

SPORTSWEEK

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Demons' girls JV

See C9



See B1



See tab



See C1

COMMUNITY

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joyful noise

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CHRONICLE

The Choice for African American News

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2001

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Griot Kwabena Dinizulu tells African-based tales to a group of youngsters.



Photos by Kevin Walker

A Griot's Tale

Ibrahim students get one-man variety show to kick off Black History Month

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Kwabena Dinizulu spends most of the year traveling to schools and community centers all over the country. Adorned in bright African clothes with his conga drum never far away, Dinizulu is like a one-man play, colorfully acting out stories and reciting poems that have underlying moral themes.

As a full-time poet and griot (African storyteller or historian), he works frequently, but his phone rings incessantly during February, National Black History Month.

Dinizulu is no stranger to schoolchildren here. He has been a guest at several schools. Last week, he kicked off the first day of Black History Month with several lively performances at Ibrahim Elementary School.

He taught the youngsters basic Swahili words, first saying them in syntax and then asking them to repeat them. He explained to students the importance of the storytelling in African culture, telling them that a good story to Africans is like medicine.

"We believe a story told to us...will make our souls better," he said.

Though not born in the motherland, Dinizulu received cultural enlightenment from the time he was a little boy growing up in



Students at Ibrahim Elementary School respond with laughter to Dinizulu's actions. The griot performed for all grades at the school last week.

Harlem. His parents were very much involved in "the movement." People like Malcolm X were frequent guests at his house as a child. Dinizulu has crafted his ability to bring stories to life over the last 15 years, first by participating in open-mike poetry events, then graduating into storytelling.

He had Ibrahim students rolling in the aisles with his overexaggerated facial expressions and wide range of voices.

Dinizulu shared with them a story about a woodsman who accidentally drops his makeshift ax into a river and prays to the gods that it be retrieved. The gods answer, but first put the man to the test. He is presented with a silver ax from the bottom of river. The woodsman is tempted to accept it, but his conscience kicks in and he admits that it's not the ax he lost. The woodsman is then presented with a gold ax, but again, he

admits that it is not his ax. The woodsman is paid for his honesty in the end, and is given both axes as well as the one he lost.

"There is a moral to this story," Dinizulu said to his Indian-style seated audience. "The moral begins with one word - honesty." The students, in unison, finished the moral - "is the best policy."

Dinizulu also told a story about a beautiful African village

See Griot on A10

'Fly jock' lends helping hand to county jail inmates

Tom Joyner grants 'Christmas Wish' to book program

BY CORTNEY L. HILL
THE CHRONICLE

Tom Joyner, host of "The Tom Joyner Morning Show," donated several books as part of a "Christmas Wish" in January to Chaplain Martin Pickett of the Forsyth Correctional Center in Winston-Salem. To show appreciation, Pickett, who asked for help in maintaining the prison's reading program, will willingly rename the book club "The Tom Joyner Book Club."

Pickett started the book club a year ago and has watched the program grow. It currently has eight members. When expansion grew beyond financial control, Pickett knew he lacked the resources to uphold the program. Meeting Joyner at a N.C. A&T symposium, he became inspired by his giving heart and down-to-earth personality. Pickett thought to himself, "If I can get Tom Joyner to support the book

club, I can get anyone's support."

Pickett decided to send a letter requesting books by black authors covering subjects that pertain to African-American males. On Jan. 24, Tom Joyner granted Pickett his "Christmas Wish" by reading his letter on the air.

Joyner will make a one-time donation of 112 books, enough for each member to receive his own personal copy of every featured book. Pickett says he decided to write to Joyner's "Christmas Wish" because he wanted to raise awareness of the inmates needs. By getting it out nationally, he feels that it can help

See Joyner on A3



Joyner

Hymes, Martin top list of award recipients

FROM STAFF REPORTS



Martin

of the Year for the 18th annual Chronicle Awards Banquet.

Harold Martin and Addie Hymes were selected last week by a committee that included past award recipients and corporate sponsors of the event. The awards will be handed out March 10 during a banquet at

the Adam's Mark Winston Plaza.

Martin was cited for his work at Winston-Salem State over the last year. He came to the university at a time when less than glowing audits had put the school in a negative light. Under Martin, WSSU received its first clean audit in years and the university enjoys a stronger relationship with the community that surrounds it.

Hymes' accomplishments

See Winners on A4



Hymes

Brown wants to fill murdered sheriff's shoes

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

These days Thomas Brown doesn't go anywhere alone.

Armed guards watch over his home and chauffeur him to and from work.

It's the price, he said, he is more than willing to pay for assuming the leadership of one of the most talked about sheriff's departments in the county.

The last man who was elected sheriff of DeKalb County, Ga., just outside of Atlanta - was gunned down in the driveway of his home, weeks before he was to be sworn in. Many believe Sheriff-elect Derwin Brown, no relation to Thomas Brown, was murdered because of the sweeping reforms he planned to implement at the jail and throughout the department.

No suspects have been named in the November shooting, although talk has centered around prominent people associ-

ated with the department.

Enter Thomas Brown. He was asked to act as interim sheriff last month. He agreed, leaving behind his position as director of public safety for the county, a position that put him in charge of a \$100 million budget and several county departments, including police and fire.

Thomas Brown has implemented many of the dead sheriff-elect's reforms in the last 30 days, including firing many of the people that Derwin Brown intended to let go.

Thomas Brown now wants the word interim axed from his title; he is running in the March 20 election to keep the job against a



Brown

Secretary of state speaks to high school students

Marshall says she will decide about U.S. Senate run by this summer

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Women in politics, like many other professions, have to work twice as hard as their male counterparts, proclaimed N.C. Secretary of State Elaine Marshall last week.

Marshall was in town Jan. 31 to talk to a group of students at Parkland High School about the importance of thinking globally and connecting with people worldwide. That topic is quite relevant for some Parkland students these days. The school has joined the Classroom to Classroom program and is just beginning to form a relationship with Vasile Alecsandri, a school in the former

Soviet Union country of Moldova.

Thirty five schools in North Carolina are in the Classroom to Classroom program, which links Tar Heel students with students in other countries for learning and interacting purposes. The program is part of the N.C. Center for International Understanding, one of the many agencies that fall under the secretary of state's jurisdiction.

Marshall gave the students a brief description of the many tasks she must juggle as secretary. Her office not only serves as the state's certification headquarters, but also has dealings with some



Photo by Kevin Walker

Secretary of State Elaine Marshall talks to students at Parkland.

See Marshall on A2