

E. Forsyth Wins Big

Coach Phillip Beeson's JV basketball team goes an impressive 12-2.

B SECTION



Never Too Late

Journey from a segregated one-room school house to Forsyth Tech.

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Shooting Leaves 3 Victims, Angers Manager

▲ Violence pre-empt's "rump shaker" contest

By MARK R. MOSS
Chronicle Staff Writer

The shooting incident at Studio 54 early Sunday morning, which left three people wounded and frightened the club's patrons, was an anomaly, club and city officials said.

"We haven't had any more trouble up there than we've had at any other club," said Lt. P. R. Ruple of the Winston-Salem Police Department.

"At the present time, no one, includ-

ing the residents in the area, has called to complain," said Alderman Vivian H. Burke, who presides over the ward in which the club, at 728 E. 28th Street, is located.

Andre Simpson, manager of Studio 54, claimed quite adamantly that no one got shot inside the club.

"Didn't nobody get shot in this club. It's all a damn lie," he said. He then went on to castigate the local media and threatened to sue if retractions weren't made.

However, Robert Denard Cunningham, 20, of 108 Inverness Street, and the most serious of the wounded, disagreed.

Cunningham said he was shot inside the club and immediately left to get help.

The bullet pierced his side and exited through his back. Samuel Lee Able, 20, of 427 Barbara Jane Ave. was shot in the toe. Roderick Stewart, 24, of 1302 Free Street, was shot in the calf. All but Cunningham were treated and released from Baptist Memorial Hospital. Because of the seriousness of his injury, medical personnel kept Cunningham overnight.

Cunningham, who said he had visited the club a week before the shooting incident, said he came to the popular spot to hear rap artists and to see the "rump shaker" contest in which women vie for prize money by dancing. Around 1 a.m., a



Robert Denard Cunningham, 20, was the most seriously wounded of the three young men who were shot at Studio 54 on Jan. 24.

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The "rump shaker" contest at Studio 54, at 728 E. 28th St., couldn't be held last Saturday night because of the shooting incident.

Local Party Returns From Inauguration

By SHERIDAN HILL
Chronicle Assistant Editor

In the wee hours of Wednesday morning last week, a local delegation of nearly 150 people boarded three buses bound for Washington, D.C. and the inauguration of America's 42nd president, Bill Clinton. It may have been the middle of the night, but the air was charged with excitement.

Winston-Salem's black community was well represented: about 30 percent of those who made the trip were black, according to Annette Wilson, Forsyth County Democratic Party vice-chair. Many others made the trip in private cars and used the time to visit relatives

or go sightseeing.

Despite the hundreds of thousands of people who joined them, the crowd was orderly, Wilson said. There was virtually no pushing or shoving.

And when Clinton spoke, Wilson said a hush came over the crowd that stretched for more than 12 city blocks.

"They were very intent," she said. "You could see them nodding, taking hold of what he was saying."

There was definitely a sense of pride, a feeling that at least somebody cares about me."

A similar feeling ran through the crowd when author and poet Maya Angelou delivered the poem she wrote at Clinton's request.



Inaugural celebraters included Frank B. Wood, an unknown Carolinian, Mayor Martha Wood, former Housing Authority Director David Thompkins, and (sitting) Rep. Annie B. Kennedy and Olivia Thompkins.

"When she spoke, she really mesmerized people, and I heard them asking where is she from? And I said, 'She lives in my hometown' and told them all about her, Wilson said."

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NationsBank Commits \$238,000 To CIAA

▲ Charlotte-based bank becomes "the official bank" for basketball tournament

By MARK R. MOSS
Chronicle Staff Writer

When the CIAA tournament comes to Winston-Salem next year, it will bring with it a major sponsor that is a long-time rival to the city's hometown bank.

NationsBank Corporation, which is headquartered in Charlotte, and the CIAA announced on Jan. 26 that the bank would contribute \$238,000 to fund scholarships and to sponsor championship athletic events held by the CIAA's 14 universities.

As a result of that partnership, the bank also announced that it has named "The Official Bank of the CIAA." As the exclusive financial services company sponsor of the CIAA, NationsBank will also

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ON THE AVANT GARDE

BY TANG NIVRI

Coming Home

As soon as it was known that sistermother had been asked to "bring forth" on the occasion of the inauguration of our 42nd president, all of Mt. Zion knelt down to pray.

Without prayer, sistermother would fail, and we knew this. She had given birth many, many times before — but this would be different.

We remember looking into her searching eyes as she stood among us, nurturing within her womb, the burden of a nation desperately in search of its way.

We remember looking upon her uncertain face, holding her clasped hands, whispering into her hearing ears, praying to God that she should carry forth proudly the truth of all our forefathers.

We remember how sistermother had stood with, and before the children, bringing forth words filled with power.

We remember how she knelt down, to face this, life's greatest moment, and then stood up filled with the genius of her mother's mother's mother in her womb.

There wasn't much that she would say that Sunday morning in November. We all knew that without prayer, sistermother would fail. And she knew this.

And so, a great cry went out all across the world.

"SisterMother will bring forth in a few days," we said. "Pray for mother and child. Remember them by name, not by gender, not by race, not by size. Remember Angelou," we all prayed.

And then she went away.

We didn't know where she would go. We

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Marshall's Legacy Lives A Giant is Memorialized

By SHERIDAN HILL
Chronicle Assistant Editor

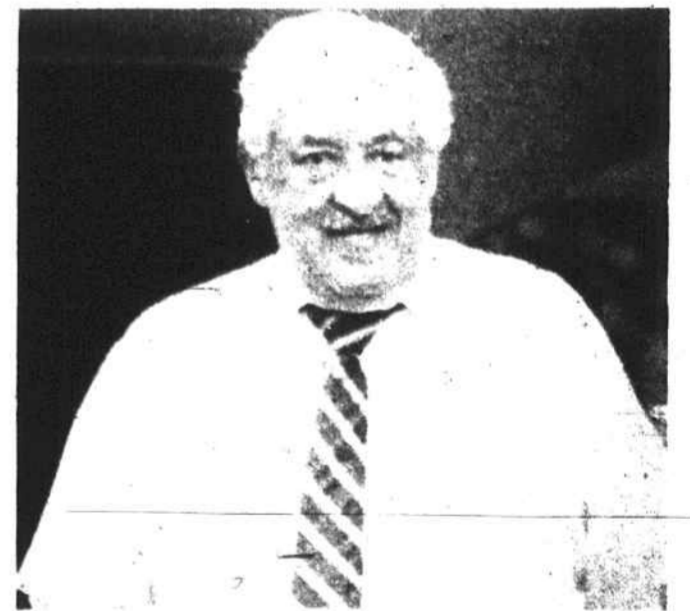
The death of retired Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall on Jan. 24 was mourned across the nation, but nowhere more than in the black community. His lifelong fight for civil rights broke the back of segregation and ushered in a new doctrine of fairness and justice across this country.

Appointed by President Lyndon Johnson in 1967, he was the first black justice on the nation's highest court, where he often led the dissenting opinion during his 24 years of service.

During his 23 years as the legal director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and his tenure as the federal government's solicitor general, Marshall argued 32 cases before the Supreme Court. He won 29. He argued and won the case that outlawed segregated schools, *Brown v. Board of Education*. Marshall retired in 1991. He succumbed to heart failure last week.

Rep. Annie B. Kennedy said she had the pleasure of witnessing Marshall's brilliance as a trial lawyer when she was studying law at his alma mater, Howard University in Washington, D.C. Civil rights lawyers would appear

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Former Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, the first black to serve on the nation's highest court, died of a heart attack Jan. 24.

Local Poet Adds To Collection

By KAREN M. HANNON
Community News Reporter

You could call Ruth Williams Harrison a "presidential first lady." At least, she's the first lady to reveal to the *Chronicle* original letters from a number of United States presidents, including Harry Truman, John F. Kennedy and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Now she's excited because she recently received a postcard from then president-elect Bill Clinton that she has added to her collection.

"Something about him impresses me," Harrison emphasized, as if she is a proud mother speaking about her own son. "He might not be successful, but that's just a chance you take."

Why has this woman received letters in her mailbox on Bacon Street from so many U.S. presidents on Pennsylvania Avenue?

She says it all goes back to June 6, 1944 — the beginning of World War II — the day President Roosevelt addressed the nation in prayer over radio airwaves.

"It was just before the invasion of Germany," Harri-

son says, rearing her head back as she begins her history lesson. "While allied troops were landing in France, Roosevelt said a prayer for them over the radio. I just took the words of his prayer and converted them into poetry."

She called her poem "The President's Invasion Prayer in Poetry" and mailed a copy to President Roosevelt's office.

In October, 1961, she received a thank you letter from Roosevelt's wife, Eleanor Roosevelt. The original letter, yellowed with age and with Mrs. Roosevelt's original signature in green ink, still sets adhered to the sticky, plastic-covered page of one of Harrison's many scrapbooks.

In 1949, she says a copy of her poem was buried in a time capsule at the Forsyth County Courthouse Square during the county's centennial celebration. The capsule is scheduled to be opened in May 2049.

But Harrison's first nationally recognized poem started with meager beginnings in the locker room of a local plant.

"It was during World War II, and I was on my lunch

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Ruth Williams Harrison scans through the pages of one of her many scrapbooks, containing letters from the presidential offices of "JFK", Harry Truman and Bill Clinton, and from the wives of "Babe" Ruth (Claire Ruth) and "FDR" (Eleanor Roosevelt).