



## Medicine Woman

Local hospital employee named Public Health Nurse of the Year.

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## Double Dutch

Youths to travel overseas to introduce new techniques of jumping rope.

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# Winston-Salem Chronicle

THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 1993

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

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## Long Ignored, Black Hair-Care Now Lures White Firms

▲ Does \$67M sale of Johnson Products signal beginning of end for black-owned cosmetic firms?

**NEW YORK** — Does the sale of Chicago-based Johnson Products Inc. signal the beginning of oblivion for black-owned personal products companies and the end of training, employment and supplier opportunities for blacks in that industry?

Questions about the future of black-owned cosmetics and hair-care companies were raised by the sale of Johnson Products to Ivax Corp., a white-owned conglomerate. Ivax is paying an estimated \$67 million in

the deal announced last week.

The purchase gives Ivax, which already owns the Flori Roberts line of black cosmetics, a stronger presence in a burgeoning industry. Retail sales of ethnic hair-care, skin-care and cosmetics products grew 6 percent in 1992, creating a \$547 million market, according to Packaged Facts Inc., a New York-based research firm.

"Growth in the market is inevitable. . . ." said

Facts president David A. Weiss. "It's all in the census data."

Twenty years ago, corporate America pretty much ignored this niche. Now, Weiss warned, "black companies may lose out" if white-owned firms swallow them up and try to knock out smaller rivals.

Lafayette Jones, president of Segmented Marketing Services Inc. (SMI) of Winston-Salem, said the Johnson Products deal could be a harbinger of

more sales of black-owned personal products firms.

"As more players come to the table with different kinds of resources and deep pockets, it makes it more difficult for African-American companies to play the game," Jones said.

"Consolidation of the ethnic hair-care category is inevitable. . . ." Jones said. "The handwriting is on the wall: Consolidate or perish."

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## Black Group States Plans

By RICHARD L. WILLIAMS  
and DAVID L. DILLARD  
Chronicle Staff Writers

A group of local African Americans who recently visited Louisville, Ky. on a exploration said they were impressed with some aspects of the city, but were disturbed by the low number of blacks present for panel discussions.

Black presenters were represented on two of the four panel discussions — race relations and education. No blacks were part of the presentations on economic development or planning.

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James Grace (l) and Art Milligan were a part of a delegation that recently visited Louisville.

## Cops Threaten Hunt Witness

▲ Ex-con recants testimony

By DAVID L. DILLARD  
Chronicle Staff Writer

A witness who could spell the difference between freedom and continued imprisonment for Darryl Eugene Hunt said he lied under oath this week because of death threats moments before he was to testify.

Blair (Willis) Reynolds

recanted that testimony a day later and said although he felt Hunt was innocent, he didn't tell anyone about information he had because he had been threatened by two police officers before Hunt's second trial in 1990.

He said he did not know who made the threatening call on Monday.

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Oprah Defends Action

**CHICAGO (AP)** — Oprah Winfrey rocked the publishing world last week by postponing her eagerly anticipated autobiography. It was supposed to come out this fall. The New York Post said it was because Sidman Graham was "upset by the revelations of her prior sexual experience." The Daily News said Graham threatened, "Publish and our engagement perishes." The Washington Post hinted that Winfrey has a history of postponing things, noting that she and Graham got engaged last fall but have yet to set a date.

### First Black Miss Alabama

**BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP)** — Kalya Euel Chapman was crowned Miss Alabama 1993, the first black to hold the title. The 22-year-old Mobile native replaces Kim Wanner, Miss Alabama 1992, and will represent the state at the Miss America Pageant in Atlantic City in September.

### Billy Dee Files for Divorce

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Billy Dee Williams, 46, the handsome supporting star in the "Star Wars" and "Batman" movies, filed for divorce last week from his wife of 20 years, citing irreconcilable differences with his wife, Teruko. The couple has no children, and assets are to be divided after an inventory, the petition states.

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THIS WEEK IN BLACK HISTORY  
June 21, 1951: Pfc. William Thompson was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for heroism during the Korean War — the first granted to a black American since the Spanish-American War.

## Volunteers Help Lives through Gift of Giving

▲ At 31, squad ages gracefully

By MARK R. MOSS  
Chronicle Staff Writer

The 25 men and women who occupy a small, wood-frame, single-story house on Diggs Boulevard are a rare breed.

They spend many hours of the day away from their families volunteering help to strangers who may have suffered a heart attack or who may have been hurt in a car wreck or who may have fallen in a freak accident and couldn't get up.

These dedicated men and women make up the Southeast Winston Rescue Squad.

"I don't have any money to give the black community," said

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Capt. Billy Glenn, who for more than 20 years has been a volunteer. "But by volunteering, this is my way of giving back something I can afford."

Melvin Stowe and a few other altruistic African Americans founded the then-Air King Rescue Squad in 1962 out of a house in the heart of East Winston. Since then they have worked to provide service to thousands of residents.

"Our goal," said squad Chief George Crawford, "is to fulfill Melvin Stowe's vision and dream of helping the community."

To help carry out that goal, the rescue squad is looking for a new



Members of the Southeast Winston Rescue Squad on Diggs Boulevard.

## Ex-Worker Files Discrimination Suit against Integon

▲ When Clemmons woman's loyalty to company ended, so did her job

By MARK R. MOSS  
Chronicle Staff Writer

During her 21 years at Integon Life Insurance Co., Alfreda Robinson said she tried to play the role that America has set forth for blacks in the corporate world.

She lunched mostly with her white colleagues and often discussed the work habits of black co-workers with her white superiors. She carried herself the way "they" expected her to act and even lived in the "right" community.

But all of those acts of endearment did not keep the company from firing her, she said, and she has taken legal action to get her job back.

Robinson in February filed a discrimination lawsuit against her long-time employer and immediate supervisor, Nancy Maloney. She is suing for reinstatement to

her job and compensation for the pain the loss of her job has caused her.

"They have really ruined my corporate career," said Robinson, 47. "My retirement, my benefits. . . . They ruined my life over bull. I'm not the most marketable person around."

Mary Beth Yates, an Integon spokesman, refused to comment on the suit, saying, "it is our policy not to comment on litigation."

Robinson was fired from her \$25,000-a-year job in February after being out of work for four months. She said she took the time off due to stress.

Robinson, a loquacious, energetic woman, said in a recent interview inside her spacious home in Clemmons West that her ordeal began March 1992. She alleges that Nancy Maloney, manager of commission accounting and the other defendant in the lawsuit, had confided in

her that Maloney was determined to get rid of the black members of the staff. Robinson was lead commission analyst, a position just below Maloney's. They were "good friends," she said, and Maloney would often talk to her about the other black employees.

"She considered me different. She felt comfortable talking to me about the other black employees," Robinson said. "They used to talk to me like I was white."

Of the 30 employees on staff, 10 were black. By the time Robinson had left Integon, Maloney had gotten rid of all but one, Robinson alleged.

Robinson said she got on the wrong side of Maloney when Maloney wanted to get rid of one black woman in particular. When the personnel department called Robinson to ask her about the woman's abilities

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