

Chronicle Profile

He's still striving for the best

By **AUDREY WILLIAMS**
Chronicle Staff Writer

Billy D. Friende Jr. has a habit of staring out of his Main Street office window, and it's not because of boredom.

"The first office I had didn't have a window," says Friende. "Now I have a window and I look out at the factories."

A native son of Winston-Salem, the 33-year-old Friende attributes his success in law to the support of the community and his clients, many of whom are his friends, the ones who watched him grow up as a youngster in the Boston neighborhood near 25th and Cherry streets, he says.

"I feel like I've been successful," he says. "That's why I've been actively involved, but not so active that I can't run my practice and have my private life, too."

Even though the only child of two teachers says he feels somewhat successful, Friende still questions exactly what it means, especially in terms of his accomplishments.

"When I think about it, I'm not really sure if I know what success is," he says. "By some people's standards, I have made it, but I still think I have got a long way to go."

"Looking at society in its entirety, I've only scratched the surface," he says. "Just because I'm black doesn't mean I've made it. It's not enough for me to be satisfied -- it's my nature to strive for better."

Friende admits his profession is the cause of his not being as vocal on controversial issues as some may expect him to be. But that doesn't mean he's not

involved in the community.

"I think everyone should try to be a good citizen," he says, "especially anyone who has had a great deal of success in the community. 'You have got to give something back.'"

At St. Paul United Methodist Church, where he's been a member since childhood, Friende served as chairman of the administrative board for five years and now serves as a member of the church's finance committee and steward board.

The Patterson Avenue YMCA is where he also uses his legal training as a member of the board of management. Five years ago, Friende was appointed by the mayor to serve on the Advisory Development Committee, a follow-up committee to the city's urban renewal. He is also a legal representative for the Chronicle.

"I grew up here and by being a native I can appreciate some of the problems in the black community," Friende says. "I can appreciate the Patterson Y because I went there as a kid, and I can see and appreciate a special need to be involved in the black community."

However, the soon-to-be father, who married last summer, says there are times when he has to turn down offers of serving on various committees and boards in order to spend time with his family, build a strong firm and give ample time to his clients.

"A lot of people ask me to serve on different things," he says, "but I don't have time. I gotta have a private life. If I am involved, I want to do a good job at it."

As head of his law firm, which includes two other attorneys, Donald R. Buie and Renita Thompkins,



By some people's standards, Billy Friende Jr. has made it, but he says he has a way to go (photo by James Parker).

Friende says he sees a growing trend towards attorneys who specialize in a specific area of law, which is the reason he says he'd like to expand his firm to maybe five or seven attorneys.

But had Friende come along in a different time, he says he doesn't believe his practice, which specializes in property, wills and estates, would be growing at its present rate.

"I'm proud that I have been able to represent a lot

of the black upper-middle-class, small businessmen and middle-class blacks," he says. "Traditionally, black people have not used black attorneys for any reason whatsoever. It's gratifying to know that they have confidence and trust in my abilities."

Friende says he's not tooting his own whistle but basing his opinions on the fact that only in the last five years have young black lawyers like himself been

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Community Calendar

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

•The Greensboro Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women will sponsor a Community Black Arts Exhibition highlighting the achievements of black artists in the Piedmont at the Lewis Community Center at 3110 Forest Lawn Drive from 4-6 p.m.

•The Art and Music Department of the Forsyth County Public Library will present "An Afternoon With Charles Dickens," featuring Dr. Elliot Engel, professor of English at North Carolina State University and a Dickens scholar, in the auditorium of the Main Library at 3 p.m. For more information call 727-2057.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6

•In observance of Black History Month, the Winston-Salem Branch of the NAACP will sponsor a Read-A-Thon for all ages at the East Winston Branch Library beginning today through Feb. 14. For more information call 727-2202 or 725-4960.

•Clifton Graves, affirmative action officer at WSSU will speak on the question "What are your civil rights?" at the fifth session of the East Winston Branch Library Law Series at 7:30 p.m.

•LOGO will be the first course of a 10-week series on personal computers at Salem College every Monday evening. For more information call 721-2607 or 721-2669.

•Piano for the Almost Beginner, a group approach designed for those who can read music, but feel like beginners, will be taught by Dr. Nancy Wurtele at Salem College every Monday evening. For more information call 721-2607 or 721-2669.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY, 7

•The YWCA, the League of Women Voters and the Parent Teachers Association will sponsor an Education Series Forum from 7-9 p.m., with a program on "The Parent's Role in School Discipline" at the Glade Street YWCA. For more information call 722-5138.

•Dr. Ronald Davis will lead an eight-week course on Stress Management at Salem College. The course will focus on identifying causes of stress and developing effective means of controlling stress. For more information call 721-2607 or 721-2669.

•"Breaking into the Job Market: Strategies for the 80s," is the topic for the YWCA Women's Focus 84 Series from 10 a.m. to noon at the Glade Street YWCA. Betty T. Wade of POPI will be the guest speaker.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

•The YWCA Options For Living Series will present "Fire Prevention and Safety Techniques" from 10:30 a.m. to noon at the Glade Street YWCA. Mary Johnson and Mike Weddle, will be the guest speakers.

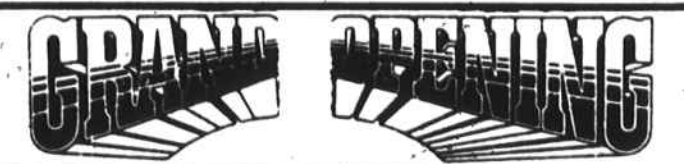
Military News

Marine Cpl. Richard Wing, Marine Corps Helicopter Air Station New River, Jacksonville.

Marine Cpl. Thomas Humphrey III, son of Thomas Humphrey of Camel Street and Pauline Humphrey of Willow Street, has been meritoriously promoted to his present rank while serving with 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point.

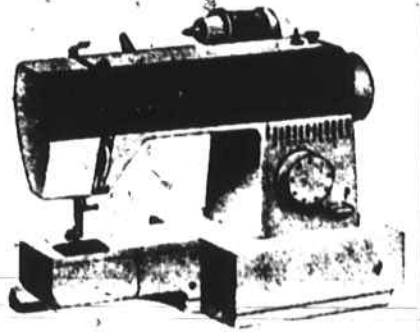
Navy Seaman Paul A. James, whose former guardian is Nettie M. Lowery of Voss street, has reported for duty aboard the submarine rescue ship USS Pigeon, homeported in San Diego, Calif. He received the accelerated promotion in recognition of outstanding performance, duty proficiency and demonstrated professional abilities.

Marine Lt. Robert K. Triplett, son of Carol J. Triplett of Panola Road, has reported for duty with the 2nd Marine Aircraft



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4-H Club wins in cooking contest

Six members of the Green Street 4-H Club showed off their cooking skills at the 4-H Favorite Foods Show on Jan. 20 at the Agricultural Building. Three of the club members were first-place blue ribbon winners.

Brian Smart won first place in the bread and cereal group in the 12-13 age category; Trina Johnson, fruit and vegetable group, 14-19 age category; and Michelle Martin, milk group, 9-11 age category.

Other participants from the Green Street Club were Lagier Rison, blue-ribbon winner in the meat group; Tiquita Bennett, red ribbon in the meat group; Keisha Starnes, red ribbon in the fruit and vegetable group; Michelle Foster of the

Thurmond Street 4-H Club received a blue ribbon and second place in the breads and cereals group.

Winners in each age division and food group were given 4-H scholarships and ribbons. A tasting party followed the show.

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Thalhimer's Salutes

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

"Know from whence you came. If you know from whence you came, There is really no limit to where you can go." - James Baldwin, black American writer.

This year, as Black History Month focuses on black Americans and their past struggles for excellence in education, we at Thalhimer's honor the many black men and women whose contributions to education and all realms of life have made our community and nation what it is today.

Throughout the month of February, we recognize these past achievements and salute the continued progress that will lead to a brighter future for all Americans.

Thalhimer's