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20 Year-Old Ex-Gridder Dies, Cause Unknown

A former Wake Forest University football player who had moved into the 800 block of West-12th Street was found dead in his kitchen, cause unknown, last weekend.

Gary Wykoff, 20, of 899 W. 12th St. was dead on arrival at Forsyth Memorial Hospital, Feb. 29, according to hospital spokesman.

Dr. Kimball Johnson, the medical examiner who examined the body, said no cause of death was apparent. He is awaiting an autopsy report from the hospital's pathology department, due in about two weeks.

"There was no sign of struggle, marks or trauma," said Dr. Johnson, discounting a violent death. "There are no obvious natural causes."

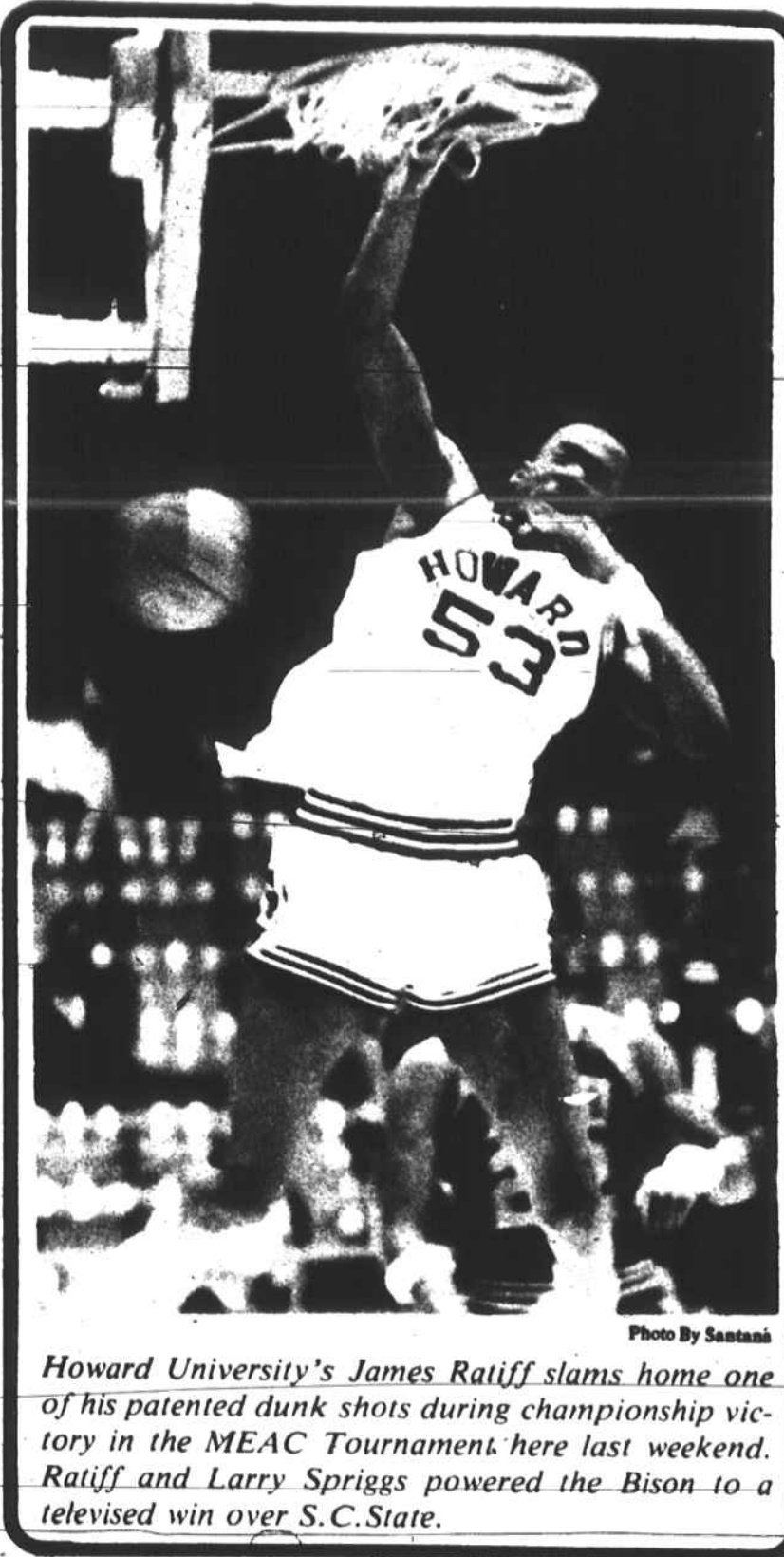
The medical examiner said the deceased was found in the kitchen of his rental house by a girlfriend who had not heard from him over several days.

Although there was no heat in the house, Dr. Johnson said the deceased probably would not have frozen to death "unless something happened first."

When Wykoff, who is white, had moved into the predominately black neighborhood several weeks earlier, it had raised some eyebrows, according to a neighbor.

Wykoff was a native of Darien, Conn. who had been a student at Wake Forest for two years prior to the current school year, according to university spokesman Russell Brantley. He was not enrolled during this year. He had been a defensive lineman on the Deacon football team.

His body was shipped to his hometown for burial.



Howard University's James Ratiff slams home one of his patented dunk shots during championship victory in the MEAC Tournament here last weekend. Ratiff and Larry Spriggs powered the Bison to a televised win over S.C.State.

Assignment To Be Determined Russell Sentenced to Six Months in Prison

By Donna Oldham Staff Writer

Federal officials will announce this week the name of the prison that will house former alderman Carl H. Russell, while he serves six months of a one year sentence for income tax evasion, the U.S. Marshall's office said Tuesday. He is to report for jailing on May 1.

Russell, who served as mayor pro tem until he ran unsuccessfully for mayor in 1977, was sentenced to the active prison sentence and fined \$10,000, the maximum penalty.

On Feb. 28, Chief Judge Eugene A. Gordon of the U.S. Middle District Court, found Russell guilty of failing to file income tax returns for 1976.

The prospect of jail for the 69-year-old victim of chronic heart troubles left many of Russell's fellow businessmen and politicians in Winston-Salem shaken.

In October, Russell, owner of Russell Funeral Home for over 30 years, was charged with failure to file tax returns from 1973 to 1976 on an approximate income of \$370,000. He pleaded guilty to one of four counts after a plea-bargaining agreement with U.S. Attorney's office, provided that the government would allow dismissal of three other charges.

Testimony from agents with the Internal Revenue Service, indicated that Russell had not filed tax returns since 1961, making Mayor Wayne A. Corpening libel for back federal

taxes, penalties and assessed interest if the government decides to prosecute further.

Russell could have gotten up to 17 years in prison and \$170,000 in fines, since each year that he failed to file constitutes a separate offense under the "Failure to File" code.

When sentencing Russell, Judge Gordon said that the case warranted maximum penalties and told Russell that his actions were inexcusable.

Russell's 1977 race was viewed as an expression of political independence by the black community.

He received more than 10,000 write-in votes after losing a Democratic primary run-off to current Mayor Wayne A. Corpening. Russell had lead the

first primary. He was later criticised for "leaving the party."

Last week's incident was not the first time Russell has been to court for back taxes.

He was sued in 1964, 1970 and 1971 in Forsyth Superior Court for failing to pay property taxes on parcels of real estate. The suits were dropped later when Russell paid the taxes.

Reaction in the black community to Russell's plight was varied, with most people worrying about his health and age.

"I feel sorry for him," said M.H. Goolsby, manager of Forsyth Funeral Home. "I've known him for 20 years and I feel that he was set up because he was such a leader in the

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Agenda Talks Bring Mixed Assessments

By Wekesa Madzimoyo Special to the Chronicle

RICHMOND--More than 1,200 local and national black leaders gathered in Richmond Virginia for a four day conference last weekend called to "chart a black agenda for the eighties."

Richmond Mayor Henry E. Marsh III, welcomed the conference convenors and delegates stating that "the stirring deeds to be accomplished at this conference will be recorded in history." The black Richmond mayor added, "I never dreamed that all of my heroes would come here."

Featured at the conference were nine major speakers including Benjamin Hooks, executive director of NAACP, Rev. Jesse Jackson, president of Operation Push, former U.N. Ambassador Andy Young, Gary, Ind. Mayor Richard Hatcher, Reps. Ron Dellums, D-Calif. and Cardis Collins, D-Ill., and Dick Gregory.

The conference also held workshops on housing, income maintenance, U.S./South Africa relating to black Americans. These 18 workshops were held on Friday and Saturday.

Sunday's feature was to be a presidential candidates forum with questions from the press and conference participants. However, Sen Ted Kennedy, Gov. Jerry Brown and other candidates scheduled to appear changed their minds and refused to attend.

Conference convenor Richard Hatcher responded to the candidates action at a Saturday press conference.

"No useful purpose would be served by the convenors of this conference to comment on the individual actions of those candidates. "They must do the explaining, we did the inviting," he added. Rev. Jesse Jackson responded by encouraging black americans to "dramatically underscore the loss opportunities by registering and voting in large numbers."

Billed as a conference to chart an agenda which will move black americans from dependence to independence, the meeting drew dramatic differences between conference participants.

Dr. E. Lavonia Allison, director of the N.C. Health Manpower Program, lauded the conference as a "tremendous success." "I think the conference and the workshops resulted in very clear goals and objectives which will help guide black people through the 80s and serve as a measuring rod for identifying candidates worthy of black support."

Dr. Williams Nelson, chairman of black studies at Ohio State university and president of that state's Black Assembly, challenged this view. In his estimation "At best the conference was speaking in half-tones because there was a significant portion of the black population which wasn't present. There were no black leftist or progressive organizations or representatives at the conference."

Although billed as a non-partisan conference, presidential supporters distributed campaign literature and actively

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300 Ask Reopening Of 14th Street Pool

By John W. Templeton Staff Writer

More than 300 persons have signed a petition asking that the 14th Street swimming pool be reopened; however, the request has drawn little support from the city Recreation Commission.

A motion by Alderman Vivian H. Burke, D-NE, to recommend that the pool be reopened died for the lack of a second in Tuesday's commission meeting.

Mrs. Vernell Moody of 906 Rich Ave., a mother of five who led a group to the

meeting, said she was "very disappointed in the action."

"The kids over there didn't have anywhere to go to swim on account of the traffic," she said in an interview. The pool was closed last summer due to declining usage and advanced age.

Recreation director Nick Jamison told commissioners in a memo that pool usage dropped 6,000 in 1974 from a high of 12,626 in 1973 after the opening of the Blum Park pool. A high of 9,487 was reached in 1977 while the Winston Lake pool was closed. Usage in 1978, the last year of operation, was 6,873."

Jamison has submitted a request for \$26,000 to repair the pool bottom in his capital improvements budget. However, he noted in the meeting, that the request is up to city budget staff and the Board of Alderman. The pool was built in 1936-1937.

Mrs. Moody said she plans to call a neighborhood meeting around April 1 with East Ward Alderman Virginia Newell, D-East to map further strategy on the effort to reopen the pool.

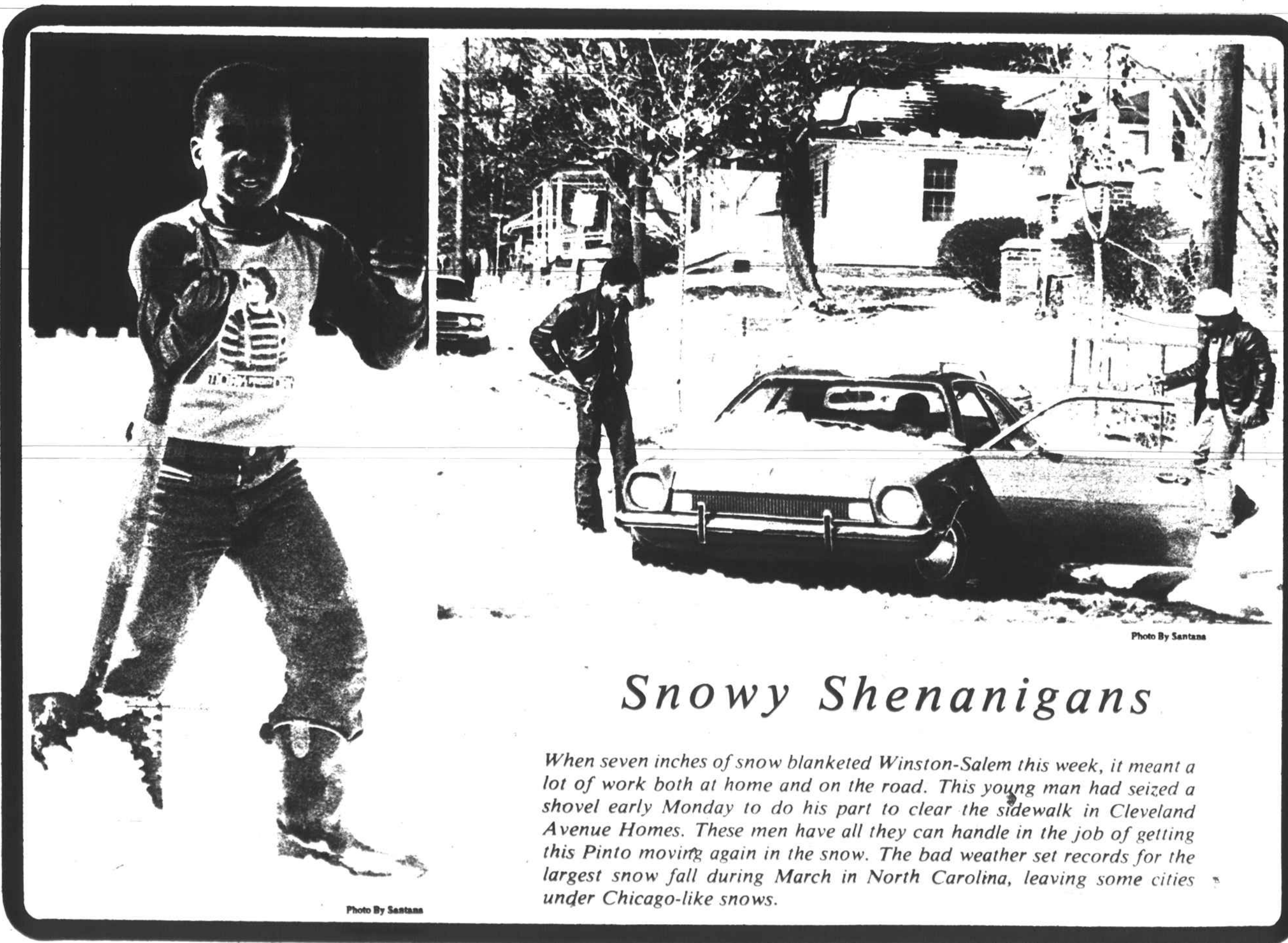
"If necessary, we'll go to the governor, the lieutenant governor, even to the president," she told the commissioners.

"Nothing in East Winston is going to be closed anymore."

The meeting evolved into a discussion of the equity of city policy on placement of facilities in the eastern part of the city.

Cleveland Gilliam, a Reynolds Park resident who joined the 14th Street group, charged the faulty maintenance had left the pool in such bad shape. He noted that water in the Reynolds Park pool had not been drained.

Jamison responded that water was left in all pools intentionally because it had been found that walls were kept from cracking by the water pressure.



Snowy Shenanigans

When seven inches of snow blanketed Winston-Salem this week, it meant a lot of work both at home and on the road. This young man had seized a shovel early Monday to do his part to clear the sidewalk in Cleveland Avenue Homes. These men have all they can handle in the job of getting this Pinto moving again in the snow. The bad weather set records for the largest snow fall during March in North Carolina, leaving some cities under Chicago-like snows.