

Race heating up

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Nearly 100 of Dan Besse's neighbors cheered him on as he made it official Sunday. He will try to unseat Alderman Steve Whiton of the Southwest Ward this November.

Besse made the announcement at a community gathering-style kickoff event under a shelter in Miller Park. Southeast Ward residents brought homemade lemonade, cookies and brownies along to help celebrate Besse's announcement.

A lawyer who has been an environmental activist for years, Besse will be running in his second election. Two years ago, he lodged an unsuccessful attempt for the state House.

The staunch Democrat says he is running because Whiton has not represented the ward to the fullest since

being elected four years ago.

"I believe that we need representatives at City Hall who understand that we care about the future for our families and our neighbors," he said. "We rightly insist that our taxes be spent efficiently, that we get our money's worth from the city, but we are not shortsighted about it, and we want to leave the legacy of a good community for our children and grandchildren."

That legacy, Besse said, is being threatened in the Southwest Ward with Whiton on the board.

Besse says Whiton has turned his back on sound city planning projects and has turned a deaf ear to talk about creating more effective public transportation in the city. Instead, Besse added, Whiton has favored high-rolling developers over its own con-

See Southwest seat on A5

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Quotables:

"A people who are truly strong should be able to look soberly at both their accomplishments and their problems — past and present."

— Michael Blakey

Golden Occasion

Alumni chapter celebrates 50 years of giving back

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
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It was the spring of 1951 when seven teachers at Woodlawn Avenue Elementary School devised a way to give back to the college that gave them the tools and the abilities to educate others.

The group formed the Woodlawn Avenue Chapter of Winston-Salem Teachers College to help provide support for WSTC so that it could continue to churn out successful, ambitious graduates.

Woodlawn Avenue School only exists in memories now. Winston-Salem Teacher's College has become Winston-Salem State University, educating not only teachers, but a wide range of other professionals as well. But the alumni chapter is still alive and kicking at age 50.

The chapter celebrated its golden anniversary last week with a ball at

the Hawthorne Inn that was attended by the current chancellor of Winston-Salem State and two of the three surviving charter members of the chapter.

"This is an important moment for us," said Henry Jones Jr., the presi-

dent of the chapter. "I don't think that many of us are going to see a second 50 years."

Unlike the charter members of the group, Jones did not teach at Woodlawn. He explained that the chapter opened its doors to any Winston-Salem Teachers College alumni after it changed its name to the Brown Alumni Chapter in the late 1950s. The name change occurred after Woodlawn — a fondly remembered elementary school that was housed in a building across from Shiloh Baptist Church — was renamed after a



O'Kelly

popular principal.

Over its impressive span, chapter members have formed a scholarship program for wannabe Rams and the chapter has been recognized by the university for its fruitful fund-raising efforts.

The group's motto from the beginning has been "to bring others."

Doris Hartsfield, a charter member, said she and her fellow founding members were emphatic about honoring the motto because the college had done so much to help them succeed.

"We were more than prepared to go out and teach after graduating,"



Photo by Kevin Walker

WSSU chancellor Harold Martin greets people on hand for the anniversary celebration for the Brown Alumni group.

Hartsfield said.

Hartsfield taught at Woodlawn for 17 years before moving on to other schools such as Latham Elementary.

She remembers being encouraged when the chapter continued to grow strong even as many of the founding members moved to other cities to pursue their careers. But she admits that she did not expect the group to hit the 50-year mark.

"I did not really think that we would be here 50 years later," she said with a big smile.

Charter member Hazel O'Kelly can't hold back her smile whenever she recalls what it was like at Woodlawn Avenue. She had gone to school there as little girl. When she graduated from teachers college, she taught there side-by-side with her old teachers.

"Each one of my teachers were still there when I started working,"

she said. "It was so very exciting to be working with my teachers. They were very proud (of me)."

Velma Jackson, charter member and the first president of the chapter, is also still living but could not attend the celebration because of health reasons.

Warm hugs and Kodak moments were big parts of the anniversary party. Some came from out of town to take part and to see old friends. Jones said Rams are one big happy family, regardless of whether they graduated from the teachers college or the university it later became.

The bond between the alums was formed out of love and sometimes necessity.

"I remember going to school dances and wearing one friend's socks, another friend's tie and another friend's shirt," Jones said. "We had to be close because we depended on each other."

Williams

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shoplifters," he said.

The consumer has options when something like this occurs. An alternative most common is for the consumer to leave the establishment and take his or her money elsewhere.

"When they do that, they lose that

consumer dollar."

Moreover, Williams believes that the best way to fight discrimination is to express any concerns by going to management, writing letters or filing court cases.

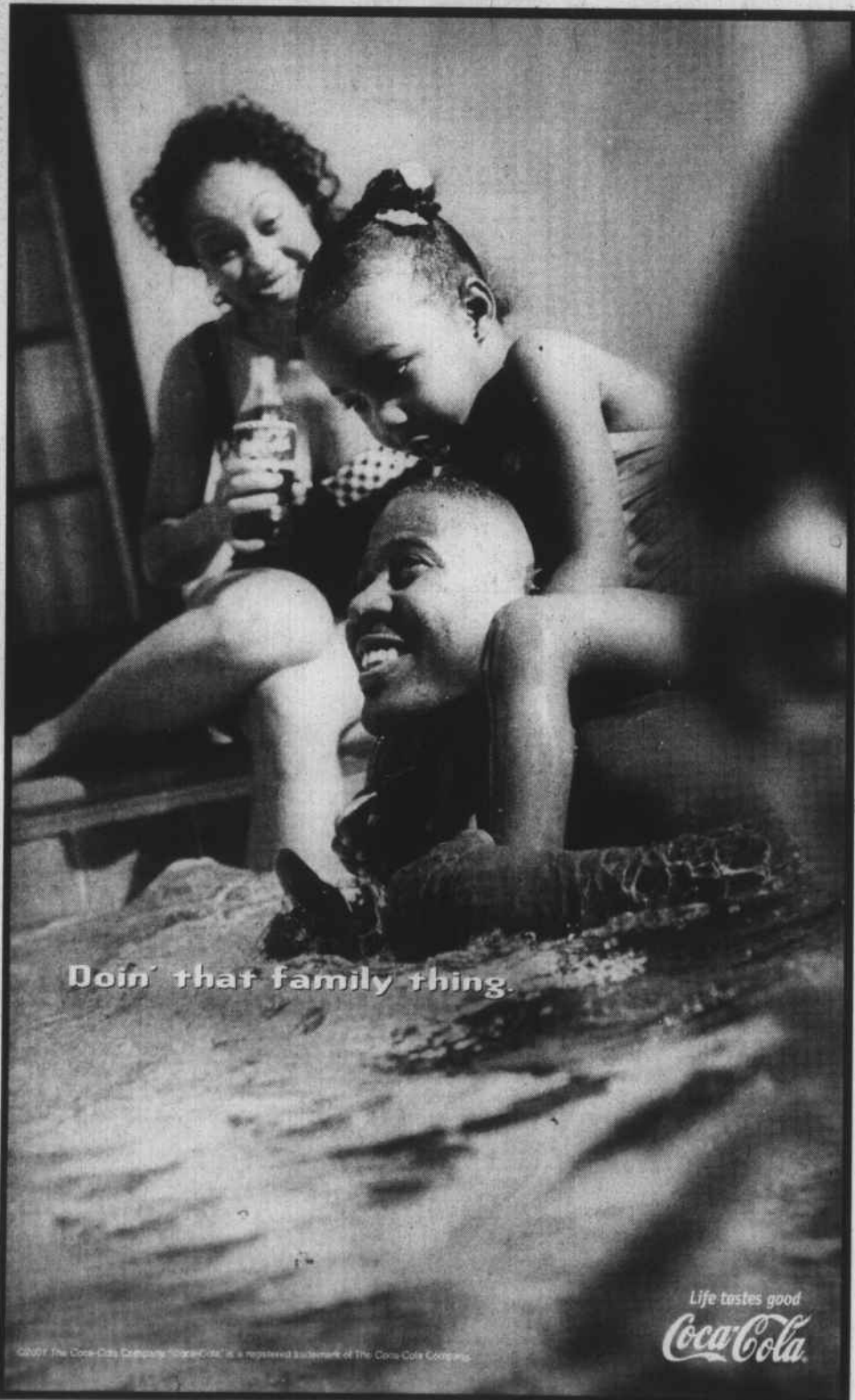
"In all these areas, there's word of mouth and bad publicity that gets associated with that marketer, and that results in lost sales," he said. "Even people who weren't the target

of the consumer racial profiling get to know about it and they react also."

He also noted that investigations by television news magazines such as "Dateline" and "20/20" and articles in the popular press have revealed that African Americans wait longer or are denied service at restaurants and automobile rental agencies. African-American males are not picked up by taxicab drivers, African-American

females are not granted fitness club memberships, and restaurants and other businesses refuse to deliver to sections of towns on the basis of race or class.

"A lot of people think that these things aren't happening today, and one of the things we're trying to say is that even in the 21st century, we're still finding evidence of racism in the marketplace."



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