



Ervin Brisbon, a member of the Racial Justice Network talks with reporters, last Thursday.

RJN get apology from Guilford school board

By DAMON FORD
THE CHRONICLE

Guilford County School Board members apologized to the N.C. Racial Justice Network at a public forum last Thursday.

Several board members, including chair Susan Mendenhall, admitted they dropped the ball when they failed to discuss a revised redistricting plan submitted by RJN after telling members of the interracial civil rights group that they would.

The proposal was scheduled to

be discussed during a February meeting.

Ervin Brisbon, a member of the Network said the gaffe by the 11 member board contributed to the "passionate" outburst at school board meetings on Feb. 22 and March 1 and the subsequent arrest of 19 people on misdemeanor charges of disrupting a meeting.

Brisbon said he wanted the board to admit their mistake.

"I'm not here to ask that you drop any charges," Brisbon said. "I'm here to ask you to take on

some responsibility as to what happened

"We were told (the plan) would be discussed in a preliminary discussion next week and told it would be discussed another week and another week and up to this day we have not discussed it."

"I will admit we may not have gotten it read in as quick of a time as you wanted," Mendenhall said. "There are many issues that have not been addressed yet but we're going to get to them."

After apologizing for the mix up Mendenhall told Brisbon that

the board "would discuss these concerns in our next work session," which was held Monday in High Point.

Besides the lengthy exchange over the proposal that ended the three hour meeting, the rest of the night went smoothly. Two hundred and fifty residents attended the forum held at Page High School in Greensboro. Seventy-six people were signed up to speak but like last Tuesday's meeting in High Point, only three-fourths

See RJN on A10

75 cents

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Vol. XXV No. 31

THE CHRONICLE

1974 - Celebrating 25 Years - 1999

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Rising from the ashes



Saints Delight Church stands as a stark reminder of the danger of fire. The church was torched three weeks ago.

Photo by Damon Ford

Torched black church still in need of aid

By DAMON FORD
THE CHRONICLE

Saints Delight Church is slowly recovering, says the Bishop Evelyn Timmons, the church's pastor.

"I'm still getting calls," she said. "I'm really warmed by that. I preach the word of God and I have to believe what I speak. I have sewn into other ministries before so now I'm reaping what I have sewn."

The church was destroyed by fire March 14. Winston-Salem Fire Department officials found traces of chemicals at the site and have determined that the fire was intentionally set.

Officials still have no suspects at this time.

The estimated cost to rebuild

the small church tops \$125,000. Timmons says the congregation would like a larger building built on the present site on Barry Street or somewhere in East Winston.

Like many other churches, Saint's Delight was not insured, which means Timmons and her congregation will have to raise the funds they need.

So far only \$500 has been raised. While she is thankful for those who have given so far the Greensboro resident knows more dollars will be needed to be generated.

But help is on the way in the form of the Congress of National Black Churches, an ecumenical group made up of eight of the largest black denominations and religious organizations.

In 1997 the Washington D.C.-

based organization began a program to help rebuild churches, particularly those destroyed. The \$12.8 million program was created to help 50 churches torched churches rebuild.

Saint's Delight is number 50.

Not only has CNBC helped rebuild churches but, according to Phil Mason, director of planning and evaluation for the church rebuilding program, the organization has sent out packets of information to churches with tips on how to better protect their buildings and property.

"We encourage them to think about adequately insuring their buildings (too)," he said. "Nobody can adequately guard against hate. Hopefully we can adequately guard against the manifestation of hate."

Timmons has been talking with officials from CNBC for two weeks to determine how much insurance the new church will need.

"That's going to be based on what we build and what square feet we have along with other amenities inside the building," she said.

CNBC will hold a special two-day conference in Winston-Salem April 12-13. The site of the conference has yet to be determined.

Pastors as well as political officials from around the Triad are being invited to attend the conference which will serve as a rally for the state's black churches touched by arson.

CNBC will also hold workshops on dealing with security

See Torched Church on A11

WSSU defends movement of funds

By T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

What appeared to be yet another towering mountain for Winston-Salem State University Chancellor Alvin Schexnider's administration, is merely a mole hill, says one of the school's vice chancellors.

After the school's board of trustees raised concerns about the transfer of a quarter-million dollars from the university's endowment fund to another account at its most recent quarterly meeting, Clementine Cone, the vice chancellor of finance and administration, says she is ready to work with the trustees to develop a set of procedures that will prevent such concerns from arising in the future.

"This is a procedural issue. We need to have steps...A written procedure that is understood by all parties," Cone said by phone Monday from Dallas. "I'm not threatened at all by questions. (I'm accustomed to having things questioned.)"

Cone said \$258,000 was moved from the \$13 million endowment fund - which is administered by the school's endowment board, a sub body of the board of trustees - because it was erroneously placed into the fund.

Cone says the money was "unrestricted funds" and was put into the endowment fund before she came to WSSU in the summer of 1997. Interest from the endowment fund is used for such things as scholarships and professorships, Cone said.

After more than \$100,000 of the "unrestricted funds" wound up being used to fund a loan to the athletic department, the board of trustees learned that the money had been taken out of the endowment fund.

See WSSU on A10

NOW activist urges unity with blacks

By T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

African Americans must unite with other minorities, women and the homosexual community to mount a force strong enough to combat a powerful army of right-wing politicians and Christian extremists who are slowly but surely chipping away at the strides minority groups have made in civil rights, a top official at the nation's largest feminist organization told a group at Wake Forest University Tuesday.

Many groups and individuals who spout anti-gay rhetoric, also have similar unkind words and feelings toward blacks and women, says Kim Gandy, the executive vice-president of the National Organization for Women.

"There is a lot of overlapping. The racist groups overlap with the anti-gay groups, and the anti-gay groups overlap with the anti-abortion groups. They are all the same enemies," Gandy said. "They are the same folks who opposed women's rights, rights for people of color, and now the rights for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community."

Gandy did not stop there. She named names - pointing to groups like the Promise Keepers and Eagle Forum and popular religious figures like Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell, all of whom she said promote an agenda that



Gandy

See Gay rights on A11

Coming out: 14 participate in Jabberwock

By JERI YOUNG
THE CHRONICLE

The air at the Anderson Center was electric Saturday night.

Backed by the pounding rhythms of Otesha, a group of African-influenced drummers and dancers, 14 young women swirled across the stage.

Draped in miles of white silk, satin and tulle, they twirled in intricate steps on the arms of escorts in stylish tuxedos to a unique walk choreographed by members of Scarlet Lace, Winston-Salem State University's dance team.

The 14 were being presented during Delta Sigma Theta Sorority's Jabberwock. The event, which is held every two years, marks the end of three months of intensive classes and workshops on topics

ranging from hair and makeup to how to fill out applications for college. Participants were selected from a pool of 27 applications gathered from local public and private high schools.

"I hope it's a chance to bond with women that they may not have come in contact with but through this Jabberwock," said Denise Hartsfield, one of the event's organizers. "But more importantly, I hope this signifies the importance of working to get your own, to help yourself go to college and how important it is to go to college."

A major part of the pageant revolves around college scholarship. Each participant receives a portion of the money she raises in the form of a scholarship. This

year's pageant raised more than \$30,000, Hartsfield said.

Pageant participants held fundraising events and solicited funds from friends and church members.

But, the pageant was about more than raising money, Hartsfield said.

"Our first workshop was a presentation workshop with representatives from Maybelline," she said. "Then we had etiquette, manners and protocol seminar where we actually went through table setting - what fork and glass to use. We did quizzes to find out what they did know and taught them what they didn't. The idea is to help the participants improve themselves."

For some, Jabberwock marked

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Tiffany Dunlap and Courtney Waring share a laugh back stage of the Jabberwock.

Photo by Jeri Young

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