



Students makes mark in sports and class

-See Page B1



Television judge comes to Bennett

-See Page A3



Man uses Christmas lights to aid good cause

-See Page A12



15 110807 1 *****5-DIGIT 27101
NORTH CAROLINA ROOM
FORSYTH CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY
660 W 5TH ST
WINSTON SALEM NC 27101-2755

North Carolina Room
Forsyth County Public Library
660 West Fifth Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27101

Vol. XXXIII No. 14

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2006

Everyone can't enjoy gift of reading

HOMETOWN COLUMN

By Maya Angelou

A relative of mine had been happily married for five years when she discovered something about her husband that shocked her severely. It was not that he was unfaithful, or abusive or gambled or drank to excess. She discovered he could not read, and he had been successful in keeping that a secret for the two years of courtship and the five years of marriage.

When she related the story to me, I said, "Everyone can read a little, maybe his reading was a little rusty." But, I reminded her he had a driver's license that he had to sign and a marriage license and was a successful construction worker who had to sign off on certain contracts.

She said she had become suspicious six months earlier and had begun laying traps, but he was so deft that he stepped easily out of the traps leaving no trace.

Once she met him in their driveway on her way to their accountant. She gave him a slip of paper and asked him to pick up a dress from her seamstress. He rejected the paper saying, "Just tell me the address." She refused, telling him, "It's on the slip," got into her car and drove away.

That evening when he returned home without the dress, he explained that he lost the paper. She had to find a no-fail way to prove he could not read.

Early one morning she placed a note under the lamp on their bedside nightstand. She left home and went to a telephone booth and called home. He answered, groggily. My relative told her husband that she left the name of a much-

See Angelou on A11



Photos by Todd Luck

Protesters stand in front of a Harris Teeter store on Market Street in Greensboro on Saturday. They are upset that the grocery chain is among those that carry Smithfield Food products. Smithfield has come under scrutiny in recent years.

UP IN ARMS

Protests target mega pork company

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

GREENSBORO — Protesters outside of Harris Teeter stores in 11 cities around the state gathered Saturday to ask the chain to stop carrying Smithfield Food products made at the pork plant in Tar Heel, N.C.

This is the most recent in a series of protests regarding the treatment of workers at the Tar Heel plant and their right to unionize. Harris Teeter is one of many stores that carry Smithfield products made in Tar Heel. Protesters wore t-shirts and held up signs printed by the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, which has been hoping to add Smithfield workers to their ranks for two decades now. The UFCW lost an election held at the plant in 1997 but the result was thrown out in court, which found Smithfield had used intimidation and violence against workers. This was upheld in federal appeals court and is echoed by a report from Human Rights Watch.

Among the cities involved were Winston-Salem and Greensboro. Stephen Hairston, president of the Winston-Salem Branch of the NAACP, attended the local protest. The state NAACP is one of many organizations that have taken up the cause. Hairston said there were around 15 people at the protest who held a prayer vigil for



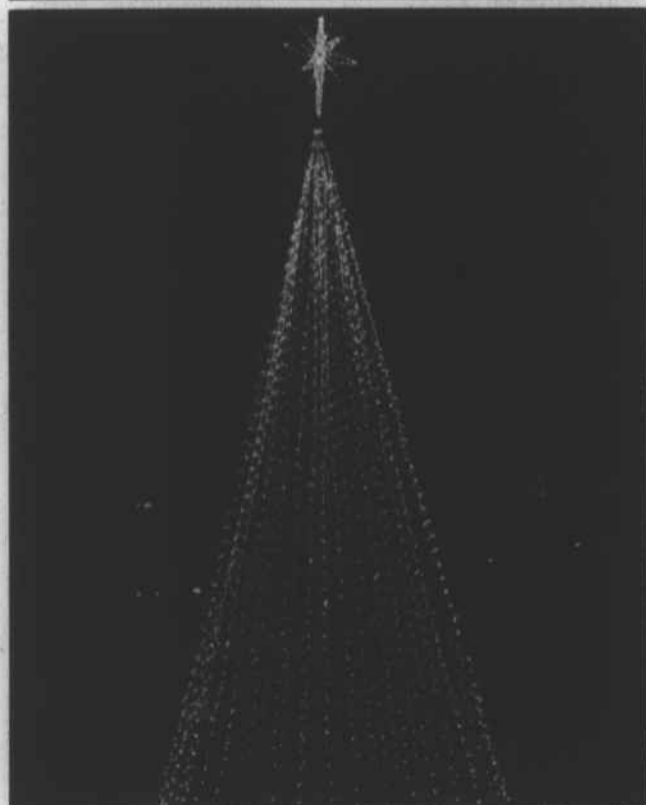
Smithfield workers as they held up their signs. At the end of the rally they went inside Harris Teeter and gave a letter to the management there asking for the removal of Smithfield products and stating the reasons why. Hairston said the manager wouldn't comment on the situation but would pass on the letter to the higher-ups at Harris Teeter.

In Greensboro, Rev. Nelson Johnson of the Beloved Community Center and several others led over 60 protesters in chants, prayers and gospel songs as they stood on the sidewalk in front of the Harris Teeter on West Market Street. Like the Winston-Salem rally, this one was comprised of clergy and members of local churches, NAACP members, college students, local activist group members, UFCW organizers, and others.

"When you support injustice you become unwittingly a part of injustice and we are here to stand against injustice and to stand for justice," Johnson told the protesters.

The stories of Smithfield workers were also told by rally leaders. Johnson told the story of a woman who had a 200 pound frozen pig fall on her and break her shoulder. He said she was denied benefits by Smithfield and then terminated because she couldn't work. Unsafe working conditions, denying workers benefits and firing

See Protest on A12



City ushers in holiday season with festivities

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

The anticipation was palpable on the crisp breeze as people flocked to the sidewalks of Fourth Street Saturday night. Drums pulsed in the gathering dusk, pounding to the rhythm of a thousand heartbeats as Winston-Salem geared up for its 17th annual holiday parade, which ended with a tree lighting ceremony in Corpening Plaza.

The parade featured the usual suspects — beauty queens and politicians seated on top of flashy sports cars, bands with flags and all their finery, and of course, Santa Claus, who rode in the bucket of a fire truck at the end of the parade.

Tim Naulty led Boy Scout Pack 736, who marched in the parade handing out candy to onlookers.

"We've done it the last four years," Naulty said. "The boys just look forward to doing it, to get dressed up — the little ones — and throwing candy, that's the big deal."

Sixty-six, ranging in age from first-to-sixth grades, make up the pack. Naulty's 10 year-old son, Jason Naulty, was among those who participated.

"It's fun and it's good to give out candy to everyone," the boy commented. "I like it."

Photo by Jessica Pitt

The city Christmas tree.

See Christmas on A5

WSSU collects for local AIDS agency

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

World AIDS Day, observed on Dec. 1, always inspires activity on the campus of Winston-Salem State University. And this year was no different. An information

table was set up in the lobby of WSSU's Thompson Center, the campus health center offered free HIV testing to students, and a talent show brought in canned food donations for the AIDS Care Service food pantry.

However, the philanthropy was more widespread this year, thanks to the initiative of Dr. Peggy Valentine, who is dean of the School of Health Sciences, and five others — three students and two faculty members, who took it upon themselves to do something meaningful in the fight against AIDS.

"Dr. Valentine's had a person-

al goal to help AIDS victims," said Aaron Singleton, the director of news and media relations at WSSU. "She's had a commitment throughout her career and ... it has enhanced all of the efforts we already had at Winston-Salem State before she came."

In honor of World AIDS Day, WSSU joined a group of 39 other organizations and universities nationwide in a program known as LETS (Lesotho Experience Through Service). As part of the Ariel Foundation International, the LETS program seeks to influence issues regarding health, policy and management worldwide.

The group from WSSU traveled to Lesotho, Africa on Wednesday, armed with a wealth of items collected for 70 AIDS orphans who reside in an orphanage in Lesotho.



Valentine

See Collection on A11

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 Ave. (at Martin Luther King Dr.) Winston-Salem, NC 27101 (336) 722-3459 Fax (336) 631-8268 rusfhom@bellsouth.net

