

SPORTSWEEK

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COMMUNITY

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WINSTON-SALEM GREENSBORO HIGH POINT

Vol. XXVII No. 24

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THE CHRONICLE

The Choice for African American News

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2001

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Developer optimistic after setback

BY T. KEVIN WALKER THE CHRONICLE

It's a battle of David and Goliath proportions, but William Brandon (the David in the scenario) says he is relying on his faith to pull him through a scheduled foreclosure hearing today initiated by Goliath, a consortium of 12 banks that financed his EastWay Plaza Shopping Center back in 1993.

As of press time, though, Brandon still had yet to find a financier to bail him out of a situation that he says he never should have been in in the first place.

"What the bank group has done to me is perfectly legal, but it's not ethical," he said last week. Brandon said he has never missed one of his \$17,000 monthly payments to the bank group in six years. He has been scratching his head as to why the banks, led by Bank of America, now

want to snatch the center from him. He has come up with some ideas. Brandon speculates that perhaps the banks see the power that East Winston could have once the Martin Luther King Drive extension is complete. With the extension, Brandon said, travelers can bypass downtown

banks got a little edgy late last year when his anchor tenant, Cato, left the center. Brandon said the chain closed many branches when it decided to downsize. It's Fashion, another store owned by the Cato chain, remains in Eastway. "I guess there was some panic

space." A hair salon and a dry cleaner have also signed to move into the center, Brandon said. There is only one spot in the center that has yet to be filled, he added.

"I only have one vacancy...It only took me four months to fill those spots that were vacant; that's reasonable," he said.

Brandon has taken issue with recent published reports that his center is a "bust." He said the center was 100 percent occupied for the vast majority of its history. Brandon also objects to those who have tried to link his current situation with future and present business prospects in the East Winston. Brandon is still confident that business of all kinds can succeed in the area. In no other community, he said, is one business' failure or problems linked to neighboring businesses.

"Financial institutions have expressed that they have an interest in economic development in East Winston, but that's all they have done - expressed it; they have not shown it."

- William Brandon

completely when exiting Business 40. "Property here in East Winston is going to become more valuable. I think there is a reason that this is happening to me, because somebody wants this," he said.

Brandon also theorizes that the from the bank group that I wasn't going to have the money to pay them every month because Cato left," he said. "Right now we have found a tenant for that spot. It takes longer than a week or a month to find a tenant for a 7,200-square-foot

See Eastway on A4



The Rev. James Sloan, left, and the Rev. Micheal Williams look over a prepared statement by the Ministers Conference.

Black School Board members want inclusion

Johnson, Brown discouraged that board doesn't like idea of inner-city high school

BY T. KEVIN WALKER THE CHRONICLE

Geneva Brown knew that some of her colleagues on the city-county Board of Education did not like even the idea of building a new high school in East Winston-Salem, but she didn't know how strongly they disliked the idea until she learned about what happened during a bitter board meeting late last week.

Brown did not attend the meeting at which the board had preliminary discussions about where to build two new high schools that the school system hopes to pay for through a yet-to-

be considered bond referendum. Talk of the two new high schools began about two years ago. At that time board member Victor Johnson told The Chronicle that he wanted one of the schools built in East Winston to take the place of Atkins High School, which the system converted into a middle school in the early '70s.

But Johnson was the sole board member at last week's meeting advocating for the East Winston school. Other members want both schools built in mostly white areas of the county.

Brown said perhaps it was good that she was not at the meeting. She is angry that the board has seemingly turned its back on the idea of a new high school in East Winston.

"For a town like Winston-Salem that still has problems accepting one another, the school system has not helped. It has made things worst," she said recently.

Brown has been a vocal critic of the system's redistricting plan because it has yielded a great number of one-race schools. Brown acknowledges that a high school in East Winston does have a chance of becoming another one-race school. That's why she wants the school to be a "strong magnet school" with a focus on either trade skills or technology. Brown says such a school would draw students from throughout the county and fill a void that is missing in schools today.

"When people finished Atkins, they used to go to that little building on the side of the school and take masonry, plumbing...all that stuff, and they would go out and make a good living," she said. "We don't have anything like that for the people who do not plan to go to college.

The high school Brown wants would be located off Waterworks Road, near the Winston Lake Family YMCA.

Brown said if the Board of County Commissioners decides to put the bond issue on the ballot, the referendum would have a hard row to hoe among African Americans. Brown also said residents who want the school in East Winston should not be holding their tongues during the planning stages.

"(People) are too quiet now; they should be saying something," she said.

Brown added that she would personally not support a bond referendum if a school is not built in East Winston.

See Schools on A10

A Job Well Done



Nina Lucas, director of the dance theater department at Wake Forest University, receives the Reid-Doyle Prize for Excellence in Teaching from Dean Paul Escott at the university's convocation ceremony last week. Other staffers awarded or recognized at the event included WFU professor Maya Angelou and alumnus Victor Flow Jr. (chair of Flow Lexus). To read about the event's keynote speaker, see page A4.

Michaux: Remember your history

Durham legislator comes to Winston-Salem to speak before history group

BY T. KEVIN WALKER THE CHRONICLE

Longtime state Rep. Mickey Michaux told a local crowd last week that Winston-Salem is always close to him as he serves his Durham constituency in the General Assembly.

In fact, he said, he can't turn his head at his desk in the House

chamber without feeling the city's presence.

"I sit in seat number 57," he said. "In seat 56 is Larry Womble (D-Forsyth)...Pete Oldham (D-Forsyth) sits in seat 58."

Michaux was the keynote speaker at the Society for the Study of Afro-American History's annual banquet Feb. 8 on the campus of Winston-Salem State University.

The 20-year-old group works to preserve local history through archiving photographs and other historical documents. Recently, SSAAH released a popular history book about black life in the city over the past century.

Michaux praised SSAAH for its efforts while calling on more African Americans to remember

See Michaux on A5

Interest not overwhelming at search meeting

BY CORTNEY L. HILL THE CHRONICLE

Bad weather may have been the cause of the small turnout for Monday night's Winston-Salem State University's chancellor-search forum in the Anderson Center's Dillard Auditorium. However, the forum ran on schedule at 6 p.m. as Brenda Diggs, chair of the board of trustees, introduced 11 of 13 attended board members.

"The purpose for the forum is to allow members of the community and university a chance to express their views and suggestions they have for the next chancellor of Winston-Salem State," Diggs said after introducing the board.

Afterward, Diggs opened the floor to audience members who wanted to make statements or comments. After a long silence, former president of WSSU's National Alumni Association Beaufort Bailey, stepped up to read an in-depth letter about comments and qualifications he would like to see in the university's next chancellor.

At the opening of Bailey's letter, he thanked the search committee for giving the community a chance to voice their opinions about qualities they would like to see in the next chancellor; however, upon selecting the next chancellor for the university, he mentioned how the board and President Molly Broad will be held accountable for the next chancellor chosen.

Bailey gave 10 attributes that he would like to see in the next chancellor, such as how the next chancellor should be aware of the drawbacks and strengths of the university, how he/she should be aware of the history of the university, be a people person and possess good common sense, as well as be aware of the purpose Simon Green Atkins, founder of WSSU, had in mind when he started the school.

"The next chancellor should be enthusiastic to

See Forum on A6

Young millionaire has seen valleys and peaks

Uchendi Nwani served time in prison before becoming a millionaire businessman

BY T. KEVIN WALKER THE CHRONICLE

A self-made 28-year-old millionaire told students at Winston-Salem State University Monday night that for millions of inner-city African Americans, the American dream doesn't consist of a house with a white picket fence, a mini-van and a couple of kids.

Instead, Uchendi "Chin" Nwani said, the American dream of this disenfranchised segment is summed up in a few short words - power, sex and money.

"We want things and we want things now," he said. "We can't wait."

The fast life is a subject Nwani could talk about for days. He's been there and done that. And his high-rolling lifestyle as drug dealer and self-described player ended when he was sent to federal prison for running a drug ring that transported narcotics from

Miami to his hometown, Nashville.

"All good things must come to an end," Nwani said of the prison sentence. "Reality came crashing down when the bars closed."

He was not a likely candidate for prison or for a drug dealer. The son of a minister, Nwani was a honor student at Tennessee State University while he was dealing and at the time he was convicted. The judge, he said, was surprised when he looked at the hardened drug dealer that had been charged in connection with one of the biggest drug busts in Tennessee history and saw a preppy-dressed college boy.

Prison was a living nightmare for Nwani. He described graphically the filth and the fear he experienced while behind bars. He faced 30 years in prison, but his good behavior greatly reduced that number. When



See Millionaire on A9 Nwani makes a point during his talk with WSSU students.