Johnny Carter

Denise Gray

Joseph Davis

Bobby Clark

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Man In The Street

No Clear Solutions To "Strip"

By Robert Eller
Chronicle Staff Reporter

In the past few weeks North Liberty Street (so-called "strip") has been the subject of much discussion and controversy. Much has been said about the problems of the area but few if any solutions have been found.

This week the "Man-in-the-Street" asked Winston-Salem citizens what they felt the solution to the problems on the strip is.

Bobby Clark, 27, stated, "I think if the police would layoff things would be better. On Stratford Road where the whites hang out the police don't hassle them. That area is as much a problem as the strip."

Johnny Carter, 38, stated, "I feel like bringing in more police might help but I don't really know. The problem there is a social one. To close up the clubs on Liberty Street won't help. The people would only go elsewhere."

Mary Gates, 27, said, "The solution is far more jobs and opportunities to be opened up to blacks here. If the people there have something constructive to do and a decent way to make a living they won't hang around outside the clubs. They will go inside and enjoy themselves."

Elizabeth Borewell answered, "I really don't know what the solution is. Personally I think the whole situation has been blown out of proportion. The only people who have really caused trouble on the strip have been the Narcs (Narcotics officers). There is less trouble if the cops stay away."

Joseph Davis, 24, stated, "I don't know what the solution is. The strip is the only place blacks go to meet their friends. Sometimes it gets out of hand but to bring more police in would only make the problem worse. The police usually make small problems worse."

Denise Gray said, "I'm against the strip. There needs to be a better place for the kids to go. Winston-Salem needs to expand."

Jerry Simmons stated, "To find a solution you must know the root of the problem and that's economics and politics. The people in that area are economically deprived and they come to the strip to forget those problems. Also, much of what has happened on the strip is just an attempt to get Rodney Sumler out of the political picture."

These answers do not give a solution to the problems on the strip. They do, however, show that the people generally do not see the strip as a place of abuses and vices and that more police and added force will not solve the problems there.

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