

# IN OUR OPINION

THE CHRONICLE'S STANCE ON SCHOOL REDISTRICTING  
OPINION

# BUFFALO SOLDIERS

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# Winston-Salem Chronicle

The Choice for African-American News and Information

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

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## Disabled Man Still Trying to Get His Money

▲ Claims lawyer bilked him out of \$12,000 nine years ago after near-fatal wreck

By MARK R. MOSS  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Robert Lane Smith is on a mission. He wants his money back, and he's not going to let his paralysis or anything else stand in his way. Smith, a 41-year-old quadriplegic, alleges that Larry F. Habegger, a former Winston-Salem lawyer, bilked him out of more than a third of the settlement he received from the car accident in 1985 that left him paralyzed.

"I want my money," Smith said. "I know he's (Habegger) glad of one thing — I'm in a wheelchair."

Because Habegger ripped him off for \$12,000, Smith said, he has had to file for bankruptcy. Now, nearly two-thirds of the approximately \$700 he gets monthly for disability is set aside to pay off his debts, Smith said.

Smith now leaves with his mother on Bowen Boulevard.

"When you add in the personalities and the

dynamics . . . this is nothing but a sad story all around," said Lisa Menafee, one of the first attorney's Smith turned to for help.

Habegger, who could not be reached after repeated calls to his Advance home, has a list of shady dealings. He became the focus of an embezzlement investigation in the late 1980s. According to published reports, Habegger surrendered his license to practice law to the N.C. Bar in December 1988 "in the face of allegations that he embezzled almost \$180,000 from

three trust funds that he administered." He was charged with embezzlement in late 1989, and received a suspended sentence in late 1990.

Also, seeking a more lenient sentence, a drug dealer in 1981 accused Habegger of extorting money.

Ironically, Smith turned to Habegger the same year the former lawyer was forced to surrender his license. It was not, however, the first



Robert Smith

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## Carver Student Wins \$41,000 Scholarship to UNC-Chapel Hill

By MARK R. MOSS  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Dionne Michelle Piggott, a senior at Carver High School and daughter of the school's principal, has won a 1994 Morehead Award to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

"Yes, I was surprised," Piggott said about the moment she learned that she had won the scholarship. "I didn't think I'd get that far" in the competition.

Piggott explained that after her teachers nominated her for the scholarship, she had to go through interviews with Morehead committees on the local, regional and state levels.

"I'm just as happy as I can be," said her proud father, Daniel Piggott, the first-year principal at Carver. "I told some folks it's like the parents just got a raise. It couldn't have happened to a better person."

The Morehead Award is worth \$41,000 and pays all expenses for four years of undergraduate study at the university. It also includes a summer-enrichment session that Dionne Piggott said is an Outward Bound program that she is looking for-

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Dionne Michelle Piggott



Local alumni chapter will host regional meeting in Winston-Salem Friday and Saturday at Hawthorne Inn. Pictured are (front row, left to right): Todd Burke, Jerry A. Drayton Sr., Gregory T. Burrell, George Simmons, (back row) Monroe J. Falls, Leroy Anderson, J. Fred Acree and Willie L. Clark Jr.

## Success Seems to Follow Wherever They Go

By DAVID L. DILLARD  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Confidence, integrity and success are just some of many positive characteristics that describe a "Morehouse Man."

These qualities attributed to the Atlanta school

commonly referred to as "the black Harvard" were so enticing to Gregory Burrell of Winston-Salem that he decided in 1986 — at the ripe age of 26 — that he wanted the coveted "Morehouse Man" title bestowed upon him.

Burrell was impressed by the college's reputation of transforming African-American boys into

men. He also knew a Morehouse education would instill confidence in him and send him on his way to a successful career.

"I constantly heard that message that you are expected to do well," said Burrell, a mortician with

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## Togo West Headlines Urban League Three-Day Event

By MARK R. MOSS  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Togo D. West Jr. is coming home. West, the first African-American Secretary of the Army and a Winston-Salem native, will be the keynote speaker at the Winston-Salem Urban League's 14th annual Equal Opportunity Day Dinner next month.

West was recently confirmed by the U.S. Senate for the Army's top civilian post after being nominated by President Clinton last fall.

He will be the highlight of the Urban

League's three-day event April 21-23. The Urban League opted to cancel its annual Equal Opportunity Day Dinner — a one-day event — last fall in order to expand to a three-day program this spring. This was done, explained Delores "Dee" Smith, president and chief executive officer of the local league, to attract more people to league events and to make more people aware of the league and its activities.

"This is expanding and building upon the past traditions of the dinner," she said.

A conference on "The African-American Family" will be held on April 21 at the Ander-

son Center at Winston-Salem State University. One of the featured speakers will be Lenore Boulton-Johnson, co-author of "Black Families at the Crossroads." Also leading various discussions will be the Rev. John Mendez, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church, who will speak on religion; Chandler Lee, president and CEO of Classic Cadillac and GMC-Truck, who will speak on economic development; and Joseph Johnson, an associate superintendent of the city/county school system, who will speak on education.

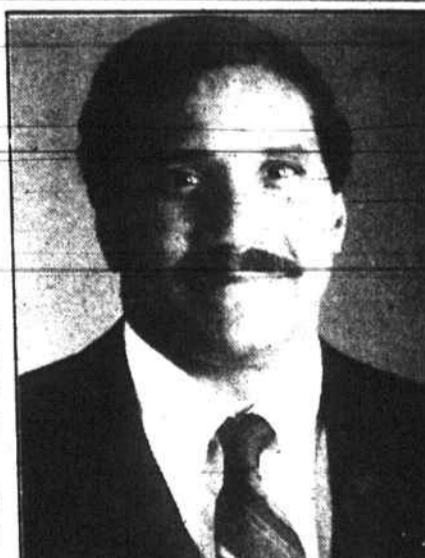
The dinner featuring Secretary West will

be held at the Benton Convention Center at 7 p.m. It will be preceded by a reception at 6 p.m.

The third day of the event will be a community cultural festival held in the park area outside of the Anderson Center and will include food and entertainment. Vendors interested in participating are asked to contact the Urban League.

West, whose father, Togo West Sr., was a well-known and well-respected principal at

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Togo D. West Jr.

## Summit to Address Needs of Black Community

By DAVID L. DILLARD  
Chronicle Staff Writer

African Americans throughout Forsyth County will have a summit meeting this weekend to discuss solutions to improve the quality of life in black communities.

The Winston-Salem/Forsyth County African American Summit will be held Friday and Saturday at the

Anderson Center at Winston-Salem State University.

Joycelyn Johnson, East Ward alderman and a member of the summit's steering committee, said the summit is a culmination of several planning sessions last year to empower blacks. The summit meeting is held in Winston-Salem to make sure all segments of the black community are represented.

"Everyone in the community has

something to contribute," Johnson said. "We want to make sure that everyone has input in setting an agenda for our community."

The two-day summit will have workshops to address four primary areas: education, economic development, criminal justice and housing.

There will also be a youth forum at the summit, and emphasis placed on health care.

Olivia Allen, owner of Olivia's Child Care, said that a forum will be held for the youth and adults to dialogue with each other.

"We're going to have an open dialogue with the youth," Allen said. "(Adults) see things physically, but don't know the details behind it; our youth do."

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### THIS WEEK IN BLACK HISTORY

March 13, 1965 Jefferson Davis signed bill authorizing use of slaves