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Survivor of Holocaust shares her ordeal

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Sci-fi party draws fun crowd

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Powell

Churches urged to start sex dialogue

BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE

As the war against the spread of HIV/AIDS and other STDs rages on, and unwanted pregnancies continue to plague our society, many churches have stayed on the sidelines, uncharacteristically quiet about issues of sex and sexuality.



Melvin

"I think we've kind of been sleeping on it, we've been like the sleeping giant," Michele Powell, pastor of Discipleship and Leadership Development at Winston-Salem First (formerly First Assembly of God), said of the faith community. "I think that we've sat back and tried to let the government and other people tackle what really is the church's responsibility."

Not anymore. The Rev. Dr. Seth O. Lartey, pastor of Goler Memorial AME Zion Church in Winston-Salem, has decided to get in the game, so to speak, envisioning a leadership luncheon to encourage honest dialogue among community members of varying social and religious backgrounds - a dialogue that he hopes will evolve into a collective understanding of the

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Smiles in Motion

Dental van brings smiles to low-income residents

BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE

Nearly 50 young children took advantage of a rather unique opportunity to receive dental care last week. They clamored on board of the "Bright Smiles, Bright Futures" van parked just outside of the Forsyth County Department of Public Health.



Diller

The bus is equipped with everything one might find at a traditional dentist's office, and decorated inside and out with brightly colored graphics designed to make children feel at ease.

More than just a mobile attraction, the Bright Smiles van provides a valuable service to the community, Director of Operations and Co-Coordinator Jasper

Moody says.

"I have kids myself and this is one of the best things that I've seen come along in a long time," he commented. "I'm glad to be a part of it."

Sponsored by Colgate and Family Dollar stores, the bus travels across North and South Carolina and parts of Virginia, providing free dental screenings and referrals to children who need them. It is one of eight such vehicles in the nation. The van's most recent visit was well received by Winston-Salem residents.

"We had kids waiting here when we got here," said



Photo by Layla Farmer

Abner Olivares gets an examination last week on the Bright Smiles van.

Moody. "For us to pull up and see 15 kids outside, it's great; it's really great."

The mobile facility has two dental chairs and a waiting area complete with a bench and television. Founded in 1991, "Bright Smiles Bright Futures" is part of a larger effort the Colgate-Palmolive Company is making to improve dental health worldwide. This is the fourth time this year the van has visited the city, Moody says. The van will return again next month, for a spree of events at Family Dollar stores, starting Nov. 3.

The van visited the health department at the request of Kelly Diller, a public health dental hygienist in the Oral Health Section. Diller says she was hopeful that the van would be able to reach a segment of the community she and others have had difficulty getting to in the past.

"In general, just in this particular area and at the health department, this is a hard to access population," stated Diller, who says that kids receiving benefits

See Dental on A12

Changing of the guard at Black Rep

Two longtime supporters will lead agency

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

It will be up to two women to try to fill the shoes of one heck of a man.

The North Carolina Black Repertory Company (NCBRC) this week announced that Geraldine "Gerry" Patton has been hired as the new executive director of the Black Rep, the state's first African-American theater company. Mabel Robinson has been pegged as the Black Rep's artistic director.

Their appointments come more than four months after the death of Larry Leon Hamlin, the man who founded the Black



File Photos

Gerry Patton, center, with Melba Lindsay, left, and Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin at a NBTF event in July.

Rep and used it to launch the (NBTF), an event that brings National Black Theatre Festival acclaimed stage productions,

droves of famous faces and millions of dollars to the city every two years. Hamlin served as both the Black Rep's ED and artistic director. Due to a extended illness, Hamlin had not been active for a year prior to his death. The NCBRC Board had appointed Cheryl Oliver as the interim executive director.

Patton and Robinson, both longtime supporters of the Black Rep and National Black Theatre Festival, were actually hired last month by the N.C. Black Repertory Company Board of Directors.

Patton is a past president of the NCBRC Guild, an organization that performs community service projects and works to raise money for the theater company. For more than a dozen years, Patton has worked with



Mabel Robinson

See NCBRC on A11

Renowned motivator to parents: take school seriously

BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE

Mychal Wynn made it against all odds. A low-achieving, African-American boy growing up in poverty during the tumultuous times of the Civil Rights Era, Wynn's mantra that "every child can learn," has a much deeper meaning behind it.

Once a successful systems design analyst, Wynn left his lucrative, corporate lifestyle behind, to pursue his dream of writing and inspiring others to achieve greatness. To date, he has published 17 books and trained more than 100,000 teachers across the nation.

He spoke to a group of parents, students and staff at Konnoak Elementary Tuesday night, as part of the school's VIP Family night.

According to Konnoak Principal Jay Jones, the purpose of VIP Night is to, "bring our parents into our schools. It gives an opportunity for our parents to see what's going on in our school, meet some of the teachers, talk to the teachers about different curriculum issues that we're dealing with."



Photo by Layla Farmer

Mychal Wynn speaks at Konnoak.

"It's just a good way to open the school up for our parents," he added.

Wynn spent the day with Konnoak faculty and staff, ending with a special talk aimed at the parents who came out for the occasion. His lively presentation was centered around the success rates, or lack thereof, of African-American and other minority students. Citing the dismal facts, he dared parents to help their children beat the odds.

"You have to hold your children to the very highest standards," he remarked. "Your children should be encouraged to master the elementary school experience."

Academic excellence starts early, says Wynn, who lives in Georgia.

"As parents, we've got to be more in touch with the importance of academics early on," he told the audience. "We've got to take what happens in kindergarten, first and second grade seriously."

Wynn, considers himself to be from the "old school." He is a strong proponent of discipline and determination.

"We need children to work harder.

See Konnoak on A12

DOGGONE!!!

Photo by Todd Luck

Whitney Long is trying to convert her natural love for dogs into a profitable business. She just opened a dog daycare. Here she is with one of her clients, Mickey. Read more on A14.



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