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THE CHRONICLE

Vol. XXXII No. 21

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2006



Hundreds march their way up MLK Jr. Drive to the Benton Convention Center for the Noon Hour service.

Photo by Jason Pitt

Hartsfield prepares for '06 election

She is the only black judge on the local bench

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Time flies, District Court Judge Denise Hartsfield said Monday.



I t seems like only yesterday that she won her seat on the 21st Judicial District bench, but this year Hartsfield will have to win it again. Hartsfield and three of her colleagues will be on the ballot this election year. Opponents are likely to come out of the woodwork once filing opens next month.

There was never a doubt that Hartsfield would seek a second term. As the only black judge in a judicial district where African-American defendants are over-represented, she feels a duty not only to serve but to ensure that the local bench maintains the

See Hartsfield on A13

Daring to Still Dream

King's daughter tells Wake Forest crowd that God is unhappy with low standards

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

The youngest child of the late Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. said she believes the deadly tsunami that devastated parts of Asia more than a year ago was God's way of telling the world that He is unhappy with war, poverty and a culture where money is worshipped more than He is.

"He was trying to tell us (that) you are living below what I created you to be," the Rev. Bernice King said in her fiery preaching voice from the stately wooden pulpit in Wake Forest University's Wait Chapel. She stood in the same place her father stood in 1962 when he spoke on a heavily-guarded Wake Forest campus.

More than 1,000 people came out to hear Bernice King speak Monday, the day the nation celebrated the holiday honoring her legendary father. Her nearly hourlong address was more of a sermon than a speech. Applause, amens and similar affirmations came often from the crowd, a racially eclectic mix of students and folks old enough to remember when King's father led the Civil Rights Movement.

King - who called her dad a "prophet," not just a mere "dreamer" - laid the foundation for her message by using words her father spoke more than 35 years ago when the civil rights icon lamented that as people become richer materially, they become poorer spiritually.

Bernice King said that is truer today than ever before.

"There is a moral void... a spiritual bankruptcy that exists in our nation," she said. King said the only way out of the moral doldrums and to eliminate the evils of poverty, racism and military strife is through embracing the Word and Spirit of God. Education, she said, can't do it, nor can money or the latest high-tech gizmo.

King told the students in the audience that their schooling would be meaningless if they do not challenge the status quo. She praised the 1960 Winston-Salem sit-ins, which were staged by students from historically white Wake Forest and historically black Winston-Salem State University. Wake Forest and WSSU began having joint MLK observance programs five years ago as a way to pay homage to those sit-ins - believed to be some of the first in the nation that involved blacks and whites.

This year, the schools' MLK events included a basketball tournament, pep show and a concert by gospel star Kim Burrell. Just hours before King's address, four people (a student and faculty member from each of the universities) received the first-ever MLK Awards for their work to bridge the racial divide.



The Rev. Bernice King delivers a passionate message from the pulpit of Wait Chapel.

Photo by Joe Marzano/WFLA

Noon Hour service speakers say nation has miles to go in race relations

BY SANDRA ISLEY
THE CHRONICLE

"I stand on a summit today, from which I can view an America that has all of the potential to eradicate every artificial barrier which separates, divides and diminishes us citizens and erect a strong boundary that can unify, enhance and construct a commonwealth in which there will really be a nation, and one nation only, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

That was part of the keynote speech given by Dr. J. Donald Ballard, pastor emeritus of United Metropolitan Baptist Church, as he addressed a crowded room of observers at the Benton Convention Center Monday during a program celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"A Dream Conceived: A Dream to Be Fulfilled" was the theme of the 26th Annual Noon Hour Commemoration, which was presented by Mutter Evans, the Winston-Salem Branch of the NAACP, and the city's Human Relations Department. The program began in 1981 - before there was an actual national holiday honoring King. It is the city's longest, continuous event

honoring the late civil rights leader. Had King not been assassinated in 1968, he would have celebrated his 77th birthday this past Sunday.

Ballard revisited the message in King's historical "I Have a Dream" speech, telling the crowd that all these years since King's death, the dream remained unfulfilled.

According to Ballard, the nation still is not colorblind when a black defendant enters a courtroom, when a black family moves into a neighborhood and whites begin to move out, and when new schools are being built in racially segregated suburbs, instead of revitalizing inner-city schools that would be more integrated. His last statement was a stab at the local school system, which has been criticized for implementing a neighborhood schools plan that has left many schools racially segregated and some inner-city schools nearly empty.

"When this happens within the communities that we call home, we are made clearly to see that we still live in an America that has not yet made good on that proverbial check written by our Founding Fathers, on which Dr. King said, 'Our nation has defaulted,' more than 48 years ago," Ballard said.

Ballard offered a remedy to the

See King service on A13



Ballard



Attendees sing "Lift Every Voice and Sing" at the beginning of the service.

Photo by Jason Pitt

Norris: Winston operates differently

Greensboro police have been under scrutiny for its tactics

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Police Chief Pat Norris said the system the department uses to probe



complaints against officers is effective and "doesn't involve any sort of ultra-secret police force." The Greensboro Police Department has been rocked recently by allegations that former Chief David Wray used his department's Special Intelligence Division, dubbed the secret police, to spy on black officers. The existence of the "secret police" was discovered after a black lieutenant discovered a tracking device on his patrol vehicle that was reportedly placed there by members of the secret police who were said to be investigating the officer's alleged crime ties, which have turned out to be unfounded.

In Grateful Memory of Our Founders,
Florrie S. Russell and
Carl H. Russell, Sr.

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