

Bighouse

A special section in this edition salutes Winston-Salem State basketball Coach Clarence "Bighouse" Gaines, a living legend who doesn't know when to stop winning.

Pages 5 thru 10.



Willie M.

Should East Winston residents be concerned that a group home for emotionally disturbed youth may be located in their neighborhood? Residents say yea. A Forsyth/Stokes County Mental Health Center official says no. Who's right?

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Sooner or Later

Sports Editor Robert Eller reveals to those of you who like to bet, the one sure thing in the world of sports: George Steinbrenner will fire somebody.

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30 Pages This Week

Jackson Coming In May

Former Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson will visit the city May 15.

Jackson will deliver the keynote address at an all-day town meeting sponsored by the East Winston Crime Task Force at Mt. Zion Baptist Church on Claremont Avenue. Jackson, in addition, will conduct a workshop on organizing block captains to prevent crime.

The town meeting will focus on the crime situation in East Winston as well as steps East Winston residents can take to fight crime in their neighborhoods and work more effectively with police.

The session is the first in a series of workshops that will examine the black community's relationship with the police department and steps it can take to better those relations.

Other workshops planned for the meeting, which will begin at 9 a.m., will include the role of ministers, families and agencies in combatting crime and

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Anita Stanback, member of Otesha Dance Company shown here during group's performance at the grand opening of The Loft Space, held April 22 at 511 N. Cherry St. (Photo by Santana)

Mental Health Official Defends Willie M. Home

By Ruthell Howard
Staff Writer

Despite neighborhood protests, a group home for Willie M. children—youth described as being violent or assaultive—may be located in East Winston.

Although residents say they do not want the group home in their neighborhood under any circumstances, a Forsyth/Stokes County Mental Health Center official said the danger posed by the youth to the community has been exaggerated.

The Mental Health Center hopes to lease a convent on the corner of 14th Street and Hattie Avenue as a home for nine Willie M. youth. The convent currently houses Franciscan Nuns of St. Benedict's parish.

Dr. George E. Hamilton Jr., director of the center, said he is bothered by the use of the term "dangerously aggressive" by East Winston residents in reference to the youth. "When you talk about violence and aggression," he said, "it scares people

off." Hamilton said he felt the presence of the group home would offer no more of a threat to the safety of the East Winston residents than presently exists. "I can't guarantee that anyone could walk on any street in Winston-Salem and not be attacked," he said. But as

good neighbors," Hamilton said.

The term, Willie M., was coined during a lawsuit, *Willie M. vs. Hunt*, filed in October 1979 by Albert Singer, guardian of four youth—Willie M., Jeanette M., Tom H. and Timothy B.—against the state of North Carolina.

either innately or because of situations in their environments.

Hamilton stressed that the youth have the potential for violence, but may not necessarily act violently.

Hamilton also described the Willie M. youth as being "helpful and receptive to each other."

"For all practical purposes, we have had no problems with the youth being violent toward each other," he said. "If one of them does start to egg another on, another youth will step in and stop the two from fighting or discourage them."

Some of these youth may have a tendency toward violence because of a sudden disturbance in their families, such as death or serious family problems that may have built up frustration and ultimately triggered a violent reaction, Hamilton said. Others may have had troubles in school or may be youth who no longer require hospitalization, but still need foster care.

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"We're trying to rebuild East Winston. We're planning on building 27 new homes and it will be hard to get people to buy those homes with the group home sitting there surrounded by barbed wire and with the threat of these abusive and dangerous youth."

—Geneva Hill

far as the youth are concerned, Hamilton said, "it is highly, highly unlikely that the kids would get out, and if they did get out, that they would hurt anyone."

"We have been dealing with these youth as outpatients and hospitalized patients for years and years and we've only had one disturbance in 10 years. We have a track record of being

As a result of the suit, the state is obligated to provide all such youth with the proper medical treatment, education, training and care.

Hamilton said Willie M. youth are children who are emotionally disturbed, mentally retarded or physically handicapped and have a potential for violent and aggressive behavior

The United Way

Funding Levels Low For Black Organizations

By Ruthell Howard
Staff Writer

This article is the first in a two-part series.

Of the 33 organizations currently receiving funding from the local United Way, only two are black.

Marjorie Gregory,

associate executive director of United Way, said the agency hasn't been receiving a large number of applications from black organizations.

"This year, we've gotten inquiries from Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN), and the East Winston Rescue Squad," Gregory said, "but black organizations that have

shown an interest in getting funds through United Way are limited."

Gregory says she feels this is because black organizations haven't always gotten money from funding agencies in the past. "I feel black organizations have not been applying because, in the past, black organizations have not been looked upon favorably by funding

agencies," she said. "Too many act on the assumption that they're not going to get any money, anyway and so don't apply."

Geneva Hill, president of the East Winston Restoration Association, said a lack of communication is also a problem.

"It hasn't been generally known you can get help through United Way," she

said.

"We keep hearing about United Way cutting funds for some programs and we weren't sure what our chances were of getting funds. We didn't know to apply to them."

East Ward Alderman Virginia Newell said some organizations "just don't know how to apply and

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A Center By Any Other Name

By Ruthell Howard
Staff Writer



"I'm sure they will put a name on it as soon as there is something there to name."

—Valerie Broadie

Now that the grading has begun and the official groundbreaking is set for early May, one question concerning the shopping center in East Winston remains: does it have a name?

Well, not yet, although suggestions abound.

While the general contractor for the center and city officials are pretty much in the dark on what the center will be called, East Winston residents were coming up with ideas long before contracts were signed or

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Chronicle Camera

Is The Black Church Doing Enough For The Community?

By Ruthell Howard
Staff Writer

Is the black church doing enough for the black community?

Viewers of the QUBE two-way television system in

Cincinnati, Ohio, were asked that question recently during a special presentation of "Tony Brown's Journal," "The Black Church: Friend or Foe."

Fifty percent responded "no" and only 20 percent said "yes" after hearing

arguments against the role of the church by Staunton Perkins, author of "Satan In The Pulpit," and for the church by the Rev. Ernest Gibson, director of the Council of Churches of Greater Washington, D.C.

To gauge local opinion on

the subject, the Chronicle randomly polled citizens downtown last week.

Denise Webb, employee at Western Electric: "Yes, some churches are, but a lot of small churches aren't. They should get young people more involved in church

activities which would get them out of the streets and clubs."

The Rev. Clay Hargraves, pastor of Mt. Carmel Church in High Point: "They're doing their part in a Christian way to try to help the community and the

people."

Augusta Robison, of 1313 Cunningham St.: "Yes, I think so. I know what my pastor is doing and it means so much to me in my life."

William Ruth, employee at North State Supply Co.: "Yes, it seems more blacks

are getting involved in church now. Blacks are more into it than anybody else, and lately more blacks are turning to the church."

Theander Cunningham, carpenter: "No. I see more black churches getting economically better while

the community is going down. We look at them as the backbone of the black community and they provide no recreational programs to stimulate interest among young people. They want to see you on Sunday

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Howard Henderson



Denise Webb



The Rev. Clay Hargraves



Augusta Robison



Alonzo Bell



Wilbert Martin



Theander Cunningham



William Ruth