

Disturbed

Chronicle readers who are not very used with a photo that appeared in last week's issue voice their displeasure.

Opinion, Page 4.

All The Ingredients

The Atkins High girls' basketball team has everything it needs to remain undefeated and capture a tournament title this week.

Sports, Page 14.



"10"

No, we're not referring to movies or ratings. That's the number of musical instruments 13-year-old Amadi Hummings has learned to play — so far.

Second Front.

Winston-Salem Chronicle

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32 Pages This Week

Two Hundred Twenty-Five

That's How Many Black Churches There May Be In Winston-Salem

By EDWARD HILL JR.
Staff Writer

"Take a handful of gravel," says one long-time Winston-Salem resident, "toss it in any direction, and you'll probably hit a black church."

That may be a bit of an exaggeration, but there is indeed an impressive number of black churches in this

town. Local ministers estimate that there are between 200 and 225 black churches in Winston-Salem. Durham (47,474 black people) and Raleigh (41,227 blacks) have approximately 75 black churches each while Greensboro (51,373 blacks) and Charlotte (97,627) have close to 100 apiece. Atlanta, with its black population of 282,911, as com-

Why So Many?

pared to Winston-Salem's 52,968, has approximately 300 black churches.

Why are there so many churches here and how do they manage to survive in such close proximity? "The more you have, the better it is for everyone and the lesser the conflicts," says Ernestine Griffin, secretary at Emmanuel Baptist Church. "Besides, it's better to have a church on every corner than to have a bar on every corner."

Says one member of a local Baptist church: "I can only speak for the Baptists. The problem that I have seen over the past 25 years is that disagreement among members is the biggest reason there are so many churches. Once there is a split, the former minister and some of the members leave and start another church somewhere else. It's been going on for years. I'm sure it happens in other places, too, but not as much as here in Winston."

The Rev. J. Ray Butler, pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church and one of the more prominent black ministers in the city, says it is a matter of convenience.

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Our Black Churches Part I

town.

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Center To Add Minority Tenants

By RUTHELL HOWARD
Staff Writer

The Winston-Salem Board of Aldermen approved the city's plan to secure a loan for the expansion of the East Winston Shopping Center at its Feb. 7 meeting.

The additional space, which will provide eight stores, will be offered to black-owned stores or newly-formed minority businesses.

One black businessman, John Sledge, who owns a fish

market and has secured one of two store spaces that were unfilled when the center opened last fall, has the only black-owned store in the center thus far.

East Ward Alderman Virginia Newell called the expansion a good investment opportunity for the city, for minority businesses and for the center's stockholders.

"To me, it looks like a good deal," Newell said after the board meeting, "mainly because, so far, what is there has apparently done very well. There is no reason why

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A Thinker

Multi-talented Glenda Wharton, an associate professor of art at Winston-Salem State University, reveals how her rich life experiences contributed to her development as an artist on Page 13 (photo by James Parker).

Trial Nearing For Jerry Smith

By RUTHELL HOWARD
Staff Writer

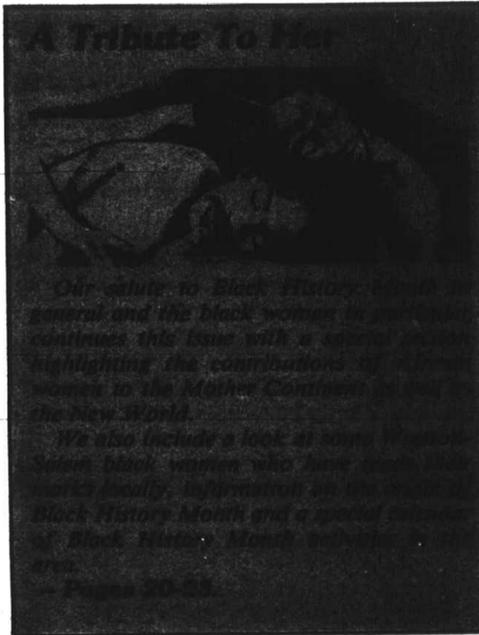
The food was good and so was the news announced during a spaghetti dinner held for Jerry Smith in the Winston-Salem Friends House Saturday night.

After months of waiting and preparation, Smith now looks forward to his Feb. 14 day in court and he is also happy to have a new supporter, the North Carolina Civil Liberties Union.

Smith, a former Wilson-Covington Construction Co. employee who alleged to the Human Relations Commission and the media that the firm discriminates against its black tenants, is being sued for \$20,000 by Wilson-Covington for making the charges.

Smith, in turn, filed a countersuit for \$250,000, which has since increased to \$253,000, including additional lost wages, charging that the company is suing him for exercising his constitutional right of free speech. Both suits

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Bailey Proposes King Holiday

By ROBIN ADAMS
Staff Writer

Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School Board member Beaufort O. Bailey recommended to the board, at its Feb. 7 meeting, a proposal that would make Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday a school holiday.

Bailey said that students are normally out of school anyway for several days around Jan. 15 after completing semester exams, so the proposal would not involve setting aside another vacation day but simply renaming one of the days.

"We could start a pilot project in Winston-Salem if we took this action and it would also be nice for the school system," he said.

The board took no action on Bailey's proposal but decided to send the idea to its Policy Committee for study.

In other action at the meeting, the board heard a request from Superintendent Dr. Zane E. Eargle to waive summer school fees for needy students. Douglas Carter, assistant superintendent for special services, reported that the summer school program has accrued a \$50,000 surplus in the 25 years it has been operating.

Carter and Eargle recommended that the money be given to the three schools that are participating in the program, with Parkland Senior High School getting \$2,500, Kimberley Park Intermediate School \$1,000 and Mt. Tabor High School \$1,500. Parkland would be allocated the most money, they said, because more senior high-age students are expected this summer school session due to the additional units required for graduation.

Walter R. Wiley Jr., president of the Forsyth Association of Classroom Teachers, suggested that the surplus funds be used to supplement summer school teachers' wages so that they can be paid based on the certification levels rather than at one blanket rate.

The board took no action on Eargle's or Wiley's recommendations and will consider them at its next meeting on Feb. 21.

The board also heard on a request from the Health Services Committee that fruit juice, instead of fruit punch, be served in the secondary schools. A complaint was raised last fall by a concerned parent who questioned the nutritional value of fruit punch.

The board unanimously passed a resolution designating February as Black History Month, accepted

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East Winston's Revival: What Ingredients Are Still Missing?

By RUTHELL HOWARD
Staff Writer

More than \$35 million has been spent transforming East Winston into what it is today, according to city expenditure figures.

And although the predominantly black community still is not nearly what its residents say it once was or ought to be, it may be getting there.

During the past 20 years, East Winston has slowly evolved from a community that was filled with slum housing in some areas and little economic development in others, to

a community that its residents once again are beginning to point to with pride.

Economically, for example, East Winston is shedding the image that it can only foster the development of small businesses. Black-owned Winston Mutual Life Insurance Co. and Mechanics And Farmers Bank -- and a shopping center that has the potential to be black-owned -- bear testimony to that fact.

And plans to build a \$3.5 million apartment complex across from the shopping center and a new Winston Lake YMCA to succeed the Patter-

son Avenue facility add to the promise of revitalization.

"Over on '11th Street Bottom' it was a ramshack. East of 11th Street was probably outstanding for blacks. But from there back to Fifth, there were rentals. Blacks didn't have ownership."

-- Charles McLean

Substandard housing still plagues the black community, but there are signs of progress.

Under the East Winston General Neighborhood Renewal Plan, enacted in the early 1960s by the city's Community Development office, 1,203 housing units have already been built in the area.

There are plans to build more. Progress has been made, but East Winston remains a study in contrasts, with handsome neighborhoods as well as decaying problem spots.

Many of the area's long-time residents, such as Charles McLean, 73, say that the dual character has existed for years.

"Over on '11th Street Bottom,' it was a ramshack," McLean says, remembering one of East Winston's many poor and underdeveloped areas. "East of 11th Street was probably outstanding for blacks. But from there back to Fifth Street, there were rentals. Blacks didn't have ownership."

But McLean notes that numerous black churches have been built in the past 20 years and apartment complexes now exist throughout East Winston. In the 1950s, there were apartment duplexes in East Winston, but there were no com-

plexes, McLean says.

The city's urban renewal plan relocated many blacks out of East Winston and diminished the number of corner stores and businesses in the area. But Guy Choquette, Community Development program supervisor, says East Winston now has "pretty much the same cross-section of people it had there before."

Choquette says the area, which had 90 percent dilapidated and slym housing in the '60s, is now mostly occupied by low- and moderate-income families.

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