

BUSINESS FOCUS

Briefs

Professional Women's Forum

The Professional Women's Forum will present "An Introduction to the Body's Energy" by Lloyd Rawson, a bio-energy consultant, on Tuesday, May 16, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Piedmont Club. Attendees will learn to define their personal space and reduce the emotional impact in their lives. Admission is \$30 and space is limited. Call 724-7077 for reservations.

100 Black Men honors provost

The organization 100 Black Men of America has honored North Carolina Central University Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dr. Beverly Washington Jones among an elite group of Triangle-area black women.



Jones

Jones will be recognized for her outstanding contributions to education at the organization's annual Scholarship and Awards Gala. She will be joined by Andrea Harris, president of the North Carolina Institute of Minority Economic Development, the Honorable Alison Duncan, US Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, and Mary Ann Black, vice president of Community Affairs at Duke University Health System and chair of the Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce.

Jones has played a leading role in implementing programs to close the achievement gap. From 1997-1999, she directed Saturday Academy, a tutorial program for third, fourth, and fifth graders in six Durham Public Schools. Awarded \$2.25 million from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, Durham Housing Authority's Hope VI program and the Verizon Foundation in 2002, Jones doubled the number of schools served by the Saturday Academy, increasing its enrollment from 175 to 400 students.

Jones is the executive director of the Historically Minority Colleges and Universities Consortium of North Carolina. She has been a leading educator and advocate for increasing funding, curriculum reform, and progressive educational programs for at-risk youth, and students who are not reading or writing at grade level.

A nonprofit community service organization, 100 Black Men of America seeks to mentor and improve the lives of African American youth.

Faculty receive advising awards

The Center for Student Success at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University selected the following faculty members as recipients of the 2006 Academic Advising Excellence Award: Antoine J. Alston, associate professor in the department of agribusiness, applied economics and agriscience education; La Toya T. Marsh, clinical assistant professor, nursing; Devang P. Mehta, assistant professor, graphic communication systems and technological studies; Shona D. Morgan, assistant professor, business administration; Bala Ram, professor, industrial and systems engineering; Richard Watkins, adjunct instructor, human performance and leisure studies and Sheila M. Whitley, assistant professor, journalism and mass communication.

Wake benefactor Worrell dies

T. Eugene Worrell, a Wake Forest University graduate whose name graces the home of the university's Worrell Professional Center for Law and Management and Worrell House in London, died April 20 in Charlottesville, Va. He was 86.

Worrell, who built a chain of newspapers and other media outlets in his long business career, was recalled today by Wake Forest President Nathan O. Hatch as one of the university's major benefactors and most dedicated alumni.

Each fall and spring semester, a group of about 15 Wake Forest students and a faculty director live and study together at Worrell House, a four-story residence in London's Hampstead neighborhood. Students take courses taught by the Wake Forest faculty member and British professors.

The Worrell Professional Center, which was formally dedicated in 1993, was built in part by a \$5 million gift by Worrell and his wife, Anne. Other gifts by Worrell supported the purchase and maintenance of Worrell House; the establishment of an endowed chair in Anglo-American studies, currently held by David Coates; and the creation of the Roger Goldberg Award in Trial Advocacy, which is awarded annually to a Wake Forest School of Law student who shows the highest aptitude and ethics in trial advocacy.

Worrell visited Wake Forest twice during this academic year. In February, Wake Forest presented him with the Medallion of Merit, the university's highest award for service to the university, at Founders' Day Convocation.

WFDD's fund-drive a success

88.5 WFDD, the National Public Radio affiliate serving the Triad, has raised more than \$269,000 so far during a spring campaign consisting of an on-air pledge drive, renewal mailings and member challenges. This outstanding drive represents a 43 percent increase over last year's spring campaign of \$188,000.

The station, licensed to Wake Forest University, relies on \$600,000 in annual membership contributions from throughout the Triad and Piedmont to help fund high quality local program production, program purchase and broadcasting expenses.

The pledges drive has generated more than 2,290 individual pledges so far. 88.5 WFDD station manager Jay Banks said it was especially rewarding to note that over 1440 people called and pledged during the on air pledge part of the drive.

Blacks accuse Lilly of discrimination

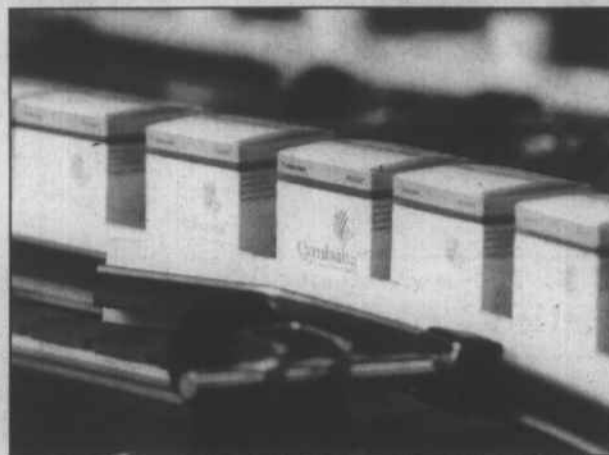
BY KEN KUSMER
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS — A racial discrimination lawsuit alleges Eli Lilly & Co. paid black employees less than their white peers, passed them over for promotions and subjected them to harassment such as epithets.

The lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court also claims a Lilly human resources staffer told a complaining female employee that her managers on the manufacturing side considered her previous corporate supervisors to be too accepting of blacks and that they were no longer in a position to address her concerns.

"It's like the plantation, unfortunately, at the manufacturing site. It's blatant discrimination," Cassandra Welch said Friday, the day after the lawsuit was filed. Lilly fired her in mid-2004 for allegedly falsifying e-mails in an unrelated financial dispute with another employee of the Indianapolis-based drug company.

Welch, two other former employees and a current one are named as



Cymbalta, a depression drug from Eli Lilly, rolls off a manufacturing line.

plaintiffs in the complaint, which seeks class-action status on behalf of more than 1,000 black employees whom attorneys said might have faced the same kinds of discrimination since August 2003. It seeks

unspecified damages, lost compensation and an order enjoining Lilly against future discrimination.

Each of the four plaintiffs also have complaints pending with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity

Commission, the lawsuit said.

Lilly spokeswoman Carla Cox said the company was withholding comment on the specific allegations as officials had not yet reviewed the lawsuit.

"It's certainly part of our company fabric to treat people fairly and with respect," Cox said.

More than 20 present and former Lilly employees have contacted the plaintiffs' lawyers, Joshua and David Rose of Washington, D.C., about possible representation in the case, Joshua Rose said.

"Lilly managers tend to groom white employees for promotion and bonuses more effectively, more rapidly and more often than their African-American peers," the attorneys, who specialize in employment law, said in a written statement.

Welch, 45, now a northern Virginia-based business consultant, said she began at Lilly in 1992 as a production worker earning an hourly wage, transferred to finance and, after obtaining her bachelor's degree

See Lilly on A5

POP AND POP



PRNewFotoPepsi

Pepsi is hoping that songbird Mariah Carey will help it sell more soft-drinks. The soda giant has just signed Carey to promote its products. As part of the deal, Carey, the world's best-selling female artist, will write and record original ringtones that will be available exclusively through the Pepsi Cool Tones & Motorola Phones promotion this summer.

Corporate diversity pioneer dies

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Darwin N. Davis, Sr., a former Senior Vice President of Equitable Life Assurance Society of America, died April 16 at Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia. He was 74.

His wife, Velmarie, said Davis died of cardiac arrest.

Fortune magazine in August 2005 cited him as one of "the bravest generation," the first black executives to battle their way to the top of corporate America. Presenting Davis with its 2006 Lifetime Achievement Award, the Jackie Robinson Foundation wrote: "His story is record-breaking and astounding by any measurement. He has been on the cover of Black Enterprise magazine three times, in Newsweek, and featured in articles in Time and U.S. News. There have been six television specials about him and his work. He has been honored over 100 times for his work in the corporate world and the black community. In addition, Davis has received two Honorary Doctorates."

Born in Flint, Michigan, on April 10, 1932, the eldest of three siblings, Davis grew up in an atmosphere of limited opportunity but rising aspirations. His father was a clerk in the U.S. Postal Service, his mother, a General Motors factory worker. Athletic and gregarious, Mr. Davis discovered his calling early: sales. He had a paper route and sold flowers. A Boy Scout and YMCA counselor, he also had a passion for service.

Graduating in 1954 with a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration from the University of Arkansas in Pine Bluff, Davis earned a Master's Degree in Education at Wayne State University and served in the U.S. Army at White Sand Proving Ground, New Mexico. He taught mathematics in the Detroit public schools and looked for openings in corporate sales until 1966 when, as a result of the Civil Rights Movement, closed doors finally opened for blacks. Hired as an Equitable Life sales agent, he quit his teaching job the next day.

Over the following 22 years, his career became legend. Within two years he generated over a million dollars in sales and was named district manager. By 1975, he rose to agency vice president, and by 1983, to senior vice presi-



Darwin N. Davis, Sr.

dent, heading the external affairs department at the company's headquarters in New York City. He retired in 1988. Scores of young black managers and executives continued to contact him, and he always made time to listen, instruct, and inspire. Many credit his personal interest as the catalyst of their push to excel.

"I first met Darwin in the early days of Black Enterprise," said the publication's Founder & Chairman Earl G. Graves Sr. "He was a superstar executive even

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Utah's only black legislator steps down

BY PAUL FOY
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SALT LAKE CITY — The Utah Legislature's only black member resigned his seat last week after 10 years in office.

Rep. Duane Bourdeaux, D-Salt Lake City, represented District 23 on the city's west side, a heavily Democratic district where 41 percent of the residents are Hispanic.

Hispanics make up 9 percent of Utah's population and blacks account for 0.8 percent, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.



Bourdeaux

Gov. Jon Huntsman will appoint a replacement to serve out Bourdeaux's term until Dec. 30. Huntsman can choose from up to three candidates nominated by the Utah Democratic Party.

Party officials said they plan to submit the name of only one candidate, a person they wouldn't identify on Wednesday.

Bourdeaux cited family and business reasons for stepping down.

"The timing's right," he told The Associated Press. "My two parents are elderly and their house is deteriorating, and I'm trying to run a business."

Bourdeaux is founder, president and chief executive of the gang intervention program Colors of Success Inc. In 2002, he also assumed the role of executive director of the Center for Family Development, which treats sex offenders at prison halfway houses.

In both roles, Bourdeaux has worked on federally funded crime-fighting programs with an emphasis on turning around juvenile offenders.

Bourdeaux was the sponsor of a 2004 tax on strip clubs and escort services that was supposed to help fund treatment for sex offenders, but has been held up by a court challenge.

Bourdeaux sponsored legislation on education accountability, racial profiling, truancy and alternative language programs, among other things. He was a champion of the six-year campaign at the Legislature to stiffen penalties for hate crimes, a bill Huntsman signed in March.

Bourdeaux said one of his most memorable moments came earlier this year in the House of Representatives when he took control as speaker pro tempore for "close to an hour," filling in for absent Speaker Greg Curtis, R-Sandy.