

**SPORTS WEEK**

**CIAA tourney set to start soon**

**East wrestlers take coveted title**



See B1



See A5



See C1

**COMMUNITY**

**Special crowd sees special rodeo event**

**Locals honored for volunteerism**

# THE CHRONICLE

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## Womble looking closely at Fifth

*Womble would have to move to qualify to run in Burr's District*

BY T. KEVIN WALKER THE CHRONICLE

State Rep. Larry Womble has always said that he would run for U.S. Congress if and when 12th District Rep. Mel Watt decided to call it quits. There is no indication that Watt, who has served in the House for more than a decade, is about to throw in the towel. The county's other congressional district, however, is up for grabs.

Fifth District Republican Rep. Richard Burr has said that he will run for the U.S. Senate in 2004, causing a slew of area Republicans to publicly express their desires to go to Washington.



Womble

Democrats interested in the seat have been relatively silent, except for Womble.

The former educator and Winston-Salem alderman says he is considering running to replace Burr.

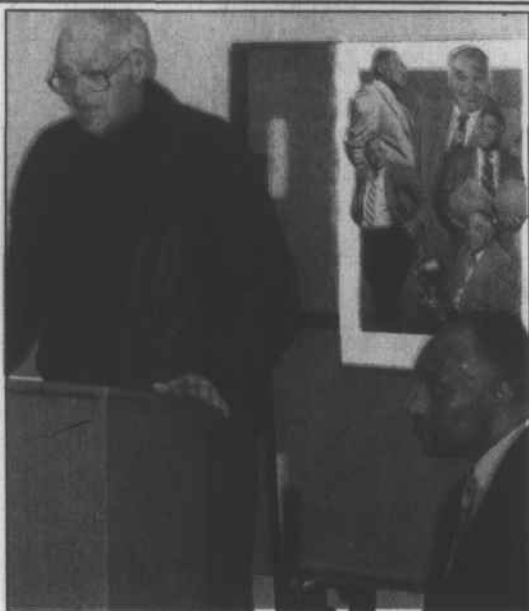
"I am not going to close the door on that," Womble said Friday.

Womble said he has received phone calls from constituents encouraging him to run for the seat. If Womble does decide to throw in his hat, he faces some obstacles.

First, Womble's Salem Lake Road home is in Watt's 12th District. Womble is not dismissing the possibility of moving in order to qualify for the race. It would not be the first time he has moved for election reasons. As an alderman, Womble moved three times to stay in the South Ward after his residence was repeatedly displaced during redistricting.

Womble would also have to run in a district that stretches from Watauga County to Rockingham County and that

See Womble on A5



Coach Clarence "Bighouse" Gaines, left, and Joe Cunningham were honored as Black History Month heroes last week at Sims Recreation Center. Gaines is one of the nation's winningest basketball coaches. Cunningham played for Gaines at Winston-Salem State University and went on to become a Harlem Globetrotter.

Photo by Kevin Walker

## Black issues summit to be held in Winston

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD THE CHRONICLE

Winston-Salem will host

black leaders and professionals from all corners of North Carolina for the State of Black North Carolina Conference May 3-6. Topics such as economic development, politics, health, education, philanthropy, religion and technology will be addressed during this bipartisan meeting of lawmakers, business people, educators and clergy.



Williams

Black Business Media, headed by Richard Williams of RLW Public Relations and Advertising, created the conference. Williams says that for some time now he has wanted to organize a conference dealing with issues relevant to black North Carolinians. Black Business Media is an information and entertainment company specifically for African-American consumers across North Carolina. The two divisions of Black Business Media are the State of Black North Carolina Conference and black business ink magazine (the title of the magazine is lower-cased).

"It speaks volumes that something like this is needed to really look at some of the issues affecting black people on a statewide level...There are leaders out there all across the state,

but seldom are these leaders ever together in a forum that can address issues that affect African-Americans (in North Carolina)," Williams said.



Bowles

The conference will begin with a daylong Black Business Expo at the M.C. Benton Convention Center. There will also be a reception where the Minority/Women Business Executives Business of the Year will be announced, an awards gala, along with a slew of seminars

See Summit on A5

## Remembering Love

*Couples celebrate relationships on day set aside to celebrate love*

BY FELECIA P. McMILLAN, PH.D. COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

Love and the Links are a magical combination. Cupid has been working overtime for the Links and their connecting links, and it showed at the Valentine's Day Dinner Dance at the Adam's Mark Hotel.

According to the testimonies of the couples in the house, they are guilty of love in the highest degree.

Just as the local chapter of the Links has endured more than 50 years, many of the couples have been married more than 50 years, and Cupid is still shooting arrows their way. Judge Richard Erwin and Demerice, his wife of 56 years, stood accused.

"After 56 years, I plead guilty of love. We were meant for each other," Judge Erwin said. "Bunny does not dispute me and I don't dispute her. I just do as I am told," he chuckled.

Mrs. Erwin said: "I am absolutely still in love with this man because he is so kind and loving. He is just a wonderful person. I find him guilty as charged. We practice the Golden Rule."

The Erwin couple attended college at Howard University with Harold and Annie Brown Kennedy. Married for 51 years, the Kennedy pair spoke in unison.

"Lord, have mercy, we plead guilty," they said.

"Our survival is the evidence of our love. If I had the opportunity to do it over again, I would do it the same way," Harold Kennedy Jr. said. "I knew I was in love when we were getting ready to graduate from law school. I knew that we were going our separate ways. I

*Demerice Erwin, talking about her husband, Richard*



Photo by Bruce Chapman

See Valentine's on A10 Robert Harrison and his wife, Nancy, still like to slow dance after 42 years.

## Noted lawyer pushes freedoms

*Robert Grey will become the head the American Bar Association beginning in the summer of 2004*

BY T. KEVIN WALKER THE CHRONICLE

The man recently nominated to head the world's largest professional membership association told Wake Forest University law school students Saturday night to devote their legal professions to upholding the laws that make the United States the freest nation on earth.

"The most important thing that we have is our Constitution and the rights that are guaranteed everybody through that document," said Robert J. Grey



Grey

Jr., a noted Richmond, Va., lawyer who will slowly matriculate to the presidency of the American Bar Association by the summer of 2004. "These rights are fundamental to a free society."

Grey was the keynote speaker at Wake's Black Law Student Association's 18th annual Scholarship Banquet. The banquet is held each year to fund three scholarships for black law students.

Grey urged students to use their legal educations to be "defenders of the rights guaranteed in the Constitution," telling them that they should take pride every time they see constitutional rights in action.

"Every time a woman walks into a college classroom, we win," Grey said. "Every time a person of color walks out of a voting booth, we win.... Every time a newspaper is published, we win."

Grey is a partner in the Richmond office of Hunton &

## Harlem teacher shares success story at Wake



BY T. KEVIN WALKER THE CHRONICLE

Ron Clark has always craved adventure and excitement. His thirst for new and different life experiences has led him just about everywhere, from Europe, where he was a singing waiter, to the "Price is Right," where Clark became one of a very few people to win the much-coveted Showcase Showdown.

But it has been in front of a classroom where Clark has experienced his biggest highs, giving children whom many adults had written off as stupid or troublemakers a reason to want to succeed.

"I can't imagine doing anything else," he told hundreds of people during a speech at Wake Forest University last week. "The best adventures and challenges were right there in the four walls of that classroom."

Clark, 31, gained fame in 2000 when he was named the Disney American Teacher of the Year for efforts that propelled a struggling group of fifth-graders at Harlem's Public School 83 from the academic bottom to the top. Clark's determination to educate children that have been called unteachable

Photos by Kevin Walker

Acclaimed teacher Ron Clark delivered his speech at WFU with tons of energy.

See Clark on A4

See Grey on A4