



Softball star talks about her ambitions

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Watt talks Medicare with local seniors

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WSSU to welcome author Powell

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Sex and faith are subjects of book

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THE CHRONICLE

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The Littlest Guest



Photo by Cherie Pfaff

The Chronicle's 21st Annual Community Service Awards Banquet drew more than 600 people to the Benton Convention Center last Thursday where they watched more than two dozen people receive awards for their service. Among the guests was this little guy, who upstaged many adults with his mature table etiquette.

Student/soldiers to come home from Middle East

Platoon has been overseas for nearly a year

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Twenty-nine Army reservists from the third platoon of 991st Transportation Company are expected to return to Winston-Salem in about a week. The platoon is based at Smothers Army Reserve Center on Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. The platoon is a detachment. Most of 991st Transportation Company is based in Salisbury. The unit transported food, supplies and sometimes ammunition to U.S. forces in Iraq.

Fourteen of the reservists in the platoon are college students who were abruptly pulled from the classroom in January 2003 when their company was activated. The reservists were enrolled in colleges throughout the Triad, including Winston-Salem State University, N.C. A&T State University and Greens-

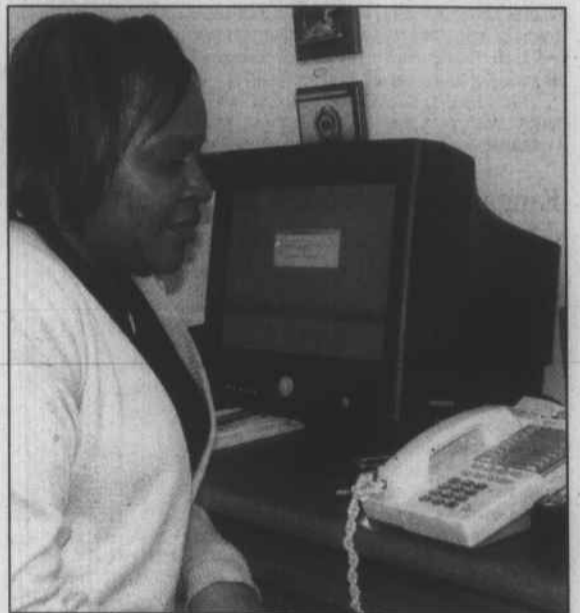


Photo by Kevin Walker

Lisa Davis talks to one of her "babies" by telephone from Kuwait. Davis is the platoon's sergeant.

boro College. The platoon is also overwhelmingly African-American. Of the 29 reservists, 25 are black. Lisa Ann Davis, the platoon's sergeant, said that many of the college students in the platoon joined the reserves to get money to pay for college. They never dreamed that they would be called to fight a war.

"They are really young. Some of them were in their first year of college," said

Davis, who affectionately refers to members of the platoon as her "babies." Davis, a 23-year veteran, accompanied her platoon to Iraq and spent two months with them before a medical condition required her to come home. This week, she is at Fort Bragg, waiting for her babies to return to American soil. The platoon is expected to return to Winston-Salem by April 17.

In some ways, Davis said,

See **Soldiers** on A9

Execs bring corporate ladder tales to WSSU

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

The corporate world can be dog-eat-dog and cutthroat, three African-American executives told Winston-Salem State University students last week. To survive, they said, it takes the proper armor: a good education, mentors and the drive to go above and beyond.

For the past several years, the National Urban League has been sending groups of black corporate-types to black colleges around the country to school students on the dos and don'ts and pluses and minuses of the business world. The program, called the Black Executive Exchange Program, or BEEP, has made stops at WSSU for the past four years.

Last week, three executives visited more than a dozen classrooms over two days at WSSU, where they told students that being mediocre doesn't cut it anymore. Today's human resources departments are looking for people who are not only bright, but have a variety of skills to bring to the table, they said.

Anne Marie Rowe-Straker of the Federal Reserve Bank of



Photo by Kevin Walker

Bank executive Anne Marie Rowe-Straker makes a point last week at WSSU.

New York told students that they must work on being a multi-tasker and not put all of their creative eggs in one basket.

"What took 10 people to get done, managers are now looking for one person to do," said Rowe-Straker, who caused some students to ooh and aah when she told them she controls about \$1.8 trillion on any given day at FRBNY.

The students that will graduate from universities in the next

See **BEEP** on A10

Ready, Set, Study

Wake students' program promotes good study habits

COURTNEY GAILLARD
THE CHRONICLE

Tierney Kraft and Elizabeth Eubank couldn't believe that an Old Town Elementary School fifth-grader was doing her homework on a bucket at home. The Wake Forest seniors volunteer as tutors at the school and recently found out that many other students like the fifth-grader don't have a decent place at home to study.

"The fifth-grade teacher said that only four out of 20 kids in her class do well because they were the only ones with positive study environments (at home)," said Eubank, who is double-majoring in studio art and sociology.

Kraft and Eubank developed DESK (Developing Education Through Student Knowledge) where they will provide 20 elementary students with desks, chairs, school supplies and tutoring. The project has been fully funded by the Z. Smith Reynolds Community Responsibility Grant. A local used furniture warehouse, Skidmore's, donated all of the desks and chairs, some of



Photo by Kevin Walker

Tierney Kraft and Elizabeth Eubank transport one of the desks they have collected.

which can run hundreds of dollars apiece.

"It's such a small thing at home, but a desk can have a big impact. We know that if we clear off our study space and have a good work environment, then it really increases our ability to do

work," said Kraft, who is a business major. "So many of these kids who are in need have tutors, which helps, but then they go home and they don't have a work environment or know about good study habits."

Limited quiet space at

home, says Old Town principal Tobie Arnold, is something many of her students are accustomed to working in where the battle for concentration is constant. Old Town faculty identified children

See **DESK** on A5

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