# Scholar examines Christian-Jew relationships

Continued from page 5B

ment exponents were writing harsh attacks against fellow Jewish Christians "rather than Jews as a whole," Galambush says.

Both sides believed the Jesus movement was authentically Jewish and didn't conceive of a separate faith called Christianity. "The New Testament authors fought, ultimately in vain, to maintain their legitimacy as Jews," she writes

In her view the New Testament, if read authentically as a Jewish book, depicts the beginnings of the "reluctant parting" when Christians per-

manently ceased being part of the Jewish people. But later churches were wholly Gentile so believers lacked that basic understanding and the scriptures appeared "simply to condemn Jews as Jews" a lethal mistake.

The bulk of Galambush's study examines the New Testament writings, book by

Paul's epistle to the Galatians is pivotal. It was written in the A.D. 50s following the summit meeting (depicted in Acts 15) where Jewish followers of Jesus accepted Paul's plea to free Gentile converts from the circumcision rule

### All For One Youth Choir practices

Continued from page 5B

3913 by Feb. 8.

February 12

All For One Youth Choir will resume practices at 3:30 p.m. at Western Avenue Baptist Church, located at 1206 Museum Road, Statesville. New members will be accepted through Feb. 19.

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Word Of Faith West will celebrate Black History Month with a presentation each Sunday Morning, ending with Old Fashion Day in costume on the fourth Sunday.

Galatians is polemical, likening Torah versus Gospel to curse versus blessing or slavery versus freedom. Paul removes all earthly markers of status and ethnicity, writing that "there is no longer Jew or Greek" and no male and female, no slave and free-

Paul sought to free Gentiles from what he saw as ``a false sense of obligation to Torah," Galambush writes, but later Gentiles misunderstood this "a wholesale condemnation of Jewish ritual observance as practiced by Jews." Instead of Paul's righteous anger against fellow Jewish Christians he disagreed with, later Gentile Christians mistakenly read his words as anger against Jews in general

When read as originally intended, she concludes, the New Testament becomes "unfamiliar ... demanding, even threatening," for Christians and Jews alike.

## Inmate prevails in prayer feather lawsuit

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. – A man who was held for 18 months in the Benton County Jail has prevailed in a lawsuit he filed to force jailers to give him access to a prayer feath-

Jailers objected to the feather on security grounds, but a federal judge has ruled that Billy Joe Wolfe Jr. of Jay, Okla., demonstrated that the feather was necessary for him to practice his religion.

U.S. District Judge Jimm Larry Hendren accepted most of a magistrates' report that said denying use of the feather was not reasonably related to the goal of jail security. The report noted that inmates had toothbrushes and other items that could be used as

Wolfe, a member of the

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Cherokee tribe, pleaded guilty in July to capital murder and kidnapping for the slaying of Chetlee Janes in 2003 in Maysville. He is now serving a sentence of life without parole in the state prison

Hendren turned away a magistrate's assertion that plaintiffs Sheriff Keith Ferguson and jail administrator Hunter Petray should pay a token \$1 damage award. The judge said Ferguson and Petray have qualified immunity. Ferguson and Petray argued that even if they did violate Wolfe's right to religious freedom their immunity was established at the time.

Hendren agreed with the defendants that there has been little guidance for courts and judges on the issue. He

8:00 AM & 11:00 AM

12 Noon - Wednesdays ...7:00 PM - Wednesdays

9:45 AM

8:45am Wed. Night Bible Study 7.00pm

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said there was no evidence in this case that "a reasonable officer" in Benton County would know about Wolfe's particular religious beliefs or the related ritual objects.

In a friend of the court brief filed in the case, the American Indian Heritage Support Center urged that Wolfe be given the feather.

"It is tantamount to suggesting that the Christian cross or rosary could be used as a weapon or for sexual gratification, which we submit would be insulting to most Christians. Hypothetical situations should not be conjured up and passed as fact," the group argued.

Attorney Mike Rainwater for the Association of Arkansas Counties says the organization has researched the issue of who is entitled to a prayer feather and under what circumstances



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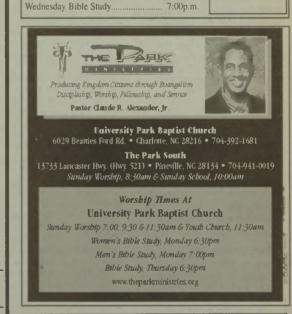
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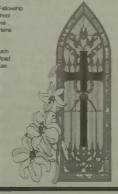
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