Butts to keynote Greensboro Four anniversary events

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

N.C. Agricultural and Technical State University will sponsor its annual Sit-In Breakfast to pay tribute to the four A&T freshmen who initiated the chain of events that changed the destiny of minorities in this country

The 46th Sit-In Anniversar Celebration will kick off with a breakfast Wednesday, Feb. 1. 6:30 a.m. Williams Cafeteria. theme Reconnecting the Past... Establishing Present... Shaping the Future.' On Feb. 1, 1960,

Ezell Blair (now Jibreel Khazan), Franklin McCain, Joseph McNeil and the late David Richmond requested service at the segregated lunch counter of the F.W. Woolworth store in downtown Greensboro. Their courageous act against the existing laws and social mores sparked the Civil Rights Movement and resulted in provisions that enhanced the quality of life for minorities in this country.

The A&T Four (Greensboro Four) will make remarks at the event.

The keynote speaker for the celebration will be the Rev. Dr. Calvin O. Butts III. Butts is pastor of the nationally renowned Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York and president of SUNY College at Old Westbury. He was one of the

Development Corp., a comprehensive community-based organization, responsible for more than \$500 million in housing and commercial development in Harlem, and continues to help guide and support the daily operation of

the not-for-profit organization. He was also

instrumental in the establishment of Thurgood Marshall Academy for Learning and Social Change - a lower, intermediate and high school, under the direction of the corporation.

Butts has spearheaded boycotts against several New York institutions for their racist policies and employment discrimination. He led a nationally acclaimed and most effective campaign in eliminating negative billboard advertising in Central Harlem and many communities around New York

Immediately after the breakfast, a memorial wreath will be placed at the February One Monument.

At 3 p.m. a Sit-In roundtable discussion with the A&T Four will take place in the Memorial Student Union Stallings Ballroom

The activities for the 46th Anniversary Sit-In Celebration are free and open to the public For more information, call (336) 334-7791.

Watson

Watson also has plans to give back through the ERA Piedmont's headquarters. If all goes accordingly, the office will serve as a real estate school for future agents to get the necessary tools to pass the state exam and flourish in the industry. The office will also feature a construction department.

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She and ERA are also offering a settle plan, stating that if they don't sell your home once it's up on the market in 180 days, the ERA will purchase the property. "It's an awesome pro-gram," Watson added.

Contact Tammy Watson at (336) 499-0945 or tammy.watson1@era.com. Look out for the new site erapiedmontrealty.com or stop by the new office at 505 High St.

NBJC

After his speech, Sharpton told reporters that it is every church's obligation to help end the "poisoned atmosphere" surrounding accept-ance of homosexuals. "The church should have a

front seat in the car leading

toward dialogue, leading toward tol-erance," Sharpton

In 2004, a predominantly black Atlanta church Martin Luther King Jr.'s daughter Bernice serves as an elder held a march calling for a

national ban on gay marriage. organizer, Bishop Eddie Long, said his followers "did not come in a march of hatred." Regardless, the event - which started with Bernice King lighting a torch at her father's tomb - didn't well with gay rights

King's widow, Coretta Scott King, has called gay

marriage a civil rights issue

and denounced proposed amendments to ban it. "History has shown that every time a church has gone on the side of exclusion, they have been wrong," said Pat Hussein, a local activist and summit participant.
"Hopefully there can be summit things made right."

The Rev. Kenneth Samuel, pastor of Baptist Church in the Atlanta suburb of Stone Mountain, said he hopes for mutual respect through the discussions about homosexuality. received a standing ovation at the sum mit when he called for equality for all

people, regardless of their sexual orientation, and an end to hate crimes targeting homosexuals.

"These are heart-wrenching issues," Samuel said. Anytime we talk to people about identity or sense of values, we have to address them with passion and intellect along with their spirituality."



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EWPS

due process. For example at a hearing in early 2004, where EWPS appealed the revocation of its charter to the State Board of Education, the school was not allowed to present all of its witnesses and not properly given access to the state's evidence and witness list, the decision says.

"We are happy with the decision and look forward to opening the school again, said Min. Mikal Muhammad, the chairman of the school's board. Muhammad said a new seven-member board for the school is already in place and sites are being considered for EWPS. The school's old building on 14th Street had been sold after the revocation. school's

At its height, East Winston Primary had about 200 stu-dents, most of them African-American, and a capable staff of teachers and school leaders. Muhammad said he and others will work hard to get all of

Jimmie Bonham, the school's former director, said he will leave it up to the school's board to determine if he will return to the school. Many of the state's issues with revolved Bonham. The state alleged that he asked a school employee to inflate the school's student numbers in order to get more state funding, Bonham was also accused of making questionable charges on the school's American Express

But the judge concluded that the allegations against Bonham were all smoke and no fire. The judge said that many of those who made alle-

mismanagement is not proof mismanagement.... Concerns do not equate to wrongdoing," the decision

Bonham, whom supporters credited with making EWPS a success, says he does feel some vindication from the decision but that he is more concerned about the future of

"Justice has been served partially, but we have not been made whole," he said. Bonham said wholeness will when the

dents were happy and productive.

Muhammad has claimed from the beginning that the Office of Charter Schools had a pervendetta sonal against the school. He says the judge's decision confirms that the

office was not acting on pro-Otho Tucker, who served

director of the Office of Charter Schools during EWPS' revocation process, is no longer with the office. Many of those who worked under Tucker have also left the

State Reps. Larry Womble and Earline Parmon say they want whoever is in the Office of Charter Schools to do a better job in the future

I am concerned with some these findings," said non, who chairs the se's K-12 Education

Committee. The legislators have put in calls regarding the court decision Howard Lee, the chairman of the State Board Education, and State Superintendent June Atkinson.

"We expect that the State Board of Education and superintendent

would read these findings of the Administrative Court and really digest it and see how we can better serve our students; said Parmon.

Parmon says she had concerns about the state education system long before she was elected to the General Assembly. Her own charter school, LIFT Academy, had its

charter revoked six years ago She also fought the decision in court. Parmon said her own personal experiences with LIFT have never clouded her duties as a legislator, but her concerns persist. She says she has received complaints from schools across the state that have had their charters yanked by the state.

Womble appears that African-American charter schools are getting their charters revoked frequently than other schools. He wants the state, when possible, to do a better job of working with schools on issues that could lead to revocation.

"I don't think that revocation should be the first line of defense," he said.

A spokesperson for the Department of Justice, which argued the case for the state, said the department could not comment on the

A representative from the State Board of Education could not be reached before press time

ANNOUNCEMENT

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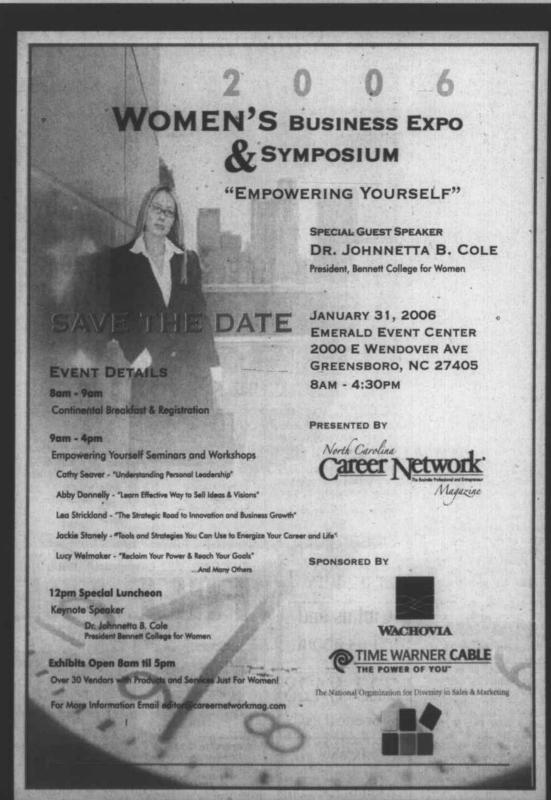
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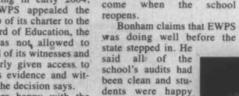
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gations against Bonham were not credible.

"A suggestion of alleged