



West displays its Titan spirit

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Boot effort will help local charity

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Rally held for man convicted of beating

-See Page A12



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## SIGN OF THE (UNEASY) TIMES

Hundreds seek work at Urban League job fair

BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE

The national unemployment rate rose by 0.4 percent last month, climbing to 6.1 percent, the highest level in more than five years. Statistics suggest that rate is nearly double for African-Americans.

Here in the Twin City, workers are also feeling the strain, as was evident at the Winston-Salem Urban League Job Fair and Career Expo last Friday, which started at 9:30 in the morning and lasted until 4 p.m.

By noon, nearly 1,000 job seeker had visited. Applicants continued to pour in as the afternoon progressed. At times, they spilled out onto the sidewalk outside the building, leaning on walls and windowsills to complete applications.

"We're not surprised," Steve Jones, director of employment for the Urban League, said of the turnout. "It's just a microcosm of the larger economy."

Twenty-one year-old Chrisshawn Scates was among the throngs of people seeking employment.

"I'm trying to better myself



The crowd was so large these people had to fill out applications on the sidewalk outside of the Urban League's downtown building.

and remain independent." Scates, a former Wendy's employee, said of his motivation to attend. "It seems pretty cool. There are a lot of companies here. It's a great variety."

By 1 p.m., Kelly Services Staffing Supervisor Eva McWillis was preparing to leave, having passed out all of the packets that she brought along.

"Oh my goodness, it was tremendous!" she exclaimed, adding that she collected more than 100 resumes at the fair. "I've never seen so many people."

See Jobs on A14



Two women join hands as they left their hands in prayer.

## Faithful surround jail to pray, sing

BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE

Though low in the sky, the sun did make an appearance at the kickoff for this year's Forsyth Jail and Prison Ministries' Hope on the Inside event - lacing its golden tendrils through the balmy evening air as citizens gathered to prepare for the service.

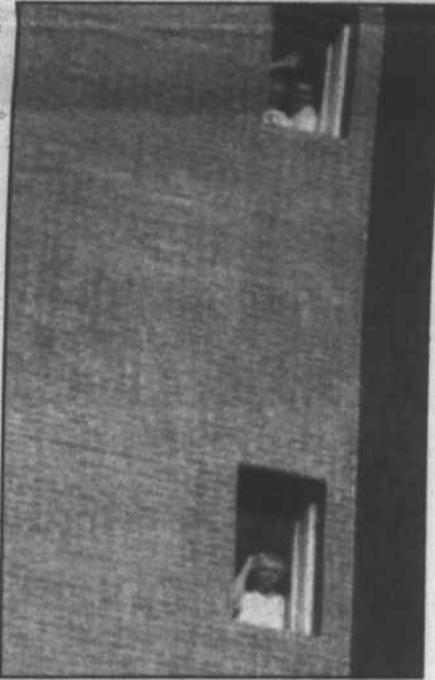
"They said that there were going to be thunderstorms," remarked Senior Chaplain Rodney Stillwell, gesturing towards the clouds, "but we've been blessed."

Representatives from more than 70 churches lined up on the sidewalks that skirt the Forsyth County Detention Center, joining hands and casting their eyes upwards towards the subjects of their prayers. The inmates inside clamored to windows to catch a glimpse from above. They rapped incessantly on the glass, desperate to make their presence known.

"Bless my grandson. He's down in ... Georgia, in prison, but I'm praying for him here," one woman murmured.

"I don't know their names, my Lord, but bless every one," whispered a man.

See Prayer on A11



Inmates look down from the jail at the sea of people praying.

## Two district court races competitive

Incumbents challenged by youngbloods

BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE

When it comes to Sens. Barack Obama and John McCain, virtually everyone has an opinion on who is the best man for the job. On the local and state level, deciding which candidate to vote for on Nov. 4 may be a little more challenging.

This is especially true for the 21st District Court races, which are nonpartisan, meaning they cannot be decided by straight-party ticket voting. Indeed, these races will require voters to do a little thinking and a little research.

Of the county's 10 District Court Judges, seven are up for re-election this year, but Judges Lawrence J. Fine, William Graham, Laurie Hutchins, William Bartin Reingold and Camille Banks-Payne are unopposed and will sail into subsequent terms.

Judges Chester Davis and Victoria "Tori" Roemer aren't so lucky. They have fights on their hands this time around.

Roemer, a Winston-Salem native, began practicing law in 1984 and has been on the bench for 12 years.

"I really enjoy just about everything we do," said Roemer, 55. "I enjoy when I can help people, and I see that I have made a difference."

Attorney Kelly Patterson, a Wake Forest University alumnus with a decade of legal service under his belt, is challenging Roemer.

"I wanted to be more involved in people's lives; I wanted to be in the trenches," the 38 year-old Patterson said of his motivation to enter the legal field.

Roemer's work history includes service as an assistant district attorney and magistrate prior to assuming her current post. She believes her experience on the bench and mild temperament are some of her greatest assets.

"It's very challenging to try to determine who's telling the truth sometimes," she said.

See Judges on A13



Alfred



Davis



Patterson



Roemer

### WELCOME WAGON



Photo by Kevin Walker

Visitors from Africa are greeted last week at Goler Memorial AME Zion Church. They were in town as part of an ambitious spiritual and economic exchange program. Read more about the program in next week's Winston-Salem Chronicle.

## Bookmarks gives Carver sneak peek

BY DR. FELECIA PIGGOTT-LONG THE CHRONICLE

You could say that the fourth annual BookMarks Festival began a day early.

It seemed that way when author Chris Crutcher visited Carver High School. The popular writer of young adult fiction was one of dozens of authors on hand for Saturday's BookMarks Festival, where he kicked off the Forsyth County Public Library's Big Read, a community reading project that this year features Ray Bradbury's "Fahrenheit 451."

At Carver, Crutcher, author of books such as "Deadline," spoke to students about censorship and free speech, two of the themes of this year's Big Read. Crutcher knows a bit about the subject. Many consider his books controversial because they dare to venture into areas such as racial and religious prejudice, mental health, poverty and even homosexuality. His books are among the most challenged by censors, according to the American Library Association.

"I love for my books to be banned," Crutcher

See Festival on A16



Carver High Photo

Library Director Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin, left, with Carver Principal Carol Montague, Author Chris Crutcher and Assistant Library Director David Fergusson at Carver High School last Friday.



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