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**Actor inspires NCSA grads**

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# THE CHRONICLE

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THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 2004

## Piggott excited about new gig

*Carver principal will lead new Atkins High*

COURTNEY GAILLARD  
THE CHRONICLE

As the school year comes to a close and the students head home for the summer, Dan Piggott is reflecting on the last 11 years he spent on Carver School Road. He has seen thousands of students, including his own children, come through the halls of that school. He will retire this month from what he considers not only to be his dream job but a greater mission to which he was assigned by a higher power.



Piggott

"This was a dream job for me. I think it was a blessing that I ended up getting this job. We try to control and direct our lives, but the truth is I think God has a hand in it," said Piggott. "We've had quite a few successes and I think we have done a good job and impacted some lives of young people and that's what it's all about."

Those successes at Carver High School include Piggott being named Wachovia Principal of the Year in 1998 and Principal of the Year in the Northwest Region in 1999. Carver was also named an Exemplary School during the 1997-1998 school year under his leadership. Piggott hopes his successor will pick up where he left off and take the high school even further. He will miss the students and his staff, many of whom he now considers to be lifelong friends.

"I believe I've carried this school about as far as I can,

See Piggott on A4



Ayana Hardin has been locking her hair for about three years.

Photo by Kevin Walker

## NAPPY REVOLUTION?

*Local loctician pens book about natural hair*

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

Ayana Hardin said friends and complete strangers treated her as if she had sprouted horns three years ago when she said goodbye to perms and started to loc her hair. Some people would just stare. Others were bolder.

"People asked me, 'Why did you do that? You had such beautiful hair,'" Hardin said.

Partly to answer questions from the curious and partly to share her triumphant journey from processed to natural hair, Hardin wrote her first book, "Nappy Hair 101." The book is a resource manual of sorts, filled with infor-

mation on some of today's most popular natural hairstyles, photos and even some directions to make natural shampoos and conditioners.

Today, Hardin is a big proponent of nappy hair, which she proudly calls the coiled, woolly hair that naturally grows on people of African ancestry. But Hardin crawled before she was able to walk around freely and proudly with her natural style.

She straightened her hair for all of her life and was proud of her long tresses. Five years ago when her daughter, Tracy Benjamin, came home for a visit from N.C.

See Natural on A5

### In Remembrance



KRT Photo by Sinf Loeb

A soldier places American flags at graves in Arlington National Cemetery for Memorial Day. Services were held all over the nation this week to mark the holiday and pay tribute to the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.



Dee Lake, left, sells T-shirts Saturday to raise money for the United Bong Association.

Photo by Kevin Walker

## Liberians meet in city to ponder future of country

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

For the first time in many years, those gathered for this year's General Conference of the United Bong Association were filled with optimism, hope and visions of a better, brighter tomorrow for their beloved native Liberia.

Bong County is one of the largest counties in the West African nation. Liberians who have immigrated to this country make up the membership of the United Bong Association. The association held its 2004 conference here over the weekend, drawing Liberians from as far away as Minnesota

and New York.

The main focus of the conference was the future of post-

*"I love the (United States). People here have been so kind and wonderful. But home is home."*

-Dee Lake

war Liberia, which has recently seen the end of a bloody 14-year-old civil war. Just last week, George Dweh, the inter-

im head of the country's parliament, was in Rome to sign a peace pact with the country's two warring factions.

Seemingly peace is coming to the country a year after the conflict reached its deadliest stage. Last June, armed rebels took over the capital city, Monrovia, in an attempt to drive controversial president Charles Taylor from office. It worked. Taylor is in exile and the nation is making plans for free elections in 2005.

"People are looking forward to a better future now," said Shelton Beedoe, the president of the N.C. Bong Associ-

See Liberia on A5



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822 Carl Russell Ave.  
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(336) 722-3459  
Fax (336) 631-8268  
rusfhome@bellsouth.net

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