



Muslim girl stands out on rec b-ball court

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Dole thanks local volunteers

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Local black history spotlighted

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THURSDAY, February 22, 2007

Request to find 'good' in slavery stirs anger

Father outraged by actions of Davidson County teacher

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

As an African American and a resident of rural Davidson County, Aszullayme (who does not use a last name) knew that his daughters, Tatiana, 13, and Timeca West, would be in the distinct minority, both in their community and in their school. Still, he says he never expected his daughters, who are in the same eighth grade class at North Davidson Middle School, to bring home an assignment like the one they were given by Kathy Proctor, their language arts teacher, last week.



Photo by Layla Farmer
Aszullayme with his girls, Tatiana and Timeca West.

The assignment was to tell her about what the good things were about slaves – the good and the bad things about slaves," explained Timeca, 14. "She was asking a whole lot of questions about the subject; she was aiming the questions towards me and my sister."

According to the girls, who represent two of three black students in a class of 26, Proctor prompted students to brainstorm on the subject, offering 10 extra points on the next test to the students who came up with the best "good" and bad aspects of slavery.

According to Tatiana and Timeca, some of the perks of slavery suggested by their classmates were slaves' "feeding the animals and washing them," and "not having to do hard labor." Both answers were

See Slavery on A12



Photo by Jason Pitt
Chris Ogunrinde speaks to a local crowd.

Black firms to shape the new Happy Hill

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

One of the city's oldest communities is in the process of birthing Winston-Salem's newest residential developments.

One hundred and fifty single-family houses and town homes will soon spring up in the former Happy Hill Gardens, a former public housing community that low-income families called home for decades. The rows of tattered tenement-style units that once lined the streets of Happy Hill Gardens were bulldozed three years ago after the Housing Authority of Winston-Salem received a more than \$20 million grant from the federal government to give the community a complete makeover. New spiffy apartments have already



Watson

been erected. The houses and town homes, each with two to three bedrooms, will be built as they are pre-sold in a neighborhood that is currently being called College Park at the Gateway.

Three black-owned firms, selected by the Housing Authority's board, are taking the lead in the College Park project. Neicon Real Estate Solutions and the architectural firm Neighboring Concepts – both Charlotte-based – will design and build the homes after Winston-Salem-based ERA Piedmont Realty pre-sells them.

James Rousseau, the chairman of the HAWS' board, said the firms were selected because they have proven track records of success.

"We look closely at the work that they had

See Happy Hill on A14

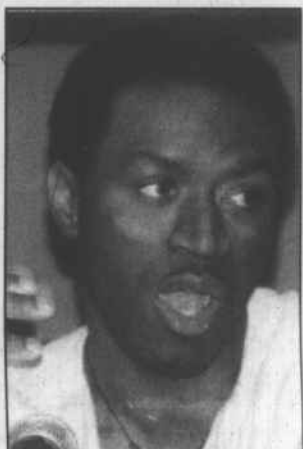
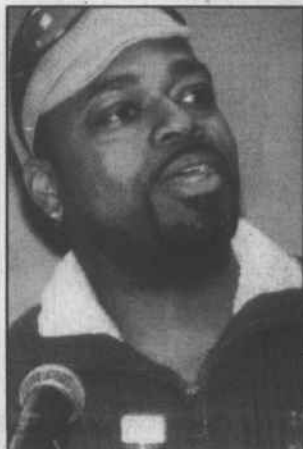


Photo by Layla Farmer
The panel included Tracey Wiggs, from left, Tracey Salisbury, Tyler Craig and Kwasi Konadu.

N-Word debate sparks passion

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

The current nationwide debate over the use of the word "nigger," made its way to the campus of Winston-Salem State University last week, a panel of students, professors and visitors added their voices to an issue that is being pondered in living rooms and city council boardrooms throughout the land.

Included on the panel were comedian Tyler Craig, comedy promoter Tracey Wiggs, Dr. Kwasi Konadu, a WSSU professor, and UNC Greensboro's Dr. Tracey Salisbury.

Student moderators Chelii Broussard and Qua led the discussion, infusing clips and examples of the word being used in different contexts.

Actor Michael Richards, who played the character "Kramer" on the hit sitcom "Seinfeld," made international headlines late last year when he used the racial epithet toward several black comedy club patrons who Richards claimed were heckling him during his act. As a result of Richards' racial rant, several city councils in several states are considering symbolic resolutions banning the n-word. Even Paul Mooney, a legendary black comedian who has used the word for decades in his routine,



Mooney

has sworn that he will never again use the word.

Craig, who has appeared on "BET's Comic View," is still seething over the Richards episode.

"Somebody needs to do something about him because he's not a comedian. Comedians handle things better than that," said Craig. "He's a sick man."

Although he was outraged by the hatred Richards, who has since apologized, Craig, who admits to using the n-word himself, says that he was not offended by Richards using it.

"I wasn't upset about him saying nigga at all," he commented. "I was upset about him saying, 'Fifty years ago, we'd have you strung up with a fork up your a**.'"

See N-Word on A14

European Muslims compare notes with black students

Group is making stops all across the U.S.

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

GREENSBORO

Fourteen young Muslim leaders from Europe visited North Carolina A&T State University last week to compare their experiences with the struggle for civil rights in this country.

The Muslim group is on a month long tour of the country sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Public Diplomacy Program. They range in age from 23-37 and represent a wide variety of countries in both Eastern and Western Europe. Among the group is a lawyer, an assistant lecturer, a policy officer for the mayor of London and a public relations specialist.



A&T Photo
The panel of Muslim visitors listen to questions from A&T students.

The tour is meant to facilitate dialog and understanding between the foreign visitors

and those they meet in the United States. Before arriving at A&T, they visited

High Point University to discuss immigration. While on the Aggie campus, they saw

the February One Memorial dedicated to the Greensboro Four, the four A&T students

who launched a movement with their Woolworth sit-in on Feb. 1, 1960. They also had a conversation with a group of more than 30 current A&T students in professor Derick Smith's political science class.

Before the visitors arrived, James Mayes, the university's director of criminal justice, did some brain storming with the Aggie students, asking them what things are still separating America along racial lines.

"Schools!" was the unanimous first answer shouted by the students, referring to the public school system, which has become increasingly re-segregated in the South. Mayes asked if this was a good or bad thing and the majority of the class responded that it was bad.

The European visitors shared with the class the various struggles Muslims face in different countries across

See Muslims on A8



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