

SPORTSWEEK

**Twin City Minors lose
in district tourney**

Clark settling in at
FAMU



See C1



See B1



See C7



See A3

COMMUNITY

**Youth institute
coming back to city**

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Unexpected Drama



Photos by Kevin Walker

Larry Leon Hamlin is bombarded by reporters as he walks out of City Hall. Hamlin was forced to rethink his plans to make the Winston-Salem Adam's Mark the official hotel of his National Black Theatre Festival, which will kick off July 30.

NAACP's renewed boycott against hotel chain sends chills through festival

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

The NAACP's decision to renew its boycott against the Adam's Mark Hotel chain could not have come at a worse time for the 2001 National Black Theatre Festival and Larry Leon Hamlin, the festival's founder.

Hamlin was dotting the i's and crossing the t's as the clock to showtime was winding down to the start of this year's festival when the decision by the civil rights organization came down during the NAACP's annual convention in New Orleans last week.

The Winston-Salem Adam's Mark has served as the home away from home for celebrities that have attended the biennial festival; the hotel's central, downtown location also has made it popular among theater fans who travel from around the nation for the one-of-a-kind, week-long festival. News conferences, workshops and nightly receptions take place at the hotel as well during festival week.

"It's not a very good situation to be (in) two weeks before the festival," Hamlin said last week.

"We have people already calling us concerned about the boycott."

Though Hamlin says he has some apprehensiveness, he says because of time limitations and a contract that binds him to make the Adam's Mark the official hotel of the festival, he is unable to ditch the Adam's Mark for another hotel. He is leaving open the possibility of what he calls a silent protest, in which festival activities go on as planned but at the same time it's made perfectly clear to the hotel chain that the festival is not pleased with the problems that first led to an NAACP boycott of the chain in January 2000. Hamlin said he also may shift a few activities scheduled for the Adam's Mark to other facilities.

"I don't want to belittle the boycott," said Hamlin, a life member of the NAACP, "but unless somebody gives me money to buy out my contract with (the Adam's Mark), I cannot make other arrangements."

Hamlin was at City Hall the day after the boycott was announced, supposedly to meet with city officials and Joseph Falceto, general manager of the Winston-Salem Adam's Mark, about the situation. Falceto met with City Manager Bill Stuart and several assistant city managers without Hamlin present.

See Adam's Mark on A2



The Adam's Mark Winston Plaza is one of 24 hotels in the chain. The hotel in Daytona Beach, Fla., sparked the boycott.

Grand Beginning

Festival gala will be harbinger of what's to come, Hamlin says

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

If it is true that history repeats itself, then the Opening Night Gala will be the most talked about single event during the week-long National Black Theatre Festival.

The gala is like the Academy Awards of the 12-year-old festival, featuring a glamour-drenched procession of stage and screen stars, the premiere of a much talked about musical bio-play and, of course, a swank after party that will give average Joes a chance to hobnob with the famous.

"The gala is indicative of what is going to happen for the entire week," said Larry Leon Hamlin, the founder and creative force behind the festival. "The way the

gala goes, so goes the festival. I love to see African Americans and others in their elegant attire and in their best spirits, and all the love that you see at the gala carries over through the whole week."

Hamlin has never had trouble finding star-power for the gala. Past events have featured the likes of Debbie Allen, Billy Dee Williams, Della Reese, Oprah Winfrey, Maya Angelou and Lou Gossett Jr. This year, the red carpet will be trampled on by equally famous feet. Among those scheduled to appear at the gala are Cicely Tyson, who will receive the Sidney Poitier Lifelong Achievement Award during the awards banquet; "Roc" star Charles Dut-

See Gala on A10

CBC wants banks' lending records considered in mergers

Current Community Reinvestment Act numbers favor First Union over Suntrust

BY SHERIDAN HILL
THE CHRONICLE

More than 30 members of the Congressional Black Caucus and Rep. Melvin L. Watt sent letters recently to Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan, cautioning that the central bank should not approve mergers in which one bank has a low community reinvestment grade.



Watt

The letter carries the implication that First Union should be favored over SunTrust Banks Inc., (both are trying to buy or merge with Wachovia) because it has a better community reinvestment grade. But the CRA rating needs to be carefully examined.

The Community Reinvestment Act (CRA), enacted by Congress in 1977, outlawed the practice of redlining (unfair lending practices in low-income areas). The CRA defines responsibilities of financial institutions to provide equal treatment to all communities, including low- and moderate-income neighborhoods.

Wachovia and First Union both

See CBC on A11

WSSU opens second health center in low income community

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Daisy Foston already has reaped the benefits of having a health-care facility just a stone's throw away from her residence.

While working in her kitchen recently, Foston injured her leg and was in excruciating pain.

A nurse practitioner from the new Winston-Salem State University Community Wellness Center - located in her Piedmont Park neighborhood, where she has lived for two decades - examined Foston and immediately got her to a hospital.

"I am glad (the wellness center) is over here," Foston, now all healed up, said at an open house for the center last week. "I hope people take advantage of it, because I sure am."

The Community Wellness Cen-

See WSSU on A12



Sylvia Flack talks to a guest after last week's open house for the new wellness center in Piedmont Park.

Mayoral candidate Wagoner says, 'I'm not the same old thing'

After running for other seats, Wagoner hopes success will finally come this November

BY MELDE RUTLEDGE
THE CHRONICLE

Ann Wagoner believes that even though the mayor's role in city government is mostly ceremonial, there are some responsibilities in that position that are very important for the well-being of the city.

The Tobaccoville native decided in July of last year that she would run for mayor of Winston-Salem because she feels that the

city needs someone in a leadership position that is not part of city administration - that didn't "owe favors."

"I'm not the same old thing," she said. "We can't keep doing the same thing we've always done, or we're going to keep on getting out the same things that we've always got."

A vital responsibility of the mayor is to be the public relations manager for the city, and represent its diversity, which Wagoner said she will recognize, focusing on economic and job development.

She is a small business owner and retiree of Bell South, where she once did the task of climbing telephone poles - one of the few

See Wagoner on A11



File Photo

Ruby Dee and Ossie Davis welcome the crowd at last year's gala.