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Alderman weighs in on Scouts debate

VIN WALKER
CHRONICLE

led by his Eagle Scout roots, Alderman Vernon Robinson unveiled a resolution last week that called for to end its yearly United Way campaign if United Way reduced its funding to the local Boy Scouts council.

Robinson withdrew the resolution Monday night, however, before his colleagues got a chance to weigh in on the issue. Robinson said he was satisfied that the United Way will not follow the lead of other United Way agencies by cutting funding to the Boy Scouts because of the group's ban on homosexuals.

In an interview last week, Robinson said he came up with the resolution because the United Way was "playing off" with the Old Hickory Council, the umbrella organization for more than 10,000 in Forsyth and surrounding counties.

A few (United Way) agencies have gone after the outs...only three from around the country," Robinson said.

Robinson said the local United Way, its president (last year) and its board had been inundated with calls from angry citizens, outraged at the mere suggestion that they would target Scouts.

John Conrad, a spokesman for the local United Way, said the Old Hickory Council was never in danger of losing its United Way funding, which averages about \$1 million each year.

Robinson said the United Way's 77-year-old relationship with the Old Hickory is strong as ever. "The Boy Scouts are not going to lose any funding,"

Conrad said the issue has been made bigger than it is. The United Way requires all of the agencies it signs partnership contracts that include a non-discrimination clause. On the advice of legal counsel, Robinson said, sexual orientation was added to that clause. Conrad said United Way felt it would be no conflict with the provision because the local council does not have a history of discriminating against anyone.

Robinson said he does not discriminate to our knowledge. We have issues with (the Old Hickory Council)...Our relationship is not with the national organization in Winston-Salem, it is with the Old Hickory Council on (Silas) Street," he said.

On Tuesday, the Old Hickory Council had not signed a partnership contract, in part, according to Robinson, because of the provision dealing with discrimination against homosexuals.

Robinson said he has "every confidence" that the council will sign the agreement, possibly by the end of this month. Conrad added that the current non-discrimination clause relating to homosexuals may have to be changed "somewhat" before that happens.

Robinson announced his resolution a day after a bill to change the charter of the Boy Scouts of America was narrowly defeated by the U.S. House of Representatives.

A bill, introduced by a Congresswoman Lynn Westcott, D-Calif., was defeated 362-12. Woolsey said

See Boy Scouts on A10



Ed and Miriam McCarter stand in front of a display in their bookstore, Special Occasions.

Photo by Kevin Walker

Book Wars

In 'mega' market, black-owned bookstores try to stay above water

BY JOY SCOTT
THE CHRONICLE

Any bookstore owner can ask how your day is, but not every owner knows your family.

"How old is your son now?" Ed McCarter, owner of Special Occasions Bookstore in Winston-Salem, asked a customer.

Chit-chat about family, life and great black authors is something often heard in the bookstore. Photographs of famous authors who have passed through for book signings, fraternity and sorority paraphernalia, religious and general books about black culture adorn the walls.

But despite Special Occasions' loyal customer base, husband and wife owners and operators Ed and Miriam McCarter admit the emergence of large franchise bookstores carrying big name black authors has impacted the store's selling appeal.

"It's a challenge to remain competitive," said Miriam McCarter.

Offering well-known authors, online services and spectacular mark-downs on best-selling titles, the franchises have become more accessible to readers, the McCarters believe. But Miriam McCarter insists that just because the bookstores are more accessi-

ble doesn't mean they're better in relating to the black audience.

"The ethnic market on a whole is not their market. They want to market the best known, but they're not going to deal with the wide breadth that our dealership is looking for."

While larger bookstores may be using the World Wide Web as bait for customers, James Muhammad, owner and operator of Dynasty Books, a black bookstore in Charlotte, said he doesn't expect his customers to choose buying on the Internet over coming to the store.

"A lot of (black) people are

See Black bookstores on A9

Administration spotlights black colleges

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

The day before President Clinton proclaimed this week as National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week, the Department of Housing and Urban Development announced that it had awarded \$10.4 million in grants to 38 HBCUs.

The grants are for community development. The schools will use the money to develop programs and partnerships to stimulate growth and economic development in local communities through activities like job and computer training.

Fifty-three HBCUs applied for the grants. Those with the best proposals were chosen, according to HUD. Three schools in North Carolina made the cut: Barber-Scotia College in Concord, Elizabeth City State University and N.C. A&T State University.

"The schools receiving (the grants) are key play-

ers in HUD's efforts to revitalize America's neighborhoods," said HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo in a statement. "We need their involvement because of their location and relationship with their communities."

Elizabeth City State University will receive \$475,000. The school will use the grant to concentrate on improving housing in the county in which the school is located and several other surrounding counties.

"We will rehabilitate homes that are substandard so that low-income people can occupy them," said Morris Autry, director of Elizabeth City's community development program.

The university will partner with several agencies in the area to make the project a success, Autry said. Outreach and financial assistance programs also will be set up to help families get placed in the

See Grants on A5



Photo by Cheri Hodges

an Fred Terry accepts a balloon from one of his constituents at the Southside CDC's festival.

See CDC on A5

Bridge Building

Community group hosts event to celebrate city's Southside

BY CHERI HODGES
THE CHRONICLE

Sunday in King's Plaza Shopping Center, members of the southeast Winston-Salem community came together to celebrate their community. Families of African Americans, Hispanics and whites walked around the area in the parking lot designated for the festival.

Children happily accepted balloons and gift bags from vendors.

The Southside Community Development Corp. hosted the Festival 2000. This was the second year for the festival.

Steve Mack, the CDC's treasurer, said the event came to life because the group was try-

Hispanic festival draws people from all backgrounds

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

For the past nine years the annual Fiesta festival has been an open invitation to city residents to embrace the richness of Hispanic culture for a fun-filled day of music, food and fellowship.

Thousands have responded to that invitation over the years with their presence and a great amount of enthusiasm. Officials with the Hispanic League of the Piedmont Triad (HLPT), the group that puts on the yearly spectacle, say attendance numbers have skyrocketed in recent years, putting Winston-Salem's Hispanic festival in the same league with similar festivals held in larger cities like Washington and

See Fiesta on A4



Photo by Kevin Walker

Members of a family of Puerto Rican descent dance together in the streets at the Fiesta festival.

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