

# Spot the 'ECHO Friend' and win a prize

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

During the month of March, the ECHO Network will give prizes to community members who spot the "ECHO Friend" in various locations around town. The ECHO Friend, originally referred to as the ECHO Man, was created by the Winston-Salem Foundation when they launched their ECHO (Everyone Can Help Out) Fund in 1999/2000. The ECHO Network inherited the Man (a cardboard cutout depicting a portion of the ECHO logo) in 2010.

"This will be the beginning of a social-capital awareness campaign," explained ECHO Network Executive Director Natasha Gore. "Social capital is this illusive term that actually has a lot of relevance to all of our lives. We can strengthen our community just by strengthening the diverse relationships in our community."

The ECHO Network has offered small-scale social capital programs and activities since 2003, when the Foundation created the ECHO Council. Programs such as StoryLine and the Timebank continue to grow as ECHO seeks more recognition and understanding of the value of building social capital.

Community members who spot the ECHO Friend should go to the ECHO Web site and look for the "Where's ECHO" link. Prizes will vary based on the location of the ECHO Friend.

The ECHO Network is a nonprofit dedicated to helping residents build trusting relationships, especially across lines of difference.

To learn more, visit [www.echonetwork.org](http://www.echonetwork.org).



Natasha Gore with the "ECHO Friend."

Submitted Photo



Photos by Todd Luck

Clariella Marsh performs "Superwoman" by Alicia Keys.

## Talent

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rap. Singers Chester Jones and Myshad Sims even had backup dancers for their performances.

Chelsea Rooks and Ashley Mosley recited original poems, while the school's 13-member East Side Hip Hop Crew performed a complex and energetic dance. The Crew, which practices weekly, got to school three hours early on Saturday to practice and perfect their show-stopping number. Captain Alexis Stephenson-Grooms, 17, says the Crew has danced at other schools. The Children's Home and even in the parking lot of a CiCi's Pizza.

"Any opportunity we get to dance, we go out there and have fun and dance," said Stephenson-Grooms.

Briana Perrett, 16, also performed a dance piece. A veteran of the stage who has been dancing since age 13, Perrett said she was "really excited" to perform Saturday to support the BSA, of which she is a member. Perrett said she was drawn to the BSA because of the club's camaraderie.

"We can all come in together after school and just talk with each other, have that one-on-one communication within the Black Student Alliance," she said.

"It's not just black people; it's white people too and all different types. I think it's really cool."

The showcase drew about 100 attendees, including City Council Members Derwin Montgomery and James Taylor, who were invited by the students. About \$475 was made in ticket sales. The BSA may use the money to start a scholarship.

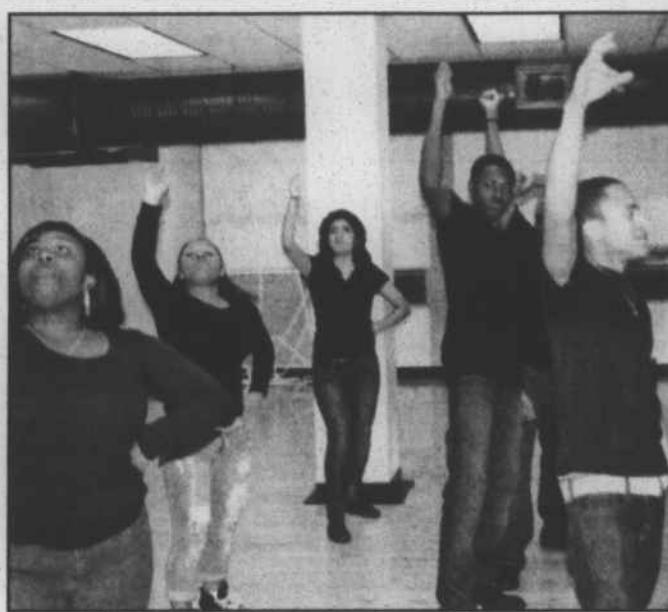
Faison and Caldwell said they hoped the talent show would give the BSA more exposure at East Forsyth, which has nearly 2,000 students, including several hundred African-Americans. The BSA currently has 42 members. Caldwell said the club is "like a second family."

Faison holds the club in a similar regard.

"It's just to embrace our culture and come together," she said. "When you're in high school, it's hard to find a place that you can be comfortable with each other."

BSA also takes annual trips to the Mid-Eastern Atlantic Conference (MEAC) College Fair and keeps busy with service projects such as collecting items for local elementary school students.

Caldwell said that BSA Advisor Phylcia Royster, a technology education teacher, acts as a mentor and role model to many in the club. Royster said she's met



The East Side Hip Hop Crew perfect their moves.

many students through BSA. "It's definitely created relationships and formed bonds," said Royster.



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Chester Jones sings as two dancers bust a move.

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