

Despite a student-led boycott, blacks continue to shop at Four Seasons.

Unbending: Students continue boycott of mall

By DAMON FORD
THE CHRONICLE

Koury Corp. is denying allegations that security officers at the Four Seasons Town Centre discriminate against students from North Carolina A&T State University.

"The courtesy code at Four Seasons is designed to ensure that the mall is a safe, pleasant and comfortable shopping environment for all members of our

community," said Ron Mack, executive vice president at Four Seasons Town Centre at a news conference last Friday. "A&T students have not been singled out, and African Americans have not been singled out."

According to Mack security guards are trained on steps of enforcement and were given diversity training.

He also said courtesy code pamphlets had been distributed to all colleges, universities and high schools in

Greensboro, not just A&T.

The only school not receiving any correspondence from the mall is Bennett College, an African American women's school.

A&T students claim they were being approached, harassed and asked to leave by mall security officers for no justifiable reasons. The students also said the mall unfairly targeted them by distributing its shopping courtesy code on the A&T campus.

Mall officials instituted the policy in February 1996. Loitering, yelling, playing radios and threatening other people are not allowed.

According to mall records, slightly more than half of those stopped by mall security are black.

This is not the first time African American youth have pointed the finger at major retailers for discriminatory acts.

See Boycott on A12

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Conscientious crafter



Over the past 10 years, Rosie Feemster has spent hours creating ornaments for her unique Christmas tree. The decorations are made from scraps of fabric and beads. This year, she added ornaments made from emptied egg shells, upper right.

Local woman turns scraps into treasures

By T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Rosie Feemster has seen the rigors that some people go through to decorate their homes for the holiday season.

The ladders that are erected so that yards of multi-colored lights can be rigged on rooftops and chimneys. The mammoth wreaths that are placed in every window and on every door. The elaborate, electric nativity scenes, complete with the Star of Bethlehem and life-sized replicas of Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus.

Feemster has nothing against other

people's grandeur; it's just not her style.

Instead, Feemster throws a great amount of energy and all of her holiday spirit into her almost six-foot tall Christmas tree.

For more than a decade now, the beautifully-crafted, intricate ornaments that hang from the tree have been designed and hand-made by Feemster herself.

"I can do this by myself," Feemster said, pointing to her tree. "If I did something outside, I would need some help."

There was a time when Feemster was like the rest of us, buying fragile bulbs

and glittery tinsel from department stores, and then piling them on her tree. But she wanted to break the monotony.

"I just wanted to do something different," she said.

Feemster's innovative approach to ornament making starts with household scraps. Discarded pieces of lace, old strings of ribbon and outdated beads have all made their way onto the tree in some form or another.

Like most, shortly after the Thanksgiving holiday, she dusts off her tree and clears a space in her living room. She says it takes her almost an entire day to

decorate it and even longer if she has new additions for the tree.

But she says she doesn't mind. Decorating the tree gets her in a festive mood.

"This is my Christmas before Christmas," she said.

And for the short period of time between Thanksgiving and New Year's, the tree becomes the focal point of Feemster's cozy living room.

Feemster - who is in her 70s and semi-retired - tries to make at least one or two new ornaments every year. She says when she gets an idea, she quickly

See Treasures on A10

Services held for educator

By DAMON FORD
THE CHRONICLE

A memorial service was held last week for Vance H. Chavis, one of Greensboro's best known educators and civil rights leaders.

The 92-year-old died last Monday at Moses Cone Hospital after a lengthy bout with cancer.

Family and friends from all walks of life packed into quaint St. James Presbyterian Church, where Chavis was a member, to pay their last respects to the astute man.

"He was a person who was very interested in people," said his widow Mary Chavis. "He was very conscious of the injustices that involved his people." Throughout the service, heads were held high and smiles crossed faces as people took the podium to reflect on Chavis's life.

"I could give many examples of uncle Vance's life," said his nephew, Dr. Theodore Patterson. "He wanted to do it all and he did most of it."

See Chavis on A5

Crime topic of meeting

Residents air gripes about judicial process

By T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

After decades of being the victims of the worst crime rates in the city, East Winston residents want peace of mind. And they are turning to local law enforcement and elected officials to help them get it.

A community discussion Tuesday evening at St. Benedict Catholic Church was held to bring lawmakers and citizens together under the same roof to discuss the judicial process, but the discussion



Womble

See Crime on A12

Almost cool: Freshman prepares for exams

This article is part of an ongoing series about Brian Graham, a freshman at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. The Chronicle will follow Brian through his first year as he settles into life at the historically black university.

By DAMON FORD
THE CHRONICLE

Final exams.

A time for studying and burning the midnight oil for the average college student.

While many students are sweating bullets while studying for as many as six tests over the next 10 days, Brian Graham, a freshman at N.C. Agriculture and Technical State University was cool and calm last weekend as he prepared for his first finals week.

"I'll be up all night studying for these two," he said sheepishly Sunday evening. "I'm looking forward to going home and seeing my friends."

The Hickory native was exempt from a math exam because of his 110 average and two others classes didn't have finals, which makes exam week a little less stressful, he says.

Looking back over the past five months Graham has gone through a few rough times as an Aggie but says he doesn't regret anything.

One of his toughest challenges was when he had to change roommates.

Graham moved down the hall to bunk with fellow freshman Justin Blackwell, a native of Yanceyville who is majoring in mechanical engineering. Graham switched rooms with Blackwell's roommate. Graham says he never had a conflict with his old roommate, a

childhood friend from Hickory.

Their schedules just didn't click.

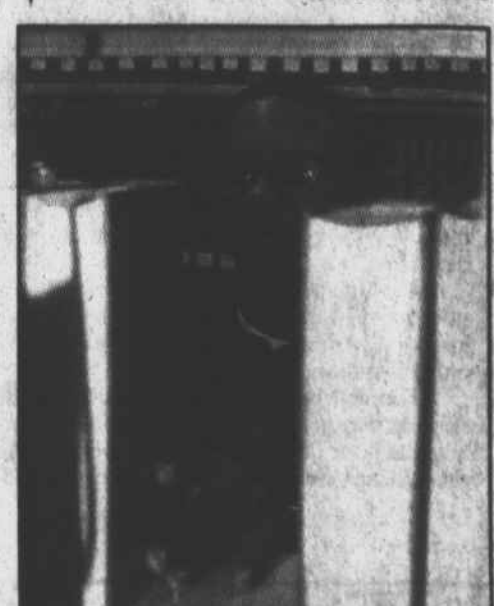
"Me and Justin are similar," Graham said. "At eight we're up going to class and meetings. But they still come down here and we still go down there."

Graham's also had to adjust to a rigorous college schedule. Most 18-year-olds are used to taking six test during a grading period in high school but in college Graham says the rules change.

"You could go a whole month with one test and if you don't do good on it you're messed up," he said.

He made a few mistakes but learned some valuable lessons about handling his studies.

"Don't wait until the last minute to do stuff," he said. "Go ahead and get it out of the way. Get to know your pro-



Freshman Brian Graham spent several hours in the library Sunday preparing for exams.

See Graham on A13

