



Deacs set
to play
NCCU on
b-ball court

-See Page B10



Seniors
helped
toward
wellness

-See Page A11



Former
inmates
get
inspired

-See Page B1

75 cents
Celebrating
37
Years
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THE CHRON

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WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, November 17, 2011

Alumni, Trustees at odds over name of new center

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

The head of the Winston-Salem State University National Alumni Association (NAA) said he was "stunned" when he learned the university's Board of Trustees had voted to name the campus' newest building in honor of Dr. Donald Reaves, the school's current chancellor.

The name the "Donald Julian Reaves Student Activities Center" was approved unanimously last week by the 11-member Board of Trustees during a



This WSSU graphic shows how the Student Activities Center will look.

special session. The Board's vote came less than two months after the WSSU National Alumni Association (NAA) adopted a two page resolution encouraging Trustees to name the still-to-be-completed Center

for Dr. Harold Martin, a former WSSU Chancellor who is now the leader of N.C. A&T State University.

In their resolution, the members of the NAA lauded Martin, who led the university from 2000-2006, for spearheading a \$45 million capital improvement campaign, doubling enrollment and increasing SAT scores among incoming freshmen.

"We were the fastest growing institution in the UNC system," said NAA President Gordon Everette, a 1978 WSSU alumnus. "He had strong internal and exter-

See Center on A5



Photos by Todd Luck

Rabbi Michael Gisser stands proudly on the Wake Forest campus before his Veterans Day ceremony.

Rabbi pledges to serve his country on Veterans Day

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

On Veterans Day, Rabbi Michael Gisser fulfilled a long-time dream by becoming the U.S. Army Reserve's newest chaplain.

The indoor installation ceremony took place right outside of Gisser's office at Wake Forest University, where he is the associate chaplain for Jewish Life. As he stood in front of an American flag, Army Chaplain Barry Baron led Gisser in the oath as Gisser's students, family, colleagues and ROTC cadets looked on.

For Gisser, a Canadian native who became a U.S. citizen two years ago, it was a deeply personal day. His late father, who was from Poland, was a Holocaust survivor who was liberated by the U.S. Army from a concentration camp in Dachau, Germany in April 1945.

"I couldn't think of a better way to honor my father, to honor those liberators who liberated him and to honor our troops, than to ... join the Chaplain's Corps, especially on Veterans Day," said Gisser.

Gisser, the former executive director of the Holocaust Museum and Study Center in Spring Valley, N.Y., said the soldiers found his father and others in horrible conditions in concentration camps.

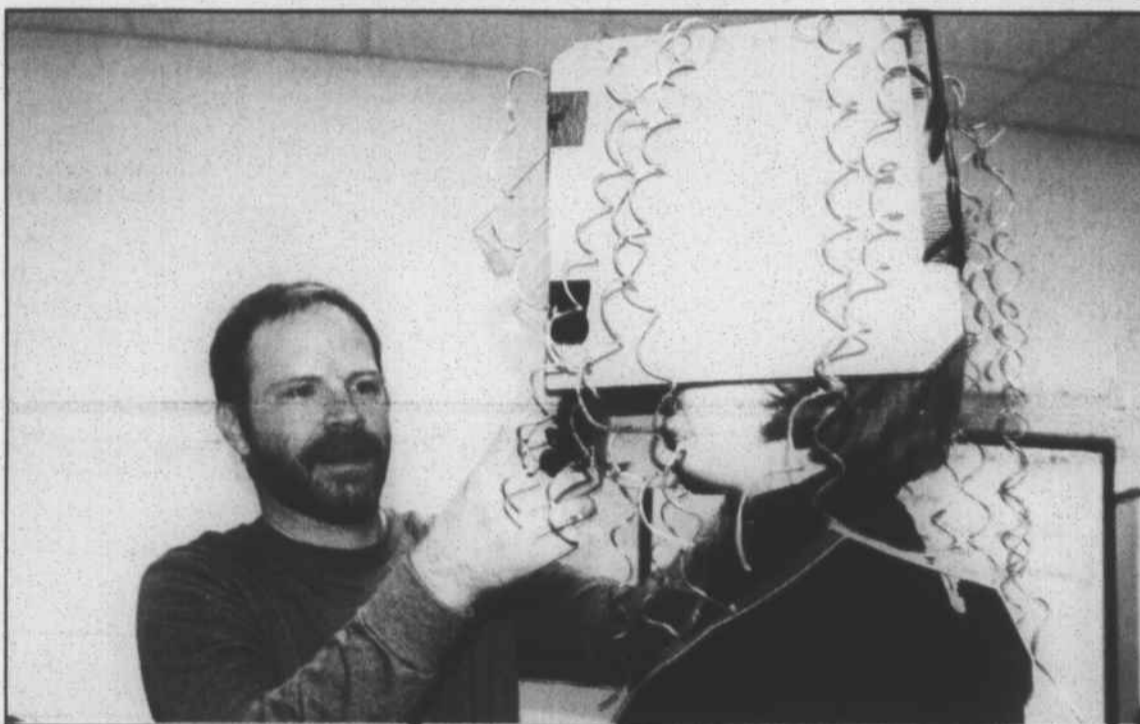
"The soldiers encountered ghosts when they came into the camps; They encountered skeletons," said Gisser.

Oftentimes he said that it was Jewish soldiers who were sent in first to let the survivors know they were liberated. He said even after his father was freed, it was a long road to recovery for him.

"He was 21 years old, he weighed 45 pounds and couldn't walk," said Gisser. "The American soldiers ... carried him and put him in a bed and helped him, basically, become human again."

Baron, a rabbi who is a colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves, said there are about 20,000-24,000 Jewish military personnel in the Armed Forces and 55 Jewish chaplains.

See Gisser on A3



Photos by Layla Farmer

Right: Kiel Johnson outfits student Mary Kerr.

Below: A student dons a mariachi-inspired robot design.

Weird Science

Atkins students use cardboard to learn, create

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Robots were roaming the halls at Atkins High School last week.

While the school, which focuses on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) disciplines, was home to the typical bustle of students heading from one class to the next, among them stalked unusual cardboard creations: a football bot, a cheerleader bot, and even one created in the likeness of School Administrator Araunah James.

Art and scientific visualization students at the school took part in The Intersections Project (TIP), a week-long

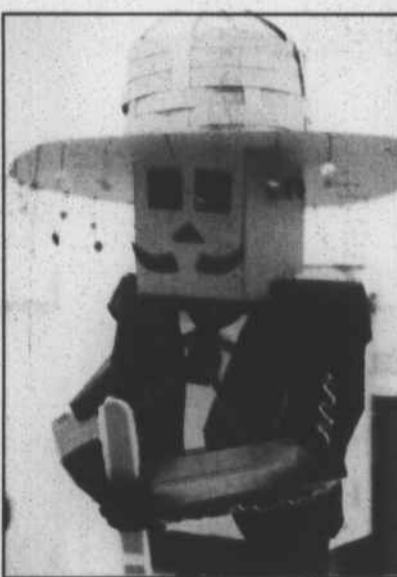
initiative designed to bridge the gap between education and art.

"We're trying to explore the relationship between the arts and STEM," explained George Eckart, coordinator of the school's Computer Technology Academy and a science visualization teacher. "The best engineers and the best scientists and the best doctors are the creative ones, so we're trying to tap into our creative spirit."

The students were challenged to design and create cardboard robot costumes that reflected day-to-day life at Atkins.

"It was fun. The whole concept of

See Atkins on A11



DADDY'S BOY



Photo by Layla Farmer

Kevin Watkins Sr. and his son, Kevin Jr., share a laugh during a father/son breakfast at Mount Zion on Saturday. More about the event will be featured in the Thanksgiving Day edition of The Chronicle.

See WSSA on A3

Senegalese community aims to be more close-knit

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Believing that there is strength in numbers, the city's burgeoning Senegalese community is taking steps to speak in a more uniform voice. They hope that their solidarity will help them move closer to the American Dream.

The Winston-Salem Senegalese Association (WSSA) held its coming out event Sunday at the Sprague Street Recreation Center. Although the Association is more than a year old, the day-long slate of food, cultural merri-ment and meet and greets with



Photo by Kevin Walker

Cheikh O. Ndiaye speaks as (from left) Birame Ndiaye, Mayor Allen Joiner, Dr. Arona Ndoeffe Diouf and Abdul Sarr sit nearby.

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