

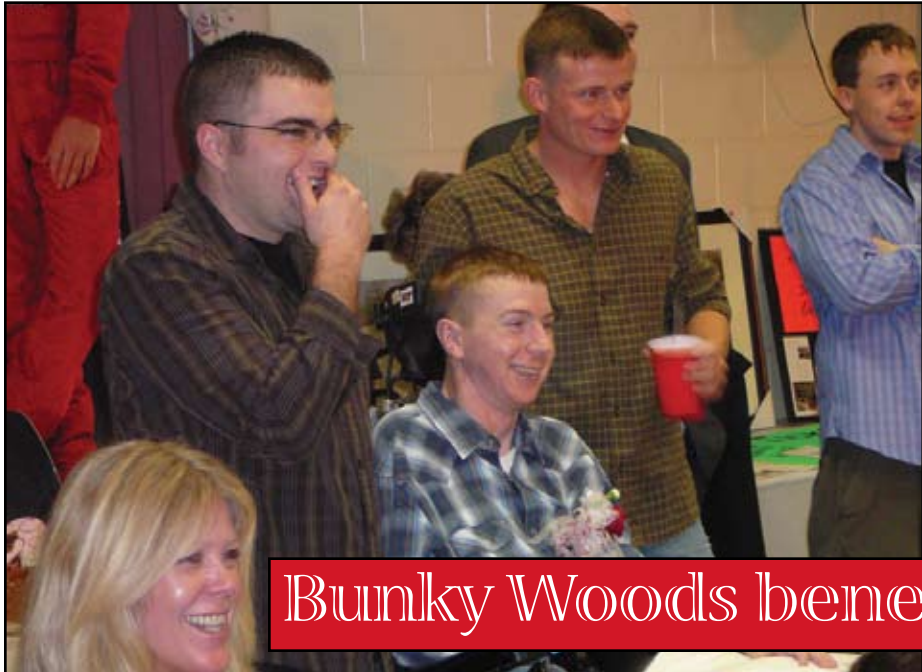


# Warren County Report

Vol 2 Issue 4

Late February, 2007

## A Valentine's to Remember



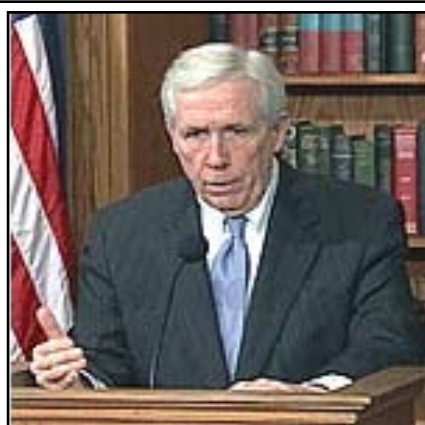
Bunky Woods benefit pictures start on page 6



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**Chris Cline Benefit**  
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### **EXCLUSIVE:**

**First look at the Betty Kilby Fisher documentary**  
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# Warren County desegregation battle explored in film

*Shenandoah University to host public screenings of documentary on race, sexism and integration in Virginia*



COURTESY PHOTOS/PAULETTE FILMS

Shenandoah University has announced plans to premier a short documentary that examines, in a scholarly way, one of the most controversial and divisive issues many southern states faced in the 20th century: the fight against racial segregation.

The documentary, featuring prominent historians and political scientists from across the country, examines the life of Shenandoah University alumna Betty Kilby Fisher, who was just 13 years old when she was a plaintiff in a case to desegregate Warren County Schools in 1958. The activism that her family embraced and the subsequent violence they

endured for their beliefs shaped Kilby Fisher's life and the lives of those around her. After decades of facing racism and misogyny that brought on rage and depression, she now embraces her role as an African-American elder whose story takes the audience on a path to recognition and reconciliation.

Ray Crawford, a local poet and doctoral candidate in political science at Howard University, performs original, poignant poetry throughout the film.

A companion film will also be pre-

sented at each of the screening events. Produced by Shenandoah University student filmmakers, the work features 15-year-old Tanesia Fisher, Kilby Fisher's granddaughter who portrays her grandmother in dramatic scenes in 'Wit, Will and Walls.'

Kilby Fisher and her family, filmmaker Paulette Moore, SU historians Dr. James Bryant, Dr. Ann Denkler and Dr. Warren Hofstra, student filmmakers Kevin Matheson, Nick Matheson, Hallie Penwell and Cody Penwell and

other members of the community will be at each location for the film and discussion.

"These films present an opportunity to honor the spirit of black history month by helping to facilitate public reflection on the issues of race, class and misogyny that still divide our communities," Moore said.

One of Moore's goals is to use this short documentary to obtain funding for a longer film.

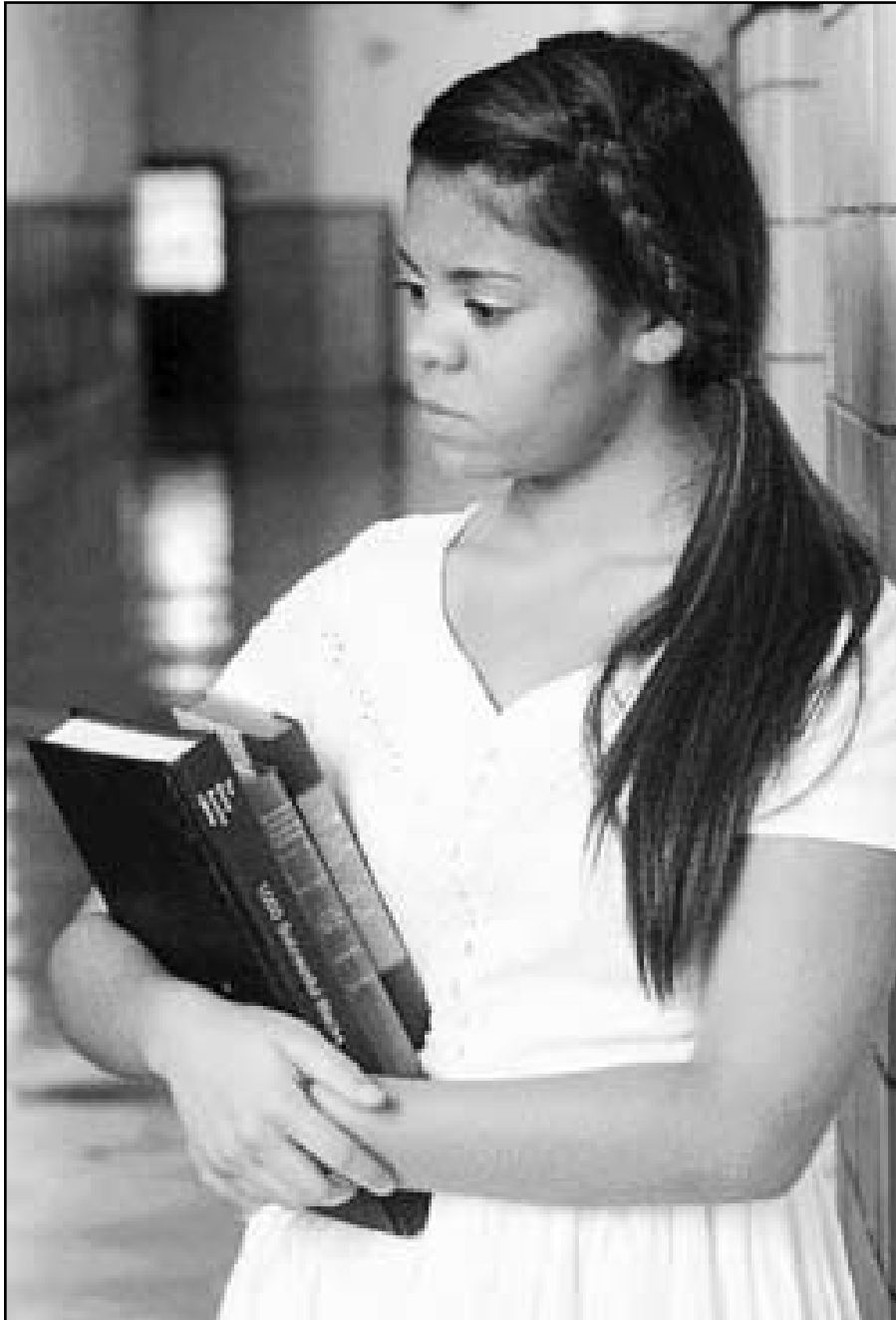
The project was funded by a grant from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities. Original music was composed by Williams-Biondo.

**Exclusive photos: page 30**

**“Wit, Will and Walls: The Betty Kilby Fisher Story,”** a short documentary film presented by the Shenandoah University Television Center and The Knowledge Point, will be screened at three different locations on Friday, Feb. 16 through Sunday, Feb. 18. The events are free and open to the public.

- **Friday, Feb. 16, Warren County High School, 240 Luray Ave, Front Royal, Va., 7:30 p.m.**
- **Saturday, Feb. 17, Old Schoolhouse Theater, 1554 Reliance Rd., Reliance, Va., 7:30 p.m.**
- **Sunday, Feb. 18, Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, 1317 S. Pleasant Valley Rd., Winchester, Va., 4:00 p.m.**

COURTESY PHOTO/PAULETTE FILMS



## A quest for the story

*Kilby Fisher filmmaker has national reputation*



COURTESY PHOTO/PAULETTE FILMS

Paulette Moore is an award-winning producer, director and writer with 18 years of experience in documentaries, commercials and news. She is currently Director/Producer of Special Projects for Shenandoah University where she works to expand educational opportunities through television and film projects.

Moore has a long history of producing and directing documentaries for PBS, Discovery Channel and National Geographic. In summer 2005 Moore traveled to Nicaragua and Puerto Rico for National Geographic’s science unit where she produced and directed *Is It Real?*, a documentary that debunks the existence of a mythical figure called El Chupacabras.

Moore’s latest project for Discovery Channel entitled *Halo Freefall Warriors* profiles an elite school where special operations military trainees become extreme parachutists.

In 2003 Moore traveled to Romania to complete National Geographic’s *Dracula Unearthed*. The film uses crime-solving techniques to deconstruct the myth behind vampires and is part of the network’s *Riddles of the Dead* series. Her film *Invisible People* profiles remote indigenous tribes in Brazil and was completed in 2002 for the same series.

Moore produced and co-wrote the PBS documentary *Juggling Work and Family* with Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Hedrick Smith. The show won the 2001 platinum award for public affairs programming at Houston’s International Film Festival and the CINE

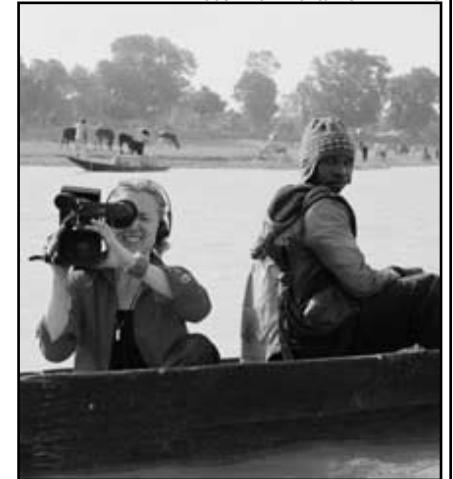
Golden Eagle.

Moore has produced, directed and written more than 15 hours of programming for TLC and Discovery Channel, including the popular aviation documentary series *Wings* and the 1997 two-hour special on law enforcement entitled *Behind the Badge*.

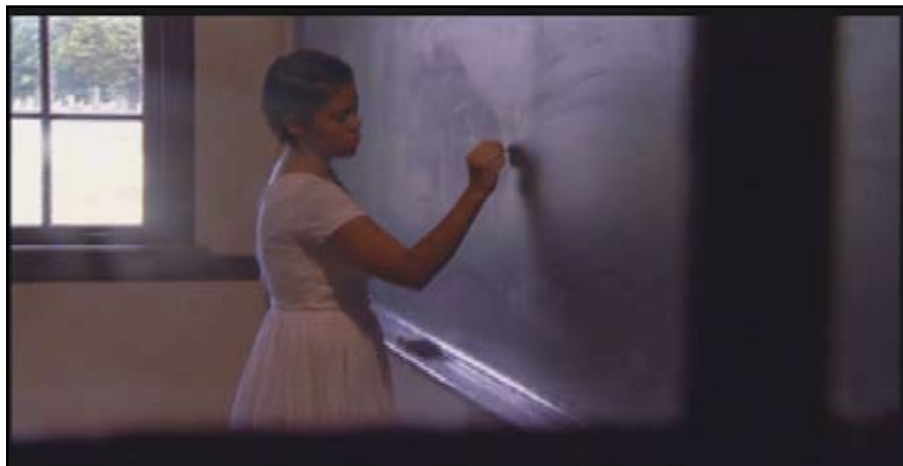
In 1991 - 92 Moore was based in Tokyo, Japan as a correspondent and video editor reporting Asian news and feature stories for the PBS/NHK co-production *Asia Now*. She returned to the U.S. to produce for TLC’s educational documentary series *Teacher TV*.

Other clients include National Visionary Leadership Project, The World Bank, The Library Corporation, Marketplace Radio, National Education Association, Gideon Television, RAI Television, ABC News, Entertainment Tonight, E! Television, Australian Broadcasting, Reuters Television, Christian Science Monitor Radio and the financial news website *Capital.com*.

COURTESY PHOTO/PAULETTE FILMS



# **EXCLUSIVE: first look at new Betty Kilby Fisher documentary**



COURTESY PHOTO/PAULETTE FILMS

**15-year-old Tanesia Fisher, Betty Kilby Fisher's granddaughter, portrays her grandmother in "Wit, Will and Walls." The documentary premieres at Warren County High School Friday Feb. 16th at 7:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.**



COURTESY PHOTO/PAULETTE FILMS

**In 1958, as part of the southern "massive resistance" to racial desegregation, Warren County High School was one of the first schools in the United States to close rather than allow the entry of black students.**



COURTESY PHOTO/PAULETTE FILMS

**In "Wit, Will and Walls," Betty Kilby Fisher tells the story of being raped by white students in the Warren County High School auditorium after winning a court case and gaining admission to Warren County's previously segregated school system.**



COURTESY PHOTO/PAULETTE FILMS

**A reluctant plaintiff in 1958 at the age of 13, Betty Kilby Fisher tells the story of her fight, victory, and the violence she and her family faced as she became one of the first 23 black students to attend Warren County High School.**



COURTESY PHOTO/PAULETTE FILMS

**In "Wit, Will and Walls," a tearful Betty Kilby Fisher recalls her father, played by Theodore Snead, praying outside, asking for divine guidance after losing a court battle to retain land he had been promised by a landlord. That loss compelled Kilby to seek a better education for his children than he felt he had received.**



COURTESY PHOTO/PAULETTE FILMS

**Members of a panel of experts and historians listen as Betty Kilby Fisher tells gathered local residents at a Shen. University town meeting the story of rising from her traumatic childhood in segregated Warren County to become the highest-paid African American woman at a Fortune 500 company. "They gave me a \$100,000 education. And baby I'm using it now!"**