



Bobcats scratching their heads

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Black cowboys visit Ward Elementary

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NAACP opposes Thurmond memorial

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Vol. XXX No. 1

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2003

BLACK LIKE ME



News anchor Crystal Thornton is mistaken by many to be white and is frequently questioned about her multiracial ancestry.

The Complexities of Color

Two local women share their black experiences

This is the second article in a series about the experiences of light-skinned African-Americans and the prejudices they face.

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD
THE CHRONICLE

Crystal Thornton is used to the stares she receives when she's out in public. Viewers often recognize the Fox 8 news anchor from her nightly newscast. But Thornton knows that not all of the stares she receives are looks of recognition. Many times the onlookers are trying to figure out exactly who and what Thornton is.

"I think every time someone asks you, 'Can I ask you a question?' you know what that question is going to be before they even ask it. Sometimes I go ahead and say, 'I'm black,'" said Thornton, who is originally from Topeka, Kan.

At times when she is questioned about her ethnicity, Thornton said, she will run down the list of races that make up her background because some people are not satisfied with her simply say-

ing that she is black.

"I'm very proud of all of my heritage, very proud," said Thornton, whose parents are of multiracial ancestry ranging from black, white to Native American. Thornton said her lineage can be traced back to an African slave and to a Confederate general. Her mother prefers to refer to herself as an "American" as opposed to saying "black" or "African-American" because she believes that best represents who she is.

"Because of her upbringing,

"(People had said) openly to us, 'He's got 'Jungle Fever,' and that angered me. There are times when I can tolerate it, and then there are times when it gets to be too much."

- Crystal Thornton

it's not that she doesn't want to admit that she has African-American blood, but it's just they went through so much. It was hard on them, and it was a different generation," Thornton said.

Thornton's mother and grandmother were plaintiffs in the landmark civil rights case Brown vs. the Board of Education, which

See **Complexity** on A4



Martha Clavelle is one of five biracial children born to a black father and white mother.

WSSU receives grant to improve neighborhood

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

From its brand new dormitory to its soon-to-be finished instructional facilities, Winston-Salem State University has changed much over the last few years.

The university has committed to making equally as noticeable changes to the blighted neighborhoods around the campus as well. That effort took a giant step forward late last month when university officials learned the school's S.G. Atkins Com-

munity Development Corp. had received a \$153,000 grant from Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta.

Carol Davis, the executive director of the CDC, said the money will be used to purchase 17 vacant or dilapidated houses on East First and Fifth streets and in Columbian Heights. The houses will be rehabilitated and sold to low-income families.

"The university feels a responsibility to be a part of the economic revitalization of the area," Davis said.

The CDC, which is named for the founder of the school that became WSSU, was founded in 1998 and already has some success stories to boast about. The CDC was behind the four new and two rehabilitated homes on Excelsior Street. The CDC also has

See **CDC** on A5

Yearbook article stirs controversy at Wake Forest

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD
THE CHRONICLE

Jakita Wilkins, a Wake Forest University freshman, was shocked and appalled by an article that appeared in the 2003 Howler student yearbook. In the story, WFU sophomore Nancy Rhinehart questioned the legitimacy of the 14-year history of African-American homecoming kings and queens who have been crowned at the predominantly white school.

"It was kind of a turnoff, but overall Wake is a very good school, and this is not going to affect my performance, and it's not going to reflect on any of my peers or teachers or the school because of one person's mistake," said Wilkins, a Greenville native who is black.

Wilkins was one of many students who attended a public forum Monday night at Wait Chapel. Several faculty and administration members were present to discuss the editorial comment in the article that has offended so many students and alumni.

The comment called into question reads as follows from page 100 of the 2003 Howler:

"Composed of roughly 11 percent multicultural students, our homecoming king and queen have failed to represent the entire student body," states the article. "Should Wake Forest continue its 12-year tradition of electing a homecoming king and queen that

represent only a small portion of students, or will we change our ways and elect the male and female that best

represent our school?"

In reality, the last 14 consecutive homecoming kings and queens at Wake Forest were black.

Neither Rhinehart nor Alan English, the student editor of the

See **Forum** on A5

The Dean Team

Locals work to elect Howard Dean next president

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

If the Democratic presidential race were truly the political drama that many have called it, then Howard Dean would be considered the leading candidate.

In the last few months, the former Vermont governor has seemingly come out of nowhere to become the front-run-



Hairston

ner in a contest that is growing more and more congested by the week. Support for Dean is on the upswing. A recent poll gives him the edge in New Hampshire, where the first primary will take place next year. And across the country Dean has been drawing rock star-like crowds, even with the presidential election more than a year away.

Support is growing here for Dean every day, according to supporters. Last week, more than 70 people attended a Dean rally/informational session at Central Library, where they were served up campaign literature and given an opportunity to join the local Dean campaign.

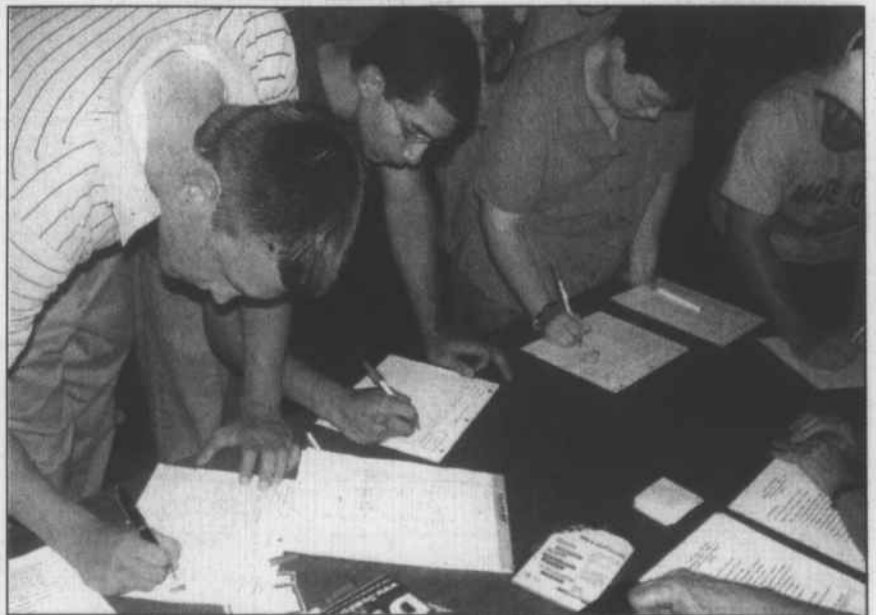
"Our main job is to make peo-

ple aware of Dean," said Nancy Wolfe, who along with her husband, Don, have become the unofficial leaders of the Forsyth County Dean team.

Although his official Web site describes him as a "common sense moderate," Dean has been labeled an unabashed liberal. Last week's meeting drew a crowd that shares many of the liberal ideas that have become main planks of Dean's platform. The crowd was so left-wing, in fact, that some complained about having to sit on the right side of the room.

Bob Law, like many Dean supporters, first became a fan of the former governor after Dean publicly disagreed with President

See **Dean** on A9



Wake Forest University students sign in at last week's meeting.

Photo by Kevin Walker