

## History Makers collecting memories

By Mike Danahey  
STAFF WRITER

Harry Belafonte, Dionne Warwick, Ella Jenkins, Gordon Parks, Ruby Dee, Ossie Davis, Carol Moseley Braun, Vernon Jordan, Marva Collins, Nikki Giovanni, Terry McMillan.

Those are some of the familiar names who already have been the subjects of videotaped interviews collected by The History Makers, a Chicago-based nonprofit organization.

So have Ed Dwight, the first African-American astronaut trainee, who eventually became a renowned sculptor. And Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, the first African-American elected to the U.S. Congress from California. In four years, more than 700 people have sat for the cameras to be included in the project, said Edward Williams, the Web master for The History Makers. History Makers claims to have the nation's largest oral history video archives and hopes one day to have about 5,000 such pieces in its collection.

"The nation's richest treasure trove of living African-American history," is how a press release for the group describes its work, adding that many interviews are "the missing stories of America's past."

Dempsey Travis, a Chicago author, developer and civic leader told History Makers interviewers about the first time he was called the "n" word. After telling his mother about this, she took him to her room and showed him a length of black velvet: "You see this black velvet. This is the most precious fabric of all. And you, you are my black velvet," Travis recalled his mother saying.

"Our goal is to preserve not just famous stories, but those es-

# 'Sex and the City' nears the

By Frazier Moore  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Tonight's finale of *Sex and the City* promises to be a fight to the finish for the heart of Carrie Bradshaw.

Hanging in the balance is not just the man (Aleksandr Petrovsky or Mr. Big?) or the place (Carrie's beloved Manhattan, or Paris, where she defected last week?), but also the feelings of fans after six randy seasons on the town with sex columnist Carrie and her three gal pals. What of the sweet sorrow of those viewers Carrie is leaving behind?

Many questions are afoot — stylishly shod in Manolos, no doubt — as *Sex and the City* concludes at 8 p.m. on HBO (preceded at 7 p.m. by a series retrospective).

Of course, what made the show so much more than a hit is, in part, its knack for raising questions the audience was already asking themselves — or eager to. Stocking four flavors of dishy, piquant womanhood, it treated viewers to one tasty conundrum after another.

"Can women have sex like men?" posed Carrie, the show's provocative narrator, on its very first episode. Later she would wonder aloud, "How often is normal?" ... "Can you be friends with an ex?" ... "Do we need distance to get close?" ... "Why are we should-ing all over ourselves?"

But now the big question: How will it end?

"We made a decision," said series star and co-producer Sarah Jessica Parker, one of the few who know, "and I hope people understand why. I hope people will feel that Carrie is loved and loving, and that she feels contentment."

### Mixed feelings

But even Parker is full of uncer-



utive Director Julieanna Richardson in the release.

To that end, the project is opening offices in Washington, D.C., and Atlanta to help collect material. It is recognized as a special library by the state of Illinois, Williams said.

It describes itself as "a combination archives, library, museum, stock-footage collection, online educator, and education PBS-TV participant. Its topics include, but are not limited to, African-American organizations and associations, slavery, reconstruction, the labor movement, the civil rights movement, and African-Americans in public life and the arts."

The History Makers also has partnered with Pittsburgh's Carnegie Mellon University to create a digital archives that eventually will be available at various libraries and other institutions throughout the country. Williams said 400 of the interviews will have been saved in this manner by the end of this year.

Williams added that History Makers has a place on its Web site for visitors to nominate people whose stories might be compelling enough to include in the collected oral histories. Project workers sift through these suggestions, then conduct pre-interviews with those they are considering for inclusion.

For more information, visit [www.thehistorymakers.com](http://www.thehistorymakers.com) on the Internet.

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