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# Winston-Salem Chronicle

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46 Pages This Week

## Miami's Yahwehs: True descendants of Judah or shades of Jim Jones?

By DAN SEWELL  
Associated Press Writer

MIAMI -- It was open house at the Temple of Love.

Blamed for murders, racketeering and brain-washing, and under fire in the news media, the Yahweh sect last week invited reporters and cameras for a two-hour tour and a meeting with the

self-styled son of God himself, Yahweh ben Yahweh.

There were visits to the sewing shop where the white robes and pants are made and to the laundry room where modern washers and dryers keep them white. And to the ice cream parlor, grocery store and "bit of fish" store.

And to Job's Beauty and Hair Salon, where a patron having her hair put in cornrows passed the

time by reading an unabridged dictionary. On sale were Yahweh comic books, T-shirts, booklets, pamphlets, posters and records. Dotting the workplaces were small signs exhorting: "Life is better with Yahweh" and "Come on up to Yahweh."

Smiling young men, carrying tall wooden staffs, offered homemade doughnuts and refreshments before their leader appeared.

"(The Bible says) you shall know a tree by its

fruits. I hope you enjoyed my fruits today," Yahweh ben Yahweh, born Hulon Mitchell Jr. 51 years ago in Enid, Okla., said after the tour of the sprawling headquarters in Miami's Liberty City area and of the nearby Yahweh Education Center.

"I thank my father Yahweh for the chance to meet all of you and to dispel some of the rumors about the nation of Yahweh," he said in his first Please see page A3

## King Week '87 activities slated

By The Associated Press

ATLANTA -- The birthday of slain civil rights leader the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. will be celebrated next year with a weeklong series of events, including a rally in Washington and a radio tribute to be broadcast on 9,000 stations.

The second observance of the national holiday in January honoring King also will be marked by bell-ringing ceremonies in various cities across the nation.

The activities were included in a preliminary schedule released last Friday by the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta.

"We invite everyone to take part in the activities in Atlanta or in your own city if you are unable to take part in the national events," said Coretta Scott King, King's widow and chairman of the federal holiday commission that is coordinating the events.

Lloyd Davis, executive director of the King Federal Holiday Commission, said more than 100 nations participated in the King holiday activities last January, and others are expected to join in the 1987 festivities.

King would have been 58 next Jan. 15, and Congress has declared Jan. 19 as a national holiday in his honor. The Atlanta native was shot to death in Memphis, Tenn., on April 4, 1968.

The 1987 observance will be launched with a reception and rally in Washington on Jan. 14. Federal employees will rally in the auditorium of the U.S. Department of Labor at 1 p.m., and a Please see page A12



Mayor Andrew Young of Atlanta at a 1985 ceremony honoring the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (photo by James Parker).

## Revlon boycott supported by Twin City's beauticians

Mock funeral is planned in the city

By CHERYL WILLIAMS  
Chronicle Staff Writer

OPERATION PUSH's call for a nationwide boycott of Revlon has gained support locally among some black beauticians. Meanwhile, Winston-Salem, Charlotte and Fayetteville demonstrations against the firm's products are planned.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson and Operation PUSH leaders called for the boycott in response to comments made by Revlon executive Irving Bottner in the Oct. 13 issue of Newsweek magazine. Bottner was quoted in the article as saying that black-owned hair-care businesses will disappear and be sold to white companies in the next two years.

Bottner, president of Revlon's Professional Products Division, also implied that black hair-care products are inferior to white products.

"We are accused of taking business away from the black companies, but black consumers buy quality products -- too often their black brothers didn't do them any good," Bottner said in the Newsweek article.

Edith Williams, owner of Edith's Genesis Beauty Salon, located in the Business and Technology Center, said she would support the boycott of Revlon products.

Ms. Williams, a hair designer and cosmetologist, said she learned of the boycott from information sent to her by the American Health and Beauty Aids Institute, or AHBAI, a black trade organization.

The letter urged the boycotting of Revlon products and the buying of products manufactured by black firms that display AHBAI's "Proud Lady" symbol.

Ms. Williams said that her salon currently uses relaxers made by Revlon. "We have four jars left," she said. "We will not buy any more."

One of the main reasons that her shop used Revlon relaxers is because her customers requested it, she said. But she said that she doesn't feel her business will be damaged if she discontinues use of the product.

"Right now there are a lot of better black hair products on the market," she said. "Once all the people see how it can benefit them, they won't give Revlon a second thought."

Tomi Richard, owner of Hair by Tomi, located at 3601 Shellwood Road, said that she will also participate in the boycott.

Ms. Richard said that she had also received information from AHBAI. She said that although she presently carries Revlon products, she can always take them Please see page A12

## E. Winston Library comes back strong

By CHERYL WILLIAMS  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Before attracting more patrons to the East Winston Branch Library, Director Tim Jackson Jr. first had to ask some to leave.

"There were a lot of street people coming in," says Jackson, a Birmingham, Ala., native who has run the branch since 1984.

"We were right next door to (the Forsyth-Stokes) Mental Health Center), and a lot of people coming in were, in my opinion,

not under control."

Adding to Jackson's woes were loud and unruly child patrons.

"I felt we needed to change a lot of that in order to get people to come in here and say this is a library," he says. "In the early going it was sort of difficult because we had to show people we meant business."

With support from his higher-ups at the Main Library, Jackson and his staff courteously but firmly laid down the law. People

were no longer allowed to loiter in the library. When extreme situations called for the police to remove someone, the library administration supported his decision, Jackson says.

"I was very firm in getting them out," he says.

In the case of disruptive children, Jackson says, the library sponsored youth programs dealing with manners, peer pressure and showing respect.

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### THIS WEEK

## Mom: Transfer, don't test

By CHERYL WILLIAMS  
Chronicle Staff Writer

A black parent told school board members Monday that what her child needs is another classroom or another school, not psychological testing.

Doreen Pollock of 1428 Oak St. told board members that her child, Keshia Knight, who is in the fourth grade at Bolton Elementary School, was doing OK until this year. She said that her daughter had previously received good grades, but her

grades on her first report card this year show a decline.

Mrs. Pollock places some of the blame for this decline on her child's fear of the teacher.

"If my child is not happy in a teacher's class, then I'm not happy," she said.

Mrs. Pollock said that she has talked to the teacher, the principal of the school, James H. Kleu, as well as Dr. Howard Sosne, an assistant superintendent, and Superintendent Zane

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"I remember he (the doctor) said, 'We think you might have legionnaire's disease.' My wife and I looked at each other. Then I just said, 'People die from legionnaire's disease, don't they?'"

-- The Rev. Leonard V. Lassiter Jr.

## The Rev. Lassiter: He was given a new lease on life

By ROBIN BARKSDALE  
Chronicle Staff Writer

As he finished his benediction at a convention banquet, the Rev. Leonard V. Lassiter Jr. never suspected that the flu-like symptoms he'd begun to feel foreshadowed a 16-week fight for his life.

What Lassiter thought was an ordinary cold turned out to be legionnaire's disease, a pneumonia-like illness caused by a bacterium called *legionella pneumophila*.

The disease breeds in stagnant water and is

carried through the air in water vapor. It usually strikes without warning and renders its targets virtually helpless. Fewer than 10 percent of its victims survive.

Lassiter is one of the lucky ones.

"The last thing I did before I got ill was to give the invocation and benediction at the black newspaper publishers (National Newspaper Publishers Association) convention at the Hyatt in June," recalls Lassiter, the pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church. "It started out like a cold, but I got pro-

gressively worse. I thought I had pneumonia. It didn't alarm me or shock me."

Legionnaire's disease was first brought to the public's attention in 1976. The virus was blamed for the deaths that year of 34 people who had attended an American Legion convention in Philadelphia.

Lassiter's uphill battle with the illness began on a Saturday evening in June, and he says it wasn't until the middle of September Please see page A15



The Rev. L.V. Lassiter: His outlook has changed (photo by James Parker).