



Baseball player swings for the stars

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Black execs come to WSSU

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Woman sparkles with line of jewels

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Church stages Easter musical

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THE CHRONICLE

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ING 30 YEARS OF COMMUNITY JOURNALISM

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2005



The panel included former Los Angeles prosecutor Chris Darden (from left) Ed Gordon, Dave Gascon and Norma Johnson.

Photos by Jason Pitt

Talk looks at impact of O.J. Simpson case



Charles Ogletree

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

GREENSBORO - Chris Darden said that everything from Marcia Clark's overconfidence to media bias played a role in O.J. Simpson's acquittal in 1995 for the murders of Simpson's wife and her friend.

Darden, a former Los Angeles assistant district attorney, prosecuted Simpson along with Clark. He took part in a panel discussion last week at N.C. A&T State University that probed the media's role in the Simpson case 10 years after the fact.

Chris Darden says media hurt prosecution

"The media was an unwanted guest by the prosecution," said Darden, who complained that media focused too much on innuendo and not enough on the hard facts of the case. Darden also said Clark dropped the ball during jury selection by firing the prosecution's jury consultant. The jury that found Simpson not guilty was made up of eight African-Americans, two mixed race people, one white and one Hispanic.

Last week's discussion was part

of a three-day conference held by A&T's Institute for Advanced Journalism Studies. Events also included a panel discussion featuring African-American White House correspondents.

The Simpson talk was moderated by Harvard Law School professor Charles Ogletree and also featured newsman Ed Gordon, who was the first to interview Simpson after the verdict; Dave Gascon, the retired senior chief officer for the Los Angeles Police Department

who made the dramatic announcement on June 17, 1994, that Simpson was a fugitive; Bill Whitaker, CBS' Los Angeles correspondent who covered the Simpson case; and Norma Johnson, who served as a victims rights advocate for the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office during the Simpson case.

Johnson had objections about the news media. She said the media ignored other people who were violently murdered. Johnson also said she believes news coverage is slanted depending on the race of those involved.

See Simpson on A10

Filling up Free Time



Photo by Kevin Walker
Dara Moss and Jonathan Oakes shared a coloring book last week as they waited for an event to start at Wake Forest University. Oakes is the son of Barbee Oakes, the director of Wake's Office of Multicultural Affairs. Moss is the daughter of actress Kimberly Brooks, who spoke at Wake last week as part of the school's Diversity Days activities. To read more about Diversity Days, see A3.



Sutton



Lawrence

Sutton, Lawrence will get top honors

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

A well-known political activist and the head of the city's public housing agency will receive top honors next month at The Chronicle's Community Service Awards.

Linda Sutton was chosen as Woman of the Year last week for her countless hours of volunteer work with organizations such as the Black Leadership Roundtable, the NAACP and the Winston-Salem Voting Rights Coalition. J. Reid Lawrence was selected as Man of the Year for his work leading the Housing Authority of Winston-Salem.

Committee members cited Sutton's tireless efforts last year to register voters and to turn out the vote. As head of the Winston-Salem Voting Rights Coalition, Sutton was also watchdog for local voters.

The committee said Lawrence has worked quietly over the years to transform public housing in the city. On his watch, the city has landed two competitive HOPE VI grants and, according to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, HAWS is better run today than it has ever been.

The scouting program at United Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church will get the Community Service Award. The program has continually churned out a high number of African-American Scouts at a time when black faces in scouting have become few and far between.

Bertha Roundtree and Nathan Parrish will both get Human Relations Awards. Roundtree created the Moviegoers to foster cross-cultural discussions on relevant issues

See Winners on A9

Black women celebrate one another

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD
THE CHRONICLE

They are former teachers, librarians, volunteers, wives, mothers and sisters. Many of them have touched lives across this community for decades. This past Monday, the Carver School Road Library hosted a group of African-American women for an old-fashioned tea party called "Herstory."

There some of the community's wisest women gathered to share their life stories about work and family during a time

when blacks were still considered second-class citizens. The library, along with Friends of the Carver School Library sponsored the tea.

The program fell during this month, which is National Women's History Month, where the nation pays tribute to the heroes who've made a difference around the country.

"The idea just came to me to let these ladies share their stories because there's a wealth of knowledge to be gained from the women who are 75 years and older," said Lois Leggett, Carver School Road

Library Branch director who dreamed up the idea for the tea. Leggett says she wanted the women to share as many pearls of wisdom as they could for the young women growing up today.

"We can learn so much from the women in this community," said Leggett. "I thought it was fitting to hold this on the first day of spring."

Each table was adorned with a doll and tea sets. Information on tea beauty remedies and tea trivia were available

See Tea on A9



Lois Leggett



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