

East Ward

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not know that the Council Member who Montgomery beat in the primary - Johnson - was seated directly in front of her.

"That's not the issue!" said Johnson, who said concerns were being raised because she and other candidates were not allowed to freely campaign on the WSSU campus like Montgomery was.

Elaborating on her concerns after the forum, Johnson said she made several attempts to get her message out on the campus. She said she was ultimately directed to the Office of Campus Life and informed that she could bring fliers on the campus but that any kind of formal forum to present herself to students would have to be initiated by a WSSU student or campus organization.

Nancy Young, WSSU's interim director of Public and Media Relations, confirmed Tuesday that campus political rallies or forums must be student-driven. There are some exceptions, though. Young mentioned the campus' two "Free Speech Zones," where any student or non-student can go and say pretty much anything he or she would like.

She said Chancellor Donald Reaves never received a request from Johnson or the other candidates for campus access. If access had been requested, she said, the university would have been more "sensitive" to helping the candidates get their message out on campus in order to be as fair as possible in light of Montgomery's candidacy.

"It is really up to the candidate to make their wishes known," said Young.

Johnson has also questioned whether WSSU freshmen were residents of the county for at least 30 days, as required, when they voted for Montgomery. The Forsyth County Board of Elections looked into the matter, but only tossed out less than a handful of ballots, not enough to make a difference in a race in which Montgomery got twice the number of votes that Johnson received.

It had been reported that Johnson was blind-sided by Montgomery's plan to win the primary with student votes. But Johnson said that was not the case. She had read a story in *Yes! Weekly* early in the primary season in which Montgomery discussed his strategy. She had thought that enough of her longtime, loyal constituents would show up on primary day to overcome the big crowds of students who took advantage of early voting to cast ballots for Montgomery.

"I think it's a wake-up call for the community at large," said Johnson, who believes that many people stayed home from the polls because they assumed she would be safe.

Elections rules prohibit Johnson from mounting a third-party or write-in campaign in order to challenge Montgomery in the November General Election, when he will face no opposition, but Johnson says many in the East Ward have approached her with concerns about Montgomery.

"The community is concerned because



Carolyn Merritt listens as Council Member Jonson speaks.

they don't know who Derwin is," said Johnson.

Montgomery admitted Tuesday that he has work to do in terms of introducing himself to the ward as a whole. He says that process has already begun.

"I will attempt to represent everyone to the best of my ability," he said.

The Hopkins, SC native is only 21, but has already amassed an impressive community service resume. Montgomery is the president of the WSSU NAACP chapter; the chaplain of his fraternity, the Mu Epsilon Chapter of Omega Psi Phi; and the youth minister at Calvary Baptist Church.

Earlier this year, he received an award proclaiming him a "young dreamer" at the city's annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. program. Ironically, Johnson recommended Montgomery for that honor.

Accomplishments aside, there are still many who say that Montgomery's candidacy was orchestrated by Larry Little, a former City Council member and legendary local activist. Johnson did not mention Little by name but did say that she believes Montgomery was helped. Little is professor at WSSU who had taught Montgomery in the past. But Montgomery says his campaign was his own and that those who believe he is simply a puppet are doing a disservice to WSSU - which he says is filled with bright students with extraordinary abilities - and to young people.

"That's to say that young people can't have their own goals and set their own standards," he said. "We diminish the accomplishments of young people when we believe that they can't do anything (on their own)."

Both Johnson and Montgomery said it's time to move on. He wants those who have doubts about his leadership to give him a chance and stand with him as he pushes for better days for the East Ward.

"I am excited about energizing this community," Montgomery said.

She says after her term ends in December, she'll have time to work in her yard a little more, but won't vanish from the public scene.

"I will stay engaged," said Johnson. "I am not a person to just sit idly and twiddle my thumbs."

Health care

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color, where more than seven million African Americans are without coverage. This is not a contrived problem; rising healthcare costs are a real crisis.

So why, suddenly, must healthcare reform legislation become a budget-reduction bill?

Instead of focusing on how to obtain the best coverage possible for millions of people without insurance, the debate in Congress has been transformed into a referendum on which plan can save government the most money. This is not how it should be. When Congress was allocating billions of dollars for the war in Iraq, the focus was on how to win the war, not on how much taxpayer money could be saved.

Right now, the nation needs its leaders, President Obama and the Congress to focus on the best plan for the people, regardless of the cost. There has been much debate over whether there should be a "public option" allowing the government to offer insurance. The public option should be considered not based on its cost, but its merit. It should be included if it can offer additional competition in the marketplace and drive down the premiums charged for other insurance plans. Now is not the time for ideological battles over government-run programs, now is the time for finding and implementing programs that work, be they government, private or hybrids. The nation needs programs that reduce the cost of insurance to consumers and cover the uninsured.

The Kaiser Family Foundation recently released data further reinforcing why real healthcare reform must be enacted. Already, healthcare coverage for the average American family costs

\$13,375 a year, and health insurance premiums increased 138 percent over the last 10 years. At that rate, many families will suffer financial hardships.

Yet, largely because of the diversionary issues used to cloud the debate, the public doesn't focus on the fact that we all pay a price when healthcare costs skyrocket. The businesses that pay the healthcare coverage for 160 million Americans must either deduct more money from employee wages or raise the price of their products or services, or in some cases, do both.

Healthcare in America is a

train racing toward derailment.

When lawmakers consider the cost of a plan, they need to also consider the pain and higher cost caused by their inaction. And they need to remember that if the town hall meetings had been populated with people without insurance, they would wave signs, saying, "Help Me."

Dr. Henrie M. Treadwell is director of Community Voices, a nonprofit organization at Morehouse School of Medicine working to improve health services and health-care access for all Americans.

City spreads around public safety stimulus money

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Winston-Salem will receive almost \$2.9 million in federal grants for public safety.

Most of the money will go to the Fire Department, which will receive \$2,008,541 toward construction of Fire Station 19 on Glenn High Road. The grant will cover two-thirds of the station's estimated \$3 million cost. The grant was awarded by the Department of Homeland Security as part of the \$380 million in grants financed by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Greg Turner, the assistant city manager for public works, noted that construction of Station 19 was the City Council's top priority for this grant program.

The Police Department will receive three

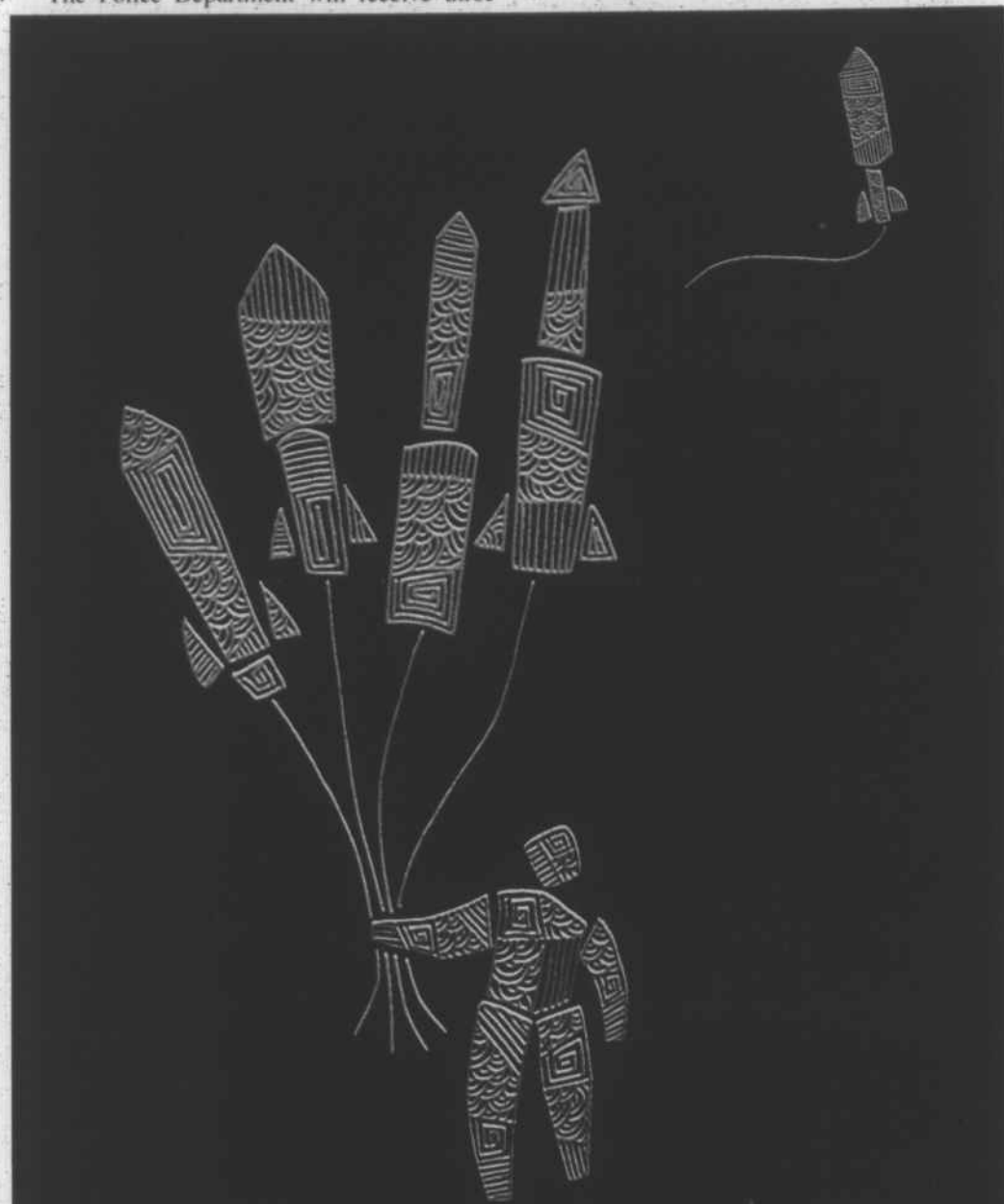
separate grants totaling \$877,331. Of this, \$453,904 is a two-year Byrne Memorial Competitive Grant that will enable the Police Department to hire three additional crime analysts and an additional network administrator, giving the department an eight-person crime analysis staff.

A 2009 Smart Policing grant of \$299,050 will fund a joint program with Winston-Salem State University and the Center for Community Safety to combine elements of intelligence-led policing and problem-orienting policing to focus on drug and high-crime areas.

And a 2009 Paul Cloverdel National Forensic Sciences grant of \$124,377 will pay for equipment, supplies and training for the Police Department's Forensics Division.



Turner



VOICES
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ATOMIC MATTERS

THE FRAGILITY OF THE NUCLEAR ORDER



GRAHAM ALLISON COMES TO WAKE FOREST TO SHARE INSIGHT ABOUT GLOBAL NUCLEAR CHALLENGES AND THE FRAGILITY OF THE NUCLEAR ORDER. DR. ALLISON IS DIRECTOR OF THE BELFER CENTER FOR SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND DOUGLAS DILLON PROFESSOR OF GOVERNMENT AT HARVARD'S JOHN F. KENNEDY SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT. HE SERVED AS SPECIAL ADVISOR TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE UNDER PRESIDENT REAGAN AND HAS THE SOLE DISTINCTION OF HAVING TWICE BEEN AWARDED THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE'S HIGHEST CIVILIAN AWARD, THE DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE MEDAL.

October 1, 2009, 7:00 p.m. Brendle Hall
www.wfu.edu/voices



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