



Pioneers recall the good times



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# THE CHRONICLE

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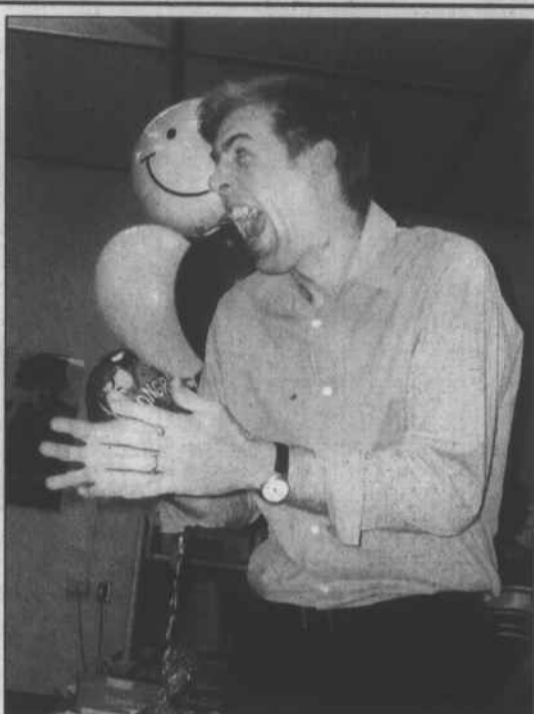
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Vol. XXIX No. 37

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WINSTON-SALEM • GREENSBORO • HIGH POINT

THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2003



Jonathan Milner reacts after being told that he is the Teacher of the Year for Forsyth County. Milner teaches Advanced Placement courses at the Career Center. He will now compete for the state title. See A10 for the story.

Photo by Courtney Gaillard

## Plan stirs mixed emotions

### Proposed city annexation raises questions about fairness, economics and race

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

Yolanda Cropps was born and raised in a rural town, so even mid-sized Winston-Salem seemed like a very big city when she moved here.

In an attempt to recapture a piece of her rural upbringing and to escape mounting taxes, Cropps and her husband, Anthony, bought a picturesque home off of Old Salisbury Road, nearly two years ago in an area where trees and grass are plentiful and neighbors are close-by but far enough away to give homeowners breathing room.

For the Cropps, it was a dream come true. But if some city officials get their way, Yolanda Cropps fears her dream will become a nightmare.

The Cropps' home, which is near the Davidson County line, is in one of the nine areas the city is proposing to annex.

"We tried to get away from the city because we did not want to pay the taxes, and we did not like all the busyness....Now they are trying to make us part of that,"



Photo by Bruce Chapman

Anthony and Yolanda Cropps pose on the back porch of their house. They fear annexation will bring higher taxes and overcrowding.

Yolanda Cropps said last week.

She and many of her neighbors don't buy the city's arguments that annexation may bring only about \$50 a month in extra taxes. Since most of the homes in the

Cropps' neighborhood are above \$220,000, she thinks her taxes will double and the serenity of her rural life will all but disappear.

See Annexation on A10

## UNITY works toward change

### Concerned neighbors think youth programs are working

BY SAM DAVIS  
FOR THE CHRONICLE

How do you effect positive change and reclaim a community that is riddled by a high crime rate, alcoholism, drug abuse and high unemployment?

There may not be an easy answer to that question, but Mary Moore and several colleagues in the UNITY (United Neighbors Involved in Transforming Youth) neighborhood association believe it starts with reaching young people.

Moore is president of the organization, which targets residents of Bowen Park, LaDeara Crest Estates, East 25th Street, and Ansonia, Machine and Manchester streets on the east side of Winston-Salem. Moore has been the driving force behind the movement, which is designed to help revitalize that community.

For the past two years, members of UNITY have sponsored activities to touch the lives of young members of the community. The projects

sponsored have provided hands-on experience for the participants. They include paint projects, block-to-block clean-ups, a shared community garden, neighborhood reunions and block parties.

Now the group is preparing to take on an even bigger challenge. It is working to provide job opportunities for the area's residents. UNITY has networked with a host of local agencies to acquire two houses that will be moved into the area. A lot has been located on the corner of 26th and Manchester streets.

The houses, which are currently located on Polo Road, will be sold for \$70,000 to \$75,000. The project has been on the table for nearly a year since UNITY made arrangements to

See UNITY on A10



Moore



Wall

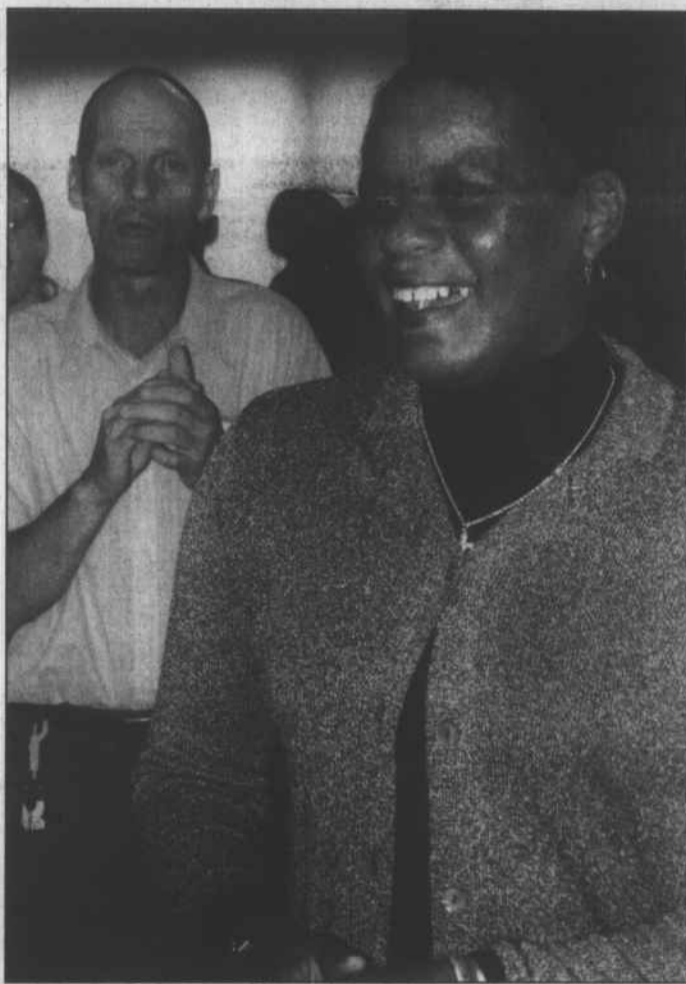


Photo by Kevin Walker

Cindy Dalton sings "Look Where He's Brought Me From" at a Step-Up service at Prodigals Community Monday. Behind her is Michael Jones.

## A new day

### Graduates complete rigorous addiction program

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

Cindy Dalton and David Lanier are older than most graduates, but they are no less full of promise and a bit jittery about what tomorrow may bring.

Dalton and Lanier are the most recent graduates of Prodigals Community's rigorous 15-month substance abuse program. In addition to certificates of achievement, each was presented with a unique Bible especially designed for people coping with addiction.

Prodigals Community - a well respected substance abuse treatment program that has changed the lives of hundreds of local people - held what it calls a "Step-Up service" Monday in the quaint, old sanctuary on the Prodigals' campus on Waughtown Street. Twice a year, the program holds Step-Up services to honor those who have completed the treatment program, which includes job training, counseling, GED classes and an employment program in which residents of the Prodigals Community perform lawn maintenance and janitorial services.

The organization uses the term "Step-Up" to signify that graduates

are ready to ascend from where they once were to a whole new world of possibilities.

"Now they are ready to take a step up and join their brothers and sisters who are alumni of this program (and are) productive members of society," said Drewry Nostitz, the chair of the Prodigals board.

The service was emotional not only for the graduates - who fought back tears as they addressed the more than 60 people who came to

celebrate their achievements - but also for those currently in the program and those who successfully left the program years ago and credit Prodigals for giving them a new lease on life.

A Prodigals alum who is now a senior at Salem College welcomed the new graduates back into the real world. She told them the sky is the limit and encouraged them to rely on other alumni, if they ever feel the temptation to resort to their old vices.

"When I got here in 1993, you could not have told me that I could be at a school like Salem," she said. "I came here with nothing, and I have more than I have ever had."

Mayor Allen Joines was the keynote speaker for the service. He

See Prodigals on A9

## Sorority gives educators overdue adulation

BY FELECIA P. MCMILLAN  
THE CHRONICLE

Mayor Allen Joines declared Monday as African-American Educators Day in Winston-Salem, and more than 150 educators and their families came out to celebrate on that day at the Elks Lodge. The National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa Inc. Beta Lambda Chapter sponsored the Excellence in Education banquet to recognize unsung heroes in education.

Members of the chapter have taken the initiative to honor African-American educators as viable resources in the local community. Valeria Edwards served as the mistress of ceremonies, and the keynote speaker was Judge Denise Hartsfield.

According to Hartsfield, we need to go back to the basics. Hartsfield explained that she grew up with a hearty love for teaching as a profession because she had so many family members who were educators.

"When children were having trouble reading in my neighborhood, my Aunt Shirley would say, 'Send him to Doris (Hartsfield's mother) in the evening. She can teach a rock to read.'"

The sorority recognized educators in the following categories: Living Legends (sorors who have retired), Excellence in Education (active teachers) and Distinguished Educators (retired instructors).

These people were selected as Living Legends: Virginia Allen, Mary Ellis, Doris Hartsfield, Frances Johnson, Helen Johnson, Willie Martin, Anne Moye, Ruth Reich, Elinor Spearman, Daisy Staten, Dr. Golden Wall, Beatrice Watts and Shirley Werts.

Distinguished Educators awards went to: Sandra Armstrong, Ida Cathey, Robert Dawkins, Peyton Hairston, Helen Johnson, Martha



Photo by Felecia McMillan

See Educators on A4 Several retired educators received the Distinguished Educators awards.