the footsteps of other blacks who endured through times of great racial and economic oppression.

"We have got to go back to our future by redirecting ourselves to (the message of) Du Bois, Thurgood Marshall...and Bethune."



Photo by Kevin Walker

From left: Lerone Bennett, Bernard Harris, Adena Williams Loston, Bishop Cecil Bishop and Dr. Algeania Freeman watch the procession during a Founders Day event.

Bishop Cecil Bishop, senior bishop of the AME Zion Church and chairman of the Livingstone board of trustees, said Livingstone has the task of educating African-Americans so superiorly that they will be able to overcome the forces of injustice. It is a mission, Bishop said, that the school had from its inception, near the end of the Civil War.

"The next chapter must be written on how to overcome ignorance, selfishness, injustice and indifference," he said. "Black folks are still the last hired and the first fired."

Bishop said the school should

not be simply educating students about the ABCs but also about working together and reaching back to help others along.

"You would not have done very much until you help someone," he told students and staff members.

Livingstone also presented a honorary degree to Ronald Leeper, president of Charlotte-based R.J. Leeper Construction Co. Inc. Leeper has been instrumental in the recent renovation of the Livingstone campus.

Abdul S.M. Rasheed also received an honorary degree. Rasheed is head of N.C. Commu-

nity Development Initiative. Rasheed helped Livingstone secure a \$50,000 grant for an agriculture survey of the school's campus.

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