

NATIONAL BRIEFS



NATIONAL

Clinton remembers Daisy Bates

WASHINGTON, D.C. — President Bill Clinton issued a statement recently lamenting the death of civil rights leader Daisy Bates.

Ms. Bates, who with her husband published the black weekly newspaper the Arkansas State Press, died Nov. 4 after a lengthy illness. She was 86.

"Hillary and I were very saddened to learn of Daisy Bates' death this morning," the statement read. "She was a dear friend and a heroine. She was known chiefly as a leader during the crisis of Central High School in 1957 and a mentor to the Little Rock Nine. But, she was so much more."

"President Kennedy so admired her for her civil rights work that he hired her to work in his administration. During her 84 years, she received over 200 awards for her civil rights work — including the NAACP's esteemed Spingarn Award. In 1957, the Associated Press named her one of the Top Nine news personalities in the World.

"We were blessed to have Daisy as a citizen of Arkansas, where she and her husband, L.C., published the award-winning Arkansas State Press newspaper. For over 30 years, it was the only African American newspaper in the state. Her death will leave a vacuum in the civil rights community, the state of Arkansas and our country. Her legacy will live on through the work she did, the friends she made and the people she touched."

INTERNATIONAL

Child prostitution on the rise in Congo

POINTE-NOIRE, Republic of Congo (IPS) — Child prostitution is on the rise in Pointe-Noire, the Republic of Congo's main port and economic capital, causing concern for municipal officials.

"We're aware of this problem, which has picked up speed over the past two years after many displaced persons arrived here from neighboring areas. We are currently putting the finishing touches on a plan to combat it," said Luc Francois Makosso, mayor of Pointe-Noire.

The population increase of 500,000 to 1 million has been bolstered by massive migration from war-torn neighboring zones, the theater of operations of the continuing war between militiamen loyal to deposed President Pascal Lissouba and government forces.

Most of the children are orphaned or abandoned young boys between the ages of 7 and 15, who sell their bodies to pedophiles as a means of survival.

Without tough laws, observers fear the phenomenon could spill over into the big cities and affect youths who do not have the means to protect themselves against sexually-transmitted diseases like AIDS. — Louis Okamba

Jamaicans: Poverty level still high

MONTEGO BAY, Jamaica (IPS) — According to the Jamaican government's recently released "1998 Survey of Living Conditions," poverty levels have fallen, but it is an assertion which ordinary citizens struggle to relate to their daily lives.

The survey indicates that poverty levels are now at a 10-year low, moving from 30.5 percent in 1989 to 19.9 percent in 1997 and 15.9 percent last year.

"This is largely the result of the low rates of inflation achieved since 1996, and the efforts of the National Poverty Alleviation Program, launched in 1995, the Jamaica Social Investment Fund, and the Social Development Commission, among others," the report states.

"They (figures) don't have any significance to me; they don't mean anything," said lead economist Dr. Omri Evans. "The per capita income, which is used to measure what is happening with welfare and poverty in a country, is not showing any increase. As a matter of fact, the per capita income in 1998 registered a 1.7 percent decline below '97, and as an economist, that is the best indicator I use to see what is happening with poverty in a country."

"Like most Jamaicans, my feeling is that when you look at the material conditions that exist in the economy, the absence of growth in particular, the problems in relation to the fiscal deficit, it clearly is not a climate in which anyone could boast of any serious gains in poverty reduction or alleviation," said financial analyst Errol Gregory. — Dionne Jackson Miller

U.N. tribunal visits Rwandan genocide sites

ARUSHA, TANZANIA (IPS) — Five years after starting its work, the Tanzania-based International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda made its first-ever trip to Rwanda to visit sites where the 1994 genocide was committed against Rwanda's minority Tutsis.

The ICTR visit to the Kibuye district in Rwanda, where more than 25,000 Tutsis were massacred, was prompted by the tribunal's seventh trial of Ignace Bagilishema, who was mayor of the district during that time.

"I would like to stress that this is strictly a judicial activity and that is why it will not be mixed with protocol activities in relation to Rwandan authorities such as courtesy calls or meetings," said Kingsley Moghalu, the tribunal's spokesperson.

Bagilishema is charged with eight counts of genocide, complicity in genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, in the four counties of Mabanza, Gitesi, Gishyita and Gisovu, within the Kibuye district which he presided over.

Bagilishema, who was arrested in February in Pretoria, South Africa, has pleaded innocent to all the charges. — Judith Achieng.

Proud FTCC grads earn GEDs

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

They didn't let the clouds above rain on their parade.

The ceremony had to go on. A lot of old adages could have applied last week as a sudden downpour washed out a graduation procession line, sending dozens of cap-and-gown-clad students scurrying.

They found refuge from the chill and the rain inside of Wake Forest University's Wait Chapel, where they used a dual flight of stairs to reassemble the line.

As they waited to march before their family and friends, the graduates passed away the minutes with laughter and chit-chat. They reminisced about the good times they'd shared together and spoke with grandeur about the future.

After it was all over, a dream had come true for more than 200 local men and women. They walked off with Adult High School Diplomas or GED certificates from Forsyth Technical Community College.

For many of them, it was the first graduation of their lives.

They were young and old, black and white, married and single. Before entering their respective programs, many of the students had not seen the inside of a classroom for more than a decade; others made costly missteps at public schools and entered the programs to earn a few credits.

"All of them have their own stories, but they all have overcome some obstacles to get here tonight," said Desna Wallin, president of Forsyth Tech.

For the Class of 1999, the obstacles were both mental and physical. They included unexpected pregnancies, hospitalizations, low self-esteem and feelings of inadequacy.

But past mistakes and longstanding hurdles didn't matter much at the ceremony. As the grads took turns walking across the stage — securing their degrees in the process — they seemed not to have a care in the world. As one FTCC staffer put it, now that they have diplomas and GEDs under their belts, the graduates feel that



More than 200 Forsyth Technical Community College students walked away with GED or Adult High School Diplomas during a ceremony last week at Wake Forest University. Above, students prepare to march into Wait Chapel.

they can conquer the world. Here are some of their stories:

Against all odds

Kevin Bodenhamer's name seemed to be on everyone's lips at the ceremony. His GED instructors debated his whereabouts as the minutes till the big event ticked away.

FTCC administrators often brought up his name as an example of the kind of drive and determination that exists in this class.

But Bodenhamer, 27, took all the attention lightly.

Blind since 1995, Bodenhamer recalled his journey to graduation with modesty. Only when pushed a bit does he concede that his accomplishments are not run-of-the-mill or average.

"Well, it wasn't the easiest thing I've done," Bodenhamer said with a wide smile as he waited for the ceremony to begin.

He spent nearly 40 hours with a basic skills instructor, completing both the pre-test and GED

test orally. Even the essay portion of his test had to be done orally. Bodenhamer had to verbally place punctuation marks and spell words as a scribe wrote for him.

He did the math portion of the test in his head. Complex angles and degrees had to be described to him by an instructor.

"His ability to retain information is phenomenal," said Dick Johnson, the man who was Bodenhamer's eyes and hands throughout the process.

Bodenhamer left high school long ago. Today, he says he really doesn't know why he decided to turn his back on his education all those years ago. But he doesn't have to think long about his reasons for returning.

"I'm just looking for a better job, a better life. ... I'm hoping to go into computers," he said.

By his side through his daily trips to FTCC's West Campus was Elliott, his trusty seeing-eye dog. As people made a beeline to

Bodenhamer at the ceremony, they looked down expecting to see Elliott in his usual position. But Elliott didn't make it to the event.

Danny Bodenhamer, Kevin's brother, played guide, ushering Kevin around the chapel and onto the stage to receive his certificate. "We are really proud of him at home," Danny Bodenhamer said, holding firmly to his brother's hand.

The folks at FTCC have not seen the last of Kevin Bodenhamer. He has just completed placement testing and will start taking college courses at the school's Main Campus in January.

Fulfilling an old promise

As hordes of people began to file into Wait Chapel, scrambling for the best seats, Rodney Dewalt sat alone quietly in the back of the chapel, holding his still unwrapped cap and gown in his

See Graduation on A8

Manhattans to perform at gala

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Famed recording artists The Manhattans will highlight an evening of fun, food and other festivities at the 22nd anniversary of the Winston-Salem Urban League's Equal Opportunity Day Founders' Black and White Gala.

This year's event comes on the heels of an exciting EOD Gala last year, during which the Urban League celebrated its 50th anniversary and the gala raised nearly \$50,000.

The EOD gala will be held Nov. 19 in the Grand Pavilion Ballroom at the Adam's Mark

Hotel. Tickets are \$75, a portion of which is tax deductible, and can be purchased at the Winston-Salem Urban League. For more information, call the Urban League at 336-725-5614.

"Once again, this is an opportunity for the community to recognize through its support of the EOD Gala the tremendous role that the Urban League plays in providing meaningful programs that help community residents attain self-sufficiency," said Delores "D" Smith, president and chief executive officer of the Winston-Salem Urban League. "We believe that, once again, the community will step up to the plate."

In addition to the live entertainment and good food, there also will be a silent auction and plenty of door prizes. All proceeds will benefit the Winston-Salem Urban League programs for youths, adults and seniors in the community.

In keeping with the overall mis-



sion of the Urban League movement, the board of directors sponsors the annual fund-raiser to support programs and services provided to African Americans, other minorities and disadvantaged citizens within the community.

"The theme for this year's gala,

'Celebrating the New Millennium and Our Corporate Partners,' will serve to strengthen our support system, our corporate partners and promises 'an even brighter future for those impacted by the

See Urban League on A8

WSSU students unveil marketing plan

BY CHERIS HODGES
THE CHRONICLE

A group of students at Winston-Salem State University got a dress rehearsal for the real world when they presented a marketing plan to a local dealership.

The 11 students, calling themselves Y2SU Enterprises, which stands for year 2000 Old State University, did not use a textbook to create this plan — they jumped into the project feet first.

The students are a part of the General Motors Marketing Internship program.

"This is a very good learning experience," said Dr. Alican Kavaz, professor of marketing. The internship is a part of the marketing communications class he teaches.

The students' mission was to raise awareness of Bob Neill Pontiac among consumers ages 18-34. They were given \$2,500 to make their ideas concrete.

Last Tuesday, Y2SU Enterprises put all of their research to the test. The dealership brought over six cars from the Pontiac line. Stu-

Unique program pairs students with local car dealerships

dents were given a chance to touch and smell the car, which was positioned in front of the Thomas Student Center.

Y2SU gave prizes for the students to win and games for them to play when students stopped to view the cars. "Students began by filling out entry forms," said Lawandria Penn, vice president and promotions chairperson for the group.

After the students completed registration, they were given the opportunity to look at the interiors of the featured cars, the Pontiac Sunfire and Grand Am.

Before the students got the green light for the "Fall into Excitement Festival," the promotions department of Y2SU had to present its research findings to the representatives from Bob Neill Pontiac.

The representatives from the dealership, a General Motors representative and a host of WSSU professors listened to an hour-long presentation by the students.

Pamela Ford, a junior, presented the results of the research and defined the market most unfamiliar with the dealership — Generations X and Y.

"This was a new experience that was a benefit to me," she said after the presentation. Ford admitted she was a little nervous when she started speaking, but the nervous feeling quickly disappeared.

Penn, also a junior, said the stress she felt while working with the group has helped prepare her for the real world. "We have gained real world experience through Bob Neill's generosity," she added.

"When you work in a group like this it is very hectic," said Meredith Moser, a member of the budget committee. "We learned the importance of working together."

"We all had to work together in an effective manner," Stephanie James, a member of the budget committee, elaborated.

Most of the students who par-

ticipated in the GMAC internship program were marketing or sports management majors. Keaton Wells, a senior and president of the group, said even though he is not a marketing major, the internship has helped him immensely.

"I am a business administration major," he said. "(The internship) showed me how to market myself." Wells said when it is time for him to enter the work force, he will know how to present himself to his future employers because of what he learned with GMAC.

"It was a great privilege and challenge for us," Moser said. "We have learned a lot about the real world by participating on this committee."

The dealership owner, David Neill, was impressed by the students' efforts. "I really appreciate all of the work you all put into this," he told the students. He called the research an eye opener, since many of the students polled

See Y2SU on A8

INDEX

OPINION	A6
SPORTS	B1
RELIGION	B6
CLASSIFIEDS	B9
HEALTH	C3
ENTERTAINMENT	C7
CALENDAR	A9

This Week In Black History...

- Nov. 18, 1900 — Noted theologian Howard Thurman is born in Daytona Beach, Fla. Thurman, who studied at Morehouse College with the Rev. Martin Luther King, Sr., is the founder of the interracial Church of Fellowship for All Peoples. He will author more than 20 books and become the first black professor at Boston University in 1953.
- Nov. 19, 1797 — Isabella Baumfree is born in New York. Baumfree, who will change her name to Sojourner Truth in 1843, will gain international fame as an abolitionist and women's rights activist.
- Nov. 24, 1883 — "Father of Black College Sports" Edwin Bancroft Henderson is born in Washington, D.C. The pioneering educator and coach will help organize the Negro Athletic Conference, Interscholastic Athletic Association and the Colored Inter-Collegiate Athletic Association, now the CIAA.