

▲ SPORTSWEEK

Aggies crunch Rattlers

Jackets advance in playoffs



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WSSU finds out 'What's Hot'

FTCC students receive GEDs

75 cents

WINSTON-SALEM GREENSBORO HIGH POINT

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THE CHRONICLE

1974 - Celebrating 25 Years - 1999

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1999

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'Redistricting = Resegregation?'

BY CHERIS HODGES
THE CHRONICLE

The Winston-Salem/Forsyth County school system called Nov. 11 a day for celebration.

But the NAACP and the Black Leadership Roundtable called it a day of protest.

The protest centered around the School Choice plan, a redistricting plan the groups think takes Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools back to the days of Jim Crow law, where schools were separate and unequal.

"Under this plan, what it has done is built brand new multimillion dollar middle schools in Kernersville and Clemmons," said

Robert Hairston Jr. protests the school choice plan.

See Protest on A8



Robert Hairston Jr. protests the school choice plan.

Photo by Cheris Hodges

Mixed reviews for school rally

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

It was part pep rally, part variety show - rejuvenating to some people and a waste of precious time to others.

The school system convocation held last week at the coliseum was not all things to all people, but all employees of the system were mandated to be there.

Billed as a time for all of those involved in educating children to "come together," the convocation brought every secretary, teacher, principal, custodian, cafeteria worker, bus driver, teacher's assistant and administrator in the county together

See Convocation on A8

Service Learning

WSSU students find hope, despair in Snow Hill, N.C.

Following is the first of a two-part series detailing a trip made by nine Winston-Salem State University students to Snow Hill, N.C. The university is part of a statewide effort to get students at historically black colleges and universities involved in cleanup efforts in the wake of Hurricane Floyd.

BY JERI YOUNG
THE CHRONICLE

7:25 a.m. - When Atiya Dennard arrived at the Thompson Center, two Saturdays ago, she was excited.

Dennard, a senior from Greenville with a quick wit and infectious laugh, was returning home to help victims of Hurricane Floyd.

One of two students on the trip from the eastern part of the state, Dennard said she relished the chance to help out.

"I know people in that area," she said. "This has been really, really hard on them. I think that this is just my time to help out."

Dennard was part of a group of students who ventured out from the university's campus to make the almost four-hour journey to Snow Hill, N.C., a tiny hamlet in the eastern part of the state.

Most were sociology majors who came to get a feel for the world they would face as social workers.

The vast majority had never heard of Snow Hill, much less been there. But they were all united in one goal - to help people touched by the flood get back on their feet.

Part of a statewide effort to get historically black colleges and universities involved in flood relief, the state's HBCUs are paired with a county in the eastern part of the state. During the first part of the project, students hand out information on safety and services available to flood victims. Later, the students will return to help clean up flooded houses and buildings.

Students have sponsored their own flood relief efforts on campus, including a food drive sponsored by a fraternity and a clothing drive sponsored by two students.

But this was the first time most students would actually see what a flooded town looked like.

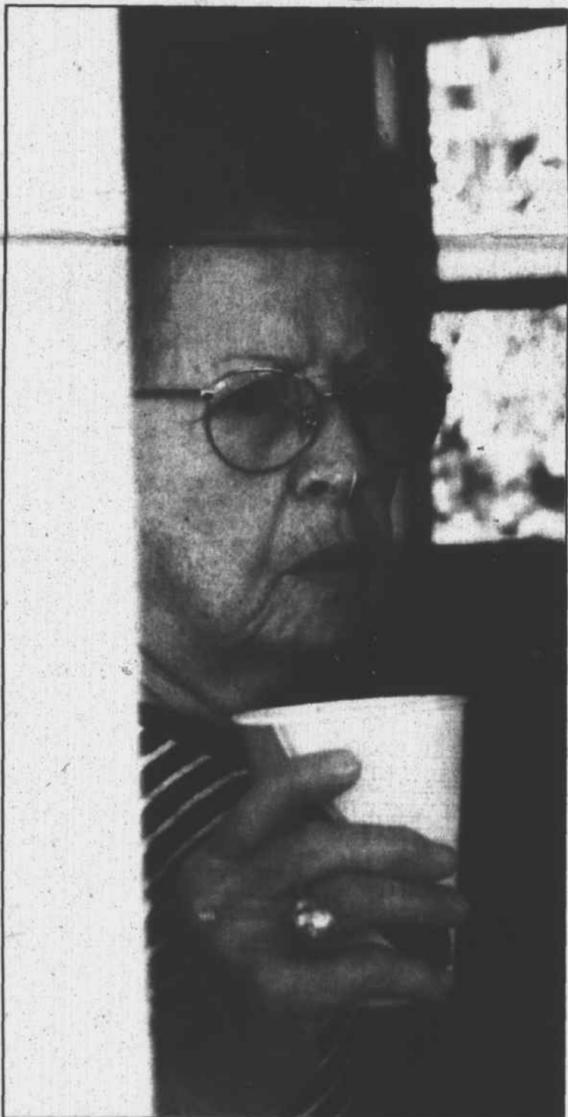
"We've done other things," said Gail Favors, coordinator of community service and service learning. "We just haven't been out yet."

Favors had lofty goals for her students.

"I hope they get good communications skills out of this."

7:53 a.m. - After what seemed hours of waiting for lunches

See Flood on A11



Chrystal Beamon peeks out of the door of her temporary home - a trailer set up in her front yard.

Photos by Jeri Young

Roundtable to discuss action on demoted officers

BY PAUL COLLINS
THE CHRONICLE

At its meeting tonight, the Black Leadership Roundtable of Winston-Salem/Forsyth County will consider launching a massive petition drive, a letter-writing or telephone campaign or other actions to protest the demotion of three African American police officers this month for alleged lax police supervision of a rap concert Aug. 28 at Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum.

Many black leaders think the police officers are unfairly being made to take the rap and that higher-ups should be disciplined.

Police Chief Linda Davis demoted Sgts. Chuck Byrom and Steve Hairston to the rank of senior police officer, and demoted Sgt. Victor Robinson two ranks to police officer. Davis took that action after City Manager Bryce Stuart issued a report about the concert that featured multiple acts, including the infamous Luther Campbell of 2 Live Crew fame.

Stuart's report said, among other things, that there was lax police supervision. The report said fights and nudity were rampant throughout much of the concert. The report said that there is a possibility that an actual act of oral sex took place on stage that night, though no security personnel reported seeing such an act. The Police Department is investigating.

Nine off-duty police officers were hired by the concert promoter to provide security for the concert. They were part of a security force that included 14 nonpolice security guards, nine door guards and 16 ushers.

A police tactical squad was on standby outside of the coliseum in case the situation inside got out of hand, but the team was never called.

Stuart's report criticized not only security but Bucky Dame, the coliseum manager, and concert promoters.

See Roundtable on A5



Womble

Rebuilding Liberia

University professor banking on survival of war-torn African nation

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Frederick Hunder, 63, is a college professor in a country that is clinging on to hope and survival.

He prepares his lessons and grades assignments by candlelight, and he has been paid in food many times in the past.

But even though he was educated in the United States and many members of his family fled to this country long ago, Hunder says he won't abandon his university for greener pastures.

His heart is in Liberia, and that is where his address will remain - forever, Hunder said.

Liberia, a tiny West African nation, is inching its way back from a decades-long civil war. Bitter fighting has devastated the country's infrastructure and created a mass exodus among its citizens, who are dispersed around the world.

The University of Liberia, located in the capital city of Monrovia, was not spared from the destruction. Electricity and running water in school buildings are rare, but human deficiencies have been most costly to the university, Hunder said.

"(The war) created a serious brain drain at the university," he said.

Hunder has been at the school for 35 years; he currently teaches biology and serves as the acting dean of the department of science and technology. But Hunder's long tenure is unique. Many professors and students were killed during the war; many others fled and took their expertise to other nations.

Hunder, who attended Syracuse University in the 1960s, has returned to the United States for many reasons. He will give his daughter away in marriage in Georgia next week; she fled her homeland before the worst of the fighting began.

Hunder has also come to visit two of his brothers, one of whom is Winston-Salem resident James Hunder, president of the Liberian Organization of the Piedmont. Hunder has also come to help his university. Armed with a letter from the school's president, Hunder is planning to



Hunder

See Liberian on A10

Storytellers' annual festival opens in Winston

BY CHERIS HODGES
THE CHRONICLE

Storytelling is a tradition born in African villages.

It was raised in America so the past would not be forgotten.

This week in Winston-Salem, the tradition of telling colorful tales lives on.

The National Association of Black Storytellers' 17th annual Black Storytelling Festival began yesterday and runs through Sunday. The festival will honor storyteller and writer Eleanor Tate and John Hope Franklin. Both will receive the NABS Zora Neale Hurston award at a banquet Saturday night in the Adam's Mark Hotel.

Darby West, a member of the

North Carolina Association of Black Story Tellers, said members of the group are excited Winston-Salem won the right to hold the festival this year. The group expected to have more than 1,000 people from Canada, the Caribbean and other countries attend the festival. The opening ceremonies for the festival begin tonight at 7. At 8:30, the group will march from the Adam's Mark down to the Sawtooth Building on Marshall Street to continue the opening night festivities.

Storytellers from all genres of the oral tradition will be present this week continuing the tradition of entertaining and informing. The Winston-Salem/Forsyth County school system has teamed up with NABS to bring the storytellers to

the students.

Today, many students in area schools will get a chance to see and feel the magic of storytelling.

"We have three elementary and three middle schools that are partnered with the adopt a storyteller," said Willette Nash, cultural infusion specialist with the school system.

The schools participating in the adopt a storyteller program are Kimberley Park, Diggs and Moore elementary schools and Atkins, Hanes and Paisley middle schools.

"A storyteller will go into the six schools for an hour," Nash said.

She said the children will have a chance to see the rich tradition of African and African American culture and gain from the experience.

"Elementary students really enjoy being read to and hearing stories," said the former elementary teacher. "I think the children will be enriched by learning from a culture other than the mainstream culture."

According to Nash, this festival adds to the schools system's push for multiculturalism in education.

Atkins Middle School has been involved with the festival all week. Nash said students from the school attended the youth conference the group held.

The youth workshops are being held at the Anderson Center, on the campus of Winston-Salem State University.

For more events during the convention, see page C1.