



Nighttime b-ball is becoming popular

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NBTF gala to kick off festivities

- See Page A3



NAACP ends rift over loan industry

- See Page A9



Holiday gets dose of Holy Ghost

- See Page C1

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African Exposure



Photo by Jason Reck/ Reuters

President Bush waves alongside his Senegalese counterpart, Abdoulaye Wade, at an arrival ceremony Tuesday for President Bush and First Lady Laura Bush at the Presidential Palace in Dakar. Bush is in the middle of his first trip to Africa as president. He began a five-nation tour of Africa Tuesday, aiming to prove his commitment to tackling the continent's raging problems, which include AIDS and the threat of terrorism.

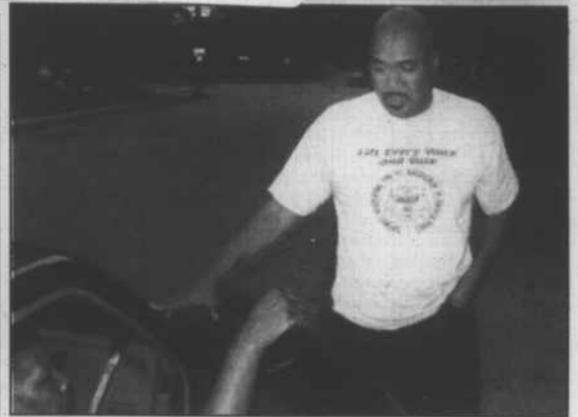


Photo by Kevin Walker

NAACP President Stephen Hairston chats with a resident.

NAACP hopes to reach teens by hitting street

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

The matching bright yellow NAACP T-shirts they wore made Stephen Hairston and his great-uncle Patrick Hairston stand out as they walked along a stretch of First Street in East Winston.

As they passed rows of well-maintained houses and some children riding on bicycles and playing in front yards, the men approached residents in their yards or on their front porches. They also stopped to chat with young men standing on street corners and those they passed as they walked.

Stephen Hairston, president of the Winston-Salem chapter of the NAACP, plans to hit several neighborhoods

in East Winston in the months to come as part of the chapter's new Community Patrol program.

"We are not going to stop. We are going to be here, there and everywhere."

- Patrick Hairston, former NAACP president

The main goal of the program is to talk face-to-face with young people who may be engaging in activities that are not only shattering the images of their neighborhoods

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Speaker says U.S. presence in Iraq was years in the making

Professor scrutinizes hundreds of documents connected to White House heavyweights

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

A college professor who specializes in globalization issues told about 70 local folks Monday that the Bush administration has not-so-secret plans to use military muscle to secure the United States' position as the world's only super power.

Gregory Reck, the chair of the anthropology department at Appalachian State University, was the featured speaker at a forum held by local anti-war group Community for Peace at Central Library.

Most of Reck's remarks were based on research he conducted on the tons of documents located on the Web site for the Project for a New American Century (PNAC) (www.newamericancentury.org), a neo-conservative group founded in 1997 with the support of men such as current Vice President Dick Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld (the current secretary of defense), and Richard Perle (a member of the Defense Policy Board and former chair of the

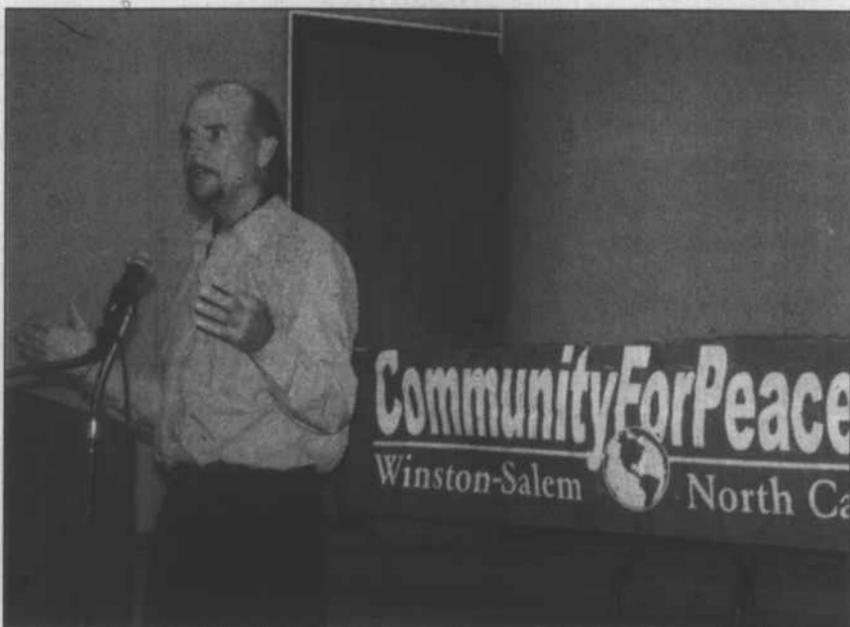


Photo by Kevin Walker

Professor Gregory Reck claims that democracy is quickly eroding for the United States.

board). Reck asserted that among the thousands of pages of reports on the site is irrefutable evidence that the recent war against Iraq was years in the making and had little, if anything, to do with weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

"The intelligence was not

overstated. They were lies," Reck said about the Bush administration's claim that Iraq was securing the materials needed to build WMD. The White House admitted this week that Bush's claim during his January State of Union Speech that Iraq was trying to purchase uranium

from Niger was erroneous.

Reck cited several PNAC documents, including a letter sent to President Bill Clinton and congressional leaders in 1998, in which PNAC members called for "the removal of Saddam Hussein's regime from

See Reck on A10

County's small wallet means poor pay more

Downtown Health Plaza says next month indigent patients will lose some services

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD
THE CHRONICLE

Patients of the Downtown Health Plaza can expect to pay more for services offered at the

facility thanks to budget cuts sustained from Forsyth County. The Downtown Health Plaza will no longer offer a sliding fee scale for dental and vision services offered at the Cleveland Avenue facility.

As of Aug. 1, the sliding fee scale also will be eliminated from the pharmacy.

The Downtown Health Plaza, an affiliate of Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center, provides comprehensive primary and preventive health care services to low-income and poor individuals

in Forsyth County.

In 1998, the county agreed to allocate \$4.1 million to Baptist Hospital for indigent care to be spent over five years, which ended in December of last year. Michael Clements, director of the Downtown Health Plaza, said there was discussion about the possibility of some continued funding, even after the five-year agreement expired due to the increase in patient visits over the years. Last year the Downtown Health Plaza saw 48,000 doctor visits, and administrators are expecting that number to reach 53,000 this year.

However, the county commissioners recently denied the health plaza's request for an additional \$2.7 million - the equivalent of what was allocated the last year of the contract. Now Clements said he is wondering exactly what kind of message the county commissioners are trying to send to citizens who rely on these services to meet their health care needs.

"This community has always supported people who have limited resources, and to suddenly decide that we are no longer going to do that was really kind of shocking," Clements said. "I wonder if some of our commissioners fail to realize the needs of our community; that there are

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