



Watt's face in the spotlight



Gov. Perdue's address



Cop downs 20 hot dogs for prize



Reynolds plays with N.C. youth

THE CHRONICLE

WINSTON-SALEM • GREENSBORO • HIGH POINT

For Reference
Not to be taken
from this library

Vol. XXIX No. 35

THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2003

Crisis Control turns 30

Agency has helped people with rent, medications, other services

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD
THE CHRONICLE

Crisis Control Ministry celebrated 30 years of service recently by honoring its volunteers in a luncheon at Ardmore Baptist Church. Three former staff members of the ministry — including Judy Owen, daughter of Ronald E. Rice, founder of Crisis Control Ministry — recalled “Thirty Years of Sharing.”



Elliott

Area churches founded Crisis Control Ministry Inc. (CCM) in 1973 to respond to the emergency needs of people in serious financial crises by providing assistance with rent/mortgage, clothing, food, utilities and prescription medications. Samaritan Ministries and the Bethesda Center for the Homeless are also outreaches of CCM, which is run by more than 500 volunteers from around the community.

Owen, who rejoined the CCM volunteer ranks in 2001, spoke about the ministry's early beginnings under her father's leadership during the 1970s.



Manns

“Long before the Samaritan Ministries, an African-American gentleman named Andrew came every day to make coffee and to serve food when a hungry person came to the door,” Owen said. Owen recalled the Patterson Avenue facility that originally was home to CCM and now houses Samaritan Ministries.

“The ministry was there when the surrounding community was a bustling, residential, white neighborhood,” Owen said. “As many white churches were leaving downtown and moving to the suburbs, the ministry stood strong with a commitment to the people living around it.”

Owen shared words spoken by her father.

See Crisis Control on A10

Republican racial faux pas

December 2002

Sen. Trent Lott of Mississippi, at a birthday celebration for one-time segregation champion Sen. Strom Thurmond, seemingly raises the racist views Thurmond spouted when he ran for president in the 1940s on a segregationist ticket. Not even an apology on Black Entertainment Television could save Lott's position as Senate majority leader after the incident.

January 2003

N.C. Rep. Cass Ballenger adds fuel to the controversy by telling reporters that Ballenger, perhaps, would have had second thoughts if he had to listen to former Rep. Cynthia McKinney, a black congresswoman, at her Georgia seat in November after alleging that the White House was involved in the 9-11 attacks before they happened.

February 2003

Another N.C. representative, Howard Cole, appears on a Greensboro-based radio station, makes statements seen as endorsing the internment camps used for Japanese-Americans during World War II. He makes the comments while commenting about what America should do to prevent terrorism attacks.

February 2003

Speaking before the Heritage Foundation, Rep. Sue Myrick, also a N.C. representative, points out that a large number of Arab-Americans own and operate convenience stores, and insinuates that Arab-American business owners were a threat to national security.

April 2003

Sen. Rick Santorum appeared to compare homosexuality with incest, blemish and filth while commending the Supreme Court's ruling on banning sodomy. “If the Supreme Court says that sodomy is the same as incest, sodomy is a blemish on your family and a filth on the community,” he said. “The right to have a child is a privilege, not a right.”

Watt: Some in GOP backward-thinking

12th District representative recently criticized colleague for making racist statements on floor of the House

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

After Jesse Helms and Strom Thurmond — men whose racial attitudes have been the source of great controversy over the decades — left the Senate last year, many saw it as a chance for the Republican Party to wash its slate clean and write a new chapter for itself — a chapter of racial inclusion and sensitivity.

Instead congressional Republicans will be remembered this year for making statements that border on outright racism and then refusing to back down from their words.

Trent Lott was the first to put his foot in his mouth last December, condemning the rest of the nation for not voting for Thurmond for president back in the 1940s, when Thurmond ran as a segregationist. Most recently, Sen. Rick

Santorum, (R-Penn.) came under fire after he declared his dislike for homosexual acts.

A week before Santorum made headlines, Rep. Barbara Cubin (R-Wyo.) caught heat for a statement that seemed to suggest that all African-Americans have drug problems. Her words came on the House floor during a debate



Watt

over whether to limit the kinds of lawsuits that can be filed against the gun industry. During her remarks she criticized a failed Democratic bill that would

See Watt on A4

In the Spirit



Photos by Kevin Walker

A community outreach event held Saturday on Patterson Avenue drew a large crowd. Many of the people were moved by the music and preaching that highlighted the daylong celebration. To read more about the event, see the Community section, C1.

Loyal political volunteer honored

BY FELECIA MCMILLAN
THE CHRONICLE

More than 100 members and supporters of Mazie Woodruff Center Precinct 304 sponsored a reception Tuesday in honor of Lonnie M. Nesmith, 90, a longtime, loyal member of the Democratic Party. The gathering was held at the Mazie Woodruff Center.



Burke

A host of elected officials, precinct workers, community leaders, family members and other well-wishers came to thank Nesmith for his loyal service. Rudolph V. Boone Sr. was master of ceremonies. Soprano soloist Carmen T. Robinson sang special music. Calvin Strange is the president of the precinct.

In the spirit of the communal proverb “I am because we are,” Nesmith thanked workers in the community for helping to make him who he

is. His words charmed the crowd to laughter followed by a standing ovation.

“The contributions you make made me the person I am. I started out under great leaders. I have always learned to listen to people who needed to be listened to. The good things you have said about me, I am happy because instead of standing here, I could have been in some church stretched out before the altar,” Nesmith said. “People would have said, ‘There is a good man.’ Anybody can be good when he's dead. I have learned that it is time for us to turn this old world not upside down, but downside up, and you are the chaps to do it.”

Mayor Allen Joines praised Nesmith as a role model. “Someone like Mr. Nesmith has given so much to the community, working toward a strong democratic process. What an example for our young people. In fact, we need to honor him more publicly,” Joines said. “If it were not for people like him, we would not be in our offices.”

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Vivian Burke honored Nesmith for



Photo by Felicia McMillan

See Nesmith on A9 Judge Ron Spivey presents Lonnie Nesmith with gifts.

Richmond slam dunks MEAC tourney again

Winston-Salem had hoped to nab the tournament

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORTS

Richmond, Va., has once again secured the hosting rights to the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC), beating out Norfolk and Winston-Salem, said Richmond city officials last week. Richmond has been home to the tournament for the last six years and will remain its base for the next two years.

The city's three-year contract with the conference expired in March and the city of Winston-Salem quickly submitted a proposal to host the 2004-2006 MEAC tournament. Richmond city leaders expect that the tournament will generate \$4 million for their local economy.

The MEAC is a 30-year-old conference consisting of 11 historically black colleges and universities, including N.C. A&T State University, spanning from Florida to Delaware.

Winston-Salem Convention and Visitors Bureau president Bob McCoy, predicted that the MEAC tournament could have added around \$2.5 million to the local economy for each year it took place in

Winston-Salem. Winston-Salem's bid included funds for scholarships and a guarantee of \$10,000 for each of the 11 conference schools. Winston-Salem hoped to use its experience hosting the CIAA basketball tournament to help

See MEAC on A4



File Photo About 10,000 basketball fans came to Richmond for the last tournament.