

Mount Zion: big changes are going on

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Proposal submitted by Turner and East Winston CDC is a refreshing development

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Native of Kenya 'comes to America' for visit

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42 Pages This Week

City falls short of minority, women hiring goals

By VALERIE ROBACK GREGG
Chronicle Staff Writer

The number of Afro-Americans and women in the city's top-paid administrative positions is abysmally low, and action must be taken to rectify the situation, members of the Board of Aldermen told the city staff Monday.

"Of 18 top positions, only three are black," Patrick Womble said. "That's always been a concern of mine

and that doesn't change even though we say we're an equal opportunity employer."

Of the top 18 salaried city positions, only two are filled by women, and only Assistant City Manager Alexander Beaty, Fire Chief L.E. Ervin and Housing/Neighborhood Development Director Monica R. Lett are Afro-American.

"I'm a little less than satisfied with this," Larry W. Womble said. "By 1985, we said we would have a cer-

tain percentage of blacks, and 1985 came and went and we still didn't meet the quota... I'm tired of this good faith effort. They said we'd use the work force number. I don't know where that catch-all word came from."

The city's hiring goals for minorities and women are based on the makeup of the labor force, by race and gender, instead of the general population, according to the city's Affirmative Action Plan.

"You know this city is highly impacted by blacks and females," Womble said. "Look at the board. It's half black and half female. The work force needs to show that representation. We don't want to keep asking, we will start demanding, and if the staff doesn't respond, they can see about doing the work or looking for another way of employment," Womble said.

The city's affirmative action plan, approved in

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Bus shelter set for Third and Liberty

By ANGELA WRIGHT
Chronicle Managing Editor

If city transit riders can endure just two or three winter cold snaps and summer heatwaves, they might find relief at a new transit center which city officials hope to begin constructing at Third and Liberty streets by 1990.

City officials and community leaders received a detailed briefing Monday from the Winston-Salem Transit Authority (WSTA) on the proposed transit center, which is estimated to cost about \$9.3 million. The scheduled date for completion of the center is June 1991.

Tom Fredericks, assistant city manager, said the current transit system provides inadequate shelter, allows for too many auto/bus and auto/pedestrian collisions, has a poor transfer arrangement, an inadequate hourly bus capacity and infringes on the operation of the courthouse and adjoining businesses.

He said the conditions provided a poor image of downtown and of the transit service. Transit riders, 80 percent of whom are Afro-American, are currently crowded onto buses in front of the courthouse on Liberty Street, between Fourth and Third Streets. There are a few sheltered benches provided for waiting riders.

The site at Third and Liberty was among several

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Photo by Mike Cunningham

When you're practicing in 90-plus-degree weather, a fresh glass isn't enough, as Yancey Thigpen of WSSU's football team demonstrates. For more on Rams' football, see page C1.

Project Rise goals are on their way

Phillips responds to critics

By VALERIE ROBACK GREGG
Chronicle Staff Writer

The lengthy list of the Forsyth County Schools/NAACP Project Rise Task Force recommendations aimed to improve the academic performance of underachievers are well on their way to implementation, Assistant School Superintendent Dr. Barbara Phillips said last week in response to criticism of the project.

Phillips was co-chair of the task force steering committee created in 1986 to study the characteristics, causes and answers to the problem of underachieving students, those who don't do their best in school.

In response to criticism of school officials' follow-up on Project Rise by NAACP President Walter Marshall and NAACP member Bessie Allen, Phillips said that almost all of the recommendations are being implemented. "They just don't understand about how long it can take to develop these things," Phillips said. "It's only been a year since we've gotten the recommendations."

County Director of Guidance William Albright, who has been involved in some aspects of Project Rise, agreed. "We've stuck with this project very well, much longer than most."

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M/WBE Task Force members disagree with Hanes

By VALERIE ROBACK GREGG
Chronicle Staff Writer

The city M/WBE director said last week that she generally opposed to the use of set-aside programs to help minority- and women-owned firms get a fair share of the city's contracts.

"I don't think it's something that works," Minority/Women's Business Enterprise Program Director Betty J. Hanes said. "It encourages bad habits."

Hanes later said, however, that she would favor

set-asides as a last resort to ensure minorities and women a fair share of the city's business.

Her position is not completely reflective of the stance of the task force which oversees the city's M/WBE program.

Set-aside programs specify a percentage of city contracts which must go to minority- or women-

"It's good she has an opinion. If someone contradicts her, it just opens an avenue for dialogue."

-- Marie Roseboro

owned firms. The city currently sets goals for the proportion of contracts to be awarded to minority- and women-owned firms, depending on the number of firms certified in different areas. A list of certified firms is kept for each area of work the city contracts out.

If contractors decide to use subcontractors, they

must provide an affidavit to the city to prove a "good faith effort" to use minority- or women-owned firms for subcontracted work. They must prove they contacted a number of minority- and women-owned firms while soliciting bids.

The task force voted last fall to continue to use the goal program and use set-asides only if the goal program fails. Legislation to enable the city to enact a set-aside spending program was passed in July

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Aah ... The Good Life Booker ties it up after 39 years

By ROBIN BARKSDALE
Chronicle Staff Writer

Aug. 24 is report filing day at North Carolina Mutual Insurance Co. On that day C.P. Booker will file his weekly report just as he has done every week for years now. But this time, it will mark more than the end of a week of insurance business. This time it will mark the end of a career that has been a big part of his life for the last 39 years.

The 60-year-old Booker has retired from his position at North Carolina Mutual and, after tying up a few loose ends, will explore the whole new world of retirement. But as he logs his last days at the office, Booker said he has some mixed emotions about his retirement. He said he has enjoyed his partnership with the firm and has never once regretted the day that he climbed onto his bicycle and began making his rounds as an insurance agent for the company.

"When I first got the job with North Carolina Mutual, I was working in Statesville but I didn't have a car," said Booker,

a native of Madison. "So my boss took me to Sears down on Fourth Street. I bought the largest bike I could find. And when I got back to Statesville I rode that bike for a year collecting my debts."

Booker said his was a medium-sized area and he rode his bicycle from February to December and made all of his collections. It was what he calls a "nice experience" and one that he said challenged him to persevere. That experience, he said, helped him prove to himself and to others that he was going to make it in the business world.

"I was determined that I was going to make it work," said Booker. "Even when the weather was bad, I rode my bike and I was still determined to make it work because some people had predicted that I wasn't going to make it -- that I would fail."

Now, 39 years and five months later, Booker has proven all of the naysayers of years ago wrong. He stuck it out and moved up through the ranks to the position he retired from, district manager.

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Photo by Mike Cunningham

Newly retired Booker will spend some time with his record collection as well as many other indoor and outdoor recreational chores.