

# Watts for vice president? Rep. stumps for Bush during Charlotte speech

By JOHN MINTER  
CONSOLIDATED MEDIA GROUP

Republican Congressman J.C. Watts - still rumored to be a possible vice presidential candidate - brought his rural Oklahoma, down-home values to Charlotte recently to stump for Texas Gov. George W. Bush, who Watts and other observers believe could attract more blacks to the Republican Party.

They note that Bush got healthy chunks of the black and Hispanic vote in his re-election bid last November, an election in which the Republican Party took a beating, largely because of the black vote.

Watts spoke at a fund-raiser for Bush's Presidential Exploratory Committee that raised more than \$75,000.

Some of that money will be used to bring Bush to North Carolina sometime early next year, if not sooner.

Such success raises Watts' stature within the GOP, where, as the only black Republican in the U.S. House, he's a favorite in a party wishing desperately to attract more blacks and other minorities to its ranks.

The former University of Oklahoma quarterback is a conservative Christian. He has the body of an athlete and youthful good looks so important in politics these days.

He's made some headlines in recent weeks with a proposal to relieve black farmers of any taxes on the multimillion-dollar settlement with the federal government and attacks on proba-

ble Democratic presidential candidate Vice President Al Gore, who said recently he favored letting faith-based organizations help solve community problems.

Watts said that Gore has voted against faith-based schools and a pilot program allowing low-income parents to send their children to religious schools.

"It looks as if Vice President Gore has recently had a Damascus Road experience considering his past voting record in the Senate and the House," Watts said.

According to many political observers, like Hal Weatherman, 9th District Rep. Sue Myrick's aide, Watts is on the "short list" of potential vice presidential candidates. Myrick and Watts are both members of the House's Republican leadership team. Watts is No. 4 in the House Republican hierarchy. And the venerable N.C. Sen. Jesse Helms invited Watts down to Wingate University and his Jesse Helms Center.

Watts spokesman Bill Shepard avoided mentioning Watts' vice presidential possibilities but noted that he has a strong national following.

"We get people coming by all the time, from other areas, saying, 'I wish you were my congressman,'" Shepard said. "He does have a message. He got his values growing up in rural Oklahoma. He can relate to people nationwide. That has allowed him to become a national figure."

Shepard said Watts signed onto the Bush Exploratory

Committee early.

"He seems to like him and came out strong for him," Shepard said.

Shepard said one reason Watts likes Bush is the congressman "feels he will be able to carry on the Big Tent policy."

One of Watts' favorite lines on the speaking circuit is that Republicans and minorities have a lot in common and that the GOP needs to make a more determined effort to attract blacks - who he says are conservative on many issues - into the fold.

Watts switched to the Republican Party 10 years ago and now represents a district that is majority white. Watts was moved to join the GOP after covering a political debate as a senior journalism major.

"The Republican candidate had made sense," Watts said. "His words resonated with the values on which I had been raised, echoing all the things my dad had taught me: work hard, play fair, be responsible, pay your own way. Those were words I thought my dad owned. I couldn't believe a Republican - let alone a white Republican - would be agreeing with my father."

It took him 10 years to give up what he called "his birthright," being a Democrat.

Now he has typical Republican views - smaller government, less taxation, more freedom in personal lives.

"He doesn't like welfare or things that keep people in dependency," Shepard said.



U.S. Rep. J. C. Watts extolled the virtues of presidential candidate George W. Bush during a stop in Charlotte recently.

## Ten left in search for St. Aug president

By ANGELA BURRUS  
CONSOLIDATED MEDIA GROUP

RALEIGH - During a meeting last week, the presidential search committee of St. Augustine's College evaluated and narrowed their choices down to 10 candidates, with expectations of having a new president by early fall.

The position had been vacant since the end of May when former president Bernard Franklin resigned from office. Following Franklin's resignation, the committee advertised the position in three academic journals as well as hiring a national search committee before receiving inquiries.

Candidates were presented by the Educational Management Network, a division of Whitt/Kiefer, a firm hired to assist with the search process. Originally, 75 candidates applied for the position.

The EMN performed an extensive screening process to determine which candidate best met the established criteria, which reduced the number to 25 candidates. That list was presented to the committee.

"It's a very diverse pool," William Mossett, search leader and college trustee, said in published reports.

Mossett added that ethnicity is not an issue. The committee will hire the candidate who will

help advance "religious thrust of the college as well as the academic thrust."

During the next few weeks, the committee will conduct face-to-face interviews with 10 candidates and further pare the list down to three.

After the three candidates have been selected, they will be introduced to the executive committee of the board of trustees, faculty, students and the community.

Afterward, the executive committee will present one candidate to the full board of trustees for approval.

The new president is expected to be in position by January 2000.

## 'The Trial' to run at Black Theatre Festival

Special to THE CHRONICLE

The 1999 National Black Theatre Festival will host "The Trial of One Short-Sighted Black Woman vs. Mammy Louise & Safreeta Mae." The play will open Aug. 5 at 8 p.m. and will run through Aug. 7, with 3 p.m. matinees and 8 p.m. performances on Friday and Saturday at The Arts Council Theatre in Winston-Salem.

The star-studded cast includes Barbara Montgomery ("Amen") as the judge, Petronia Paley ("Guiding Light") as the prosecutor and Ebony Jo-Ann (Broadway veteran) as Mammy Louise. Director Paul Carler Harrison and producer Woodie King Jr., in association with ETA Creative Arts Foundation, present this multifaceted satire.

Robert Simonson of Time-out Magazine (Nov. 5-12, 1998, issue) says, "A long play title is usually not a good sign: A wealth of words on the title page often masks something lacking in the subsequent text. Not the case with 'The Trial of One Short-Sighted Black Woman vs. Mammy Louise and Safreeta Mae.'"

Playwright Marcia L. Leslie set out to write a lighthearted one-act that would examine what Aunt Jemima might say if she popped off of the pancake box. What the playwright gained was an insight to the humanity, dignity and the historical implications of these cardboard divas. What was the purpose of these images and what was the reality?

Leslie structures this play as an unorthodox mock trial, but what transpires is an intergenerational healing of African American women over their depiction in the media. Victoria Dryer, the middle-class, short-sighted character, discovers that assimilation without self-realization is futile.

Dryer is a young black executive who is the "token" employee of a television production studio. She has her realities and images agitated when Mammy Louise and Safreeta


Mae reveal their truths and realities. Dryer charges that the two defendants, antebellum slaves - Mammy Louise, a robust, dark-complexioned cook, and Safreeta Mae, a flirtatious mulatto concubine - are guilty of creating the relatively negative images often portrayed in the media.

Dryer resents the centuries-old images that the media portrayed of black women: as either the Aunt Jemima figure or the light-skinned, longhaired temptress. She brings them to court for misrepresentation in front of a no-nonsense judge with a conservative prosecutor and an Afro centric defense attorney. The other characters involved in the case, from the

past and present, are sworn in to testify. They provide splendid yet haunting comic relief.

Leslie, an accomplished writer, has utilized her writing ability on television shows that include "The Cosby Show" and "The Parenthood." Leslie's "The Trial of One Short-sighted Black Woman vs. Mammy Louise and Safreeta Mae" has been produced at the Shakespeare Festival Grove in Orange County; The Arts Consortium in Cincinnati, Ohio; Howard University and Harvard University. It also has garnered the Jeff Citation in Chicago and has been honored by the Black Theatre Alliance in Chicago with the Best Writing of a New Work

See Trial on A11



# COMMUNITY CONNECTION CALENDAR

## Culture Jam of 1999

Coca-Cola and the City of Winston-Salem Parks & Recreation will present its "Culture Jam" of 1999


**SUNDAY ••• 4:00 PM ••• JULY 18<sup>TH</sup>**  
**WINSTON LAKE "FAMILY DAY"**

This event is FREE and open to the public.  
We will kick off the summer with fun, games, music & talent.  
Local talent auditions to be held. Come out and show what you've got!!  
All performances must be clean and participants must provide their own music.


*Always in the Community, Always Coca-Cola*

# With FHA's new higher loan limits, you can buy your dream home.

How's that for a housewarming gift?



Since 1934 we've helped over 26 million Americans get into new homes. And starting this year, HUD can help you get a home loan for up to \$208,800. Be sure to check with your lender to find out what the FHA-insured loan limits are in your area. We can also help you with any questions you might have. Just call 1-800-HUDS-FHA and ask for our free 100 Questions and Answers brochure. It'll tell you how to get an FHA loan for as little as 3% down. How to choose the right lender. How to prepare yourself for the homebuying process. And much more. In fact, if you're looking for a home, it's all the information you need.



HUD and FHA are on your side.

ONE FINANCIA EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY 1-800-HUDS-FHA

### THE DOWNTOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL IS PROUD TO PRESENT ITS VERY FIRST EIGHTH GRADE CLASS 1998-99

Alison, Elizabeth	Conks, Kevin	Hart, Emily	McGee, David	Scott, Jr. Reginald
Anderson, Christian	Dale, Tyler	Hill, Matthew	McQueen, Shanika	Shaw, IV French
Bacarrak, Krista	Davidson, II Steven	Hobson, Lindsey	McQueen, Shonika	Shaw, Anita
Barber, Du	Davis, Dylan	Hodges, Jr. Bobby	Middlebrook, Jillian	Shaw, Leah
Barringer, Tyler	Davis, Kyrill	Humphreys, Sarah	Morrison, Jessica	Smith, Courtney
Beale, Kendall	Davis, Lindsey	Jennings, Rachel	Nowman, John	Smith, Katie
Beeson, Shelly	Davis, Michael	Johnson, James	Nichols, Mark	Snyder, Kristina
Blackwell, Sharmela	Dillon, Chad	Johnson, Justin	Noel, Dugan	Sorens, Kathryn
Blair, Chris	Dillon, Sara	Johnson, Paris	O'Mara, Jordan	Stinson, April
Blackman, Jamie	Dorrier, Charli	Jones, Ervin	O'Connor, Devon	Strong, Katherine
Boh, Eric	Drum, Matthew	Jones, Katie	Ollis, Lindsey	Sullivan, Christopher
Boh, Sarah	Dudley, Casey	Kasher, Jr. Kenny	Pace, Sarah	Sutton, Steven
Brown, Joseph	Edwards, James	Kyle, Midory	Parke, Jeffrey	Tate, Joshua
Buckman, Bryan	Elliot, Giani	Larimore, Andrew	Park, Aynita	Taylor, David
Brown, Carlos	Esquivel, Patrick	Lewis, Ryan	Parker, Jessica	Taylor, Sara
Brown, James	Friedberger, Danyelle	Lewis, Mitch	Parsons, Stephen	Thamm, Geris
Brown, Michael	Fulton, Jr. Alex	Lewis, Garrett	Perkins, Katie	Thompson, II William
Brown, Randy	Furness, Rebecca	Lichtenhan, Jonathan	Phelps, Brandia	Thompson, Ashley
Brown, Whalen	Fyock, Jr. Theodore	Lundford, Eric	Person, Melissa	Till, Katie
Burkhalter, Ben	Gaddy, Mia	Mac, Devron	Plante, Nicole	Tutwiler, Craig
Brown, Stephanie	Gaudel, Scott	Maddox, Holly	Quirk, Duan	Waring, Dany
Burns, Marcus	Gerard, Ashley	Maloney, Jess	Rakija, Megan	Watts, Nicole
Byers, Trisha	Gilbert Douglas	Marshall, Candace	Roberts, Bryn	Warding, Jr. Michael
Campbell, Courtney	Griffin, Dustin	Martin, Daniel	Robinson, Kirby	White, Ryan
Carr, Kelly	Guantanamo, Thomas	McCarthy, Patrick	Rosch, Isaac	Whitely, Brock
Capor, Amelia	Hansen, Eric	McClure, J. R.	Rowan, Ross	Wiley, Sherris
Chalk, III David	Hale, Nicki	McDaniel, Justin	Samsel, Gloria	William, Ashley
Chen, Elizabeth	Harris, William	McDowell, Jessica	Scott, Anna	William, Chris
Cook, Christian	Heath, Daniel	McFadden, Candace	Scott, Brady	Wright, Autumn
Cordell, Amanda		McFadden, Kawanda	Scott, Jacob	Yount, Sara
Covell, Tiffany		McGary, Alanna		Zarbock, William

**Your Accomplishments Include:**

**Computer Competency Tests:**  
95% of students tested proficient (multiple choice test)  
85% of students tested proficient (performance test)

**End-Of-Grade Tests:**  
89% of students tested At or Above Grade Level (Reading)  
83.9% of students tested At or Above Grade Level (Math)

\*100% of the students took all the tests

**WE ARE SO PROUD OF EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU.  
BEST OF LUCK IN ALL THAT YOU DO!!**