



'Special' athlete returns from China

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Mother uses story to save young lives

-See Page A11



Survivors calendar unveiling held at 'Y'

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Years
Community Journalism

THE CHRONICLE

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Reaves opens wallet, sets agenda

New WSSU leader well-received at first address before school staffers

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

The new chancellor of Winston-Salem State University is making some bold statements about his intentions for the school, vowing to bring the institution to a new platform in the realm of higher education.

And Dr. Donald Reaves is putting his money where his mouth is - to the tune of \$100,000, the amount the chancellor and his wife are personally contributing to WSSU.

"We hope that this gift will serve as a catalyst so to speak and encourage others," Reaves said of his generous donation. "We've not yet decided what we



Chancellor Reaves

want the gift to support ... but we wanted to send the message that this is important, and send the message by putting our money on the table."

The announcement was part of a campus-wide meeting held last week in the school's Thompson Center, where Reaves met with his faculty for the first time since officially assuming the role of chancellor at the start of the fall semester.

Reaves, who served as vice president of administration and CFO at the University of Chicago prior to coming to WSSU, has big plans for the university, as he explained to faculty members in no uncertain terms.

Among his chief objectives are improving on-campus safety and customer service, introducing an ideal of shared governance, where the opinions of faculty members are considered in the decision-making process; and making a smooth transition into Division I athletics.

Gaining financial ground is impera-

tive to the school's success, in Reaves' opinion.

"We need to improve substantially our ability as an institution to raise money," he told the audience. "If we want to move this university to the next level, move this university from good to great, we have to have more money than is currently provided by the state of North Carolina."

The new chancellor's no holds barred attitude seemed to resonate with the professors, who erupted into applause at several intervals during his talk.

Creating a tougher admissions process is one of the first things on the agenda for Reaves.

"We need to admit students who are better prepared; we need to raise the admissions bar," he declared. "I believe that access to higher education in North Carolina does not mean guaranteed admission to Winston-Salem State

See Reaves on A12



Lani Guinier

Guinier slated to give law lecture

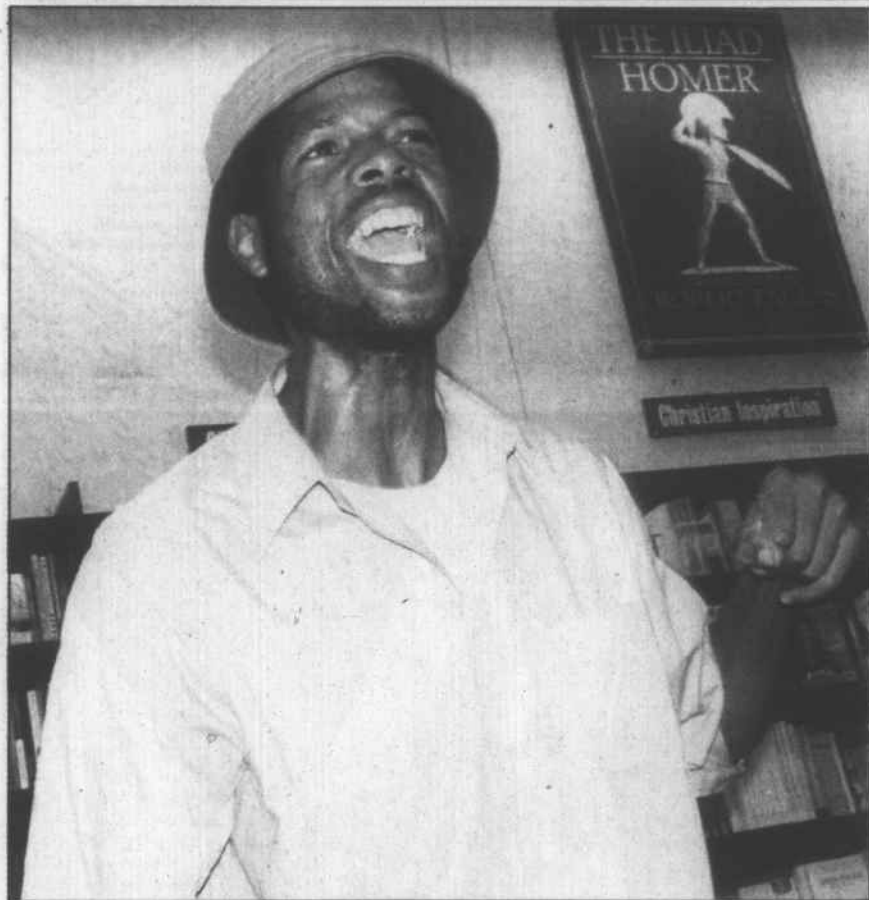
CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The woman who became a household name in the 1990s after her nomination to a high-ranking U.S. Justice Department post was yanked by President Clinton, will speak at Winston-Salem State University next week.

Lani Guinier, an acclaimed Harvard University law professor, will deliver the school's J. Alston Atkins Memorial Lecture in Constitutional Law on Oct. 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the Anderson Center's Dillard Auditorium.

Although considered one of the nation's foremost legal scholars and Harvard Law's first black female tenured professor, Guinier is best known for the opportunity that passed her by. She was nominated by President Clinton in 1993 to head the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, only to have her name withdrawn without a confirmation hearing after members of Congress labeled her "a quota queen" because of her strong support of affirmative action programs. Guinier turned that incident into a powerful personal and political memoir, "Lift Every Voice: Turning a Civil Rights Setback into a New Vision of Social Justice."

The Jasper Alston Atkins



Clement "Universal Mathematics" Mallory performs a poem.

POETIC JUSTICE

Project brings poems, art to city buses

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Posters showcasing local poetry and art will start adorning the insides of city buses.

The project was announced last week at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, where veteran poets and local leaders hailed the project as a way for Winston-Salem to further cement its reputation as the "City of the Arts."

The "Word Up!" poster features two poetry excerpts illustrated by art created by students at Sherwood Forest Elementary School. The posters will be displayed inside city buses indefinitely. The poster is the brainchild of Rodney Holman, of the organization Poets in Public Service. Holman's goal is to promote poetry and get people thinking about the art form.

"If you've ever been in the buses there's rows of ads above the windows of advertisements this size but in cities like New York and Los Angeles and London some of the posters are really poetry posters, so I thought since my hometown was an arts town, it would like a project like this," said Holman, who also led an effort a few



Jordan Williams with his art.

See Poster on A12

See Lecture on A13

BITTERSWEET MEMOIR

With both parents gone from Alzheimer's, Oliver opens up in new book

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

In a new book, "Breakfast with Bubby," Cheryl Oliver shares the pain and struggle she endured as both her late mother and father battled the devastating effects of Alzheimer's Disease.

"I felt like it was a way for me to heal and, in the healing process, I could help other caregivers," said Oliver, a retired educator who most recently served as the interim director of the N.C. Black Repertory Company and the 2007 National Black Theatre Festival.

Her book starts in 1991 when her father, William Robert Oliver, was hospitalized and diagnosed with Alzheimer's, a disease that robs the brain's ability to function and often leads to death. Her father passed away only a few weeks after his diagnosis from causes unrelated to his Alzheimer's.

Sadly, Oliver discovered that her mother - Blanche Rann Oliver, who was lovingly nicknamed "Bubby" - also had the disease. The book chronicles the highs and lows Oliver experienced when she took her moth-



Oliver

er into her home and cared for her. Bubby passed away in 1996, after the severity of her disease forced Oliver to place her in a nursing facility.

Oliver's book is short at 109 pages in length but powerful. She took notes when she was taking care of her mother. She thought she could relieve the stress of hav-

ing to deal with Alzheimer's everyday by writing about the funny things that happened. But as her mother's symptoms became worse, she eventually concluded, "nothing was funny." Oliver kept writing anyway, as a form of therapy. Years later, turning the notes into a book was another form of therapy.

Oliver knew very little about Alzheimer's before it struck her parents. She quickly got a crash course. Her parents could remember things that happened 50 years ago but not recall events that occurred five minutes before. Oliver became a stranger to her own parents, who became completely different people as the disease progressed. She said her father was very quiet in his final weeks, and when he did talk it was almost always in anger.

Bubby lived through the three stages (mild, moderate and severe) of the disease. Oliver said she was forgetful and confused at first. She began referring to Oliver as "mommy," which Oliver attributed to the fact that she was taking care of Bubby. Later, Bubby's became very combative and

See Oliver on A13



William and "Bubby" Oliver shortly before the disease set in.



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