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THE CHRONICLE

Gov. Perdue warns women that passage of Amendment One could harm them

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Gov. Bev Perdue urged state residents to vote "no" on Amendment One on May 8.

T h Republican-backed Amendment would add a ban of samesex marriage to the state's Constitution, although such

unions are already illegal in North Carolina.

"Our constitution is for guaranteeing rights, not taking them away," Gov. Perdue said last week at a women's conference Charlotte. "And no matter what religious or moral background you come from, no one has the right to put discrimination of any kind Perdue into our constitu-

tion.' In her remarks, she emphasized how Amendment One could erase domestic violence protections for all women in North Carolina and that this move follows the General Assembly's intrusion into women's rights by passing a law, over the Governor's veto, dictating what doctors will tell their patients. Republican legislative leaders also have trampled on North Carolina's constitutional guarantee to a sound education by making deep and unnecessary cuts to schools, community colleges and universities.

Instead of using the

Constitution to protect rights and values, the legislature is trying to strip them away through Amendment One, Gov. Perdue said. The amendment will hurt businesses and families through a cascade of unintended consequences, she said

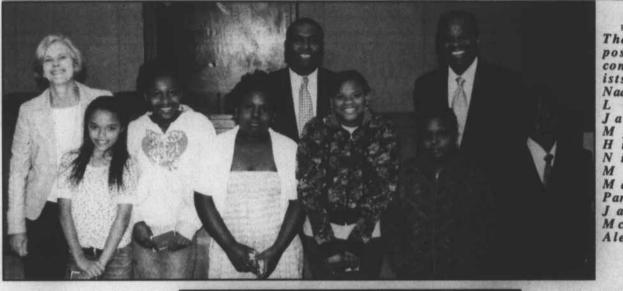
"It could change the laws that determine outcomes like emergency financial decisions, hospital visitation rights and child custody laws," Gov. Perdue said. "And it could take away domestic violence protections for all unmarried women

> Photos by Layla Farmer The judges pose with contest finalists from left: Nadia Wisley, Liajah Jackson, yasisa nter ileyah ason Mackayla Parker and Ja'Haun McConnell-Alexander.

in the state of North Carolina. against Amendment One and I So on May 8th, I'll be voting hope you'll join me."



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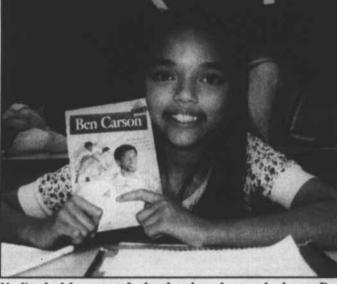
Cook from page AI

the opportunity to compete in the contest's finale on April 11 at Wake's Law School. Law School Dean Blake Morant was among the judges who listened to the students' presentations.

"It felt so shocking and weird," Nadia said of winning the contest, which challenged the students to assume the identity of one of the history makers they learned about during a field trip to the N.C. Museum of History in Raleigh that the law firm sponsored earlier this year.

Nadia, who won a \$50 Target gift card, chose Dr. Ben Carson, the first surgeon to successfully separate siamese twins conjoined at the back of the head.

"I really like how he inspires people to go to their dreams and goals and don't act like you can't do anything in life," she said of Carson. who was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by then-President



Nadia holds one of the books she read about Dr. Ben Carson for the contest.

being able to communicate students, Hopkins said.

with people. That's one of "The purpose is to get them thinking about a curthe most wonderful gifts you riculum that will lead them Beth Hopkins, director of into a successful college Outreach for the law school, career and ultimately, into said the contest was part of a law school," she explained. greater push the university is ... The dean has a special making to get students thinkinterest in young, school ing about attending college as aged children. He doesn't part of a national effort want to wait until they get

predominantly African American school, said visiting a college campus made a big impression on the students.

"This made it a little more real to them like, 'Wow, this is possible," Carter said. "It's not that far away from where they live."

Carter said the contest has benefitted the students in a variety of ways, from improving their verbal and written communication skills, to giving them a platform where they are heard and recognized for their efforts.

"I hope that they got a sense of accomplishment (from the experience)," said Carter, who is in her second year as an educator. "I really hope that they took away confidence in themselves that they can be successful."

George W. Bush in 2008.

Almost 30 Cook fourth graders traveled to the WFU campus to cheer on their classmates during the contest. Kilpatrick Townsend began sponsoring the contest at Cook last year. WFU Law signed on as a sponsor this year.

"We hope that you will continue to do this," Morant told the youngsters. "One of the things that's really important as you progress and as you go through life is

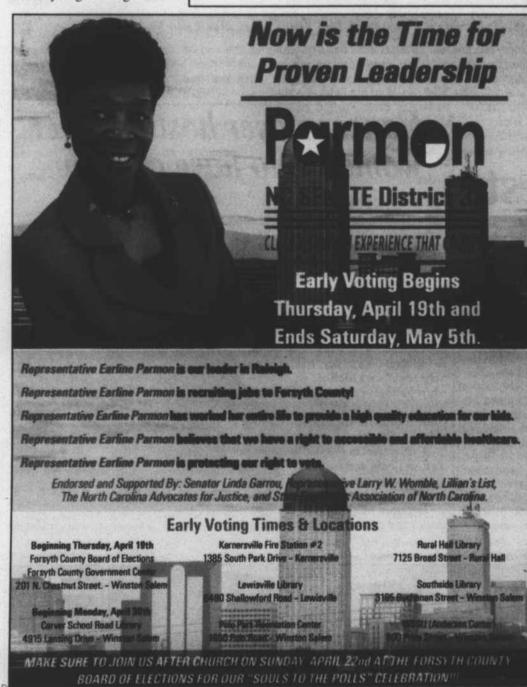
nown as the Pipeline Project. The national project focuses primarily on high school students, but WFU is taking it one step further, by reaching out to even younger

can have."

eply into high school decide they want to go to college. He wants that fire burning in them at an early age." Julie Carter, one of two fourth grade teachers at Cook,

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