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## Tenants bemoan sale of building

City looking to get rid of Trade Street property

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

Bonnie Ferrell is counting down the days until the start of the 2005 National Black Theatre Festival. It is not so much that



Paige

Ferrell is a theater fan, but the thousands who attend the biennial event have become fans of the

Agora, the Trade Street clothing and accessories shop she has operated for the last four years.

"It is one of my busiest times," she said Tuesday.

But this festival year, Ferrell has been reluctant to order spring clothes for her shop. The city is her landlord. She and other tenants in the building got word about two years ago that they are operating their businesses on borrowed time. The city is selling the building, likely to The Chapman Co., which wants to raze it and a construct a new building that will be parts residential, retail and office space.

"I am afraid to order stuff. I don't know when they are going to ask me to leave," Ferrell said.

Derwick Paige, the assistant city manager for community and economic development, said The Chapman Co. is in the process of securing tenants for its proposed building. Paige said the company is expected to come back to the city in May or June to detail its plans.

Paige said since the city began looking for buyers for the building in 2003, it has only leased space in the Trade Street building (524-547 North Trade Street) on a month-to-month basis. The city has owned the building since the 1980s, when it planned to tear down the building to create more parking

See Building on A9

## Ministers are not praising bonds

School system wants \$80 million for schools

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

The Ministers' Conference of Winston-Salem and Vicinity is already giving the thumbs-down to a possible school bond referendum. Citing what members called a history of lies and deceit by the school system toward the African-American community, ministers voted unanimously last month to oppose the \$80 million bond referendum that school officials want on county ballots in November.

"There is a whole history of black people being lied to or manipulated over bond (referendums)," said the Rev. Carlton Eversley, a member of the Ministers' Conference and a longtime critic of the school system.

The ministers point to Atkins Middle School as one of the reasons why the school system cannot be trusted on bonds. Atkins was promised a multimillion dollar renovation after voters passed a bond referendum in late 1980s. The school did get its facelift, but not until the mid-1990s when voters passed another bond referendum.

By most accounts, the African-American community got its share of the last school bond referendum in 2001. The Simon G. Atkins Academic and Technology High School was built off of Old Greensboro Road for \$22 million. The school will open in the fall. Carver High School also received a \$7.3 million renovation that included giving the school a dramatic new front entrance. Parkland is

See Bonds on A10



School Board member Vic Johnson has been a strong supporter of bonds in the past. He says he favors the proposed 2005 bond.



Eversley

Photos by Kevin Walker

Annie Howard and her daughter, Kimberly, browse through the book section at Body & Soul on Trade Street. Books are among the things that Howard likes to spend her hard-earned money on.



## Black wallets pack wallop

New report says N.C. blacks spent \$32.5 billion last year

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

Annie Howard works hard for her money. So after she takes care of bills and other expenses, she likes to indulge herself a little.

"I love shoes and jewelry," said Howard, who has worked for US Airways for the last 34 years. "I also love entertainment events like plays."

It was beauty products and books that caught Howard's eye Friday evening as she



shopped with her daughter, Kimberly, along Trade Street. In Body & Soul - a colorful store specializing in black art and novelties - she bought fragrant soaps.

Howard is one of the nearly 1.85 million black North Carolinians who spent a whopping \$32.5 billion on goods

and services last year. The N.C. Institute of Minority Economic Development just released an extensive report detailing the spending habits of blacks and other minorities in the Tar Heel state. It is the second time in eight years that the Durham-based institute, a nonprofit that strives to build wealth in low-income communities, has released such a study.

Andrea Harris, the president and cofounder of the insti-

See Spending on A11

## Wickham has lofty plans for institute

Noted journalist bringing Ed Gordon and many others to A&T for conference

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

DeWayne Wickham did not even have to finger through his Rolodex to find big-name speakers for a journalism conference he is organizing at N.C. A&T State University. It is the new millennium after all.

The only thing Wickham had to do to connect with people like Ed Gordon and Charles Ogletree was to get a signal.

"Most of them I just found on my cell phone," said Wickham, a well-known journalist and commentator. "I have been doing this for 32 years, and all these people I know personally."

A&T counted it as major coup when it landed Wickham - whose thoughts on everything from politics to pop culture can be read each week in his column in USA Today - in January to head its four-year-old Institute for Advanced Journalism Studies. Wickham will also begin teaching journalism classes at the school in the fall. He has spent much of his first couple months at A&T putting together "The Fourth Estate and Blacks," a three-day conference that will explore the role of blacks in the media, from news media to film.

The title of the conference comes from the medieval notion that there were only three estates of public life - the nobility, the clergy and the commoners - before the advent of the press, which became known as the Fourth Estate. Today, Wick-

See Wickham on A9

## Local judges say they feel no threat

Killing of Chicago judge's family has raised safety questions

BY COURTNEY GAHLLARD  
THE CHRONICLE

the safety of judges outside of the courts.

Courtrooms throughout the nation are staffed with law enforcement officers whose job it is to keep the peace and ensure the safety of all who are present. But the recent murders of a Chicago judge's family members have some people questioning



Hayes

The mother and husband of U.S. District Court Judge Joan Humphrey Lefkow were murdered in her Chicago home a few weeks ago. Authorities are investigating whether a white supremacist, Matthew Hale, whom she previously tried, is responsible for the

See Judges on A10



Rick Williams and Janae Davis of the South Carolina-based group Mystic Vibrations perform on Trade Street during last Friday's Gallery Hop. The reggae group will perform at Ziggy's on March 20 at 9 p.m.



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