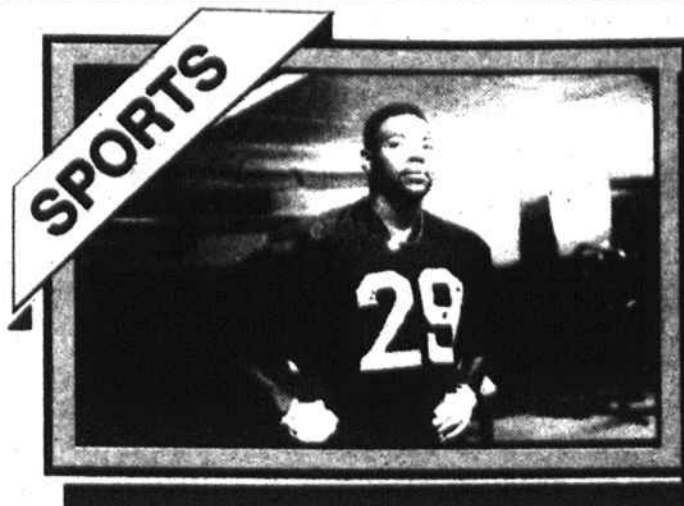




Purle's back
Carver High students searching audience for musical comedy.

PAGE A3



Opportunity knocks
WSSU's Dennis Johnson gets his shot with LA Raiders.

PAGE B4

Winston-Salem Chronicle

50 cents

"The Twin City's Award-Winning Weekly"

VOL. XVII, No.39

Computers help at-risk youth

By YVETTE N. FREEMAN
Chronicle Staff Writer

A new program located at the Piedmont Park Housing Community is helping at-risk African-American students, who live in the neighborhood to do better in school, with the help of computers.

The program was set up last summer by Geneva Brown, program manager of Special Achievement for the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools and former principal of Moore Elementary School.

"Part of my job is to see what we can do for at-risk kids. So I have been trying to target work in the housing community, and this is one that I started off with, putting some computers in here that were given on loan to us by the school system," said Brown. Not only does the school system provide the computers, but also materials for the kids to work with, as well as Brown and Gwendolyn Jones, who help tutor the kids.

There are about 15 students from Hanes Middle School, RJ

Reynolds High School and Rural Hall, who utilize three computers on a rotating basis, three days a week, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., in the housing office off of 29th Street. Brown says "I selected some high school kids and elementary kids that guidance counselors said could use the help on learning how to write better, read better, and do some math." Brown adds that all of this is financed through a summer school budget for kids in need, although the center is open year-round.

"It is year-round. We've got about 13 schools doing different kinds of tutoring. My thing was to come out here, where the kids are. They don't have to worry about transportation. They can walk to the center. So it's an extension of tutoring that goes on in the schools," stated Brown.

Brown adds that she hopes this center will not be the first and only one in the city. Currently there are four housing communities in Winston-Salem; Kimberly Park, Happy Hills, Cleveland Ave. and Piedmont Park, and she says "I hope to get a unit like this in every housing community." She also believes that more

Please see page A9

"I hope to get a unit like this in every housing community... I get a joy out of helping kids, and seeing them grow."

— Geneva Brown



Photo by L.B. Speas Jr.
Students from R.J. Reynolds High School and Hanes Middle School work on computers at the Piedmont Park Community Center.

Petition to rehire Smith submitted

By RUDY ANDERSON
Chronicle Managing Editor

A petition, with more than 900 signatures on it, calling for the reinstatement of former Urban League president and CEO Delores Smith, has been hand-delivered to the Urban League's new board chair less than a week after his election.

During its May 15 meeting, the 20 member board elected Nat Irvin II, Winston-Salem State University's vice chancellor for development and university relations, as chair.

On Tuesday, Lee Faye Mack, a former Urban League employee and supporter of Smith, gave Irvin the petition.

"It is time that right is done by this lady. All this lady ever did was her job," Mack said. Ironically, Mack is the mother of one of the board members elected to the executive committee.

In addition to Irvin's election, Legal Aid staff attorney Hazel Mack was elected vice chair; Gerald Church, a senior vice president of NCNB, as treasurer; and Eldridge Hanes, chair of XPRES Corporation, as secretary.

"The board has made outstanding progress thus far," Irvin said. "We are in the process of building a team and getting to know one another and the Urban League better. One of our first orders of busi-

Please see page A13



Photo by L.B. Speas Jr.
Mary Stromski hopes Project Graduation '91 is as successful as last year's celebration.

Anti-drug/alcohol party set

By YVETTE N. FREEMAN
Chronicle Staff Writer

Project Graduation '91, a drug and alcohol free graduation celebration for high school seniors is only a week away, and the organizers of the event hope it will be as successful as Project Graduation '90.

The celebration will take place Friday, May 31 at the Dixie Classic Fairgrounds, from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m., for all graduating high school seniors in Forsyth County and their guests.

It's being sponsored by the SAFE Initiative "to try to change the attitude and show students

that they can celebrate safely, they can have a good time, they can save lives, and it can be supported by the community," said Mary Stromski, director of the SAFE Initiative.

On May 31st, the Dixie Classic Fairgrounds will be closed to the general public, and only open to graduates and their guests who have tickets purchased for \$5 at their schools. The tickets will not be sold at the gate because "we have to guarantee to parents that this is going to be really and truly a drug and alcohol free event. And then we guarantee to seniors since it's their celebration, that only seniors can come. So all the

Please see page A9

NATIONAL NEWS

Paper urges talks to be resumed

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — The country's largest black newspaper urged the African National Congress Sunday not to abandon talks on ending white rule, saying if it did, South Africa could be pushed into "self-destruction."

The appeal came a day after the ANC announced it would boycott talks with the government on South Africa's political future until demands on ending violence in black townships were met. But the ANC said it would continue other talks on trying to resolve the differences.

Jackson rips Reaganomics

BOULDER, Colo. (AP) — The Rev. Jesse Jackson told 200 graduating University of Colorado law students on Friday that America rewards greed and selfishness while civil rights remains the challenge of the day.

Jackson noted that South Africa's Nelson Mandela passed his law exam three days before he faced sentencing on the crime of treason not knowing whether he would receive life imprisonment or the death penalty.

Mandela uncertain of status

FORT COLLINS, Colo. (AP) — Nelson Mandela on Thursday told an eighth-grade class at Boltz Junior High School here that he doesn't yet know how his wife's conviction on charges of kidnapping and being an accessory will affect his status as a leader in South Africa.

Mandela, who spoke with the class by telephone, has maintained his wife's innocence.

Teen pregnancy prevention

Pregnancy-free target reached

By YVETTE N. FREEMAN
Chronicle Staff Writer

A local program to prevent teenage pregnancy can boast that since 1989, none of its participants have gotten pregnant, in contrast to a high teenage pregnancy rate in Forsyth County.

TEEN TALK was set up in 1986 by the Health Education Division of the Forsyth County Health Department, to educate young girls between the ages of 9 and 17, on pregnancy prevention, peer pressure, and other issues teenage girls face on a daily basis.

"TEEN TALK is an adolescent pregnancy prevention program. Its main focus is to prevent adolescent pregnancy. Now that says a whole lot, but we do it in a creative way. We help the girls look at other issues

other than pregnancy, for instance, career choices, looking beyond today and looking into the future, and making responsible decisions, and just understanding their entire sexuality, said Coordinator Yvonne Booker.

The program has about 150 young girls who are actively involved, and divided into two groups. "We have a TEEN TALK II, which is 9 to 11 year olds. The reason we lowered the age is because in 1988, there was an increase in pregnancies between the 10 and 14 year olds. So that's how TEEN TALK II grew. TEEN TALK, the original program, that's been with us five years this month, is from 12 to 17 [year olds]," stated Booker. She adds that even though the participants of the program are racially mixed, she is concerned that 95% of the

Please see page A13



Photo by L.B. Speas Jr.
Yvonne Booker, coordinator of TEEN TALK is very pleased that none of the participants of the program have become pregnant since 1989.

Chancellor's response to auditors kept secret

By RUDY ANDERSON
Chronicle Managing Editor

Winston-Salem State University's Chancellor has provided the state auditor's office a preliminary draft of his responses to questions raised about expenditures related to the school's athletic program.

Attorney Michael Grace, retained as special counsel to Chancellor Cleon Thompson, said he met with state auditors last week in Raleigh and exchanged information relating to the auditor's inquiries.

"We were very well received," Grace said. "The process now is willowing down the issues. For example, they could come back to us saying they need more information or clarification on some point that still may be an issue for them."

Deputy state auditor, Bruce Thomas, confirmed that the meeting took place Monday May 13. "We have received a draft copy of the university's response which we are in the process of analyzing," Thomas said.

"We will have another meeting with university officials in the next few weeks so that our final report will contain the university's final response," said Thomas.

He said there were some items that needed further discussion and points that needed to be clarified in the university's draft and the auditor's request for information.

Neither Grace nor Thomas would not discuss any specifics relating to the auditor's investigation of allegations raised by a former university employee. Sources at the university say that employee was Vernon Knight. He had been employed as a residence counselor during the spring and summer of 1988.

Officials with the auditor's office have said this "special investigation" at the university was initiated after a call was placed several months ago over the agency's hotline raising several allegations.

Those allegations involve six payments that were supposedly paid to Knight at that time from the chancellor's discretionary fund. The payments totaled about

\$4,800.

In earlier published reports, according to Robert Emken, chair of the university's Board of Trustees, the fund was created by the chancellor using his own money to provide tutoring and counseling services for athletes. Emken has said the board was notified by auditors about the payments three years ago and so was the NCAA. But neither body pressed the investigations at that time. Emken said the auditor's office informed the board that the matter was not serious enough to warrant board action. And the university did respond to the NCAA's 1989 inquiry about the matter and no further action was taken.

In that inquiry and the subsequent response, by then athletic director Clarence "Bighouse" Gaines, focused on the academic eligibility of one athlete; the summer-session attendance of classes by athletes in 1988; their employment at that time; how rent for an apartment at Tower Gate Apartments, utility bills, and furniture were

Please see page A6