

**SPORTS WEEK**

**Rams seniors saddened by loss**



See B1

**Hill big part of Shaw's recent improvements**



See A2



See C1

**COMMUNITY**

**Latest Habitat build brings out masses**

**Latest Motown diva releases CD**

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WINSTON-SALEM GREENSBORO HIGH POINT

No. 28

**THE CHRONIC**

Choice for African-American News

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2002

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**Diggs teacher wins state award**

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

Last Christmas, Avis Arnold-Foster noticed a neatly wrapped present with her name on it underneath her mother's Christmas tree.

Arnold-Foster ripped away the festive wrapping paper to reveal an apple-shaped cookie jar with a card attached that read, "an apple for my teacher." The gift was the most meaningful Arnold-Foster had ever received. Her mother had died suddenly a week before Christmas and Arnold-Foster took the gift as her mother's final way of telling her she was proud of all she had accomplished in her 20-plus-year teaching career.

"It made me more motivated," Arnold-Foster said earlier this week from her brightly decorated classroom at Diggs Elementary School.

"I said to myself, I am going to be the kind of teacher she wants me to be."

Inspired by her mother, Arnold-Foster decided to compete for the N.C. Association of Educators' coveted Human Relations Award, a prize given annually by the group to an educator or student who demonstrates humaneness, honesty and sincerity in the school environment and many other noble characteristics.

See Teacher on A9

Avis Arnold-Foster uses a variety of different teaching methods to get her students interested.

Photos by Kevin Walker



Photo by Courtney Gaillard

These bins at Goodwill are usually full of donated items.

**Agencies seeing donations decrease**

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD  
THE CHRONICLE

Goodwill doesn't want you to put off your spring cleaning until April or later this year. After experiencing a drastic decrease in donations, Goodwill officials are urging the public to hurry to their closets, basements and attics to face the unwanted treasures they need to part with once and for all.

Typically from January through March, donations to Goodwill are slow but the surplus of year-end donations usually lasts through April, when the tedious "spring cleaning" begins. Although Goodwill's end-of-year donation drive was successful, with a 23 percent increase in sales for the 19 retail stores throughout 31 counties in North Carolina, merchandise is rapidly being depleted. As a result, Goodwill is running out of items to sell and forced to tap into its

reserves more heavily than it normally would at this time of the year.

Donations to Goodwill are important for a number of reasons and affect the economy, job market and the community. Profits made from the sale of merchandise in Goodwill retail stores allow the organization to put people to work by preparing, training and placing individuals with disabilities and other employment barriers in jobs.

Goodwill is usually prepared to cover the slow months, but with the volatile economy and stagnant job market, more consumers are turning to retail outlets such as Goodwill, as opposed to their regular stores, to get bargains, said John Cunningham, vice president of retail operations for Goodwill of Northwest North Carolina.

"Assuming that the increase

See Donations on A10

**The Power of Black Dollars**

New study gauges the spending habits of African Americans using statistics from several different sources

FROM STAFF REPORTS

A new analysis of the spending habits of blacks in the United States estimates that African Americans earned more than \$540 billion in income in 2000. That amount is more than the gross national incomes of nations like Australia, Mexico and Switzerland, according to the analysis.

Using a broad array of statistical data, including stats from the U.S. Department of Commerce and the Bureau of the Census, Target Market News -- a Chicago-based company that studies the buying habits of black consumers - in conjunction with Coca-Cola released last week The Buying Power of Black America, an in-depth look at not only what blacks earn but also the goods and services the population spends its income on. This is the eighth such analysis that the companies have released.

The study is intended to demonstrate to advertisers and others the influence African Americans have in the marketplace. The study shows that African Americans spend considerable amounts of money for every product and service imaginable. In some instances the average expenditures by black households is higher on average than that of white households in this country.

Among the findings in the study

See Spending on A10



Photo by Bruce Chapman

Shanna Canty shops at the Food Lion store in Walkertown earlier this week with her daughter and friend, Sharita Fuller. A new study says that African Americans spent about \$54-billion on food in 2000.

**Womble back from Africa...again**

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

Fresh back from a nearly two-month trip to Africa, state Rep. Larry Womble has as many stories to share as he has souvenirs to pass out to friends and relatives.

Womble is no stranger to the motherland. His most recent trip made his 15th visit in a row. He has been going each year since visiting the continent in the late 1980s as a member of the Friendship Force Inc., an organization that tries to broker cross-cultural friendships by matching individuals with host families in foreign countries.

After saving some money, Womble came back to Kenya on his own, taking

his host family up on an offer to return to their home.

"They told me if I ever got the opportunity to come back on my own, they would be glad to host me and show me some of the places that I did not get a chance to see," Womble said last week. "They made the offer as a serious gesture, and I took it as that."

While Kenya, and particularly the capital city of Nairobi, has been the place Womble has visited most, his adventures in Africa have also taken him to 11 other African nations, including Ghana, Egypt and Somalia.

Womble has never had trouble finding a place to lay his head. He rarely stays in hotels when he visits Africa but stays with an ever-growing

and tight-knit circle of friends he has met through his trips. These friends have not only given him shelter but given him a hands-on look at Africa, a view rarely seen by outsiders.

"They have taken me to parties, social events, out shopping....I wanted to see the real Africa, not just the Africa they showed tourists, and I was impressed with the people and their lifestyle and the kind of personalities they display," Womble said.

In turn, Womble has welcomed many of his African friends to his own home. Just before he left in January for Kenya, he hosted his most recent African guest. Before his first visit, Womble admits to holding many of the



Photo courtesy of Larry Womble

See Womble on A10 Larry Womble shakes hand with Ambassador Johnnie Carson.