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THE CHRONICLE

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Black-on-black spending week set

*Campaign will coincide with
start of Black History Month*

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

It is no coincidence that a Buy Black Campaign will kick off on Feb. 1. Organizers hope by starting the campaign on the first day of Black History Month, consumers will be more conscious in their spending, realizing that companies owned by African-Americans have an even tougher row to hoe in these dubious economic times.

"We really want people to identify that there are some real quality businesses out there that are not recognized a lot or getting a lot of mainstream business," said Stephen Hairston, president of Winston-Salem chapter of the NAACP. Hairston announced the Buy Black effort on Jan. 17 before a crowd of about 1,000 people during the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Noon Hour Commemoration at the Benton

See **Buy Black** on A10



Photo by Kevin Walker

Lenora Fluit inspects one of her many hats in her home closet. Fluit knows firsthand the struggles that many black-owned businesses face. She recently closed her downtown hat business because she was not getting enough support from customers.



File Photo
Stephen Hairston was sworn in on Tuesday for his second term as NAACP head.

Election complaint tossed out

JoAnne Allen had questioned integrity of the voting process

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

A local woman's challenge of the Winston-Salem Chapter of the NAACP's recent election has been thrown out, the leader of the N.C. NAACP said Friday.

Melvin "Skip" Alston, president of the state NAACP, said the organization's Baltimore-based national office reported that



Allen

JoAnne Allen's complaint did not meet proper guidelines because it was not signed by at least 25 NAACP members in good standing. Alston said all NAACP complaints first go to the national office so that the status of members who sign complaints can be verified. If the national office determines that at least 25 members in good standing have signed a complaint, the complaint is

See **NAACP** A4

Coach uses advice, cash to win crowd

Coach Ken Carter is the subject of the hit film 'Coach Carter'

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Like any good coach, Ken Carter does not tolerate tardiness, even from himself.

When snow in Washington, D.C., delayed his flight last week, Carter showed up almost an hour late for his lecture at Wake Forest University. He did to himself what he does to his players when they are late, dropping down in his tailored suit and doing push-ups in front of an audience of about 250 people.

Carter's appearance at the university coincided with one of the best weeks of his life. A film about his push to get his undefeated high school basketball team to focus more on studies and less on sports had been released a few days earlier. "Coach Carter," starring Samuel L. Jackson in the title role, took the box office by storm, debuting in the top spot.

When Carter spoke at Wake on Jan. 19, the film had already grossed an impressive \$30 million, and Carter's stock as a motivational speaker had risen substantially. Not bad for a boy



Photos by Kevin Walker

Coach Ken Carter is the basis for the new hit film, "Coach Carter." Above, one of Carter's championship rings that he earned in his stellar coaching career can be seen as he signs an autograph.

were failing their classes.

The school, parents and the community did not initially applaud Carter for taking such a strong stance on education; instead, he was ridiculed, criticized, even threatened. Carter's tough love worked. The failing players got their acts together, and the team went on to great success. Carter likes to brag that every high school player he ever

See **Carter** on A11

from McComb, Miss, where Carter said he learned to dream big early on.

"Write down... your boldest goals. Carry them around with you," Carter said. "Look at them every single day. What you think about most of the time is what

you will become."

The theory has worked for Carter. He told the audience that he first told his mother when he was 8 that a movie would be made about him one day. Carter sold Hollywood producers on the idea for the film. "Coach Carter"

tells the inspiring story of how Carter - then head coach of Richmond High School in Richmond, Calif. - locked his state championship-bound team out of the gymnasium and halted all basketball activities because 15 of the 45 players on the team

LIKE A ROCK

Baller-turned-banker looks to score with local customers

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD
THE CHRONICLE

Most people dream of rising through the ranks of a company to that posh corner office on the top floor. But Simpson O. "Skip" Brown dreamt bigger than that. And last year his dream of starting his own bank came true when TriStone Community Bank opened.

Pictures of his wife, Minda, and their two daughters sit atop a cabinet above his desk in a small and modest office that one might not assume belonged to the boss.

"I've kind of known banking all of my life. It has been a dream. For a couple of years I'd been wanting to start my own bank, so now it's become a reality," said Brown.

When TriStone Community Bank opened for business in November, Brown says, he wanted it to bear a strong name that the Triad could identify with. Location was also a key element to the bank, which is situated at the corner of Knollwood Street and Stratford Road in what Brown

See **TriStone** on A5



Photo by Jason Pitt

Simpson O. "Skip" Brown opened TriStone Community Bank late last year.

Priest fights for Middle East peace and justice

Father Elias Chacour addresses local crowd

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Father Elias Chacour knows that to many people, he is a walking contradiction. He is a Palestinian and a Christian; he lives in the state of Israel but abhors what he calls decades of mistreatment of his people by Israel.

But no one questions Chacour's dedication to young people and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Chacour, founder of the acclaimed Mar Elias Educational Institute in Ibillin, Israel, told a local crowd Saturday that

See **Chacour** on A4



Photo by Kevin Walker

Father Elias Chacour is founder of the acclaimed Mar Elias Educational Institute in Ibillin, Israel.



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