

Bus Fuss

The Winston-Salem Transit Authority finally has acknowledged some of its problems by banning eating and drinking on buses. But there's more to be done.

Editorials, Page 4.

Beam Us Up...

Star Trek returns to the big screen this summer, including among its cast "old-timer" Nichelle Nichols and newcomer Paul Winfield.

Arts and Leisure, Page 12.



Tribute To Mother

As Mother's Day approaches, columnist Clifton Graves discusses what our mothers—the ones who bore us and the countless others who've been there when we needed them—really mean to us.

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30 Pages This Week

East Winston Robberies: Have They Finally Ended?

By Allen H. Johnson
Managing Editor

The young man dubbed the "East Winston Robber" has not struck in more than a month now and police are not quite sure why.

"We're kinda at a loss," says Winston-Salem Police Chief Lucius Powell of the abrupt tranquility following a string of 29 armed hold-ups.

Powell adds that police investigating the crimes are at

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--Virginia Newell

once encouraged and bothered by the robber's disappearance.

"We're disappointed that we haven't cleared the cases," Powell says, "and grateful that we haven't had any more (robberies)."

Powell says that the person responsible for the robberies could be one of two men — or perhaps both — taken into custody on other charges in March.

Or, he says, the robber could be someone else who happened to be arrested on an unrelated charge.

Powell says that a third possible deterrent may be stepped-up surveillance in East Winston.

"We put a lot of extra folks over there," Powell says. Those extra personnel, Powell says, were involved in decoy, stake-out and undercover operations as well as uniformed patrols.

A final possibility, Powell says, is that the robber and

men believed to copy his crimes simply decided to stop before they were caught.

Powell notes that such a sudden end to a rash of crimes is not all that odd.

"These sorts of things come and go," he says.

East Ward Alderman Virginia Newell, whose constituents have been plagued in recent years by crime, speculates that publicity, police pressure and especially community pressure have discouraged the robber or robbers.

"Whoever this person is realizes that people are armed," Mrs. Newell says. "The people were ready and they're still ready. We think that he's afraid to come out because he knows that people are watching."

Northwest Ward Alderman Vivian Burke, chairman of the city's Public Safety Committee, agrees.

"People in the neighborhood are more alert and more mindful of what is happening," Mrs. Burke says.

Chief Powell warns residents, however, against becoming relaxed and overconfident.

"We don't have anybody charged definitely," Powell says, "and we don't know if we have the right person on other charges."

Powell says that, although police would continue "beefed up personnel and random surveillance" in East Winston, residents still "need to use reasonable precautions in any event."

Powell stresses particularly that victims of robbery attempts should not attempt to resist their assailant. Otherwise, he says, "your chance of being killed increases greatly."

Mrs. Burke, however, believes that residents will remain alert.

"With the weather getting warm," she says, "people who don't have air conditioning may open their windows," she says, "but I don't think they'll get so lax that they'll forget the kinds of problems that they've had to deal with and the kinds of hurts that they've had to deal with."



Commencement Speaker

Keynote speaker Julian Bond will receive an honorary Doctor of Laws degree at the Winston-Salem State University commencement exercises, scheduled for May 16 at 3 p.m. Bond, a former Georgia state legislator, will be awarded the degree for his outstanding contributions to politics and civil rights. In addition, Edward Horrigan, executive vice president of R.J. Reynolds Industries Inc. and chairperson of WSSU's Enhancement Campaign, will be awarded the Doctor of Humane Letters degree. An estimated 300 students will receive their degrees at Memorial Coliseum.

Restoration Association, Health Center Vie For Convent

By Ruthell Howard
Staff Writer

East Winston residents may soon have either a group home for emotionally disturbed youth in their community — or new low-income apartments for the elderly and handicapped.

The decision rests with church officials, who have heard two requests for use of the St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church convent in East Winston.

Johnnie Johnson, neighborhood manager for the East Winston Restoration Association, met with the church council Sunday to

discuss his group's proposal to convert the building into low-income housing.

The Forsyth/Stokes County Mental Health Center, on the other hand, had earlier requested use of the convent as a group home for Willie M. youth, youngsters described as potentially violent and

dangerous.

As a representative of the East Winston Restoration Association, Johnson presented the proposal to convert the convent into apartments for low-income elderly and the handicapped to the church council and discussed concerns residents in East Winston have over

the alternative of having the Willie M. group home in their midst.

Johnson said he felt his proposal was very beneficial to the area and to the church because the church would co-sponsor the project with the East Winston Restoration Association and the Inter-

faith Housing Alliance Inc., which assists neighborhoods in efforts to improve housing conditions and provides for lower-income housing needs.

Under Johnson's proposal, the convent and two parish education buildings would be converted into 16 one-bedroom apartments

and the co-sponsoring partners would lease the property from the Diocese of Charlotte for at least 16 years with the possibility of purchasing the property.

But Johnson isn't so sure how the concept was received.

"I came out of the meeting with a sense that the church

was noncommittal," Johnson said. "I got no idea of the church council's intentions as far as our proposal is concerned."

In fact, Johnson said, the council appeared more interested in the community's concerns over the prospects of the Willie M. home in

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Carolyn Taylor



James Johnson



Rasala Witherspoon



Bracy Bonham Jr.

Chronicle Camera

Views Mixed On Group Home

By Ruthell Howard
Staff Writer

Members of the East Winston Restoration Association and some East Winston residents have voiced strong opposition to a proposed group home for potentially violent, emo-

tionally disturbed "Willie M." youth in the neighborhood. If the use of a convent, owned by St. Benedict's Catholic Church, is leased to the Forsyth/Stokes County Mental Health Center, the building will be converted to a group home housing nine such youth.

The Chronicle recently talked with residents who live near the convent, on the corner of 14th Street and Hattie Avenue, to get their reactions to the prospect of having a Willie M. home in their neighborhood.

Carolyn Taylor: "I don't feel they should open it in this area. We're trying to

build up the community and attract more people. This would only drive people away. I don't believe it would be safe because if someone wants to get out, they will. It will only make the area more dangerous. I have three daughters and I don't feel it will help them

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Eating And Drinking To Be Banned By Transit Authority

By Ruthell Howard
Staff Writer

Related editorial on Page 4.

Beginning July 1, eating and drinking will be banned on city buses.

The Winston-Salem Transit Authority voted unanimously to enact the policy during the Authority's

monthly meeting last Tuesday night.

Authority General Manager James M. Ritchey said during the meeting that the buses were "filthy" and distributed copies of an April 8 Chronicle editorial citing that problem and others reported in front-page articles in the same Chronicle edition.

Ritchey said outside inspectors who rode the buses last October complained that the buses were dirty and that, after monitoring buses himself, he agrees.

Complaints made to the Board of Aldermen about the condition of the buses and the problems reported in the

Chronicle prompted management to request the Transit Authority to establish the new rule, Ritchey said.

"We called other places in North Carolina," Ritchey said, "and found that only three other cities — Durham, Greensboro and Rocky Mount — allowed eating on city buses. Other places said restricting eating and drinking helped keep the buses clean."

Ritchey said the Authority plans on slowly phasing in the rules by having informational material printed and distributed to passengers. Signs will also be posted informing riders that "effective July 1, no eating and drinking

will be permitted on buses."

Starting in July, Ritchey said drivers will ask riders not to eat on buses and by August, passengers who still refuse to comply will be put off or denied the privilege of riding that bus.

Some bus operators were very supportive of the idea, Ritchey said, while others were not, but "I think positively I know we can do this."

Ritchey said the biggest problem with trash was on routes three and 17, the most heavily ridden routes. See Page 2