

Accomplishments of youth touted at Human Relations Banquet

By BOMANI MAWULI
THE CHRONICLE Reporter

Sixty-three students were honored at the Nineteenth Annual Human Relations Awards Banquet on Feb. 12 at the M.C. Benton Convention Center. The Winston-Salem Human Relations Commission hosted this festive event. The honored students represented various schools throughout Winston-Salem and Forsyth County. These special young people also possibly represented some of our future leaders.

According to the Winston-Salem Human Relations Commission, it "is poised to begin a new era of community building that will place our youth square-

ly in the center. We also recognize that today's youth are tomorrow's leaders." At the Human Relations Awards Banquet, some future leaders were at the center of a lot of attention at this well-attended event.

"We have changed our format from an awards banquet covering adult issues. So you know that you're the first youth that will participate in a youth-only banquet. This is your banquet in honor of you," said the Director of the Human Relations Commission, Gene Williams, to the excited students.

The theme of this year's awards banquet was, "Youth: Reaching for the 21st Century."

Williams stated about the theme and the award-winning students, "I've read

quite a few of the nominations that we have, and I can say with the nominations that we've received, we will have no trouble going into the 21st century with the youth that are in this room."

These selected students were nominated by their individual elementary, middle or high schools for this special recognition.

Sharon D. Anderson, chairman of the Winston-Salem Human Relations Commission, said that the young honorees demonstrate good citizenship and human relations skills.

"They are shining examples of what is right in our schools. And they certainly serve as role models for us all," added Anderson.

Two young role models who were the

main speakers at the banquet were Jennifer Bumgarner and John Jackson II. Bumgarner is currently a junior at Wake Forest University, and Jackson is a 1997 Winston-Salem State University graduate. They epitomize the concept of human relations.

Bumgarner has done volunteer work in the Ukraine and in Calcutta, India with the late, great Mother Teresa.

Bumgarner encouraged the students not to become cynical about some of the enormous problems that may exist in their own lives and in the world. She said that the youth should focus on one problem or one person at a time, and that they can make a difference.

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Gene Williams, Human Relations Director, poses with Mia Moultrey.

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Coach Keith Wilkes of Carver is one of two African-American head coaches in Forsyth County. African-Americans account for 35 percent of all students in the county, but less than 12 percent of the county's high school coaches.

Playing field not level for county's African-American athletes, coaches

By DAMON FORD, BOMANI MAWULI
and SAM DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE Reporters

Does the local public school system promote an athletic network that prevents African-American students from receiving appropriate mentoring from role models of their own race?

Based on statistics alone, the "good-ole-

boy" system, that appears to be used in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County schools, not only hurts the development of African-American youth, but it is also exclusionary and stymies the progress of young African-Americans who aspire to be head coaches on the high school level.

Black coaches are hired in the system at a very disproportionate rate. Not only that, but African-Americans do not make up the percentage of coaches overall in the system

as they comprise in the total student population.

Athletic directors in the county said they recognize the fact that it is important to hire and retain African-American coaches to serve as mentors and role models for their students.

Marty Stanley, athletic director at Glenn High School, said he believes the local schools are coming short in hiring

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Crime spree concerns A&T

By BOMANI MAWULI
THE CHRONICLE Reporter

A string of robberies and sexual assaults that have occurred recently on the campus of North Carolina A&T State University prompted officials to hold a press conference on Feb. 13.

The A&T Campus Police Department has reported four cases of robbery and sexual assaults on female students. The first case happened on Wed., Feb. 4 and the other three cases all took place a week later on Wed., Feb. 11.

With the safety and well-being of its students and employees at stake, A&T is trying to respond swiftly to capture the alleged perpetrator and put a halt to these horrific crimes.

Dr. Sullivan Welborne, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs at A&T,



Dr. Sullivan Welborne (L) and Police Chief John O. Williams (R) address the media.

and the university's Campus Police Chief, John O. Williams, addressed members of the media in a "Safety Update" press briefing.

"The four cases of robbery and sexu-

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Leadership roles change

Part two: Time to refocus

By SHARON BROOKS HODGE
THE CHRONICLE Editor

Dorothy Ross has stepped down from the chairman's role of the Forsyth County Experiment in Self-Reliance.

When asked about the impact that move will have, other board members said they hope the organization can move forward and refocus its energy on the organization's mission — helping people rise above poverty.

"We have a strategic plan that involves the welfare to work program. That's what I want to be talking about," said John Sheldon, who has assumed Ross's duties in his new capacity as acting chairman.

Sheldon made his comments in reference to a messy internal struggle involving the group's paid staff and Ross, a longtime volunteer with the group and chairman of the board of directors.

Two weeks ago, Ross, then chairman, complained publicly that there was an

attempt to use her to as a mean to remove the group's executive director, Robert Law.

"The whole thing after me is to get to him," Ross said in an interview published in the Feb. 5 Chronicle. In a two-hour interview, Ross alleged

that discontent among the staff was so rampant, employees telephoned her at home.

Ross also contended that Law is an inefficient manager hiding behind her leadership. Law has been the director at the Experiment in Self-Reliance for more than a dozen years. Last October, Law announced his plans of retiring in April 1999. But the 18 month notice became a bone of contention for Ross.

Board members C.P. Booker and John Sheldon, however, said the matter was less of an issue for some of the other board members.

Ross sought advice from the organization's attorney, Beverly Mitchell. In a Nov. 20 letter responding to that request,

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Dr. John Hope Franklin and Dr. Maya Angelou honored at fifth annual Sit-in Movement Awards

By FELECIA P. McMILLAN
Community Correspondent

"All of us have been paid for ... Our ancestors paid for us as they lay back to belly aboard slave ships ... You are liberated. All you have to do is to prepare yourself to pay for someone else who is yet to come, someone who who may never know your name, but who will walk a little taller because of you."

The words of Dr. Maya Angelou rang out at the fifth annual Sit-In Movement, Inc. Awards Banquet, summing up the nobleness of the Greensboro Four.

Angelou concluded with a sassy scenario of "Still I Rise," a poem now dedicated to the United Negro College Fund.

Thirty-eight years ago, four North Carolina A & T State University freshmen sat down at the lunch counter of the F. W. Woolworth store in downtown Greensboro. The time

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Dr. Maya Angelou received the 1998 Alston/Jones International Civil and Human Rights Award from co-founders Melvin "Skip" Alston (left) and Earl Jones. The Honorable Judge Henry Frye and Dr. John Hope Franklin rejoice with her.

Black history comes to life on the UNCG campus

By DAMON FORD
THE CHRONICLE Reporter

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro served as the site for the first African-American Cultural Festival. The festival was held Saturday in Cone Ballroom. Face painting, storytelling, musical performances and a dramatic interpretation of Frederick Douglas were

some of the highlights of the program.

Many children could be seen making arts and crafts and having their faces painted, but a lot of parents looked at the festival as a chance for the young ones to learn. Sarah Cottrell brought her granddaughter Denise Bigelow to "learn more about black history and about the things that went on before her time so she can get a grasp of her roots."

Vendors from the Ujamaa Market

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