

# Mad Hatter... Cunningham giving due to hats

By FELECIA P. McMILLAN  
COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

"I want to give women the respect they deserve. Hat wearing is a form of reverence for God"

— Michael Cunningham

Deacon Mary Jenkins wore a classic black felt pill box hat with a silver rhinestone brooch on the crown to Emmanuel Baptist

Church on Sunday. Although she purchased the hat almost 20 years ago, it still looked fashionable in the sea of hats that lined Emmanuel's pews.

"I believe that in order for a woman to be fully dressed, she needs to wear a hat," Jenkins said. "God wants us to be beautiful, and it is proper for a woman to cover her head when she enters God's house."

Hats have become more than

just a way of covering heads for black women — they have become a glorious and colorful fashion statement.

It's their beauty that peaks the interest of Winston-Salem photographer Michael Cunningham. Cunningham is putting together a book "Crowns: A Pictorial of Sister in Church Hats" that features black women sporting hats. He invited women to stay after service to have their pictures made.

Cunningham said his fascination with hats began as a child.

"A lot of this project is what is inside of me," he said. "My spirituality comes out in this... I want to give women the respect they deserve. Hat wearing is a form of reverence for God."

The pictures at Emmanuel were only the beginning. He expects 400-500 women to

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Photographer Michael Cunningham talks with a group of hatted women during a photo shoot recently at a local church.

75 cents

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## Hayes wins

### Strong black voter turnout decides races

By DAMON FORD and T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

A strong turnout among African Americans propelled many state and local candidates to victory Tuesday.

A steady stream of voters at minority precincts sent Mel Watt back to Washington and helped John Edwards to victory in the U.S. Senate race.

Locally, Judge Roland Hayes overcame a strong challenge to retain his position as the only African American district court judge in Forsyth County.

But despite a strong campaign and endorsements from several local groups, Nigel Alston came up short in his bid to become just the third black member of the city/county school board.

The Rev. Carlton Eversley and other members of Concerned Black Pastors worked for months to raise voter awareness in the black community. Tuesday night during a celebration held by Democrats at the Millennium Center, Eversley said in spite of Alston's loss, African Americans should be pleased.

"The African American community should take pride in how well we organized... In key races many candidates would not have been successful without African American votes," Eversley said.

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An ecstatic Roland Hayes hugs a supporter at a rally Tuesday night. Hayes, the District Court's most experienced judge, defeated challenger Michael Hurst in a hotly contested race to reclaim his bench.

Photo by Damon Ford

## Woman spends night in jail for ringing bell

By T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

Loretta Horne wishes that she could forget that she was handcuffed, searched and put in jail after pushing a buzzer at the Forsyth County Magistrates Court.

But the 41-year-old has a copy of her criminal contempt charge and a looming court date as constant and grim reminders.

During a series of events that occurred on Oct. 27 — that have even legal minds scratching their heads — Horne was charged with direct criminal contempt and slapped with a five-day jail sentence by Magistrate Stacie Onders.

"The whole time, I kept telling anyone who would listen that 'you've made a mistake,'" Horne said with tears in her eyes.

Horne — a customer service professional and daycare teacher — went to the criminal division of Magistrates Court, located on the lower level of the county's detention center, to get information regarding a family member.

A buzzer and intercom is located in the lobby of the office, with a sign prompting visitors to ring it for assistance; Horne says she proceeded to ring the buzzer after a group of people who were already in front of the device moved.

"I pressed the buzzer and a female voice responded and told me I had to go to the police station for that information," Horne said.

Horne said she pressed the buzzer a second time to ask another question and got no response.

When another person came to ring the buzzer, the door to the magistrate's office was buzzed open and Horne walked in to ask her question

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## Watt wins handily in redrawn 12th district

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLOTTE — U.S. Rep. Mel Watt kept his congressional seat Tuesday, pushing back Salisbury dentist and political newcomer Scott Keadle and a Libertarian candidate in the redrawn 12th District.

Watt, representing a district that no longer includes much of the black populous living in the Piedmont, defeated Keadle soundly. The Libertarian, Michael Smith, had less than 5 percent of the vote.

Any bounce Republicans hoped to get from President Clinton's troubles evaporated by Tuesday, especially for those who used the scandal in their ads.

State Sen. Dan Page, who won national attention for being among the first to use the scandal in television ads, lost to incumbent Democratic Rep. Bob Etheridge in the 2nd District by a margin of 57 percent to 42 percent.

"Regardless of the outcome, we did what we thought was right, and I still think that character and integrity matters in our government," Page said. "And I think that our leaders ought to be role models for our children, and I will never back down from that."

In the 4th District, Rep. David Price defeated Republican Tom Roberg, who tried to raise Price's vote against a Republican plan for an impeachment inquiry of the president as an issue in the campaign.

See Watt on A12



A smiling Mel Watt leaves his campaign headquarters after Tuesday's election. Watt defeated Scott Keadle in the newly redrawn 12th Congressional District.

## Republicans don't get impeachment mandate

By WALTER R. MEARS  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Now Republicans face the dilemma of dealing with impeachment proceedings most voters don't want, after elections that broke the patterns of history in favor of Democrats.

The White House said President Clinton was encouraged by the midterm elections in which Democrats held their lines and added as many as five seats to their congressional minorities.

The president may also be relieved.

The impeachment momentum could be slowed by the balloting that rebuffed Republican expectations of midterm gains — even though a majority of voters interviewed outside polls said the Monica Lewinsky matter didn't affect their decisions.

GOP reinforcements in the House would have added impetus to the impeachment proceedings. But none were coming.

And 61 percent of voters in exit polling Tuesday said they disapproved of the way Republicans in Congress have handled the Lewinsky scandal, with almost as many saying impeachment should be dropped. That did leave 40 percent saying the proceedings should go on.

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## Lee discusses work during conversation at Wake

By JERI YOUNG  
THE CHRONICLE

Kelli Brown had only one mission when she arrived at Wake Forest University's Wait Chapel — to go one-on-one with filmmaker Spike Lee.

Brown, a junior at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University had met Lee before — she was an extra in his summer blockbuster "He Got Game."

But this time was different. Talking to Lee, she proclaimed, was her destiny.

"I didn't even know he was going to be here until today," said the 21-year-old aspiring actress. "When I found out I had to come.

I got a ticket free. I was meant to be here."

Lee, who's first major motion picture "She's Gotta Have It," ushered in a new era in black film making, is crisscrossing the country for a series of informal lectures at colleges and universities.

Wearing a blue sweater and khaki pants, a very casual Lee gave his thoughts on a host of topics from the state of college athletics to the Academy Awards, which despite his box office successes, has remained elusive.

He spoke most passionately on the state of black film making, lamenting the fact that serious black films, like Oprah Winfrey's "Beloved" and his own "Get on the

Bus," often have a difficult time finding an audience in today's blockbuster driven industry.

"It's a long work in progress," Lee said. "I think it was a big step backwards with (Beloved) not performing at the box office. You have the No. 1 face on the market and people won't come out to see the film."

"African Americans as an audience need to become educated. They did not go to see 'Rosewood.' They did not go to see 'Get on the Bus.' But they'll knock each other down to see 'Set It Off' and 'Boozy Call.'"

Lee, who has been roundly criticized for "airing black Ameri-

See Lee on A12



File photo Acclaimed director Spike Lee was in town Tuesday. During an almost 2 hour conversation, Lee shared his thoughts on race, film and success.

