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Is There A Plot To Discredit Blacks?

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Reading Confab Held Here

The North Carolina Council of the International Reading Association began its ninth annual conference at Benton Convention Center, Thursday, March 17 with an address by Dr. Hugh Schoephoerster, keynote speaker of the convention.

Dr. Schoephoerster, Director of the Right to Read program for the Minnesota Department of Public Instruction, is the founder of the national Right to Read program, which has chapters in every state.

The Right to Read is a consciousness-raising organization designed to interest the public in reading problems in children and adults. Its goal is 100% literacy for the United States. The federally funded program establishes reading co-ordinators in local schools to supervise reading programs and to train volunteers to teach non-readers. The Right to Read encompasses adult education, special tutoring in schools, See **READING**, Page 7



Mrs. Shirley Spencer

Local Lady Vies For Title

Mrs. Shirley Brown Spencer, wife of Technical Sgt. Victor Spencer, now stationed at Hahn Germany was recently honored as a participant in the Miss Black contest being presented in Germany by the U.S. Air Force. They have one daughter Cheryl Renee who is 12-years old.

Mrs. Spencer is a native of Winston-Salem where she attended Carver Elementary and High School. Later matriculating at W.S.S.U. where she received her degree in Elementary and Junior High Education. She taught at Kennedy Jr. High See **CONTEST**, Page 2

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Aldermen Approve WSSU Expansion

by Sharyn Bratcher
Staff Reporter

Community Development Project Three met with approval from the Winston-Salem Board of Aldermen, after a marathon five-hour session Monday night with spokesmen for all facets of the issue airing their views.

Columbia Heights residents addressed the meeting expressing a wide range of opinions, from The Reverend Henry Wilson who favored the project to Jack Atkins, who urged the preservation of the neighborhood.

The WSSU case was presented by Chancellor Kenneth R. Williams, who cited a number of deeds proving that the land in question did originally belong to Winston-Salem State, and provided the Aldermen with figures showing the University's growth and need for expansion.

Henry Lewis, who identified himself as the owner of one-half interest in the Bruce Street Apartments, stated

that the owners had attempted to repair the structures, but termed it a hopeless venture. "I am embarrassed to stand up here and admit I own them," said the 'Absentee Landlord.' "I'm embarrassed for you," retorted Alderman Ross.

The League of Women Voters, who have been active in organizing the Columbia Heights resisters to C.D.3, came under fire from several spokesmen including Walter Marshall, who stated the need for WSSU expansion, and asked why the League was "playing Winston-Salem State against the Columbia Heights people." Chancellor Williams pointed out that the School of the Arts was in a similar expansion program, but had not been criticized by the League of Women Voters; he also wanted to know their motivation.

Several spokesmen, including Alderman Davis, expressed distaste for the See **ALDERMEN**, Page 7

by Sharyn Bratcher
Staff Writer

Nobody wants to call it a conspiracy in the formal sense, but the coincidences in each case seem to point to one conclusion: politically-involved blacks are being discredited in a series of petty criminal cases.

In the past year three prominent black men have all been accused and

First Of A

Four Part Series

convicted of shoplifting; two of the cases are now in appeal. Each man says he is innocent, and each thinks he was singled out for harassment for political reasons.

Walter Marshall believes the original accusation in his case might have been the security guard's honest mistake, but as the case progressed the frame took shape, and he thinks he knows why.

A few days before Christmas, Marshall, killing time while his wife shopped, began trying on sunglasses at the J.C. Penney Store in Hanes Mall. He removed his own sunglasses, tried on a few other pairs, then put his own back on and walked away. The security guard, seeing Marshall leave with the sunglasses, promptly arrested him for shoplifting.

Not permitted to notify his wife, Marshall was detained in a small office until two policemen arrived to take him downtown. They said they would handcuff him and lead him out through the store, explaining that they might not be able to handle him.

"It was like a nightmare," Marshall recalls. "I was in such a state of shock that when they ordered me to put my hands together for handcuffing I didn't react." Suddenly, he said, he felt a burning sensation in his

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See **PLOT**, Page 2

Drugs Readily Available Here

Demand Generates Drug Traffic

by Sharyn Bratcher
Staff Reporter

The drug problem seems to pervade Winston-Salem at a fairly constant rate, according to Narcotics Division Lieutenant S.A. Monks. The drug habit encompasses all ages and social status, differing only in the particular drug used by each group.

Young people seem to be involved in the use of marijuana or barbiturates. These substances are cheaper and easier to obtain than

hard drugs. Heroin addicts are generally over 21.

The image of the drug baron as a Mafia Don or a master criminal is a movie stereotype. "The drug distributor is just a businessman," says Lt. Monk, "and he's selling drugs because the tremendous profit is worth the risk." The focal point of a drug enforcement program should be the user because as long as there is a demand for drugs, someone will supply them. People sell drugs

because it is profitable. If people stopped making it profitable, the drug traffic would cease."

How does one stop the public demand? Drug education for the young is important, but not foolproof. It seems to be human nature to ignore warnings. "The surgeon general's warning has been on cigarette packages for ten years," says Lt. Monk. "How many people have stopped smoking?"

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