



## Hanging At The Huffs

Award-winning artists prepare for upcoming exhibition



## Ministry Minus Music

Gospel group forgoes music in favor of delivering message

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Thursday, February 9, 1989

# Winston-Salem Chronicle

50 cents

"The Twin City's Award-Winning Weekly"

VOL. XV, No. 24

## Aldermen challenge contractor; reject bid on project

By TONYA V. SMITH  
Chronicle Staff Writer

A white contractor is contemplating suing the city of Winston-Salem for rejecting his bid on a \$307,766 project because he hired no Afro-American or women subcontractors to help him build the Little Creek Recreation Center.

Chris D. Hilton, owner of Chris D. Hilton Construction Co., said Tuesday he was conferring with his attorneys to determine what legal action, if any, he would take.

"We are consulting with our attorney . . . and we will be making a decision to determine what our legal rights are," Hilton said.

City aldermen voted 5-1 Monday night to reject all bids for the contract and start the bidding process over again for the center.

Hilton sent out 210 letters to minority firms to encourage them to submit bids for the recreation center project, he told board members.

"Out of those letters and requests for bids, we received nine (returned because of insufficient or changes in addresses), three responded that they would not be submitting bids on the projects, and 11 M/WBE (Minority/Women's Business Enterprise) companies submitted bids," Hilton told the board.

"Not a single one (of the

minority subcontractors) was a low bidder and, due to the competitive nature of the pro-



ject, I must take the low-

"I wish we did have minorities participating," Hilton told the board. "The problem is a lack of

participation on the part of minorities."

Unfortunately for Hilton, the aldermen did not accept his summa-

"... Having had the misfortune to subcontract one of Hilton's jobs when he worked for another company, I know he could care less about working with minorities."

-- Thomas Trollingier

tion statement of the problem.

Alderman Martha S. Wood interrogated Hilton, asking him about his past involvements, if any, with minority contractors. She specifically referred to his not hiring any minorities for a fire station

project he is building in Greensboro.

Hilton said he has worked with minorities in the past. However, he admitted that 75 percent of the subcontractors he had hired for the city project were past associates of his.

"Are we really making progress or just meeting and talking and really not getting anything done," said Alderman Vivian Burke in the heat of the aldermen's frustration about their minority contracting program.

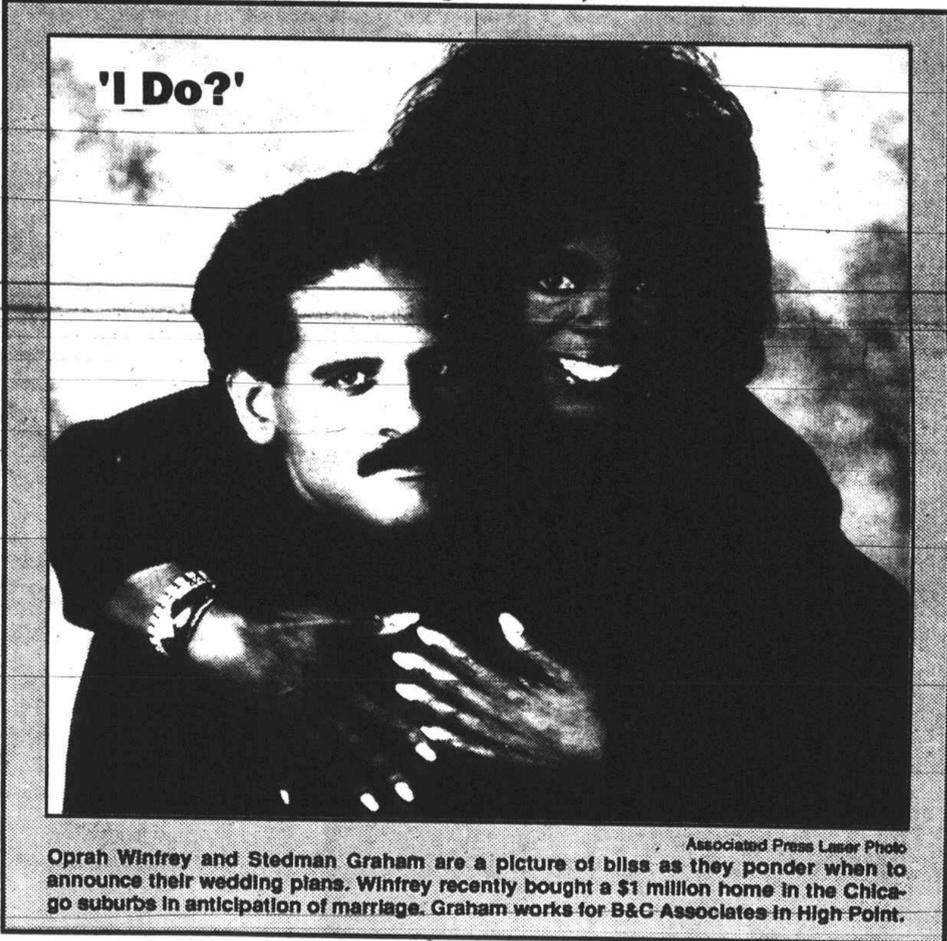
The program was adopted by the city in March 1986. Since the program's inception, the city has not awarded a construction contract that didn't provide business for Afro-Americans and women.

"How can minority contractors get into the economic mainstream?" Burke asked.

Alderman Patrick Hairston said it's only fair that Afro-Americans have a share of the construction of city projects. But, he added, Afro-Americans are their own worst enemies in these instances.

"The truth is that if black people don't hire black contractors how are we going to continue to criticize and lambaste whites for not using blacks," Hairston said. "I had a black contractor working on my house . . . it was a horrifying experience."

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'I Do?'

Oprah Winfrey and Stedman Graham are a picture of bliss as they ponder when to announce their wedding plans. Winfrey recently bought a \$1 million home in the Chicago suburbs in anticipation of marriage. Graham works for B&G Associates in High Point.

## Waiting center for bus riders now open at Pepper Building

By TONYA V. SMITH  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Passengers awaiting their buses now have a place of refuge in the form of a new waiting area downtown.

City Mayor Wayne A. Corpening and Sterling Spainhour, chairman of the Winston-Salem Transit Authority's (WSTA) Board of Directors, cut the ceremonial ribbon dedicating the marketing center and public waiting area Monday.

The center, at 316 N. Liberty St., will serve as a public waiting area for passengers seeking shelter from the elements, and as an information center for WSTA's transit routes, carpool matching, vanpool leasing and Trans-Aid services.

The city leased 3,200 square feet of space in the Pepper Building so WSTA patrons will have a centralized location for information and a waiting area. A more permanent arrangement is forthcoming in July 1991 in the form of a transit center. In November, city aldermen authorized construction of the center downtown at the corner of Third and Liberty streets. That decision did not go over easy because, while aldermen agreed patrons needed a centralized shelter, they could not agree on the location of such a center. Corpening broke a 4-4 deadlock on the matter, casting his lot in favor of the Third and Liberty streets location.

City officials have already submitted a grant application to the Urban Mass Transportation Administration, which could provide up to 80 percent, or about \$7.4 million, of the money needed to build the transit center. Total cost of the center is estimated at \$9.3 million.

"We have submitted a grant application for \$2.5

million that would cover the majority of the costs for the land requisition, relocation and additional architectural fees," said Thomas W. Fredericks, an assistant city manager. "That is for the first phase of the project."

The city hopes the transportation administration will approve the grant by the end of the quarter, which means it should receive word on it in late March, Fredericks said.

It cost the city about \$25,000 to renovate the marketing center location and establish working areas for transit informational staff members, he said.

"We've leased it for 15 months and it's possible that by the end of the 15 months, if the grant is approved, we can continue with the acquisition of the Pepper Building and then we would be the owners of the Pepper Building," Fredericks said.

The city plans to make offers to buy a parking lot at Third and Liberty Streets, a law office off Third Street, and the Revco, Crawford and Pepper buildings on Fourth Street to build the transit center. The Revco building, the law office and the rear two-thirds of the Crawford Building would be demolished.

The city transit authority was formed in the spring of 1968 by a Winston-Salem ordinance. The city had been granted the power to establish the authority by special legislation from the 1967 General Assembly. Eight members comprise the WSTA.

The authority operates 38 peak hour transit buses on 19 regular routes, one express route and three downtown shuttle services. An average of 12,000 passengers are carried each weekday on the authority's 54 transit buses and four trolley buses. Currently 115 employees work for the WSTA.

## One Woman's Quest

### Teacher expresses frustration at lack of parental concern

By ROBIN BARKSDALE  
Chronicle Staff Writer

The parents of six East Winston first graders failed an important test Monday night, and it could have devastating effects on their children's future.

Annette Beatty, a first-grade teacher at Southwest Elementary School, sent letters to the parents of eight underachieving members of her class. Each of the eight students lives in the East Winston area, and each is in danger of falling even

further below their grade level at school. In her letter, Beatty asked the parents of those students to meet with her to discuss ways to help get the students on the right track at school.

"If you care anything at all about your child and his/her education, please meet me at the East Winston Branch Library . . . at 7 p.m.," Beatty wrote to the parents.

The first and only parent that attended the meeting arrived after 8 p.m., and Beatty said that the lack of response from the parents can

only mean that they have no interest in what their children are doing in school. The parents' failure to attend, she said, was particularly disappointing because it suggests that the student's pattern of failure will continue unchallenged.

Beatty teaches a class of 24 first-grade students. Eleven of those students are Afro-American. Of that 11, three are from Clemmons and eight from the East Winston area. Five of the East Winston students have already been retained once, and only one is performing at the

prescribed level for a first-grade student.

Those numbers prompted Beatty to volunteer her own time to meet with parents to discuss their children's study habits.

"I am concerned because -- of the eight from East Winston -- only one can write a complete sentence," she said. "These students have spent two years in kindergarten and a half year in first grade and still are unable to write a sentence. I asked the parents of these students to come and talk to me about this situ-

ation. I'm on my own time trying to help the students, and the parents don't show up. The only thing I can assume from this is that they do not care at all."

Beatty said that she is confident that parental involvement in the student's education will help them to reach their potential. The purpose of Monday's meeting, she said, was to determine what parents perceived the problems to be, what was happening in the child's life that may

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Annette Beatty

## Blacks criticize school board; public hearings this weekend

By Angela Wright  
Chronicle Managing Editor

One week after the Winston-Salem Forsyth County School Board announced four white males as finalists in the search for a new school superintendent, Afro-Americans were still registering dissent over the rejection of assistant superintendent Dr. Barbara K. Phillips.

Annette M. Wilson, president of the Phi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., spoke on behalf of the organization of which Phillips is a member. "We are appalled that the Board did not follow its own approved, stated and published guidelines. This makes

us question whether you really wanted to continue to hear what the community desired to say."

The school board announced last Tuesday that it had decided upon four finalists for the position of superintendent. Phillips, who had been listed as one of 14 semifinalists and was one of only two Afro-Americans being considered, was not included among the final candidates.

Large segments of the Afro-American community had lobbied the school board in support of Phillips, noting that she was qualified to hold the position and was experienced with the local system. None of the four finalists are from the local system.

Wilson told the board that she spoke for the 100 members of the

local chapter and asked the board to add Phillips to the list of finalists. "In view of the fact that you, as members of the school board, failed to follow your own time line, we respectfully request that Dr. Phillips be added as a finalist. It is our feeling that this action would be in the best interest of our community."

The Rev. Carlton A. G. Eversley, pastor of Dellabrook Presbyterian Church, also addressed the board in behalf of the Ministers' Conference of Winston-Salem.

"Dr. Phillips meets every possible standard and yet was not granted

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