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SPORTS WEEK

Spartans defense pays off  
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COMMUNITY

Hundreds attend UNCF gala  
WSSU goes for accreditation

Winston-Salem Greensboro High Point Vol. XXVI No. 23

# THE CHRONICLE

The Choice for African American News

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2000

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## Thousands rally against rebel flag

WILMINGTON, S.C. - With a rallying cry, "Your heritage is not your enemy," thousands of people gathered Monday to protest the Confederate battle flag that flies above the South Carolina Statehouse and demand a permanent state holiday honoring Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Luther King's birthday," King said. "The flag is a terrible symbol that brings a lot of negative energy. And while we believe the flag has an appropriate place, it just does not belong on top of the Capitol because it is not a sign of unification."  
Demonstrators gathered at a downtown church for a service before marching to the Statehouse, six blocks away, singing "the flag is coming down" and waving American flags.  
One of the participants was 16-year-old Heather Showman, who is white. She said the flag did

not offend her but she understood why others were offended by it.  
"We need to get this flag off the Statehouse and promote racial unity," she said.  
People seeking the flag's removal say it is a bitter reminder of slavery and racism. Flag supporters say it represents the heritage of those who fought and died for a cause they believed in.  
More than 6,000 marched a week ago in the South Carolina Heritage 2000 rally to show support for keeping the flag atop the Statehouse.

In addition to the flag issue, civil-rights groups want the state to make Martin Luther King Day a permanent holiday for state workers, who now can take off that day or one of several tied to Confederate anniversaries.  
South Carolina Gov. Jim Hodges decided to speak at a King Day observance rather than attend today's rally, said spokeswoman Nina Brook.  
"The governor wants to be a mediator, a person who helps folks come together on the flag," Brook told The State newspaper



Kweisi Mfume, president and CEO of the NAACP, waves to the crowd during a rally Monday in Columbia, S.C. An estimated 46,000 people gathered to demand the Confederate flag be removed from the dome of the Statehouse.

See Rally on A10

## 'A day on - not a day off'

Youth told to follow King's example

KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE  
The federal Martin Luther King Jr. holiday is a day on, not a day off," a large white sign posted on the wall of the Benton Convention Center projected.  
Those who spoke at the 21st annual Noon Hour Commemoration drove home that message, drawing an overflow crowd to fight for the issues King died for.  
"We need to rid ourselves of the borders that divide us... (Let's) join in the spirit of togetherness," said Mütter Evans, owner of WAAA AM, founder of the noontime program.  
Evans sponsored this year's program along with the city's Human Rights Commission and the chapter of the NAACP.  
"I've promised great things for the 2000 celebration before the program began.  
"We will hit a home run, a slam dunk, a game-winning touchdown with this program," she said.  
"Rise up; live out the dream" was the theme of the year's commemoration. Each speech made, prayer performed and each song sung led to echo some aspect of that theme.  
Mayor Jack Cavanagh said people of great faith and determination have historically been brought down in their prime, mainly by assassins' hands. Local songbird Janice Price-Hinton sang a tribute rendition of "I Believe I Can Fly" as the crowd swayed and clapped their hands in unison.  
But it was the event's keynote speaker, psychologist Ernie Wade, who unleashed the amen cord and brought the audience to their feet. Wade,

See Speakers on A8



A group of women add their voices to hundreds of others during a spirited rendition of "We Shall Overcome" at Monday's Noon Hour Commemoration in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.

## Thousands brave cold during march

KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE  
Hundreds of city residents braved chilly winds Monday for an early morning march through the streets of East Winston and downtown. The march was in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the civil rights movement architect who would have celebrated his 71st birthday on Jan. 15. Many of those who participated carried homemade signs and banners with various messages of peace and love scrolled across them.  
The march gathered at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, which has been the starting point for the annual march for several years. Activities at the church began hours before the march, with a youth breakfast and educational programs.  
The marchers included the well known - an alderman, a state representative, a university chancellor - and not so well known. Large clusters of school children used their day off to celebrate King's legacy and vision. Students from the joint Vienna and Diggs elementary school ambassador program laughed and talked excitedly as the march began.  
The partnership between the nearly all black Diggs and the over-

See Hundreds on A8



Hundreds make their way along a more than one mile long route for a march to celebrate the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr., who would have celebrated his 71st birthday Saturday.

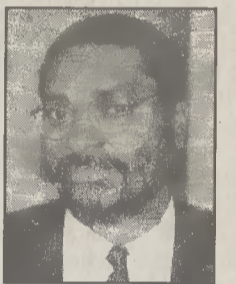
Photos by Kevin T. Walker

## No compromise

Tatum: Despite parity agreement, NAACP will still file suit against local school system

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

An agreement between the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights and the city-county school system will not halt plans for a lawsuit by the NAACP.  
"Our position is to still move forward with the lawsuit," said Bill Tatum, president of the local NAACP branch.  
"The agreement has no effect on us."  
The agreement comes in response to complaints filed with the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) by parents and the NAACP, whose primary concern is that the school system's redistricting plan is segregating elementary and middle schools. The agreement ends nearly five years of investigation of the school system by the U.S. government.  
Superintendent Don Martin, School Board chair Donny Lambeth and Doug Pungler, the system's attorney, were among those on hand for a news conference last week to announce the agreement. The news conference came minutes after the Board of Education unanimously voted to enter into the agreement.  
"We are pleased to have resolved these complaints in this manner," Lambeth said. "It is our goal to provide quality educational services to all of our students without regard to their race or national origin."  
Under the agreement, the school system will develop systemwide theme programs in schools that are severely underpopulated in order to foster racial integration. Any student who resides in the school district will be eligible to apply for enrollment at the systemwide themes.  
The system also agreed to widen its criteria for academically gifted programs so that more minorities may be included. The system also agreed to continue to produce an annual report giving data about the races of students suspended or expelled. These agreement stipulations are in direct response to charges that minorities are underrepresented in honor's programs and overrepresented in yearly disciplinary figures.  
The system will "encourage" appropriate county agencies to come



Eversley

See Schools on A10

## Friends remember Bonner's caring

BY PAUL COLLINS  
THE CHRONICLE

Lillian Bonner, the Winston-Salem Police Department's first black female officer, was a trailblazer, a caring person and a servant of God, friends and family members said last week.  
Seventy-six-year-old Bonner died Jan. 12.  
"We think it was a blood clot," said Horace Bonner Jr., her only son.  
She was born in 1923 in Sumter, S.C., one of 15 children. She moved to Winston-Salem at an early age. She moved in with her older brother, A.H. McDaniel, who was pastor at Union Baptist Church. She graduated from Atkins High School in 1941.  
She was hired as a meter reader by the Winston-Salem Police Department in 1952. She was promoted to corporal in 1974 and transferred to the community-services unit, which worked as a liaison between the Police Department, social services agencies and the community to help solve problems, her son said.  
After being a meter reader for several years, she qualified to carry a weapon, her son said. "And along with writing tickets, she was a beat cop," her son said.



Bonner

See Bonner on A10