

LOUISE WILSON

SHE LIVED A LIFE DEDICATED TO HELPING THOSE IN NEED

INSERT

HARD TIMES

WFU COACH IS ABLE TO SMILE THROUGH TOUGH YEAR

SPORTS

Winston-Salem Chronicle

The Choice for African-American News

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

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Matics: 'Not a Racist Bone in My Body'

▲ Postmaster denies allegations of race and gender discrimination and intimidation

By RICHARD L. WILLIAMS
Chronicle Executive Editor

Winston-Salem Postmaster J. Mark Matics, saying "there's not a racist bone in my body," denies that he mistreats African-American and women employees and said he was unaware of the discontent among many postal workers, which apparently has been festering for years.

However, one worker has compared Matics' management style to that of a slave master.

"His management is that of confronting and intimidating," said Al Lea, a letter carrier and hang them in front of the other slaves to keep everybody else in line and make them

"He's just like the slave master who used to lynch black people and hang them in front of the other slaves to keep everybody else in line and make them afraid."

— Al Lea

from the Healy Drive Station. "He's just like the slave master who used to lynch black people. That's how Mark Matics is." Lea was in line for a supervisor's position

earlier this year, but is now back delivering mail. He said that has nothing to do with his views about Matics.

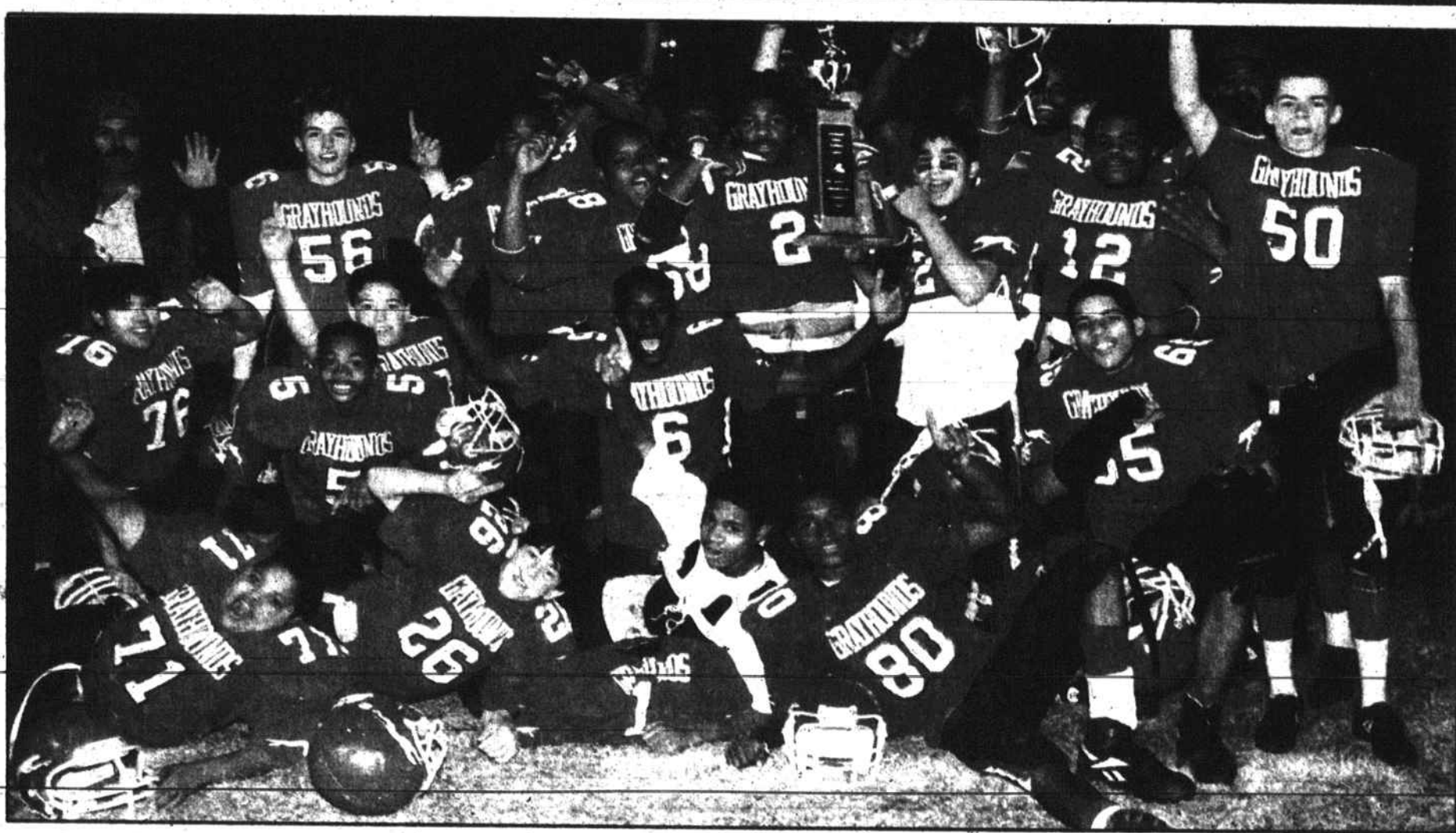
"If he can't tell you how to think, he can't use you," Lea said. He said the atmosphere at the Healy Drive Station is one of "fear and frustration."

Several other post office employees offered similar assessments of Matics, but spoke only on condition that their names not



Mark Matics

see MATICS page 12



CHAMPS!

The Winston-Salem Grayhounds (above) celebrate their Northwest Midget Football League Junior Bantam Championship after beating the Pfafftown Packers 28-14 on Nov. 12. De'onzo Amos (left) of the Junior Midget Pfafftown Packers holds trophy aloft. See stories on page 15.

Photos by Laura Markland

Black GOP Urges Black Democrats to Consider Crossover

By P.S. BANKS
Special to the Chronicle

African-American Republicans in Winston-Salem were not surprised by their party's resounding victory on Nov. 8.

Vernon Robinson, a long-time advocate for African-American Republicans, said this recent election was a revolution by southern Americans. He said Democrats whose purpose is to "trap people perpetually into a welfare state" are virtually finished in the African-American community.

"The first shot of freedom from the Republican Party was when it provided the death knell to slavery in the late 1800s," Robinson said. "The second shot was heard on Nov. 8 when the people of this district finished the job started by John Brown and finally freed the remainder of the people who did not make it off the plantation."

Emery L. Rand, director of the city's Human Relations Commission, said African-Americans should never put all their eggs in one basket.

"This election provides the proverbial writing on the wall that we need to be in and participating in both political parties," he said. "Straight-ticket voting is (political) suicide."

Constance Johnson, a professor at Winston-Salem State University, said she was appalled by the election results. Johnson urged young African-Americans to learn the history of the two major political parties to understand how to participate in the process.

"There are so many of us who have not considered the relationship between our single-handedness in terms of Democratic Party affiliation and the ability of both Democrats and Republicans to dismiss us as a group," she said.

Johnson also questioned whether the advent of the 12th Congressional District, represented by Congressman Mel Watt, will help African-Americans in the long run. She says it

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Emery Rand



Vernon Robinson



Constance H. Johnson

Renovation Of Liberty Street Corridor Approved

By DAVID L. DILLARD
Chronicle Staff Writer

Will Spencer has had a vested interest in the Liberty Street area for years. His grandfather B.F. Huntley owned one of the largest furniture companies in the Southeast, located on Patterson Street, and now Spencer operates JKS Signs at 826 Liberty St.

Spencer said he remembers when Liberty Street used to be a major thoroughfare.

"At one time Liberty Street was where Winston was — that's where everybody did

business," Spencer said. "We have a long history from the airport to the city and it is a real nice thing to build it up again."

Spencer said his store was built in 1927 and used to be a car dealership and a rooming house. At another point it was a grocery store and had a small cafe.

Spencer told the city-county planning board last Thursday that Liberty Street used to be the most traveled road because people

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This Week in Black History
November 16, 1873
Richard T. Greene,
first black graduate of
Harvard University,
named professor of
metaphysics at the
Univ. of S.C.



WHERE TO FIND IT

Early Start Program Still Has Room for Students

By VERONICA CLEMONS
Chronicle Staff Writer

The Winston-Salem/Forsyth County school system's staff members who are working with the Early Start pre-kindergarten program are not worried right now about whether the program will continue or end in June.

They are concerned with filling the empty spaces.

"We're trying to deal with the here and now," said Tony Bingham, director of the school system's elementary school division.

Bingham said that one of the sites, Diggs Elementary School, still has spaces for 4-year-olds who may be eligible for the program.

School officials expect the program to begin Jan. 17. It will end when the regular school year does in June. There will be an evaluation of the program and the board will decide if it should continue or cease.

Daisy Chambers, director of elementary schools, said that in the other sites there has

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