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THURSDAY, May 7, 2009



Adonis Brown heads the Advocacy Leadership Committee for the NC Council for Developmental

Can-Do Attitude

Challenges faced head-on at conference on self-determination

BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE

More than 300 people from across the country and around the world flocked to the Twin City to take part in the International Conference on Self-Determination, held May 3-5 at the M.C. Benton Convention Center.

The annual conference. now in its second year, is put on by the Michigan-based Center for Self-Determination. decade-old organization describes itself as "the primary clearinghouse, training and technical assistance source on Self-Determination in the United States and other coun-

"We're trying to break new ground, reconceptualizing the use of public dollars for people with disabilities," explained Tom Nerney, executive director of the Center for Self-Determination. "We're very committed to moving supports into the communities where people live."

Self-Determination, in a nutshell, is giving individuals with physical or mental disabilities and those who are aging, control over their own destinies. The Center advocates for the transference of public funding from an institutional-

Residents, airport in tug-of-war

Castle Heights feeling brunt of construction at Smith Reynolds

BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE

Castle Heights resident Joe Rogers has lived in his home for nearly 38 years, but con-

struction at nearby Smith Reynolds Airport has him thinking seriously about leaving the neighborhood for good.

'At 70 years of age; I think it's one of the greatest objectives that you have ... to be peaceful," commented Rogers.

Peace, and namely Kaplan quiet, have been hard to come by in his neighborhood in recent months,

Construction began on the airport's main runway behind Rogers' property last November to extend the runway safety area and add an arresting system (which absorbs the



Photo by Lavia Farmer

m m a Davenport looks at the piles of dirt at Smith Reynolds Airport that are visible from her living room window,

COMING 'HOME'

Alumni of orphange return for reunion

BY TODD LUCK THE CHRONICLE

Hundreds of people attended a reunion dinner at The Children's Home last Friday night. The Home, founded by the Methodist Church, has provided shelter and support for young people in

need of both for past 100

Some of the alumni on hand for the dinner ended up at the home because were orphans: others had parents who simply couldn't care for them. The image of orphanages as places of loneliness and cruelty was not the reality for the alum-

it, "the best Memorial Plaza. place I've ever been.

Bobbie Bowles Hutto ended up at the Home after her mother died. Her father, a traveling salesman, wasn't home enough to take care of her. Hutto left the home to attend college. The retired teacher came to the reunion with her own family. She described growing up at the Home as "wonderful. See Conference on A12

"I made friends for life, and we were taught to work, to be responsible, to get along with people," she said.

To call the Home simply an orphanage doesn't do it justice. The children stayed in cottages under the watchful eye of adults. The huge Reynolda Road campus contained its own school,

which had sports teams that were renowned throughout the county.

It was a completely self-sustaining place. Students grew vegetables, milked cows, pasteurized milk, canned food and did many other chores to keep the Home going.

"For me it was the best thing that could happen," said Fred Tanner, one of the "true orphans." ni. Most called A view of the home's new Alumni He lost both of his parents at an early age, and lived at the

Home in the 40s and 50s. He wrote a book about his experiences titled Tanner (Boy Orphan).'

Tanner joined the military after leaving the Home. He said boot camp was playtime compared to life and chores at the Home.



See Reunion on A4 Former Children's Home teacher Jo Anne North Goetz.

COMIC CRUSADERS



Volunteers from the Heroes Alliance don custom costumes of superheroes Wolverine and Black Panther to entertain the hundreds who waited in line at Acme Comics in Greensboro on Saturday for Free Comic Day, which is held each year on the first Saturday in May.

Society's banquet honors past, celebrates future

THE CHRONICLE

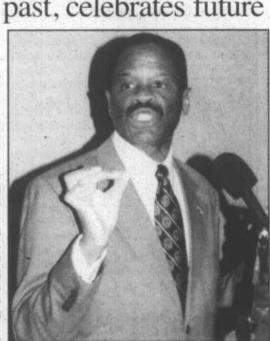
More than 200 local residents braved the rain, and later the dark, to attend the Society for the Study of Afro-American History's Annual Banquet Tuesday evening

The McNeil Banquet Hall at WSSU's Anderson Conference Center was a virtual who's who of the local black community, drawing leaders from virtually every segment of the public and private sector. Politicians, educators, business leaders community organizers and the like greeted one another warmly as a slide show of black and white images from another era flashed on the wall at the head of the room.

The nonprofit was founded in the mid-1980s as a means of preserving and highlighting local black history. The annual banquet, one of its chief events, has become something of a reunion, with many attendees returning year after year, said SSAAH Board Member Doris Herrell. This is a long line of years that we have sponsored this

event," she said. "And most of you have persevered with

The wind and rain extinguished the power midway



See SSAAH on A12 Blake Morant gives the keynote address.

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