

Laughing



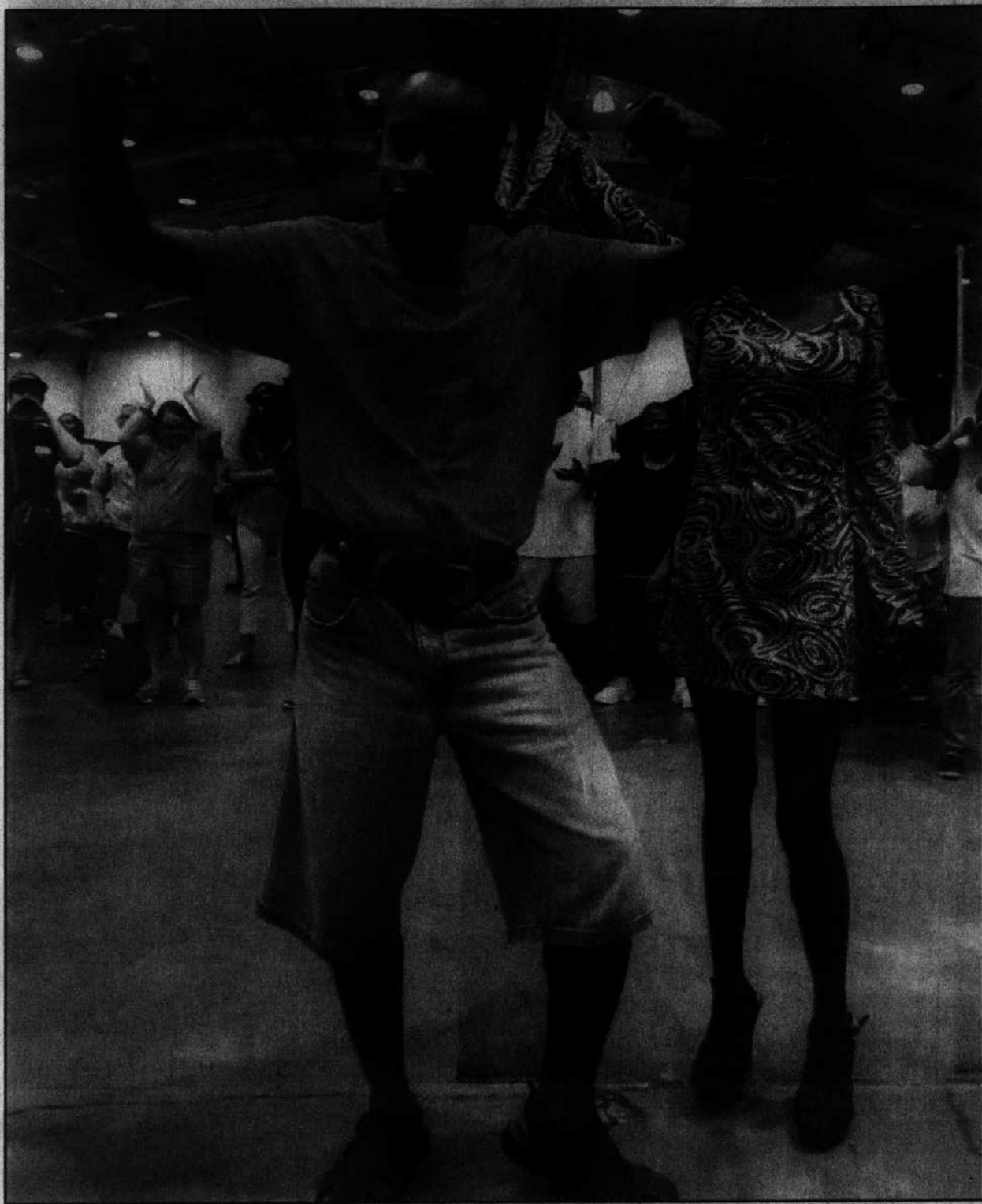
Camp basics

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# THE CHRONICLE

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Ronald Meton, one of the finalists of the dance contest, poses as he gets a crowd reaction.

Photo by Alphonso Abbott Jr.

## Freedom project in legislative, money limbo

BY CASH MICHAELS  
FOR THE CHRONICLE

Unless the \$200,000 Gov. Cooper appropriated the state Freedom Monument project in his proposed, but rejected budget is replaced, the tribute to African-American contributions to North Carolina history may not see the light of day as long as Republicans don't see it as necessary.

Just this week it was announced that the N.C. African American Heritage Commission was awarded a \$148,450 grant from the National Institute of Museum and Library Services to support the commission's "Green Books' Oasis Spaces: African American Travel in NC, 1936 - 1966" project.

"The Negro Motorist Green Book" (the "Green Book") was an annual guidebook for African-American travelers, published from 1936 - 1966, to help them avoid business owners who refused to serve them. The guidebook compiled listings of "oasis spaces," welcoming hotels, restaurants, auto repair shops, gas stations and other businesses from throughout most of the U.S.," the NC Dept. of Natural and Cultural Resources stated.

According to a commission spokesperson last week,

Submitted photo



Sen. Angela Bryant (D-Nash), is chairwoman of the N.C. Legislative Black Caucus.

there is no such private funding slated for the Freedom Monument project. GOP leadership won't answer questions about why they decided not to fund the further planning and design of the monument which was originally supported by Republican Gov. Pat McCrory, and had multiple public hearings across the state last year.

That the project was originally conceived and pushed under a Republican governor should make it nonpartisan, observers note.

"The fact that there is a failure to recognize the significant and vital contributions of African Americans to this state should motivate voters who care about these matters to vote a difference in the upcoming elections," Guilford County Democrat Rep. Amos Quick said.

"We must vote the Republicans out of office."

Sen. Angela Bryant (D-Nash), chairwoman of the N.C. Legislative Black Caucus, maintained that the monument project was still a priority of caucus, though right now, its prospects are slim.

Sen. Bryant did clarify two points made last week, one from her previous email about the commission.

Last week, in a story titled, "Caucus: Senate gutted funding," Senator Bryant was quoted from an email she sent to this newspaper stating, "While funding for the monument was a priority for the Legislative Black Caucus, we were not successful in securing funding this cycle - instead we were relegated to fighting to continue the staffing for the African American Heritage Commission, which was cut in the Senate Budget, and restored in the House Budget, and the final conference report."

Subsequent to publishing that statement, Senator Bryant further clarified it in a follow-up email stating, "The Senate did not intentionally gut the Commission - the position was cut because it had been vacant over 18 months and had not been filled. It is often the case in the budget process that all vacant positions for a certain period of time are scooped up to provide funding for other

See Project on A8

## Accessible Festival offers services and fun

BY TODD LUCK  
THE CHRONICLE

People with disabilities of all kinds danced, ate and had fun at the Accessible Festival held at the Winston-Salem Fairgrounds' Education Building on Friday, July 14.

This year was an '80s dance party, with DJs Tim Johnson and Chaka Smith of Tru Masters Inc., complete with a dance off and lip sync battle.

There were also 17 exhibitors offering various services along with crafts, free food and games. This is the 13th year that Winston-Salem Transit Authority (WSTA) has held the festival, which started as an outdoor event. It's grown over the years,

with well over 500 attendees in the first hour and a half alone this year.

WSTA Director Art



Barnes

Barnes said the festival started as an outreach to the disabled community that's served by Trans-Aid, an on-demand ride service for qualified handicapped individuals.

"About 13 years ago, we decided we wanted to

See Festival on A2

## 'Super dude' ventures into coffee business

BY TEVIN STINSON  
THE CHRONICLE

Camden Myers is not your average 8-year-old boy. Although he enjoys playing with his siblings, going to the movies, and superhero action figures like other boys his age, Camden, who goes by Cam (probably to protect his secret identity from adoring fans), is a superhero in his own right.

Cam suffers from a traumatic brain injury (TBI), which causes both cognitive and physical delays that make it hard for him to complete simple tasks like tying his shoes, or holding a pencil.

Despite his shortcomings, just over a year ago, Cam found his calling when he started a pop-up coffee bar at local beauty salons and other places of business in the area. And

See Coffee on A2

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