

# Race identification on checks no longer required

**Δ Lowe's successfully lobbies to change check passing policies**

By BILL TURNER  
Special to THE CHRONICLE

Until last week, the North Wilkesboro, N.C.-based Lowe's Home Improvement Centers were like all other retailers, large and small, when it came to the prac-

tice of recording the race and gender of customers on their checks.

This practice has long been required of retailers by county magistrates, supposedly making it easier to identify people who pass bad checks. But, many people — those with no record or intent to pass a bad check — reasoned that the ordinance had the same discriminating effect as segregated lunch counters and drinking



Gov. Jim Hunt signs HR Bill 790, changing a law that required retailers to record the race and sex of customers on their

fountains.

Last year "Lowe's took a real beating," according to Don Williams, Lowe's director of diversity programs. The Chronicle — and then papers statewide — ran a story about Evon Crooks, a black man, who found the practice "insulting." After protesting in writing to the company and returning his Lowe's charge card, Crooks, a

senior research chemist at Winston Salem-based R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, sent an E-mail message asking fellow employees to return their Lowe's charge cards.

Almost immediately, Lowe's, through Cliff Oxford, senior vice president of corporate affairs and human resources development, began working to deal with

See Checks on A2

75 cents

WINSTON-SALEM GREENSBORO HIGH POINT

Vol. XXIII No. 41

## THE CHRONICLE

The Choice for African-American News and Information

THURSDAY JUNE 12, 1997

For Reference  
Not to be taken  
from this library

121197DA01  
N C ROOM  
FORSYTH CNTY PUB LIB  
660 W 5TH ST # Q  
WINSTON SALEM NC 27101-2755

### Digging in the dirt: Youth getting a jump on recreation bonds

By BRIDGET EVARTS  
THE CHRONICLE Staff Writer

"Colors."  
"Trees."  
"How it all flows together."

The seven teenagers incorporated those favorite aspects of Winston Lake Park in a design project they hope will attract visitors to the complex.

The budding landscapers, architects and artists were brought together in April to work on the Winston Lake Park landscape project. A collaboration between the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art (SECCA), the Winston Lake YMCA and the city of Winston-Salem, the project teaches teens the elements of design while beautifying the Winston Lake Park area.

Best yet, the youth will have an opportunity to work with artist/architect Maya Lin. As a 21-year-old Yale under grad, Lin designed the U.S. Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The stark, black granite walls bearing the names of the 57,661 Americans who died in Vietnam is hailed as one of the most influential memorials in the country.



Cameron Russell points out common elements in the three Winston Lake Park Complex signs.

Lin, who will be exhibiting at SECCA early next year, will work with the teenagers on the latter part of their project, said SECCA public relations coordinator Ginny Rutter.

This project hinges in part on the recreation bond up for vote in the June 24 referendum. SECCA donated resources for the first part of the project: trees, shrubs and flowers, and volunteers to help the teenagers plant them. The second and third phases of the project depend on a portion of the bond money slated for Winston Lake Park.

The park would receive \$800,000 out of the total \$4 million recreation bond package. In addition to the landscaping improvements, the funds would be used to pave existing parking lots, build a new picnic shelter and tennis courts, and provide ball field lighting.

Included in the bond is \$350,000 for landscaping, renovations, playground equipment and the construction of new picnic shelters, pathways and entrances at Washington Park. The city would use \$600,000 to design a park facility master plan and initial developments

See Recreation on A2

### Decision pending on Social Services board replacements

By BRIDGET EVARTS  
THE CHRONICLE Staff Writer

GUILFORD COUNTY — A superior court decision is still pending on the status of two Social Services board members removed by the Republican majority of the Guilford County commissioners.

The commissioners voted in April to replace the board members, Democratic commissioner Warren Dorsett and Dr. Isaac Barnett, with Republican commissioner Mary Rakestraw and LaVonne Napper. The two ousted members filed for a restraining order one week later. Judge Judson DeRamus granted Dorsett and Barnett a reprieve and told the commissioners they must prove just cause for the removal.

Both sides presented their cases to Superior Court Judge Donald Stephens last week, who said a final verdict would be reached in two to three weeks.



Warren Dorsett

"I guess we just have to sit back and wait," said Barnett.

Greensboro attorney Walter Johnson represents Barnett and Dorsett. The commissioners hired Winston-Salem firm Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice.

Guilford County has contracted with outside firms in the past, said commissioner Steve Arnold.

"It wasn't an individual personal request on the part of any commissioner," said Arnold. County attorney Jonathan

See Guilford on A2



Tianja Bean (center), instructor of the Rafekhi African Dancers, helped two of her students conduct a rites of passage performance of an African wedding.

### Ujamaa Merchants United Inc. to present Juneteenth Festival on Father's Day

By FELECIA P. MCMILLAN  
Special to THE CHRONICLE

June 19 in most states is just another day, but for more than 250,000 slaves in Texas in the year 1865, it marked the beginning of freedom. Juneteenth is the oldest holiday observance of African-American emancipation. It is the holiday observed by African Americans to celebrate when all Africans in the United States legally gained their freedom. It is

often referred to by many names, such as "Emancipation Day," "Freedom Day," "Emancipation Celebration," "Black Independence Day," and "Jun-Jun." Ujamaa Merchants United Inc. will present their second annual Juneteenth Festival on Sunday, June 15, at Barber Park in Greensboro from noon until 7 p.m.

This year some of the performers will be the Rafekhi African

Dancers, Free Expression Jazz and R&B Band, Kuk Sool Won Martial Arts, Herbalist Art Hinson, and The New Joshuas children's dramatic group will present a play called "The Rainbow Conspiracy."

More than 300 people from around the Triad attended the festival last year, and Jackie Sanders, co-founder of Ujamaa Merchants

See Ujamaa on A2

### Steps taken for economic development?

By BRIDGET EVARTS  
THE CHRONICLE Staff Writer

The East Winston Development Task Force voted Tuesday to create a development corporation that would be at once a private entity and an arm of the city.

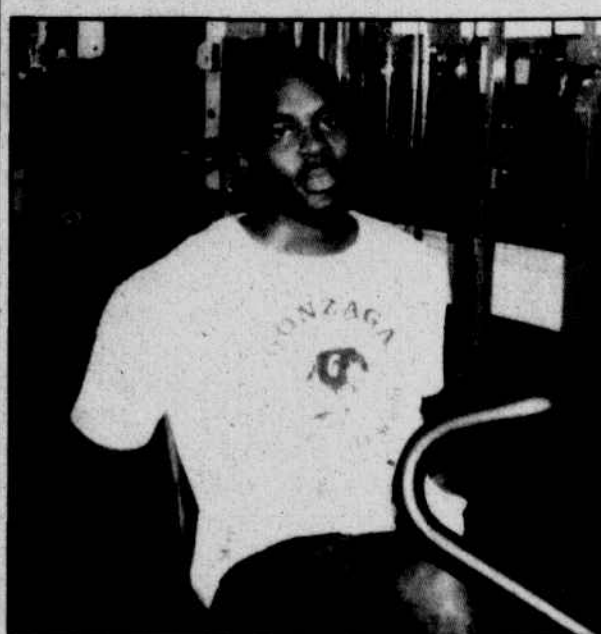
The East Winston Development Corporation would be modeled after the Downtown Development Corporation, which was created several years ago to facilitate public-private development in that targeted area.

The decision may be the spark to light East Winston development. For some time, the task force has been stymied by a lack of direction.

"A task force is task oriented," said English Bradshaw, chairman of the strategic planning sub-committee that studied the feasibility of incorporation. "If you stay 50 years on a task force, you haven't finished your task."

Former mayor Wayne Corpening created the East Winston Development Task Force almost 10 years ago as a compliment to a study of East Winston development conducted by consultant group Hammer, Siler, George. The task force's main duty is to identify and recommend economic development projects to the board of aldermen.

See Economic on A8



Brian Payne, program director of the Carl Chavis YMCA, takes a break in the state-of-the-art fitness center.

### Carl Chavis YMCA gears up for summer

HIGH POINT — Though the new home of the Carl Chavis YMCA is just a few blocks from its old Fourth Street facility, the July 1996 move into William Penn High School marked a new era. With programs for all age groups, from preschoolers to seniors, the YMCA has breathed new life into William Penn, a venerable institution which educated African Americans under segregation.

No two High Point names resonate more history and pride than Carl Chavis and William Penn. Named for the first black man from High Point to sacrifice his life in World War II, the Carl Chavis YMCA opened its doors in 1946 and moved to its

See YMCA on A2