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selection
.....

Top varsity players
make list



See B1



See A3



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THE CHRONICLE

The Choice for African-American News

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2002

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Watt looking for sixth term

Watt says he is fed
up with agenda of
Republican House

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Although his controversial, snake-like district spans several counties, U.S. Rep. Mel Watt says that he works hard to not be a stranger to his constituents, often using congressional breaks to attend church services, ground-breakings, community forums and other special events. He stresses that his commitment to



Watt

pressing the flesh with folks in his district is year-round and unconditional.

"There is nothing worse for me than to have someone say we only see you during election time," Watt said during a recent swing through Winston-Salem.

"Watt is depending on the friends he has made during his many appearances to help him win a sixth term this November. He faces Charlotte Democrat Kim Holley in the primary, and then will likely face Republican Jeff Kish, also of Charlotte, in November.

While here, Watt appeared on Que Pasa Radio, fielding questions from the growing Hispanic population he represents. Watt said he was surprised recently to learn that his 12th District experienced the largest increase in Hispanic constituents of any congressional district in the nation. He also made an unscheduled stop at the grand opening of Azalea Terrace, a seniors facility in Kimberley Park Terrace that recently became the first completed project in the city's multi-phased HOPE VI project.

Watt still is a fighter for many of the issues that drove him to first run for Congress in 1992. He still wants to make available more opportunities for minority businesses, make improvements in education, make it easier for working parents to provide more for their families and help to ensure that decent, affordable health care is within the grasp of everyone.

But Watt admits that he has felt as if his hands have been tied by the Republican-controlled House and what he sees as a very narrow Republican agenda.

"I have been a voice against an unenlightened majority," Watt said. "All that (Congress) is talking about now is a defense agenda (and) how to keep people from cutting taxes for the rich."

Talk of bulking up the country's military in hopes of spoiling another Sept. 11-like attack has not sat well with many Democrats. Watt is critical of such plans but says that he and others who oppose such measures are not unpatriotic or sympathetic with terrorists.

"I think everyone was upset by Sept. 11 but that does not mean we have to take 40 to 50 percent of our budget and spend it on the

See Watt on A4

Sharpton's visit comes after busy year

Reverend has seen
jail and controversy
in last 12 months

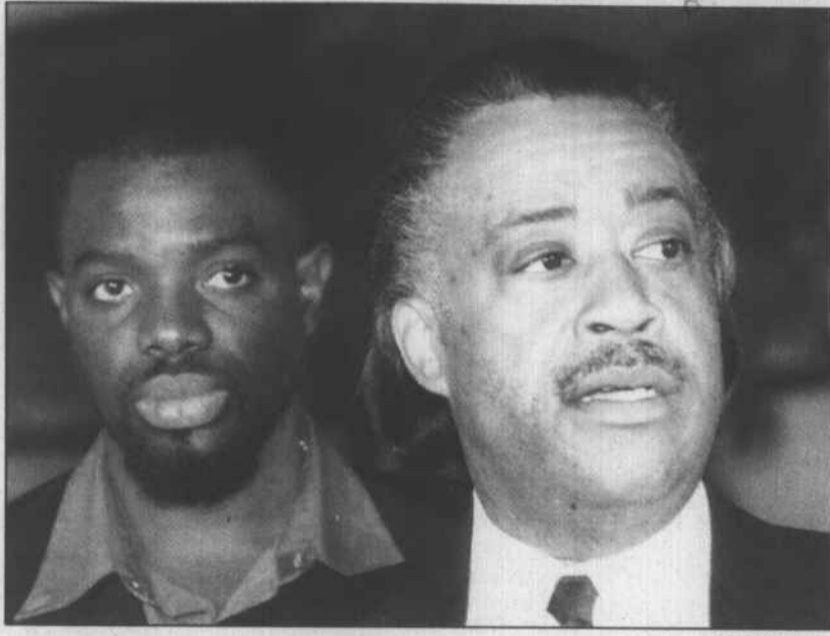
FROM STAFF REPORTS

When the Rev. Al Sharpton takes to the pulpit at Union Baptist Church Sunday, he will be wrapping up an eventful year for him and his burgeoning National Action Network (NAN), a year that has put him in the headlines more times than one can remember.

Sharpton, a well-known New York-based civil rights activist, was released from a New York-area jail a year ago, where he served several months after he was arrested for protesting U.S. military exercises on the Puerto Rican island of Vieques.

Soon after Sharpton's arrest, President Bush decided that the controversial bombing exercises would be permanently halted on the island next year.

Soon after leaving jail, Sharpton began throwing around the idea of running for president in 2004. Although Sharpton has many skeptics that question his viability as a national candidate, there is little doubt about Sharpton's political power in his neck of the woods. Endorsements from Sharpton are often sought out by politicians in New York, and in 2000, he convinced Al Gore and Bill Bradley, who were then duking it out in the Democratic presidential primary, to hold a debate in Harlem.



The Rev. Al Sharpton and Abner Louima hold a news conference last month after a judge overturned the convictions of police officers who tortured Louima in 1997.

Photo by Adam Scull/PHOTOLINK

Much to-do has also been made about Sharpton's relationship with fellow pastor and activist the Rev. Jesse Jackson. Rumors have swirled for years that the two men did not get along. Those rumors intensified after statements Sharpton made to New York Magazine in its December edition.

In the article, Sharpton called for a new style of leadership.

"Jesse has lost some of his instincts for issues.... He's like Muhammad Ali now. He can't fight no more, but he is still a great champion," Sharpton told

Jack Newfield in the New York Magazine interview.

But most of Sharpton's time and attention over the last 12 months has been devoted to NAN, a grassroots activist group that Sharpton founded. Recently, the group has taken aim at the television satellite and cable industry for not airing enough positive programs featuring African Americans. Several demonstrations featuring Sharpton have been held at such companies in recent months.

NAN has also been following closely developments in the

case of Abner Louima, who was tortured by several New York City police officers in 1997. Earlier this year, a court overturned the convictions of officers involved.

This Sunday, after Sharpton speaks at Union's regular church service, he will head to Wilmington, where he will officially open that city's NAN branch. Sharpton is also expected to make a stop in Princeville, the historic Eastern North Carolina town devastated several years ago by a hurricane.

Officials at Union say that

See Sharpton on A9

City hopes to nab MEAC

Tournament would
mean millions for
local economy

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Winston-Salem has submitted a proposal to host the 2004 through 2006 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference basketball tournament. The MEAC is a 30-year-old conference made up of 11 historically black colleges and universities stretching from

Florida to Delaware, including N.C. A&T State University in Greensboro.

The MEAC is a much smaller tournament than the CIAA basketball tournament, which the city hosted for six years before conference officials decided to relocate the tournament to Raleigh in 1999. But having the MEAC would still add about \$2.5 million to the local economy each year, according to Bob McCoy, president of the Winston-Salem Convention and Visitors Bureau, the agency that put together the bid and submitted it last month.

"Anything that we can invest in that will bring that kind of return is worth it," said McCoy.

The city's bid includes funds for scholarships for member schools and a guarantee of \$10,000 for each of the 11 schools. The bid also includes guarantees to help the MEAC break even if ticket sales are soft, something that McCoy says he does not anticipate.

"We believe that by including scholarship support, it will help give us an edge over the competing cities," said McCoy. An official with the MEAC



Joines

See Rams on A9

Author recalls Holocaust heroes



Mark Klempner speaks at FTCC.

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD
THE CHRONICLE

Many non-Jews played vital roles in helping victims of the Holocaust but often go unmentioned. Mark Klempner made known the heroic efforts of those who selflessly rescued and hid Jews during the Nazi occupation in a lecture called "Just the Human Thing to Do: Dutch People Who Rescued Jews During WWII" at Forsyth Technical Community College in Ardmore Hall.

In his travels to the Netherlands, Klempner recorded his interviews with the men and women, many still strong in spirit and conviction today as they were decades ago. He chose the Netherlands because more rescuers have been honored from there than any other country. Klempner, an archivist for Wilson Library at the University of North Caroli-

na at Chapel Hill, discussed the encounters of 25 rescuers who risked their lives to save Jews who otherwise would have been sent to concentration camps. He allowed the audience to hear the rescuers in their own words talk about their inspiring and remarkable deeds on the day before the Holocaust Commemoration Day.

"They came and took them all" is what Klempner recalls his paternal grandmother saying as she thumbed through an old family photo album with pictures of families at weddings, children, young couples. Stories like this motivated Klempner to research and seek out the people responsible for saving the lives of so many Jews.

Hetty Voute and Gisela Sohulein were best friends who were thrown into prison

See Holocaust on A4

Blacks stepping to the plate in AIDS fight

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Ten years ago, when city residents first started holding festive dinner parties in order to raise money for AIDS charities, the disease was still perceived as an illness that mostly affected white homosexual men.

But since then, a steady dose of reality has been spooned to the American public by agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control — forever changing the face of HIV/AIDS. Of the nearly 800,000 cases of AIDS reported to the CDC in 2000, 56 percent were African Americans or Hispanics. Recent data show that the disease also is reaching epidemic proportions among African-American females.



Hayes

It could be called a sign of the times that as Winston-Salem celebrates the 10th anniversary of local Dining for Friends, more African Americans and Hispanics than ever are helping the annual event raise money to help those living with HIV/AIDS.

Verdell Hayes, associate director of development at AIDS Care Service, said organizers made a concerted effort to reach out more to minority communities. Advertisements for Dining for Friends events have been running in a Spanish-language newspaper, and the word has been put out to churches in the black community.

"A number of African-American churches are choosing to share information about Dining for Friends with their congregations so that the word can get out about this event," Hayes said.

City residents will hold more than 50 dinner parties as part of this year's Dining for Friends. Dinner guests are expected to make contributions to HIV/AIDS causes.

A finale fund-raising gala will be held

See AIDS on A5



Charles and Virginia Hardesty and Susan Waynick, first from right, stand in front of Forsyth Seafood Cafe. A Dining for Friends fundraiser event will be held at the cafe Monday.

Photo by Kevin Walker