

Wanted: Lots of Love

While there are backlogs of prospective white parents wishing to adopt children, black children all too often wait in vain for new mothers and fathers.

Front Page.

Officers And Gentlemen

Local Junior ROTC cadets had their day in the sun -- literally -- in Bowman Gray Stadium last Friday. And Staff Writer Robin Adams was there.
Second Front.



College Football In April?

You bet, in the first-ever Winston-Salem State Alumni Game, which pits the best of Ram alumni against the present team. Robert Eller tells us who will play for both squads, and where.

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A Captive Audience

These youngsters have no problem with attention span as they listen to William Holloway (below), one of the "daddies" who read stories to the visiting tots from local daycare, preschool and kindergarten centers at last week's "Read to Me, Daddy" program in the Children's Room of the East Winston Library (photo by James Parker).



Needed Desperately: Black Adoptive Parents

By ROBIN ADAMS
Staff Writer

"Wanted: Parents. Couples preferred, but singles will be accepted. No other criteria necessary except that the parents be able to give and accept love."

If Sue Thomas, supervisor of the Adoption Services unit of the Forsyth County Department of Social Services, could have a wish come true, it would be that one or two callers would respond to that ad.

But Thomas' wishes are modest. Approximately 375 children in the county have been abandoned, or are in foster homes.

Sixty-five percent of those needing homes are black, Thomas says. There's a waiting list of parents wanting to adopt white children, but for black children, the prospects are not so bright.

"We are taking applications from people wanting to adopt black children of any age," Thomas says.

Thomas adds that black boys between the ages of five and 15 generally have the most difficulty finding permanent homes.

Black adoptions may be so few, Thomas says, because potential parents aren't aware of adoption procedures or have heard myths about adopting.

"Most black people arrange their own adoptions without an agency's help," she says. "If someone in the family dies or abandons a child, another member of the family will raise the child. Black people are also very suspicious of the Department of Social Services."

Thomas says the department's adoption unit is working to remove the stigma associated with adoptions.

"Many people think you have to own your home or have a lot of money in a savings account to apply," Thomas says.

"The primary thing is that the people are able to be good parents. Don't listen to myths. If you think you have the capacity to love, don't let myths and rumors put you off, because there are children who badly need homes."

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-- Sue Thomas

To encourage black people to apply, the Adoption Service has developed a "screening-in" process.

Rather than being accepted or turned down at the beginning of the selection process, all potential parents are accepted, counseled and instructed so that they can become eligible for adoption.

Another procedure that the local agency uses occasionally to help alleviate the problem of black children not being adopted is interracial adoptions. "We don't use interracial adoptions very much," Thomas says, "but we have had couples, especially from out of state, to request opposite-race children."

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Youth Arrested In YMCA Break-In

By RUTHELL HOWARD
Staff Writer

Ironically, two members of the constituency the Patterson YMCA tries to serve may have victimized it.

Two black youth, ages 11 and 15, were arrested 12:30 last Friday morning after allegedly breaking into the aging downtown structure, the third break-in at the facility this year.

The brothers have been released in their mother's custody pending the outcome of a social worker's investigation of the case.

The two took a pair of rings, a key and 50 cents from a vending machine in the building, according to police reports.

They were arrested after a special portable alarm police

had planted in the building was activated, bringing near-by officers to the scene.

Police Chief Lucius Powell said such alarms had been planted in the Patterson building and in other areas where break-ins have recently increased.

Seven break-ins have occurred at the Y in the past 16 months, starting Jan. 1, 1982. The others in 1982 occurred on Sept. 9, July 26 and July 27. The first break-in for 1983 occurred April 7 and was followed by another on April 12.

The Y building is old, with 30 years of wear and tear behind it, but Howard Jones, the Y's program director, said the condition of the building is not what has made it vulnerable to crime. Jones attributed the increase in break-ins, rather, to the periodic rise in break-ins

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'Pornographic'

Jacob Says Reagan Policies Are Obscene

By RUTHELL HOWARD
Staff Writer

"In bad times we hurt more. In good times, we hurt a bit less, but we're still hurting," said National Urban League President John Jacob. "Bad times come and bad times go, but black inequality remains."

Jacob, speaking at the Winston-Salem Urban League's Equal Opportunity Day Banquet in the Benton Convention Center last week, said the perceived upward trend in the nation's economy does not indicate that economic conditions will suddenly improve for black people as well.

"It is not enough to say with the president that things will improve when the economy revives," Jacob said. "The economy is beginning to show some signs of life, but last month, when white unemployment declined slightly, black unemployment rose."

Jacob pointed out that black Americans, who are only a 10th of the nation's population, are 25 percent of its jobless and a third of its poor citizens. "The typical black family earns less than the government itself says is needed for a decent minimum living standard," Jacob said. "For every dollar of income enjoyed by the typical white family, the black family earns only 56 cents."

Jacob further warned that the U.S. budget for fiscal

1984, released recently in Washington, offers no solutions for the plight of blacks and the poor. Calling the budget "pornographic" because of its "obscene" treatment of America's poor, Jacob criticized the Reagan administration's plans to cut federal job programs by \$400 billion while increasing military spending by more than \$30 billion and spending \$14 billion on the MX Missile and B-1 bomber.

"How can we justify spending billions on weapons systems of dubious value while we ask older people to pay more for health care, younger people to lose educational opportunities and poor people to eat less?" Jacob said.

Jacob said that the New Deal initiated by the late Franklin D. Roosevelt during his tenure as president to help the poor has been replaced by President Reagan's "Raw Deal."

"We traded compassionate movement toward greater equality for a mean-spirited war on the poor," Jacob said.

This, he said, has resulted in "hard times and a dismal complex of social pathology, including the resurgence of racism."

Jacob noted that proof of racism lies in the spirit of the recent mayoral election in Chicago, where black Democratic candidate Harold Washington defeated

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Crime Report: Mixed Reviews

By EDWARD HILL JR.
Staff Writer

According to a recently-released statistical report, violent crimes in Winston-Salem have shown a significant increase from 1981 to 1982 while crimes against property have declined during the same period.

The Preliminary Annual Report on Crime in North Carolina was compiled by the state Department of Justice and covers the period between January and December of the last two years.

Robbery, murder and aggravated assault are considered crimes against persons. In 1981, there were a reported total of 1,214 assaults in the city and in 1982 the number increased to 1,487. The number of robberies grew from 290 in 1981 to 419 in 1982 while murders increased from 16 to 17. Rapes, which decreased from 91 in 1981 to 77 last year, were the only crime against persons that showed a decrease.

Burglary, larceny and arson all showed a decrease from 1981 to 1982. Burglaries fell from 3,611 in 1981 to 3,589 last year. Larcenies dropped from 6,813 to 6,766 during that period and arsons fell from 151 to 110.

Automobile thefts showed a small increase, from 576 to 578.

Since the statistics are not broken down into specific

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National Urban League President John Jacob calls the present administration's budget pornographic because of its "obscene" treatment of America's poor (photo by James Parker).