



**Sting's Stinson goes One-on-One**

- See Page B1



**Peace group changes direction**

- See Page A3



**Class will teach city rules, policies**

- See Page A10



**School shows off its talent**

- See Page C1

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## Groups make digital divide narrower

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD  
THE CHRONICLE

WinstonNet is attempting to bridge the digital divide in Forsyth County. This afternoon, the group will celebrate the opening of community computer labs across the county at the Carl H. Russell Recreation Center. The recreation center is one of the 11 locations that will be online as of today.



Dinkins

WinstonNet, part of Idealliance, is a nonprofit community outreach of academic, social and corporate institutions seeking to increase public access to computers and the Internet.

The WinstonNet concept is a huge component of Idealliance, said Kriss Dinkins, director of support and out-

reach services for Wake Forest University. WinstonNet ties in with the burgeoning biotechnology center. Wake Forest is among the various partners in WinstonNet.

"We want to be a city known for state-of-the-art technology, and this is really a piece of that," Dinkins said. "If (students) don't have time to finish an assignment in school, our dream is that you can come to one of these centers and work on your project."

Community computer labs will open at the Sedge Garden, Sprague Street, 14th Street and Reynolds Park recreation centers along with community knowledge centers at St. Benedict the Moor, St. James AME, Union Baptist, Goler Memorial AME Zion, United Metropolitan Missionary Baptist and Central Library of the Forsyth County Public Library. Before the expansion, there were 24 WinstonNet computers in five agencies around the city.

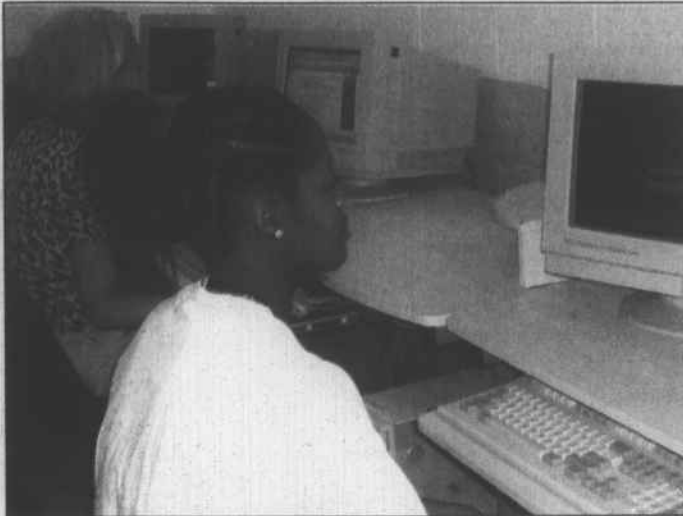


Photo by Courtney Gaillard

See WinstonNet on A5 People work in the new computer lab at the Carl Russell Center.

## Black entities unite to 'work'

New education group vows to do less talk

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

When members of the Black Leadership Roundtable, Winston-Salem Urban League, NAACP and Ministers Conference gathered in January to develop new ways to combat the challenges that local black students face, the Rev. Carlton Eversley thought the new group should have a name that would make an immediate statement to the community.

They call themselves the Working Group on African American Education because, according to Eversley, the group will be less about talk and more about action.

"I am not interested in being in a talking group. I am interested in being in a working group," said Eversley, the group's convener.

Work has just begun for the group, which meets every second Monday at Eversley's church, Dellabrook Presbyterian. Group members had their coming out at a recent School Board meeting where several members spoke in favor of the school system keeping the VIP program (which the board refused to do). Eversley also informed members of CHANGE (Communities Helping All Neighbors Gain Empowerment) about the group at CHANGE's most recent meeting. He even got the hundreds of members of CHANGE to vote in



Eversley

Photo by Kevin Walker

Well-known actress Kim Fields was in Winston-Salem Tuesday to help Larry Leon Hamlin and other celebrities kick off the 2003 National Black Theatre Festival, which will come to the city Aug. 4-9. Fields, shown here signing an autograph for a fan after a news conference at the Sawtooth Center, is producing and starring in the Neil Simon play "Barefoot in the Park" at the festival. Other celebrities scheduled to be in the city for the festival include Diahann Carroll, Ben Vereen and Malcolm Jamal-Warner, who will serve as a celebrity co-chair of the event. For more information about the festival, see page A10.



See Entities on A5

## Reunited - and it feels so good

Carver High School Class of 1953 celebrates 50 years as classmates

BY FELECIA P. McMILLAN  
COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

On May 21, 1953, 70 graduates of Carver High School marched into the gymnasium to receive their diplomas and awards. Valedictorian Juanita Eldridge delivered a speech at graduation, but William Debnam, the salutatorian, gave his address on Class Day.

Eldridge will revisit some of the same remarks she made for graduation during the 50th reunion celebration this weekend. She still has the original manuscript of the speech she delivered 50 years ago.

"As we depart from the halls of Carver High School to come into unknown paths of life and venture into uncharted courses of experience, may we build upon the foundation of knowledge we have received," Eldridge said.

On Friday afternoon, more than 30 members of the class met at the Carl Russell Center for their "Meet, Greet, and Eat" session. They had a banquet Saturday night at the Hawthorne Inn and Conference Center, worship service at Friendship Baptist Church, and a farewell luncheon at the church.

Debnam welcomed his



Photo by Felecia McMillan

Hannah Eldridge, Alice Allen, Jettie Hart Perry, William Debnam and Thaxton Tucker gather around the class display to point out their faces in pictures taken during their Carver days.

classmates and opened the class meeting after they spent time having fun and talking about the good old days at Carver High. The students in the Class of 1953 ranged in age from 16 to 53 because some of the students were Army veterans or adults seeking their high school diplomas.

Most of the students lived in surrounding areas in the county such as Rural Hall, Piney Grove, Walkertown, Lewisville, Clemmons, Tobaccoville, Brushy Fork, Cooleemee and a few were from the city.

Of the 35 people who attended the celebration, many came home from various

states. Evelyn Cain Glover came from Brooklyn, N.Y., for the reunion. Annie Chandler Wright came from Lanham, Md., while Leon Patton came from Suffolk, Va. Elveta Jones Rutledge and Frances Glenn Hankerson came from Washington, D.C., for the reunion, and Rev. Dr. Sylvellia Cloud, a

See Carver on A9



Brianne Davis



Tyler Fulton

## Diggs students are among few picked for science program

BY CHASIDY PHELPS  
FOR THE CHRONICLE

Two of Winston-Salem's own - Brianne Davis and Tyler Fulton - have been selected to participate in the first-ever Z. Smith Reynolds Young Scholars Discover Week.

The event will take place at N.C. State University. There, selected students will take part in a mock experiment to design a colony on a distant planet. Only 32 students from 16 N.C. schools received this honor. Davis

and Fulton are rising fourth-graders at Diggs Elementary School.

Students were chosen based on their performance in after-school programs, such as reading and math. The Young Scholars Program is a network of after-school programs that incorporate academics with opportunities for personal growth. Scholars will be responsible for creating housing, transportation, culture, laws and an educational system for the faux planet colony.

Discover Week is designed

See Students on A10