

Winston-Salem Chronicle

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

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Three Charged With Murder in Cop Killing

▲ *Alleged gunman names two accomplices in weekend holdup*

By RICHARD L. WILLIAMS
Chronicle Executive Editor

The Winston-Salem Police Department's around-the-clock investigation into the shooting death of rookie Officer Robert Buitrago — the fourth death of one of their own in less than two years — has led to the arrests of three suspects, all of whom have been charged with murder, police said.

One of the arrests came Tuesday evening — shortly after hundreds of police officers filled Centenary United Methodist Church to

pay respects to their fallen comrade. Alexander Barnett Hooper, 57, of 720 Mock St., was arrested about 12:30 a.m. Wednesday, and Kaye Autery Bonner, 44, of 1641-P Northwest Blvd., was arrested about 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, police said. Both were named as accomplices by Thomas Michael Larry, who police say shot Buitrago.

All are being held at Forsyth County Jail without privilege of bail.

"The investigation is still not complete," said police Lt. Larry ■ **Suspects' photos, A3**

Reavis, who heads the Criminal Investigation Division. "There's a lot more to do in the investigation. But as far as the persons who were directly involved, we feel we got all of them."

"In a case like this . . . we go back and reinterview witnesses over and over," he said. "We got more lineups to show. But mostly it's just a lot of tying up loose ends from this point on."

Shot at Close Range

Buitrago, 23, was fatally shot about 9:38 p.m. Saturday after he

chased a robber from the Food Lion at Southpark Shopping Center at Peters Creek Parkway and Clemmons Road, police said. Buitrago was waiting at a check-out counter when he noticed a man robbing a clerk in the office area of the store, police said. Once outside, Buitrago chased the suspect and broke a wine bottle over his head. The suspect turned and shot the off-duty officer at close range with a handgun, police said. Buitrago, who did not have his service revolver

see **THREE A3**



Robert Buitrago

IN THE LINE OF DUTY

Robert Buitrago is the fourth city police officer killed in less than two years. The others:

- Lt. A.G. Tise was killed in June 1992 when he and his patrol car were crushed by a stolen road grader.
- Senior Officer Michael Ray Jennings died Jan. 30, 1993, when his squad car was involved in a one-car wreck.
- Senior Officer Bobby F. Beane was shot and killed April 23, 1993, while on a drug raid.

Legendary Track Coach Virgil G. Simpson Remembered

▲ *He founded Roadrunners Track Club 20 years ago*

By RICHARD L. WILLIAMS
Chronicle Executive Editor

Virgil G. Simpson, the legendary track coach to countless African-American youths, was remembered as a demanding teacher, father figure and best friend to many who came under his tutelage during the 20 years he directed the Roadrunners Track Club.

Simpson, who was 59 when he died earlier this month, once said: "I wanted our kids to have . . . an opportunity to cash in on running."

And under his watchful and demanding eye, many did just that. That is why he is so fondly remembered by many area residents following his Jan. 8 death after a short illness.

"He was a very unusual coach," said Alfred

■ **Simpson obituary, B9**

Adams, a former all-American hurdler at Winston-Salem State University. "He was like a father figure and a best friend, and he would just tell you like it is. He expected a lot out of you."

Adams said Simpson often traveled with him to various competitions, and Adams would occasionally help out with the Roadrunners Track Club, a group that Simpson found in 1972.

"I was so successful a lot because of him," said Adams, area transportation supervisor with the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County school system. "When I couldn't, he always said I could. I had a lot of respect for him."

Hundreds packed St. Paul United Methodist Church on Dellabrook Road last week to pay their last respects to the man who gained local and later statewide

see **LEGENDARY A3**



Virgil Simpson (seated) was honored at a cookout last summer for the success of the Roadrunners Track Club.

Forsyth County Child-Abuse Cases Up 35 Percent in 1993

▲ *Expert attributes many societal problems to neglect and abuse of children early on*

By DAVID L. DILLARD
Chronicle Staff Writer

Violence, drugs, crime and other vices that plague communities are likely the long-term effects of children being abused and neglected at home.

George Bryan, Jr., executive director of SCAN, or Stop Child Abuse Now, said that child abuse is the "root-cause" of many societal problems facing Forsyth County.

"There's a lot of talk about violence in the streets . . . and when you look at it many of these kids have been mistreated," Bryan

said. "It keeps coming up. By the time they reach juvenile delinquency, they have a history of abuse and neglect as kids."

Last year, over 59,000 children were reported abused and neglected in North Carolina, according to the state Department of Human Resources. Forsyth County ranked eleventh in the state with 1,436 reported cases — up 35 percent, or 1,063 reported cases, over 1992. Guilford County reported 2,404 cases last year and Wake County had 2,957 reported cases of child abuse and neglect.

Brenda Rapley, social work supervisor with Forsyth County Child Protective Services, said child abuse is usually a result of family problems.

"Generally there is a lot of stress in the home situation," she said. "We're also seeing a rise in drug and alcohol abuse and economic status plays a part."

Rapley said the rise in cases reported shows more people are becoming aware of child abuse and neglect, but also shows the severity of the problem.

"The numbers being reported are

higher, which shows that more people are taking responsibility to report it," Rapley said. "It's good that people are calling in, but it lets us know a lot is going on. It keeps us busy."

In cases of physical and sexual abuse, police often investigate.

Winston-Salem Police Lt. Larry Revis said that all cases are referred to the child-protection services, but there are some abuse cases where police do get involved.

see **CHILD A3**

REPORTED CASES OF CHILD ABUSE (1993)

Wake County	2,957
Guilford County	2,404
Forsyth County	1,436

Source: N.C. Dept. of Human Resources

The Cold Rush

The National Weather Service issued these safety rules as guidelines for dealing with the severe cold:

1. Cover as much exposed flesh as possible. When temperatures are from zero to 10 below, frostbite can easily occur. If it does occur, have it taken care of right away.
2. Use a good winter hat. Most of your body heat is lost through your head.
3. Layered clothing is better than one heavy coat.
4. Use insulated gloves. Mittens are even better.
5. If you are going to warm yourself in front of a fire after coming in from the cold, stand with your back to the fire. If you first place your hands and feet toward the fire, this could send a rush of cold blood into your system.
6. Check your food supply.
7. Bring pets indoors.
8. Turn off water going to outside faucets. On pipes that run along an outside wall, let a small stream of water run.
9. Top off your car's fuel tank before the cold comes.
10. Make as few trips outside as possible.

Gaines Takes Part In Prostate-Cancer Study

From Staff Reports

Clarence "Bighouse" Gaines, the legendary basketball coach who retired last year from Winston-Salem State University, will participate in a prostate cancer-prevention study under way at the Bowman Gray/Baptist Hospital Medical Center.

Gaines said that a family history of cancer and a desire to help others prompted him to enroll in the seven-year study, the largest cancer-prevention trial ever among men in the United States.

North Carolina has the highest prostate-cancer death rate among African-American men in the United States. About 165,000 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer this year in the United States; about 35,000 men will die

of the disease. Included in those figures are an estimated 5,200 cases and 1,000 deaths in North Carolina.

"When you go back and look at family history, my father died of prostate cancer," said Gaines, who in his 47-year career at WSSU won more basketball games than any other active college coach.

"Everyone, on either side of my family, has some kind of cancer."

"Men 55 and older, both black and white, should take advantage of the study here at Bowman Gray," Gaines added. "I hope all my friends will enter into this program."

The trial, which began on Oct. 13, tests the ability of the drug finasteride to prevent prostate cancer. The research is being conducted in North Carolina at

Bowman Gray and clinical sites of the Southeast Cancer Control Consortium, including Forsyth Memorial Hospital.

Those who pass initial screening and who have no signs of prostate cancer will either receive daily doses of finasteride or a placebo pill for seven years.

Finasteride is used to treat more than half a million men in 25 countries who have benign enlargement of the prostate, or BPH. The drug controls abnormal prostate growth by blocking the activity of

an enzyme that converts the male hormone testosterone to dihydrotestosterone. see **BIGHOUSE A3**

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THIS WEEK IN BLACK HISTORY

On Jan. 23-30, 1977, televised production of *Roots*, novel by Alex Haley, established records. Some 130 million viewer watched the episodes during the eight-night presentation.