

SPORTSWEEK

Basketball standout thinks ahead to Wake

New camp mixes hoops, the Gospel



See B1



See C1



See A3

COMMUNITY

Young, novice writers shine

Locals pushing for school prayer

75 cents

WINSTON-SALEM GREENSBORO HIGH POINT

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# THE CHRONICLE

The Choice for African-American News

THURSDAY, JULY 4, 2002

## Crossroads

Latest battle between school system, blacks surrounds location of new state-of-the-art school

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

The relationship between African Americans and city-county school system officials has been strained since the 1970s, when a popular inner-city high school was shut down to make way for integration. There have been countless other breaches of trust and numerous allegations in the three decades since then.

If last Thursday's forum about a proposed new school is any indication, the relationship between the two groups may get a lot worse before it gets better.

School officials spent much of the two-hour forum defending past decisions and taking heat for a proposal that would put the much-hyped new East Winston technology high school on a tract of land that many do not consider part of the African-American community. The new proposed site, off Reynolds Park Road, is a change from the site that school officials all but promised would be the location of the high school.

The school will be built with money from a bond referendum passed by voters in November. During the bond debate, school officials talked exclusively about



School officials are considering a site off Old Greensboro Road and a site near Hall Woodward Elementary School, off Kersville Road, for a new magnet high school.

building the school off Old Greensboro Road on a site considered by most to be East Winston-Salem, an area populated mostly by African Americans.

Some African-American

supporters of the bond are now crying foul over the school system's change of heart. During the forum, some blacks told school officials, including Superintendent Don Martin, that

they feel they were used to help pass the bonds.

"People in East Winston, like myself, are looking for something that can boost the economy

See School on A3

## Schools get access to rapid-fire network

FROM STAFF REPORTS

As a result of a mass upgrade of the state's lightning-quick telecommunications network, three city universities now have access to a world of information with ease.

The N.C. Research and Education Network (NCREN) has connected Winston-Salem State University, N.C. School of the Arts and Wake Forest University, forming the state's first regional hub for the high-speed network.

Universities in the Triangle area have long enjoyed the advantages of NCREN, which was revolutionary when it was started by legislators more than 15 years ago. The local hub will allow universities to not only access high-speed Internet services but also help to improve

distance-learning programs and help strengthen collaborative research among faculty at schools across the state. The new hub, which went live early last week, was announced last Thursday at a new conference at Winston-Salem State.

WSSU Chancellor Harold Martin said the connection allows WSSU to take another big step forward in the realm of technology.

"One of the areas that this institution has made significant investment in information technology," said Martin, who added that personnel is the only area in which the school has invested more resources.

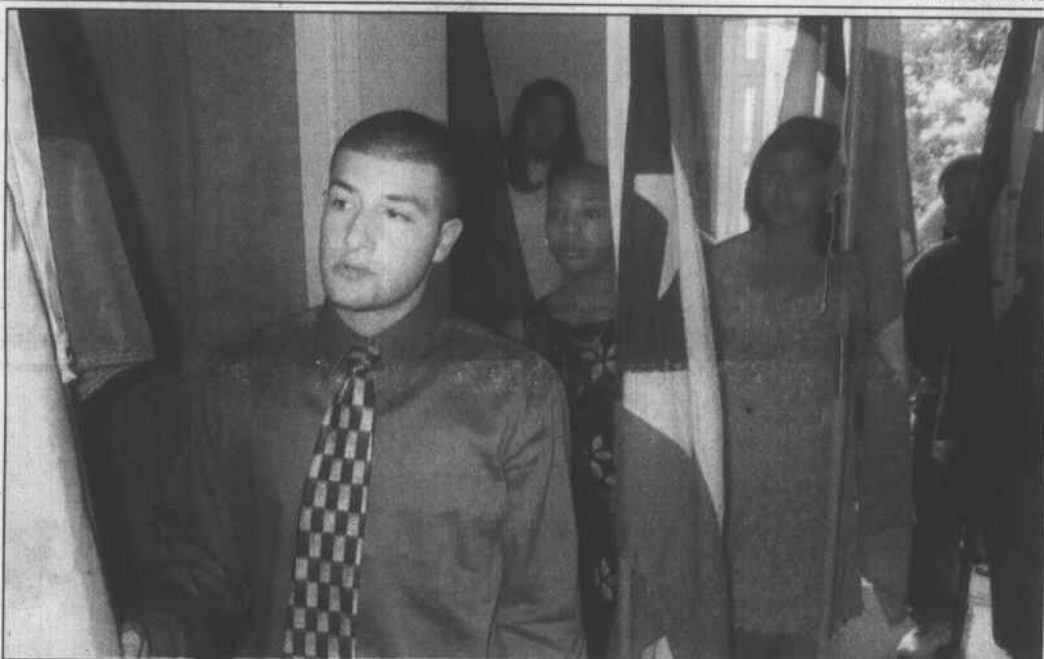
Martin said the constant attention paid to technology is necessary to bring WSSU "into a level of competitiveness."

Joyce Williams-Green, WSSU's associate provost for information resources and the school's chief information officer, said the connection is a "momentous event" for the school and the city as a whole.

"The Winston-Salem (hub) has already allowed our faculty and students to participate in national research and teaching opportunities that involve advanced networking and high-performance computing," Williams-Green said. "This upgrade enables WSSU to serve as one of the key drivers of the Winston-Salem initiative to bring advanced networking and high-end computing capabilities to the Winston-Salem community."

Jay Dominick, the assistant vice presi-

See NCREN on A3



A multiracial group of teens carries flags from Latin nations during a procession to open a new center.

## Center to help new immigrants make smooth transition to city

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

A unique community center aimed at helping newly-immigrated Hispanics access key services has opened its doors.

Amid much fanfare, organizers and city leaders opened the Hispanic International Action Center Friday. The center is housed on the third floor of Central Terrace United Methodist Church. The 3,800-square-foot space boasts several offices that will be occupied by representatives from local non-profit and health-care agencies who will provide services or point clients in the right direction.

"It is like a one-stop shop," said Daisy Rodriguez, who will head the El Puente (The Bridge) program at the cen-

ter, which helps to empower Hispanic grade students and their parents.

Rodriguez says the center could not have come at a better time. Many new immigrants have trouble with the English language and find it difficult to maneuver their way around the city, especially if they do not have transportation, Rodriguez said. The center will be a place where they can do things such as take English classes (through Forsyth

Technical Community College), get information about health and wellness (through Novant Health and AIDS Care Services) and learn how to qualify for temporary governmental help (through the Forsyth County Public Health Department's WIC program).

"If they had to go around to all these different places to get all these different services, it would be very difficult," Rodriguez said.

Clients will be asked to pay a small annual fee to utilize the services. For example, a family can utilize all the services for just \$20. But Miriam Hernandez, the center's director, said no one will be turned away.

The center is an offspring of Neigh-

See Center on A4



Martin



Williams-Green



Terry

## Sweet Success

Krispy Kreme makes house a home for local family

BY WALI PITT  
THE CHRONICLE

The revitalization process of a Winston-Salem community took another step forward last week as Habitat for Humanity of Forsyth County and Krispy Kreme dedicated a new home at 310 14th Street.

Krispy Kreme and Habitat for Humanity have been partners for several years, teaming up on an annual birdhouse fund-raiser as well as constructing other homes. But this is the first house Krispy Kreme employees built on their own.

Beginning in late April, more than 70 Krispy Kreme employees chipped in to help build the house. The employees had the house finished on June 10, near record time for a Habitat house.

Sonja Murray, Habitat for Humanity

director of development, said that Krispy Kreme was unique because the company allowed employees to take vacation days to work on the house. The company then gave employees back those days to take at their leisure, a rarity in corporate volunteerism.

Terri Holmes and her two children, Rhea, 10, and Courtnie, 6, will live in the Krispy Kreme house, but this was no handout, as Holmes had to put in her required 300 "sweat equity" hours to be eligible for a Habitat house. She helped build her home as well as others.

"I was astonished to see new and different things each time I came by," Holmes said about the quick progress the Krispy Kreme crew made.

See Krispy Kreme on A9



Photo by Kevin Walker

Terri Holmes and daughters cut the doughnut-adorned red ribbon.

## NBTF fund drive to begin

FROM STAFF REPORTS

With the 2003 National Black Theatre Festival only 13 months away, organizers of the festival are putting efforts to raise money for the biennial event into high gear.

Larry Leon Hamlin - producer, artistic director of the NBTF and founder of the Winston-Salem-based N.C. Black Repertory Company - announced this week that sev-

eral fund-raisers will be held over the next year to benefit the upcoming festival, which is slated for Aug. 4-9, 2003.

Hamlin said because of the current economic crunch that government and big business find themselves in, raising money from individuals through fund-raisers will take on an added importance for the 2003 festival.

"Because of the corporate and economic condition of the city of Winston-Salem, individual contributions will play a major role in helping the festival in raising the \$1.5 million to produce such a 'gargantuan' event," Hamlin said.

Hamlin said fund-raising efforts will not be limited to Winston-Salem, the home of the festival since its inception 12 years ago.

"The festival's fund-raising efforts are now national in scope, whereas in the past it could depend on the local corporate community for major sponsorship," he said.

The first fund-raiser is scheduled for July 28 at the Adam's Mark Hotel, which is sponsoring the fund-raiser. The event will be part banquet and part concert. The headliner for the fund-raiser will be Chester Gregory II, the Chicago-based actor who has mesmerized crowds with his portrayal of legendary crooner Jackie Wilson in the hit musical "The Jackie Wilson Story (My Heart is Crying, Crying...)"

See NBTF on A3