

### Drivers Rude?

The Chronicle examines charges of reckless driving and rude behavior among drivers in the city's transit system by observing the drivers first-hand.

Page 1 and Editorials, Page 4.

### Explosive Situation

A North Carolina prison inmate discusses the recent hostage incident at Raleigh's Central Prison and its implications for the future. He also describes what he feels is an "explosive" racial situation in the state's prison system.

Chronicle Letters, Page 4.



### Fighting Back

The East Winston community is organizing to combat crime through the East Winston Crime Task Force. An interview with Chairperson Norma Smith appears below while the Chronicle reacts in our editorial section.

Page 1 and Editorials, Page 4.

### The Aldermen

In the first installment in a five-part series, East Ward Alderman Virginia K. Newell discusses black leadership in Winston-Salem, the mayor, her fellow aldermen and pressing concerns in the black community.

Second Section, Page 13.

# Winston-Salem Chronicle

"Serving the Winston-Salem Community Since 1974"

VOL. VIII NO. 33 32 U.S.P.S. No. 067910 WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. Thursday, April 8, 1982 \*25 cents 26 Pages This Week



Models from the Donald McMillan group display a variety of styles at the Fashion and Hair Show held at Roots I, sponsored by Brenda McLaurin, Faye

Wilson and Donald McMillan. Hair fashions are by Brenda McLaurin and Faye Wilson.

Photo By Santana

## Local Residents Launch E. Winston Crime Task Force

By Allen H. Johnson  
 Managing Editor

A group of concerned East Winston residents have decided to fight back. Their weapon: The East Winston Crime Task Force, which plans to work closely with police and city officials to stem the tide of crime in the city's predominantly black ward. "We're hoping to get feedback from the community and get a lot more people involved," said Norma Smith, chairperson of the group of 10 East Winston residents that organized

shortly after the Nov. 2 elections. "We want to get the entire East Ward involved." The group, which includes East Ward Alderman Virginia K. Newell and former Winston-Salem State University Chancellor Kenneth R. Williams, had originally planned to channel its energies into working with youth. Since the community has been victimized at least 29 times recently by an "East Winston robber or robbers," however, Mrs. Smith said the Task Force has altered its strategies. "Instead of isolating on youths," she said, "we're focusing more on families. Whether they be the aggressor or the victim, such crimes affect the whole family." Mrs. Smith, an East Winston resident for more than 25 years and a math instructor at Winston-Salem State, said the Task Force plans to hold a town meeting by early May to discuss the crime situation in East Winston, and subsequent workshops to better relations between the black community and the Winston-Salem police. Mrs. Smith said those relations currently aren't what they ought to be. "In a lot of instances, it's not that good and we'd like to address that in our town meetings," she said. Virginia Newell agrees. "There are estranged relationships between police and the community," she said. Mrs. Newell added that some youth in the community often are conditioned by their elders to "run from the police."

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## Builders Will Get Center Contracts

By Ruthell Howard  
 Staff Writer

Local black builders and suppliers who expressed concern last week that they couldn't afford to subcontract part of the East Winston shopping center project have been called back into negotiations with the general contractor, John S. Clark Construction Co. Inc. James A. Carter, president of Cartwood Construction Co., said the contractors met with Clark officials Monday and it is possible that all the minority contractors who bidded will get subcontract work with a "marginal profit." "We talked with Clark," Carter said, "and we're not getting everything we wanted, but we're getting something we can deal with." Carter said Clark offered the contractors prices equal to close to the

figures they had originally submitted for work on the center. According to Carter, three of the contractors have responded favorably to those offers and, if negotiations continue along that line, Clark will be able to satisfy all the black contractors who bidded on the work. Discontent had arisen last week over smaller offers made by Clark to minority contractors that would give them no profit. In a press conference held last Friday in the Winston Mutual Building the contractors noted that Cartwood Construction Co., which had bidded \$93,000 on the woodwork, had had its bid reduced to \$50,000 by Clark. Last week, they said, Cartwood was faced with an even smaller offer--\$23,880--for the woodwork on the center. "We will not participate for nothing," Carter said Friday. "We are concerned we may lose work on the

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Minority contractors and suppliers held a press conference Friday, at 3:00 p.m. to express their anger over the developments in the East Winston Shopping Center project.

Photo By Santana

## Negotiator Disturbed By Handling Of Prison Hostage Situation

By Ruthell Howard  
 Staff Writer

"If civilized society wants its rules to be protected, then civilized society has to begin to act civilized," said Irvin L. Joyner, criminal attorney who negotiated with inmates at Central Prison in Raleigh last week to free hostages Lacy J. Joyner, prison chaplain; David C. Atkins Jr., a guard, and Hugh Martin Jr., a prison data compiler. Joyner said in a phone interview last week he was angry

that the state reneged on its promise to relocate inmates William D. Little of Dobson, Melvin Surgeon of Annapolis, Md., and Ezekial Hall of New York to Petersburg, Va., and called the decision an act of racism and insensitivity. "I don't agree with statements made saying this was an act of terrorism," he said. Joyner pointed out that the inmates did not make unsubstantiated claims. Racial segregation, which Joyner said is illegal, is used in Central Prison. The inmates also complained that there was a serious roach problem and that guards called them "boy" or "nigger." "Every

complaint was confirmed," Joyner said. "Any guard or prison official who isn't sensitive to the implications of a white guard calling a black inmate 'boy' or 'nigger' is unconcerned about the racial problems in the institution." Statements, such as the one made by George Gardner, executive director of N.C. Civil Liberties Union, saying the inmates were breaking the laws of society, are an inept analysis of the situation, Joyner said, and do not justify the state's action. "The inmates had no other option open to them so they chose the only method they

could get them out of a deplorable situation," Joyner said. "What someone living in a \$100,000 home thinks of this situation isn't important. What is important is what these inmates were feeling." Joyner said that prior to the event, he had not met or heard of any of the inmates, but after spending some time with them, he was impressed with their intellect, their concern for the hostages and their concern for the conditions within the institution. "They could have hurt someone if they wanted," Joyner said, "but they weren't

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## The Bus System

### Reporter Finds Rudeness, Recklessness AND Courtesy, Caution During Rides

By Ruthell Howard  
 Staff Writer

A newcomer to the town of Winston-Salem who has trouble enough finding her way around one-way streets and split avenues that end in East Winston-Salem and pick up in West Winston-Salem, I hadn't bothered to tackle the bus system. But reports about the conditions on some buses along with complaints about bus drivers from several citizens, spurred this writer to join the league of passen-

gers who ride the bus daily. In my brief encounter with kindness as well as a lack of consideration. I was

An elderly lady came running across the street toward the bus door waving her hands. She banged on the door and the driver glanced in her direction and reluctantly let her in. "Whew!" she said, pulling herself up the steps. "You almost left me." The driver snapped back, "I could have," and turned again to look out the window.

Winston-Salem Transit Authority bus drivers, I hauled and thrashed around like a sack of potatoes as well as treated like a valuable and special

passenger. I boarded my first bus, Bus Number Three, Happy Hill, around 11:45 a.m. last Wednesday. A cloud of smoke slowly made its way from the middle of the bus to the front as a couple of passengers attempted to conceal their cigarettes. One smoked boldly while the driver sat staring out the window. I chose a seat near the front and scanned the bus. Dirty paper, discarded cigarette butts and chewing gum paper clutter-

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Passengers board a bus at the downtown stop on Fourth Street. Some local residents have complained that bus operators are rude and reckless drivers and buses are not clean.

Photo By Santana

## Authority's Ritchey Defends Bus Operators

By Ruthell Howard  
 Staff Writer

Related letter on Page Four.

"Some of the drivers are really nice," said Susan Walker, an elderly resident of Winston-Salem, "but I ride with one driver who is always rude." Walker, who lives at 1713 E. Fifth Street, said she shares her car with her daughter and usually takes the bus to and from town to run errands. "That driver is always inconsiderate," she said, pointing to the driver of a departing Happy Hill bus. "He doesn't wait for senior citizens to sit down or make sure you're off the bus before taking off. Sometimes he'll even

leave you if you're not standing right at the bus stop." Walker, along with several other residents, feels there are serious problems in the Winston-Salem bus system. In a letter to the Chronicle, John D. Bennett complained that drivers are disrespectful of senior citizens and black commuters. "If inconsistent scheduling, disrespect of senior citizens and black commuters, total disregard of the public's health and safety and bad driving are the proper way of doing business," Bennett said, "then I respectfully submit that Winston-Salem can do without this kind of business." Another Chronicle reader, who feels the problem is not a racial one, said she had several incidents of rudeness from both black and white drivers, and she is very

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