

# Photographer exhibits sociology on small scale

By Brad Gunton  
Old Gold and Black Reporter

Although most people consider factory closings and layoffs to be little more than economic concerns, photographer Bill Bamberger presented the personal impact that a factory closing has on a small town in his lecture Nov. 12.

Bamberger, who co-wrote "Closing: The Life and Death of an American Factory" with Cathy Davidson, presented a series of slides depicting the closing of the White Furniture Co. in Mebane, N.C.

The factory, which had existed as long as the town itself, was bought out by Hickory Manufacturing Corp. in 1985 and closed in 1993, resulting in a loss of over 200 jobs.

Phil Perricone, a professor of sociology, said that Bamberger's photographs pro-

vide students with another way to learn how socialization works.

"Bill Bamberger is what we consider a humanistic photographer, because he combines a concern with the community and workplace with the art of photography," Perricone said. "Photographs add an additional dimension to the understanding of social processes, in this case, the workplace and the idea of layoffs."

Bamberger said that although a few of the workers were suspicious of him at first, most came to regard him as a friend in the following months.

He was especially excited about the project because having full access to a factory for taking pictures is a rare opportunity. "It's a world that has been closed to photographers and print journalists," Bamberger said.

His pictures ranged from portraying factory workers or machinery to showing pivotal moments in the closing process, such as when workers were forced to destroy the furniture templates or when they received their pension papers.

Many of the employees had spent their entire careers working at the White Furniture Co. "It was one of those factories where people felt that if they got a job there, they would work a lifetime," Bamberger said.

Bamberger, who has lived in Mebane since 1988, wanted to do the project as soon as he heard that the factory was closing.

He thought it would be an opportunity not only to help his neighbors, but also to reveal the personal effects of a factory closing in a small town.

"I knew how much White Furniture had meant to the town of Mebane, since it had been there since the town began, so I knew the meaning that these pictures would have for the community," Bamberger said.

"Also, it's remarkable because we are so rarely given a look at how a factory closing plays out in the lives of the workers."

Throughout his lecture, Bamberger focused on how each person was affected by the factory's closing. Senior Lia Simpson thought that his attention to the workers was what made the photographs important.

"I liked the fact that he took so much interest in the personal lives of the people, and his pictures really reflected that," Simpson said.

The lecture took place in the auditorium of Olin Physical Laboratories and was sponsored by the sociology department.



Amer Khan/Old Gold and Black  
Bill Bamberger talks with a student after his slide presentation on the closing of a factory in Mebane, N.C.



Amer Khan/Old Gold and Black  
Nat Irvin II, a writer for the *Winston-Salem Journal*, leads a discussion of race relations with a group of merit scholars Nov. 17 in the Oak Room of Reynolda Hall. The forum was entitled "Racism around Us," and was the first of what the Merit-Based Scholarship Program hopes will become a regular series of seminars and lectures.

## Journalist discusses future of race relations

By Jay Cridlin  
Old Gold and Black Reporter

An assembly of merit scholars, faculty members and campus administrators participated in "Racism Around Us," an evening of dessert and discussion Nov. 17 with journalist Nat Irvin II designed to help students look toward the future of race relations in America.

Held in the Oak Room of Reynolda Hall, the event was the first in a series of seminars and lectures organized by the Merit-based Scholarships Program.

Irvin is a writer for the *Winston-Salem Journal*, which last spring produced a series on race relations in the Winston-Salem area, and he is the founder and president of the non-profit organization, Future Focus 2020.

After being introduced by Thomas Phillips, an associate director of the financial aid office, Irvin began by telling the story of how he lost sight in his left eye as a child growing up in Augusta, Ga.

He was initially refused treatment because he was black, leaving him blind in that eye — blindness that is symbolic of America's refusal to look closely at race relations today.

This refusal is something that Irvin refers to as "Ignoricism," feigned indifference to people who are not like "ourselves."

As an example, Irvin cited a series written by William Booth of the *Washington Post* showing that because of increasing clashes in culture, white people have been moving from South Florida in great numbers.

"What's happening in Miami is the mass migration of whites from the inner cities to not just the suburbs, but out of the county — you are going to have to pay attention — it is

happening all over the country; it's not just happening in places like Miami," Irvin said.

Irvin said that by the year 2053, white people are no longer expected to make up the majority of the American population and that within the next decade, Hispanics would outnumber blacks in the United States.

Such trends indicate that all races must begin to adjust to fears that they have about cultural diversification.

White people must realize that they will soon be a minority; blacks must begin to see that they will no longer make up the largest part of the minority; and Hispanics must learn to live caught between the primary racial struggle between black and white people, he said.

Future Focus 2020 is a group dedicated to identifying trends in American race relations that will help shape African-American, Latino, Asian and Native American communities in the future.

"Our mission is very simple: It is to engage the African-American community in futurist thinking, about where we will be in the year 2020, with implications for America's future," Irvin said.

Before answering questions about topics ranging from the foreseeable future of the Winston-Salem area to racial stereotypes in sports, Irvin commented on the future of the merit scholars in the room.

"We just could not tell you how much of an impact you — black, white or otherwise student — could have on the future of your own university, of your own community," he said.

"I hope that you will take the opportunity to confront your own ideas and your own fears about why you think the way you think about race," Irvin said.

## BRIEFLY

Campus organizations may have their announcements listed by sending e-mail to [news@ogb.wfu.edu](mailto:news@ogb.wfu.edu), faxing to Ext. 4561 or writing to P.O. Box 7569. The deadline for inclusion in each week's paper is 5 p.m. Monday.

### Delta Sigma Theta Inc. hosts crime forum

The Pi Omicron chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. will sponsor an educational and informational forum on the recent resurgence of various hate crimes in the United States at 6 p.m. today in Pugh Auditorium.

Along with members of the faculty and Winston-Salem community, the forum will explore possible reasons for the recent resurgence, the legal ramifications, legal intent versus enforcement, problems encountered during enforcement, freedom of speech, racism, sexism, sexuality and whether laws help or hinder those they intend to help. For more information, call Yemi Adebomire at Ext. 6630.

### Telephone prefix changes this month

The university reminds callers to the university that its telephone prefix has been changed to 758.

The university's Reynolda Campus adopted the 758 prefix last year, replacing its former 759 prefix. The old prefix continued to work until early November. Callers must use only the 758 prefix now for Reynolda Campus numbers. Anyone attempting to use the old prefix will reach a constant busy signal.

Campus telecommunications office staff emphasizes that telephone numbers remain the same, otherwise.

New telephone directories reflect

the telephone number changes on the Reynolda Campus.

### Association to host campus-wide dance

The Resident Student Association will host the Black and Gold Ball, a campus-wide semi-formal featuring the Voltage Brothers Band, at 8 p.m. Nov. 20 in Benson 401.

Students can buy tickets now in the RSA office, Benson 350, or at the Benson information tables in front of Pizza Hut Nov. 6-20. Tickets are \$10 per person and \$17 per couple. Deacon Dollars are accepted.

### Former prime minister of Poland to lecture

Wlodzimirz Cimoszewicz, the former prime minister of Poland, will lecture Nov. 23.

Cimoszewicz's talk, "The Transition of Poland: From 1990 to 1998," will focus on Poland's transition from communist rule. The talk, which is free and open to the public, will begin at 3:30 p.m. in Tribble C316.

In addition to serving as prime minister from 1996-97, Cimoszewicz held a number of governmental positions including deputy speaker of parliament, minister of justice, attorney general and deputy prime minister.

As the chairman of the National Assembly's Constitutional Committee, Cimoszewicz was instru-

mental in rewriting Poland's constitution.

### Spain information session to be held

The department of Romance languages will hold an informational meeting for students interested in participating in the semester abroad program in Salamanca, Spain, in the spring of 2000.

The meeting will be at 4:00 p.m. Nov. 30 in Tribble A206.

For more information, contact Violeta Padron-Bermejo, an instructor of Romance languages, at Ext. 4144 or by e-mail [padronbv@wfu.edu](mailto:padronbv@wfu.edu).

### Applications available for Dijon program

Applications are now being accepted for students interested in participating in the university's semester-abroad program in Dijon, France, for the fall semester 1999.

Applications are available in the main office of the department of Romance languages, Tribble B201.

For more information, call Byron Wells, a professor of Romance languages, at Ext. 5487 or e-mail at [wells@wfu.edu](mailto:wells@wfu.edu).

### German scholarship applications available

Scholarship applications are available for the exchange scholar-

ship with the Free University of Berlin during the junior year.

Applicants must have sophomore standing and have completed German 153 by the end of the semester.

This is a one-year scholarship with remission of all fees and a monthly grant for living expenses, housing and books.

Applications are also available for W.D. Sanders scholarships, which provide up to \$2,000 for study in Germany and Austria.

For more information or applications, contact Timothy Sellner, a professor and the chairman of German and Russian, in Tribble B302.

### BLSA to host annual scholarship banquet

The Black Law Students Association will be holding its 14th annual scholarship banquet at Bridger Field House Jan. 30. Congressman Mel Watt will deliver the keynote address.

For ticket information, call Jennifer Martin at 776-3006. Special student prices are available.

### Museum to hold holiday shop sale

The Museum of Anthropology will hold its annual holiday shop sale Dec. 1-24.

The museum shop carries a wide variety of moderately hand-crafted merchandise from around the world. This year's selection includes jewelry from the American Southwest, India, Afghanistan, Indonesia and

Africa. Note cards, hand-drawn renderings of objects from the museum's collections done by junior Jennifer Lavender, will be on sale. The museum offers gift certificates and a lay-away plan. During the sale, students, faculty and staff receive a 10 percent discount on purchases of \$5 and above. Museum friends receive a 20 percent discount. Shop hours during the sale are 10 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

The museum is located behind Kentner Stadium.

For more information, please call Ext. 5282.

### University announces Mullen scholars

Ten students were selected from a pool of 62 sophomores, juniors and seniors to become Thomas E. and Ruth Mullen Scholars of the Upperclass Carswell Scholarship.

Four seniors were selected including, Jerome Bulter, Christina Carlucci, Shauna Farabaugh and Joe Volpe.

Juniors included Alex Cappiello, Amelia Fulbright and Sam Newlands.

Sophomores were Katie Ossowski, Jessica Posner and Brian Sumner.

### Truman Foundation to award scholarships

The Truman Foundation provides scholarships for college students preparing for public service careers.

Applicants must be juniors in the top quarter of their class who have extensive records of public and community service, are committed to careers in government or elsewhere in the public sector, wish to influ-

ence public policies, have outstanding leadership potential and possess intellectual strength and analytical abilities.

If interested, call James Barefield, a professor of history, at Ext. 5555 by Nov. 16.

### Research fellowship opportunity available

The university is joining with the United States Attorney's Office for the Middle District of North Carolina and several Winston-Salem agencies to reduce youth violence in Forsyth County.

Student research partners will have the opportunity to work with a faculty member of the research team and to interact with representatives of community agencies.

Undergraduate research fellows will be involved in most parts of the collection and analysis of data, except when dealing with highly sensitive information.

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