



## Someone You Should Meet ...

**Name:** Eric St. James  
**Job Title:** Radio Announcer at WAAA-AM  
**Hometown:** Chicago  
**Describe yourself in one word:** "Lovable"  
**Hobbies:** Reading and girl watching  
**Favorite Book:** "Book of Secrets"  
**Favorite Movie:** "The Godfather"  
**Person admires most:** Eddie Murphy  
**Career Goal:** "To be the best I can be at everything."

(photo by James Parker)

## NEWS DIGEST

National, state and local news briefs compiled by John Slade

### Creator Of Game Sues NAACP And NOW

**BALTIMORE** -- A game inventor filed suit against the NAACP and the National Organization for Women recently, saying that they conspired with the government to blacklist his spoof of the welfare system.

Robert Bowie Johnson Jr. of Severna Park, Md., is seeking \$13 million in damages in the federal suit filed in U.S. District Court under the Civil Rights Act.

Johnson maintains that NOW and the NAACP conspired with government welfare workers to prevent the sale of the board game which he and partner Robert Pramschufel invented in 1980. The game is called "Public Assistance -- Why Bother Working For A Living?"

The NAACP and NOW have called the game "racist and sexist." The game satirizes the welfare system, portraying recipients as lazy and dishonest and living off the labor of hard-working taxpayers.

Johnson says that a welfare lobbying group, the American Public Welfare Association, urged welfare agencies across the country to work with the NAACP and NOW to "remove the game from the marketplace."

Johnson said he has a right to sell the game free from government interference. Last month, he and Pramschufel went to the Supreme Court to argue against a New York official who urged stores not to sell the game. The court refused to hear the case.

### Omega Pledge Dies From Too Much Alcohol

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** -- A fraternity party ended in the death of a 20-year-old pledge more than a week ago during part of initiation ceremonies. Officials reported "empty whiskey bottles all over the house" and said the dead student's blood alcohol content was five times the legal intoxication level.

Van L. Watts, a junior engineering major at Tennessee State University, died from an overdose of alcohol, said Dr. Charles Harlan, Davidson County medical examiner. "He died from drinking too much alcohol in too short a period of time," said Harlan, who estimated that it

would take 26 shots of 100-proof alcohol for a 150-pound man to reach Watts' blood alcohol content of 0.52. A level of 0.1 is considered legally drunk in Tennessee. Police ruled the death accidental, said Homicide Capt. Sherman Nickens.

University and Omega Psi Phi fraternity officials denied that Watts' death resulted from hazing, which is outlawed by Tennessee State. The fraternity was banned from the campus five years ago for a hazing incident, but was reinstated two years ago.

### Local Man Joins Staff Of Rep. Steve Neal

**WINSTON-SALEM** -- William Shedrick Adams of 3816 Sawyer St. has been hired as a staff assistant in the Winston-Salem office of Democratic Congressman Steve Neal.

Adams, 44, fills a vacancy created Oct. 22 by the death of the Rev. James L.E. Hunt, a longtime Neal assistant.

Before joining the Neal staff, Adams served for five years as an intake officer in the N.C. Department of Probation and Parole. He also was coordinator of Winston-Salem's summer youth employment programs for two years and served briefly as a psycho-social clinician with

the Forsyth County Mental Health Department.

At the time of his appointment by Neal, Adams was serving his second term as second vice chairman of the Forsyth County Democratic Executive Committee. He resigned that position to join Neal's staff.

A native of Winston-Salem, Adams is a member of First Baptist Church on Highland Avenue. He is married to the former Virginia Watson of Durham and is a faculty member and doctoral candidate at Winston-Salem State University.

## Fire Prevention

### Enjoy Fire-Safe Christmas Trees

By THOMAS FLYNN  
 Syndicated Columnist

Deck the halls with boughs of holly -- but only if it's flame retardant. That's the message of a growing movement for safety and sanity in the way Americans decorate their homes for the holidays. Here are fire-wise tips for displaying your family tree this season.

If you plan to use a live tree, remember that you're inviting a highly flammable object into your home and take special precautions. When buying a real tree, insist on a recently cut, fresh specimen. Trees with brown, shedding needles can be rejected at once. If a tree looks green and healthy, take a long needle and bend it between your thumb and forefinger. If it snaps, the tree is too dry. Look for one with needles that bend and spring back.

Use a tree stand that supports the trunk in water -- and keep the water level up with daily inspection and topping off.

Never mind how early in the season it is; if a tree turns brown and starts to lose needles, it's time to get rid of it. That brown color means the tree is drying out and could be easily ignited by the heat of the lights.

It's because of problems like this that more and more Americans switch to artificial trees each year. But these

trees, too, require common-sense precautions.

Some people prefer the silvery, aluminum trees. Keep in mind that these metal trees are electrically conductive, so do not decorate them with any electrical product, whether a string of lights or an electronic singing ornament. The metal can cause a short and a fire -- or simply become "hot" and deliver a nasty shock to unsuspecting people. Light an aluminum tree with a detached color wheel.

Green artificial trees can be lit like real trees but use caution before decorating with large conventional C9 or C7½ bulbs. Very old artificial trees and some of the newer, soft-needle types cannot endure the heat of these bulbs and will melt and exude an unpleasant odor in the vicinity of the bulbs. Miniature lights of all descriptions are available for these trees; one can also switch to new, cool burning, energy saving bulbs in the traditional C9 or C7½ sizes.

Never use candles or open flames on an artificial tree, as many plastics give off toxic gases when burned. It's also a good idea not to leave lights on for long periods when no one is at home. Whatever kind of tree you use, the possibility of light failure and consequent electrical

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## Crime Prevention

### Buildings At Fairgrounds Vandalized

The following "Crime Box Score" is designed to keep you abreast of criminal activity in your community during the past week and to help you protect your family and property from crime.

#### Storebreaking

•400 block, West 27th Street  
 Several buildings on the Dixie Classic Fairgrounds were broken into and vandalized and money was taken from drink machines.

•100 block, New Walkertown Road  
 Money was taken from video game machines, as well as additional money and a single-shot shotgun.

•1000 block, North Chestnut Street  
 Furniture was taken from a warehouse. Though officers located and returned three love chests to the owner, the business was broken into again later in the week. One person was arrested.

•600 block, Alexander Street  
 A Stuart drum set and one amplifier were taken from a church.

•700 block, East 27th Street  
 Blankets were taken from a warehouse.

•1100 block, Manly Street  
 A church was vandalized as intruders attempted to steal a sound system. Nothing was taken.

•3100 block, Bowen Boulevard  
 Four hundred cartons of cigarettes, 22 Timex watches and three radios were taken.

#### Housebreaking

•1100 block, East 29th Street  
 An RCA videocassette recorder, two stereo speakers and a cordless telephone were taken.

•1400 block, Argonne Boulevard  
 Two speakers, one Fisher 12-inch stereo speaker, a JVC turntable, a stereo cassette deck and a Realistic stereo amplifier were taken.

•1100 block, West 13th Street  
 An RCA 21-inch television, a Sound System stereo, an AM/FM cassette player, a heater and clothing were taken.

•1400 block, Cherry Street  
 A Lawnboy lawnmower, one shovel and one garden hose were taken.

•1700 block, Harrison Avenue  
 An antique kitchen table and four chairs were taken.

•1600 block, East 14th Street  
 A turntable, amplifier, two speakers and an AM/FM radio were taken.

•2000 block, Thurmond Street  
 Money was taken.

•2300 block, Greenway Avenue  
 A Zenith 25-inch color TV and a .22-caliber rifle were taken.

•200 block, Motor Road  
 Two Tech speakers, an amplifier, a tuner-equalizer, an eight-track tape player, two 19-inch color televisions and a .22-caliber revolver were taken.

### ATTENTION PUBLIC SPEAKERS

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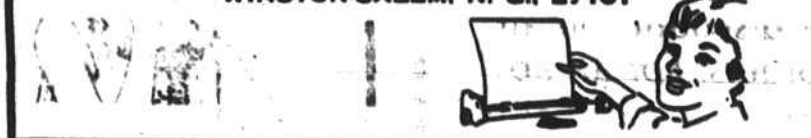
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