

Willie M. From Page 1

However, an officer in the Winston-Salem Police Department Juvenile Division said only one teen-ager, a boy, had been reported missing from the center. "A juvenile who ran away on the seventh of the month was returned on the eighth with the assistance of an unidentified citizen," she said.

John Duncan, chairman of the center's advisory committee, said the incident is evidence that Reynolds Health Center is not "a place conducive to progressive treatment for these youth." Duncan said the fire was set Thursday on the fourth floor of the health center, where the Willie M. program is located. The fourth and fifth floors of the building were evacuated and two people were overcome by smoke inhalation, he said, but no one was hurt seriously.

Duncan added that the committee is on record as opposing the Willie M. program's presence in the center.

"This building is not the place for the treatment of Willie M.," he said, because the youth are "too confined" in the building, which will further agitate their potential for violence. "They're not dangerous yet," he said, "but it's coming."

Dr. George E. Hamilton, director of the Forsyth/Stokes County Mental Health Center, had no comment on the escape, but he said that anytime someone who is involuntarily hospitalized leaves the center without authorization, police are notified.

Hamilton said that Willie M. escapes into the community present "a far greater risk for the youth themselves than it would for residents in the neighborhood."

Johnnie Johnson, neighborhood manager for the East Winston Restoration Association, which opposes the group home, said the escape reinforces what residents in East Winston are trying to say to the Mental Health Center and to the church. "It's almost like reality hitting you in the head," Johnson said.

Meanwhile, Duncan called the health center environment too much of a "jail setting" for the youth. "What will happen this summer when they see the nice weather outside and they can't get out?" he said.

The Center's advisory committee recommended to the county commissioners that Knollwood Hall Home, formerly a facility for the elderly on Knollwood Road, be renovated and used as a group home for the youth, but the cost of bringing the condition of the building up to standards suitable for a group home was deemed too high.

Duncan disagrees. He said the state should be willing to pay the price to give the youth the proper environment. "A person's mental health should not have a dollar value put on it," he said. "If the youth were at Knollwood Home, they would be able to stretch out and get a lot more recreation."

Duncan added that it would be more beneficial to the Willie M. program and to Reynolds Health Center if the youth were moved to a less confining location.



CORRECTION: Due to a printer's error (not the Chronicle's), a photograph of East Ward Alderman Virginia Newell in our May 6 edition was incorrectly published to include only Southeast Ward Alderman Lynn Harpe (in the background). The original photo appears above. The Chronicle regrets the error and any inconvenience it may have caused.

Chronicle Camera From Page 1

It's especially bad for those who have to work."

Anonymous East Winston resident: "I do not feel liquor houses are good for the neighborhood, with all those cars parking up and down the street and all the noise the people there make. How are you going to rest at night? You wake up, and it sounds like there is music on your porch."

Anonymous East Winston resident: "Liquor houses are a nuisance to the community. They create too much traffic and you can't pass by for all the cars. They're unrespectable, and all kinds of language is being used by people there."

Beverly Bell: "Liquor houses are especially bad for kids because liquor, dope and marijuana are easy to get there. People who own them hardly pay any tax on the liquor they sell and the presence of liquor houses brings down the community. They don't contribute to anything."

Wilhelmina Anderson: "I don't think liquor houses are bad because people have to have somewhere to go. If the place is nice, people don't mind going and enjoying themselves. Liquor houses aren't bad unless

they create a bad environment."

Anonymous East Winston resident: "I hope the police close them all down. I can't rest day or night."

Mary Carroll: "Liquor houses are good for the community because they give people an opportunity to do a lot of things other than just hanging out in the streets. They can cause confusion at times, but people like to drink liquor and liquor houses are the best places to do it. They keep people from drinking and being out in the streets and on the roads driving."

Anonymous East Winston resident: "I wish the police would close them all down."

They're a plumb nuisance. The people who go there drink and act so foolish all the time."

Tonya Walker: "I think liquor houses are bad because they cause disturbances in the community and, when a crowd of people get together it only starts a mess, especially when they're all drinking. They should get out and try to find a job instead of drinking."

Larry Richardson: "I feel liquor houses are good in a way and bad in a way. They are good for the people who drink, and a bad influence for those who don't. Also, the presence of liquor houses is hurting clubs in the area which are licensed to sell alcohol."

Senior From Page 1

excellent turnout of senior citizens for our grand opening," says Anne McCloud, assistant director of program management development. "We had 350 participants, which far exceeded our expectations. The interest of the community in this event demonstrated the need for such a facility in our downtown area."

precinct chairmen requesting that they designate at least 50 people from their precinct to attend the town meeting," Mrs. Smith says. "We realize that it won't be much success without broad based community support."

Meeting From Page 1

Force include the Rev. Kenneth R. Williams, Mrs. Hattie Brown, Mrs. Georgia Moore, John Litaker, George Newell, Johnnie Johnson, James Sims, F.H. Brown Jr., East Ward Alderman Virginia Newell, and Mrs. Smith. "We have sent letters to

precinct chairmen requesting that they designate at least 50 people from their precinct to attend the town meeting," Mrs. Smith says. "We realize that it won't be much success without broad based community support."

Voter Rolls From Page 1

"Blacks are unable to see the direct awards or benefits in the electoral process," he added.

On May 23 the Southern Christian Leadership Conference Pilgrimage to extend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 will stop in Winston-Salem. In conjunction with the Winston-Salem chapter of the NAACP the SCLC will campaign to get more blacks registered to vote.

Walter Marshall, voter education coordinator for the NAACP, said the NAACP will have representatives at the SCLC rally at Galilee Baptist Church on 575 N. Claremont Ave., to encourage people to vote.

According to Marshall, there has been good response from residents in the community.

"Not many people refuse to register when we go out into the community," he said.

But, in contrast, Graves says last year it was "distressing" to see so many unregistered voters.

"In every other house there were unregistered voters," Graves said.

The key to voter registration, according to Graves, is education and awareness.

"It is crucial in this day that we continue to motivate, educate and register blacks...Political leverage often determines the actions of politicians."

"Politicians," he said, "have no obligation to unregistered voters."

Victor Johnson, a counselor at North Forsyth Senior High School who is helping high school students become aware of the importance of voter registration, said the Fifth Congressional Black Caucus in conjunction with the NAACP is sponsoring seminars with different people from the business sector to educate the students.

Johnson said they have been conducting voter registration drives for "the past seven or eight weeks."

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Drug From Page 1

95 percent drank alcoholic beverages, 25 to 30 percent were occasional drug users and one to two percent were drug dealers."

The agent said a typical heavy user may consume a mixed drink before class, then smoke a "joint" and eat a "hit" of acid during lunch hour. Then after school, he'll go out and get drunk. "He's what we call a burn-out kid," he said. "There are a lot of good kids in the schools and some of them you can save from drugs. But some of them are lost for good because the parents don't care."

In approximately 10 days at one school, the agent made 18 felony indictments, and totaled 41 indictments in a 30-day period involving 12 youths. "It's frustrating," he said, "because none of those kids got any time even though I had some with six and seven felony charges against them." The agent said the courts are too reluctant

to sentence teen-agers and too many parents won't accept the fact that their children may be taking drugs. "Anywhere you find kids, you're gonna find drugs," he said, "whether it's in the teen discos or around the swimming pool in the summer."

The agent said he was concerned because many (youth) are getting "ripped off" by local drug dealers. "A drug dealer, no matter what part of town he is in, doesn't care about these kids," he said. "There are some dealers who actually put embalming fluid into marijuana so it will have a burning effect when smoked. This is supposed to prove it's good stuff. These kids are inhaling embalming fluid and they don't even know it." The agent also encountered situations where adults who have small children sold drugs, while their children watched, and he had even arrested one elderly resident, but the judge refused to sentence her because of her age.

"The ultimate problem with drugs and alcohol is that drugs know no ethnic, religious, sexual or age boundaries," he said, "and widespread usage is being perpetuated by people who are only interested in making money."

Even though only approximately six people of 150 recently indicted were jailed, and the longest term given was six months, the agent said the squad is not discouraged. "We're trying and we're doing the best we can," he said, "but given 200 more men and a million-dollar budget, we would only be able to make a dent in the drug problem in Winston-Salem."

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