

SHOW TIME
REGGIE JOHNSON PREVIEWS "THE BOYS NEXT DOOR"
ENTERTAINMENT

SON OF A BULL
12-YEAR-OLD YBA PLAYER KNOWN FOR REBOUNING
SPORTS

Winston-Salem Chronicle

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1994

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

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A FESTIVE AFFAIR



Best Choice Executive Director Dorothy Graham-Wheeler (center) is flanked by Robin and Don Flow.

Hundreds Attend Two-Day Festival To Support the Best Choice Center

By MARK R. MOSS
Chronicle Staff Writer

Last weekend, hundreds of area residents came out to show sup-

port at a festive two-day fund raiser for The Best Choice Center.

Not only was it a success — it garnered about \$75,000 — but it produced an unexpected side effect:

improvement of race relations.

Dorothy Graham-Wheeler, the center's executive director, said that among the more common comments she has heard about the event was

how effective it was in attracting such a diverse group of the affluent and successful.

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Alston to Run For School Seat

▲ Seeks to become first black to win at-large seat since 1986

By RICHARD L. WILLIAMS
Chronicle Executive Editor

Nigel D. Alston, assistance vice president of employment/community relations at Integon Insurance, said he will run for a seat on the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education.

Alston, a Democrat, will run at large and seeks to become the first African-American school-board candidate to win an at-large election since Beaufort Bailey accomplished the feat in 1986.

He was expected to file with the county Board of Elections today or Friday. The filing deadline is Monday.

"I'm running for the students," said Alston, 42. "I think we need to focus our attention on what's important for the children."

"And having been married to a teacher for 17 years, I'm also sensitive to the job they do."

Alston is aware of the problems of divisiveness, bickering and and partisan politics that have plagued the board recently. It was those factors, in part, that led to the abrupt resignation of Superintendent Larry D. Coble.

"I don't know if I can come in and be the answer," he said. "I do



Nigel Alston

think I can come in and work together with people and form a consensus and help get things done. It takes everyone coming together and working together.

"If we focus on what is the responsibility of the board, we can get rid of some of the divisiveness," he said. "The board has to be student-driven — students don't care if you're a democrat or a republican. If we can keep that focus, I think everything else will fall into place."

The board currently has two African Americans — Walter Marshall and Geneva Brown, both

see ALSTON A3

Mendez, Biggs, Graham-Wheeler: Man, Women of the Year

By RICHARD L. WILLIAMS
Chronicle Executive Editor

The Rev. John Mendez, the Honorable Loretta C. Biggs and Dorothy Graham-Wheeler, executive director of The Best Choice Center, have been named the 1993 Winston-Salem Chronicle man and woman of the year, respectively.

For the first time, the Chronicle has named co-winners in the woman of the year category.

Mendez, pastor at Emmanuel Baptist Church, helped to found Citizens United for Justice. Emmanuel and CUJ are known for their works in the vanguard of the civil-rights movement.

Biggs, who has been on the bench for seven years, is involved in several child-related organizations, including the N.C. Supreme Court Permanent Families Task Force. She was recently appointed to serve on



John Mendez

the legislative committee to re-write the Juvenile Code for North Carolina. She has served on the board of directors of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Forsyth County. She was placed on the Wall of Fame of The Best Choice Center and recently

received the Strong, Smart and Bold award from the Salvation Army's Girls' Club for her work on children and women's issues.

The Best Choice Center, on Highland Avenue in a former church, is a substance-abuse prevention program that gives children ages 5 to 15 a chance through education to avoid drugs.

Graham-Wheeler explained that when the center got off the ground in 1988, she had planned on leading the drug-prevention education program for six months to a year.

She couldn't leave, and now the center has grown from an enrollment of 35 children to more than 100 and has a waiting list of another 100. The children, who attend the program after school and during the summer, have been referred to the center by a variety of sources, such as teachers and policemen.



Loretta Biggs

Other awards and awardees are:
■ Community Service: Housing Authority of Winston-Salem
■ Public Safety: Sgt. Stephen Hairston
■ Justice: Black Men & Women Against Crime

*Curator of Arts Award: Randolph Johnson, Kenneth Mallette and Sharon Fraizer

*Student Journalists: Nicole Davenport, Derek Chisolm and Sidney Minter

The newest award given by the Winston-Salem Chronicle is one that will recognize individuals who have dedicated their lives to improving the lives of others and the Winston-Salem community.

This award, called the Carl H. Russell Award for Lifetime Achievement, is named after the former Northeast Ward alderman who fought feverishly for the rights of others. Russell, who died in 1987, founded Russell's Funeral Home in 1939.

The recipients are: Clark S. Brown Sr., Rev. Jerry Drayton, Clarence "Bighouse" Gaines, James L. Lassiter, Dr. H. Rembert Malloy



Dorothy Graham-Wheeler

Sr., Virginia K. Newell, and Charles Calloway "C.C." Ross.

All of the winners will be recognized at the Chronicle's 11 Annual Awards Banquet March 5 at the Anderson Center at Winston-Salem State University.

Chronicle Wins Awards in Journalism Contest

From Staff Reports

The Winston-Salem Chronicle last week was recognized for excellence in the N.C. Press Association journalism competition.

The Chronicle won second place in the general excellence category, and staffer writer Mark R. Moss won second place in spot news-reporting.

The awards were presented last

Thursday by Gov. James B. Hunt Jr. at the annual meeting of the Press Association at the William and Ida Friday Continuing Education Center.

The Winston-Salem Chronicle received awards in the category for weekly newspapers with circulation over 3,500. The Chronicle has a circulation of 9,500.

The general excellence category

was judged by Georgiana Vines of the Knoxville (Tenn.) News-Sentinel, who said that the Chronicle was "well designed" and that "local writing is strong."

In the spot news category, Moss was awarded second place for a heart-breaking article he wrote about 6-year-old Talonda Lanier, who was shot in the head in a drive-by shooting last sum-

mer.

Patricia Ferrier of the The Leaf-Chronicle in Clarksville, Tenn., who judged the entries, said: "Mr. Moss told this story as only a polished storyteller can. He caught my interest with his lead sentence and compelled me to finish the story. ... He made me share Ms.

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THIS WEEK IN BLACK HISTORY

On Feb. 5, 1958, Clifton R. Wharton Sr. was confirmed as minister to Rumania. The career diplomat was the first black to head a U.S. embassy in Europe.

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