

Heartless



Agony of defeat!



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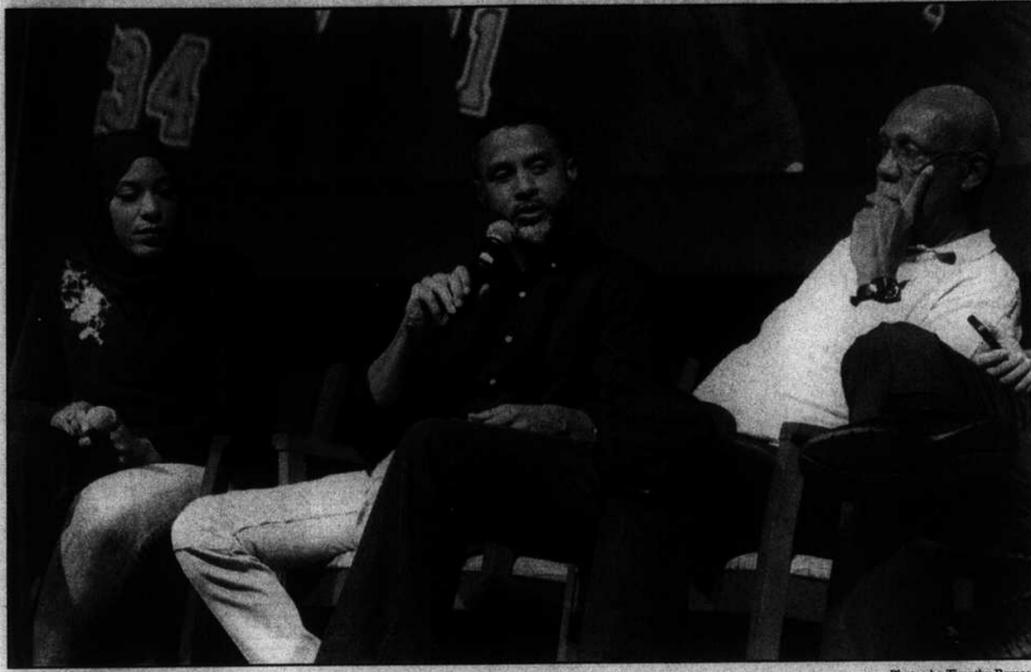
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The panelists for the forum at Wake Forest University, from left to right, are Ibtihaj Muhammad, Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf and John Carlos.

Photos by Timothy Ramsey

Play provides opportunity for talk about manhood

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

Following the stage production of "The Legend of Buster Neal" by the North Carolina Black Repertory Company last weekend, more than three men, including elected officials, scholars, clergy, and community leaders, sat down to discuss the issues facing young black men across the country and right here in our community.

The two-hour drama, set in modern-day Louisiana tells the story of four generations of African-American men and the issues each generation had to endure over time. The production, which features an all African-American male cast, raises the question: What is the true definition of manhood in the African-American community?

Written and directed by Jackie Alexander, award winning playwright and NCBRC artistic director, the production served as the perfect prelude to a powerful open conversation at Little Theatre on Sunday evening. In the play, a civil rights activist reappears to lend some advice to his great-great grandson who is headed down the wrong path.

After the 3 p.m. show on Sunday, Oct. 22, Dr. Trae Cotton, vice chancellor for student affairs at Winston-Salem State University, sat down with City Council Member Derwin Montgomery, and longtime community activist and city native Ben Piggott to get their thoughts on the production and how it relates to real life.

Dr. Cotton started the conversation by asking the panelists about the concept of love and how it relates to masculinity. He said often men are taught not to show emotions.

Cotton said, "We're talking about the intimate but not about our emotional state. We're taught as men not to show love, not to show affection, what do you think about that?"

Piggott, who currently serves as the supervisor at Carl Russell Sr. Recreation Center and has served as a father



Photo by Tevin Stinson

Antonio Stevenson shares his thoughts on the issues young black men face during an open discussion on Sunday, Oct. 22

'The next generation has checked in'

Activist athletes talk race, sports and politics

BY TIMOTHY RAMSEY
THE CHRONICLE

Last week, Wake Forest University held a "Rethinking Community Conference," in which the university brought together thought leaders across the ideological spectrum to explore what it means to live in a society that is more diverse, polarized, global and virtual than ever before.

Journalist, politicians, scholars and public intellectuals discussed some of the most critical issues influencing academic, political and civil spheres as part of Wake Forest's year-long focus on "Rethinking Community."

In addition to sports and community, the conference featured timely discussions about free speech and safe places, the fight to end or defend DACA and a conversation about free



Perry

press and fake news.

The highlight of the conference was a panel held on Friday, Oct. 20, which included professional athletes, sports writers, and activists to rethink the role of sports in community and address related tensions head on.

The panelists were Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf, a former NBA player who sat during the national anthem at the height of his career; John Carlos, U.S.A. Track and Field Hall of Famer and 1968 Olympic medalist whose black power salute on the podium gained him worldwide attention; and

Ibtihaj Muhammad, World Champion and Olympic medalist for the U.S. Fencing team, best known as the first American athlete to compete in the Olympics wearing a hijab.

Dave Zirin, author, podcaster and political sports writer for The Nation; and Melissa Harris-Perry, faculty director of the Pro Humanitate Institute, were the moderators during the discussion.

Zirin jumped right into the pressing question that seemed to be on everyone's mind by asking the panelists what they thought of the new generation of athletes taking up the fight against oppression and using the anthem to raise awareness of racial inequality.

"It's very refreshing to see these young individuals make the statements that they are making today," said Carlos. "Roughly 49 years ago, people asked me after we did the demonstration in Mexico City, 'What do you think you're doing? What do you think you accomplished? Do you know what is going to happen to

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New Senate bill threatens Justice Morgan's tenure

BY CASH MICHAELS
FOR THE CHRONICLE

Just when Democratic lawmakers thought they'd seen it all when it comes to Republican voter suppression laws, illegal voting districts and, in the opinion of many, over-all power grabs, comes yet another legislative shocker.

As the third Special Session called by Republican leaders in the NC General Assembly ended last week on Oct. 17, Sen. Bill Rabon (R-New Hanover) filed SB 698, a Constitutional Amendment titled "Increase Voter Accountability of Judges."

With the General Assembly reconvening in January, this amendment could be on the May 2018 ballot for voters' approval, with judicial elections held in November 2018.

Then on Tuesday morning of this week, Senate Majority Leader Phil Berger



Morgan

(R-Rockingham) announced the formation of a new 15-member Senate Select Committee on Judicial Reform and Redistricting.

Sen. Rabon is one of three Republican senators to chair the committee. Indeed, there are only five Democratic senators appointed to the panel, meaning that Republicans, just like in the rest of the legislature, are in the majority and in control, so they'll have the final word.

"This committee will carefully consider all options on how we select judges, including the House's judicial redistricting bill, merit selection models, retention elections, and, if we maintain a system of

elections, their frequency and partisan structure," Sen. Berger added. "I sincerely hope the committee reaches a consensus recommendation that will modernize and strengthen our courts."

Most Democrats interviewed believe that by "strengthen our courts," Sen. Berger and other GOP'ers simply mean put more Republicans on the bench, especially on the state Supreme Court. Dems' nerves have already been rubbed raw by House Bill 717, which calls for judicial redistricting without any judicial input, and they found no relief when Republicans voted to literally cancel the

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