



Reynolds expects Carver victory

- See Page B1



WSSU plans reading project

- See Page A9



Watt gets into the shoes of others

- See Page A3



Youth reading hurdles discussed

- See Page C3

THE CHRONICLE

30 120203 *****CAR-RT-LOG**0022
 N. C. 28001
 FORSYTH COUNTY PUB. USE
 600 W. 5TH ST. # 2
 WINSTON SALEM, NC 27101-2755

WINSTON-SALEM • GREENSBORO • HIGH POINT

For Reference
 Not to be taken
 from this library

Vol. XXIX No. 50

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2003

Al Sharpton makes pit stop in Winston-Salem

Presidential wanna-be says he's got what it takes

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
 THE CHRONICLE

Ask the Rev. Al Sharpton whether he thinks President Bush can be beaten in 2004 and he will answer without giving the question a second thought, as if it's the simplest question a journalist can ask.

"Not only is he beatable; we beat him in 2000," Sharpton said. Using a boxing analogy, Sharpton said Bush was knocked down in 2000. In 2004, Sharpton said, Bush must be knocked out. Sharpton - a brassy New York preacher known as much for his unique hairstyle as his penchant for not holding his tongue - has

his gloves on and is ready to take Bush out.

Sharpton made a brief stop in Winston-Salem last Thursday while on his way to a fund-raiser at Carolina Pinnacle Studios in Yanceyville. He walked around

"(The other Democrats) are making a career move. I am talking about changing the general direction of the country."

- Rev. Al Sharpton

the Adam's Mark Hotel, taking in the magnificent chaos of the National Black Theatre Festival and greeting supporters with handshakes and in some cases autographs.

Sharpton is used to attracting

attention. In New York, he has been a public figure since the 1970s when he fought for civil rights. He first gained national attention in the 1980s when he vocally pushed for the prosecution of subway shooter Bernard Goetz. These days the heat from the national spotlight is especially intense on Sharpton. He is among nine Democrats running for the party's presidential nomination in 2004.

In most polls Sharpton is running near the back of the Democratic pack, but among African-Americans he is the overwhelming favorite. Sharpton doesn't put a lot of stock into polls. He said many of the people who will cast ballots for him are not yet part of the political process because they are disenfranchised and feel out of the political loop. Sharpton said he

See Sharpton on A10



Photo by Kevin Walker
 The Rev. Al Sharpton signs autographs for young people during his stop in Winston-Salem last Thursday.

EWPS likely to stay open

School's former leader under investigation for alleged malfeasance

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
 THE CHRONICLE

An invisible weight was lifted off of East Winston Primary School teachers and parents Monday after the director of the state's Office of Charter Schools stopped just short of guaranteeing that the school's much publicized

management and financial problems would not lead to the school being shut down like many troubled charter schools before it.

Otho Tucker, who heads the N.C. Department of Public Instruction's charter schools wing, was on hand for a meeting at EWPS. He told parents, teachers and members of the school's board that he and others from his office may be regular visitors at the school over the next year in order to help fix the school's finances.

Tucker said the things that have been broken at the school can be fixed with little to no interruption to the school's students and day-to-day activities. The school year began Monday for EWPS.

"I think right now we have a lot of positives here," Tucker said.

But the future of the school

See EWPS on A10



Lloyd-Brantley



Muhammad

Truancy program unites agencies

Court aimed at lowering county school absentee rate

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD
 THE CHRONICLE

Students may want to think twice about skipping school now that the Truancy Court Project has been enacted in Forsyth County. Chief Judge William Reingold announced the new initiative on Monday. It aims to prevent youths from becoming habitually absent from school



Reingold

through legal intervention.

The Truancy Court Project will be an ongoing, year-round program funded by the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety, the Division of the Governor's Crime Commission, Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools and the 21st District Court of North Carolina.

Reingold said students who are chronically absent from school run the risk of not developing their academic and social potential in life. He hopes the program will prevent them from having to make an appearance in his or any courtroom.

"Education is the key to success in this country. What we all know is that when a child drops out of school, nothing good comes out of that, and when they are truant, nothing good comes from that," Reingold said. "If you can save one child, even through truancy and drug court.

See Truancy on A4

Birthday (Beef)cake



Photo by Bruce Chapman
 The colorful Miss Dupree of the "Tom Joyner Morning Show" got a special birthday present last Friday when a group of male students from Winston-Salem State University presented her with flowers and a cake. Miss Dupree also convinced the men to take off their shirts and lift her into the air. It was one of the many high points of the live broadcast of the "Tom Joyner Morning Show" at the Joel Coliseum. For stories on Joyner's visit, see page C1 and A4.

Cunningham lifts spirits through fitness

CAT-TV show, video are gaining popularity

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD
 THE CHRONICLE

Sharon Cunningham has a passion for physical fitness and for gospel music. This fitness instructor, personal trainer and exercise consultant has found a way to mesh the two in the aerobics classes she teaches at United Tae Kwon Do Academy and on her CAT-TV (Community-Access Television) show, "U Fit 2." Cunningham's signature class is a gospel/hip-hop aerobics class that she says is "what she's all about."

"I was brought up this way. I've always had this spiritual background," Cunningham said. "It's by (God's) grace and mercy that I'm here and that I can do this."

Cunningham, who is a certified fitness and aerobics instructor, has a degree in health and physical education from Winston-Salem State

University. She sees body, mind and spirit as having an integral connection with one another: Exercise fuels the body, and praise fuels the spirit.

But the road to physical and spiritual fitness wasn't an easy one for Cunningham. After suffering a stress injury to her arm on the job years ago, Cunningham said, she was forced to get into tiptop shape. Doctors predicted that she had "lost the physical end of her life" despite her athletic history. Unwilling to take no for an answer, Cunningham got herself into shape and took a job as an aerobics instructor and has been getting folks in shape ever since.

"I've always believed I can do anything...I got in there, and it was on from there," Cunningham said.

From numerous fitness

See Cunningham on A10

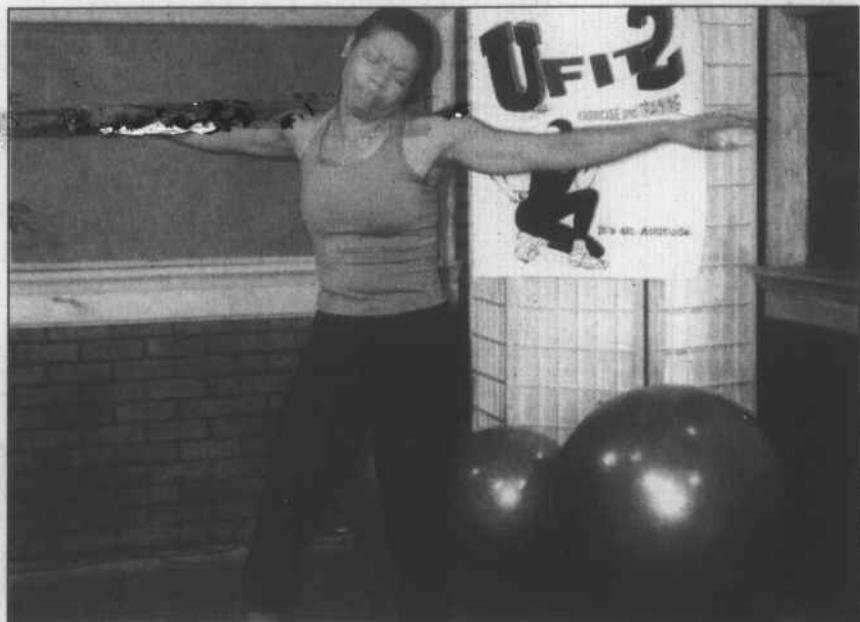


Photo by Courtney Gaillard
 Sharon Cunningham stretches before doing her live CAT-TV show.