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Wrong Image

Happy Hill Gardens residents speak out against the stigma that is often associated with their neighborhood.

Second Front.

Last Laugh

When Walteria Spaulding was 13, church members were only amused by her organ-playing attempts, but they aren't laughing now.

Religion, Page 20.



Race Movies

Yesteryear's black movie industry played its part in the struggle against racism in America, says columnist Tony Brown.

Editorials, Page 4.

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32 Pages This Week



Putting His Life Back Together

To some, life in prison can be demoralizing, but for Michael Smith it proved to be a maturation process (photo by James Parker).

From Power To Poverty: Smith's Rise And Fall

By ROBIN ADAMS
Staff Writer

On his birthday, April 25, Michael C. Smith was released from prison after nearly two years of incarceration.

Instead of expressing bitterness and remorse, Smith says he looks upon it as a positive growing experience. "I grew up more in those 19 months and 25 days than I did during my 33 years of living," he says.

But right now, Smith, a Vietnam veteran, is at a low point in his life. He and co-defendant William McGee were convicted in 1981 of conspiracy to traffic cocaine.

But that's all over for Smith. As he sits in a friend's (one of few he says have stuck by him) apartment last week, surrounded by modern furniture and green plants and sipping his first cup of "non-penitentiary" coffee, Smith shares his feelings and thoughts about what has happened to him -- before and since his highly publicized trial.

"I want to let people know who I am," Smith says as the five-hour interview opens. "I'm not some monster that the news-media built up. And yes, I've gone through this and I'm not bitter."

Life has taken a cruel twist for Smith; he has gone from the sipping tea with Washington big wheels as an aide to Congressman Steve Neal to working on road crews with fellow inmates.

"I was a fool to get that caught up with material things," Smith says as he reflects on the time when he used to fly to New York to have his shoes custom-made, cruise to the "islands" to spend weekends with his Capitol Hill friends and walk around town with \$2,000 to \$3,000 in his pocket, freely buying \$600 handmade backgammon sets.

Last week, he had less than three dollars, counting pennies, in his pocket.

"I was going too fast," Smith says. "And sooner or later, it had to stop. It was either that (jail), or I would be dead."

Smith's downfall, like his lifestyle, happened quickly.

He went from plush high-rise offices in Khamis Mushayt and Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, where he once worked for Page Technical Services Inc., to a drab jail cell at Central Prison in Raleigh.

Smith says there is only one person to blame. "I did it," Smith says of the drug deal to which he pleaded guilty and had his sentence recently reduced by District Attorney Donald K. Tisdale to the time he had already served.

"I had resigned from Merrill-Lynch (a stock brokerage firm) and I was in close contact with Bill (McGee) because he was trying to help me get a job with the city," Smith says. "If I didn't get finances, I would have gone under financially. I had no job, but I still had a car payment due and the rent due, in addition to the lifestyle I was trying to maintain."

"I want to let people know who I am. I'm not some monster that the news media built up. And yes, I've gone through this and I'm not bitter."

-- Michael Smith

McGee Gets New Trial, New Site

By ROBIN ADAMS
Staff Writer

Onlookers who filled a Superior Court gallery expecting last week to witness the sentencing of former Benton Convention Center Director William W. McGee, instead witnessed some surprising new developments in the case. McGee went to court to be sentenced after pleading guilty earlier in the week to conspiring to traffic in cocaine.

But McGee changed his guilty plea to not guilty, and

asked for and received a new trial in an area outside of Winston-Salem.

Judge W. Douglas Albright of Greensboro withdrew McGee's guilty plea after McGee's attorney, Harrell Powell Jr., announced he had additional information from the state's key witness that might change the outcome of the case.

Powell said that Ann Toms, an undercover agent who was hired by the city to investigate local drug activity, and whose testimony convicted McGee and Michael C.

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That need for money was what Smith says drove him into the cocaine deal.

But Smith maintains that he never had any intention of using the money that he received from undercover agent Ann Toms to buy drugs. According to court testimony by Mrs. Toms, Smith and McGee were to invest her money into the purchase and the sale of drugs.

But Smith says that in all the conversations he had with Toms, he never mentioned cocaine or any other drugs. "I talked about a product," he says, when referring to the investment.

Smith adds that the police also obviously knew that they had no intention of buying drugs because they arrested him as he left Mrs. Toms' apartment rather than wait until the deal was completed.

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Police, Residents Clash In Melee

By EDWARD HILL JR.
Staff Writer

A local man says he was unnecessarily beaten by police officers during a melee that erupted after he questioned a citation for drinking beer in public.

Tyrone Foy, 23, of 1711 Lime Avenue, who was arrested and charged with assaulting a police officer, says he was a victim of police brutality during an incident last week that developed into a clash involving four city police officers, Foy's mother and girlfriend and other residents of the Kimberly Park area.

"I was out in the parking lot on Derry Street (1700 block) putting in some carpet in the car," said Foy, his left eye stained with blood and the right side of his face badly scarred and bruised. "There were a lot of people out just enjoying a nice warm day, drinking sodas and beer and playing music."

"Then we observed an officer who drove by. Everybody stopped drinking, but we continued on with whatever else we were doing. The officer sat about 50 yards from us for about 30 or 40 minutes."

Foy says that the officer, K.B. Leonard, came over and asked him if the beer on the ground was his. Foy says he told the officer it was not. He says that the officer then told him he was giving him a citation for drinking beer in public. He says that he and Officer Leonard argued over the matter when a second officer, E.W. Hurley, came up behind him, grabbed him around the neck and wrestled him to the ground.

At that point, says Foy, two other officers, O.W. Twitty and Pat Norris, who had been radioed by Officer Leonard, joined in and began to twist his arm, choke him with a nightstick and scrape his face across the ground. Foy also charges that Officer Twitty jabbed him in the ribs three times with a nightstick while he was handcuffed in the police car.

Meanwhile, Foy's mother, Mrs. Alberta Foy, says she came to see what was happening to her son. "I told them that he was my son and not to break his arm," says Mrs. Foy. "They said 'we'll kill the ----; get the hell out of the way.' So I grabbed the stick to keep them from choking him. Then a female police officer (Officer Norris) grabbed me and shoved me against the fence and

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Tyrone Foy says he received the scars on his face during a confrontation with city police (photo by James Parker).

Things Looking Up For YMCA

As the present fundraising campaign for the construction of the Winston Lake YMCA nears its deadline, Richard Glover says things are going even better than expected.

"We are actually a little ahead of what we were projecting at this point," says Glover, executive director of the Patterson Avenue Y, which will be replaced by the Winston Lake facility. "The key has been the great amount of support from the 200 volunteers we have working in the community and

the support of the community as a whole."

Glover says the Winston Lake Y's goals are to solicit 1,000 gifts to meet the stipulations of a \$100,000 challenge grant from the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation and to raise \$100,000 in total gifts from the community. So far, 690 gifts and \$73,475 has been collected. The amount of the gifts -- which range from \$1 to \$5,000 -- averages \$134.

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Indicates Report

Affirmative Action Improvements Needed

By EDWARD HILL JR.
Staff Writer

While there is evidence that blacks have made some gains in the city's hiring and promotion practices, a recently released Interim Affirmative Action Progress Report indicates that they still lag far behind whites in the top money-making jobs.

The report, issued by Assistant to the City Manager Alexander R. Beaty, covers the period

between July 1, 1982 and April 11, 1983. According to the report, blacks match, or in some cases, lead whites in the office and clerical and service/maintenance areas. However, there remains a great disparity between blacks and whites in technical and professional fields.

During the period, there were nine blacks hired or promoted in the office/clerical positions as compared to six whites. In service/maintenance, 22 blacks were hired or promoted, as compared to 18 whites.

In the officials/administrators and professionals and technicians categories, however, blacks fared poorly. In the three combined areas, there were a total of 52 positions available. Of those, only 13 were filled by blacks.

An affirmative action plan, which was adopted by the Winston-Salem Board of Aldermen last year, is designed to ensure that minorities receive equal opportunities in city

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