

YMCA facility will get its 'frills'

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Both Roseboro and Allen say the proceeds from the sale of the old Patterson building to R.J. Reynolds and the land purchase for the site of the new Y, also by R.J. Reynolds, were gifts to Patterson and not the total board.

"Those things (the proceeds from the sale of the land and the old Patterson building) should be included," Cormier said, "because they are part of the campaign. When the Winston-Salem Foundation sold the building (the old Patterson building), they gave us the proceeds as a

gift to the campaign. When Reynolds purchased the land from the city in December 1981, that was part of their pledge to the campaign."

Said Clingman: "We put it all in one pot and from that pot Winston Lake is getting one percent more of the total than originally planned for."

Aside from the continuing disputes over the money, Hartsfield said his main concern is that the community regains faith that the Winston Lake facility will be what was promised.

"The Patterson board is satisfied where

we are now," Hartsfield said. "A negative seed has been planted that the black community is being shortchanged. I hope this (the decision to include the extras) will let them know we are on target."

Said Glover: "Winston Lake will be a better facility than 70 percent of the YMCAs in this country and there is not a facility in the black community any better anywhere in the country."

Clingman, Cormier, Hartsfield and Glover all agree that construction will proceed as planned. "The only thing to slow us up now is bad weather," Hartsfield said.

McGregor's bullish on Winston-Salem

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"I'm concerned to get traditionally black organizations to hold their conventions here," says McGregor. "They may not have been told that their business is wanted and appreciated -- but they're being told now, because I'm telling them."

Though McGregor wants to attract groups to Winston-Salem the first time, he says, his more important goal is getting them to come back. To achieve that goal, he says, he plays up the city's attractions and attributes.

"Our rates are good and our hospitality is good," he says. "... We have good attractions. Winston-Salem is in the middle of the state and is good for meeting people."

Though McGregor has only been in his new job a matter of weeks, he reports that he's settling in and learning as fast as he can. "I'm a salesman," says the former Wake Forest basketball star who majored in speech and communications.

Measuring his success is "different from playing basketball," he says, "because whether or not you were losing or winning was an immediate indication of your performance (in basketball)." But his effectiveness at the Chamber won't be gauged until far down the road, McGregor says, because he solicits business not only for this year, but for years in advance.

Before coming to the Chamber, McGregor served for a short while as the director of promotions and public relations for the Greater Triad Chapter of the March of Dimes. Before that, he worked with an underachievers program for high school students administered through Wake Forest University. The seeds he helped plant there apparently blossomed for East Forsyth Senior High School when the school had the highest 1983 competency exam passing rate of all the senior highs in the city-county system.

After returning to Winston-Salem two-and-a-half years ago from Europe, where he played pro ball for seven years -- one in Italy, two in France and four in Belgium -- McGregor says that finding good, steady employment proved difficult at first. He says basketball was good to him and speaks of his time at Wake Forest as a "unique experience," despite "some measure of disappointment with what I feel wasn't an ideal post-athletic relationship" with the university. Still, he says he supports his alma mater, "and I give them a little time, and even a little money."

McGregor now lives on West 25th Street with his wife Delores, who teaches third grade at South Park Elementary School; his two daughters, 10-year-old Kelly and 7-year-old Jennifer, and Anne Hampton, his

mother-in-law. Noting that Chamber, McGregor served and its citizens have much to be thankful for, he says all cities can't boast of thriving, black-owned businesses and Winston-Salem State Coach "Bighouse" Gaines, whom he calls "one of the greatest coaches ever." McGregor, who has coached junior high school basketball, used to provide color commentary for WSSU broadcasts.

The ex-Wake Forest athlete and graduate, who raises both a finger and his intonation to emphasize that he didn't lose sight of why he went to college, says he left the March of Dimes after four and a half months only after "some soul-searching."

"Somebody at the Chamber decided they want to hire me away," he says. "And I try to put myself in a mind-set that I won't ever regret anything I do."

Of skepticism that his job at the Chamber might be mainly to pacify those who



Gil McGregor (photo by James Parker).

complain that the Chamber needs to hire more minorities to serve the interests of black businesses in the city, McGregor says:

"I'm not a spokesman or a mouthpiece of any segment. I'm cognizant enough of my job to know my job, and it's not in minority development -- which is not

to say somebody doesn't need to be there."

"... I want to be catalyst to link minority and majority groups to promote preaction, action, and not reaction," he says. "If we're on this earth and can't make a positive, worthwhile contribution while we're here, maybe we need to pay rent."

Campaign office opens

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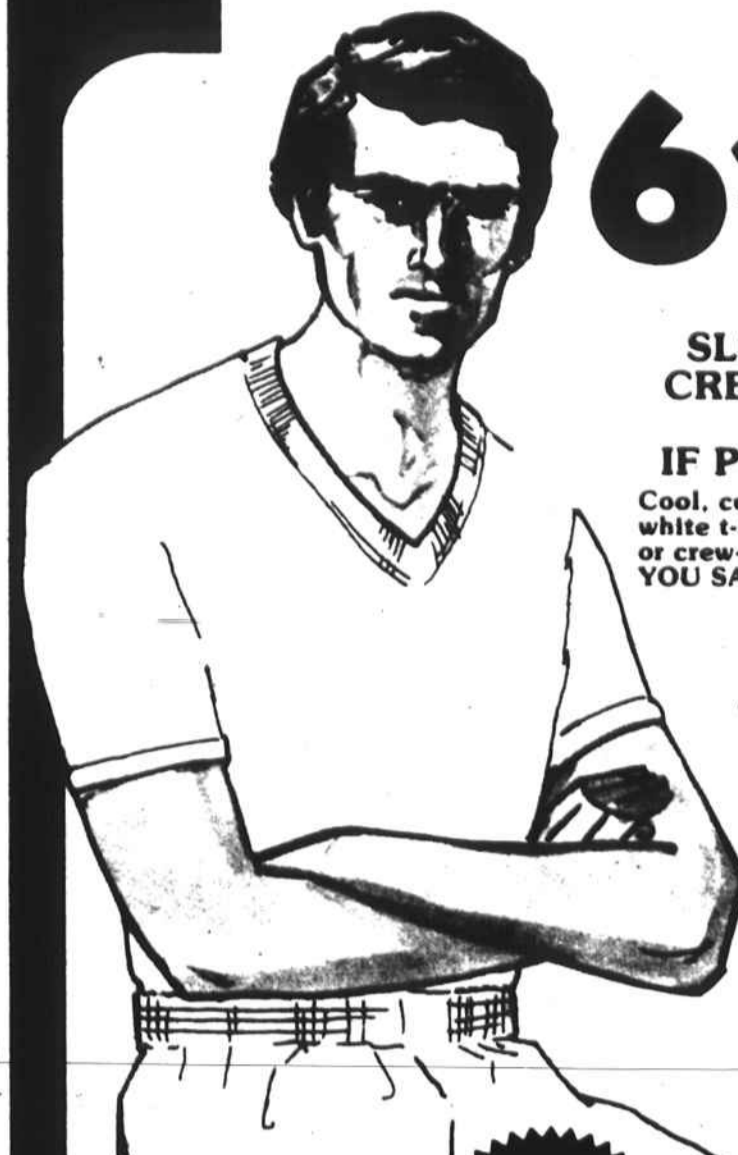
tion were as scarce as hen's teeth. But with Gary Hart's surging popularity and Walter Mondale's waning popularity, campaign workers are dusting off campaign literature and opening headquarters.

Although no local blacks have been seen working with a local Hart campaign,

Alderman Vivian Burke is in Mondale's camp. Burke, who worked as a coordinator with the Shirley Chisholm campaign, pledged her support to Mondale last year and said efforts are being made locally to rally support for Mondale. School board member John Holleman Jr. heads the

local Mondale organization.

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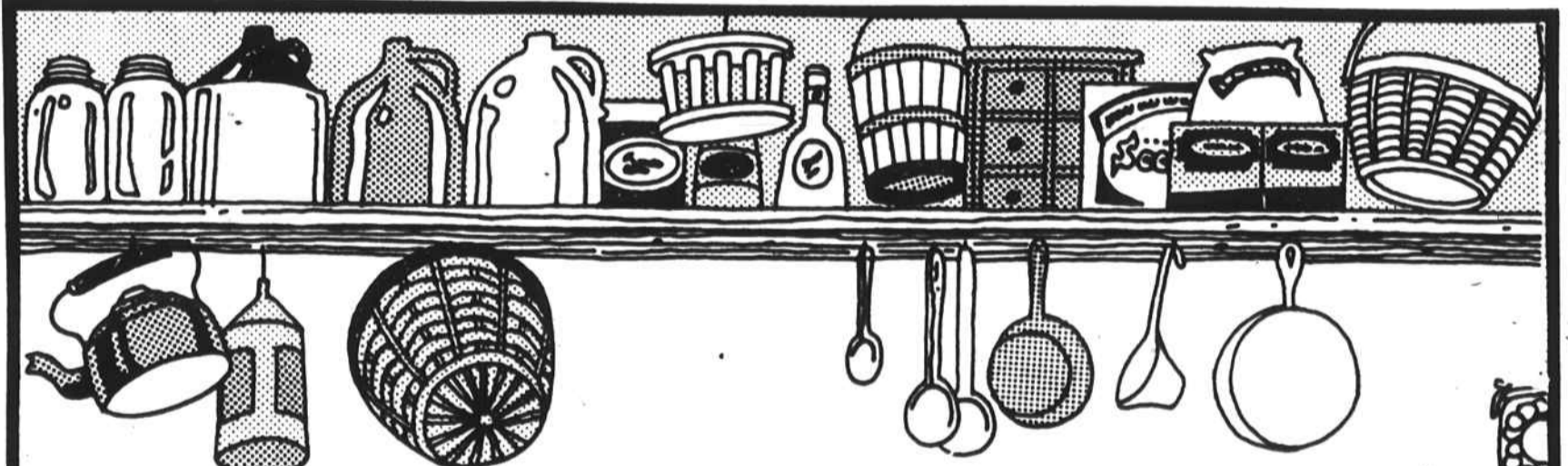
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