—Mayor, superintendent

(Continued from Page 1A)

require all school personnel to wear identification badges and monitor admittance of visitors.

"I'm aware that many of those rules have not been vigorously enforced," said Schmoke.

Two fatal shootings involving city schools prompted Pinderhughes to start the original task force.

Schmoke was the city's state's attorney then. He visited junior high schools with a group of high school graduates to encourage students to become involved in making schools safe.

Posters of 911, the emergency hotline, and of handguns aimed at the looker were hung. The poster of the handgun "was scary, because it was pointed right at you," Schmoke said.

Students need to know if they carry a gun to school, "someone will blow the whistle on them," Schmoke said. "That's the kind of environment we need, that of intolerance by the students."

"If they don't then we will be fighting a battle with one hand tied behind our backs," the mayor said.

Schmoke said if students would have called authorities Monday, the day before Southwestern High School student James E. Grooms was shot in the arm, police may have been able to intervene.

Police discovered a weekend argument over a girl may have ignited the shooting.

Two weeks ago, a 15-year-old Edmondson High School honors student was shot as she walked her school's hallways to go to class by another student who intended to harm another student he had been fighting with earlier.

The mayor said police investigators have ruled the shootings unrelated.

"They usually occur over disputes that started outside the (school) building and were resolved inside the building," said the mayor.

Dr. Hunter said school personnel are to check identification badges and follow the rules set by the original task force.

Students and faculty who are aware of someone carrying a gun should report the person to the authorities, Hunter said.

"I'm optimistic that the efforts of Dr. Hunter will produce positive results as long as we can involve students and parents," Schmoke said.

The mayor said if shootings had occurred at the schools his children attend, he would not have transferred his daughter and son. Schmoke said he would have been just as concerned as the parents who have children attending Edmondson and Southwestern.

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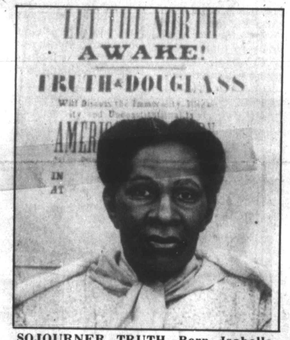
GRAND OPENING

Great Blacks in Wax Museum

Preserving Our History

JOANNE MARTIN — Welcomes visitors to the Great Blacks in Wax Museum.

A MODERN DAY HISTORY MAKER—Dr. Elmer Martin stands in front of his black wax museum, the first of its kind, during the grand opening celebration.



SOJOURNER TRUTH—Born Isabella Baumfree, she dedicated her life to spreading the "truth."

By Jill P. Carter
AFRO Staff Writer

His beguiling eyes are set deep in the tract of his heroic face, worn and weathered by the relentless struggle for freedom. They seem to gaze past onlookers in search of something more sublime. The wrinkle in his forehead is fixed as are the strands of gray encroaching his scalp.

His wrist finds a resting place on the podium behind which he stands. He stands ... he stands ... he stands. Is he ever going to speak? No he never will. His lips are clasped tightly together and have been for almost 100 years. Frederick Douglass died in 1895.

But he lives today among 100 other black heroes formerly linked to subsequent generations only through books and documentaries. These phantoms of past glory are no longer as still as the printed word. But are rocking, spinning, gripping, chopping, churning, and turning. In living wax.

Life-size and life-like, black heroes-past and present- live together at the newly renovated Great Blacks in Wax Museum.

Brought together through the bond of black heritage, contemporary heroes, Malcolm X and Elijah Mohammed are cast among such historical greats as Sojourner Truth and Frederick Douglass.

Seeking to end myths and misconceptions about black culture, Elmer and Joanne Martin, originally founded the unique museum in 1983. Through hard work and community interest, they were soon forced to seek greater accommodations for their growing number of structures.

"The only way for our history to be passed along through generations, is for it to be institutionalized," Joanne Martin said. "My husband and I say often that each generation should not have to start from scratch in seeking out the truth about our history. This is a way for it to remain permanent and not be trivialized," she said.

"We want people to be able to examine the why of our history," Martin added. "We have put a lot of time and care into the museum, and I think the love and caring is obvious as you walk through, the dramatics and visuals jump right out at you," Martin said.

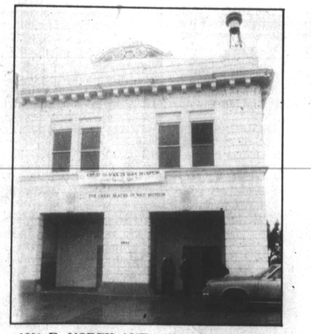
First established in 1983, at 207 W. Saratoga Street, The Martins began to realize their dream of seeking to improve the social and economic status of African-Americans. The old museum invited more than 5,000 students to tour, hoping to motivate youth and dispel any notions of racial inferiority.

"The old museum was great, but the new museum is totally professional," Mrs. Martin said.

Located at 1601 E. North Ave., the new museum features professional set designs with sound effects, animation, and special lighting.

"It is truly unique," Martin said. "Nowhere else in the world is there anything like it."

The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday from 12 a.m. to 5 p.m.



1601 E. NORTH AVE.—The site of Great Blacks in Wax Museum.

RAISING THE WHIP—An overseer prepares to beat a slave.

WAX HISTORY IN THE MAKING—Former mayor, Clarence "Du" Burns, Senator Clarence Blount, and a group of school children witness as Elmer and JoAnne Martin cut the ribbon of their new museum.

FREE SOUTH AFRICA is the way to future peace, points out Steven Biko, South African revolutionary.

CO-OWNER—Mrs. Martin, co-owner of the museum chats with Mrs. Alice Frazier and Mrs. Rosa Parks. Elaine Street, ex director of the Rosa Parks Foundation, looks on.

REAL AND WAX—The real Rosa Parks is photographed in front of her wax statue during a visit this week.