



WSSU Football takes to the field

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Senate hopefuls sound-off at forum

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Library tries to attract

teaching Room
Forsyth County Public Library
West Fifth Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27101



75 cents

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THURSDAY, March 11, 2010

Same-sex couples question YMCA membership policy

While other local health clubs have expanded definition of family, Y stands by husband/wife policy



Mark Maxwell, right, with his longtime partner, Timothy Young.

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Same-sex couples say that their battle for equal rights is not just being waged at the ballot box and in courtrooms and Statehouses.

Mark Maxwell said he was more than a little disheartened late last month when his local YMCA branch told him that he, his partner of 16 years, Timothy Young, and their two sons did not qualify for the Y's family membership plan.

"They explained to me that we could do a membership for me and the kids, but we would have to do something separate for Tim," he related. "...They told me it was an IRS issue, that they go by IRS standards."

The YMCA of Northwest NC offers two membership options to families, according to its Web site. Husbands and wives with dependents may join a facility as a group, and single parents can join as an adult



Bachman

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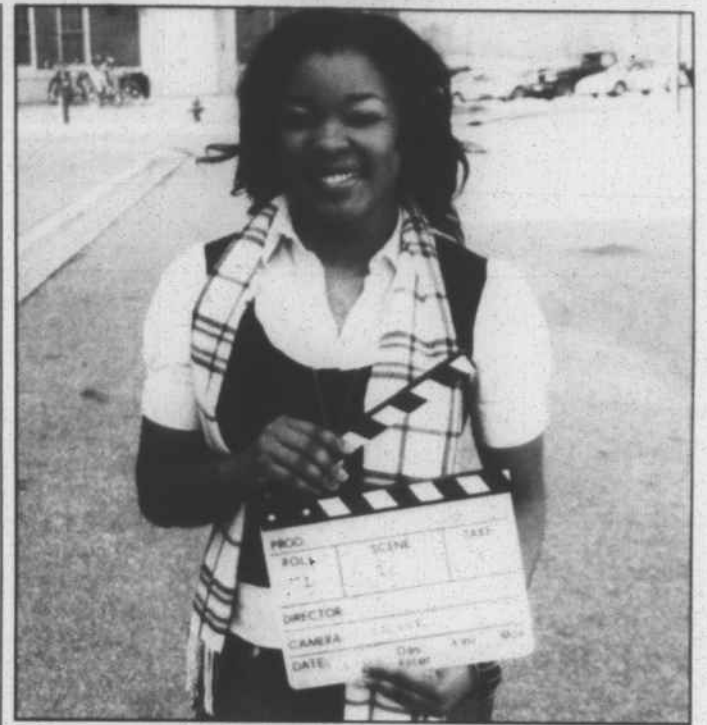


Photo by Todd Luck

UNCSA student Chris Barkley.

Filmmaker Goes There!

"Pitch Black Milk" brings issues of dark-skinned stigma and skin-bleaching into the light

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

A local film student tackles the issues of racial identity and skin bleaching in her latest short film, "Pitch Black Milk."

The film was shot locally last year by Chris Barkley, 22, a senior film production major at University of North Carolina School of the Arts. She wrote, directed and produced the 20 minute film through her own production company, Down In Front Films, LLC. At a screening last month, she said it got a strong emotional reaction from the more 40 viewers who attended.

"When the lights came up there wasn't a dry eye in the house, people were tearing up," said Barkley, a native of Harrisburg, Pa. "It was amazing."

"Milk" tells the story of a young African-American middle schooler named Bella who is ridiculed by her peers because of her dark complexion and must confront painful memories of her mother's attempts to bleach her skin.

The title of the movie comes from a line in President Barack Obama's autobiography "Dreams From My Father," which reads "That my father looked nothing like the people around me — that he was black as pitch, my mother white as milk — barely registered in my mind."

Barkley said the film was inspired by young girls at her mother's daycare center. During a trip to the toy store to buy dolls, all the girls, including the African Americans, wanted



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Residents call for more action in Rolling Hills

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Just over a year ago, the City of Winston-Salem and the Housing Authority of Winston-Salem announced that they had agreed upon an action plan to address a long list of health and safety concerns raised by residents of Rolling Hills, an apartment development off of New Walkertown Road that has long been labeled a trouble spot.

The plan was implemented by the city's Neighborhood Services Department, in conjunction with City-County Inspections, the Forsyth County Health Department and other pertinent agencies. The chief purpose of the action plan was to identify violations to city codes and address them, said Neighborhood Services Director Ritchie Brooks. Brooks says the effort was successful.

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Ramona Hambrick stands in front of a boarded-up unit with her four-year-old great-grandson, Chris Wilborn.

Grants go to programs that invest in people

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Three local organizations received \$9,000 "Weed and Seed" grants from the Center for Community Safety (CCS) of Winston-Salem State University last Friday during a brief program at the agency's Winston Tower headquarters.

The Center for Community Safety was designated by the U.S. Department of Justice as a Weed and Seed agency in 2007, making it eligible for federal grants over a five-year period to "weed" out crime and other community problems in designated high crime areas through new programs and initiatives, and "seed" the communities, which include the Rolling Hills and Lakeside neighborhoods, with new growth through enhanced social services and economic revitalization.

The CCS awarded \$27,000 in sub-grants through the Twin City East-West Partnership (TCEWP), as the Weed and Seed initiative is known, to Southside Rides, Union Baptist Church's Character Football League, and the Goler Institute's DIVAS (Dreams Initiating Virtuous Alternative Solutions) program for their work in improving the designated communities.

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WSSU. Photo by Garrett Garris.

Agency representatives Cheryl Harry, David Moore and Dr. Seth Lartey officially accept the grants as Bill McClain (from left), Gwen Johnson and Allan Younger look on.

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