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**Duo is lighting up b-ball court at Tabor**  
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# THE CHRONICLE

## 'SISTER GOVERNOR'?

*Bev Perdue may make history again in North Carolina*

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
 THE CHRONICLE

Like Loretta Lynn, Beverly Perdue is proud to be a coal miner's daughter.

She often recalls her humble roots. Growing up poor, she said, taught her that life's rewards come not from fancy cars and job titles, but by giving and helping others.

"I believe that if you are good to people and work hard, life will be good for you," she said.

Perdue has followed her own philosophy and reaped the results. The people of Craven County sent the former schoolteacher to the N.C. House of Representatives in 1987. She would spend two terms there before winning a seat in the state Senate. Perdue had spent 10 years in the Senate in 2000 when she decided to try to make history by becoming the state's first female lieutenant governor.

Her common-sense ideas and folksy way of expressing them endeared her to state residents. She won a tight race over a fellow state senator, Republican Betsy Cochran, to become lieutenant governor. Perdue was re-elected in 2004.



Thomas Jenkins, the vice president of the Winston-Salem State University Student Government Association, chats with Lt. Gov. Bev Perdue last week.

These days, talk centers around Perdue making history again, this time by moving into the Governor's Mansion in 2008. Perdue has not said

for certain that she will run. "It's early in the process," she said. Her supporters are less coy about talking about Perdue as the next governor.

"North Carolina is going to join the 21st century, and we are going to have a lady governor for North Carolina," State Rep. Larry Womble said

at Winston-Salem State University last week as Perdue sat grinning a few feet away.

See Perdue on A9

## A&T to fill large shoes

*James Renick made many strides at university*

BY SANDRA ISLEY  
 THE CHRONICLE

**GREENSBORO** - Hearts are heavy on the campus of N.C. A&T State University this week. Last Friday, James Carmichael Renick, the school's beloved chancellor, announced that he will step down June 1 to accept a position with the American Council on Education in Washington, D.C.

Renick has been the school's leader for the last seven years. Over that time, A&T's campus has exploded and its reputation as one of the nation's foremost historically black colleges has been cemented.

School officials hope that whoever succeeds Renick will continue moving the school forward and fulfill a strategic vision for the campus of which Renick was the architect.

"Chancellor Renick has provided us with exemplary leadership. We're really, really pleased, and he will be missed," said Velma Speight-Buford, chairperson of A&T's board of trustees.

Renick announced his decision in the school's administrative building among members of his staff and other school officials. Under Renick's guidance, the university has seen record-breaking student enrollment. He helped to establish a middle college for at-risk male high school students in Guilford County. In 2005, the school named its new School of Education Building in his



Renick

See Renick on A14

## New Urban League leader gets down to business

*New job is homecoming for Keith Grandberry*

BY TODD LUCK  
 THE CHRONICLE

When Keith Grandberry became the new president and CEO of the Winston-Salem Urban League, he wasn't just inheriting the reins of a community institution; he was coming home.

Grandberry was born in Newton, N.C. He went to school at UNC-Greensboro, where he got his bachelor's degree in organizational communication. Since then, he's worked in the state and in other parts of the country in crisis management, public relations, and corporate and political consulting.

He lived outside North Carolina for eight years, but he said he visited the state an



Keith Grandberry and D Wylie at a recent event at the Urban League.

"awful lot" on business. He last lived in Washington, D.C., and was director of America's Families United, which promotes voting and voter education.

Grandberry has worked with many people who are considered important, but he said one of the most important people in his life was his great-grandmother, who taught him to always be humble, stay grounded and remember his purpose.

"We're all put on Earth for a certain purpose, and I believe mine is to work with people," Grandberry said last Friday from the agency's downtown headquarters.

Grandberry was familiar with the Urban League because, for the last three years, he had been involved in the training of new CEOs for the National Urban League. He was really

See Grandberry on A10

## Leaders push for black elections candidate

BY TODD LUCK  
 THE CHRONICLE

The African American Caucus of the Forsyth County Democratic Party has joined the Black Leadership Roundtable in pushing for an African-American director of elections for Forsyth County.

Harold Lee Hairston, president of the caucus, sent a mass e-mail to members and supporters of the caucus last week, asking them to write letters to the two Democrats on the three-person Forsyth County Board of Elections urging them to hire Clare Wallace as director.

The position became available late last month after Kathie Chastain Cooper retired after 30 years as director.

Hairston said he is trusting the rec-

ommendation of State Rep. Larry Womble in pushing for Wallace, who formerly was the director of the Liberty Street Community Development Corp.

Wallace recently left the CDC. Hairston is one of many African-Americans who did not see eye to eye with Chastain Cooper. Her critics say that Chastain Cooper failed to do everything in

her power to ensure maximum voter turnout. At a Board of Elections meeting last year, Hairston accused Chastain Cooper and some of her staff of being rude to residents who visit elections headquarters.

Hairston also said he and members

of his caucus had problems with her resistance to additional early-voting sites in African-American communities and her support of touch-screen voting machines, which Hairston said are too complicated and don't provide a paper trail. He also didn't feel the board was open enough and receptive to their concerns.

He believes Wallace would be much better in the position.

"It's always been a question of integrity," Hairston said. "When you have someone with integrity, you believe the process is working."

Two weeks ago, Hairston sent out a statement from the caucus denouncing Laura Gerardi-Dell as the next director. Gerardi-Dell is the current deputy director and has received the endorsement of

See Director on A10

## REMEMBERING HISTORY



NAACP President Stephen Hairston presents an award to the widow of John F. Meredith Jr., one of the city's first black firefighters. The NAACP and the city honored the eight men who made history in the early 1950s by becoming Winston-Salem's first black firefighters. To read more about the men and Tuesday's ceremony, see Page B14.



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822 Carl Russ  
 (at Martin Luther  
 Winston-Salem, N  
 (336) 722-3  
 Fax (336) 631-  
 russhome@bells