

The Words Of '82

A satirical look in words and phrases at the 12 months past in one editorial, and a hopeful look at the challenges of 1983.

Next Week

A special tribute in text and pictures to the people, places and events of 1982, including the *Chronicle's* inaugural year-end awards.



Love Games

Part of your success in dealing with someone of the opposite sex who interests you is convincing the person that he or she *doesn't* interest you. Confused? Dr. Charles Faulkner explains.

Second Front.

Details On Page 4.



Winston-Salem Chronicle

"Serving the Winston-Salem Community Since 1974"

VOL. IX NO. 18

U.S.P.S. No. 067910

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

Thursday, December 30, 1982

25 cents

24 Pages This Week

Update

Firm, Client Settle

By Ruthell Howard
Staff Writer

A legal dispute between Nathaniel Johnson and Huff Furniture Co., which developed when the company repossessed furniture from Johnson's house without his knowledge, was settled through negotiations by the two parties last week.

Johnson had contended that the company repossessed the furniture from his apartment, charging that he was nearly two months behind in his payments. The store's owner, W.J. Huff, countered that Johnson had "disappeared" and the company had no other way of insuring it would have its property or the payments.

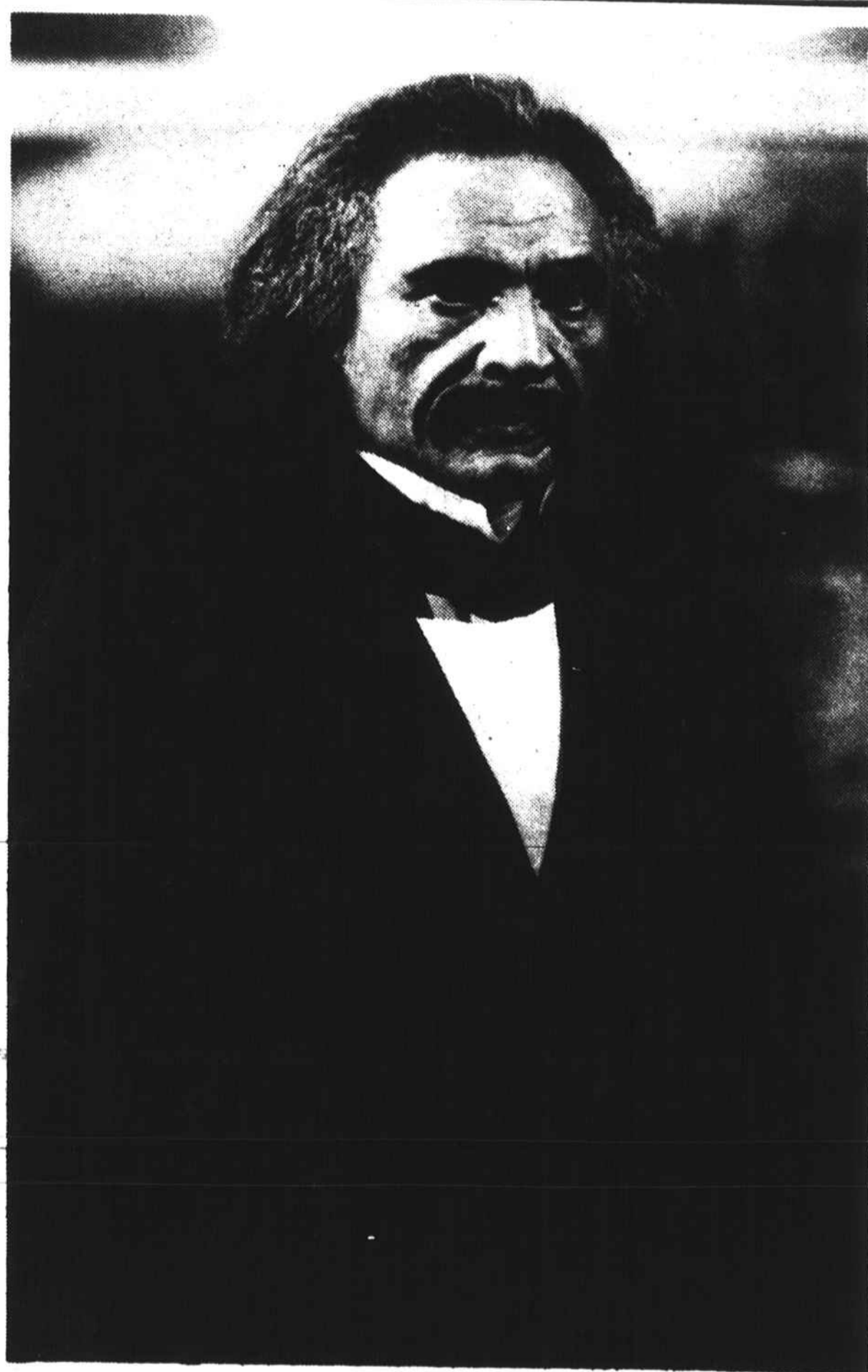
The two decided to settle the matter at Johnson's request.

"He talked to me and said he'd have to come down and talk on paying the bill," says Huff.

Though Huff says he has always been willing to negotiate with Johnson, he maintains that he has done no wrong. Huff says that his employees collected the furniture from Johnson's home at his mother's request.

"We didn't repossess the furniture," he says. "It was a voluntary return. No law (officials) were involved. His mother called."

See Page 3



A Striking Resemblance

Actor William Marshall, who will portray Frederick Douglass in a February public television special commemorating Black History Month, bears an uncanny resemblance to the dynamic statesman, activist and journalist. Marshall comments on the role and his "friendship" with Douglass on Page 10.

Encouraging Numbers

Black Teen-age Pregnancies Declining, But The Problem Is Still A Serious One

Although the high incidence of teen-age pregnancy among blacks in Forsyth County has concerned local parents and educators alike, recent statistics indicate a significant decrease in black teen pregnancies over the past two years.

"The increase in teen-age pregnancy among whites and blacks has been a national trend over the past five years," says Pheon Beale, supervisor of Teen Initiative Project (TIP), a program designed to educate and counsel area teens on human sexuality. "However, it seems to be rising more among white teens and decreasing among blacks."

In figures released by the North Carolina Department of Public Health Statistics, the rate among white teens (15-19) in Forsyth County rose from 57 per 1,000 in 1980 to 71.5 per 1,000 in 1981. The rate among nonwhites in the county, on the other hand, dropped from 130.1 per 1,000 in 1980 to 118.1 per 1,000 in 1981. The overall rate increased by one point during the same period.

The rate is obtained by dividing the population of the county into the number of pregnancies and multiplying it by 1,000.

Beale, who is also assistant director of Health Education for Forsyth County, says the main factor for the decrease among black teens is the availability of counseling.

"Services are much more accessible than they once were and black teens are taking advantage of them," she says.

Ms. Beale cites lack of proper education as the primary cause of pregnancy among many teens, but she adds that there are other factors that are equally important.

"Many of the teens are not aware of the various forms of available birth control," she says. "They only know about the pill and they sometimes use it erroneously."

"Economics is also a factor. It is a known fact that if you are comfortable financially, you have the proper ac-

Children Having Children

By Edward Hill Jr.

PART I

cess to adequate medical care.

"Then there is the problem of pressure. A lot of them don't have proper communication with their parents, so they go out and look for affection somewhere else. They think that by getting pregnant they can get the affection

See Page 3

Tax To Partially Fund Freeway

By Edward Hill Jr.
Staff Writer

In what Mayor Wayne A. Corpening called "one of the best Christmas presents the community could receive," the U.S. Senate passed a bill last week that paves the way for the financing of an east-west freeway in Forsyth County.

Corpening delivered that statement at a press conference in his office last Thursday at City Hall, during which Billy Rose, the state's highway administrator, talked to reporters via a telephone hook-up from his office in Raleigh.

Rose said the passage of the five-cent-a-gallon gasoline tax frees up \$85 million in federal interstate funds toward construction of the \$120 million, 20-mile project due to be completed by 1990.

Rose added that there will be a public hearing on the final details of the freeway's construction sometime next fall. The state will then start purchasing the land for the freeway in 1984.

In still another bit of encouraging news, Rose said there is a good chance that an additional \$165 million could become available for the next fiscal year. This money would be used for highway construction projects and bridge repair in the state. However, Rose declined to speculate on whether any of the funds would be designated for projects in Forsyth County.

Corpening gave special thanks to U.S. Rep. Steve Neal and Sen. Jesse Helms, who introduced the bill in the House and the Senate, respectively.

The East-West Freeway will be designated as Interstate 40.

Chronicle Camera

A Cautious Forecast For '83

By Edward Hill Jr.
Staff Writer

For many black Americans, 1982 is a year they would rather forget. High unemployment and rising inflation took an unusually heavy toll on in their communities.

As 1983 rapidly approaches, many may wonder: "Will things improve in the New Year or will they continue to worsen?"

The *Chronicle* recently polled residents at the East Winston Shopping Center to get their projections for 1983.

Rufus Hoover, R.J. Reynolds employee: "I look for

the economic situation in 1983 to improve. Judging from the turnout of shoppers during the holiday, it leads me to believe that things are not as bad as first thought to be."

Pauline Durr, Southern Bell employee: "I don't think things will improve at all in 1983. If we stay out of war and there are more jobs available, I do think things will improve considerably by 1985. Until then, it's going to be rough."

Hazel Jackson, unemployed: "I would say it's hard to tell right now how things will be in 1983. Things are kind of hanging in the balance. I think we will just have to wait and see."

See Page 3



Pauline Durr



Sylvester Beal



Junior Carter



Robynne Durr
(photos by James Parker)

Minimum Wage Increase: Bad News For Unskilled Workers

Recent news reports have chronicled an increase in North Carolina's minimum wage beginning the first of January. The wage hike affects workers not covered by federal minimum wage laws and raises the wage rate from \$3.10 to \$3.35 an hour. While friends of big labor may be dancing in the streets, those concerned about youth unemployment should view further increases in the minimum wage with great dismay.

Ironically, raising the minimum wage creates greater unemployment, hitting the poor and the minority worker the hardest. Black economist Walter E. Williams has cogently discussed these concerns in several works. Williams informs us how these minimum wage laws have worked in effect and who

these laws have benefitted the most.

Minimum wage laws force employers to pay their workers an arbitrary wage selected by lawmakers as "just." These laws were created, in theory, to prevent employers from "exploiting" their workers. However, what happens to unskilled employees who are only able to produce \$3.10 per hour when the minimum wage is raised from \$3.10 to \$3.35 an hour?

Professor Williams points out that such increases in the minimum wage prices put these unskilled workers out of a job. An employer cannot pay someone \$3.35 when they can only produce \$3.10 an hour and stay in business for long. Employers must reduce the number of unskilled employees by either

automation or by hiring workers with greater skill. In the example above, workers in an on-the-job training program who can produce at least \$3.35 enjoy the

Commentary

By Vernon Robinson

benefit of higher wages and those who produce between \$3.10 and \$3.34 will likely find themselves once again unemployed.

The negative impact of an increase in the minimum wage falls disproportionately on those who are un-

skilled. Traditionally, youths, poor people and minorities tend to be over-represented among the ranks of the unskilled worker. As such, an increase in the minimum wage unmatched by an equal increase in productivity is a disaster that increases unemployment among these groups.

Who, then, benefits from a higher minimum wage? Does big labor back such legislation out of some altruistic concern for unskilled workers? I think not. Professor Williams uses the simple yet illuminating example of building a fence to demonstrate how skilled workers are able to demand higher wages as the minimum wage for unskilled labor increases.

See Page 3