



Carver players sign with universities

-See Page B1



Smiley slated to come to town

North Carolina



Council kicks off campaign in style

-See Page B9

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THE CHRONICLE

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Coliseum name change irks some



The new name of the complex overshadows the name of the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum.

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Prior to its opening in August of 1989, controversy swirled around the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum. The coliseum was named for the late Lawrence Joel, a Winston-Salem resident who, at the time, was the only living African-American to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor - which he was awarded in 1967 - in more than a century. There was considerable opposition to the naming of the complex, and City Council was evenly divided along racial lines on the issue until then Council Member Martha Wood crossed the racial divide and cast the tie breaking vote.

Now, nearly two decades later, the name of the coliseum is again the subject of great discord within the community.

In May of 2006, the City Council approved a motion to combine the LJV Coliseum, the Coliseum Annex, the Dixie Classic Fairgrounds, Ernie Shore Field and Bowman Gray Stadium under one name, the Winston-Salem Entertainment Sports Complex.



Johnson

Some who fought years ago to name the coliseum after the storied veteran now feel that name, Winston-Salem Entertainment Sports Complex, is getting top billing over the name Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum.

The Rev. Carlton Eversley, pastor of Dellabrook Presbyterian Church and a prominent member of the Ministers' Conference of Winston-Salem, attended the Frank Spencer Basketball Tournament at the coliseum late last year, and says he was shocked to hear the facility referred to as a part of the complex. Eversley,



Photo courtesy of UNC
Donald J. Reaves will lead WSSU starting in August.

Reaves will replace Martin

New WSSU chancellor has impressive credentials

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The next chancellor of Winston-Salem State University met with the students, staff and faculty that he will lead when he takes the post later this year.

Donald J. Reaves has huge shoes to fill. He will replace Harold Martin, a city native who led WSSU for five years before being appointed last year as the senior vice president for academic affairs for the University of North Carolina system. Reaves, 60, is currently the vice president for administration and chief financial officer at the University of Chicago, a post he has held since 2002.

"The responsibility that has been entrusted to me is enormous," Reaves said. "The work is important, and I am fully prepared to do my best for Winston-Salem State University and the University of North Carolina system of higher education."

The WSSU Board of Trustees has been in search of a replacement for Martin for the past several months. Michelle Howard-Vital, a former UNC system official, has served as interim chancellor since Martin left. She will retain that title until Aug. 15, when Reaves will take over.

WSSU trustees recommended Reaves for the job to the UNC Board of Governors, which also gave its OK. UNC President Erskine Bowles joined Reaves and his wife, Deborah, Friday at WSSU, said Reaves is well-qualified.

"In a stellar career that spans more than 25 years, Donald Reaves has distinguished himself as a faculty member, topnotch administrator, and proven leader. He has taught and held senior

See Reaves on A13

Filmmaker shines light on tragedy

Emmett Till was 14 when a white mob killed him

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Keith Beauchamp, the filmmaker whose documentary on the death of Emmett Till is credited with reopening the five-decade-old case, told a crowd at Wake Forest University last week about his struggle to give Till justice.

Beauchamp's film "The Untold Story of Emmett Till" was the result of nine years of research he did on the famous slaying. Till was a



Till

14-year-old black boy who, while visiting Mississippi in 1955, was brutally killed for allegedly whistling at a white woman. Till's face was mutilated beyond recognition and his mother, Mamie Till-Mobley, held his funeral with an open casket so all the world could see the horror that befell her son. Beauchamp said that civil rights leaders like Rosa Parks credit Till's death as one of their motivating factors.

"The murder of Emmett Lewis Till woke the sleeping giant of black people across this globe and of course the civil rights movement, in my opinion, was then destined to happen," said Beauchamp.

Two white men were charged with Till's murder but were acquitted by all white juries. Both men, now dead, later confessed to the crime in a magazine article. Beauchamp said he never dreamed while making the film he would be able to travel the world talking about the reopening of the Till case. He said since it was reopened in



WPU Photo

Keith Beauchamp addresses a crowd at Wake Forest University about his film.

2004, he's been working with the FBI on the investigation. He said that several people who are still living may be charged in the case, but that it's a long way from going to court.

During his research for the film, Beauchamp said that he spent eight years talking with Mamie Till-Mobley over the phone before her death in 2003. He spoke fondly of her, saying her decision to have an open casket service was a courageous one and described her as one of the greatest people of her era. He described her as a deeply spiritual woman who wanted to see the truth come out in her son's case. He said Emmett was her only child because, after what happened to him, she

didn't want to bring another child into this world. He said that she hoped to see people engage in a cleansing dialog about what happened to her son.

"I don't have the answers to everything, to all of life's problems, my objective is to raise that question so we can have this cleansing dialog to come up with a solution," said Beauchamp.

He said that the renewed interest in the Till case has created interest in other unsolved civil rights slayings. This led to the "Till Bill," currently in the U.S. Congress, which will create a cold case unit to investigate unsolved civil rights killings that happened before 1969.

See Beauchamp on A11

Central will honor Ruffin Tuesday

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The late Ben Ruffin, a Durham native who lived much of his adult life in Winston-Salem, will be honored Tuesday by North Carolina Central University, where he earned his bachelor's degree.

"Ben was an outstanding leader," said Chancellor James H. Ammons. "He was a great organizer and spokesman who was well respected in all circles. We are looking forward to naming the residence hall in his honor."

Ruffin died last December, a few days shy of his 65th birthday. He was a civil rights activist, businessman and the first black chairman of the North Carolina Board of Governors. NCCU will have a special program in honor of Ruffin at 2 p.m. in the B.N. Duke Auditorium. After that, a campus building will be dedicated to Ruffin.

Vernon Jordan, a politically-connected civil rights champion, will keynote the program. Jordan is a sen-

ior managing director of Lazard Frères & Co. LLC in New York. He works with a diverse group of clients across a broad range of industries. Prior to joining Lazard, Jordan was a senior executive partner with the law firm of Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, LLP, where he remains senior counsel.

Jordan, who also served Bill Clinton during his presidency, was also the Georgia field director of the NAACP, and an attorney in private practice in Arkansas and Georgia.

The New Baynes Residence Hall will be dedicated to Ruffin. The \$15 million building was opened in 2005 and was one of the new facilities constructed under the 2000 university bond passed by state voters.

Ruffin, who was president of the Ruffin Group in Winston-Salem, was the recipient of honorary degrees from NCCU, North Carolina A&T State University, Edward Waters College, Elizabeth City State University and Winston-Salem



Jordan

See Ruffin on A12



Ben Ruffin graduated from NCCU.



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