

**SPORTSWEEK**

**Hopkins moving up in tennis rankings**

**Rams expected to three-peat in CIAA**



See B1



See A10



See A2



See C1

**COMMUNITY**

**New art gallery will help relief efforts**

**Local rap group on verge of stardom**

75 cents

WINSTON-SALEM GREENSBORO HIGH POINT

VII No. 48

# THE CHRONICLE

The Choice for African-American News

THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 2001

For Reference  
not to be taken  
from this library

18 120101  
N C ROOM  
\*\*\*\*\*CAR-RT-LOT\*\*C012  
FORSYTH CNTY PUB LIB  
660 W 5TH ST # Q  
WINSTON SALEM NC 27101-2755



Actor and burgeoning poet Malcolm Jamal Warner gives the crowd a sample of his work at a news conference.



Legendary actress Cicely Tyson evokes the spirit of Jane Pittman as she recites the words to a Langston Hughes poem.

## Steele, new face of Republican Party, wants more talk

**Maryland Republican chair says party is silent on issues that it shouldn't be**

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

**GREENSBORO** - The first and only black man to head a state Republican Party told a roomful of the party faithful that Republicans are not doing enough talking, resulting in verbal TKOs by Democrats in the fight to gain the upper hand in the court of public opinion.

"This is our form of communication," Michael Steele said, hoisting a piece of paper. "Tear up the paper and roll up your sleeves and tell your neighbor 'I have a party I want to take you to, and you are going to have a damn good time.'"

Steele, chairman of the Maryland Republican Party, was in Greensboro last weekend to keynote an awards dinner held by the Guilford County New Majority Republican Council, a wing of the county's Republican Party made up of African-American Republicans.

Steele told a crowd of about 100 people at the Greensboro Cultural

Arts Center that silence on behalf of his party has stifled Republicans in their recruiting efforts. As an example, he cited the NAACP's controversial 2000 election ad that featured the daughter of dragging death victim James Byrd talking about George W. Bush's lack of support for hate crimes legislation.

Steele said because the Republican Party did not furiously argue against the ad, many blacks were "scared to the polls" to cast ballots for Bush's opponent, Al Gore.

A corporate attorney, Steele has become somewhat of a posterboy for the new Republican Party - a party for the new millennium that is



Steele

See Steele on A3

## 'Holy Ground'

**2001 National Black Theatre Festival off and running**

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

After months of hype, twists and turns, the National Black Theatre Festival began its biennial week-long stay in Winston-Salem Monday.

The celebrities, the dozens of shows and the excitement of it all has transformed the city into something that many local folks do not recognize.

"I can't believe this is Winston-Salem," a woman said as she left the Stevens Center in the wee hours of Tuesday morning.

The area around the Adam's Mark Winston Plaza, which is again serving as ground zero for the festival, has been transformed into something much more cosmopolitan than natives are used to.

Local restaurants are staying open late to accommodate the thousands expected to descend on Winston-Salem this week. Burgeoning entrepreneurs have also gotten into the mix, setting up shop outdoors in heavily traveled areas to sell everything from trinkets to fried fish and chicken.

"We want to take advantage of this situation with all these people in town," said one hawker when asked about his roadside setup.

Theater lovers from as far away as Michigan and Ohio have



Ossie Davis, left, and George Faison pose for the camera before Monday's Opening Night Gala. Faison was honored during the event for his directorial work.

come to the festival.

Sherry Roulette-Mosley and her friend Kim Ford came from Chicago. Ford is longtime attendee; she has attended several festivals. Roulette-Mosley stayed behind in the past, but she said she wanted to see what all the fuss was about.

"I have wanted to come for years but this is the first time I'm

able to do so," she said.

They arrived late on Tuesday and quickly snatched up tickets for a few plays. But even after only a few hours, Roulette-Mosley said she was experiencing something unique, a good, warm feeling that some call the festival magic.

"I love the feel of the city. I love the feel of everything that is

going at the Adam's Mark," she said. "You can tell there is lot a bonding that everyone is experiencing. It's unspoken, but it's there."

The national furor over the Adam's Mark has not seemingly put a damper on the festival. The festival's producer and creator, Larry Leon Hamlin, addressed the

See NBT on A6

## Liberian boy gets desperately needed medical care in city

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

Stanley McGill is like any other 2-year-old.

His attention switches from a coloring book to a toy truck and then back again several times within a minute. He has big, bright eyes that grow brighter when he smiles or when he is embraced by his mother; and he possesses the kind of energy that makes older people tired just by looking at him at play.

But Stanley's smiles quickly turn into agonizing frowns. His youthful exuberance has changed to complete helplessness and pain many times during his short life. His playtime and development have been tamed by an obscure, but common, medical problem that does not allow him to pass stool.

Stanley was born with an imperforate anus, a condition in



Little Stanley draws a picture as his mother looks on.

See Stanley on A4

## Many blacks in the City of Brotherly Love don't love bank

BY SHERIDAN HILL  
THE CHRONICLE

Tomorrow at 10:30 a.m., Wachovia shareholders will fill Benton Convention Center to vote on the proposed merger with First Union, if they have not already done so by proxy.

Since April, there have been heavy rounds of local and national advertising, urging shareholders and the financial community to support the merger. Both banks, as well as SunTrust, which has made an unsolicited bid for Wachovia, have bought full-page ads in newspapers across the Southeast, in The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times.

Nevertheless, some folks find it impossible to overlook First Union's bumbles in its 1999 acquisition of CoreStates Financial Corp. and its involvement in subprime lending.

During a luncheon here on July 10, First Union President Ken

Thompson promised that First Union had learned from its mistakes in the CoreStates merger, a \$16.6 billion deal that earned widespread criticism.

"First Union's acquisition of CoreStates was one of the worst-conceived and worst-executed bank mergers in the last two decades," said Matthew Lee, director of InnerCity Press, a merger watchdog group in Washington, D.C.

"First Union closed so many branches and so dramatically reduced services that, even by its own account, it lost the deposits and customers that had been the business rationale for the acquisition."

At the time of the merger, Philadelphia's African-American community raised concerns about losing its good relationship with CoreStates. In response, First Union sent its then-senior vice president, John Georgius, to visit Robert Bogle,

See First Union on A4

## A whiter Wachovia? Some fear merger will not help diversity

BY SHARON BROOKS HODGE  
SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

"The things that really matter won't change." That is the last line of a television advertisement pitching the merger of Wachovia and First Union, two of the nation's largest banks.

That idiom may be comforting to the souls of the dead white men whose photos line the wall outside the board room on the 28th floor of the Wachovia Center. But it could be cause for concern among the diminishing number of African Americans who work for and do



McEachern

will vote on whether to merge with First Union. If the deal is rejected, a marriage with Atlanta-based SunTrust could follow.

business with the N.C. financial institution that is on the verge of becoming the fourth largest bank in America.

Friday, Wachovia stockholders laud the two banks' generosity to lower-income families by pledg-

See Wachovia on A2



Bogle