

Bass, Evans named Man and Woman of the Year

By JERI YOUNG
THE CHRONICLE

A philanthropist and radio pioneer lead a list of local residents who will be honored for their work in the community next month by The Chronicle.

Retired R.J.R. Nabisco executive Marshall Bass and WAAA owner Mütter Evans were recently named The Chronicle's "Man and Woman of the Year." The two will be feted during The Chronicle's 16th annual

Awards Banquet March 13 at The Benton Convention Center. The winners will be honored in a special commemorative issue that will hit newsstands Feb. 25.

Bass - who last year founded the Marshall Bass Foundation, a non-profit philanthropic organization that provides funding to organizations who work with youth - recently became the first African American named to the Board of Trustees of North Carolina Baptist Hospi-

tal. Evans, a graduate of Wake Forest University, gained notoriety 20 years ago when she became the youngest African American to own a radio station. Since then, she's become a community leader. Evans serves on numerous local boards and is one of the organizers of the city's annual Martin Luther King Day celebration.

The two will be honored along with 17 other local luminaries during the banquet.

"I think our awardees as all of the ones we've had for the last 15 years are dedicated community activists," said Chronicle Publisher Ernie Pitt. "It is because of them that our community is as vibrant and progressive as it is."

Among the others slated to be recognized are Winston-Salem Alderman Vernon Robinson, who was voted News Maker of the Year; Cook Middle School teacher Devaldean Penn who garnered The Chroni-

cle's award for Community Service and Happy Hill activist Floy Howie, who was named Volunteer of the Year.

Fire Chief John Gist, will be honored as Public Safety Officer of the Year. Crossing 52 is Human Relations Organization of the Year.

The Chronicle will also recognize three local residents who had a significant impact on the community in 1998.

Ben Ruffin, who was voted chair of the University of

North Carolina Board of Governors last year will be honored along with Carver High School's Keith Wilkes and Dan Piggott. Wilkes, the school's head football coach and Piggott, the school's principal will be honored for leading the team to an undefeated season and State 3A Football Championship.

Mayor Pro Tem Vivian Burke, attorney Annie Brown-Kennedy, hair care moguls Joe

See Award on A9

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Cryin' wolf



Photo by T. Kevin Walker

Sgt. Brian Barker shot himself on Feb. 8 near Cole and Cragmore roads. The area is home to the city's burgeoning Hispanic community as well as Latin businesses like the ones pictured above near Woughtown Street.

Barker not the first to blame minorities for grisly acts

By T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Sgt. Brian Barker's descent from martyrdom to premeditated liar took less than 48 hours.

But, locals say, it will take the city's Hispanic community and other minority groups much longer to forget the sordid events of last week.

"Everyone is astonished and relieved, but on the other hand there is some anger," Julio Pando Jr., the editor of Que Pasa Carolina, a local Spanish newspaper, said last Thursday. "We paid a high price for something that was not true."

The sheriff's deputy's story

"They (Hispanics) are the new passengers in this boat... This boat of scapegoatism."

- Nelson Malloy

- well known by most at this point - began the afternoon of Feb. 8 near Cole and Cragmore roads in an isolated section of Southeastern Winston-Salem.

The news that Barker - the son of the sheriff - had been shot spread across the city with lightning speed - quickly becoming the primary topic around company water coolers and dethroning the closing

arguments in President Clinton's impeachment trial as the top story among Triad newspapers and television stations.

Barker, who had been shot in the abdomen and presumably hanging on to dear life, had radioed in a description of his assailants and their getaway vehicle. Two Hispanic males were fingered as the trigger men, and several law enforce-

ment agencies - headed by the city's police department - immediately began a massive manhunt.

Police officers, sheriff's deputies, highway patrolmen and state agents set up check points - stopping and searching every Hispanic motorist according to some reports - and combed through heavily Hispanic communities.

But last Wednesday, after tests indicated that the deputy may have shot himself, Barker joined a long and notorious list: those who have created fictitious crimes and imaginary minority criminals.

See Barker on A11

Super Saturday

CIAA adds events to tournament calendar

By T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

When the CIAA Basketball Tournament rolls into Winston-Salem Monday, it will bring with it more than diehard fans and great hoops.

After hearing fans complain for years that the tournament activities away from the basketball court were the less than exciting CIAA officials are promising events that the public won't soon forget.

"We discovered a long time ago that the tournament was more than just basketball," CIAA Commissioner Leon Kerry said in a statement. "There truly is something for anyone of any age or race to enjoy."

CIAA officials say that Feb. 28, is definitely a day that tournament-goers and Triad residents want to mark on their calendars. Nearly eight hours of events have been scheduled at the Lawrence Joel Coliseum on that day, and all are free and open to the general public.

That day - better known as Super Saturday - will feature a varied mix of sports activities and entertainment acts which tourney officials hope will lure both the young and the old.

"We wanted to do something innovative," said Micah Fuller, the director of programming for Street & Smith's Productions. The company, which also televises many of the tournament games, has been charged with organizing CIAA activities along with an impressive list of corporate sponsors.

One of the highlights of Super Saturday will undoubtedly be a special appearance by the legendary Harlem Globetrotters.

Several of the Globetrotters are alumni of CIAA schools. The Globetrotters coach, Tex Harrison, went to North Carolina Central University as did Clyde "The Glide" Sinclair. Curly Neal once dazzled fans on the courts at Johnson C. Smith University.

See CIAA on A9

Black makes appointments

By first count, black lawmakers fare better than under Blue

By DENNIS PATTERSON
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

RALEIGH - Black legislators, including some who were concerned that House Speaker Jim Black would not be sensitive to minorities, will hold more committee chairmanships under Black than they did under former speaker Dan Blue.

On the Legislature's opening day, Black defeated Blue 60-59 to win the speaker's post. Blue drew the votes of 51 Republicans and 8 dissident Democrats, six of whom were black Democrats who said they were concerned that Blue might be more sensitive to minorities.

But of the 80 committee chairmanships handed out by Black last Thursday, 22 will be held by minority members and 13 by women. That's 27 percent of the available chairmanships to minorities and 16 percent to women.

Local legislators fared well under Black. Rep. Warren "Pete" Old-

See Blue on A8



Oldham

Volunteers rally to save Odd Fellows

By T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Odd Fellows Cemetery died a slow death.

Near the turn of the century when it was created by the Odd Fellows fraternal organization, it was the premiere burial site for the city's black elite. It held that lofty distinction for many years.

But time has not been kind to the cemetery. It fought a lengthy battle with nature and has the scars to prove it.

The brothers of the Odd Fellows organization - who once took pride in maintaining the cemetery's upkeep - began to die off. By the mid 1940s, signs of the cemetery's own demise could be seen.

Autumn leaves from nearby

trees, which were once promptly cleared away, lingered on the plots well into spring and summer. The cemetery's well manicured grounds also began to sprout wild weeds and plants.

But even with the cemetery showing some wear and tear, people continued to bury their loved ones there. Many families who had purchased deeds to plots in Odd Fellows' heyday decades earlier, could not afford to buy plots elsewhere.

But when city-owned New Evergreen Cemetery opened in 1944, it dealt Odd Fellows a devastating blow. New Evergreen - with its rolling hills and breathtaking views - was thought by many to be a piece of Heaven on earth.

Over the years, as the plots at

New Evergreen began to sell swiftly, the conditions at Odd Fellows began to deteriorate at an equally rapid pace.

Bushes began to tilt headstones and rain unearthed caskets that were not buried deep enough. Plots became unrecognizable under mounds of grass and leaves and the main road into the cemetery was overtaken by coarse bushes - rendering it useless.

Although a few people continued to be buried in the cemetery through the 1980s, many of the families who had put their loved ones to rest in Odd Fellows were having a difficult time locating their plots.

Flanked by Millbrook Apart-

See Cemetery on A13

King Speaks



Last week, Bennett College released tapes of a speech given by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1958. For the full story see page A5.

INDEX

