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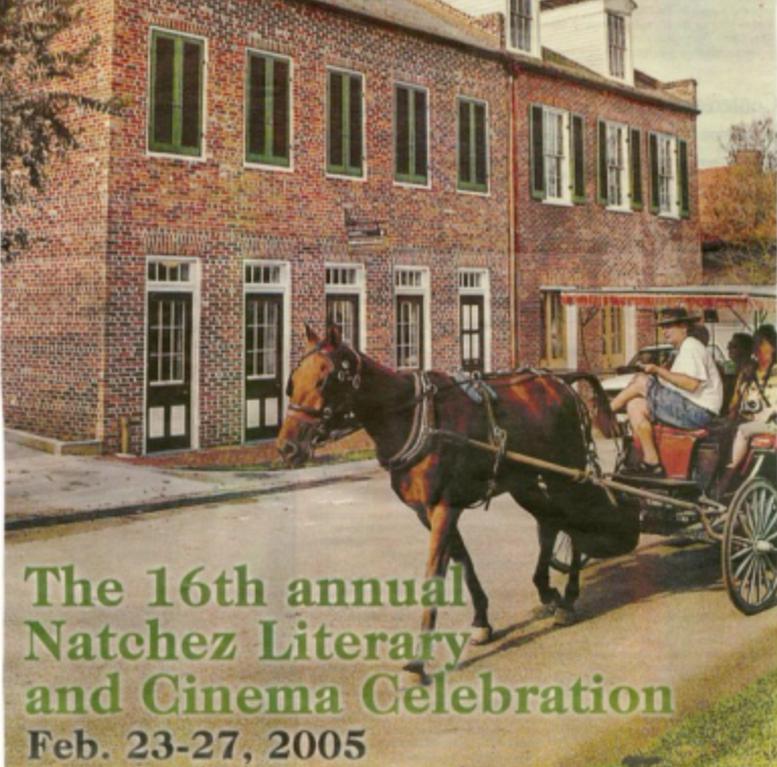
Copiah-Lincoln
Community
College

Natchez
National
Historical Park

Mississippi
Department
of Archives
and History

Mississippi
Public
Broadcasting

Between two worlds: *Free Blacks in the Antebellum South*



The 16th annual
Natchez Literary
and Cinema Celebration
Feb. 23-27, 2005

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Maisha - identify some jigs & names
per Dottie Stubbs, she didn't get
jig for all of 2/27/05. ~~many~~
Mark ha Francis covered for her

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1-4 Center Piece - Award Winner

Natchez Literary and Cinema
Celebration
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1-18 Ronnie Nettles, Mrs. Brown,
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1-20 Gwen McCallip, Barbara Haight



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1-21 Judy Wiggins, Mayor Philip West



1-22 Suzanne Dietzel, Judy Wiggins



1-23 Mayor West, Carolyn Smith



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2-1 Ronnie Nettles
(3) X-1-13-07-D45



2-7 H.T. Holmes



2-5 Ira Berlin



2-4 Ira Berlin



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2-2 Mayor Philip West 5 D15



2-3 Governor William Winter



2-9 Winter Scholars



2-10 Winter Scholars



2-11 Winter Scholars



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2-6 H.T. ("Hank") Holmes 5 DLS



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2-13 Vance Fellows



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2-16 Lester Sullivan Book Signing



2-15 Ira Berlin Book Signing



2-19 Maura Johnson



2-17 Raffle Tickets - Ron Miller,
Ella Young, Virginia O'Berne



2-18 Reception Honoring
Elbert Hilliard - Maura Johnson



2-23 Kathleen Jenkins

2-20 Ed & Rosemary Smith,
Elderhostel



2-21 Mrs - Mr. Elbert Hilliard
Mimi and Ron Miller



3-1 Darryl Grennell

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2-22 Gone With the Wind Raffle



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3-2 Ruth and Jim Coy

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3-6 Mimi, Ron Miller,
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3-7 Mimi & Ron Miller
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"Hoop Skirts, Fiddles, & Fun"



John & Nancy Guice, Doug Inglis



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Lani Riches,



3-18 Mickey Davis

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3-22 Granddaughter



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4-18 Natchez Museum of African
American History



4-17 Raffle Bea Byrnes,

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3-23 Fiddle Contest "A Trace of Natchez"



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4.3 Duncan Morgan
Elizabeth Shoon Mills



4-6 Jim Coy, John Larson,
Brock Watson



4-7 At concession stand
Elderhostel



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(4-5 At Microphone Q & A DLS



Feb 23 2005 with DLS
4-9 Warren Bedford Clark



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NMAAHC 25



4-19

Ozelle Fisher



4-21 NMAAHC



(1) 2-25-05 DLS



4-22 Elderhostel Ladies



3-6 Willis Lott, Douglas Bristol



5-2 Allendreen Harrison, Q & A



4-24 Scott Dixon McDowell



5-1 Q & A Shirlev Wheatly



5-7 Susann Dietzel, 3-yr old Daughter



5-3 Willis Lott,
Carolyn & Marion Smith



5-5 , Douglas Bristol



5-9 Roy Winkworth, Marion Stewart,
Fred



Jim McElwre
Ron Switzer

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5-14 Magnolia Hall



(7) 5-10-05 OLS
5-10 Jerry Ward



5-13 William L. Andrews,
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5-11 William L. Andrews



5-12 Jerry Ward, Peggy Prensshaw



5-16 Ann McNeil



5-15 Ann McNeil



5-18 Leonard Curry, Ann McNeil, Bill Clark, Virginia Gould



5-17 Elizabeth S. Mills



5-21 Mills, Gould, White



5-24 Mary Louise Miller,
Gwen McCalip



5-19 Ed & Rosemary Smith
Elderhostel



5-23 Curry,



5-22 Donna Marrello - Elderhostel



5-20 Magnolia Hall bedroom

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6-4 Alferdeen Harrison



6-1 Family of William Johnson



6-5 Family of William Johnson



6-2 Family of William Johnson



6-3 Family of William Johnson

This is
Mary Louise
Miller's daughter
a niece



6-6 Mary Louise Miller on screen



6-7 Mary Louise Miller,
High school friend



6-8 Ruth Coy, M.L. Miller,
Connie Burns, R. Nettles



6-10 Leonard Curry, Mildred
Hughes, Ann Proctor

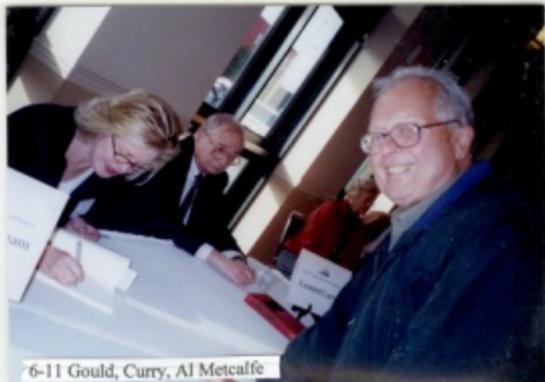


6-9 Book Signing Gloria Robinson
Gould

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6-13 Book Signing
Carolyn Smith, Gayle Henry



6-11 Gould, Curry, Al Metcalfe



6-12 Miller, Gould



6-14 , John Bergeron



6-17 Sidney Buckner,



6-21 Mary Louise Miller,
John Bergeron



6-19 Mrs. Miller, Carolyn Smith

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, Camellias



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6-16

, Camellias

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6-23 Valerie Bergeron



6-18 Susan Cassigne, Randy

6-22 Mantle Flowers & Candles



6-24 Valerie Bergeron



7-2 MPB Staff

7-1 Sara Blackburn, ^{Lea Threlking} Crump,
Judy Wiggins



7-3 Marie Antoon,
Charles R. Wilson



7-5 David & Sara Blackburn



7-6 Donzell Lee



(1) 2-25-07 7-4 David & Sara Blackburn

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7-8 Creole Jazz Serenaders



7-7 Don Vappie- Creole Jazz Banjo



7-9 Don Vappie banjo 05 DLS

7-11 Clarinet



7-12 Don Vappie, Banjo



7-10 Don Vappie Guitar & Bass

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7-13 Creole Jazz - Piano



7-14 Creole Jazz - bass



7-16 John Guice, Eliz. Richardson, Nancy



7-15 John Guice,
Eliz. Richardson, Nancy DLS



(15) 2-23-05 DLS



(7-19 Don Vappie, Carolyn Smith

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7-17 ,Don, Carolyn,
& Marion Smith



7-20 Keith Whisenant



7-21 Margaret Moss



7-22 Gov. Winter



7-24 Fran Mainella



7-25 Ribbon Cutting
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7-23 Ron Miller



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8-7 Raspberry's, Gloria Robinson



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8-5 Sansings, Raspberry's
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8-6 Sansings, Raspberry's



8-8 Mary Cassagne,

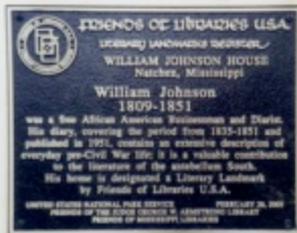
Keith Whisenant



8-3 Ribbon Cutting - J House



8-11 Bill and Mrs. Raspberry



8-9 Friends of Libraries Plaque

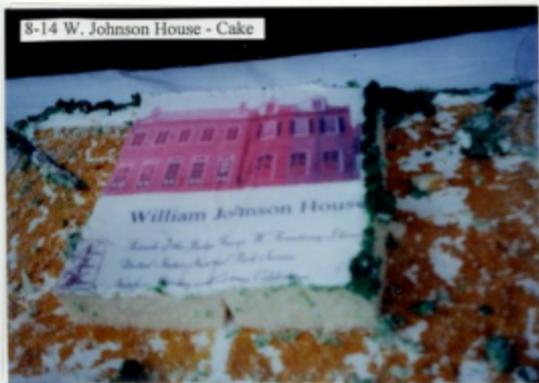
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8-10 David Sansing, Carolyn and Marion Smith



8-14 W. Johnson House - Cake



8-16 William Johnson House



#8
8-12 Fran Mainella, Park Ranger



8-13 Fran Mainella, 2605 DS



8-20 Flower Show



8-19 Flower Show



8-18 Flower Show

8-15 Linda Ogden, Danny, Virginia O'Beirne



8-17 Flower Show - Pilgrimage Garden Club
(10) 2-26-05 (26)

Marcia
Adkins



#9 Hosts Holly Hedges
8-21 Host, Coyle House 525



8-24 Elderhostel Visitors



9-2 Holly Hedges



9-3 Holly Hedges

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8-22 Neighbor Cat

9-1 Larry and Mrs. Koger



9-5 Host - Holly Hedges 025



9-

9-4 Holly Hedges



Holly Hedges

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9-9 Stella Carby - Greenlea Host



9-7 Horticulture - Greenlea



9-8 Horticulture at Greenlea



9-10 Tricia Whisenant



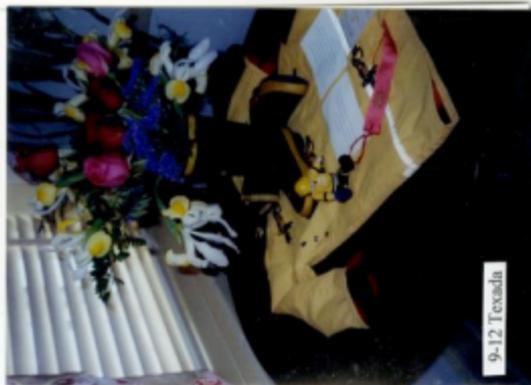
9-13 Mr. & Mrs. Koger, Carolyn



9-15 Joyce Boram & Son Barry



9-14 Margaret Moss, Texada Host



9-12 Texada



9-11 Texada



9-16 Goldfish
(10) 2-26-05 DLS



9-21 Tricia Walker



9-18 Greenlea



9-23 Reception - Center for Study
of Southern Culture



9-19 Texada



9-24 Raffle Drawing
(21) 2-26-05 DLS



9-22 Photo Exhibit



10-1 Gov. Winter



10-2 David Sansing 5 DLS
Cultural



10-3 Mildred D. Taylor



10-7 Callie Kouri



10-4 Governor Winter
William Raspberry



10-6 Dixon, Callie Kouri



10-5 Dixon McDowell

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10-10 Kouri, McDowell



10-12 Book Signing, Raspberry



10-11 Book Signing, M.D. Taylor



10-13 Book Signing, Raspberry, Taylor

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10-16 Marion Smith, Elise, Gov, Winter
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10-15 Book Signing Line



10-17 Uncle,

Gloria Robinson, Nephew



10-19 , Kouri, McDowell



10-20 Ya Ya Sisterhood, Coffee House Discussion



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10-18 News Clippings, 5 065



10-21 Trevia Walker, Billy Ray

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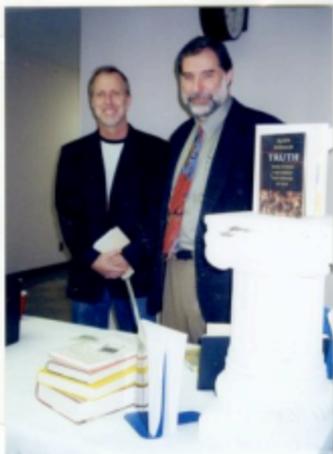


10-24 Frances Doss



10-23 Journal Writing Class

11-1 NLCC Workshop, McCalip, Workshop



10-22 Alan Huffman, Jim Wiggins



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Kick off your week with good news

Good morning and good Monday. As we look forward to another week of work and school, we take a look back at the good news from the previous week.

▶ The 16th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration was another resounding success this past week. The several days' worth of programs, presentations and lectures would not have been possible without the hard work of so many people who put on the event every year. Congratulations to the winners of the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Awards

Speak out

We encourage you to share your opinion on this or other topics. Submit your letter to the editor to The Democrat by:

▶ E-mail:

herry.whipple@natchezdemocrat.com

▶ Fax: (601) 442-7315

▶ Mail: P.O. Box 1447, Natchez, Miss., 39121

▶ Or in person: 503 N. Canal St., Natchez.

All letters must be signed by the author and must include a telephone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit submitted information. For more information, call 445-3541.

— William Raspberry and Mildred D. Taylor — and the winner of the Horton Foote Award for Outstanding Screenplay Writing — Callie Khouri.

We're already looking forward to next year's conference.

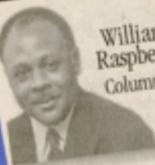
▶ Along those lines, we're also

pleased that the National Park Service held its grand opening and ribbon cutting Saturday morning for the William Johnson House. The grand opening follows three decades of persistence to recognize the history behind the home of Johnson, a free black whose meticulous diary has been a great source of detailed history on Natchez's everyday life. National Park Service Director Fran Mainella made a special trip to Natchez for the grand opening, which took place as part of the NLCC events.

▶ Congratulations to all of the winners of Friday's Special Olympics basketball tournament in Natchez — and that would be all of the participants, as well as their teachers, supporters and volunteers who helped make the event a success. The Special Olympics events are a great source of self-esteem for the young athletes, and we wish them well as they continue their competitions.

Here's hoping you and your family enjoy good news throughout the rest of the week.

Monday, February 28, 2005



William Raspberry
Columnist

College talk easier said than done

Herms was such a simple request, Laura Stone must still be scratching her head at my response.

Stone, a volunteer with the D.C. College Access Program, wanted me to speak to a group of local high school students "to encourage them to go to college and help them understand the wide range of options that college could make available to them."

And since I'm always running off at the mouth about the importance of education, she must have thought me a natural for the chore.

But instead of an instant and enthusiastic "yes" to her request, what she got was the eruption of years of frustration — and this confession: I don't know what to say to a youngster with no particular plans or prospects, who suddenly is given the financial means to attend college and who cannot see it as a not-to-be-missed opportunity.

I know how to talk to youngsters who are looking for guidance as to what colleges they might consider, or who need help getting ready for college or career, or who want to know the relationship between my own education and my professional success. But what do you say to students who don't see affordable college as an opportunity?

The particular opportunity DC-CAP is trying to promote comes out of the congressionally enacted tuition assistance program that allows Washington, D.C., residents to attend any state university in the nation while receiving up to \$10,000 a year to make up the difference between in-state and out-of-

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Opinion

The Democrat

We must pass on history to children

History was always one of my favorite subjects in school. And even today, I still have a desire to learn of the past. Whether it's from a story my mom continually tells me, a story I've read in a book or a movie I've viewed, it's interesting.

History is the study of how changes were made through the course of years. The study of how a people lived and how accomplishments were made that helped others.

History could have been good for some, yet bad for others; but some had to win and some had to lose. The courses of history have wiped out a people or even diminished a people.

In reality, history would either make you or break you. Knowing about history is a powerful tool to have.

Today in schools, history is taught to remind children and young adults about life prior to their actual existence, knowledge and experiences as to the world as a whole. And for parents, it is our obligation to inform our children in a sense of "where we came from."

In the old testament of the Bible, God told the people not to forget where they had come from. He told the forefathers to instill it in the foreheads (memory) of their chil-



Top of the Morning

Beverly Gibson
2-28-05

dren so that they would learn of their origin and their struggle for existence.

We are to remind our children of how it was so that they can appreciate life today. There is no excuse or reason for someone not to know of the past (history).

Through resources such as people of age (elders), archived movies and books, we are not left to be uneducated.

It's good to listen to "old folks" talk about life as they lived it. Old people could hardly read and write, but as far as I am concerned, they know it all. It wasn't because they read it in a book. It wasn't because they saw it on television. It wasn't because they went to a movie.

They would say "God no baby, we ain't knowed nothing about them things." No, they didn't have that advantage. All of their knowledge was from experience. The experi-

ence they lived and the experience their parents and fore parents told and taught them.

And because this month is proclaimed as "Black History" month, we (Blacks, African American, Negroes) should take this opportunity to take out a moment as we sit around our houses or drive in our cars and point out how we, as a black people, contributed to an everyday thing such as the light bulb or the traffic light.

We must remind our children of the struggles our fore parents survived through the time of slavery. We must remind our children of the struggles our fore parents survived during the civil rights movements. We must remind them that the struggle is still ongoing.

Don't stop the chain of communication. Keep the ball rolling or the baton going. Give them something to tell their children and children's children.

Knowledge is powerful, use it or lose it.

Let's not forget. In reality, history is being made as I speak. Tomorrow, someone will be talking about what happened today.

Beverly Gibson is a resident of Ferriday, La.

Advisory Board members hail from coast to coast

Eight people have recently joined the Advisory Board of the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration. "We welcome them," Jim Barnett, NLCC co-chairman, said. "They bring a wealth of expertise and advice to the board."

New board members joining in 2005 are Ernest Bisset, Alcorn State University; Darryl Greenell, Adams County, Miss., Board of Supervisors; Emily Henderson, Brookhaven, Miss., Trust for Preservation; Donzell Lee, Alcorn State University; Douglas Lewis, National Gallery of Art; Cora Norman, Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters; William Terrell, The Bluff City Post, Natchez; and Thelma Wallace Williams, Project Southern Cross, Natchez.

The eight new board members join 40 others who hail from coast to coast, Barnett said.

Barnett, Director of Historic Properties for the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, is one of four NLCC co-chairmen. Other co-chairmen are Keith Whitman, Superintendent of the Natchez National Historical Park; Marie Anton, Executive Director of Mississippi Public Broadcasting; and Carolyn Vance Smith, former Public Relations Director and English instructor at Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Natchez.

Smith and Co-Lin founded the Celebration in 1990.

The four co-chairmen form the NLCC Steering Committee and serve as leaders of the Advisory Board, which was established in 2000. Assisting them are Marsha Colson, NLCC office manager; Christy Williams, NLCC administrative assistant; and Maria Bowser, NLCC Director of Development.

"We are delighted to have the support and energy of the Advisory Board members," Barnett said. The board provides suggestions for programming, speakers, fund-raising, publicity and promotions, he said.

Many board members will be in Natchez for the NLCC and for the Advisory Board meeting Feb. 25, Barnett said.

Members of the 2005 Advisory Board are:

• Emma Bisset, Former NLCC Co-chairman and Instructor of

English, Alcorn State University, Alcorn State, Miss.

• Vicki Bodenhamer, Executive Director, Mississippi School of the Arts, Brookhaven, Miss.

• Henri Bollinger, Henri Bollinger Associates, Sherman Oaks, Calif.

• Betty Bradley, Executive Director, Mississippi Arts Commission, Jackson, Miss.

• David C. Bramlette, U.S. District Court Judge, Woodville, Miss.

• Todd Carpenter, Publisher, The Natchez Democrat, Natchez, Miss.

• Ward Erling, Manager, Mississippi Film Office, Mississippi Department of Economic and Community Development, Jackson, Miss.

• Howell C. Garner, President, Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Wesson and Natchez, Miss.

• Laura Godfrey, President, Natchez-Adams Chamber of Commerce, Natchez, Miss.

• Darryl Greenell, President, Adams County Board of Supervisors and Assistant Professor, Alcorn State University, Natchez, Miss.

• John D. W. Gulco, Emeritus Professor of History, University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, Miss.

• Barry Harshbarger, author, Oxford, Miss.

• Allendreen Harriss, Director, Margaret Walker Alexander Research Center, Jackson State University, Jackson, Miss.

• Macy Hart, Director, Museum of Southern Jewish Experience, Jackson, Miss.

• Sam Hassell, The William Morris Agency, Beverly Hills, Calif.

• Emily Smith Henderson, President, Brookhaven Trust for the Preservation of History, Culture and the Arts, Brookhaven, Miss.

• Elbert Hillard, Emeritus Director, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Miss.

• Greg Iles, author, Natchez, Miss.

• Donzell Lee, Chairman, Fine Arts Department, Alcorn State University, Alcorn State, Miss.

• Douglas Lewis, Emeritus Curator of Sculpture and Decorative Arts, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., now of Liberty, Miss.

• Aubrey K. Lucas, Past President, Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters, and Past President, University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, Miss.

• Stuart Margolin, Actor/Producer/Director, New York and

Natchez, Miss.

• Millicent Mayo, Public Relations Director, Natchez-Adams School District, Natchez, Miss.

• Scott Dixon McDowell, Professor of Film Studies, University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, Miss.

• Genaid McFarley, actor, Sherman Oaks, Calif.

• Anthony Morris, Superintendent, Natchez-Adams School District, Natchez, Miss.

• JoAnne Prichard Morris, Editor, Jackson, Miss.

• Cora Norman, President-executive, Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters, and Emeritus Executive Director, Mississippi Humanities Council, Jackson, Miss.

• Victor Nurvez, Filmmaker, Tallahassee, Fla.

• Jennifer Ogden, Producer, Santa Monica, Calif.

• Bruce Boyd Rankin, Director, Hogan Jazz Archive, Tulane University, New Orleans, La.

• Lani and Ron Riches, Monmouth Plantation, Natchez, Miss.

• David G. Sansing, Emeritus Professor of History, The University of Mississippi, Oxford, Miss.

• Clifton Taubert, author and lecturer, Freemount Corporation, Tulsa, Okla.

• Connie Taunton, Manager, Natchez Film Commission, Natchez, Miss.

• William Terrell, Publisher, The Bluff City Post, Natchez, Miss.

• Charles Whikamp, Emeritus Professor of American Film Studies, Centre College, Danville, Ky.

• Jerry W. Ward, Professor of English, Oillard University, New Orleans, La.

• Thomas Weed, physician, Houma, La.

• Samuel L. White, Director, Resource Development and Sponsored Programs, Alcorn State University, Lorman, Miss.

• Thelma Wallace Williams, Founding Director, Project Southern Cross, Natchez, Miss.

• Charles Reagan Wilson, Director, The Center for the Study of Southern Culture, The University of Mississippi, Oxford, Miss.

• William F. Winter, President, Board of Trustees, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Miss.

• Charles Yarbrough, Faculty, Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science, Columbus, Miss.

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Holmes prepares for new position at Archives and History

Friday, February 18, 2005

Each January we greet the arrival of a new year with all the hopes and expectations we can muster. We have a new beginning, a fresh start, a clean slate on which to write another chapter of history. The future is bright with possibilities and that alone is reason enough to celebrate!

Jan. 1, 2005, brings that and more to the Mississippi Department of Archives & History (MDAH). For on that date H. T. "Hank" Holmes will assume the duties of director of the department. Holmes will succeed retiring director Elbert R. Hilliard who has held the position for the last 31 years.

The search for Hilliard's successor began in 2003 with the formation of a special committee of the Board of Trustees of MDAH. Their extensive search culminated with the selection of Holmes from within the department's own ranks late last year.

Mr. Holmes' qualifications for the position are impressive. A native of Winona, Holmes earned his B.A. in English from Millsaps College in 1973 and a master's degree in library science from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1982.

He actually began his association with MDAH in 1969 as a college intern. In the following years he went on to serve as oral historian, archivist, records analyst, manuscript curator, map curator, and head of the special collections section.

Since 1988, he has served as director of the department's Archives and Library division.

We wish Mr. Holmes all the best in his new position and uphold that he will be dedicated to knowing the standard of excellence we have all come to expect from this valuable Mississippi resource. We look forward to exciting times ahead at the



a.m. to 4 p.m. with a luncheon available. Robert Young Clay, the senior Genealogical Reference Archivist at the Library of Virginia, will be the guest speaker. Registration is \$30 which includes course materials and refreshments. The luncheon is an additional \$15 and advanced registration is required. Walk-ins the day of the seminar are welcome, but lunch tickets may not be available on that day of the program. Send reservations to MGS, PO Box 5301, Jackson, MS 39296.

The Board of Trustees and staff of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History invite the public to attend a reception honoring Elbert R. Hilliard on the occasion of his retirement after 31 years as department director Thursday, Jan. 27, 2005, at 3 p.m. at the Old Capitol, Jackson.

For more information call 601-576-6850.

MDAH has also scheduled a Historic Windows Workshop for Friday, January 14, 2005, at the Old Central High School in Jackson.

Experts will teach methods for repairing and preserving wooden windows and restoring metal windows as well as discussing the architectural importance of windows, federal standards for windows, and sources of information regarding windows and historic structures. The workshop will run from 9 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Three hours of AIA Continuing Education Units are

THE NATCHEZ DEMOCRAT, Natchez, Miss. • 7A

Eight new members join NLCC Advisory Board

Special to The Democrat

Eight people have recently joined the Advisory Board of the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration. "We welcome them," Jim Barnett, NLCC co-chairman, said. "They bring a wealth of expertise and advice to the board."

New board members joining in 2005 are Emma Blissett, Alcorn State University; Darryl Grennell, Adams County, Miss.; Board of Supervisors; Emily Henderson, Brookhaven, Trust for Preservation; Donzell Lee, Alcorn State University; Douglas Lewis, National Gallery of Art; Cora Norman, Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters; William Terrell, The Bluff City Post, Natchez; and Thelma Wallace Williams, Project Southern Cross, Natchez.

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Smith and Co-Lin founded the Celebration in 1990.

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Natchez

County Board of Supervisors and Assistant Professor, Alcorn State University, Natchez

► John D. W. Guice, Emeritus Professor of History, University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg

► Barry Hannah, author, Oxford

► Allerdene Harrison, Director, Margaret Walker Alexander Research Center, Jackson State University, Jackson

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► Bruce Boyd Raeburn, Director, Hogan Jazz Archive, Tulane University, New Orleans

► Lari and Ron Riches, Mornmouth Plantation, Natchez

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Richard Wright and Horton Foote awards

Conference to honor Raspberry, Taylor, Khouri

Winning prestigious awards at the 16th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, Natchez, Miss., are three Southerners, all of whom have won national acclaim for their writings. They will be present to receive the awards and autograph copies of their works after the ceremony.

The annual awards will be presented in ceremonies at 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 26, at the Natchez Convention Center. The event is free and open to the public. It is the culmination of the conference, Feb. 25-27, 2005, which uses the theme, "Between Two Worlds: Free Blacks in the Antebellum South."

Winning one of two 2005 Richard Wright Literary Excellence Awards is William Raspberry, born in Okolona, Miss., and now of Washington, D.C. A longtime syndicated columnist for *The Washington Post*, he has won the Pulitzer Prize for Commentary.

Raspberry is the Knight Professor of the Practice of Communications and Journalism at the DeWitt Wallace Center and the Terry Sanford Institute of Public Policy at Duke University, Durham, N.C. He is also author of *Looking Backward at Us*.

Also winning a 2005 Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award is Mildred D. Taylor, a native of Jackson, Miss., now of Boulder, Colo. She has won *The New York*

Times Outstanding Book of the Year Award for *Song of the Trees* (1975); the American Library Association's Newbery Award for *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* (1976); ALA Best Books for Young Adults Award for *Let the Circle Be Unbroken* (1981); and the Coretta Scott King Award for *The Friendship (1987), The Road to Memphis* (1996) and *The Land* (2001).

Winner of the 2005 Horton Foote Award for Outstanding Screenplay Writing is Callie Khouri, a native of Texas now in Los Angeles. She is author of the screenplay *Thelma & Louise*, which won an Oscar from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the Writers Guild of America award for Best Original Screenplay and the Golden Globe and PEN Literary awards.



Raspberry



Taylor



Khouri

She also wrote *Something to Talk About* for Warner Brothers Pictures in 1995, starring Dennis Quaid, Julia Roberts, Gena Rowlands, Robert Duvall and Kym Selwick. She also wrote *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood*, which starred Sandra Bullock, Ashley Judd, Ellen Burstyn, Maggie Smith and James Garner.

Following the awards ceremony and autograph session will be a gala benefit reception and supper at the historic home Bottoms. The event honors the award winners and NLCC sponsors. Tickets are sold out to the \$125 event.

The Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award was established in 1994 to honor the internationally known author, Richard Wright. He was born near Natchez in 1908, the son of a country schoolteacher and an illiterate sharecropper. Wright's first novel, *Native Son* (1940), was an immediate success. His *Black Boy*, a fictionalized autobiography in 1945, sold 400,000 copies in three months. After leaving Natchez as a child, Wright returned to Natchez as a young man and left for good to work in Chicago and later move to Paris, where he died in 1960.

Winners of the award are honored each year for a body of literary work. They must be outstanding, living writers with a strong Mississippi connection. The award has been funded each year by Natchez Newspapers Inc., publisher of *The Natchez Democrat* and *The Afro-Louisiana*

Review's Guide.

Winners of the award are Endora Wiley, 1994; Margaret Walker Alexander, 1995; Ellen Douglas and Willie Morris, 1996; Shelby Foote and Elizabeth Spencer, 1997; Richard Ford and Will Campbell, 1998; Barry Hannah and Sterling Phripp, 1999; Beth Hooley and David Sansing, 2000; John Grisham and Bill Minor, 2001; Lewis Nordan and John Marzouk, 2002; TR, Hester and Clifton Taulbert, 2003; Greg Iles and William Scarborough, 2004.

In February 2002, the Special Achievement Award for Screenwriting, was established. The first award went to Horton Foote, Wharton, Texas, an Oscar-winning and Pulitzer Prize-winning writer of screenplays, plays and a non-fiction memoir. Subsequent awards are named the Horton Foote Award for Special Achievement in Screenwriting. Winners must be Southerners who have excelled in writing screenplays. The Horton Foote Award is underwritten by The Mississippi Film Office, Division of Tourism, Mississippi Development Authority.

Horton Foote Award winners are Billy Bob Thornton, 2003, author of the film *Sling Blade*, *One False Move* and *A Family Thing*, and Gail Gilchrist, 2004, author of the screenplays of Willie Morris' novel, *My Dog Skip*, and Endora Wiley's novella, *The Powder Heart*.

Students follow in Johnson's footsteps with journal contest

By JULIE FINLEY
The Natchez Democrat

NATCHEZ — Times have changed a little since William Johnson's days in the 1800s, but the experiment of keeping a journal can still be the same.

Area high school and college students who participated in the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration's Journal Writing Contest did just what Johnson did, and some are receiving accolades for their work.

English class assignments for the contest instructed students to write a journal entry each day for two weeks. Natchez High, Trinity Episcopal, Cathedral School and Copiah-Lincoln Community

Miss-Lou

College students participated.

For Trinity senior Jessica Vines, keeping a journal was nothing new since she's been doing it since 2001, and it is something she said it has been therapeutic.

"You keep things inside you, but you can just write them down then forget about them," she said. "And if you need them, you can go back and read it."

Former English teacher and judging committee chairman Carolyn Gwin said it was interesting to see what today's youth were doing.

"It was an effort to see what was going on in the modern world," Gwin said.

"They write very well and with a great sense of detail, and as you read you can spot the ones who just put something on paper."

"It was interesting to see how honest they were about their everyday activities."

Cathedral's Claire White said the assignment fell on a perfect week for her, over Thanksgiving break.

"My dad and I went on a trip to visit some colleges," White said. "I did it at night and would do some of it on the plane."

Ten winners from each school were chosen and from the high school winners

See Journal, 5A



Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration

• The NLCC kicks off Wednesday at the Natchez Convention Center. This year's theme is "Between Two Worlds: Free Blacks in the Antebellum South."

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Journal

Continued from 1A

10 were selected to read their entries on "Rural Voices Radio" on Mississippi Public Broadcasting. The students traveled to Jackson to tape the programs and they will air this month.

Cathedral senior Drew Belle Zerby was one of the 10 chosen for the radio broadcast. Zerby said keeping the journal was a new thing for her.

"It was time consuming. I had to make time to catch up," Zerby said.

The contest winners will receive two free tickets to a jazz concert to be held during the NLCC.

"We were impressed with the writing abilities of each student," said Carolyn Vance Smith, founder and co-chairman of the NLCC. "All of the journal entries provided a unique and valuable reflection on the city of Natchez."
The NLCC will be Feb. 23-27.

Journal contest winners

Cathedral High School

Mary Aubic
Maggie Brown
Mary Kate Byrne
Kari Guido
Daniel Hollowell
Katie Hurd
Janie McFarland
Thomas Bowen Myers
Claire White
Drew Zerby
Maggie Brown was also chosen to read on "Rural Voices Radio." Drew Zerby was also chosen to read on "Rural Voice Radio" and at the Natchez High program.

Natchez High School

Stephanie Carter
Erica Davis
Jasmin Dent
Deliqua Drake
Brittany Fells
Courtney Green
Cy Lambert
Evelyn Murrell
Jena Thomas
Lacy Karsten Vines

Erica Davis was also chosen to read on "Rural Voices Radio" and at the Natchez High program. Stephanie Carter, Brittany Fells, Cy Lambert, Jena Thomas and Lacy Karsten Vines were chosen to read on "Rural Voices Radio."

Trinity Episcopal High School

Alex Altan
Tripp Bryant
Daniel Cochran
Taylor Craft
Lee Jones
Suzannah Ketchings
Jessica Marchbanks
Elliot Ernst
Haley Porter
Jessica Vines
Alex Altan was also chosen to read on "Rural Voices Radio" and at the Natchez High program. Jessica Marchbanks was chosen to read on "Rural Voices Radio."

Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez Campus

John M. Brown
Kristin Cox
Caitlin Dorsey
Candace Hawkins
Marnie Lee Moore
Kaya Neatherland
Allison Parks
Lori Scroggs
Jennifer Trull
Jimmy Wroten

Caitlin Dorsey, Jennifer Trull and Jimmy Wroten will also read their journal entries about at the Co-Ln program

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Love of learning key to education

WASHINGTON — Hugh Price still bubbles like a little boy trying to tell you about his day at the circus, afraid some detail will get lost or that you won't quite appreciate the significance of what he's witnessed.

His adventure? A National Achievers Day program four or five years ago in San Diego's Bayview Baptist Church.

"There were all these kids spread out before us — maybe 350 altogether — all of whom had earned a B grade or better," he recalled again over coffee a week ago. Half of the inductees into the National Achievers Society (sponsored by the National Urban League, which Price headed at the time) were boys. And there were a thousand or more well-wishers — including bishops and other dignitaries — in the church.

It was like a school honors day program, only several times as big and, since it was in a black church, a great deal longer. But what Price remembers most is the pride on the faces of the young people — no embarrassment over academic success, none of the studying-is-acting-white nonsense one hears too often. Just pride of accomplishment. He says he recalls well over a dozen such days — at Bedford-Stuyvesant in Brooklyn, in Savannah, Ga., and in other towns he visited while promoting his book, "Achievement Matters."

"I love a parade — for achievers," said Price, who now co-chairs the nonprofit and philanthropy practice group at the New York law firm of Piper Rudnick. He thinks that if the National Achievers idea swept the country, black achievement would take off like a rocket.

And school volunteerism as well. "Volunteers respond to recognition just as surely as children do," Price believes. "We could have a whole series of peer-group competitions for volunteers — Links against Links, Elks against Elks, churches against churches. We need to do something at a scale and at a decibel level that says to the children, achievement matters — and we're here to help you do it."

Nor, he says, is he talking about a one-shot affair. "True, the public praise comes on a day certain, but the buildup and the follow-up are where we can really make an impact on the children."

He thinks the parades are an important part of it all. He may be right, but I suspect the parades are just the manifestation of something far more important: a personal commitment by rank-and-file adults to the academic success of the children. The forms will vary according to taste and local custom — a parade here, a newspaper spread there, a civic center rally elsewhere.

Some people manage to reach the youngsters through sports or music, some through visits to job sites, some by teaching specific school subjects. Orlando Doyle of Detroit created the "Impact Seminars," a program in which he recruits hundreds of successful adults to spend one hour a year at one school, talking about the connection between their schooling and their careers. With so many adults flooding the schools, the odds that a particular child will find an adult to relate to are greatly increased.

The key point, though, is personal commitment. Politicians, educators and school officials may be committed, too, but sooner or later they are drawn to their institutional priorities: defending their turf, protecting their budgets, saving their jobs. Moreover, politicians and educators tend to look to the transformation of institutions to set things right. If we can only get the right programs installed, the right budgets enacted and the right superintendent on the job, then good things will happen for our children. What Price has witnessed over the years is a reminder of the importance of involving children intimately in their own education by infecting them with a love of learning. A quote from Antoine de Saint-Exupéry that makes the point: "If you want to build a ship, don't herd people together to collect wood and don't assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea."

And, Price might add, it wouldn't hurt to throw a nice party for good sailors.

William Raspberry's column is distributed by the Washington Post Writers Group.



WILLIAM
RASPBERRY

Hook-up culture a dysfunctional, sad 'equality'

WASHINGTON — Maybe Valentine's Day is a good time to talk about something that's been on my mind for a while: the alarming decline of courtship.

Calling it alarming, of course, places me firmly on the old fogey side of the discussion. The youngsters I talk to at Duke University don't seem particularly alarmed, though a few will acknowledge some discomfort, some disappointment that they find themselves in a world in which boys don't come courting. They are, willy-nilly, in a hook-up culture that they (the girls, at least) don't remember asking for but feel powerless to change.

What am I talking about?
Listen (with her permission) to a young woman in my "Family and Community" class last fall:

"Friday night, my sorority had a function in an abandoned field, where the only activity is to get really drunk," she wrote in a paper I assigned on the decline of courtship. "I asked this older boy that I sort of knew, just because I needed a date and he was cute. Everyone was drinking so heavily that the majority of the conversations did not even make much sense."

"When the party ended, we all got on the buses (nicknamed the 'hook-up buses') to return to campus. I went back to his room 'to talk,' but obviously talking turned into making out. Later, I walked back from his dorm all the way to my dorm by myself."

Thank goodness she spared me the details of her make-out session, though she and her classmates drove home the point that "hooking up" can include anything from kissing and petting to sexual intercourse.

Several of them made it clear that alcohol consumption is a significant part of the hook-up experience — as though to give all involved a pretext for saying that what happened last night wasn't really them.

My young student said something that still has me scratching my head: "At the end of the night, I could have batted my eyes, given him a hug, and said 'Thanks for a wonderful evening.' But in today's society, that is rude. A hug is the universal sign for 'not interested.'"

The disjuncture from courtship as earlier generations remember it is startling. For my sex, was the Super Bowl of relationships. For many of today's youngsters, it's just a pick-up game. I don't envy them.

A few students still have traditional take-her-to-dinner-or-a-movie dates. Some avoid the hook-up culture, either by dint of ironclad personal values or by joining up with a subgroup of like-minded friends.

No one is sure who made the new rules, though students seem to believe they have something to do with gender equality. Several young men admitted that the new culture leaves them off balance, too. Several young women said that they don't really expect to find their future husbands in such encounters. They see it, they told me, as a college thing — a phase.

Still, more than a few young women see their "liberated" as tinged with awkwardness and shame.

Again, I quote from my student's paper: "I walked home late at night by myself. He offered for me to stay at his place, but I said that I would just walk home. He responded with false concern, asking if I would be OK going back by myself. I promised him I would be fine. This dialogue is standard. The boy cannot appear too apathetic, the girl cannot act too needy and dependent. We are afraid to forfeit the independence that took so many years to acquire in return for an escort back to the dorm."

Then this: "He and I could have a future together, but we will never know. There will never be a next date. If he were to ask me out next weekend, he would appear weak. I could not ask him out again for fear of appearing obsessed."

What a dysfunctional, ego-destructive and profoundly sad "equality" the young folk have fashioned.

Do you suppose any of them send — or receive — Valentine's Day cards?



WILLIAM
RASPBERRY

William Raspberry's column is distributed by the Washington Post Writers Group.

BOOK IT!

NATCHEZ LITERARY and CINEMA
CELEBRATION



Between Two Worlds: Free Blacks in the Antebellum South

Feb. 23 - 27, 2005
Natchez Convention Center
Natchez, Mississippi

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- Meals

All free or low-cost!

SPECIAL EVENT

The grand opening of the
William Johnson House,
home of a Free Black in
Natchez, now part of the
Natchez National
Historical Park

9 a.m., Feb. 26, 2005

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1-601-446-1289
1-866-296-6522 Toll-Free
www.colin.edu/nlcc

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Mississippi Department of Archives and History
and
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Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration*presents*

**A Luncheon Followed by a Program,
"Hoopskirts, Fiddles, and Furr: Natchez Music, 1840-1850,"
Mickey Davis and A Trace of Natchez,
Natchez, Mississippi, and El Dorado, Arkansas**
11:45 a.m., Thursday, February 24, 2005
Carnegie House at Stanton Hall
401 High Street • Natchez, Mississippi

\$20



No. 136

Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration*presents*

**A Luncheon Followed by a Program,
"Hoopskirts, Fiddles, and Furr: Natchez Music, 1840-1850,"
Mickey Davis and A Trace of Natchez,
Natchez, Mississippi, and El Dorado, Arkansas**
11:45 a.m., Thursday, February 24, 2005
Carnegie House at Stanton Hall
401 High Street • Natchez, Mississippi

\$20



No. 306

Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration*presents*

**"Creole Jazz," a Concert by Don Vappie and
the Creole Jazz Serenaders of New Orleans
with Commentary about Early Creole Music**

8:00 p.m., Friday, February 25, 2005
Natchez Convention Center
211 Main Street, Natchez, Mississippi

\$10



No. 307

Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration*presents*

**"Creole Jazz," a Concert by Don Vappie and
the Creole Jazz Serenaders of New Orleans
with Commentary about Early Creole Music**

8:00 p.m., Friday, February 25, 2005
Natchez Convention Center
211 Main Street, Natchez, Mississippi

\$10



No. 87

Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration*presents*

**Ellen Douglas Writing Workshops
With Refreshments**

8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Sunday, February 27, 2005
Copiah-Lincoln Community College
11 Co-Lin Circle • Natchez, Mississippi

\$15



No. 88

Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration*presents*

**Ellen Douglas Writing Workshops
With Refreshments**

8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Sunday, February 27, 2005
Copiah-Lincoln Community College
11 Co-Lin Circle • Natchez, Mississippi

\$15

2005 part 3
page 75

Black community must help own

WASHINGTON — The National Urban League issued its annual State of Black America report last week, and you won't be surprised to learn that, once again, the league is worried about the gap in well-being between black people and white people.

There is a small refinement this time, an "equality index" designed to measure everything from health and employment to civic engagement and volunteerism puts black Americans at 73 percent of parity.

Both the general finding and the recommended solutions are the same as they have been for as long as I've been following these reports: The black/white gap shows no signs of closing, and in some ways may be worsening, and the general society — the government — needs to do more.

I wouldn't disagree with either the analysis or the need for more help for America's poor, black and white, who are essentially disconnected from the American economy.

I would propose that, whatever the value of pointing out the black/white gap, it might be a good deal more useful to take a hard look at the black/black gap.

What am I talking about? Listen to the Urban League's CEO, Marc Morial, in an NPR interview with newsmen Ed Gordon:

"The gains of the last 40 years," he said, "have created a new, larger, stronger black middle class. But many have been left behind. One out of every four black Americans lives in poverty, and almost half of those who live in poverty live in extreme poverty."

"So you've got, if you will, a paradox."

But those of us who have found our way out of poverty and despair need to remember those who abetted our escape.

You've got, if you will, something a good deal more interesting than a paradox. If racism (and racial neglect) is the major source of the gaps the Urban League would so like to narrow, then how can it be that three-fourths of black Americans have escaped poverty and that there is a "larger, stronger black middle class"?

Instead of spending the bulk of our attention on what white people have done, or failed to do, wouldn't it be interesting to examine what the members of that growing black middle class have done and are doing?

I'm not decrying the pessimism of seeing the glass as half empty. I'm talking about the importance of understanding how the glass came to be half full.

An examination of that half-full glass would show that it didn't take a general confession of guilt from white people, but it did require some broad efforts at opening wider the gates of opportunity.

America did that, and black people who were qualified, or optimistic enough to go and get qualified, found opportunity.

Isn't it interesting, and encouraging, that even in a politically conservative administration, nobody bothers any more to count the number of top-level black officials? Or that the elevation of another black person to the top spot in a major American corporation no longer shocks us?

Look at those who have flowed through those widened gates, and you will see an unusual commit-

ment to education, to civic involvement, to clean records and sterling reputations, to long-term thinking, to responsible parenthood.

Now look at those who form the basis for the Urban League's annual song of woe, and you will see too little of all these things.

White America, I am saying, has done a reasonably decent job of increasing opportunity for minorities, and those who were ready took full advantage. White America hasn't done a very good job of getting people ready.

Maybe it can't. We blacks who have achieved some success can, and I'm convinced we must.

Surely there is value in the Urban League's call for renewal of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, provisions of which expire two years from now.

Surely there is value in the league's call for universal early childhood education, for an increase in the minimum wage, and all the things on the short list of "prescriptions for change" laid out at last week's news conference.

Those of us who have found our way out of poverty and despair need to remember those who abetted our escape, and do what we can to lead others to economic, social and political safety.

It is right to demand, as the Urban League does, help from the general society in providing greater opportunity.

It is vital to understand that there are, in that half-empty end of the glass, children, and not just children, whose circumstances have blinded them to the opportunity that already exists.

I'm not sure the government can help them learn to see it. I know we can. Will we?

William Raspberry's column is distributed by the Washington Post Writers Group. 7-11-05



WILLIAM RASPBERRY

Southern Style

Animal Planet unleashes new show

THE CLARION-LEDGER ■ JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

MONDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2004

CLARION

Natchez completes \$2M renovation of freed slave's home

The Natchez National Historical Park Service opened the William Johnson home to coincide with the Natchez Fall Pilgrimage.



Molly Dempsey Special to The Clarion-Ledger

Pilgrimage to the past

By Cori Belger

NATCHEZ—As a child, Henry Guerico hurried past a square brick home on his way down State Street to the Mississippi River, where he scooped the bank for washed-up treasures.

He never thought much of the random home, a structure that paled in comparison to the grandeur of the town's antebellum homes.

Nor did he know the woman who lived inside, a seamstress and descendant of a barber named William Johnson.

It was only when Guerico returned to Natchez in the '70s to open an antique shop that he realized what he had missed.

"I took it for granted and now there is a different type of awareness," said Guerico, 62, as he strolled through the home on a recent morning.

After a decade of planning and a \$2 million renovation project, the Natchez National Historical Park Service opened the William Johnson home last week to coincide with the upcoming Natchez Fall Pilgrimage.

The two-floor home, once owned by Johnson, a free African-American man known as "the Barber of Natchez," now includes period furniture and dis-

play panels that tell Johnson's story. The adjacent renovated John McCaskey home houses a bookstore.

A permanent exhibit, set to open in late February during the Natchez Literary & Cinema Celebration Between Two Worlds: Free Blacks in the Antebellum South, will feature audio tour programs, a digital version of Johnson's diary and artifacts loaned during the renovation.

"The house is going to be the most significant thing in town," said John Saleby, general manager of nearby Natchez Pilgrimage Tours. "Johnson is a very well-known historical figure. A lot of good is going to come from this."

Born into slavery in 1809, Johnson was freed by Capt. William Johnson, the man thought to be his father. He bought his brother-in-law's barber shop in 1830 and began acquiring some of

Natchez's wealthiest men as his friends and customers. An energetic and shrewd businessman, Johnson opened several barber shops in downtown Natchez, dabbled in real estate and bought and sold various goods, all while owing up to 15 slaves at a time.

This was a man who was born as a slave, freed as a child and owned slaves

See JOHNSON, 7B

Johnson: Diary used to help replicate interior

From 68 himself. It seems so paradoxical," said Jim Henney of the Natchez National Historical Park Service. "He was doing everything he could to elevate himself in society, and that meant owning land and slaves. That's just the way it was back then."

Johnson, who married and had 11 children before he was murdered during a boundary dispute in 1853, kept an extensive diary depicting life in the post-Civil War era. It was published by the Louisiana State University Press in 1951.

The diary—which includes entries about business, family and "house raising"—is considered to be one of the most in-depth accounts of the day-to-day life of a freed African-American man in the 1840s and '50s.

"(The diary) is a great gem that shows his character," Henney said. "Johnson didn't know we'd be reading it today, so it takes on a certain sense of slavery."

Researchers used clues from the diary to determine how the home's interior appeared when Johnson lived there. A majority of the furniture in the house was either sold or donated to the park service by Mary Louise Miller, wife of Johnson's grandson, Dr. William Johnson.

Miller's relatives sold the house to the Preservation Society of Eldon Hill in 1976. The group then sold the property to the City of



Molly Dempsey Special to The Clarion-Ledger

Curator Kathleen Jenkins discusses the hanging of wallpaper with Justin Neal of Landers Painting in the parlor of the William Johnson home in Natchez. The home recently was opened to the public.

Natchez, which donated it to the National Park Service in 1993.

The house is one of three sites that make up the Natchez National Historical Park Service. Moreover, an antebellum mansion, and the 1716 site of the French fort Rosalie are the other areas maintained by the federally-funded organization.

Johnson's story is a fascinating aspect of this society and one that fits into our interpretive goals," Henney said. "Now, we can talk about the elite, free black

businessmen and the lives of slaves."

Guerico, a local history buff, acquired remnants from the house in the 1970s and recently donated an original framed lithograph back to the project. He hopes it will hang in the house someday.

"The lifestyle aspect of the house is important," he said. "We want to hear how he lived, how he was treated and how he treated his children and his servants... We have waited a long time for this story to be told."

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**Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration
Ellen Douglas Writing Workshop
Copiah - Lincoln Community College
Natchez, Mississippi
February 27, 2005**

Presenter - Frances Doss

The History and Importance of Journal Writing

AGENDA

8:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Introduction - Kerry Whipple

Free Writing and Sharing

History of Journal Writing

Journal Entry

The Importance of Journal Writing

Journal Entry

Readers' Workshop

Group Reports

Journal Entry

Wrap - Up

**AGENDA FOR THE 16TH ANNUAL NATCHEZ LITERARY AND CINEMA CELEBRATION
FEBRUARY 23-27, 2005**

Sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez National Historical Park,
Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and Mississippi Public Broadcasting
BETWEEN TWO WORLDS: FREE BLACKS IN THE ANTEBELLUM SOUTH

*All events are at the Natchez Convention Center, 211 Main Street, Natchez, Miss., unless otherwise noted.
All events are free, unless otherwise noted.*

Wed., Feb. 23, 2005 Copiah-Lincoln Community College, "Studying Southern Writers" (\$15)

- 8 a.m.: "Maya Angelou: Feminist," Susanne B. Dietzel, Loyola University, New Orleans
9 a.m.: "Mississippi in the Imagination of Black Writers," Ethel Young-Minor, University of Mississippi
10 a.m.: "Mississippi Poet Frank Stanford," Murray Shugars, Alcorn State University
11 a.m.: "William Johnson: Natchez Journalist About Town," Lester Sullivan, Xavier University of Louisiana, New Orleans, with the Reading of Winning Journal Pages by Copiah-Lincoln Students
2 p.m.: Natchez Convention Center, Conference Grand Opening
2:15 p.m.: "Free Blacks in the South: An Overview," Ira Berlin, University of Maryland, *Slaves Without Masters: The Free Negro in the Antebellum South*
3:30 p.m.: "Free Black People from Natchez to New Orleans," Lester Sullivan, Xavier University
4:30-5:30 p.m.: Free Reception Honoring Elbert Hilliard and Hank Holmes of MDAH
7:30 p.m.: "Robert D. Smith: A Shackled Freedom," Ruth and James T. Coy III, Owners of the Robert D. Smith Home, Bontura, Natchez, Miss.

Thurs., Feb. 24, 2005

- 9 a.m.: "Free Blacks during the Colonial Period in Mississippi," Douglas Inglis, The Texas Tech University Research Center, Seville, Spain
10:30 a.m.: "Ibrahima, an African Prince Turned Slave Turned Freedman," Alex Kronemer, Silver Spring, Md.
11:45 a.m.: Carriage House at Stanton Hall Luncheon (\$20), Followed by "Hoopskirts, Fiddles, and Fun: Natchez Music, 1840-1850," Mickey Davis and A Trace of Natchez, El Dorado, Ark.
1:30 p.m.: "Mr. Banjo Played the Violin: Unmasking the Louisiana Creole Cultural Heritage," Sybil Kein, New Orleans, *Creole: The History and Legacy of Louisiana's Free People of Color*
2:15 p.m.: "Isle of Canes and Issues of Conscience: Master-Slave Sexual Dynamics and Slaveholding by Free People of Color," Elizabeth Shown Mills, Tuscaloosa, Ala., *Isle of Canes*
3:30 p.m.: "Robert Penn Warren's *Band of Angels*," William Bedford Clark, Texas A&M
5-6:30 p.m.: Natchez Museum of African-American History and Culture Reception (\$10)
7:30 p.m.: The Film, *Band of Angels*, Based on Robert Penn Warren's Novel, Followed by Discussion

Fri., Feb. 25, 2005

- 9 a.m.: "Common Origins, Diverging Circumstances: Black Barbers and the Structure of Free Black Society," Douglas Bristol, Jr., University of Southern Mississippi, *The Black Man's Razor at the White Man's Throat: Black Barbers and the African American Tradition of Enterprise*
10:30 a.m.: "William Johnson and the African-American Narrative," William L. Andrews, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, *To Tell a Free Story: The First Century of Afro-American Autobiography*, and Intro to *William Johnson's Natchez: The Ante-Bellum Diary of a Free Negro*
2 p.m.: "Free Blacks in the Urban South," Leonard P. Curry, University of Louisville, *The Free Black in Urban America 1800-1850: The Shadow of the Dream*
3:30 p.m.: "The Women in the William Johnson Family," Virginia Meacham Gould, New Orleans, *Chained to the Rock of Adversity: To Be Free, Black, & Female in the Old South*.
5-6:30 p.m.: Pleasant Hill, Free Reception Hosted by Friends of MPB
8 p.m.: "Creole Jazz," a Concert by Don Vappie and the Creole Jazz Serenaders, New Orleans (\$10)

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Sat., Feb. 26, 2005

- 9 a.m.: William Johnson House. Grand Opening of the William Johnson House, a National Park Service Property, Followed by Tours of the William Johnson House
- 1 p.m.: "Black Masters: The Misunderstood Slaveowners," Larry Koger, Washington, D.C., *Black Slaveowners: Free Black Slave Masters in South Carolina 1790-1860*
- 1:45 p.m.: Reading of Selections from His Pulitzer Prize-Winning Novel, *The Known World*, Edward P. Jones, Washington, D.C.
- 2:30-5 p.m.: Coyte House, Governor Holmes House, Greenlea, Griffith-McComas Townhouse, Holly Hedges, and Texada, "Exploring William Johnson's World," a Flower Show Sponsored by the Pilgrimage Garden Club at Historic Homes in the William Johnson House Neighborhood
- 2:30-5 p.m.: Downtown Natchez, "William Johnson's Natchez," a Series of Walking Tours Featuring Extant Buildings Mentioned in Johnson's Diaries, Led by NNHP Staff
- 5-6 p.m.: Free Reception, Sponsored by the Center for the Study of Southern Culture, The University of Mississippi, with Remarks by Charles Reagan Wilson, CSSC Director
- 6 p.m.: "An Evening with the Stars," a Festive Ceremony Honoring Writers
Winners of the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Awards
- William Raspberry, Mississippi Native, Now of Washington, D.C., Syndicated Columnist, *The Washington Post*, Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Commentary, Knight Professor of the Practice of Communications and Journalism, the DeWitt Wallace Center and the Terry Sanford Institute of Public Policy, Duke University, Durham, N.C., and Author of *Looking Backward at Us*
 - Mildred D. Taylor, Mississippi Native, Now of Boulder, Colo., Winner of the Neustadt Prize for Children's Literature and the American Library Association's Newbery Award for *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* and Author of *Song of the Trees, Let the Circle Be Unbroken, The Road to Memphis, and The Gold Cadillac*
- Winner of the Horton Foote Award for Outstanding Screenplay Writing:
- Callie Khouri, Formerly of Texas, Tennessee, and Kentucky, and Now of Los Angeles, Author of the Screenplays *Mad Money, Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood, Something to Talk About, and Thelma & Louise*
- 8 p.m.: Historic Bontura, Gala Benefit Reception and Supper Honoring Award Winners and Speakers Limited to 125 People (\$125; \$100 is tax-deductible.)
- 8 p.m.: The Film, *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood*, with Coffeehouse Discussion Afterward

Sunday, February 27, 2005 Copiah-Lincoln Community College

Ellen Douglas Writing Workshops (\$15 for Two Workshops and Reception)

- 8:30-10:30 a.m.: Choose one of the following workshops.
- "The History and Importance of Journal Writing," Frances Doss, Natchez, Miss., Co-Director, the Alcorn State University Writing Project
 - "Doing Primary Research in Mississippi and Africa," Alan Huffman, Bolton, Miss., *Mississippi in Africa*
 - "Creating Sound and Music for Screenplays, Film, and Video," Billy Ray Reynolds, Nashville, Tenn., Songwriter, Screenplay Writer, Musician, and Actor
 - 10:30-11 a.m. Reception Honoring the Award-winning Author Ellen Douglas (Pen Name of Natchez Native Josephine Haxton)
- 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Choose one of the following workshops.
- "Working with Primary Records of Free Blacks in Adams County, Miss.," Ronald L.F. Davis, California State University, Northridge, *The Black Experience in Natchez, 1720-1880*
 - "Genealogy Today: From Grandma's Memories to Real Family History - Oral History, Genealogical Standards, and Problem-Solving Principles for Tough Research Problems," Elizabeth Shown Mills, Tuscaloosa, Ala., *Evidence! Citation and Analysis for the Family Historian, Professional Genealogy: A Manual for Researchers, Writers, Editors, Lecturers*

Miss. trial attempt to right wrongs

6-20-05

WASHINGTON — Anybody who claims to understand Mississippi has probably never spent much time there. I'm back in my home state fairly frequently these days, and every visit leaves me both hopeful and despairing.

Mississippi is a state of confusion — the symbol of racism and backwardness and arguably the state that is trying hardest to repair the damage wrought by racism.

And so Edgar Ray "Preacher" Killen is on trial in Philadelphia — the Philadelphia of "Mississippi Burning" — for his alleged role in the 1964 lynching of three civil-rights workers. You can argue that the 80-year-old Killen shouldn't be the only white man facing murder charges in the case, but the fact that there is a trial is testament to the work of a once-unimaginable coalition of black, white and Choctaw Mississippians, formed specifically to help purge the state of its racist past.



WILLIAM RASPBERRY

But when the U.S. Senate sought to speak to that past, with a resolution of apology for the body's failure to enact anti-lynching legislation, missing from a list of 85 sponsors were **Mississippi Sens. Trent Lott and Thad Cochran.**

OK, maybe I wasn't too surprised by Lott's nonparticipation. After all, he is the guy who was stripped of his party leadership role three years ago for opining that America would have been better off if Strom Thurmond had won his overtly segregationist 1948 presidential campaign.

But Cochran, though conservative, is thought to be less wildly right-wing than Lott — what you might call a Mississippi moderate. So why was his name absent from the list of sponsors?

"I'm not in the business of apologizing for what someone else did or didn't do," he told me. "I deplore and regret that lynching occurred and that those committing them weren't punished, but I'm not culpable. Would you apologize for an editorial written by The Washington Post 50 years ago that you disagreed with?"

The trouble with Cochran's explanation is that he did in fact sign on as a co-sponsor of bills apologizing for the government's treatment of Native Americans and for the World War II internment of Japanese-Americans.

Why did he find it so difficult to apologize for the Senate's failure to deal with House-passed anti-lynching legislation?

More than 4,700 lynchings took place in the years between 1882 and 1968, according to Tuskegee Institute, with Mississippi leading the pack with 581.

The resolution was symbolic, of course. So, in many ways, is the action that has brought Killen to trial 41 years after the fact. But it is a powerful symbol of a desire to atone not just for the crime of murder but for the prevailing attitude that, for many white Mississippians, made lynching acceptable.

It is important that it isn't the feds, but Mississippians, who have made this trial happen. Former Mississippi Secretary of State Dick Moibus may have started the process with a speech of regret he made 16 years ago. That speech was followed by an interview of the mother of Andrew Goodman, one of the three slain civil-rights workers, by the editor of the Neshoba Democrat. (Philadelphia is in Neshoba County.)

Even now, it is well not to overestimate what is happening in the state. School segregation is widespread, thousands of white residents having fled desegregated school systems for the so-called "seg academies." Racial fairness is still a dream.

But there is movement. What was "Mississippi Burning" is, surprisingly often, Mississippi yearning. A lot of people in the state are apologizing for what used to be.

They understand what seems to escape Thad Cochran: Institutions are more than their incumbents. Mississippi, like the U.S. Senate, is a continuing entity. If the entity believes it has erred, it isn't unreasonable that it apologize. Didn't Pope John Paul II apologize for the Holocaust?

And to answer the senator's question: As an independent contractor for The Washington Post, I have no standing to speak for the newspaper. But surely a newspaper's editorial board could reasonably apologize for a 50-year-old opinion it now considers wrong-headed and offensive.

William Raspberry's column is distributed by the Washington Post Writers Group.

Outsourcing growing on all fronts in U.S.

5-23-05

WASHINGTON — First my Palm Pilot, then my Internet connection, went bad. And as a result, I spent a depressing number of hours on the telephone, talking to "technical assistance." The overwhelming portion of that time was with technical workers in places like India, Pakistan and the Philippines, who (let it be said)



WILLIAM RASPBERRY

were no better or worse than the tech-help people at the places that sold me the equipment in the first place.

Naturally, I started to grouch about the "outsourcing" of all those jobs that might have gone to Americans.

Then someone said something to me that has me rethinking the whole subject of outsourcing. "We're outsourcing a lot of jobs right here in America — right here in Washington, D.C.," he said. "All our low-skill jobs

— from driving taxicabs to house cleaning to construction labor — are increasingly being done by immigrants."

Before I could protest he was suggesting jobless Americans ought to be content with poorly paid stoop labor and other work scarcely above the good old days of sharecropping, he noted it isn't only the dreadful jobs that are subject to domestic outsourcing.

A pair of recent statistics makes the point:

At the end of 1998, the District of Columbia had 613,500 civilian jobs, excluding self-employment. At the end of last year, the number was up to 672,000, putting D.C. among the top job-creating jurisdictions in America.

The unemployment rate for District residents was 7.2 percent for 2003, 8.4 percent for 2004 — and appears to be climbing still.

It's clear that a lot of jobs created in the city are being outsourced to commuters from Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and Pennsylvania — with under a third of the jobs created in the city held by people who live here. Since Congress won't allow the District to have a commuter tax, revenue is being outsourced along with jobs.

Both kinds of outsourcing hurt Americans, and, at least in the nation's capital, arguably hurt black residents worst. It doesn't follow that hurting black people is the motivation of those who outsource work — internally or abroad. Indeed focusing on race may make solutions harder to find.

Overseas outsourcing generally has two explanations. The first is that competent and reliable overseas employees are willing to work for far less than Americans would demand for the same job — less than the minimum wage Americans would have to be paid.

The second, which applies to domestic outsourcing as well, is the increasing difficulty of finding competent and reliable workers at home.

I don't know if there is a nonlegislative way to deal with the cost-driven side. If manufacturers, telecommunications or providers and servicers of technical equipment can save a serious buck by exporting work, they'll do it until they are made to stop. (It's worth noting that you don't always have to look abroad to find cheap labor, as the Wal-Mart example makes clear.)

To the extent that the local unavailability of competent and reliable workers is the problem, there is something we can do about it.

Indeed that something is being done by thousands upon thousands of immigrants, who are taking every advantage to gain the skills and experience they need to get a toehold in the U.S. economy.

The largely immigrant-driven scramble for technical skills has made Northern Virginia Community College the biggest institution of higher education in Virginia and, with 62,000 enrollees, the second-largest multi-campus community college in America.

As one young man put it, "This country is Heaven for immigrants with a skill."

Even legitimate self-employment is either unavailable or not considered available, which amounts to the same thing.

The mom-and-pop convenience stores that were run by Jews a generation ago, then sold in turn to Chinese, Korean and other Asian entrepreneurs, are now increasingly likely to be run by Ethiopians.

We've outsourced that one too.

William Raspberry's column is distributed by the Washington Post Writers Group.

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- ① BILL GARREKER - ^{BLACK}JACKET
 - ② E. WAYNE TYREE → RED SHIRT
+ BLUE + WHITE JACKET
 - ③ RALPH WHEELER
JEANS + BLACK JACKET
- MAN AT MICROPHONE IN CONVENTION CENTER

1+2 FROM NEW YORK CITY

3 - RAYMOND, PA & CALIFORNIA

THE 16 ANNUAL NATCHEZ LITERARY AND CINEMA CELEBRATION
Presents

**NEW ORLEANS CLASSIC JAZZ
BY THE CREOLE JAZZ SERENADERS**

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
8 p.m., Friday, February 25, 2005
Natchez Convention Center, Natchez, Mississippi

WELCOME

By The Honorable William F. Winter, Jackson, Mississippi, Former Governor of Mississippi
and Director of Proceedings, Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration

INTRODUCTION OF DON VAPPIE AND THE CREOLE JAZZ SERENADERS

By Dr. Donzell Lee, Chairman, Fine Arts Department, Alcorn State University

About the Creole Jazz Serenaders...

The Creole Jazz Serenaders perform selections from the 1920s and 1930s, concentrating on songs and musicians of New Orleans, "The Birthplace of Jazz." These songs are by such notables as Joe "King" Oliver, Sidney Bechet, and Jelly Roll Morton, and also by lesser known bands, such as The Sam Morgan Band.

Included in the repertoire are several Creole jazz tunes sung in the French patois of New Orleans. Indeed, the Serenaders are perhaps the only band that still performs this indigenous style of jazz.

The Serenaders' program shows the evolution of New Orleans jazz as it spread up river by way of musicians who traveled to other parts of the country and the world. The group presents an educational, historical program while maintaining the spirit that made these songs the dance tunes of the period.

NOTE: Following the concert, CDs by Don Vappie and the Creole Jazz Serenaders will be sold and autographed in the Convention Center lobby.



- This concert is part of the 16th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, Feb. 23-27, 2005, using the theme, "Between Two Worlds: Free Blacks in the Antebellum South." Free programs are set for 9 a.m.-11 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 26, at the Natchez Convention Center and other downtown locations. The Ellen Douglas Writing Workshops are 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 27, at Copiah-Lincoln Community College. Workshop tickets are \$15, payable at the door.
- The NLCC's annual free awards ceremony is set for 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 26, at the Natchez Convention Center, honoring the outstanding writers Callie Khouri, Mildred D. Taylor, and William Raspberry. The public is invited. A book signing will follow.
- The NLCC is sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez National Historical Park, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and Mississippi Public Broadcasting. It is partially funded by the Mississippi Humanities Council.

CREOLE MUSIC

The term "creole" comes from the Portuguese word "crioulo" and means "native to a region." Originally, it was used to distinguish between whites born in the Americas and those born in Europe. But as the slave trade shifted from Africa to the islands of the Caribbean and West Indies, the term came to differentiate between those slaves born in Africa and those born in Louisiana and the Islands. Over time, as the interaction between the French and Spanish inhabitants and those of African heritage resulted in a more multiracial society, "creole" took on a new meaning - one describing people of mixed racial ancestry.

Prior to 1800, music in Louisiana probably reflected music familiar to the people of the region, with a clearer distinction between European and African styles. But during the 1800's, Louisiana and New Orleans fostered an environment that was both restrictive and creative. While laws were created to guarantee the separation and subjugation of people with African ancestry, the cultural environment provided avenues and outlets for artistic growth. As in Cuba, Martinique, and other islands of the Caribbean and West Indies, the music of Louisiana developed differently in urban regions as compared to the rural areas. The music of the southwestern rural Louisiana Creoles became known as Zydeco and remains much closer in style and rhythm to the rural music of Haiti and other French colonies. But in New Orleans, the proximity of the entertainment arena of Congo Square to the opera houses, dance halls, theatres, and the "red light" district of Storyville, as well as the interaction that took place between people of different cultures in this port city, afforded ample opportunities for the interchange of cultural traditions and artistic creativity. In addition, the celebration of Mardi Gras, the society clubs, and the many dances and balls provided numerous venues for musical employment and expression. Furthermore, the end of the Civil War gave former slaves the freedom of movement to travel from the plantations of the southeastern River parishes to New Orleans, while others came to the city from regions outside the French/Catholic-dominated communities, adding a dash of blues and gospel to the musical pot.

It was during this time that another event occurred that impacted New Orleans' cultural growth. In 1809, the city received a large influx of immigrants escaping the slave revolution in the French colony of Saint Domingue (the western part of the island later becoming Haiti). This group of refugees, consisting of slaves, whites, and free people of color, eventually made their way to Louisiana after being expelled from Cuba for being a potentially dangerous presence. These Creole Islanders brought their own unique cultural and artistic traditions that contributed greatly to the creation of New Orleans' musical heritage.

Among folklorists and cultural anthropologists, the term "creolization" is replacing the "melting pot" theory as a way to describe the cultural history of the Americas. This new description portrays a society that is constantly forming new cultural identities while maintaining the distinctive individuality of a local community. At the turn of the 20th century, many facets were in play as the artistic environment of New Orleans absorbed the myriad cultural characteristics of its inhabitants. The rhythms brought by African slaves as well as the creole immigrants of the islands, the classical music of Europe, the instruments brought from Europe and Africa, the Creole-French language, the gospel and blues traditions brought to the region, and the tightening of Jim Crow laws were all ingredients thrown into the musical gumbo that contributed to the birth of jazz.

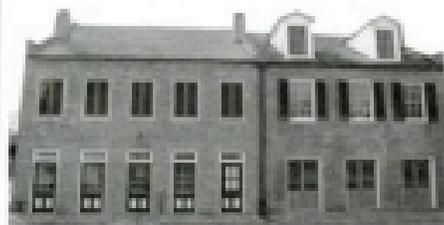
Early New Orleans jazz as represented by bands such as King Oliver's Creole Jazz Band still had an ensemble sound but with freedom to improvise within the structure of the song, often with sections that loosely resembled movements found in classical pieces. As time passed and musicians moved outside New Orleans and followed the lead of musicians such as Louis Armstrong, a loosening of the structure led to a more free-form style of jazz. The creole musicians that permeated the jazz world, such as Jelly Roll Morton, Sidney Bechet, Kid Ory, and Barney Bigard, to name a very few, emphasize the enormous impact they had on the development of jazz. This influence continued throughout the music world as later creole musicians came to impact the evolution of rock-and-roll through their involvement in the 1950's and 1960's rhythm-and-blues period.

Nestled in the Hogan Jazz Archives at Tulane University are a handful of creole jazz recordings by New Orleans musicians, including Danny Barker, Albert Nicholas, Pops Foster, Kid Ory, and others. The Creole-French lyrics and Latin rhythms are prime examples of the influence of the creole music of the islands of the Caribbean and West Indies. Jelly Roll Morton acknowledged this when he referred to New Orleans music as having that "Latin tinge." Don Vappie, a native creole New Orleansian, realized the need to keep this music alive when he first heard the recordings. With his known musical roots dating back to the late 1800s, it was a logical step to form the Creole Jazz Serenaders to celebrate the unique culture of New Orleans and his creole heritage. The band performs many of the creole jazz classics of New Orleans and the Islands, as well as songs that represent the evolution of jazz.

The William Johnson House Dedication

Natchez Convention Center
Natchez, Mississippi

Saturday, February 26, 2005
9:00 a.m.



THE DEDICATION OF THE WILLIAM JOHNSON HOUSE TO NATCHEZ NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK NATIONAL PARK SERVICE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Presiding Mr. Keith Whitman, Superintendent
 Natchez National Historical Park

Pledge of Allegiance

Introduction of Special Guests in the Audience

Introduction of Platform Guests

The Honorable Thad Cochran, U.S. Senator, Mississippi

Mr. Fran Mainella, Director,
National Park Service, Washington

Mr. Patricia Harris, Regional Director, Southeast Region,
National Park Service, Atlanta

Mr. Wallace A. Hibbard, Deputy Regional Director, Southeast
Region, National Park Service, Atlanta

The Honorable William F. Winter, Former Governor of Mississippi
and President, Board of Trustees,
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
Jackson, Mississippi

The Honorable Phillip West, Mayor
Natchez, Mississippi

Mrs. Freda Whitman, Immediate Past President
Friends of Mississippi Libraries
Clinton, Mississippi

Mr. Ronald Miller, Executive Director
Historic Natchez Foundation
Natchez, Mississippi

Mrs. Margaret Moss, Former President
Natchez Garden Club
Natchez, Mississippi

Mrs. Mary Louise Miller
Yazoo City, Mississippi

Mrs. Lois Harbison
Gulfport, Mississippi

Remarks

Mrs. Margaret Moss
Governor William Winter
Mr. Ronald Miller
Mrs. Freda Harbison
Mayor Phillip West
Regional Director Pat Harris
Director Fran Mainella
Senator Thad Cochran

"Declaring the recognition of the William Johnson House
as a PELUSA Library Landmark by the Friends of
Libraries USA."

The Program Adjourns to the William Johnson House

Official Ribbon-Cutting and Library Landmark Plaque Unveiling

Reception on the back gallery of the William Johnson House

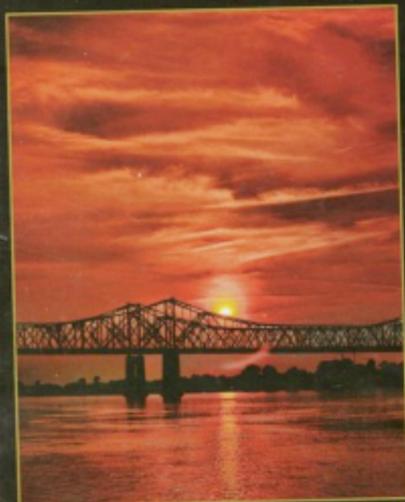
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Natchez

FESTIVAL OF MUSIC

Opera, Broadway, Jazz

15th Season, 2005



PORGY AND BESS

May 6 & 7; 8:00

THE JIM CULLUM JAZZ BAND

May 14; 8:00

GIANNI SCHICCHI

May 15; 4:00

AN EVENING WITH COLE PORTER

May 21; 8:00

TOSCA

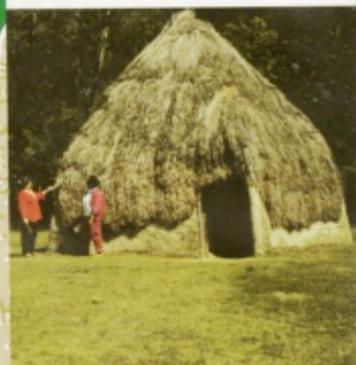
May 28; 8:00

NATCHEZ OPERA FESTIVAL, INC.
in cooperation with and supported by
ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY

Photo by T.G. McCary

Grand Village

of the Natchez Indians



Natchez, Mississippi

Administered by the
Mississippi Department
of Archives and History

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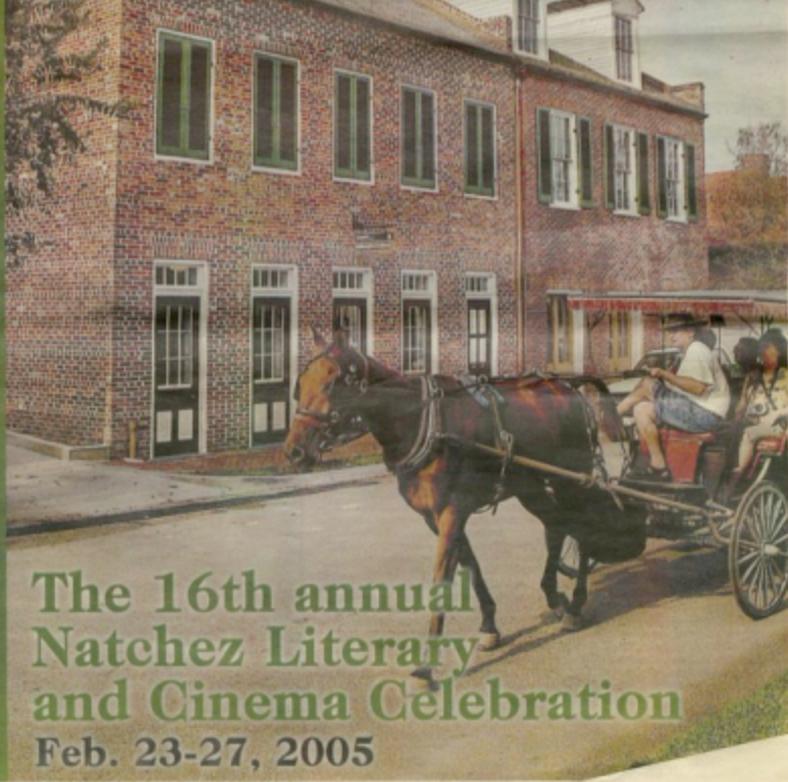
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Mississippi
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and History

Mississippi
Public
Broadcasting

Between two worlds: *Free Blacks in the Antebellum South*



The 16th annual
Natchez Literary
and Cinema Celebration
Feb. 23-27, 2005

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The William Johnson House Dedication

Natchez Convention Center
Natchez, Mississippi

Saturday, February 26, 2005
9:00 a.m.

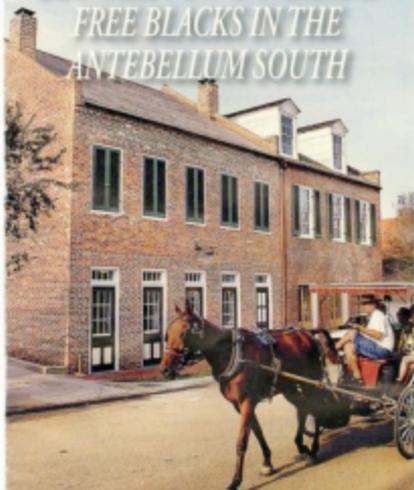


The 16th Annual
Natchez Literary and Cinema
Celebration
Natchez, Mississippi

FEBRUARY 23-27, 2005

PRESENTS

BETWEEN TWO WORLDS:
*FREE BLACKS IN THE
ANTEBELLUM SOUTH*



The William Johnson House, home of a Free Black in Natchez and now owned by the National Park Service, will be officially opened Feb. 26, 2005.

Headquarters
Natchez Convention Center, 211 Main Street
Natchez, Mississippi

*Unless otherwise noted, all events are free.
Locations change for certain events.*

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