

Jerry Smith's Story

A local white man who accused his employer of discrimination against black tenants says he's suffered because of those charges, but he'd do it all again.

Front Page.

Mind Games

Want to get your loved one to appreciate you a little more and stop taking you so much for granted? Learn a few simple con games.

Coping, Page 9.



Pigskin Prognostications

Virginia Union's Panthers favored to dominate the CIAA's football wars this season while South Carolina State's Bulldogs are picked to do likewise in the MEAC.

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Tisdale And The Truth

In a Chronicle Letter, a local resident distinguishes between the facts concerning our district attorney's performance — and the truth.

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"...We have had problems, mental problems, not knowing where the next meal is coming from. I've lost over \$15,000. My car is about to be repossessed...My stomach has been growling a lot, but I can sleep at night. If I had to do it over again, I'd do it again. It cost me. It really hurt me, but there're going to be some changes made."

--Jerry Smith

Smith Says If He Had It All To Do Over, He'd Do The Same

By Ruthell Howard
Staff Writer

According to the David and Goliath tale, the little guy slays the giant, but Jerry Smith's story isn't quite working out that way.

For some months now Smith has been embroiled in a controversy with the Wilson-Covington Construction

Co. after alleging before the Human Relations Commission that his former employer discriminated against its tenants who live in predominantly black apartment complexes.

Now struggling with no job and no bank account, Smith has become a hero of sorts to many in the black and white communities for what they see as his courage to speak up.

After working for the company several months as a

maintenance man, Smith said he felt guilty about what he was required to do. "For the last year that I worked there," he said, "it had been on my mind. I needed the money and I got real good money, but I couldn't sleep."

Smith said he was letting money "overrule" his conscience, but he finally decided to quit his job because of the "pressure I was under to add extra charges to tenants and to throw away their maintenance calls. The worst condition was having to live with what I was doing."

Unfair Maintenance Policies?

Appearing at a Human Relations Commission meeting in January, Smith charged that Wilson-Covington used different maintenance policies in its predominately black apartment complexes, such as Garden Court in East Winston, from the policies it used for predominately white apartment complexes, such as Cloverdale.

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A Positive Thinker

Dr. Velma Watts, director of the office of Minority Affairs at the Bowman Gray School of Medicine, believes in positive thinking and finding the positive aspects of negative situations (photo by Alan Guthrie).



Watts: There's Always More To Learn

By LaTanya A. Isley
and
Althea Bradford
Staff Writers

Upon inspection of her credentials, one might be led to think that when Noah Webster defined the word extraordinary "as going beyond the ordinary degree; exceptional or remarkable," he must have already met Dr. Velma Watts.

With a long list of achievements already compiled, Mrs. Watts,

who directs the Office of Minority Affairs at the Bowman Gray School of Medicine, views them as part of a growing process.

"One never really stops achieving or achieves any one goal," she says after carefully thinking the question over. "I don't think you ever stop growing or achieving."

And Dr. Watts sticks to that philosophy. After receiving her bachelor's and master's degrees

from North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University, she went on to obtain another master's degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her doctorate in educational administration from Duke University.

Dr. Watts says that she was motivated to obtain her second master's degree because she has an insatiable desire to learn new things. As far as an ultimate goal, Dr.

Watts says, "I just keep that open because each day I learn something new."

Dr. Watts has also served the Winston-Salem community in many capacities, including membership on the Board of Trustees of Forsyth Technical Institute, the Board of Directors of the Winston-Salem Symphony and the Salem Academy Parents. She also has served on committees of the N. C.

School of the Arts, the YWCA and the Arts Council.

Although she is viewed by some as a successful black woman, Dr. Watts remains modest and still desires to grow intellectually. She credits her family and others with giving her continued encouragement and sustenance.

"I have a very supportive family. Although we have different interests," she says, "we all support

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For NAACP Presidency

Hairston Reverses, Decides To Run

By Allen Johnson
Managing Editor

Patrick Hairston has changed his mind.

The president of the Winston-Salem chapter of the NAACP, who announced in the spring that his current tenure would be his last, says he has reconsidered and will seek his seventh consecutive term this fall.

Hairston told the Chronicle Monday that his decision to run again was prompted by a number of fac-

tors, including the resolution of personal problems that he declined to specify and the urging of NAACP officials and the general election, noting, "this does not mean that the NAACP is going out of business... it simply means that black

"I am still tired and disappointed but nobody has come forward to do the things that need to be done."

-- Patrick Hairston

public. "I think I'm as qualified as anyone to be a stabilizing force," Hairston said. Hairston, in a letter printed in the NAACP Freedom Banquet program on May 27, indicated his

decision not to seek re-election, noting, "this does not mean that the NAACP is going out of business... it simply means that black people must get their priorities straight and support this organization because this is the only thing that we have."

Hairston added in a June 17 interview with the

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Aldermen Request Plan

By Ruthell Howard
Staff Writer

Citing the need for increased hiring of minorities municipal jobs, the city's black aldermen have called for a new affirmative action plan to be approved by the Board of Aldermen.

Southeast Ward Alderman Vivian Burke, with the support of Larry Womble and Larry Little, told City Manager Bill Stuart to draw up the new plan at the

Public Works Committee's Aug. 9 meeting.

East Ward Alderman Virginia Newell was not present during the discussion, but later voiced her endorsement of the request.

Burke contended that the city is not "doing the job" as far as affirmative action is concerned because the number of blacks in city government does not reflect the percentage of blacks in the city.

But Stuart said the adoption of a plan would not necessarily change the city's hiring policies and Assistant City Manager Al Beatty agreed.

"I think it would be a benefit for the city for the elected officials to go on record reiterating their dedication to policies and principles of equal employment opportunities," Beatty said. But he added that the

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Chronicle Camera

Could Annexation Hurt Blacks?

By Althea Bradford
Staff Writer

Alderman Larry Little has expressed concern that bigger may not necessarily be better in Winston-Salem.

As a vocal opponent of what he feels are annexation binges by the city, Little and fellow alderman Larry Womble have cited the fact the annexed communities are not allowed public hearings to express their views.

Little also cites what he feels is another potentially dangerous effect of annexation: the dilution of black voting power.

The Chronicle recently asked local residents if that fear is justified.

Hazel Lowrance: "Yes. I think it'll affect the vote. I don't think a lot of whites are going to think the way we think and want the things Larry Little wants for us. I think Larry Little is justified in a lot of things that he does."

Tim Rhynehardt: "Yes. I think he knows pretty much what he's doing concerning black people."

Joel Peoples: "Very justified -- justified in the fact that it (annexation) is a form of separatism. Separating us now, at a time when blacks definitely ought to stick together, is not the answer."

Viola Headen: "Well now, if it's going to weaken us, we don't want it. We ought to do everything that we can to strengthen the black vote."

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Tim Rhynehardt



Richard Workman



Lucius Brown



Albert Johnson