



Rams win a big title, anyway

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Singers perform at White House

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Party guests come with toys

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Celebrating 87 Community Journalism North Carolina Room Forsyth County Public Library 660 West Fifth Street Winston-Salem, NC 27103

THE CHRONICLE

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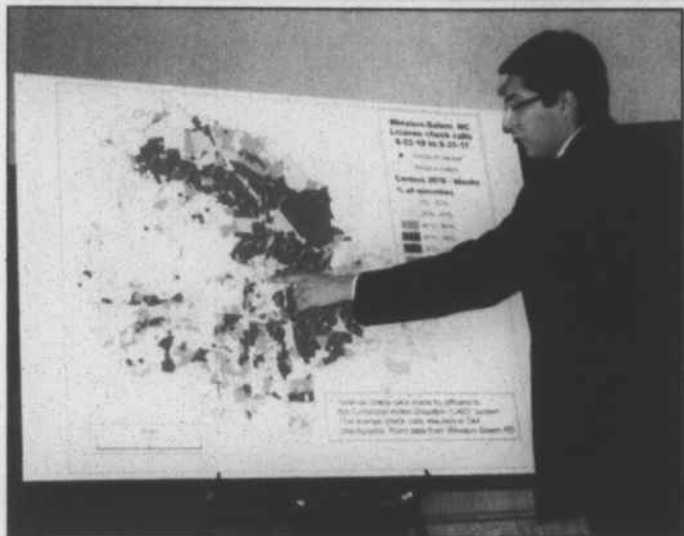


Photo by Layla Farmer Raul Pinto uses a map to show where the WSPD sets up checkpoints.

Residents question use of checkpoints

Data shows black and brown communities disproportionately targeted

BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE

The debate about whether the Winston-Salem Police Department in intentionally setting up stationary license checkpoints in certain communities to target minorities continued Saturday during an event billed as a town hall meeting.

Raul Pinto, a racial justice fellow for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of North Carolina, joined three panelists to discuss the hot-button issue at Emmanuel Baptist Church.

The Police Department has defended its placement of the checkpoints, saying that they are set-up fairly and without regard to race, but opponents of the checkpoints say they are deliberately staging them in minority communities.



Cunningham

Pinto displayed two maps of the city detailing locations of stationary license checkpoints and the makeup of the surrounding communities.

"As you can see, there's a clear pattern there, and that worries us," he said. "Sixty-two percent of all license check calls were in neighborhoods where the population was made up of 81 percent or more minorities."

The ACLU has made four recommendations to the Police Department to help alleviate the concerns it has with the current checkpoints, which Pinto said are "a product of racially biased policing." Among the recommendations was additional cultural sensitivity training for the officers. Pinto said the Police Department has not indicated whether it plans to implement any of the recommendations.

Police Chief Scott Cunningham was not in attendance at the meeting. Representatives from the Department's Professional Standards Division were on

See Police on A2

Local HIV/AIDS fight gets some star power

BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE

Actor Lamman Rucker, a frequent presence at the city's National Black Theatre Festival, returned to town last week to help promote a cause that he says is as close to his heart as performing: HIV/AIDS prevention.

Rucker, whose acting credits include TBS's "Meet the Browns," and Tyler Perry's "Why Did I Get Married?" and "Why Did I Get Married Too?," served as the keynote speaker at the first-ever POSSE (Prevent Ongoing Spread of STDs Everywhere) World AIDS Day Reception at the Arts Council Theater. The event - which also honored POSSE's community partners - was held on Dec. 8, seven days after World AIDS Day.

"We're here today really to remember the 44 million people who have died of AIDS in the world," HIV/STD Prevention Supervisor Patrice Toney told the audience that gathered in the building's lobby area, "and we're here today to recognize each and every one of you who have really made valuable contributions to the HIV/AIDS community."

Rucker is a longtime HIV/AIDS activist, having worked with national



Photo by Layla Farmer From left: POSSE's Patrice Toney and Lamman Rucker with Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin and Mabel Robinson of the N.C. Black Repertory Company.

campaigns such as BET's Wrap It Up and the Magic Johnson Foundation. He said ending the global epidemic can start on a very small scale.

"Just like it can happen one encounter at a time, one infection at a time, it can also go away one person at

a time," the Pittsburgh native declared. "...Why can't the revolution start right here?"

The problem of HIV/AIDS, which disproportionately affects African

See Rucker on A3

School to help the blind live fuller lives

BY TODD LUCK THE CHRONICLE

The blind and visually impaired will have a new place to learn independent living skills starting next year when the The Little Red Schoolhouse opens on the campus of Winston-Salem Industries for the Blind.

The Schoolhouse, which will literally be painted red, is currently being built and is expected to open in the spring of 2012. It's a part of the A Brighter Path Foundation, IFB's non-profit supporting entity, and will provide a wide variety of living skills classes and functions for blind and visually impaired people.

Brighter Path Program Director Chris Flynt said it will help people of all ages who have lost their sight learn how to do everyday tasks.

"Basically when you lose your eyesight, you learn a

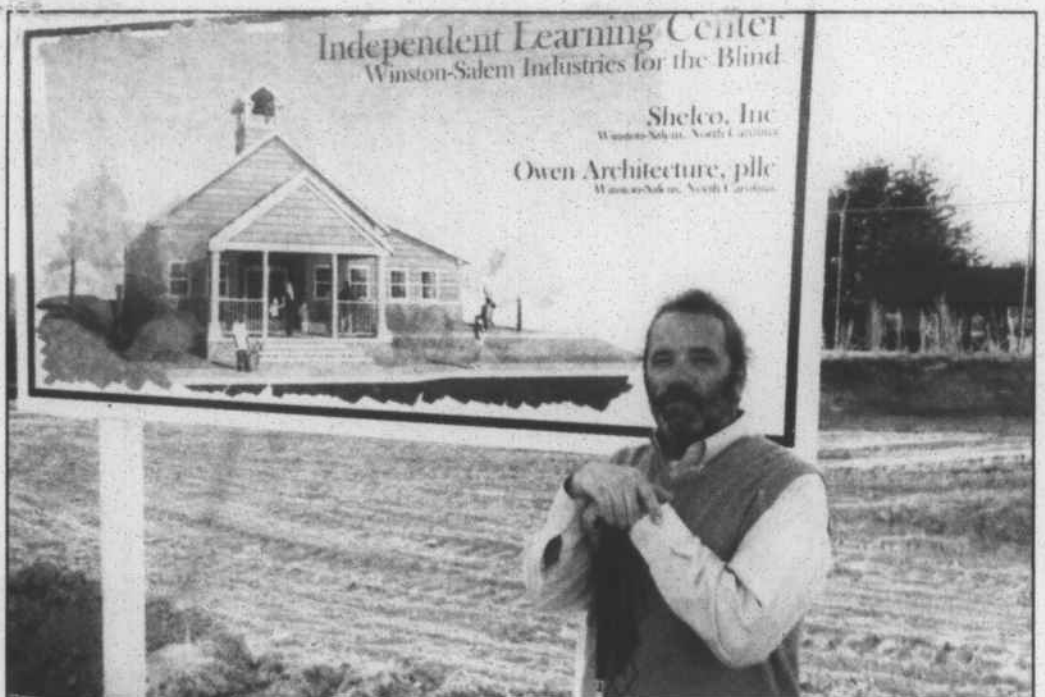


Photo by Todd Luck Chris Flynt stands at the site of The Little Red Schoolhouse.

new way to do what you used to do," said Flynt, who has been legally blind since his 20s.

Like the rest of Brighter Path's services, the Schoolhouse will be used by local employees of IFB, the

largest employer of blind people in the country, but it

See School on A5

Feelin' the Warmth

Kids receive new coats thanks to donations from local residents



Photo by Layla Farmer Justice Smith (right) helps her 14 year-old daughter Kerrian into a brand new coat.

BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE

Six year-old Kelly Smith and her younger brother Kerry Jr. were all smiles last week, as they modeled their brand new winter coats for an adoring audience at the Winston-Salem Rescue Mission's New Life Center.

Kelly, a first grader at Gibson Elementary, said she chose her coat because it was her favorite color: pink.

"And it has a scarf," she added proudly. "It's comfortable inside. I feel great."

Kelly and Kerry, the youngest of Justice Smith's four children, were among the more than 40 youngsters who

See Coats on A6

A Taste of 'Coffee'



UNCSA Photo Kelly Marsh IV, a University of North Carolina School of Arts student from St. Louis, Mo., dances the part of "Arabian (Coffee)" during UNCSA's weekend staging of "The Nutcracker." Students will also bring the holiday classic to life this evening and Friday at 7:30 p.m. and on Saturday (2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.) and Sunday (2 p.m. and 7 p.m.) at the Stevens Center. Call 336-721-1945 for tickets.

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