

Would Patterson split? From Page A1

checks and a few token representatives on their (the Metro Y's) board, that's about it. We were independent all along."

Nixon said his YMCA made the decision to seek autonomy and operate apart from the Metropolitan Y after a report by the United Way and YMCA concluded that the working relationship between the two was almost nonexistent anyway.

Nixon said the Effingham Y applied to the state for a charter and to the national YMCA office for independent status and received both without problems.

But independence didn't come quite as easily for Executive Director Herman Williams and the Black Youth Christian Association of America, formerly the Carver Family YMCA of South Florida, in Miami.

After years of operating at odds with the Metro board, the Carver YMCA asked the Metro board for independent status and was denied.

Williams said Carver then petitioned the national YMCA for independent status and again was turned down. For 11 months Carver continued to operate with the YMCA name but as an in-

dependent branch.

Williams said the YMCA then was sued by the national YMCA and prohibited from using the YMCA name and logo.

About a month ago, Carver received a state charter to change its name and currently is waging a legal battle with the Metro board to retain its assets.

"As a black institution under a white organization, they won't give you the latitude to operate," said Williams, when asked why the Carver YMCA decided to go independent. "We just pulled away. We won the victory, but we lost the name YMCA. But we don't want to be part of a racist institution like the YMCA."

In Portsmouth, Nixon said, the different missions of black and white YMCA branches prompted the split.

Williams said Miami's Carver Y faced a similar situation. "White Ys in urban settings are trying to keep up with private fitness centers," Williams said. "So they are draining money from the black Ys to run the downtown fitness centers at a cost cheaper than the private health clubs.

"They need to keep the black

Ys a part of the system in order to get the corporate and foundation aid they get. When they get those donations, they get them from corporations that want to help those in need, usually the black folk. And when the blacks pull out, so do the donations."

The Dearborn YMCA in Mobile, Ala., has also filed for independent status and will begin operating independently in January 1985. YMCAs in Selma, Ala., and Norfolk, Lynchburg and Roanoke, Va., are also independent.

Williams said he will contact them and other predominantly black YMCAs across the country to invite them to join the Black Youth Christian Association of America.

"We are seriously trying to get black YMCAs to join what we are all about," said Williams. "But there are some disgruntled white Ys, too."



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MAN AND WOMAN OF THE YEAR

The Winston-Salem Chronicle invites you to help in the selection of our third "Man and Woman of the Year" by filling out the nomination form below and returning it to us by mail at P.O. Box 3154, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102 or in person to the Chronicle offices at 617 N. Liberty St.

Recipients will be chosen by the Chronicle staff and advisory board and will be judged on the basis of their contributions to the Winston-Salem black community during 1984.

Your nominees (one for "Man of the Year," the other for "Woman of the Year") should be Winston-Salem residents and will be recognized in the Jan. 31 special edition of the Chronicle as well as receive commemorative plaques. Please print legibly and be as specific as possible in describing your nominees' accomplishments.

Nominations must be received by the Chronicle no later than 5:30 p.m. on Jan. 6.

Woman of the Year Nominee's Name _____ Nominee's Address _____ _____ Occupation _____ Nominee's activities, memberships, affiliations _____ _____ _____ Please explain briefly why you think this person deserves to be "Woman of the Year" _____ _____ _____ Your Name _____ Your Address _____ Your Phone No.: Home _____ Work _____ Your Signature _____	Man of the Year Nominee's Name _____ Nominee's Address _____ _____ Occupation _____ Nominee's activities, memberships, affiliations _____ _____ _____ Please explain briefly why you think this person deserves to be "Man of the Year" _____ _____ _____ Your Name _____ Your Address _____ Your Phone No.: Home _____ Work _____ Your Signature _____
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