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SPORTS WEEK

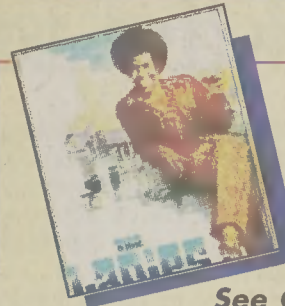
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See B1



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See A5

COMMUNITY

Urban League holds annual gala  
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Diabetic chef offers tips

WINSTON-SALEM GREENSBORO HIGH POINT

Vol. XXVII No. 7

# THE CHRONICLE

The Choice for African American News

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2000

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See Voter on A9

## Family affair



Photos by Kevin Walker  
(Above) A man videotapes those gathered in Washington for Monday's Million Family March. (Left) A man gets his point across to the crowd with a simple sign.

## Topics plentiful at Million Family March

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

WASHINGTON — Retha Bellamy and Annie Hamlin Johnson were excited about the possibility of being two in a million.

The two friends were among several dozen people from Winston-Salem who made the trek to the nation's capital for Monday's Million Family March.

Bellamy was convinced to attend the march by her daughter, who also made the trip. Hamlin Johnson is the mother of Larry Leon Hamlin, who served as one of the chairpersons of the local organizing committee for the march. The two women talked a lot about the good ol' days as they sat side by side on a bus bound for Washington.

Their conversation inevitably led them to the topic of togetherness in the black community. Both are old enough to remember a time when blacks had a much stronger bond, when love thy neighbor was a principle people lived by, not just talked about.

"Things were so much different then. People respected each other and depended on each other," Hamlin Johnson said, as her friend nodded in agreement.

Both women hoped to grab, if only

for a few hours, a piece of that lost unity at the march.

Held on the fifth anniversary of the monumental Million Man March, the Million Family March was the culmination of years of planning by the Nation of Islam. Unlike the Million Man March and Million Woman March, Monday's event was designed to be all inclusive, a time for attendees

*'We may have come in as many, but I pray that God will let us go out as one'*

- Min. Louis Farrakhan

to reflect on the importance of families and demand that family-friendly issues are forefront on the nation's agenda.

Early reports indicate that not quite a million people attended the event. Hundreds of thousands of people, however, did cover the National Mall for the all-day event. They were treated to performances from popular music artists and given a charge by well-known speakers to vote and stand up for important issues.

"Three weeks from now, we have to

march to the polls," said Min. Benjamin Muhammad, who organized the march. "We want family-friendly legislation. We want family-friendly public policy."

Before the march, local committees from across the land had already come up with a national agenda for the march, which among other things calls for an end to racial profiling and economic development for deprived areas.

Although many speakers warned those in attendance to be wary of all political candidates, Republicans took the most beatings.

"We in this country are fired up about being George ambushed on Nov. 7," the Rev. Al Sharpton said to thunderous applause. Sharpton went on to criticize Republicans for standing for family values, yet doing little to help families that need a helping hand. Without mentioning a candidate specifically, Sharpton told the crowd to "put people in power that will give power to the people."

"Go home and stand against drug addition....Stand against police brutality. Get up off your knees....Stand, stand, stand," Sharpton told the crowd.

Many in the crowd came to the march to tout issues of their own.

Dolores Scott of Baltimore carried a sign that demanded that Congress

See March on A2

## Labor secretary: 'We have forgotten our history'

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

In a span of 10 hours, Alexis Herman went from the spin room to the amen corner.

The U.S. secretary of labor was one of many well-known Democrats on hand for last week's second presidential debate. After the debate, Herman and others applauded Vice President Al Gore's performance during the debate to a captive audience of reporters.

The morning after the presidential showdown, Herman shifted gears, leaving politics behind, somewhat, to speak on the topic of religious faith before a small crowd at Knollwood Baptist Church.

Herman said working for those who have been left out of the economic mainstream and ensuring that the nation's workers are justly treated are callings.

"My work as secretary of labor, in many ways, is my own personal ministry," said Herman, who began her professional career as a social worker for Catholic Social Services in her native Mobile, Ala.

Herman was Catholic. Faith was an important part of her upbringing, she said. It remains a vital part of her today. When asked by a member of the audience, Herman admitted that it is easy for her faith and her duty as labor secretary to conflict.

But Herman said she has found a balance. She said, for example, when her department has to sue companies, her faith always leads her to try mediation first.

"I'm going to go that extra mile to give you a chance to do the right thing," she said.

Herman's appearance was made possible by James Dunn, a visiting professor at Wake Forest University Divinity School and an old friend of Herman's. Herman credited Dunn for getting her through her confirmation and later a federal investigation of her.

"While she is firmly committed to labor, she is more committed to people," Dunn said of his friend before her talk.

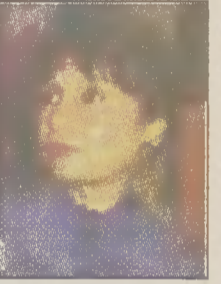
Herman has other local connections as well, including her uncle, the Rev. R.L. Stenis, who is a pastor in Salisbury.

The crowd was made up mostly of students and staffers of the divinity school. The questions the crowd asked Herman did lead her back into political mode.

Herman was critical of Republicans on Capitol Hill for holding up legislation that would increase the minimum wage. She told the crowd that increasing the minimum wage would be one of Gore's top priorities if he's elected president.

Herman defended the vice president's position on the Employment Nondiscrimination Act after a lesbian in the audience suggested that Gore does not sound as passionate as he once did on the issue. The act would make it a federal crime for employers to fire someone or refuse to hire a person based on sexual orientation as well as other characteristics.

Herman served on Gore's debate team, a group of regular citizens and government types who worked with the vice president to prepare him for the



Herman

See Herman on A5

## Political Party

African Americans scarce at Bush rally

BY CHERIS HODGES  
THE CHRONICLE

The debates are over. Now the hard part begins. Voters are left with the images of the two candidates in the three debates to decide whom to vote for.

While most people know whom they are going to support and why, others still have questions about the men who would be president.

The questions on the minds of some African-American voters deal with the Republican candidate.

After the Wake Forest debate, both presidential candidates held rallies where supporters showed up

See Bush on A4

Vice president rallies supporters in Winston

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

The Secret Service shuffled a crowd of 100 or so like a deck of cards at Smith Reynolds Airport last week.

The crowd — some staunch supporters, others curiosity seekers — came to watch Vice President Al Gore arrive in Winston-Salem for the second presidential debate.

People gathered near a gate just off the runway where Air Force Two was set to taxi after landing. Only a few seemed annoyed when a female Secret Service agent instructed them to move to an area that made the



Photo by Paul Collins

Vice President Al Gore leaves the platform to shake hands with people in the crowd at the rally for him after the presidential debate.

See Gore on A4



Photo by Cheris Hodges

ne and Judy Carroll and Diana Perez and Pam Flowers support for Texas Gov. George W. Bush.