



Local boxer wins major title in Atlanta

-See Page B10



Film by talented artist to be screened

-See Page A12



Law students do some garden

Celebrating North Carolina Room Forsyth County Public Library 660 West Fifth Street Winston-Salem, NC 27101

THE CHRONICLE

Vol. XXXV No. 30

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, March 26, 2009

WSSU becomes gay-friendlier

Board of Trustees includes LGBT community in non-discrimination policy

The new measure means that everyone on the WSSU campus is protected from discrimination.



BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE

The Winston-Salem State University Board of Trustees has voted to include sexual orientation among the protected groups of individuals in university policies.

The unanimous vote took place last Friday. WSSU became one of the last institutions in the UNC system to pass such a measure.

Designating sexual orientation as a protected class allows members of the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender)

community to be free from discrimination based on their sexuality.

"It was a matter of dignity and respect," said Board Chair Nigel Alston. "Everyone deserves that, and to a degree, that's what the action of approving the policy did."

It is an important step in the university's history, says WSSU's Equal Employment Opportunity Officer

Edward Hanes Jr. "This was a very good thing for the university," stated

See WSSU on A4



WSSU Photo by Garrett Garris Terry McMillan speaks at WSSU last week.

McMillan is again ready to 'Exhale'

Author reads from sequel to bestseller

BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE

Robin Stokes, the naive, love-starved insurance executive who first sprung to life from the pages of Terry McMillan's groundbreaking novel, "Waiting to Exhale," has not changed much in the last 15 years.

"She's 49 and you didn't hear it from me, but she's still just as dingy as she was in the first (book)," McMillan told the students and faculty members that packed an auditorium and crowded the doorway to hear her speak last week at Winston-Salem State University.

The passage that she read from her forthcoming novel, "Getting to Happy," related to Robin. The new book, which McMillan says is still a work in progress, will revisit the four ladies of "Waiting to Exhale" which, after becoming an international bestseller, was made into a blockbuster film starring Whitney Houston, Angela Bassett, Loretta Devine and Lela Rochon (who played Robin).

"I was interested in what happens when you do everything you think you're supposed to do ... and then you realize that you're miserable, or lonely, or just not thrilled

See McMillan on A12

STUDENTS FIND OUTLET IN POETRY SLAMS

BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE

Fourteen students took to the stage at Carver High School Tuesday, gunning for a cash prize and the chance to become the school-wide poetry slam champion. Armed only with words and the wisdom of their short, yet varied existences, the finalists wooed their peers with tales of love and loss, of sadness, heartache, abuse and of finding one's voice in the crowd and overcoming obstacles.

The students that surged into the auditorium to witness it all were every bit as energized as their counterparts on stage. Whoops and screams of encouragement peppered each poet's rendition. It was a surreal experience for Senior A.J. Banner, who entered the contest at the behest of his teacher.

"I've kind of always been into poetry ... at least since the seventh grade," Banner said.

Though he says he has shared his work with friends and family members, performing before a large group was a new experience for Banner.

"It feels great," he said at the outset of the final competition, the third round the school has held this year. "I love it; I wouldn't trade it for the world."

Fellow finalist Alexes Johnson couldn't contain her excitement either.



Photos by Layla Farmer

Talented students Nikeysha Flowers (above) and Chris Torrey were among those who took to the stage at Carver High School this week.

"It's like an adrenaline rush," commented Johnson, who plans to attend UNC-Charlotte in the fall. "It feels good to know that my peers and people around me can

relate, or in a sense feel, where I'm coming from."

The project is the brainchild of English teacher Jason Bratton and Media Coordinator Laura Lyons, who collaborate on "Visible Voice," the school's online literary magazine, now in its second year.

"The magazine online really doesn't get accessed as much as I'd like it to," Lyons said of "Visible Voice," which showcases the literary and artistic talents of Carver

See Poets on A11

Remembering When

KIDS LEARN WHAT LIFE WAS LIKE FOR THEIR GRANDPARENTS

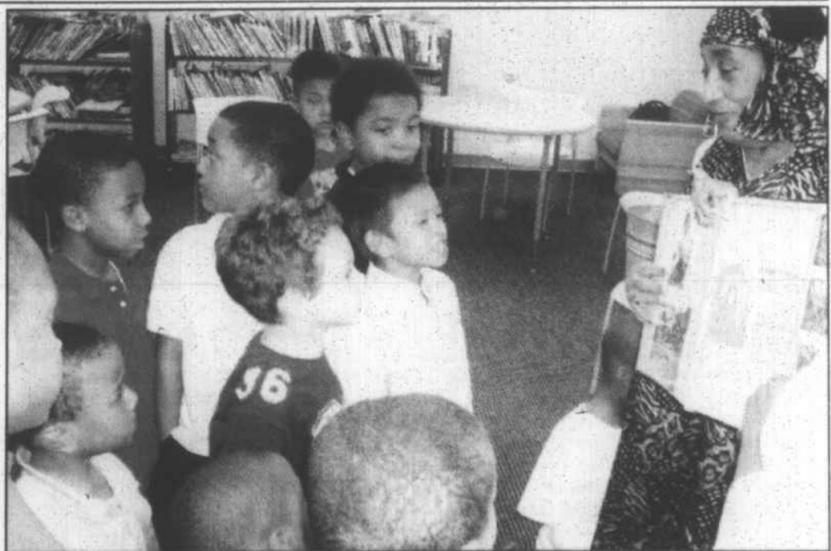
BY T. KEVIN WALKER THE CHRONICLE

For a generation born in the e-mail and text message era, communicating with pen and paper is almost a foreign concept. But tell them that there was a time when youngsters had to ignite an oil-filled lamp instead of flicking a light switch to complete homework assignments, and you might as well be spewing science fiction.

The elementary-age group of boys who Annie Hamlin Johnson took on a walk down memory lane last week looked like cavemen discovering fire as they listened with rapt attention to Johnson's memories of outhouses, wood-burning stoves and manual washing machines.



A youngster experiences washing in a tin tub.



Photos by Kevin Walker

See Johnson on A11

Annie Hamlin Johnson discusses the horrors of slavery with a group of kids.

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