

# Area author releases book about Obamas' dog search

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Carole Boston Weatherford, an award-winning children's book author who lives in the Triad, has released her latest work, "First Pooch: The Obamas Pick a Pet."

The book follows Malia and Sasha Obama's quest for a puppy from the campaign trail to the White House. With good humor, the text notes previous presidential promises and pets, as well as the whimsical duties of a first dog - from greeting heads of states to guarding the Rose Garden. Sprinkled throughout are quotes from the President and First Lady as they braved the media frenzy about breeds and names.

The family eventually settled on a Portuguese water dog that they named Bo.

The book is illustrated by Amy Bates, whose drawings have appeared in books like "Hillary Rodham Clinton: Dreams Taking Flight" by Kathleen Krull and "The Dog Who Belonged to No One" by Amy Hest.



Carole Boston Weatherford

Weatherford, a former editor of The Chronicle, is the New York Times best-selling author of more than 30 books for children and young adults, including "Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom;" "Becoming Billie Holiday;" and "Birmingham, 1963." Her books have won the NAACP Image Award, a Caldecott Honor and the Coretta Scott King Award and Honor from the American Library Association. She is a professor at Fayetteville State University in North Carolina.

## Henderson

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the program. It took years to draft a curriculum that would carry across cultural and educational boundaries, and much research was done to customize the training to a particular country's needs and resources.

The training itself lasts about a week, during which students receive an intense 30-40 hour mental health course. Those who have taken the class include medical professionals and teachers. While the training they get is not nearly enough to make them mental health professionals, students who complete the training should be able to spot mental illnesses and know how to direct those with illnesses to the proper resources.

Henderson thinks highly of her international pupils.

"It's just been a wonderful experience for me to watch them sort of embrace this whole idea and practicing skills; they're so appreciative at the end," said Henderson. "They want 'Dr. Donna' to come back."

Bhutan is among the nations that have welcomed Henderson and the program with open arms. Queen Ashi Sangay Choden Wangchuck requested the services of the MHF program in her tiny Asian nation, which only recently (in 1999) began receiving a television signal.

In a country with more than 691,000 people, there are only two psychiatrists and one mental health counselor. This can leave mental illness-



Women in Bhutan take part in MHF training.

es like schizophrenia undiagnosed and problems like substance abuse untreated.

Henderson trained about 30 volunteers in Bhutan's RENEW program, which helps victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Hinkle, who works at NBCC headquarters in Greensboro, said with only a handful of volunteer trainers the MHF program has managed to train over 150 people worldwide. But that number will multiply, since many trainees are also taught how to train others.

The program continues to evolve.



Hinkle

## Awards

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Klan Leader David Duke came to town to lead an anti-immigration rally. Not only did Espinola ease the fears of Latinos, but she also went about helping others in her community understand and accept their new neighbors. She became a tireless teacher, helping Latinos understand local laws, regulations, and customs, including those about keeping yards clean and neat. In doing so, she helped erase preconceived ideas others had about Latinos.

Today, she is one of the best known and most respected people in town, a community whose population is about 50 percent Latino, 25

percent African American, and 25 percent White. Espinola has become an ambassador of sorts, dedicating her life to helping three groups of residents better understand and accept each other.

The awards come with a \$25,000 prize - \$5,000 for the recipient to use as he or she chooses, and \$20,000 to be given to nonprofit organizations of his or her choice. Recipients also receive a bronze sculpture of Nancy Susan Reynolds, the philanthropist in whose memory the awards are presented each year. Reynolds, who died in 1985, was the daughter of Katharine Smith and R.J. Reynolds and was one of the founders of the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation.



Dr. Hector Sintim



Evelyn Terry

## Tribute

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"I have fond memories of Togo," she said. "...He certainly has the stature and, in my view, (he) would be an asset for us as we look around for people to encourage our young folks ... just by being who he is."

West's success has been a source of pride for many in the community who knew him, Terry said.

"We expected him to do exactly the kind of things that he has done because he was so smart," she stated. "We were booming with pride every step of the way."

Terry knows more than most that the city is not quick to recognize its local heroes and heroines. Her grandfather, the legendary late brickmaker George Black, was honored with a statue in front of the Forsyth County Government Center in 2003, more than 20 years after his death.

West was in town last month to give the keynote address at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church's Centennial Celebration Banquet. West attended St. Stephen's as a youngster and served in various capacities there during his time in the Twin City. Rev. Dr. Hector Sintim said

he felt West could bring a valuable message to his congregants.

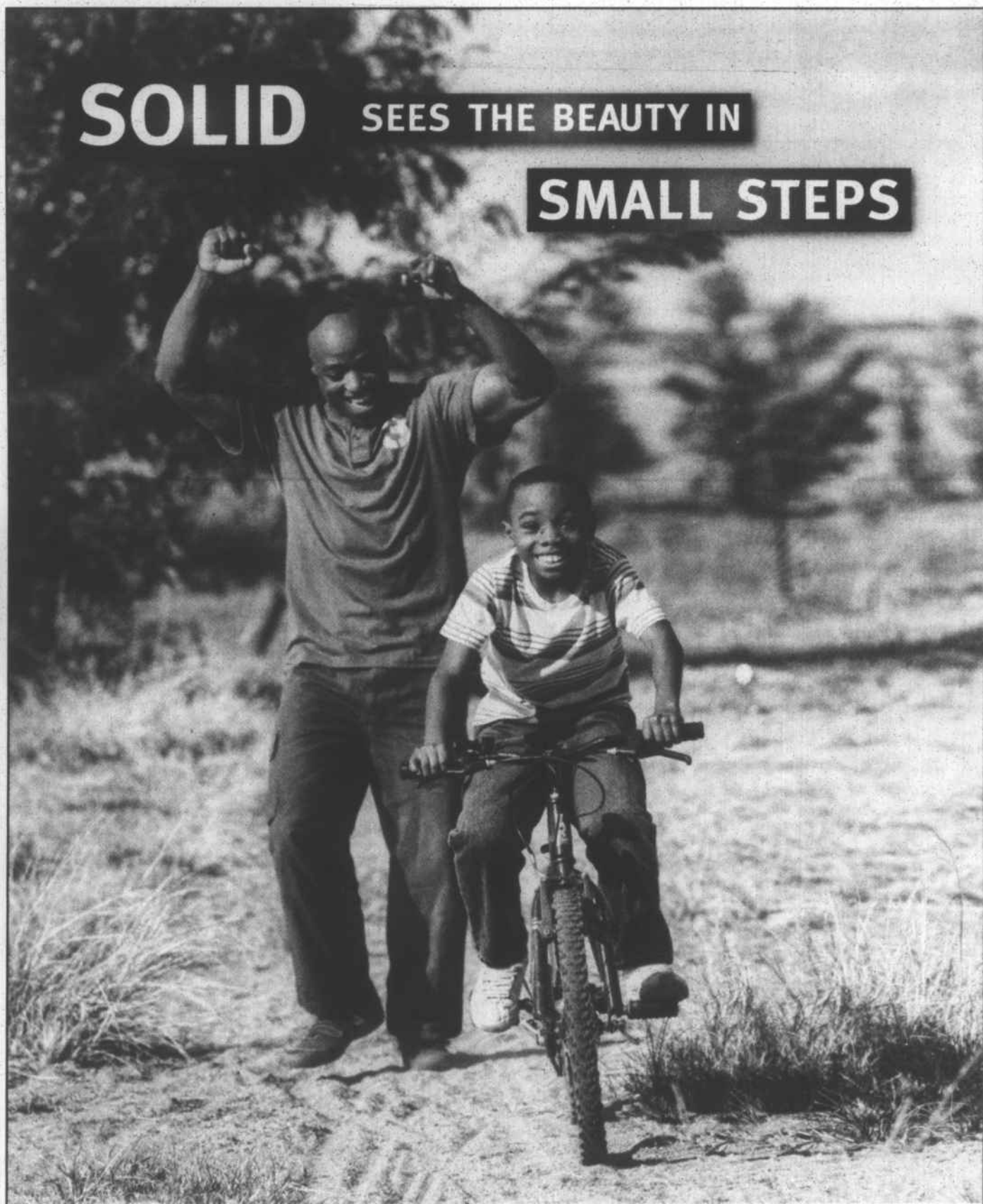
"He stands out as one of the icons in the community that the young people of today can look up to," commented Sintim, who took over as rector last spring. "...We thought it would be appropriate for us as a community to invite him back."

Sintim, a native of Ghana, Africa, agrees that the city should honor West in a tangible way.

"Looking at his achievement and his track record of being a spokesman for the community ... and making a difference in the lives of many people by being a voice to the voiceless, I think it would be appropriate," the rector said. "I think what he's done so far in achievement is second to none."

Though she will no longer be a member of the Council by the time the supporters make it before the Planning Committee to formally request a street renaming, Terry is confident the request will be well received.

"I cannot imagine that there would be any naysayers for honoring such a deserving and notorious native son," Terry commented. "I can't imagine that anybody would say no."



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