



**Ram ballers earn honors**

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**Smoking ban cheered by teenagers**

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**Health fair draws hundreds of people**

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THURSDAY, January 14, 2010

## Standing By Their Man

Local residents who supported candidate Obama give him thumbs-up as president

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

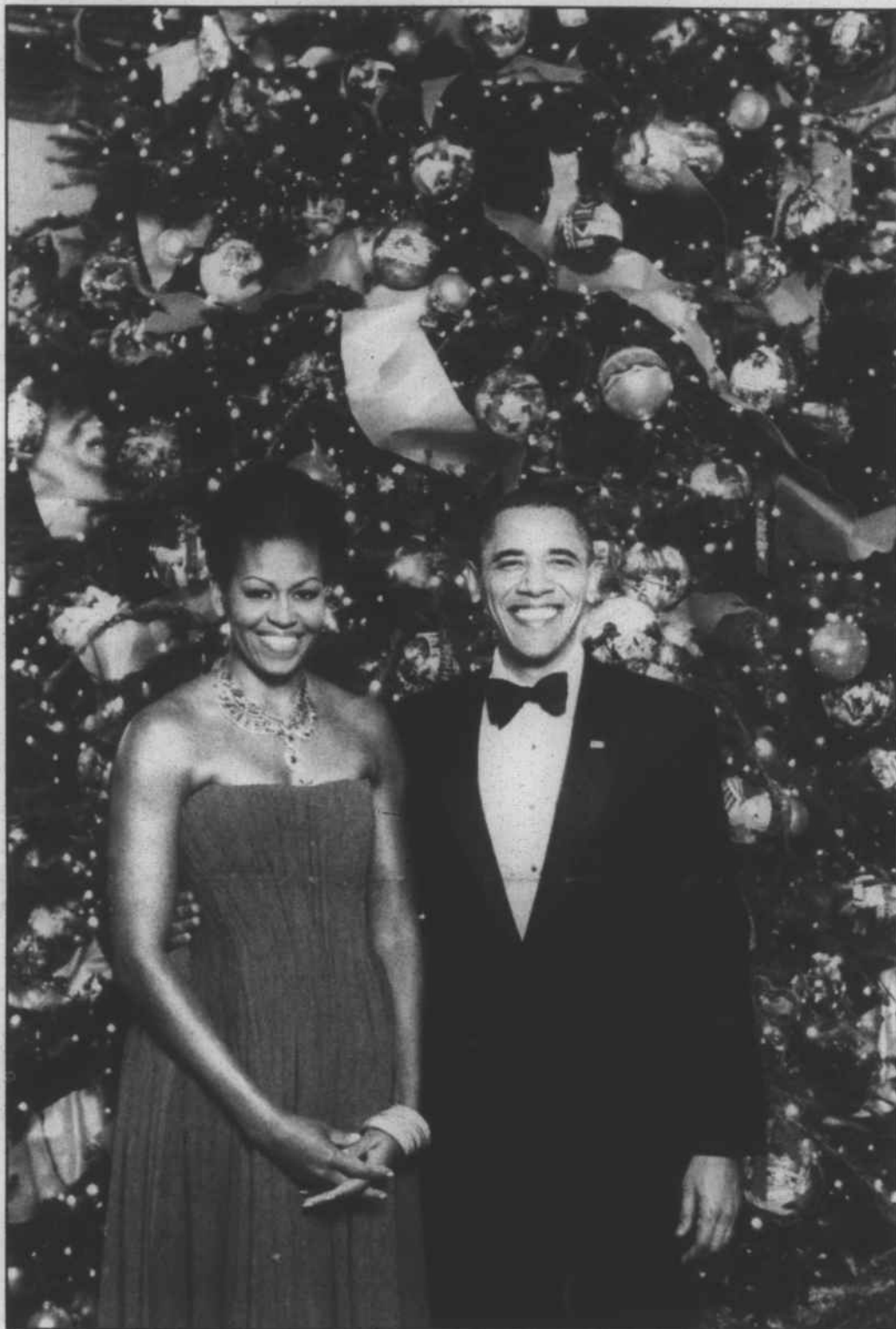
Just under one year ago, 1.8 million people flocked to Washington, D.C. to witness the inauguration of the nation's first African-American president. Many spoke of the emotional charge they felt while standing in the diverse crowd at the National Mall, united in their support for the former Illinois Senator.

"You saw all different races of people, but it didn't matter because they were all there for Obama," recalled Theldora Williams, a local entrepreneur who attended the historic event with her husband, Bennie, and teenaged son, Bennie III. "It was quite an experience."

Yet, many in America are feeling far less euphoric as the young president approaches his second year of leadership.

Obama entered the new year with a 50 percent approval rating, a far cry from the 68 percent approval he enjoyed in the early days of his presidency, according to Gallup polls. The rating is among the lowest for an elected president entering the second year of his term since 1952, according to Gallup.

Seemingly someone has a concern with everything the president has done or has not done in his first year. Gay rights groups say he broke his campaign pledge to immediately do away with the military's controversial Don't Ask, Don't Tell Policy, which prohibits gays from serving openly in the armed forces. Others have frowned on the administration's push to bail out banks and corporations while seemingly leaving Main Street to fend for



President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama pose last month in front of the official White House Christmas Tree.

See Obama on A5



Reggie Bullock with his son, Isaiah.

Photos by Todd Luck

## Average Joe produces redhot Internet movie

Reggie Bullock's "A War for Your Soul" has been viewed by fans across the world

BY TODD LUCK  
THE CHRONICLE

Director Reggie Bullock told Emmanuel Baptist Church's congregation Sunday how his short film became an international internet sensation.

"It's nothing short of a miracle from God," said Bullock of his film, "A War for Your Soul."

Pastor Dr. John Mendez screened the film, which details African-Americans' struggles from slavery to modern times, at Emmanuel several weeks ago. He and his flock were so impressed they extended an invitation to Bullock to visit.

"God has used him in a mighty way to speak not only to us, but to youth and parents and America in terms of what's happening to our young people," said Mendez.

Bullock, a New York City native who now lives in Tennessee, said the film was inspired by the election of the nation's first black president, Barack Obama. He now hopes it inspires young people to be and do their very best.

"(The election) gave me the inspiration to create a film. (I thought) that if I can show young, at-risk African-American



Dr. Mendez

See Film on A9



## UPCOMING MLK EVENTS

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

A slew of local events are planned in the coming week to honor the life, work and legacy of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who was born Jan. 15, 1929 in Atlanta. The nation has observed a federal holiday honoring King since 1986 on the third Monday of January, which puts the day a few days after King's actual birthday.

Here are just some of things that are planned in Winston-Salem and beyond. All events are free and open to the public, unless otherwise stated.



Dr. Angelou

The North Carolina Black Repertory Company has selected an array of talented artists to perform during the company's 25th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration on Friday, Jan. 15 at 7 p.m.

See MLK on A2

## FREEDOM FIGHTERS



Photo by Layla Farmer

Wake Forest University School of Law students Caitlin Torney and Emile Thompson (rear) put their educations to good use recently by helping a local man win an early release from prison. The two are among the law students working with WFU's Innocence and Justice Clinic. Read more on page A9.

## Tomorrow's CEOs get leg up in WFU program

Eight minority students selected for fellowship

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

Greensboro native Evan Raleigh believes that sometimes the best things in life really are free.

Raleigh, 23, is one of eight minority students who are currently enrolled in a new diversity fellowship program offered through the Master of Arts (MA) in Management program at Wake Forest.

The 10-month MA in Management program prepares students to make the transition from a liberal arts education to graduate level business degrees or the business world. The Corporate

Fellowships that Raleigh and the other scholarship recipients enjoy are sponsored by local and national companies, who cover the cost of tuition and provide a \$21,000 stipend for living expenses.

"We felt it was important to have these diversity scholarships to get the best and the brightest of these diversity students to come to Wake Forest," said Schools of Business Dean Steve Reinemund, who created the program early last year. "We hope that it will be a very positive, supportive bridge from the educational experience (to the business world)."



Raleigh

See Fellowship on A2

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