

SPORTSWEEK

Big 5th inning boost Majors

AMF world team champion crowned



See B1



See C1



See C7



See A2

COMMUNITY
British phenom coming stateside
Liberty street neighbors party

75 cents

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CHRONICLE

The Choice for African-American News

THURSDAY, JULY 5, 2001

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Blacks upset by lopsided sentences

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
 THE CHRONICLE

The words black and white seem to be popping up a lot in talk about the 90-day jail sentence given to former high school coach Douglas Shields and the more than 35 year sentence handed to former teacher and coach Bobby Curry.

Those who are outraged by the drastic differences between the two sentences say Shields was given a slap on the wrist because he is white, while Curry had the book slung at him because he is black.

Others say race had nothing to do with the sentencing. They insist that the cases yielded such drastic differences in sentencing because they are as different as black and white.

The similarities between the Curry and Shields cases are not hard to find. Both men are former coaches and teachers who were accused of having sexual relations with students. Shields was fired from his job at East Forsyth when allegations surfaced in 1998. Curry was let go from Forsyth County Day School, a private school, as well, when he was accused last year.

Shields pleaded guilty last week, just days before he was scheduled to go on trial to face several charges, including taking indecent liberties with a minor and disseminating obscene material, an offense he was charged with because the Forsyth County District Attorney's Office says Shields videotaped himself having sex with a student and showed the tape to others. Superior Court Judge Howard Greeson, Jr. sentenced Shields to 90 days and ordered him to pay more than \$2,000 in court related expenses.

Curry's sentence of 36 years, handed down by Superior Court Judge Ron Spivey a few weeks ago, was still fresh in the minds of many when Shield was sentenced June 27.

"I knew that (Shields') sentence was not going to be anywhere near what Curry got," a local African American man who called The Chronicle last week said. "This is just a shame.... People are feed up with stuff like this happening."

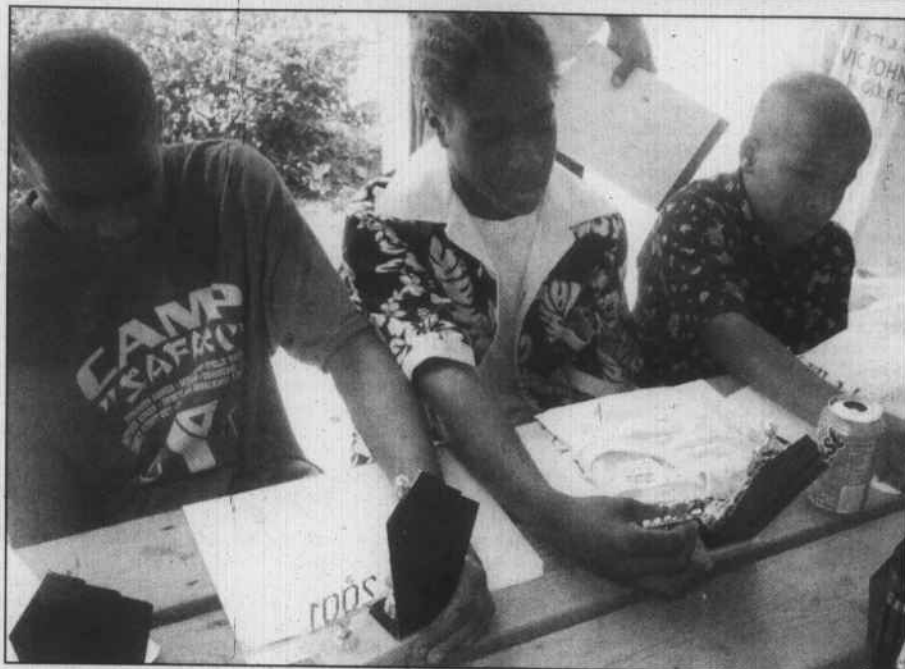
The man, who did not want his named used for this story, was one of more than a dozen local people who called The Chronicle to sound off on the differences between the sentences.

He echoed many of the sentiments expressed by callers earlier because

See Curry on A8



Keith



Novice golfers Eric Moore, Ryan Gooding and Eric Wallace admire their trophies.

Photos by Kevin Walker

Winners

Clinic graduates new crop of golf enthusiasts

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
 THE CHRONICLE

Close to 80 children graduated from Victor Johnson's Summer Golf Clinic last week, but they were told that Johnson is not likely to fade out of their lives anytime soon.

Johnson - a lifelong educator who sits on the city-county school board, started the clinic five years ago as way to give young people a positive outlet during their lazy days of summer - often makes surprise visits to the schools of clinic graduates.

Schools Superintendent Don Martin, who was on hand for the last day of the clinic, recalled running into Johnson on one such visit.

"I was at one of our schools one day and there was Mr. Johnson with a student," Martin said to the students. "It was one of his golf clinic students. He had come by to check on him. He was actually looking at this young guy's report card.... You never know when he might come by there to check up on you."

Martin added that he saw Johnson go into his pocket and give the student some money for his impressive cards.

It's not the first time Johnson has reached into his own coffers for young people. He finances the clinic himself, buying time at Reynolds



Rashard Frazier has been coming to the clinic for several years.

Park Course, supplying food and beverages, paying several golf veterans to coach the young people and providing trophies and T-shirts.

"I want to give back to the com-

munity because I had men in my life that took care of me when I was a kid and I owe so much back," Johnson said last Thursday after

See Golf Clinic on A8



AFP PHOTO Doug Karter

A red AIDS ribbon is emblazoned on the United Nations Secretariat Building during the recent world conference on the disease. Behind, at right, is the Chrysler Building.

Organizations trying to lower rate of HIV/AIDS here

BY JOY ROSEBORO
 THE CHRONICLE

There used to be a time when parents told their children that everything that looks good to them may not be good for them, and according to officials of the Forsyth County Health Department, parents need to remind their children of this very important lesson now more than ever.

The numbers of HIV/AIDS cases in the United States and around the

world are increasing daily. On June 27 officials of the Forsyth Health Department joined hundreds of health departments and health organizations in observing National HIV Testing Day.

Local Health Department officials set up booths in the parking lot of the CVS on Martin Luther King Drive, inviting residents not only to get tested for HIV/AIDS, but a number of other killers such as diabetes,

See HIV/AIDS on A8

Library kicking off summer reading program for adults

BY PAUL COLLINS
 THE CHRONICLE

For many years, the Forsyth County Public Library has had a program to encourage children to read during the summer. This summer, the library system has started a similar program for adults. The program is called Summer Sizzles, and the theme is "Hot Titles All Summer Long." Central Library

and the 10 branch libraries are all participating.

"The response has been tremendous," said Don Dwiggin, public information officer for the Forsyth County Public Library.

The program began June 9 and will end July 21 (the last day to turn in reading logs).

See Library on A2



Actor Joseph C. Phillips in his one-man play Professor Lombooza Lomboo.

Photos by Wheaton James

Joseph's World

Actor's self-written, one-man play touches on everything from politics to blackness

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
 THE CHRONICLE

Joseph C. Phillips has often felt out of place at swank Hollywood parties.

He has a slew of television, stage and movie credits that are just as impressive as those of other party guests and boy next door charm and looks. But Phillips has found that none of that matters once others find that his political pendulum

doesn't swing to the left.

He found this out the hard way last Christmas, as the Florida presidential fiasco was in full swing. Phillips went to a Christmas party, biting his tongue

female guest that he believes that there isn't much difference between the political ideologies of Bush and then opponent Al Gore.

"One is like Pepsi and one is like Pepsi lite," Phillips said recently via his cell phone as he drove on a Southern California road.

The party guest was not amazed by Phillips' stance. She laid into him.

"It was not a discussion; it was her

See Phillips on A2

NATIONAL BLACK THEATRE FESTIVAL



during much of it as fellow party goers sulked at the possibility of a George W. Bush presidency.

He finally spoke up, telling a