



McGriff is back on her feet once again

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Black Rep will stage play at SECCA

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Bus drivers honored for service

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# THE CHRONICLE

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THURSDAY, May 3, 2007

## Lasting honor for late painter

BY T. KEVIN WALKER THE CHRONICLE

Long before Quentin Huff knew that his mom was a renowned artist, he realized that she had a knack for using her talents to pique the creativity of others. When he was in first-grade, his mom won over the hearts of his classmates.

"She got these little books with blank pages and let everyone write their own little books," Quentin Huff recalled Saturday. "She then put a little library index card in the back of everyone's book so that we could check-out one another's books. It made everyone feel good to see that other people were reading their stories."

It is memories like those that keep Quentin Huff, his sister, Jasmine, and his father, James, going. Earnestine Rainey Huff, the family's matriarch and rock, passed away last year after a valiant



Quentin Huff admires the street sign that bears his mother's name. Also pictured is James Huff.

Photo by Kevin Walker

fight against cancer. But memories aren't all that the family has to bring them solace.

"The good thing about having a visual artist as a mother, is that we have all of this work to remember her by," said Quentin Huff, who has grown especially fond of his mother's painting of the

Madonna and child since her death.

In the art world, there are few who don't know the name Earnestine Huff. Often steeped in her African-American heritage and always provocative, her work hangs on the walls of celebrities' homes and popular galleries.

A street adjacent to the Huff family's house/ art studio on Patterson Avenue now bears the name "Earnestine Rainey Huff Drive," ensuring that even those outside of artistic circles will know of a woman who meant so much to so many.

The street sign unveiling

ceremony drew several dozen people from around the East Coast. Many of Earnestine Huff's siblings - she had 12, in all - traveled from Georgia and other states for the ceremony, and local artists and creative folks from places like

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## Hunt's teacher now has her say

Goetz was one of the few whites that supported Darryl Hunt all along

BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE

The story of Darryl Hunt is no doubt a compelling account that winds through the intricacies of human nature, both good and bad. Hunt, a black man, was wrongfully convicted of the vicious rape and murder of Debra Sykes, a young white copy editor for The Winston-Salem Sentinel, in 1984, when he was just 19 years old.



Goetz

He would spend almost 20 years in prison before DNA evidence proved he was innocent. His decades-long legal struggle divided the city, with blacks, all along believing his innocence, and whites proclaiming his guilt.

But one white woman was an anomaly during those times. Jo Anne North Goetz (pronounced Gatz), Hunt's sixth grade teacher, served as his only character witness in the 1984 trial. With the help of ghost writer, Leigh Somerville McMillan, Goetz has penned the book, aptly titled, "A Long Time Coming: My Life and the Darryl Hunt Lesson," documenting her experiences throughout two decades as the unending fight for Hunt's acquittal raged on.

It all began when Hunt wandered into Goetz's classroom in Mebane in the fall of 1975, on the cusp of integration laws that brought the first

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Photo by Layla Farmer

Helen Foster waits to be driven off in a limo.

## 103 & STILL FEISTY

Beloved nursing home resident gets birthday bash to remember

BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE

Helen Foster, known to residents and staff as simply "Grandma," celebrated her 103rd birthday on Friday, amid much fanfare at the Reynolds House, a nursing home on Reynolds Park Road where she resides.

Foster was treated to a limousine ride courtesy of Russell Funeral Home, and a luncheon sponsored by Homer Shockely, founder of Homer's Helping Hands, and a close friend of hers.

While waiting for the limo, Foster cut up with center staff and onlookers, playfully hiking her skirt above her knees for the camera and

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shooing staff members away with the bouquet of flowers they had given her if they tried to display too much affection.

At 103, Foster is as sharp and sassy as she likely ever was, with keen eyes that miss nothing, and a point of view she has no qualms about voicing.

"Grandma - I just love her," said CNA Olivia Vinson. "She's so sweet, she's got so much energy. She's real feisty too - she'll cuss me out."

Foster came to the Reynolds House in 1998, at the urging of neighbor Bill Doss, who discovered that she was living alone.

## CAREER SEEKERS



Photo by Layla Farmer

Students at Gibson Elementary School took interest in the newspaper business recently. The Chronicle's Layla Farmer was one of many professionals on hand for the school's career fair. She talked to the kids about her job as a reporter.

## Hospital volunteers honored for service

Helpers save Baptist millions each year

BY TODD LUCK THE CHRONICLE

Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center honored those who donate their time and energy to help others late last month, during its annual Volunteer Awards Luncheon.

Held at Groves Stadium's Bridger Field House, the event treated volunteers to a spectacular view of the Wake Forest football field as they dined from a plentiful buffet. The sports-themed celebration featured an appearance by Wake Forest's famous mascot, the Demon Deacon, and a speech by Skip Prosser, head coach of the university's men's basketball team.

Prosser said that his job is

easy in comparison with what volunteers face at the hospital. He described coming home from a bad day on the court and discovering how small that is when he listens to his wife talk about what she saw as a trauma nurse on a hospital helicopter.



Prosser

"That taught me something about perspective. Those out of bounds plays that I wasn't real happy about, weren't that important ... What we do in my environment and the life and death situations you all deal with, again I stand in awe," said Prosser.

Even though the luncheon mainly featured older adult

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Photos by Todd Luck

Eddie Easley accepts his award. Easley is a cancer support volunteer and a cancer patient.



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