

# Winston-Salem Chronicle

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"The Newspaper Winston's Been Waiting For"

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## Domestic Violence Victims

# Bill Orders Police to Help

Staff Writer

A bill in the General Assembly on Domestic Violence requires police to assist victims in home violence cases and would create a new trespass law to protect the battered spouse.

"In the past police have been unresponsive to a woman's cry for help," said Attorney Effen-Gerber. "This bill requires them to be responsive."

"People can get more protection," commented Sheriff Manly Lancaster, who is a member of the Governor's Crime Commission. "We will be able to render assistance without being afraid of a suit."

The Domestic Violence bill speci-

ally outlines the steps that an officer shall take when answering a domestic violence call. First, it states that the officer shall respond to the request for assistance "As soon as practicable."

The bill requires the officer to take whatever steps necessary to protect the complainant, and to advise the person of sources of shelter, medical care, counseling, etc.

If the victim of domestic violence requests it, the officer shall transport her (or him) to an appropriate facility, such as a hospital, battered women's shelter, or a magistrate's office.

The bill also instructs the officer to accompany the complainant to the residence and wait while he or she packs clothing or other personal items.

"We used to just have to wait

outside," commented Sheriff Lancaster.

The bill also outlines "Domestic Criminal Trespass," making it illegal for a person to enter after being forbidden to do so the premises of a present or former spouse or person he has lived with.

The bill grants authorities permission to keep the defendant in custody for a maximum of 24 hours before determining the conditions of pretrial release.

"We definitely need some help on domestic violence," commented District Attorney Donald Tisdale, saying that he was not familiar enough with the new bill to comment on its possible effect.

Tisdale did point out two factors

which he says have been effective in domestic violence cases in Forsyth County. One is the fact that the district attorney's office will not drop domestic violence cases after the complainant presses charges.

"Sometimes the victim is scared and wants to drop the charges to avoid further trouble," Tisdale said. "But I let the defendant know that it's not in her power to drop the charges, so he can get mad at me—not her."

The other measure taken in domestic violence cases is enrolling the offender in social services classes where counseling is given. Tisdale pointed out that in cases where the battering spouse attends these classes, there is rarely a second occurrence of violence.

# Local Groups City Await HUD Verdict

by Sharyn Bratcher  
Staff Writer

The Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington has reached a verdict on a portion of the complaint filed by local organizations against the city's community development program. As yet, however, neither the city nor the complainants knows what HUD decided.

Larry Stanley assistant director of the HUD office in Greensboro confirmed that the report is there, but it has not been released to the city or to Benjamin Erlitz of Legal Aid, attorney for the organizations who made the complaint.

Last June the N. ACP, the League of Women Voters, and two neighborhood groups objected to the city's community development program, charging that discriminated against low and moderate income persons.

They cited defects in the following areas: Statement of housing assistance needs; assistance provided; acquisition and demolition; relocation; rehabilitation; affirmative action; and historic preservation.

In October HUD representatives from Washington came to Winston-Salem and toured the redevelopment areas. It is the report of their findings that both the city and the complainants are waiting to see.

If the report agrees that the city did discriminate against low and moderate income persons, the city will have to modify its plan. If the report does not support the groups' charges, they have the option of taking the matter to court and presenting their case there.

Neither Gary Brown, the city's community development director, nor the group's attorney Benjamin Erlitz knows what is in the report, and Larry Stanley declined to discuss its contents. He said that copies of the report would be sent to Brown and Erlitz within the next week.



Adult Basic Education teacher Benny McBride comforts with class member Ed Westmoreland, one of the twenty-one newly-registered voters recruited from the class.

# New Voters: They Learned a Little Extra in Their ABE Class

by Sharyn Bratcher  
Staff Writer

Forsyth County has 21 new registered voters, thanks to Adult Basic Education teacher Benny McBride.

"We were talking about voting," McBride explains, "and I asked how many voted in the last election, and nobody had. Then I found out they

weren't even registered."

McBride teaches a course of Adult Basic Education at the city garage. When he learned that his class of city employees were not registered voters, he asked a register, Ms. Bonnie Covey to visit.

"It took about four minutes," class member Ed Westmoreland recalled. "I had to fill out a card, and answered some questions,

and then she gave me the oath."

"It was easier than I thought," Bobbie Conrad said. "I had always wanted to know how to register, so I'm glad I got a chance."

Conrad explained that in the last presidential election he had wanted to vote, but was unable to since he was not registered.

"I feel good about it," commented McBride.

"You'd be surprised at the people who aren't registered. When the registrar came, we invited other workers to come and get registered. I went down to the garage before work and made a little speech asking them to come. About ten showed up."

The class is part of the Adult Basic Education program of Forsyth Technical Institute.

# Evergreen Grave Liners Cause Sinkage

By John W. Templeton  
Staff Writer



George Gunter and Jeremiah Graham pointed down the rolling hillsides of the city operated Evergreen Cemetery towards the patchmarks dotting the landscape.

Each patch of red dirt, explained Gunter and Graham, cemetery caretakers, represented a grave which they had had to "backfill" because of sinkage.

"The people complain to us when they come in at Easter; they even accuse us of putting in a new casket over the top of the old ones," said Gunter.

The two caretakers walked on down the hill to a row of graves which had begun to sink. Ahead of them was a pile of dirt ready to be placed on the graves.

Responsible for the sinking, in their minds, is the use of wooden boxes around caskets instead of masonry liners. The purpose of the liners, either wood or masonry, is to support the grave site and keep dirt and moisture

away from the casket and the body inside. The wood boxes decay after a period of years and fall apart, causing the sinkage.

The caretakers would like to see the city require masonry liners for the grave before the cemetery expands into the eastern section at the bottom of the hill; however, city property management superintendent Harold Bolick said there are no plans to require the liners.

Opposed to any requirement for masonry liners are the members of the Twin City Funeral Directors Association. President Carl H. Russell, the former alderman, said their opposition is based on the extra cost that masonry liners would mean for their customers.

"You've got so many people out there who can't afford a masonry liner," said Russell. "If they try to require it, we will object to it for the sake of those people."

We're only concerned about the age and the poor who don't qualify for a

## ROOTS OF BLACK Winston-Salem

### Early 1900s

The Roots of Black Winston-Salem enters the exciting years of the early 1900s, when black entrepreneurs were busy building business and the community as a whole was busy building institutions.

Old-time residents give their memories of what it was like during those years. Their vivid accounts bring that not-so-distant history to life. As a special treat, we are printing excerpts of an oral history interview with Odell Clanton, an 85-year-old native with a sharp memory and keen powers of observation.

The fifth installment of the roots of Black Winston-Salem begins on page 6.

Also, for the first time, we are using actual pictures dating back to the early 1900s, of black pioneers in the building of Winston-Salem. There's a picture page on page 7, which you will find most interesting.



The American system of justice is supposedly based on the adversary concept -- that the facts of a judicial hearing could be arrived at through the clash of opposing arguments.

The adversaries are supposed to be the plaintiffs and the defendants. However, in a recent case in the local District Court, it appeared more that the adversaries were the defendant versus everybody else.

When his case was called, the defendant, a tall, extremely slim black man in his late teens, was led through the side door.

"Take off your hat in this courtroom," pronounced the judge, and lightning quick, a bailiff's hand snatched the hat from the defendant's head.

Taken a back, the defendant faced the crowd and held his hands as if to say, "I didn't get a chance to take it off myself," as he was ushered on to the lectern reserved for defendants.

As the court clerk went through the formalities of swearing him in, the defendant's beltless pants began to droop. The bailiff, hardly able to hide a snicker, grabbed the pants by the back pocket to hold them up.

The judge then asked the defendant what was his plea. The young man responded with a "Huh."

The judge asked, "Can you hear me?"

The defendant replied, "Hear?"

The judge, beginning to get exasperated, asked, "Do you know where you are?"

The young man raised his arm in a panoramic sweep around the room, but said nothing.

The judge tried another tack. "The man next to you, do you know who he is?"

The youth looked at the bailiff, and said, "He's the man."

The judge then asked, "Can you look at his clothing and tell me what he is?"

The youth turned and said, "Gun, holster, belt, shirt, tie..." as he pointed to the various parts of the bailiff's uniform. Laughter broke out and the judge banged his gavel.

The judge finally decided to ask the defendant if he wanted a court-appointed attorney. The youth nodded yes and the case was continued. The youth was led back out the side door.

Depending on one's point of view, it could be said that youth won a victory of sorts. But another viewpoint might be that he was in a no-win situation.

John Templeton

have been equipped with wooden liners. The city would like all graves to have masonry liners, but funeral directors say the masonry variety is too costly for poor consumers.

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