



Hall of Fame welcomes newcomers

- See Page B1



Students share their tour stories

- See Page A5



Students learn about two legends

- See Page B14

Forsyth County Public Library
660 West Fifth Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27101
Community Journalism

THE CHRONICLE

33 110806 *****CAR-RT-LOT**C022
NORTH CAROLINA ROOM
FORSYTH CTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
660 W 5TH ST
WINSTON SALEM NC 27101-2755

Vol. XXXII No. 27

THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2006

Local paper prints touchy Islam cartoons

BY SANDRA ISLEY
THE CHRONICLE

A Triad Muslim leader is calling for a boycott of a Greensboro-based newspaper after the paper published cartoons depicting the Prophet Mohammed.

Badi Ali, president of Muslims for a better North Carolina, called for the boycott after The Rhinoceros Times published cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed. According to the Islamic faith, depictions of any prophets of God are unacceptable.

"In Islam, it's prohibited to actually create images of any prophet, not just Mohammed, but Jesus, Moses, Joseph, all the prophets. It's forbidden," said Ali.

A Danish newspaper's publication of cartoons depicting Mohammed have led to protests by Muslims throughout the world. The protests, often violent, have resulted in many deaths and damage to buildings and other properties.

The Rhinoceros Times, known for its conservative views and quirkiness, pub-

lished the cartoons knowing that their publication had caused violence around the world.

William Hammer, publisher of The Rhinoceros Times, said he printed the cartoons because he has a First Amendment right to do so. Hammer also said that Mohammed has been depicted in other forms of the arts.

"What most of the Muslims I've spoken to say they object to is the depiction

of Mohammed, although he is depicted in art, literature and even in the encyclopedia we have in our office," said Hammer.

The Rhino, whose journalistic motto is, "All the rumors fit to print," published two of the controversial cartoons two weeks ago. But the cartoons are not just plain depictions of the prophet. One, for example, shows Mohammed wearing a head piece shaped like a bomb.

Ali said that without question, the cartoons were created to offend.

"I am certain that our neighbors here, for example,

wouldn't want to see someone claiming that Martin Luther King Jr. was for terrorism. They don't want to see someone claiming that the Virgin Mary was a terrorist," said Ali. "I'm sure people wouldn't like it. The Muslims wouldn't even like it."

Initially Hammer said that he would run more cartoons from the series. He changed his mind, though. The paper's Web site states that the paper did not see a need to run more cartoons. It is the one thing that Ali is happy about, but he still feels that Hammer hasn't

See Cartoons on A12

Council will honor Ballard

Pastor fought for civil rights throughout his life

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The Rev. James D. Ballard will be honored Monday by Mayor Allen Joines and the

City Council for his years of community service and his efforts more than 40 years ago to desegregate the city.

Ballard, the founder and retired pastor of United Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church, is this year's recipient of Joines' Civil Rights Movement Resolution. Each Black History Month for the past several years, the mayor has selected at least one African American for the honor. The resolution honors those who worked to strengthen civil rights and race relations in Winston-Salem.

In the summer of 1963, Ballard led an effort to desegregate restaurants in Winston-Salem. With the assistance of local churches, civil rights organizations, and students, picket lines were organized and maintained for weeks. Ballard was arrested several times during the protests but eventually the restaurants relented.

Ballard founded United Metropolitan in 1959, after a stint in the Air Force and completing his undergraduate studies at Shaw University. In school, he was the coordinator of the Congress of Racial Equality chapters for both Shaw and Saint Augustine's College. He later served as chairman of the local chapter

See Ballard on A12

Kids present black history wax museum

BY JAESON PITT
THE CHRONICLE

Frozen bodies, stoic faces, and mime-like quietness were the atmosphere on the 13th floor of the One West Fourth Street Building Tuesday. This was before proud parents and staff of Womble Carlyle trickled into the room to see a Black History Month program.

Third-graders from Downtown Elementary School wowed visitors as played the roles of several noted African Americans. Students portrayed everyone from Harriet Tubman, and Thurgood Marshall, to Oprah Winfrey and Muhammad Ali.

Jane Dicus, the third-grade teacher at Downtown Elementary, has done this event for five years.

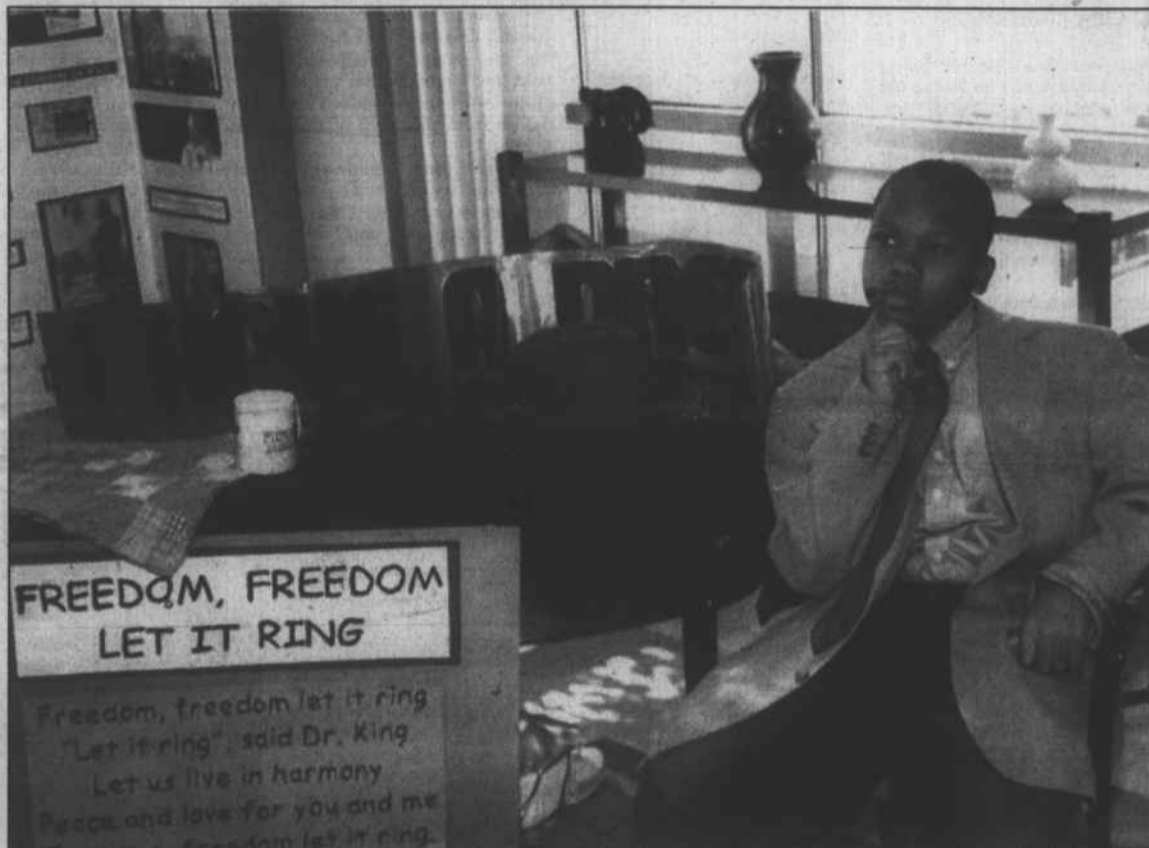
"Each child chose a famous black American to learn about. We went to the computer lab. They chose. Most of them are people that you would know; a couple are unknowns."

The event was done as a culmination of the students' black history studies. Dicus encouraged kids to pick someone they identified with in some way so that they could pull more from the person's life story and adapt it to their own.

"If they're interested in it, they'll do a better job, so I didn't try to impose anything on them," added Dicus.

Dicus teamed up with Gloria Agard of Womble Carlyle to bring the activity to the corporate world. Agard's son, Nicholas, is in Dicus' class, so she had the inside scoop. Nicholas had very distinct reasons for choosing his person, Thurgood Marshall.

My mom works at a law firm



Ronald Binyard plays the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

and he was a lawyer," said the 9-year-old Agard. He thought that Thurgood Marshall winning most of the cases Marshall argued before the Supreme Court cases was admirable.

After seeing her son perform at school, Agard thought it would go great with Womble Carlyle's black history theme. "The firm is just very excited about it, trying to do something

different as opposed to having a keynote speaker here to recognize black history," said Agard. Agard also assisted Dicus in giving the children guidelines for their research, such as what the person achieved and what struggles did he or she have along the way.

After a pizza and soda lunch, the kids got into character. "The children are frozen, or

should be until they get a penny in their cup and then they come to life. They should have about a minute talk. When they get through they go back to their pose," said Dicus.

The students seemed to have learned a great deal about the people they chose, much more than what they offered up in their 60-second spiel.

Jill Geyer, parent of Jillian

See Rams on A9

Worry Free

Program for troubled kids has few troubles

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Only one middle school in Forsyth County didn't have a single fight last year, and, ironically, it's a place where middle school students get sent to for fighting.

Middle School Academy, located inside of Independence High School, is a program that students are sent to for things like fighting, drug offenses, and bringing weapons to school. Oftentimes, these troubled students would be suspended. The academy offers an alternative that focuses on changing the behaviors that got them in trouble while keeping them in the classroom.

Other than being fight-free, the academy was also free of drug and weapon offenses last year.

How does the academy do it? "First of all, it's the staff" said John Siskind, the county's director of alternative education.

Siskind said it's a combination of constant supervision, anticipating potential problems, and keeping the students engaged and busy. He said that it's also helpful that most of the program is down one hall so the dean can step out of her office and see all the classrooms.

The program's small size is an asset. Currently 52 students are enrolled in the academy with four core subject teachers. The maximum the program takes is 60 students, which is a ratio of only 15 students per teacher. The smaller size makes it easier for teachers to control and lets them pay more attention to each student.

As one might expect, the academy can be strict. The students aren't allowed to carry book bags or use lockers. The environment is structured and the staff can be "no nonsense." However it's also very supportive and nurturing.

Gwendolyn Johnson, the program's dean, is

See School on A12



Gwendolyn Johnson is the dean of the program.

Photo by Todd Luck



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

"Growing and Still Dedicated to Serve You Better"
Russell Funeral Home
Wishes to Thank Everyone For Their Support

822 Carl Russell
(at Martin Luther King)
Winston-Salem, NC
(336) 722-3434
Fax (336) 631-4343
russhome@bellsouth.net