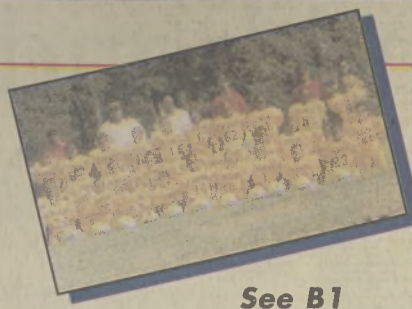


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SPORTS WEEK

dictable offense
uses WSSU loss

gles flying high
with wins



See B1



See C1



See C9



See A8

COMMUNITY

Meet the Parkers,
UPN's #1 family

Images from Big
Four 2000

WINSTON-SALEM GREENSBORO HIGH POINT

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THE CHRONICLE

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Gore camp: Black turnout crucial

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

In order for Vice President Al Gore to mount a comeback in the final days before Election Day, it's going to take more than a little help from friends, a top aide and advisers to the Democratic presidential candidate told members of the African American press last week.

"(This is) a race that will depend on African Americans and other minorities turning out in record numbers," said Donna Brazile, who made history last year when Gore appointed her to manage his campaign. Brazile is the

first African American to manage a major presidential campaign.

"If (African Americans) sit this one out...we will get what we deserve."

- Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton

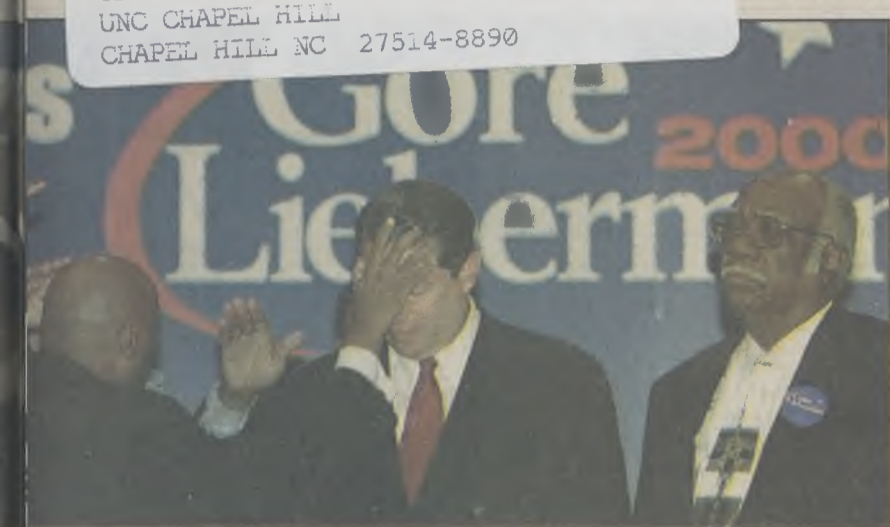
While campaigning with Gore last week in New York, Brazile joined Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton,

who serves as a non-voting representative for the District of Columbia, and Labor Secretary Alexis Herman for a telephone news conference with reporters from African-American newspapers around the country.

In the homestretch of this year's hotly contested battle for the White House, Brazile said the Gore campaign will employ several methods in order to ensure that blacks go to the polls.

Black voter turnout could be the major factor in so-called toss-up states like Michigan, Florida, Ohio and Pennsylvania. But Brazile said a record

See Gore on A3



presidential candidate and U.S. Vice President Al Gore (center) receives a gift from Bishop Paul Martin on Oct. 21 during a breakfast in New Orleans as the Bridges (right) looks on.

Man will ask for death penalty moratorium

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Effort to get Winston-Salem to follow in the footsteps of Charlotte, Greensboro and four other cities, a member of the Board of Aldermen will call on his colleagues to pass a resolution calling for a moratorium on the death penalty.

Alderman Nelson Malloy said he will present the resolution at the Nov. 6 board meeting. Malloy said he drafted the resolution because he believes recent events have shown that there are major cracks in the capital punishment system.

"So many folks across the state have been found innocent of crimes that merit the death row for," Malloy said.

Malloy added that he was also driven to draft the resolution because of his strong support of James Earl Ray, who was convicted of raping and murdering a newspaper copy editor in the 1980s. Malloy performed since the crime have raised questions about Hunt's guilt.

Malloy said one juror's vote away from being given a life sentence," Malloy said. "He could have been a person by now, before the DNA testing was available."

The resolution refers to a number of studies that have called the death penalty into question. It includes statistics that show that many of those sentenced to death cannot afford competent legal representation and that blacks disproportionately are sentenced, especially when they perpetrate crimes against a white person.

Malloy said not only the race of the defendant that is sentenced but the race of their victims as well," said Richard Groves, pastor of Wake Forest Church. Groves recently formed a local chapter of People's Alliance Against the Death Penalty, a statewide organization started by the N.C. Council of Churches. Groves applauds Malloy's resolution and says many in the group will attend the meeting out against the death penalty.

See Death penalty on A9

The Mouths of Babes

Photo by Kevin Walker

Martha Jones, left, shares a laugh with Reynolds High School student Liz Loftis after a roundtable discussion on race relations featuring area teenagers.



Teens give perspectives on race

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Nearly a dozen local teens got a quick lesson on race relations last week before participating in a roundtable discussion on the topic last week.

It did not occur to the teens as they took their seats at the roundtable, which is more V-shaped than round, that white teens had settled in on one side of the table while minority teens had staked claim to the opposite side of the table.

A member of racial healing organization Crossing 52, which sponsored the discussion, brought the situation to the teens' attention and watched them closely as they integrated.

During the discussion, many of the teens said such segregation is done in school lunchrooms and school assemblies unwittingly.

"I don't think it's purposely done. I think it'd done because we are more

comfortable with our own races," said Ashley Bethea, a black student at Reynolds High School and one of the most outspoken teens at the roundtable, which was held at the Main Branch Library a week ago.

Other students attend West Forsyth High School and Clemmons Middle School.

The students, most of whom say they have close friends of another race, said interracial interaction among students is often limited to passing hellos in the hallway.

Major exceptions are sports teams and after-school clubs. The students agreed that these activities provided students of various races opportunities to come together.

Liz Loftis, a white student who attends Reynolds, said many such clubs exist in high schools today.

Two Hispanic students were on the panel. One of them, Giselle Laiton, recently moved to the city from South

America. Laiton said a factor other than skin color often makes Hispanic students separate themselves from others.

"I think a big barrier is language," Laiton said. She went on to say that while there are many differences among various Hispanic cultures, she has developed a bond with many of those in her English as a Second Language class at school.

The students touched on a number of other topics related to race relations and schools. Some spoke out about what they called a lack of courses devoted to black history and culture; others debated whether or not teachers treat students differently based on race.

For years, Crossing 52 has used events like the roundtable to build bridges between the city's races. Members of Crossing 52 said it's important for adults to hear what young people are saying on the topic of race relations.

See Race on A4

Best Choice Center director calls it quits

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Dorothy Graham-Wheeler, executive director of the Best Choice Center, has announced her retirement effective Oct. 31. She has held that position since 1990.



Graham-Wheeler

"Graham-Wheeler has performed her services in an outstanding manner for the past decade and has committed herself to the mission of the center," said Thomas Trolinger, the chairman of the center's board of directors.

Much of Graham-Wheeler's service occurred while Dr. Virginia K. Newell, founder of the center, was the board chair. Newell, who continues to serve on the board, said, "Dorothy has implemented the drug prevention mission of the center in an exemplary manner and has brought state and national recognition to the center and to Winston-Salem." Newell noted that under Graham-Wheeler's leadership, the drug prevention successes of the center had been reported on an NBC television program, "A Closer Look," and that Gov. Jim Hunt had personally acknowledged and recognized the center's efforts and successes.

The Best Choice Center was founded in March 1988 and its mission was drug prevention and referral services. It subsequently eliminated referral service and continues to concentrate on drug prevention. With a total of 134 young people between the ages of 5 to 15 enrolled, the center has more than 100 applicants on the waiting list. The need for services at the center has out-

See Wheeler on A9

Center opens to help needy

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Dr. Ernesto de la Torre returned to the health care field at 35 New Walkertown Road. The building is the former home of a health practice, which shut down this year because it was unable to attract enough business. Those who work at the new health care facility at the site are facing a much different fate,

the Community Health Center opened last afternoon after a weekend open house.

The center will serve the city's poorest people who earn less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level and who lack other forms of health insurance. The opening of the clinic was spearheaded by the Forsyth-Stokes-Davie Medical Society. It will be staffed by mostly retired physicians in Winston-Salem, although some practicing

physicians and nurses will also work at the clinic. All of the health care professionals will volunteer their services.

The facility will rely solely on donations to operate and is continuing to put out a call to city residents who would be interested in volunteering at the clinic. At the same time, clinic officials are trying to get the word out to the community that the clinic is now up and running.

"This is a way to provide health care to people who have never had really good access to it," said Dr. Ernesto de la Torre, one of the retired physicians who will be a constant presence at the clinic. "We want them to come from the white community."

We want them to come from the African-American community. We want them to come from the Hispanic community."

The 14,000 square-foot building is ideal for such a clinic, de la Torre said.

The center will provide primary care

only. Those with emergency needs like surgery will be referred elsewhere. The building has two large nurse's stations, two treatment rooms, an X-ray room and a waiting room that can hold up to 60 people.

Spanish interpreters will also be on hand at the clinic to assist patients.

Melba Lindsay, who serves as director of operations for the center, said that because the clinic is targeting only those without insurance, it is not competing with other practices in the area.

Yet and still, Lindsay believes the clinic's East Winston location will make it very convenient to potential patients.

"It's a definite advantage. We do see a lot of indigent patients in this area. This location is close to many we will serve," she said.

Currently, the clinic operates Monday and Thursday evenings from 5:30 to 9. Lindsay said those hours were set in

See Center on A10



Photo by Kevin Walker

Dr. Ernesto de la Torre (from right), Melba Lindsay, Muriel Jones and Ann Flint stand in front of the new Community Care Center on New Walkertown Road. All four work at the clinic for those without medical insurance.