

**Miss Latina**

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Miss Latina to act as an ambassador, building bridges between the Hispanic culture and the non-Hispanic culture and helping Hispanics who are new to the area make a smooth transition.

"She will be very visible at nonprofit events, at church events; she will be a top Latin representative," Solis added.

Eduardo Espinola, president of the Hispanic League of the Piedmont/Triad, served as one of the judges. He said Miss Latina will have the opportunity to represent the future of young Hispanic women, their dreams, their hopes and their desires.

He said he was looking for the contestant who could best carry that lofty expectation.

"I want someone who will bring an awareness and a cultural understanding...someone who brings the importance of being a better person in anything that you do," Espinola said.

Contestant Laila Montenegro, who represented Nicaragua and lives in Thomasville, said she believes Miss Latina can help to instill pride in young Hispanic women, just as the Miss Black America pageant has helped many African-American girls feel proud and valuable.

"Whoever Miss Latina is, I think she should be able to speak the voice of the people and be able to talk about the issues regarding Hispanics, both bad and good," she said.

More important than win-



Photo by Kevin Walker

Laila Montenegro chats before the pageant begins.

ning, contestant Margaret Gonzalez said, is the celebration of diversity and unity the pageant promotes.

Much was made of the various looks of the contestants; some had dark hair and dark eyes like Gonzalez and Padilla; others, like Montenegro, had blond hair and light eyes.

"We have green eyes; we have blue eyes; we have dark eyes... We have blond hair, black hair, red hair. This is a way for us to break the stereotype that all Hispanics are the same," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez represented Puerto

Rico, the native land of her parents. She was born in the United States, but said one of the reasons she entered the pageant was to keep her Latin roots intact.

"It's more like a team effort than a competition," Gonzalez said. "If you need help with something, someone is always there to help you; that's what the Hispanic culture is. Everyone is always friendly. If you are friends, you are family."

Gonzalez dazzled the judges with her pose and intellect, winning the first-ever Miss Latina competition.

**FTCC Board of trustees narrows selection to four**

*New Forsyth Tech president will replace Desna Wallin who will retire this spring*

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The presidential search committee of the Forsyth Technical Community College board of trustees submitted to the board a list of 10 finalists for review. From this list, the full board narrowed its selection to four candidates.

"We are excited with the calibre of candidates who applied for this position," said Joyce E. Glass, chairperson of the board of trustees. "Our toughest challenge is still ahead, as we prepare to make our final selection."

The four finalists are: Dr. Gary M. Green, executive vice president, Calhoun Community College, Decatur, Ala.; Dr. Veldon L. Law, president, Barton County Community College, Great Bend, Kan.; Sharon V. Morrissey, vice president for academic and student services, Fayetteville Technical Community College, Fayetteville, N.C.; Dr. Oswell Person, president on assignment to the chancellor, Oakland Community College, Pontiac, Mich.

According to Glass, these four candidates will be asked to return to Winston-Salem in February. During their visit, they will be provided an opportunity to meet with the Forsyth Technical Community College board of trustees, faculty and staff.

These names have been submitted to H. Martin Lancaster, CEO of the State Board of Community Colleges. It is expected that these will be presented and

confirmed at the state board's Feb. 16 meeting. Upon confirmation, the Forsyth Technical Community College board of trustees will proceed in their selection process. Last fall, the board of trustees of Forsyth Technical Community College created presidential search and profile committees. As part of this process, community leaders, students and faculty were surveyed to determine the qualifica-

tions desired in a new president.

During this national search, 49 candidates submitted applications.

Dr. Desna Wallin, current president of Forsyth Technical Community College, announced her plans for retirement in June 2000.

Wallin has pledged to make herself available through July 1, 2001, to assist in the new president's transition.

**Carver High school band receives top honors at Martin Luther King Jr. competition**

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Marching Yellow Jackets band of Carver High School claimed top honors during the recent Martin Luther King Festival of Bands competition in St. Petersburg, Fla.

The 96-member band placed first out of 17 marching bands in the competition and also received the Best Band in the Nation award. Carver was the only school in North Carolina

invited to the competition and to the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade.

"We are very proud of our band and its accomplishments during the Martin Luther King Jr. celebration weekend," said Dan Piggott, principal of Carver. "Our students represented not only Carver, but Forsyth and the entire state of North Carolina."

Warren Moore is the director of bands at Carver.

**Local Public Library Quiz Bowl set**

The local Public Library Quiz Bowl competition has been set for Saturday, Feb. 3, at 10 a.m. in the auditorium of the Central Library 660 W. Fifth St. in Winston-Salem.

It is a program of academic

competition among teams of North Carolina high school students. East Forsyth, Mount Tabor, Glenn, R.J. Reynolds, West Forsyth, Calvary Baptist, and Gospel Light Christian are scheduled to participate.

**Black women set sights on more judgeships**

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**CHARLOTTE** — As more black women enter the legal field, many are trying to figure out how to work their way into most prestigious enclaves, the judiciary.

The topic was the subject of debate this weekend at the annual meeting of the N.C. Association of Black Lawyers, which hosted its first women's summit.

Renee Williams, the association's deputy director, said she conceived the summit after noticing the balance of women in the group has soared from about 19 percent in 1981 to 45 percent today.

Williams said black women experience problems that white women and even black men might not.

"You have women's issues and that's compounded by racial issues," she said. "That's true in any profession, but as attorneys, this profession has always been male-dominated."

Out of more than 300 district and superior court judges in North Carolina, about 14 are black women. All together, there are 46 black district and superi-

or court judges, making up about 15 percent of all N.C. judges.

But only one black female judge sits at the appellate level,

Patricia Timmons-Goodson of the N.C. Court of Appeals. A second, Loretta Biggs of Winston-Salem, is to be sworn in within weeks.

**Downtown arts district association plans gallery hop**

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Downtown Arts District Association (DADA) will present its Valentine Gallery Hop on Friday, Feb. 2. More than 20 galleries, artist studios and retail shops will open their doors to the public from 7 p.m. until 10 p.m.

The Sixth and Trade Street galleries and shops offer unique and exciting products for Valentine gift giving. Additional craft, food, and beverage vendors will offer their goods throughout the arts district. Luminaries will light the way for free horse and carriage rides.

Metalsmith and jewelry designer Jack Jennings will be moving to Asheville after five years in the arts district. Visit him at his Trade Street studio.

The Gallery Hop is free and open to the public.

Additional Gallery Hops are scheduled for the first Fridays in April, May, September, November and December. Additional events are planned to promote art in the downtown community. For more information, call Vince King at (336) 761-1955.

DADA was formed as an advocate of educational programming and promotions of the arts as a basis for urban renewal in downtown Winston-Salem.

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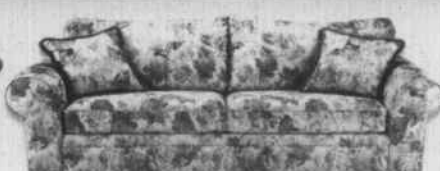
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