

**Obama**

from page A1

state for Obama's May primary win.

"We made Winston-Salem Obama country," said Ellison.

But he told the crowd that they have a hard road ahead. He said the Republican political attack machine is going after Obama hard. Ellison also acknowledged that there are many myths and about Obama designed to hurt his chances. One popular myth claims that the senator is a Muslim who was sworn into the Senate using a Quran. Ellison does have first hand knowledge of an African-American member being sworn into Congress with a Quran, but it wasn't Obama.

"The person who got sworn in on the Quran was my brother, not Barack Obama," said Ellison, whose brother is Rep. Keith Ellison of Minnesota, the first Muslim in Congress.

The last Democrat to win North Carolina in a presidential election was Jimmy Carter, who was aided by the fact that he was governor of neighboring Georgia. Obama seems to believe that he has a shot at the state. His campaign spent \$2 million in advertising in the state between June 3 and July 26.

Ellison told the crowd it's time to turn the state "Barack Obama Blue."

Obama is also eyeing other traditionally Republican prizes, such as Virginia. His Republican opponent, Sen. John McCain doesn't yet have an operation in the state, but The Associated Press reported last week that the McCain Campaign is sending a team into North Carolina.

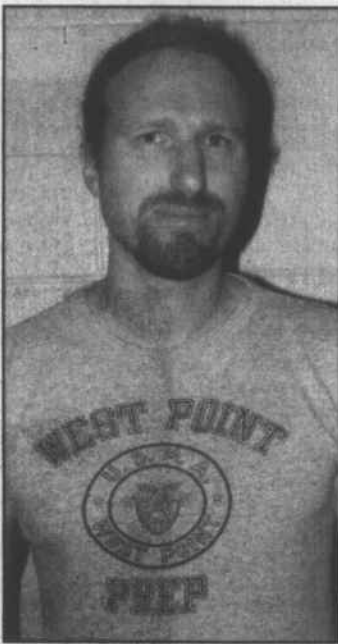
David Crawford urged the crowd to take Obama buttons and bumper stickers and put them to good use.

"Wear the buttons proudly. If you don't have a bumper sticker on your car, put one on your car. Let people know it's okay to be for Barack Obama," said Crawford, a former candidate for Congress and a prominent area Democratic Party official.

Tawanda Treadwell is among those vowing to take an active role in the Obama campaign. She has already volunteered to pass out but-



Tawanda Treadwell is excited about Obama candidacy.



Chris Johnson

tons at the new Obama headquarters in downtown Winston-Salem. Friday, she signed up to work the phones

and take part in voter registration campaigns. She says the Illinois senator's campaign theme is appealing to her.

"I like what he's saying - change. It's time for a change," said Treadwell.

The Obama Campaign has also brought out the enthusiasm of Chris Johnson, who traveled to other states during the primaries to campaign for Obama. Johnson, who's registered as an unaffiliated voter, said that Obama has appealed to him in a way past candidates have not.

"I voted two times for Clinton, then Gore, then Kerry, but none of those candidates ever really spoke to me. I was never really caught up in what they had to say and really inspired by them," said Johnson. "This is the first time I've sort of felt this is someone I've actually liked beyond just ... the lesser of two evils."



**State has plan to fix deficient bridges**

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The state has more than 17,000 bridges that are at least 20-feet long, and most of them are overseen by the state's Department of Transportation.

In the wake of the collapse of a bridge in Minnesota a year ago that killed 13 people, N.C. DOT is taking a more proactive approach in maintaining the safety of North Carolina bridges.

The department announced a comprehensive bridge management program last week that focuses on timely maintenance, rehabilitation and replacement. It also places a greater emphasis on preservation activities to extend the life of bridges and help prevent costly future repairs.

"Our bridges are safe and we

are committed to keeping them that way for the ever increasing demands on the highway system," Transportation Secretary Lyndo Tippet said.

But nearly 2,500 N.C. bridges have been deemed

"structurally deficient," which means the bridge is either in relatively poor condition or has insufficient load-carrying capacity.

Another 2,878 bridges have been labeled "functionally obsolete" because they were built to standards that are no longer used. NCDOT insists

that these bridges are not necessarily structurally deficient or inherently unsafe.

NCDOT will target about \$20 million a year towards preventative maintenance activities, which include painting structural steel, cleaning bear-

ings, repairing and replacing expansion joints, applying materials that slow corrosion, and waterproofing and resurfacing decks and approaches. Additionally, North Carolina received about \$25 million of the \$1 billion the U.S. Congress provided earlier this year for bridges nationwide. NCDOT will direct \$8 million of its share toward bridge preservation.

Another \$12 million of these funds will be used to replace bridges that the department otherwise would not have been able to replace for eight to 10 years. These bridges are eligible for federal funding and will be added to the statewide priority list based mostly on structural condition.

The remaining \$5 million will be invested into a comprehensive bridge management system that will help engineers better analyze bridge needs and target existing resources.



Tippet

**Denerson**

from page A1

of the smooth jazz genre he had become accustomed to promoting in his hometown of Macon, Ga.

"In Georgia, you always had jazz radio. So more people knew the artists, (but) that particular style of jazz was not being played anywhere in the Triad," related Denerson, who worked to change that.

He started a jazz concert series that brought a bevy of acts to the Arts Council Theatre.

"We were just adding to the rich arts fabric that's already here," said Denerson.

When the Downtown Winston-Salem Partnership looked to revamp the outdoor summer jazz series, it looked no further than to Denerson, whose reputation was already well-respected in local and regional music circles.

Last year, the promoter made waves when one of the acts he brought to the jazz series, Trumpeter Joey Sommerville, set an attendance record for the Summer Music Series.

"It was a huge success," Denerson declared. "The... crowd ... had never seen that type of excitement for someone playing at the downtown series."

Sommerville's connection to Denerson dates back to Post Entertainment's lean years in Georgia.

"I wish all promoters were so good," said Sommerville, who recently returned to the city to play a Downtown Jazz concert. "He's like the ideal person to work with ... Carl's one of the gems."

Word travels fast in the community of smooth jazz musicians, and Saxophonist Dee Lucas says the word about Denerson has always been positive.

"The level of professionalism is very great," Lucas said of Denerson. "He does everything by the book; he



Photo courtesy of D. Lucas

Dee Lucas has visited the city many times to share his wonderful gift.

does it right."

Lucas made his way from his home in Atlanta to Winston-Salem to play a Downtown Jazz gig. He said he jumps at the chance to do a Post Entertainment engagement.

The union between the Partnership and Denerson has been a two-way street. He has helped the concerts find new steam and the opportunity to do so has introduced his work to a new audience, jazz-lovers that he hopes will continue to seek out his concerts all year-round.

When the Downtown Jazz series ends tomorrow with an "All Star Jam," Denerson, who still works at R.J. Reynolds, will focus his energy on his own quarterly Smooth Jazz Series, and on his overall goal: to make residents of this town jazz die-hards.

"My goal is to make Winston-Salem the smooth jazz hub of the South," he said. "I want it to grow to the point where we're going to have a jazz festival."

While some of his plans for the city may be a bit down the road, one thing's for sure, Denerson says: "Winston's definitely going to be jazzy as long as I'm here."

For more information about Post Entertainment, visit [www.postjazz.com](http://www.postjazz.com).



Photo by Layla Farmer

Officials from local churches take part in the ceremony.

**Service**

from page A1

of one man in a church not so different from the place where they now sat silently.

On that tragic Sunday in Knoxville, 58-year-old Jim Adkinson, an unemployed truck driver, allegedly opened fire at the church as children were performing the play, "Annie." Two church members were killed; seven others were wounded before congregants wrestled Adkinson to the ground. According to law enforcement officials, Adkinson targeted the church because of its liberal policies and open acceptance of gay members.

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Winston-Salem has the same wide-embracing policies that allegedly drove a man to hatred and then murder.

"This is a community of acceptance and tolerance and people who work together for the common good," said Carol Stuart, who joined the church more than two decades ago. "We're trying to respect other people's beliefs, but you can't

respect, you can't tolerate, violence... Someone who thinks they're a Christian doesn't take out their anger with a gun."

The tragedy hit home for many in the local congregation.

"My heart just broke when I saw how many had been killed and had been hurt," declared UUF member Michael Helein. "I wish we could just go there and put our arms around those people and say, 'We understand what you're going through.'"

Local church leaders took time out Sunday to talk with the youngsters of the congregation and address their concerns about the shooting, Zurek says. The children expressed a question that has been on everyone's mind since the shooting - "Are we safe?"

Zurek tackled the complicated query in her remarks Monday evening.

"Are we safe? No, but not because some angry and confused individual may cross our door," she told the group. "We are not safe because we choose not to be complacent ... because we will continue

to work for social justice and peace."

Strangely, the shooting has actually strengthened her resolve to work for the ideals upheld by the Fellowship, Zurek said.

"It's funny because in a way I feel I have to do even more now, not only for me, but for that church too," she confessed. "As important as it was before, it's even more important now. It ... lets the world know that you can't intimidate people away from the fight for justice."

Tracey Maxwell, who founded Vigils for Healing to recognize local victims of violence, helped publicize Monday's event. She said although this city and the local congregants are hundreds of miles away, their actions and voices in response to the killings are powerful.

"These public statements are extremely important in supporting and strengthening the fabric of our community," said Maxwell. "I think this was a really important gesture that needed to be done, and it was done with grace and with style and with respect."

**ET CARE HEALTH AND MEDICAL**  
Anniversary Celebration  
August 10 - 15, 2008

A Special thank-you for your support and patronage this year!

Authorized Dealer:  
PRIDE MOBILITY Scooters, Power Chairs, Lifts  
SIGVARIS Compression Therapy  
MASADA Skin Care Products  
TRANQUILITY AND SELECT Incontinent Products  
LAURENS HOPE Medical ID Jewelry  
HARMAR Lifts  
Diabetic Footwear by: DR. COMFORT, ORTHOFEET, HOOPOE, AETREX, PEDORS, DR. ZEN  
Other medical equipment and supplies include: Walkers, Rollators, Wheelchairs, Hospital Beds, B/P kits, Skin Care and wound care products and more.....  
Participating Provider: Medicare, NC Medicaid, BlueCross BlueShield, Medicare Blue PPO and HMO  
Open House Monday, August 11, 2008. 1:30 pm - 6:30 pm  
Please join us throughout the week to learn about the products and services offered by E T Care.

Visit us at:  
4388 Old Walkertown Road  
(Ogburn Station Shopping Center)  
Winston-Salem, NC 27105  
336 744-0851 / Fax 336 744-3383

**ET Care**  
Health & Medical Supplies  
Specials throughout the week include:  
• 30% discount on in-stock Activa Stockings and FLA Orthotics  
• Free Diabetic meter kit with purchase of 3 boxes test strips  
• Free medical tag with purchase of Medical ID Jewelry  
• Register for "Care Basket" - drawing on Friday

THE CONCERT OF THE YEAR

**August 16**  
Winston-Salem, N.C.  
Joel Lawrence Coliseum  
LIVE PERFORMANCES BY:  
**MAZE FEATURING FRANKIE BEVERLY**  
ALSO PERFORMING  
**CARL THOMAS AND SPECIAL GUEST**