



**Black History**

Women shares secret to long life at Bethesda Center for Homeless.

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**Spartan Action**

Mt. Tabor girls and JV boys basketball highlights inside.

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# Winston-Salem Chronicle

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1993

"Power concedes nothing without a struggle." — Frederick Douglas

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## Residents Angered Over Property Assessment Value

### ▲ Homeowners Question County Tax Officials

By MARK R. MOSS  
Chronicle Staff Writer

An official from the Forsyth County Tax Department told angry residents that there was no other area of town where the value of property has been devalued as much as it has been in the redeveloped area of East Winston.

About 30 people attended the meeting, sponsored by the East Winston Restoration Association, to find out why the county-appraised value of their new homes had decreased. Although the residents would pay lower taxes,

the result of the lower appraisals could mean a decrease or loss in profits if they tried to sell their homes.

Most of the residents came from the area bounded by Cleveland and Cameron avenues and 10th and 18th streets — a tract that contains a number of relatively new split-level and ranch-style homes.

Jack Sprinkle and Aldon Idol of the county tax office, explained the process in determining the value of a home.

Alderman Virginia Newell, whose East Ward incorporates the area, wanted to know whether there was a "wholesale" depreciation in the city.

"Are you aware of any other area in Winston-Salem where the property has been depreciated like it has been in East Winston?" she said.

Idol said he did not, and added: "Let me be the first to confess that we make mistakes and errors."

Sprinkle said about 18 percent of the properties in Forsyth County had been reduced in value by up to five percent.

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Alderman Virginia Newell of East Ward (standing) at Tuesday's meeting.

**To Our Readers**

**Look for layout changes in paper**

Beginning next week, the *Chronicle* will implement some changes in the layout of the newspaper.

The changes will be subtle, but effective we believe, in better assisting *Chronicle* readers in locating articles of their interests and to help readers move more easily throughout the paper.

The changes, in part, will constitute repositioning stories in the two sections. For example, a column of national news will move from an inside page to the front cover, replacing the "On the Avant Garde" column, which will move inside. The community news pages, located in the second section, will move to the first section. Also, the editorial and forum pages will be moved from pages four and five of the front section to the rear of the section.

The second section will continue to highlight the *Chronicle's* intense local sports coverage. The section also will be comprised of business, entertainment and religion news. The business and entertainment pages move from the front section, swapping location with community news.

Weddings and death announcements will remain in the second section.

There also will be an index on the front page to further assist readers in locating different items inside the newspaper.

The changes were made to better serve the *Chronicle's* loyal readership, many of whom have witnessed the paper's growth over the years.

"I think these changes will further assist us in serving you," Managing Editor Richard L. Williams said. "You can better find what you're looking for when you know where to find it."

"Also, I'd like to know what you think about these changes," Williams added. "And I welcome any feedback via phone calls, letters or personal visits. The *Chronicle* exists to serve the community and the only way to do that is to be in touch with our loyal readership." Call 722-8624 with comments, suggestions or news tips.

## NATIONAL NEWS

**Sears Refunds Payment to Minister**

CHARLOTTE (AP) — Sears has apologized and refunded payment to a minister whose monthly charge card bill carried a racial slur. The Rev. Raymond Worsley, a black World War II veteran and retired United Presbyterian minister with two doctorates, didn't discover the slur until this month when his son saw it on the November bill.

"I was disappointed because I don't remember anything that would warrant receiving something like this from Sears," Worsley said.

The bill was addressed to "Mr. Raymond Worsley ... C/O APURE COON."

Sears blamed an employee who quit its Greensboro billing center after the November bill was sent. Sears didn't name the employee. Worsley said the employee may have guessed his race after Sears called about a past-due account. Worsley later paid what was owed, more than \$1,000. Sears has refunded the payment and wiped out the debt, he said.

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**Miss USA's Winning Reaction**

Miss Michigan, Kenya Moore, center, reacts after being named the new Miss USA during the pageant held in Wichita's Century II Friday night. Runner-up Miss Georgia, Erin Nance, left, and Miss USA 1992 Shannon Marketic, right, watch the action.

## Arrest Backfires On Yadkin Deputy

### ▲ Carrying shotgun was legal, but arrest wasn't

By Mark R. Moss  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Two weeks ago when Robert Earl Lytle was walking along Hawthorne Road with his shotgun in a holster under his arm, he knew he wasn't breaking any law.

But apparently a Yadkin County sheriff's deputy didn't know. And when Deputy J.S. North spotted Lytle carrying the weapon, he tried to arrest him.

North learned it is not against the law to carry a shotgun in Forsyth County.

He also learned something else — that he had to start looking for another job. He was fired from the Yadkin County Sheriff's Department.

Following a fight between the two men, Lytle was subdued but later released when Winston-Salem police intervened. North, however, was charged with assault with a deadly weapon for allegedly pulling his service revolver on Lytle.

The deputy's wife, Kathy North, said the charges against her husband were not true. She also said that North was not given a reason for his dismissal from his job.

"In order to avoid any discrepancies over what might be said in the future, I'm not going to make any more comments," she said.

Lytle, a former cab driver, said the drama unfolded as he was heading north on Hawthorne Road around 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 15. Hanging from his shoulder by a strap was a 12-gauge shotgun with a pistol grip. He carries the shotgun, he said, because he doesn't have a pistol and his life has been threatened. He walks with it, he said, because he does not own a car.



Robert Lytle

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## Rappers' Usage Of "Nigger" Triggers Debate

By RICHARD L. WILLIAMS  
Chronicle Managing Editor

Derrick Witherspoon, an 18-year-old rap artist from Winston-Salem, says he uses the word "nigger" in his songs to establish a rapport with his audience.

Sharlene Simmons of Winston-Salem, also known as "Shocky Shay" uses the word in her lyrics, too, but not so frequently, she says.

While both rappers say they use the word as an endearing term and not in the demeaning historical sense, the increased usage of what is perhaps America's oldest racial epithet is causing the word to gravitate into the nation's mainstream. It also is generating a spirited debate among different generations of blacks about the word's historically ugly power and its open usage in an

integrated society.

Some younger blacks say their increased usage of the word "nigger" will demystify it and detract some of its negative meaning. They use it, they say, as an endearing term when addressing each other.

"It's all about what you mean and how you use the word," says Witherspoon, a member of "Da Forf Dimensions" rap group. "You can get close to your peers by using that word. It was once used to downgrade blacks, but it doesn't mean that all the time."

But other blacks, mostly older, say that "nigger," no matter who uses it, should not be allowed to creep its way into the national mainstream.

"Nigger" was the term white people used to dehumanize blacks for years," says the Rev. Carlton A.G. Eversley of

Dellabrook Presbyterian Church, "and it should be discouraged across the board."

"Nigger," of course, has long been an element of black vernacular, almost an honorific of the streets, but strictly off limits to whites. But as the word has found voice in black music, particularly rap, which is increasingly being embraced by whites, the term is rapidly being driven into the mainstream. For the past few years, rappers have incorporated "nigger" into their lyrics and have been selling it to not only their own neighborhoods, but a large number of whites as well.

"I think it's very dangerous when any white person, no matter how intimate they feel within the black American culture, uses that term," Eversley says.

Blacks, on the other hand, use the



Sharlene Simmons

term in much the same way "man" or "brother" used to suffice.

"Times change," Witherspoon says. "And words change, too."

The word "nigger" also is increasingly being used on television. For example, every Friday night at midnight, Home Box Office televises "Russell Simmons' Def Comedy Jam," where

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