

SPORTS WEEK

Carver win well deserved

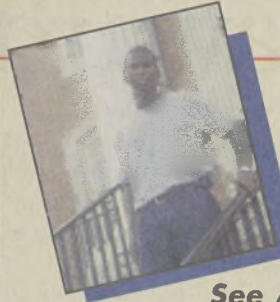
North defense key to victory over Glenn



See B1



See C1



See A11



See C7

COMMUNITY

High Point native doing well as actor

Order of Eastern Star crowns queens

cents

WINSTON-SALEM GREENSBORO HIGH POINT

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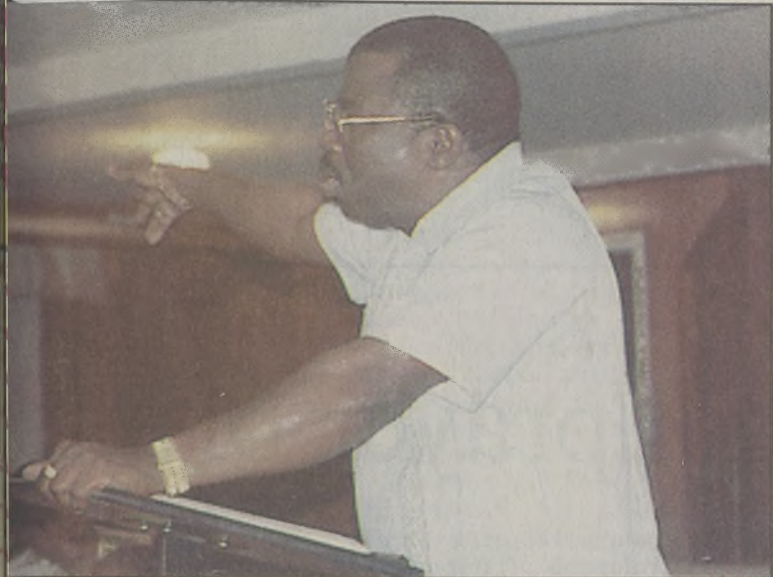


Photo by Kevin Walker

Hunder speaks before a group of Liberians Sunday evening.

Still Rallying

Liberians will again ask powers that be for right to stay in U.S.

BY T. KEVIN WALKER THE CHRONICLE

Thousands of Liberians living in the United States are expected to take part in a dramatic demonstration in front of the U.S. Capitol today, two weeks before a provision ends that has allowed thousands of them to remain in this country over the last year.

Liberians and supporters of their cause have held similar rallies over the years, all aimed at getting Congress to pass legislation that

would grant them permanent resident status here.

Many Liberians were made temporary residents of this country more than a decade ago when a civil war in Liberia threatened to topple the small West African nation. But that war ended with a cease-fire agreement in 1996. In 1998 the State Department decided that the nation was safe enough for the refugees to return home and did not renew temporary resident status for more than 10,000 Liberians.

Since then, the Liberians have been granted one-year stays by the president and Congress, but not the permanent resident status they so desperately seek. If Congress does not act, either by voting to grant residency or approving an extension, by Sept. 29, the refugees will be forced to return to Liberia, a nation that many of them still feel is not as democratic as it would like the world to believe.

"This is a desperate situation right now...The 29th will soon be here," James Hunder, president of

the Liberian Organization of the Piedmont, said Sunday at a pre-rally gathering at Goler Memorial AME Zion Church.

Hunder spoke before a group of about a dozen Liberians who plan to participate in the rally today. The Liberian Organization of the Piedmont is one of many regional chapters of the Union of Liberian Associations in the Americas. Hunder estimates that about 1,500 Liberians call the

See Liberians on A5

Moms still fighting for gun regulations

BY SCOTT THE CHRONICLE

Commons resident Diane Rousseau didn't abandon her quest for better gun control laws in May when she marched in Washington, D.C., as a mother and other concerned citizens are bringing the fight to Forsyth County.

At the Million Mom March Forsyth Chapter's first official meeting last Thursday evening, their purpose was clear. "If we can do sensible gun control, we can save people and some children," said Rousseau. "It is exploding and we've got to put a stop to it."

The Million Mom March, a grassroots chapter-based national organization, was the child of Donna Dees-Thomases.

On Mother's Day, more than 800,000 women marched in Washington, D.C., as a message to politicians that stricter gun control was needed.

Today, there are 129 chapters nationwide, all sharing the organization's beliefs that gun trauma affects the economic, social and spiritual well-being of the nation and children have a right to grow up in gun-free environments.

Rousseau and other members of the chapter met on the bus on the way to the Million Mom March. There they kept in touch and tried to spread the word about their mission.

"We're wanting to make a difference," said president Gail McNeill.

The organization's priorities are to push for laws that would encourage better licensing and registration procedures for handgun owners, product safety standards, background checks at gun shows and require gun buyers to buy no more than one gun a month to slow gun trafficking.

"It just makes sense: The more guns that are out there, the more shooting there will be," said Rousseau.

While many of the chapter's members decided to participate because of general interest, Tracey Maxwell's participation came from the mass shootings in schools. "I did it for me was Columbine," she said.

See Mom march on A9



Local man doesn't mind bearing a resemblance to popular wrestler

BY CHERIS HODGES THE CHRONICLE

He is known as the most electrifying man in sports entertainment. Millions and millions of his fans can "smell what The Rock is cooking." But one of his fans has something that the other millions don't. He has an eerie resemblance to The Rock. He looks so much like the famed wrestler that people stop him on the street and ask for autographs.

His name is Joey Forrest. Forrest doesn't mind the mistaken

identity. He is a huge fan of wrestling.

"No matter where I go, whether it's to the club or the downtown jazz, people say, 'Hey, Rock, are you going to lay the smack down on somebody's candy-ass?'" he said.

Forrest answers the people with a smile and a yes. "People don't call me Joey anymore; they just call me The Rock," he said.

It has been a year since The Rock, also known outside of the ring as Dwayne Johnson, became one of the most popular professional wrestlers in the Worldwide Wrestling Federation.

He calls himself "the people's champion" and he is currently the WWF champion. This is quite a feat for a minority wrestler. He has held the title for a few months now. As The Rock rose to fame, Forrest's face began to attract a lot of attention.

"Ever since last year around this time (people have been calling him The Rock), especially when I went to see Raw (Is War) in December. We were standing there side by side and people thought we were twins," he said.

Forrest said he met the wrestler

See Forrest on A10

Talks begin today to discuss future of debates

BY CHERIS HODGES THE CHRONICLE

Will he or won't he? This is the question that many in the Winston-Salem community are asking. Will Gov. George W. Bush show up at the Oct. 11 debate at Wake Forest University?

Bush has challenged Vice President Al Gore to a series of debates that are less formal and more geographically diverse, said Tucker Eskew, a Bush campaign spokesman.

"The governor has proposed a thorough schedule of debates," Eskew said of Bush. "The original schedule had no debates scheduled in the West Coast."

He added that Bush feels California is a representation of a lot of changes in the United States, with its large population of minorities.

Yet, the Commission on Presidential Debates is hopeful that the candidates will be able to agree on a schedule of debates. Members of the Bush and Gore camps will meet with the commission today.

According to Janet Brown, the executive director of the commission, this meeting will allow all parties involved to come to a consensus on the debate schedule. The Gore campaign has already accepted the entire schedule developed by the commission nine months ago.

However, Eskew said do not expect Bush to back down from his decision to stay away from Wake Forest.

"The governor is a leader. When he takes a strong stance, he does not back down," he said.

Gore's deputy national spokes-

See Debate on A4

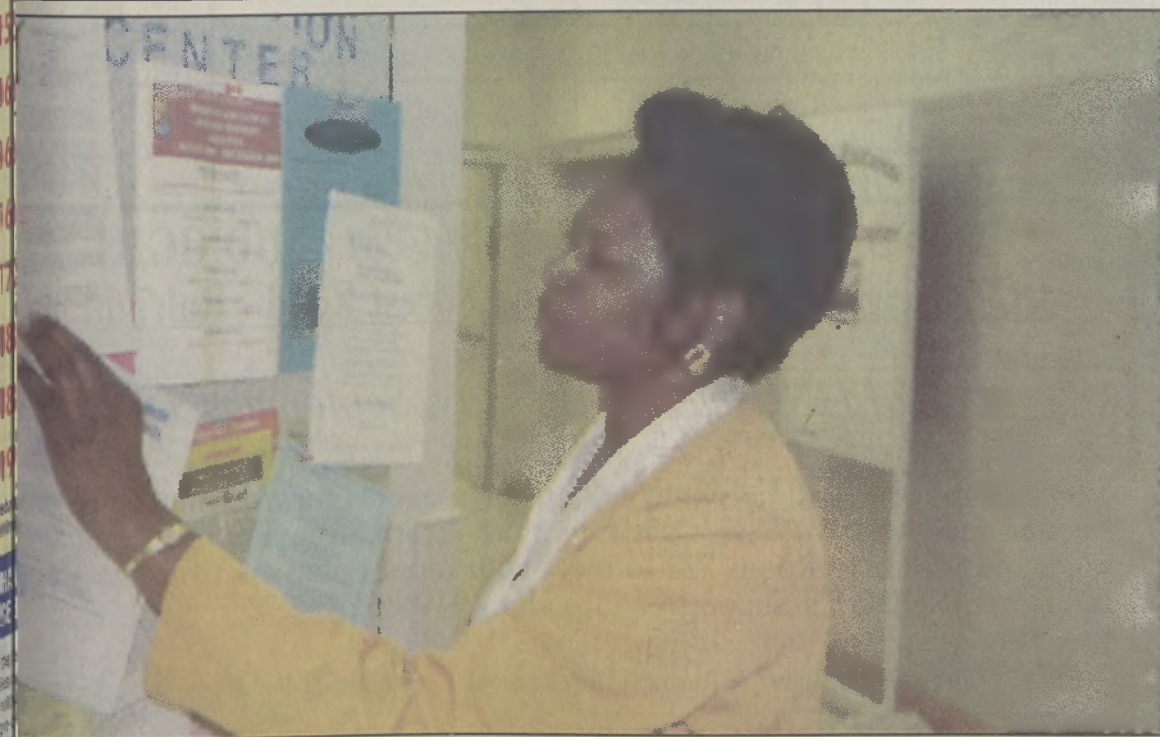


Photo by Kevin Walker

Hooper adjusts papers on a bulletin board in the hallway of Quality Education Institute.

QEI going the extra mile

BY T. KEVIN WALKER THE CHRONICLE

Quality Education Institute has been schooling students with its brand of "holistic learning" for nearly 10 years. The school's approach to education - which officials describe as a well-oiled machine that combines innovative teaching techniques with individualized learning - has paid off. Two years ago, the private, nonprofit elementary school received "School of Excellence" distinction based on the state's End-of-Grade Test.

Students at QEI, who range from pre-K youngsters to fifth-graders, have also continually scored far above grade level on the California Achievement Test and other standardized measures.

But the success has gone somewhat unknown to those not affiliated with the school. Years after its

inception, officials admit, QEI is an enigma to many people in the community.

"A lot of our parents have told us that this is the best kept secret in the city," said Sandra Hooper, headmaster for QEI and its sister-school, Quality Education Academy, a public charter school serving middle school students that was started in 1997.

The school does not want to be a big secret anymore. Hooper wants everyone who drives by the school's tidy campus on Carver School Road to know that QEI is a rarity in the world of education today - a school that provides superior education in a small, intimate environment.

"Parents look to us when they want a safe, nurturing environment for their children in a small class setting where there are no more than 15 students per class.

Because QEI is private - the

only private, African-American, non-religion-based school of its kind in the county - officials feel they have been able to cross traditional boundaries and in the process open students' eyes to a whole new way of learning.

In addition to the standard course study utilized by schools throughout the state, QEI offers rigorous computer training, electives like ballet and piano and lessons in character and morality that begin each day for the students when they recite QEI's 10 commandments, a list that includes vows to believe in God, discipline, love and education.

"We have found that the best way to teach discipline is to focus on character," Hooper said. "When you build character, you are building a good foundation for the school.... You are giving them a rea-

See QEI on A10