

SPORTSWEEK

Howard leads the way for Demon Deacs

Glenn cheerleaders capture title



See B1



See A4



See C1

COMMUNITY

Career Fair held at Winston Lake Y

Local expert says movie right on money

75 cents

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CHRONICLE

The Choice for African-American News

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 2002

Community Gauge

Black History Month is upon us and for the next 28 days, we will be inundated with commercials, movies, events, books and tributes geared toward African Americans. But is it enough just to honor the contributions of this group with the shortest month of the year or does more need to be done to ensure that society understands that black history means more than a 30-second byte or five nights of "Roots"?

Precious Anderson

"Yes, I don't see why it shouldn't. You have European history, Spanish history and African history - it should all be in a curriculum course like literature and English. I think it should be required."



Demarcus Tate



"Yes it should be required. They should let students have the right to take black history. Blacks went through a lot of struggles... and we had to overcome a lot of things. It should be required if they would offer it."

William Otten

"I think all cultures should be a requirement, not just white American, black American or Asian American or even Spanish American. America is too diverse. There are too many cultures and backgrounds. If you look throughout history to the people who have contributed the most, they have not gotten the most credit."



Derek Costin



"I do think it should be a required subject. I think black history is an integral part of our history and of our society. Often it gets overlooked. We talk about race relations, but I think we neglect to get the background on races and don't see where they're coming from or know the experience that they are having, even though we have interaction with them each day."

Troy Grooms

"I have a lot of friends from Europe, and they know a lot more about the United States' history - of our racially divides, about everything from when our country was started. It seems that we don't teach our own people about our own heritage as much as the rest of the world does, and it's a very interesting dilemma culturally. I think that if you start those things early on in education that we can find ourselves being a more aware people and gives us a sense of history that will inevitably lead to a sense of pride and a sense of community that a lot of countries have."



The Class That Never Was

The last class of Atkins High School reflects and looks forward to reunion

BY FELECIA P. MCMILLAN COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

It has been 30 years since the Atkins 1972 "Class That Never Was" graduated from high schools. The summer of 1971 changed their lives forever. Two weeks before school would start in August, the students of this class learned that they would not graduate from their long-cherished alma mater, Atkins High School. Due to the decision to integrate the schools in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County system, the students would be bused to various schools around the city and their beloved Atkins would be closed for the year. Having gone to school together since elementary school, the students would spend their senior year scattered to such schools as R.J. Reynolds, East Forsyth, North Forsyth and West Forsyth.

These students, under the leadership of Pamela Gray Harper, Cynthia Watts Timmons and Randon Blackmon Pender, have decided to have a class reunion Aug. 2-4 that may even include a mock graduation, the ceremony they missed out on together 30 years ago. In the committee letter, the group wrote: "This decision changed our lives and made our senior year a time of unexpected turmoil and confusion. We made it through that final year of high school, somehow, but our lives never seemed the same. The years went by and we all went on with our lives, but for many of us something was always missing."

Harper sees this event as a way to bring closure to a 30-year ordeal. "I feel so driven. This is something I have always wanted to do. We are always sharing somebody else's class reunion. I went to my husband, Arnold Harper (Atkins '70), and people referred to me as being from 'The Class That Never Was.' I decided to make it happen." Pam Harper said.



Harper



Photo by Bruce Chapman

Members of the class are still upset by the closing of Atkins High.

"When people find out about this reunion, they are in tears. It is going to bring healing and closure."

Several of the class members met at the home of Pamela Gray Harper (North '72) on Saturday, to express their feelings about their senior year. Although many of them have achieved much, they still remember the racism and uncertainty they experienced during 1972. Some of them included Wendy Wallace Banks (West '72), Sarah McMillan (North '72), Northel

Gaddy, Randon Blackmon Pender. They reminisced about riding their bikes together to Fairview School (now called Ashley Middle School), and roller-skating in the street. When a large number of them gathered on the block of 19th Street and 21st Street, Officer George Red would call to have the street blocked off so they could play safely. They also loved walking to school together, taking the shortcuts

See Class on A9

Officials uncertain on future of Diggs

BY SAM DAVIS THE CHRONICLE

Where did the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School System go wrong in its attempt to forge a partnership with the Arts Based Elementary Charter School Board? Under the partnership agreement Diggs Elementary would have become an arts-based charter school.

And now that the merger plans have fallen through, what does the future hold for Diggs?

A lot of people are asking themselves questions this week after the local school system decided to scrap its plans for merger when its proposal failed to receive a favorable vote from a majority of the parents in the Happy Hill Garden community. Teachers and assistants at the school narrowly passed the proposal by an 14-13 margin, with four teachers failing to cast a vote.

Despite several meetings, with parents in the community, school board officials, teachers and the ABES board and parents, a vote on the plan failed to draw a majority of parent whose children currently attend the school. As of last Friday only 105 parents had voted, with 63 voting against the plan. The school board had previously said it would not move ahead with its plan unless a majority of parents cast a favorable vote.

Don Martin, Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School superintendent, had set

See Diggs on A5



Johnson

And now that the merger plans have fallen through, what does the future hold for Diggs?



Fryer

SSAH event to feature native Blaylock

BY PAUL COLLINS THE CHRONICLE

Ronald E. Blaylock, a Winston-Salem native who runs one of the largest full-service, minority-owned brokerage and investment banking firms in the world, will be the featured speaker at the Society for the Study of Afro-American History of Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Inc.'s banquet, Feb. 7. The banquet, which will be held at Winston-Salem State University's Anderson Conference Center beginning at 6 p.m., will celebrate black history and is a fund-raiser for SSAH.

Blaylock is the founder, chairman and chief executive officer of Blaylock & Partners, a full-service investment banking firm in New York City. Blaylock, who earned his M.B.A. degree at the New York University Stern School of Business, held senior management positions with PaineWebber Group and Citi-



Blaylock



Photo by Kevin Walker

Instant Friends

Little Keyla Lewis-Fleming and Eileen Hall were complete strangers when The Chronicle's MLK Prayer Breakfast began the morning of Jan. 21. They were hard to separate after it ended. Keyla made her way over to Hall, who is a teacher at Konnoak Elementary School, and was quickly made to feel welcome.

The Chronicle is among best papers in state

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Chronicle was named one of the best overall community newspapers in the state Jan. 24 at the 2001 N.C. Press Association Journalism and Photojournalism Awards ceremony in Chapel Hill.

The paper won third place in the general excellence category, the most prestigious category in the annual statewide competition. General excellence prizes are awarded to papers that exhibit the best news coverage, editorial vigor, use of photographs and promotion of community interests. The Chronicle was one of 18 community newspapers from across the state to compete for the general excellence award in the category for mid-size newspapers. Journalists from Minnesota judged the competition, giving awards to the top three papers.

A judge commented that The Chronicle "serves its readership well with lots of local articles and photographs (and an) interesting collection of issues for readers to ponder."

Several Chronicle staffers accepted the award last week from Gov. Mike Easley during NCPA's awards ceremony.



Collins

See NCPA on A4