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SPORTS WEEK
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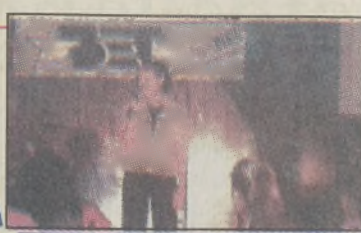
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WINSTON-SALEM GREENSBORO HIGH POINT

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WSSU students, faculty join world community to tackle AIDS



Photo by Kevin Walker

Members of the WSSU delegation: front row from left - Cathy Canzonna, Thelma Garrison, Tasha Jackson and Hamby Radwan.

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

A delegation of people from every corner of the globe descended on Durban, South Africa, earlier this month. They came to tackle a subject that has grown from obscurity to an issue of global proportions in less than two decades - AIDS.

Winston-Salem was well represented among the reported 14,000 people who took part in the XIII International AIDS Conference. Ten students and faculty members from Winston-Salem State University's School of Health Sciences made the trek to Durban, a modern, booming city on the South African coast.

Fresh from their trip, members

of the WSSU delegation said last week that the conference was an eye-opener, a one-of-a-kind educational and personal experience that they say they will never forget.

"I can't believe I was not dreaming," said Thelma Westbrook, one of four WSSU students who attended the conference. "I got to one of the largest and most important conferences in the world and it was in the Motherland."

Westbrook and the other nine were chosen by Sylvia Flack, who heads the school, and department heads within health sciences school. The team members chosen represent each department in the division, from nursing to physical therapy.

Faculty members Carol Hardin Boles, Cathy Canzonna, Charlena

Garrison, Hamby Radwan, Sandra Miles and Irene Phillips made up the team, along with students Westbrook, Tasha Jackson, Dino Jones and Ashot Shirazyan.

"I'm real proud of this group; they have not only made our School of Health Sciences, but also this university look good with the work that they have done," Flack said.

The expense-paid trip came about through a MIRT (Minorities International Research Training) project that links WSSU with Johns Hopkins University and Brown University for educational and research purposes.

Flack said the trip was especially significant for the WSSU team because the AIDS epidemic is rearing its ugly head like never before in

the Tarheel state. Currently, North Carolina ranks seventh among the states with the highest number of reported HIV/AIDS cases.

But the conference was sobering proof for the delegation that North Carolina is not alone in its fight to put a leash on the disease. The group talked about the many discussions they had with people from countries throughout the world about the way AIDS has affected life and culture.

"It really showed me that AIDS is not affecting just one part of the world," said Jackson. "It's really touching everyone."

The place that is feeling the most effects from AIDS is the continent in which the conference was held. According to the Centers for

See Conference on A4



Photo by Paul Collins

Heather McCutchen reads to children at the Central Library. Behind her are two boys and a girl.

Farmers Market wows kids

BY PAUL COLLINS
THE CHRONICLE

Five-year-old Carmella Lentz got a surprise Thursday morning. Her mother, Teresa Lentz, took Carmella to preschool storytime at the Downtown Farmers Market, at Sixth and Cherry streets. "We usually come up here and go shopping for fruits and vegetables," Teresa Lentz said. "Preschool storytime was a bonus. Carmella was surprised," Carmella's mother said. "Carmella likes to read. She likes funny books. She likes books on animals, adventure books about far-away lands," her mother said. Carmella, a rising second-grader at Sherwood Forest Elementary School, was dressed

in pink shirts and a pink Myrtle Beach T-shirt this day. She walked to the front of the audience of 30 or so children and adults and sat on a mat in front of Heather McCutchen, a children's librarian at the Central Library. Behind Carmella, two little boys sat on their mother's lap.

McCutchen began the program by mentioning vegetable gardens, then having the children sing "The Farmer in the Dell."

"Good job," McCutchen said at the end, applauding and smiling broadly.

"Has anybody heard this story, 'The Hungry Caterpillar'?"

"In the light of a moon, a little egg lay on a leaf. And one Sunday morning the warm sun came up and POP, out of that egg WHOOPS came a little caterpillar," McCutchen began in an animated voice.

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Atkins Class of '50 recalls a half-century of change and progress

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Time was neither free-flowing nor abundant for graduates of Atkins High School last weekend. Alumni of the school invaded the city from every part of the nation for Millennium Celebration, a large scale reunion that attempted to bring together as many people as possible who graduated from the school.

While socials, formal ceremonies and impromptu reminiscing sessions were continuous at the Adam's Mark Winston Plaza, a few alumni managed to sneak off to the campus of Winston-Salem State University early Saturday morning for a small-scale reunion of their own.

The Class of 1950 scheduled its regular reunion to coincide with the millennium event. Although members of the class say they knew their mini-reunion would be greatly overshadowed by the larger, all-inclusive event, they said they could not let the 50th anniversary of their high school graduation pass without any fanfare at all.

"We are celebrating 50 years of progress for our class," said class president Samuel Tucker, who flew in from his home in New York to attend both reunions.

The Class of 1950 holds many distinctions, according to Tucker.

It was the first class to have yearbooks and was the largest freshman class to enter the school at the time.

Naomi Jones served as chairperson for the reunion. Jones, who still lives in the city, said members of the Class of 50 have served the



Photo by Kevin Walker

Betty Hines reads the program at the Class of '50 reunion Saturday.

nation well through jobs in fields like education, law and medicine.

"We got a great education at Atkins, went to some of the best colleges and had great careers," Jones said.

Aurelia McFadden retired from the City-County School System in 1987 after more than 35 years of service. McFadden said Atkins High was more than a school, it was a cultural institution for African Americans during its lifespan.

McFadden said students knew that grand things were expected out of Atkins alumni because of that reputation.

"Our accomplishments speak for that (reputation)," she said.

The fact that Atkins High School is no more is still a sore spot for many alumni; the Class of

1950 is no exception.

"We were robbed of some of our history," McFadden said. "The powers that be did not even make an attempt to preserve the trophies and things like that."

Atkins was converted into a middle school in the early '70s.

With the closing of its doors also came the closing of an era.

"We lost in desegregation. We lost Atkins. Even though we were segregated, we had an excellent education, bar none. We were the best," Tucker said.

Patrick Hairston said he has yet to apply all of the knowledge he gained at Atkins.

"People were there to help you challenge your mind," said Hairston, who also chose to remain in Winston-Salem after graduating.

See Atkins on A10

Officials: Enforcing child support is key

BY PAUL COLLINS
THE CHRONICLE

Forty parents, law enforcement officials, social workers and others attended a "town hall" Thursday night to discuss how to improve child support. Linda Garrou, who heads the 20th District, called the meeting, which featured a panel of local, state and federal officials. Panelists included Court Judge Chester Holton, U.S. attorney John Biggs, executive assistant attorney Barry Miller, Director of Social Services, and Assistant Attorney General John Roberts, assistant

clerk of court, child support division, Forsyth County; Denise Hartsfield, Forsyth County Division of Social Services, child support attorney; and Assistant Sheriff Alan Gentry.

Garrou began the meeting by asking the panelists to explain how the system works, and then the panelists answered from members of the audience.

Among the difficulties in child support enforcement that panelists pointed out were heavy caseloads, difficulty in locating defendants, difficulty sometimes in computing the defendant's income, budget constraints and inadequate manpower for enforcement.

For example, Assistant Sheriff Alan Gentry talked about the diffi-

See Town hall on A10



Photo by Paul Collins

Assistant Sheriff Alan Gentry (right) explains some of the problems and challenges his officers face in child support enforcement.

National Night Out will try to fight crime

BY CHERIS HODGES
THE CHRONICLE

Winston-Salem is joining 9,000 other communities to fight crime next month.

Aug. 1 is National Night Out. Neighborhoods in the city are invited to participate in the event, which is nationally sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch. Over 30 million people are expected to participate in the evening, dubbed as "America's night out against crime."

National project coordinator Matt Peskin said, "The National Night Out campaign is an extra-

ordinary way to build neighborhood unity and strengthen police-community partnerships. We invite neighborhoods nationwide to join forces with us to give crime and drugs a going-away party."

National Night Out is designed to heighten crime and



Burke

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