



It's crunch time

Rams eagerly anticipate Saturday's season opener



Transit Travelling

Lively conversation, people found along city bus routes

6 Pages This Week

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Chamber to help fund consultant for E. Winston study

By VALERIE ROBACK GREGG
Chronicle Staff Writer

The city Chamber of Commerce will help fund an economic development study of East Winston with a \$5,000 donation and staff support, Chamber President Fred W. Nordenholz said Tuesday.

The city Board of Aldermen approved up to \$75,000 for the study in June at the request of the East Winston Development Task Force, but instructed task force members to look for other funding sources.

The study will provide the task force with information necessary to promote and develop East Winston and will generate information about market

capabilities, consumer demand and good locations for businesses for developers interested in the area.

This study will be the third economic development survey conducted with chamber involvement this year, Nordenholz said. The community-wide Battelle study will be completed sometime in September, he said. The chamber contributed \$27,500 for that study, with the Mary Babcock Reynolds Foundation funding the rest with a matching grant.

Nordenholz said the chamber wants a copy of the report generated by the consultant's study to help guide its efforts. "It's important for us to learn the results of a study done in East Winston, to be sure we are headed in the right direction," he said. "We hope to work closely with the East Winston Task

Force to be sure we're in sync with them."

Nordenholz has been executive director of the chamber for 10 months, and said the chamber is trying to gather basic economic development information from which to begin working. The chamber has spent \$37,500 so far this year on economic studies of the city, he said. "We are a nonprofit organization," he said. "Any money we invest in East Winston is symbolic of our concern."

The task force will conclude interviews with four consultants Friday and will then decide who to recommend to the Board of Aldermen to conduct the study.

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Man dies in drug-related shootout

By VALERIE ROBACK GREGG
Chronicle Staff Writer

Six men, four from Fayetteville and two from New York, were arrested Sunday in connection with what authorities are calling a drug-related murder of an East Winston man that morning.

They allegedly traveled to Winston-Salem from Fayetteville in a Jeep last weekend, rented a hotel room and assembled their wares to sell on the street, according to city police.

Two brothers, Wallace R. Danner and Donnell Tirell Danner, both of 916 Dancy St. in Fayetteville, have been charged with shooting Gerald Maurice Lewis of 1044 E. 15th St. at about 9:15 a.m. Sunday. Lewis was shot that morning when the Danners drove past his car on the 1100 block of East 18th Street and turned around to chase him, city Police Capt. E.L. Moreau said Monday.

Lewis, 29, was fatally shot in the head and died in Baptist Hospital Monday. Both Danners were charged with

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Three-year-old cousins Derrick Fair, left, and Devon Gamble enjoy one of the many colorful events that highlighted the fair at Miller Park for youngsters who were intensive care patients at Baptist Hospital.

Photo by Mike Cunningham

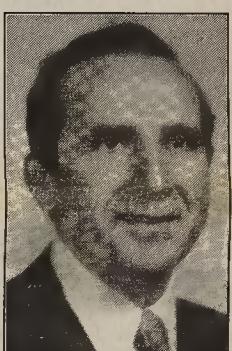
Wake Forest professor named to head state civil rights committee

By ANGELA WRIGHT
Chronicle Managing Editor

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Dr. David Broyles

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Broyles, a Wake Forest University politics professor, will chair the committee until the end of his term in July 1990. The committee is the commission's state arm and evaluates state and municipal legis-

lation and policy.

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Minority, small businesses not active in Chamber of Commerce

By VALERIE ROBACK GREGG
Chronicle Staff Writer

The local Afro-American business community has increased its involvement with the Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce in the last five years, but the vast majority of minority businesses are still not members. Only .6 percent of the chamber's members are Afro-Americans.

Approximately 75 businesses owned by Afro-Americans were chamber members as of September, 1987, according to Tracy Meroney, chamber manager of membership services.

According to a 1982 U.S. Census Bureau Economic Survey, 513 businesses in the city are owned by Afro-

Americans. They are predominantly "mom and pop" operations, however, because only 92 of them, about 18 percent, have paid employees, according to the survey.

But Meroney said the chamber is pushing to include small businesses. "We try to recruit everybody, especially small businesses," she said. "We have absolutely no idea (exactly how many chamber members are owned by minorities). We don't ask that. It's not relative to their membership. It's a voluntary organization, and we don't target certain groups."

Michael Grace, a local attorney and member of the chamber board of directors, said that chamber membership can be beneficial to all minority

businesses. "We need minorities," Grace said. "We need everybody."

Grace said chamber membership can help smaller businesses just by allowing them to rub elbows with larger, better established companies. "Networking is a major advantage," he said. "They're the movers and the groovers and the shakers. We get to know them, and we learn what they do."

Chamber membership has a number of benefits, Meroney said. The chamber insurance plan, for example, is available for all member businesses with 25 or fewer employees. Chamber membership also offers opportunities to make new business contacts and share expertise including chamber

committees and after hours networking sessions for all chamber members held every six weeks.

Executive Dialogue Groups allow business managers to confidentially discuss different approaches to problems and innovative management techniques, she said. Each group includes members of noncompeting businesses.

Meroney said minority members of the chamber get extra publicity because their names, addresses and phone numbers are published twice in the chamber directory. The list of minority- and women-owned businesses in the chamber directory is incomplete, however, because it was compiled by a direct mailing, and several minority and women chamber mem-

bers failed to respond. Meroney said. "With mailing, we never get 100 percent response," she said. "Several told me they didn't respond or didn't send them in on time."

The retired executive volunteer group (REVS) also offers expertise to new businesses through the chamber. REVS conducts one-on-one counseling services to start-up and existing businesses, as well as sponsoring workshops in conjunction with Winston-Salem State University and Forsyth Technical College.

The chamber currently has five Afro-Americans on their 24-member Board of Directors including Grace, Walter S. Tucker of Mechanics and Farmers Bank, Lloyd J. Leonard of

Twin Cities Chrysler-Plymouth, Alvin Spain of Jerry Watkins Cadillac-GMC Trucks, Inc., and Cleon F. Thompson Jr., chancellor of Winston-Salem State University.

Grace, a local attorney, became a member of the board of directors this year. "Historically minorities haven't been involved in the chamber, because of the country club atmosphere," he said. "Things are changing though. In order for black businesses to survive, we'll have to become a bi-racial business community here. We can't keep looking at ourselves as different. We'll have to think of ourselves not as a minority, but just as a businessman."

"The chamber must be responsive to the needs of the community. We'll have to think of ourselves not as a minority, but just as a businessman."

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Picking Up The Gavel

Erwin appointed chief district court judge

By ROBIN BARKSDALE
Chronicle Staff Writer

When he was just a little boy, his father took him to court so that he could get an idea of what happened to people that strayed on the wrong side of the law. Now, he has the responsibility of imposing sentences on those people.

Judge Richard C. Erwin, recently appointed as chief U.S. District Court judge, has been fascinated by the legal profession ever since the days he sat in court as a youngster and watched lawyers in action.

"My father used to take us to court on the thinking that, if we could see what happened to criminal defendants, it would be something of an inspiration not to become so involved," said Erwin, sitting in his spacious office in the Federal Building and recalling that youthful

experience that would set the course for the rest of his life. "We'd go to Superior Court in June and the part that intrigued me was watching lawyers argue their case and give their closing arguments and everyone had to listen. I was intrigued and I liked the way they selected the jury."

His father's plan apparently was successful: Erwin went into law. His brother became a minister. From the point of his young days in court on, Erwin said he geared his life toward becoming a lawyer and never seriously considered the possibility of any other career.

"I always wanted to be a lawyer. As long as I can remember that's what I've wanted to be," he said. "I went to college with that intent."

After serving three years in the U.S. Army, he enrolled at Johnson C. Smith University. In 1951, he received his law degree from Howard University.

Although it was years ago, Erwin remembers his first case as if it were only yesterday.

"It was a drunk driving case and I defended the driver," he said. "I entered a plea of not guilty and it turned out that the police in the incident had found alcohol in the driver's car but they couldn't prove that he was the one in the car. I won my first case. It was a real surprise to me that I won my first case."

During his years on the bench, Erwin said he has observed that some young lawyers arguing their first cases make the mistake of asking too many questions and of asking questions that they don't know the answer to.

From 1978 until October 1980, Erwin served as a judge with the N.C. Court of Appeals. He was the first Afro-American person in the history of the state to win a

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Photo by Mike Cunningham