

# Carver's Piggott named Principal of the Year

By JERI YOUNG  
THE CHRONICLE

It's been a banner year for Carver High School. And earlier this week, the school received yet another honor. Carver principal Daniel Piggott was named the 1999 Wachovia Principal of the Year during a ceremony in Raleigh Tuesday. As Principal of the Year, Piggott will receive a \$3,000 cash award for his personal use and a

matching amount for his school. Piggott beat out five other finalists for the title in the statewide competition. Principals were judged on a host of criteria, including their ability to improve the academic achievement of students. Last year, Carver earned exemplary status on the state's end of grade testing. "Dan Piggott's innovative approach to learning has created an environment that inspires student achievement and success,"

said Philip J. Kirk, chairman of the North Carolina State Board of Education. "Under his leadership, Carver earned exemplary status under the state's ABCs accountability plan for the 1997-98 school year." Since taking the helm at Carver in 1993, Piggott has implemented several new programs, including the area's first trainable mentally handicapped unit. Piggott has also continued to strengthen Carver's relationship with local businesses, including Sara Lee

Corp. The 13-year-old partnership focuses on setting goals, training staff and motivating students. In 1995, Sara Lee commissioned a 30-minute video to mark the 10th anniversary of the partnership that included remarks by renowned poet and Wake Forest University professor Maya Angelou. Next year, Carver will be the first school in the area to offer the Cisco Networking Lab course of study, which trains students to become certified network admin-

istrators. Piggott's award is the latest in a string of awards earned by Carver faculty and students this school year. "Dan Piggott is an exceptional school leader who gives tirelessly of himself in his role as principal, teacher and mentor," said J. Walter McDowell, executive in charge of Regional Corporate Financial Services for Wachovia, the award's corporate sponsor. "By setting

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Piggott

75 cents

WINSTON-SALEM GREENSBORO HIGH POINT

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# THE CHRONICLE

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## Battle Ends



Guilford County School Board members listen intently during Tuesday's work session. Calvin Boykin was one of three black board members to vote.

## Greensboro OKs controversial redistricting plan

Brisbon calls black board members 'Sambos'

By DAMON FORD  
THE CHRONICLE

After almost three years of meetings, forums and work sessions, Guilford County finally has a school redistricting plan. The vote was 8-3. Three of the board's four black members - Calvin Boykin, Johnny Hodge and Keith Green - voted for the plan. The plan is the first of its kind since the merger six years ago of the Greensboro city, High Point city and Guilford County

school systems. After the vote, board chair Susan Mendenhall expressed her pleasure in seeing her peers work diligently to get the plan done thereby enabling them to go down in history having decided to do something rather than nothing. "This is a very historic event," she said. With the new plan 31 percent of the county's 61,000 students will be reassigned to new schools. While several residents on hand at the work session expressed relief at seeing the vote go through, a number of others, including those from the black community, were disappointed.

"I knew this was going to happen tonight and I knew that the black leadership was going to do what it has always done," said Ervin Brisbon, a member of the the N.C. Racial Justice Network, an interracial civil rights group. "They even told some of the members of the NAACP that they would vote against (the plan) and then they stood up there and lied in our faces and voted for it. Johnny Hodge, Calvin Boykin and Keith Green - I can expect them to be the Sambos that they are. They skin and grin and bow to the power structure." For four months since the plan was proposed, thousands of

parents and concerned citizens complained about the redistricting lines. While many white parents didn't want to see their children bused out of their neighborhoods, black parents argued they wanted to stop a process they said forced their children to carry the brunt of busing hassles. The majority of the board members say the plan will help eliminate that problem. Black board member Harding Edwards was one of three dissenters who voted against the plan. He said he needed to see a new map with all the newly redrawn lines. Many of his peers were leery

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## Holmes-Martin resigns from Children's Theatre

Committee member charges selection process changed "midstream"

By T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

Roslyn Holmes-Martin has fond memories of The Children's Theatre dating back more than 30 years when she was a first-grader at Saint Benedict's Catholic School. The school held season tickets and often treated students to top-notch plays and musicals. Her frequent trips to the theater planted a seed that flourished into a great love for the arts. As fate would have it, Holmes-Martin would find herself back at The Children's Theatre years later as an employee. She was tapped to serve as marketing director, a position she held for five years. "When I was offered the position at The Children's Theatre, it was like coming full circle," she said Tuesday. "Now, not only did I attend this organization as a child, I'm here on the other side to make sure that other children will be able to have the same opportunity (to attend the theatre)." The circle was fully completed in 1998. After the theater's executive director resigned unexpectedly because of family illness, Holmes-Martin was named interim executive director. As such, she traveled the country looking for plays to bring back to the children of Winston-Salem. She was also responsible for running the day-to-day operations of the theater. It was hard work, but she said she enjoyed it. So much so that she applied for the position permanently and kept her hopes up as members of The Children's Theatre Board of Directors scoured the

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## Returning to Mecca

Local imam makes trip to the Holy Land

By T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

The feelings Imam Khalid Griggs has about the hajj he took with his wife Safiya back in 1986 are bittersweet. Completing the fifth principle of the Islamic faith was a spiritual high, especially since less than 10 percent of all Muslims manage to make the holy trip. But getting there wasn't easy and staying there proved to be even more difficult. The Griggses boarded a plane stateside and 11 hours later touched down in Jidda, a Saudi Arabian town that sits on the Red Sea. The bus that awaited them was a sign of the rigors that lay ahead. "The bus that took us from Jidda to Medina had no air conditioning," Khalid Griggs said before breaking into laughter. It was August - the hottest month of the year in the Middle East - and the temperatures hovered near 115 degrees. The heat served as a constant backdrop during the trip. It constantly pelted them with rays of heat from above and it made walking on the sand like walking on "a blast furnace." They expected large crowds once they got into the sacred rituals of the hajj - no hajj would be complete without that - but they didn't expect their sleeping quarters to be crowded as well. "We stayed in a guest house," Griggs explained. "It wasn't that bad for my wife, but I was in this huge room with like 1,500 other men and we were all basically sleeping on the floor." Cool air, however, did flow freely throughout the room, courtesy of several 10-foot-tall air conditioning units. But soon the cool-turned-to-cold. The frigid air inside did not mix well for the dwellers once they

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## Liberians fighting to remain in U.S.

By T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

The Miss Africa/African American Educational Pageant has become a tradition here. The event features colorful Kente cloth and beautiful accents. It's a place where the traditions of Africa and the culture of America meet in perfect harmony. The seventh annual event, which is staged by the Liberian Organization of the Piedmont, was held Saturday night on the campus of Winston-Salem State University with its usual pomp and pageantry. Besides providing college scholarships to several local young women, the event is a place where the hundreds of Liberians who call the Triad home come to fellowship.

But this year, like the one before, an ugly reality casts a shadow over the beauty of the pageant. After years of living as model citizens in this country, more than 9,000 Liberians may be forced to pack up and leave the lives they have struggled to carve out here in America. "I think about it every day," said Frank J. Konah, a Liberian refugee who may be forced to return to his homeland. The Liberians were granted temporary protected status after civil war erupted in the tiny West African nation after a coup d'etat in 1990. Liberia's unique relationship with the United States contributed to its political undoing. The nation was founded in 1822 by the American Colonization Society as a

place for freed U.S. slaves to return to and live. The U.S. settlers ruled over 99 percent indigenous population. The century-old strain between the two groups eventually led to bloodshed. The carnage stretched for nearly seven years, ravaging the nation's economics and infrastructure. But according to U.S. State Department officials, a cease-fire in 1996 has restored peace to the African nation, and recent free elections have underscored Liberia's commitment to democracy. After being declared safe for refugees by the United Nations in March 1997, Attorney General Janet Reno refused to renew the

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## Cleaning up a landmark



Charles Williams kneels by the grave of Private Arthur Goodwin. Williams led a project to clean up historic Happy Hill Cemetery. See the full story on page A3.

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### This Week In Black History...

April 30, 1864 - Enraged by atrocities committed a week before, the Second Kansas Colored Volunteers checked rebel troops at Jenkins Ferry, Ark.  
April 29, 1899 - Band leader Duke Ellington born in Washington, D.C.