

SPORTSWEEK

Boxing fans can see
local action

Old Town claims
championship



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COMMUNITY

Organizations honor
local students

Billboard designed to
catch attention

THE CHRONICLE

WINSTON-SALEM • GREENSBORO • HIGH POINT

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Locals take part in massive rally to support UM

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

It was a long, long Tuesday for Tyronia Morrison and several of her Wake Forest University classmates. Morrison and her friends arrived at Emmanuel Baptist Church at around 12:30 a.m. They spent hours, before their arrival thinking up catchy phrases to write on their protest signs. By 1 a.m. they had tucked away their signs and settled into vans for the seven-hour ride to Washington.

Morrison and the others were outside of the U.S. Supreme Court building by noon. They joined thousands of others to protest what they call an assault on affirmative action.

"We are not at a point where (affirmative action) can be eliminated," Morrison said.

Protesters came from all over the nation to try to influence the high court, which heard two cases Tuesday challenging the affirmative action policy of the University of Michigan. The school's point-

based admissions policy awards points to applicants who come from under-represented populations.

Two white women are challenging the policy. They say



Photo by Kevin Walker

Law student Yemi Adegbonmire prepares to travel to Washington Tuesday.

they were denied admission at the university in favor of less qualified minorities. The court is expected to rule on the case in June. If the court finds that UM's policy violates the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment, it could signal the end of affirmative action pro-

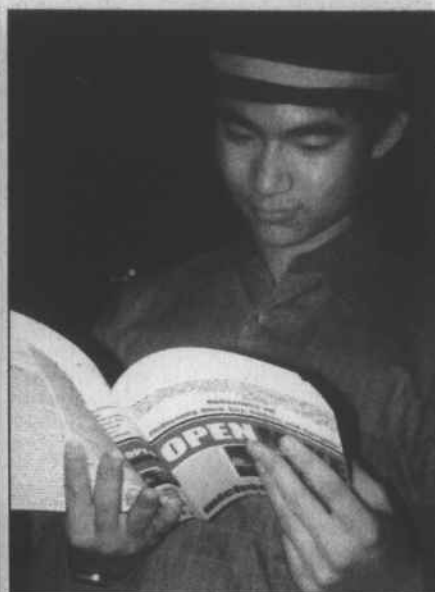
See Court on A5

Minority, Male and Motivated



Photo by Kevin Walker

Author and scholar Michael Eric Dyson poses with some of the students that helped organize Wake Forest University's Multicultural Male Summit.



Wake Forest freshman Han Hsiang reads one of Michael Dyson's books, "Open Mike."

Social critic talks about identity, Bush and war during summit

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Michael Eric Dyson knows his music. During a two-hour lecture here Saturday he rapped words made famous by hip-hop stars like NAS and Notorious B.I.G. and inspired an audience of more than 150 people to sing along to songs recorded by The Temptations and the Chi-Lites.

The music, jokes and biting sarcasm have become the unorthodox lecture style of the man who has become one of the nation's top social critics and intellectuals. Between the songs and laughs, Dyson made the crowd think seriously about issues like war, affirmative action and especially black identity.

Dyson was the keynote speaker for the Second

See Summit on A4



Photo by Kevin Walker

Stephen Hairston posts lists of available jobs on a board outside of the NAACP's Fifth Street office.

Justice, jobs main focus for NAACP

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

The local chapter of the NAACP has moved on up.

The chapter's new suite of offices is on the second floor of the Winston Mutual Building, a hop, skip and jump from the building's elevator. The new digs are an improvement over the basement office the NAACP used to operate from in the building.

Stephen Hairston, the newly-crowned leader of the chapter, hopes that the new, more accessible location will show county residents that the organization is ready to take on a more prominent role. Hairston hopes to have a sign with the NAACP's name on it placed in front of the building as well.

"We are trying to get out there in the community and help people as best as we can," Hairston said.

Hairston, a retired police

"Our overall goal is that the law be applied fairly not only to blacks but poor whites as well."

— Stephen Hairston

sergeant who runs his own small business, was a long-time member of the NAACP when he became the chapter's president in December. From the beginning, Hairston vowed to breathe new life into the local chapter. Three weeks after taking the helm, he announced bits of his sweeping vision at the Martin Luther King Jr. Noon Commemoration, an annual event cosponsored by the NAACP.

Hairston told the hundreds of people on hand that the chapter would help reduce the unemployment rate among

See NAACP on A10

Sightless since infancy, Robin Herring has overcome odds to become county's first totally blind graduate

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD
THE CHRONICLE

Robin Herring is a typical high school senior. As spring sets in she's counting down the days to graduation in May. Herring's classmates at Mt. Tabor High School are particularly excited for her because she will be the first totally blind student to receive a diploma from the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School System.

"I feel honored to be getting this kind of recognition," Herring said. "Some of my classmates are excited. They've never heard of anybody graduating who was visually impaired with an actual diploma."

While other visually

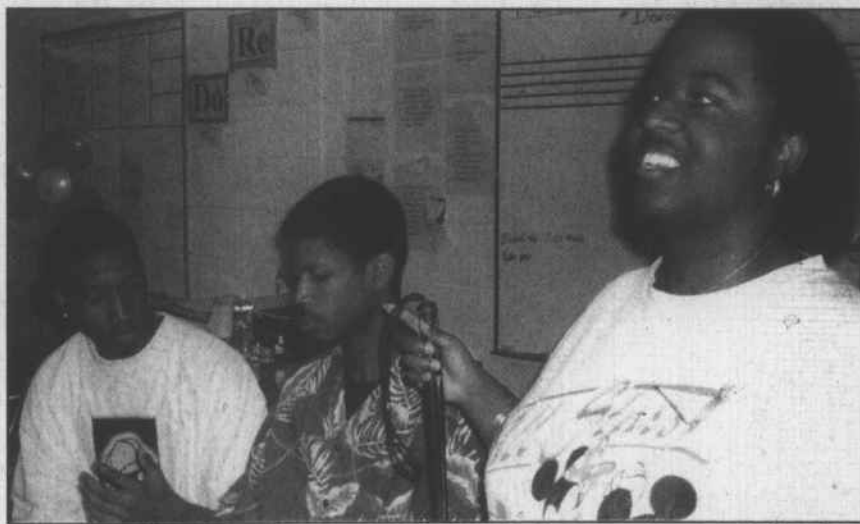


Photo by Courtney Gaillard

Robin Herring sings during chorus rehearsal as Milton Denmark, far left, and Damien Powell play the piano. Singing in the Mt. Tabor chorus is one of Herring's after-school activities.

impaired students have come through the school system, none has yet to complete traditional school and receive a diploma. Herring says that most

of her peers who are also visually impaired attend a school for students with disabilities.

"School has been kind of rough, but it's turned out to be

good after all," said Herring, who must have all of her text books changed into braille books. "(Mt. Tabor) has been fun, hanging with friends, with buddies, and just getting to know new people."

Completely blind since she was 4 months old, Herring lost her sight after experiencing an adverse reaction to medication. The decision to attend traditional public school, says Herring, was a decision that she made along with her family. For Herring, public school "has more to offer and is more exciting." She relies on a long walking stick to get around by herself. Walk through the halls of Mt. Tabor with Herring, and you will quickly learn that she knows her way around very well.

Herring's routine is really no different than those of her classmates. She goes to classes and turns in assignments. Teachers often administer tests

See Herring on A10

Jeff "Smitty's Notes" Smith, foreground, and Mayor Allen Joines did some online chatting Tuesday to launch Wi-Fi on Fourth, a new service that will allow people with laptops and hand-held computers to access the Internet for free. Officials believe that Winston-Salem is the first city to offer free so-called Internet hotspot. The free service is accessible along Fourth Street, between Main and Spruce streets.

