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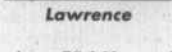
THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2005

HAWS bringing 'Dream' to city

Program works with kids for several years

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

The Housing Authority of Winston-Salem is working to bring a nationally acclaimed program to the city that would work to shape the lives of children who live in public housing.



There are currently about 70 I Have a Dream programs in 17 states and even one in Auckland, New Zealand. The two-decade-old program is unique because it takes large groups of economically disadvantaged elementary-school-age children under its wing and works with them for 12 to 15 years. Students who successfully complete high school or earn their GEDs are assured funds for their college educations.

"I don't know of any other program in this city that would take a kid at a third-grade level and drive them all the way through college," said HAWS Executive Director Reid Lawrence. HAWS is currently trying to raise money to launch a program here.

I Have a Dream programs are driven by various sponsors that do everything from volunteer to tutor, to provide money that will one day help Dreamers - the name given to the kids in the program - attend college. A program would cost about \$100,000.

The head of the New York-based I Have a Dream Foundation was in Winston-Salem last week to discuss HAWS' next steps. HAWS



Lorenzo Meachum welcomes the crowd Sunday as Elliot Bonner lights a candle to symbolize the struggle for freedom.

FREEDOM ON A PAYMENT PLAN

Program sets stage for upcoming Juneteenth Celebration

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

The price of freedom has yet to be paid in full, and black folks today are seriously in default. That was the consensus of a series of powerful speakers who set the theme for the city's first-ever Freedom Sunday.

"You just don't win one battle and it's over," said the Rev. Serenus Churn, pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church. "Each day you have to fight all over again."

Churn said the blacks of yesterday were prepared to fight the next battles. After slavery, they not only battled but beat threats posed by such evils as Jim Crow.

But today health disparities, lack of opportunities and the perennial presence of black males in the criminal justice system pose a greater threat than any Klansman ever did. And Candice Benbow, a 23-year-old law student, says those in her generation could care less.

"We vote for our favorite videos on '106 & Park' but won't go to the polls to vote in state, local and national (elections)," she said. Benbow and Churn spoke from an old pulpit in the historic sanctuary of St. Philips Church in Old Salem.

The 40 or so people who sat in the church's stately wooden pews gave their endorsements to various speakers by shouting out "amens" and "yes, Lords."

Freedom Sunday was held to remember the day



A member of It's for His Glory Dance Ministry performs.

Alphas may get license plates

Fraternity would join other groups

BY STEPHANIE MOSER
THE CHRONICLE

State Rep. Larry Womble has introduced a bill to create a specialty license plate for Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, of which Womble is a member.

The bill recently passed through the state House Finance Committee.

Now Womble believes it will be smooth sailing for the bill to be passed by the full House. One of the last major hurdles for the bill is that 300 people must pre-order the plate.

Asked whether he foresees a problem with meeting this 300 quota, Womble responded: "No problem at all. People are lined up, ready to start getting them now."

Co-sponsors of the bill are Reps. Larry Bell and Garland Pierce and Sen. Vernon Malone. All are Alphas.

The N.C. Department of Motor Vehicles offers about 100 specialty plates for universities, professional and civic groups. The DMV already offers a specialty plate for Delta Sigma Theta, an African-American sorority.

Alpha Phi Alpha is the nation's oldest black fraternity. It was established in 1906 at Cornell University by seven members. Almost 100 years later, there have been myriad respected and productive Alphas, including Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Thurgood Marshall.

Womble says interest in the plate is great. He personally knows more than 100 people in



Womble

See Dream on A10

See Freedom on A4

See Alpha on A10

SHOES OR LOSE



Beatrice Hardee is a lover of shoes. She says she owns about 3,000 pairs of them. She has now opened up her own shoe store, hoping to spread her love to others. A dedication was held for her store Saturday at Jetway Shopping Center. To read more about Hardee, see page A9.

Hispanic, black ministers powwow

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD
THE CHRONICLE

Members of the black and Hispanic faith communities are planning to hold a forum next month to address issues plaguing and dividing Winston-Salem's two largest minority groups.

More than a dozen ministers and pastors met Monday evening at the Winston Lake Family YMCA for a preliminary dinner meeting where they discussed bringing the two groups together for race relations talks.

"We need to bring the people together to talk, to ask questions so we can really explain each one. There are so many stereo-



Bocanegra



Leaders met Monday to discuss black, Hispanic relations.

See Ministers on A4



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