



See B1



See A5



See C1

THE CHRONICLE

WINSTON-SALEM • GREENSBORO • HIGH POINT

Vol. XXIX No. 26

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2003

Panel picks Diggs and Joines for top honors

Chronicle's 20th annual
banquet will honor more
than 20 community servants

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Mayor Allen Joines and Brenda Diggs, a Wachovia executive who has been one of the city's most active volunteers, will receive the Man and Woman of the Year awards next month at the 20th annual Community Service Awards Banquet.

The event is sponsored by The Chronicle and has honored more than 100 Triad residents and organizations over the past two decades for their contributions to the community. A committee made up of past awardees and banquet co-sponsors sifted through dozens of nomination forms last week to determine recipients in several categories. Some recipients were nominated by members of the committee themselves.

Joines and Diggs were the unanimous choices of the committee.

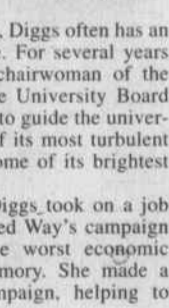
Diggs' reputation as a tireless volunteer was cited by several members of the eight-member committee. Two years ago, Diggs was awarded the Volunteer of the Year award at the Community Service Awards banquet.

By day, Diggs has worked hard in the banking industry, steadily moving her way up the corporate ladder at Wachovia. She serves as senior vice president at the bank and has been employed there for the last 35 years. After work, Diggs often has an even fuller schedule. For several years she served as the chairwoman of the Winston-Salem State University Board of Trustees, helping to guide the university through some of its most turbulent times and toward some of its brightest days.

Most recently, Diggs took on a job of heading the United Way's campaign during some of the worst economic times in recent memory. She made a success of the campaign, helping to



Diggs



Joines

See Awards on A10

Top Cop

Highway Patrol's first
black commander talks
about the past, future

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Col. Richard W. Holden Sr. credits his farm-boy roots with giving him the drive and the fortitude to run one of the state's largest law enforcement agencies.

Holden, the first black commander of the N.C. Highway Patrol, was in Winston-Salem last week to keynote the Society for the Study of Afro-American History's annual fund-raiser/banquet. For a crowd of about 300, Holden recollected his days on his parents' Wendell farm, where he and his eight siblings often had to use their hands to do farm work because they lacked the proper tools.

"I'm very proud of the fact that I grew up on a farm," Holden said. "I learned a lot about work ethic."

Holden devoted much of his remarks to his upbringing. His past, he said, has given him the ability and the drive to succeed.

"When you understand where you came from, you can look to the future with bright ideas," he said.

SSAAH officials said they could not have found a better speaker for the event than Holden, who was one of the original six African-American cadets who broke the color line in 1969 when they entered the Highway Patrol Basic Patrol School. Holden worked his way steadily up the department's chain of command. Former Gov. Jim Hunt appointed Holden to head the Highway Patrol in 1999.

Holden heads a force of more than 1,500 uniformed officers and 300 support personnel. Earlier this



Photo by Kevin Walker

Col. Richard Holden shakes hands with a man after the speech.

See Holden on A10

New study: Southern blacks are at greatest risk of death from stroke

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

State health officials vowed to work harder last week after the release of national data showing that North Carolina has the fourth-highest rate of stroke deaths in the nation. According to The Atlas of Stroke Mortality: Racial, Ethnic and Geographic Disparities in the United States, 24,314 women and 15,688 men in North Carolina died of strokes between 1991 and 1998.

African-Americans were disproportionately the victims of strokes in this state and across the country, according to the atlas, which was put together by researchers at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, West Virginia University and the University of South

Florida.

"We're really hoping that by showing the magnitude of the burden, our policy-makers would be aided in making a decision in where to put resources in order to (prevent) death and disability," said Dr. George Mensah, chief of the CDC's heart disease and stroke prevention program.

Among blacks in North Carolina,

210 out every 100,000 people aged 35 and older died of stroke. Native Americans were second, with 145 out every 100,000 people in the same age range succumbing to strokes. Whites had a rate of 143 people out of 100,000. Hispanics had the lowest stroke rate in the state (26 per 100,000).

The atlas looked at stroke deaths in virtually every county in the nation. Forsyth and Guilford counties fell into a mid-level category for counties that had 151-160 stroke deaths per 100,000 deaths.

"While resources have been devoted to preventing and reducing the burden of stroke in North Carolina, the needs of our citizens have clearly not

See Stroke on A4

Kin of teen charged in death say cops erred

Mother, brother of teenager
charged in death of local
businessman file complaints

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

The family of one of the teenage boys accused last year in the beating death of a gas station owner has filed complaints with the Citizens Police Review Board and the Winston-Salem Police Department's Professional Standards Division.

The complaints allege that officers that came to the family's home Nov. 19 took items without the proper authorization and that the mother of the teenage boy was dissuaded from accompanying her child to the site where the boy was

questioned. "They said it wasn't no need," Geneva Bryant said police officers told her when she requested to go along with her son. "With him being a juvenile I thought that was strange." Geneva Bryant also raises issues of illegal search and seizure in her complaint.

Bryant's 15-year-old son, whose name The Chronicle is choosing not to use because of his age, was arrested along with four of his friends not longer after the battered body of Nathaniel Jones was found in the yard of Jones' Moravia Street home. Jones, who had owned and operated his own gas station on New Walkertown Road for the past three decades, had just come home from work.

Police believe robbery may have been the motive behind the crime. The teen suspects, all of whom were 14 or 15 at the time of the crime, and Jones lived in the same Southeast Winston neighborhood.

Police have been tight-lipped about evidence. The teens are expected to go to trial later this year. Although it is believed that some of the teens have made statements of guilt, Willie Bryant believes that his younger brother is not capable of the crime of which he is accused.

"Right now it is a one-sided story," Willie Bryant said. "The public believes that these boys are guilty, and I know they are not."

Willie Bryant has become the family's legal eagle, making phone calls to everyone from City Council member Vivian Burke, the head of the Public Safety Committee, to the local office of the NAACP.

"If I have to do this for the rest of my life,



Willie Bryant

See Teen on A4

Thanks, but no thanks



Photo by Kevin Walker

Brenda Harris offers a flier to a downtown pedestrian last Thursday. The man politely refused the material. Harris was among a small group of people who protested the government's detention of several local Muslims. Read the full story on page A4.

See Actors on A5

Actors bring advice, new film to WSSU

Tim and Daphne Reid have
starred in some of television
history's most watched shows

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

"It is hard to find good narratives these days. These present writers are the worst I've seen. The writing is the worst part. Very rarely do I find a decent film," Tim Reid said.

"One of the major reasons we are touring to do our symposium is to promote the need for decent narrative. We are touring college campuses for this purpose. Do you see any great stories on the experience of being black in America? In Hollywood, 99 percent of this material is absent of racial content. I am interested in racial content."

Daphne Reid said: "Nobody bothers to teach our students structure. They don't seem to be able to begin, middle, or end the story. It seems to be all about the money."



Photo by Felicia McMillan

Actors Tim and Daphne Reid greet young fans last week. The Reids were at Winston-Salem State University last week to talk to students about the ups and downs of the entertainment industry. The Reids also screened their latest film.