

Building a future: Workforce graduates class

By DAMON FORD
THE CHRONICLE

Friday was a big day for Shareena Baldwin.

The 24-year-old has a new job as an office assistant with Carolina Home Mortgage. Even better, she has proven that she can stand on her own, she says. And she has a certificate from Winston-Salem Workforce Development Department to prove it.

"I love it," Baldwin said. "It's a lot of responsibility (and) everyone is real nice. It's a nice environment."

Baldwin was one of 16 graduates who received certificates during the Office

Automation commencement ceremony last Friday.

The Office Automation Skills training program is just one of several free government sponsored programs offered by the WDD to help people become job ready.

"We're trying to tailor all of our training to the needs outlined by employers, therefore, ensuring that once the students finish, they are qualified to receive these jobs," said Workforce Department Director Martha Jo Campbell.

One of the requirements was that participants "desire full-time, permanent employment," which Baldwin did.

The 1993 graduate of West Forsyth High

School, Baldwin spent several years working 80 hours a week. She wasn't enjoying it at all.

"I was working trying to get myself situated and save some money," Baldwin said.

Her road became a little tougher when she found out she was pregnant, which put a hold on her dream to become a dentist.

"I would like to help people have pretty teeth," Baldwin said. "I wanted to give back to the black community. We don't have any dentists in Winston-Salem or Forsyth County that I know of who accept Medicaid. I wanted to be the first black woman dentist who did."

See Workforce on A5



Shareena Baldwin gets a hug from her fiancée's mother Jannie Smith after graduating Friday from a Workforce Development's office automation program.

75 cents

WINSTON-SALEM GREENSBORO HIGH POINT

Vol. XXV No. 4

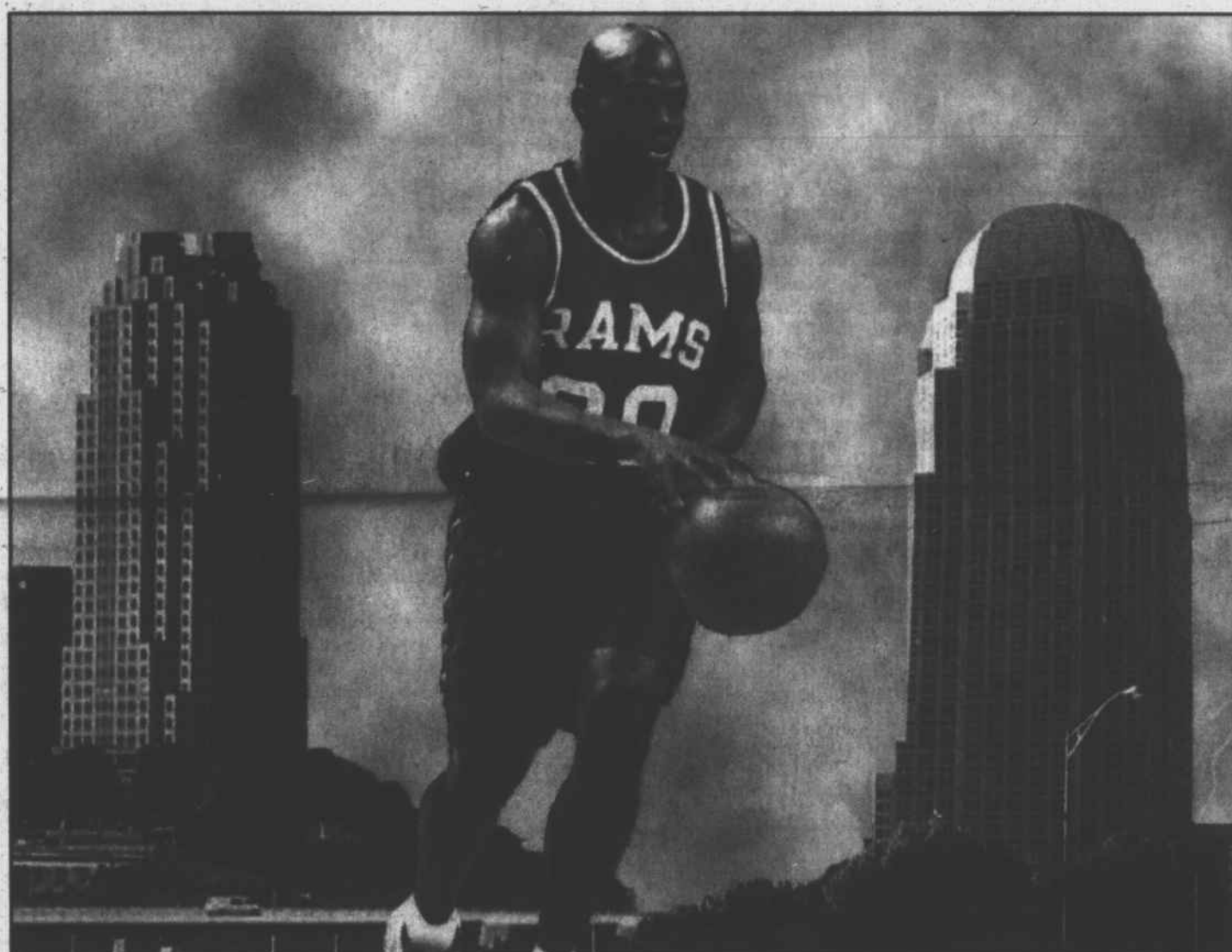
THE CHRONICLE

The Choice for African American News and Information

e-mail address: wschron@netunlimited.net

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 1998

Raleigh versus Winston-Salem



Tip off for the 2000 CIAA Tournament may not be in Winston-Salem's Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum. The city is locked in battle with Raleigh for the tournament, which has brought an estimated \$40 million boom to the local economy. Winston-Salem's bid will be signed sealed and couriered to CIAA officials Tuesday.

Cities locked in battle for CIAA

By KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Before a game is played — before a single basket is scored in the 2000 CIAA tournament — one team will already be able to claim victory.

A high stakes bidding war for the 2000 tournament is currently in its final stages — with three cities in the Tar Heel State vying for the chance to host the nation's third largest college basketball tournament.

By Sept. 30, proposals from Winston-Salem, Fayetteville and Raleigh should all be fine-tuned, printed and in the hands of CIAA officials. The decision will be made near the end of November and the chosen city will have a three-year commitment to host the tourney.

"They have never been at any one place for longer than six years, so if we get it back, it would be a first," Greater Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce President Gayle Anderson said. "It will be hard to find any community that has demonstrated more support for the tournament than this community has."

The CIAA basketball tournament has called Winston-Salem home for the past five years and under the current contract, the city will also host the tournament in February 1999.

The Winston-Salem CIAA Steering Committee will draw on some of the same strengths that helped them hook the tournament from Richmond in 1993.

Besides being home to Winston-Salem State

University, one of the 12 historically black colleges and universities that make up the CIAA, the city boasts the Lawrence Joel Coliseum, an adequate size arena for the 10,000 to 12,000 fans that attend the tournament.

But CIAA officials will also consider a city's financial muscle when picking a site. In the past, Winston-Salem's city and county governments have committed hundreds of thousands of dollars to the tournament and thousands more in corporate advertising dollars.

The city also has agreed to reimburse the CIAA for its losses if the tournament is not a sell-out.

In return, the tournament has pumped \$8 million annually into the local economy.

See CIAA on A11

Mandela offers support

South African leader gives Clinton thumbs up

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

South African President Nelson Mandela pledged yesterday to stand by President Clinton even if everybody else deserts him because, he said, no other U.S. president has identified himself more with the aspirations of black people.

From a luncheon at the South African Embassy to a White House reception with black ministers, Mandela's farewell visit to the United States before retiring from politics next year played more like a pep rally for Clinton than a valedictory for the South African hero.

"It is not our business to interfere in this matter, but we do wish to say that President Clinton is a friend of South Africa and Africa and, I believe, the friend of the great mass of black people and minorities and the disabled of the United States," Mandela said.

The frail, 80-year-old Mandela led a standing ovation in the East Room after the Rev. Bernice King, daughter of Martin Luther King Jr., whipped the assembly into a chant aimed at Clinton's detractors: "Leave him alone! Leave him alone!"

Mandela's wife, Graca Machel, reached for Hillary Rodham Clinton's hand and held it. The visiting newlywed couple was spending the night at the White House in what Hillary Clinton called "a slumber party."

The president called Mandela's friendship one of the greatest of the "many blessings for Hillary and me, far outweighing all the trials."

On policy, Mandela told the black religious leaders that South Africa was counting on them.

"It is small wonder that the struggle to end apartheid drew such strength from here that we now look to you to work with us as we seek to banish poverty, hunger, illiteracy and ignorance from our land," he said.

At the luncheon at the South African Embassy, Mandela said Clinton "has my full support in everything that he does," drawing applause from guests that included presidential friend Vernon Jordan. "In the jurisprudence of many... civilized countries, a person is regarded as innocent until he's convicted."

Mandela also decried the "grave injustice" of western countries judging South Africa by their standards.

"We have parents who have never seen the inside of a school, who cannot write their names," he said.

Hours before meeting with Clinton, Mandela said he refrains from interfering in domestic affairs of other countries, including the United States. But he said, referring to Clinton: "I want to tell you that although I do not know the

See Mandela on A9

Students use education to better lives

By KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Although they vary by race, age, gender and background, Javon Tucker, Bernard Sett and Julia Head all share a common story: all dropped out of high school and found themselves working dead-end jobs.

"I was out there, I know you have to have a diploma to get a decent job; I was working in sweatshops," 20-year-old Sett said.

At age 19, Tucker also echoed Sett's thoughts: "The things I want to do and the places I want to go require that I have money. And for me to have money, I have to get my education. I didn't want to work at a fast food restaurant all my life."

Head, a 16-year-old who dropped out of Mount Tabor because she says she was not accepted socially, said she is happy with her job, but still trying to move to the next level.

"I want to finish my high school diploma...I want to go

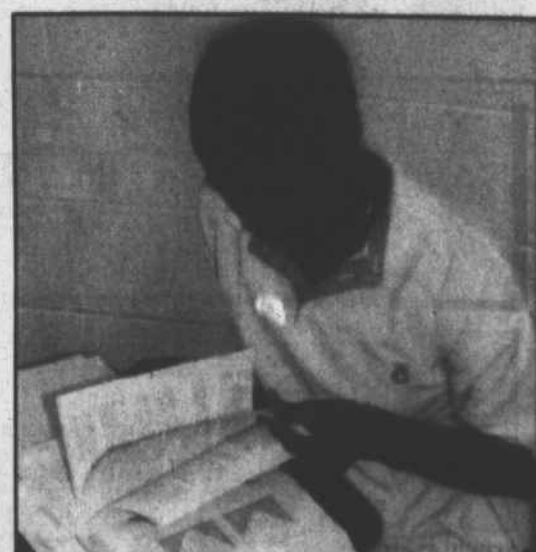
to college," she said.

Like almost 1,000 people in our area, Head, Tucker and Sett have taken the initiative and enrolled in Job Readiness and Community Development Courses at Forsyth Technical Community College in hopes making their tomorrows better than their todays.

The program, formerly called Basic Skills, consists of an Adult High School program, which in Head, Tucker and Sett are all currently enrolled to complete their requirements for a diploma; a GED program, which allows students to take a series of classes in preparation for the GED test; the English as a Second Language program allows those who are new to the country to learn the language.

Each program is free and students are only responsible for buying text books for the courses. With the boom in the Hispanic population, the ESL curriculum is FTCC's fastest

See Literacy on A9



A student prepares for a history test at FTCC's West Campus.

INDEX	
News	A1
Opinion	A6
Forum	A7
Business	A8
Sports	B1
Religion	B6
Classifieds	B11
Comm. Focus	C1
Health	C3
Entertainment	C7
Family Fun	C8
Calendar	C11