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Blacks Are Responsible For Plight Of Hospital

By Robert Eller
Staff Reporter

The lack of money, interest by black doctors and the failure of doctors and people in the community to work collectively are the major reasons for the loss of Reynolds Hospital, according to Rodney J. Sumler who was fired recently from the city recreation department.

Sumler talked candidly about the Reynolds Hospital situation in an interview at his home this week.

He said black doctors are the key to solving the Reynolds Hospital problem. "I have the greatest respect for black doctors professionally but I'm criticizing them politically," he said. The former city administrator said black doctors isolate themselves from the black community by dealing only with medical and health care. "They are obliged to do more than they are professionally trained to do," he said. The

young black leader said white doctors use politics as a means to deliver better health care to their communities. "Black doctors have no political clout," he pointed out.

Some black doctors here, however are not in total agreement with Sumler.

Dr. Albert H. Coleman, who has been on the staff of Reynolds Hospital since its inception, feels the phasing out of Reynolds is, "only another step in integration." He said it is no longer "economically practical" to keep Reynolds operating. The former alderman said Reynolds was designed to accommodate 250 people and it simply could not operate with less than 100 patients. Coleman added that as a member of the Board of Alderman some years ago he voted to transfer the hospital to county control.

Dr. Thomas L. Clarke also defended Winston-Salem's black physicians. He said that they (black M.D.'s) had done

everything possible to keep Reynolds open for the past four years. Clarke pointed out that three years ago black doctors set up a comprehensive program at Reynolds that was the forerunner of the family health care program.

Sumler pointed to the fact that doctors failed to locate their offices near Reynolds as a major factor in the hospital's decline. "White doctors build office complexes in walking distance of Forsyth. Black doctors should have done the same near Reynolds," Sumler said.

Dr. Clarke said that his office along with Dr. Jones is almost directly across the street from Reynolds. Dr. Coleman added that real estate developers built and leased the offices near Forsyth. He said that black M.D.'s had discussed the possibility of locating near Reynolds and that if office space had been built there doctors would have gone in.

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Mrs. James Holshouser gives praise to volunteers who work diligently towards the growth and development of pre-schoolers.

Volunteers Get Awards

By Gwen Dixon
Staff Reporter

"Head Start should be what the words mean: a head start. Children come ready to learn and what they learn is related to the opportunity they are given," the Governor's wife told a crowd of more than 300 at First Baptist Church recently.

Mrs. James E. Holshouser, Jr. spoke at the annual Volunteer Recognition Pro-

gram sponsored by the Child Development Policy Committee of Family Services. Mrs. Holshouser expressed the need to work together for the betterment of the country. She praised the volunteers who give their time unselfishly "to contribute to the growth and development of our children."

In addition, she said "volunteers are an extension of the professionals. They make it possible for profes-

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"I Just Want To Make It"



Molven Johnson

By Gwen Dixon
Staff Reporter

If you're black and trying to establish a business for yourself it is hard and harder still if you have a prison record. Molven Johnson has spent four years and eight months behind prison walls

in North Carolina. He is now trying to start a business and work for himself to make a living.

He has served his time and is free. But, the stigma of "ex-con" hangs like an albatross around his neck.

His dream is to run a little newstand near the corner of Liberty Street and Patterson Ave. But his reception by the business community has been

a lot less than good. So far, he has been unable to get any of the newspaper and magazine suppliers to furnish him with the necessary materials to open his business.

"I have talked to four

publishers," Johnson said in a recent interview, "but they all seem to feel servicing me is immaterial."

He feels that he deserves a chance to start afresh because "I've paid my debt to society...haven't I?" All he wants now is to make an honest living.

He believes that his business neighbors reject him because he has served time. But, that has not discouraged him. "I'm asking myself everyday and every hour, what does it take in the way of attitude to be successful," he queried. He has tried just about everything.

Born in Winston-Salem, Johnson was three years old when he moved to Washington, D.C. "I came to Winston during the summers," he recalled. His father was a horse trainer and Johnson acquired the skills also. After dropping out of high school he started training horses and dogs.

He worked for a time as a youth counselor with the United Youth Organization. A warm smile creeps across his face when he speaks of youngsters. "I can really tell a younger person something because I've had hard corp experience," he said.

Johnson continues to sit... wondering what the purpose of the prison system really is. "The chain gang does not teach you anything positive. It makes you vulnerable to crime," he warned. He said in prison a man can learn to be cold hearted, how to pick locks, to steal and to pimp. In his estimation there are no redeeming qualities in the prison system. He said the public is gullible and they will probably not understand what he is trying to say.

Johnson says he does not harbor any resentment against society but "I'm not in love

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