

PEOPLE

Vision From Afar

Native African shares homeland customs with school children

RELIGION

Bridging Barriers

Planned Parenthood helps religious youth handle daily pressures

48 Pages This Week

** SUBSCRIPTION HOTLINE -- 722-8624 **

Thursday, January 26, 1989

Winston-Salem Chronicle

50 cents

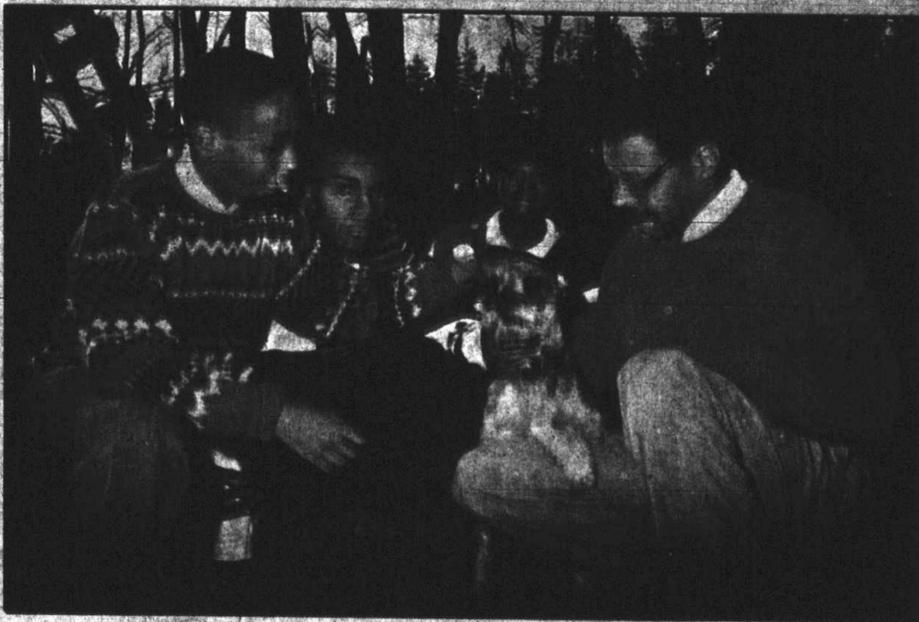
"The Twin City's Award-Winning Weekly"

VOL. XV, No. 22

People Of The Year

Clockwise from top right: Isiah Tidwell, Man of the Year, Mazie Woodruff, Woman of the Year, and Virginia Nowell, Community Service Award.

Right-hand Photos by Charmara Delaverson
Bottom Photo by Craig T. Greenlee



Board says no to task force request

By TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer

Rejecting the request of the East Winston Task Force, members of the city Board of Aldermen opted to allow \$13,000, not \$23,000, in grant money to be used to implement projects geared toward economic development in that barren area.

The task force had asked the board to approve two grants, a \$13,000 one from the Winston-Salem Foundation, and a \$10,000 one from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, to be earmarked for the implementation of projects to be outlined in a comprehensive economic development study of East Winston. The task force hired Hammer, Siler, George Associates, a consulting firm based in Silver Spring, Md., to conduct the study.

In October 1988, the aldermen appropriated \$57,274 to cover a portion of the cost of the market study of East Winston, and the board directed city staff members to help the task force apply to three local foundations for grants to help fund the study. Hammer, Siler, George Associates quoted a \$66,000 price, which will go down depending on the amount of staff assistance provided by other sources, said Clifton Henry, vice president of the company.

The Winston-Salem Foundation grant specified that its funds be used to carry out the results of the study. Although the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation made no stipulations on its grant, the Finance Committee of the Board of Aldermen recommended that the full board approve authorizing both grants for the study's implementation.

During the board's Jan. 17 meeting, Alderman Martha Wood led the board to vote against the proposed resolution.

"What we did was stick to our original understanding of seeking grants to help defray the city's cost for the study," said Wood, explaining that the board and the task force agreed that funding from other sources be deducted from the city's contribution for the study. "The Winston-Salem Foundation wanted to go for the implementation of the study, so we abided by their stipulation."

"I'm a little disappointed in that because part of what will make the study a reality is having some plan of doing what the study says," said Ernest H. Pitt, chairman of the East Winston Development Task Force. "At some point we're going to have to get some money from somewhere and it's going to have to come from the city."

The task force has been successful in obtaining grants to help defray the city's costs, he added. The Greater Winston-

Please see page A9

Afro-Americans attend school board meeting in support of Phillips

By TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer

More than 35 Afro-Americans greeted Board of Education members during their Monday night meeting in an apparent support rally for Dr. Barbara K. Phillips in her quest for superintendent of the city-county school system.

Phillips, an assistant superintendent, is one of 11 candidates vying for the position vacated by Zane Eargle in June. Fourteen semi-finalists had been selected, but three of them have dropped out of the running.

The question is whether the

board will continue to fill top positions in the school system with white males, the Rev. Dr. Serenus T. Churn told board members as he spoke on behalf of the Minister's Conference of Winston-Salem and Vicinity.

"The question is will you send shivers down the spines of every little girl (in the city-county system)?" Churn asked board members. "Will her tan skin color and Afro-American heritage be cited against her, despite the fact that she (Phillips) has lived in this community all her life. Does that count for nothing?"

"Does this board have the courage to pay more than just a lip

tribute... because rumors are that she (Phillips) will be given a polite nod and acknowledgement and the position offered to another."

The Chronicle reported in its Jan. 12 issue that two Afro-American women were among the original 14 semi-finalists recommended for the superintendent position by the school board's search committee. Dr. Gerry House, superintendent of the Chapel Hill/Carrboro City Schools, is the other Afro-American woman up for the position.

House said Doug Pungler, attorney for the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County system,

invited her to apply for the position.

"I'm not actively seeking a change," House said, but she admitted the superintendent post in the local system was an attractive one. She declined to speculate about whether she would accept the position, if offered, and move to Winston-Salem.

However, some members of the Afro-American community have suggested that the board intentionally sought an applicant who had not demonstrated a genuine interest in the superintendent position. That way, if House turns down the position, the board could offer the job to one of the

many white males who have applied for the position, and, in doing so, Phillips would be slighted.

In a letter to Garlene Grogan, chair of the city-county school board, Dr. H.L. Moore urged board members not to follow its traditional stance of hiring white males.

"Voters and parents, area superintendents, principals, guidance counselors, teachers and especially students need to see persons with authority and responsibility coming in all colors and both genders," said Moore.

Please see page A9



Dr. Barbara K. Phillips

Citizen asks Forsyth County Commissioners to dismiss Jean Irvin

By TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer

In the wake of simmering controversy about the new Willie M. group home in Sherwood Forest and Peacehaven Estates Community, one resident has written a letter to county commissioners requesting the removal of Jean Irvin from the Forsyth/Stokes Mental Health Area Board.

During a Jan. 19 meeting in which Walkertown citizens asked the mental health board to reverse its decision to open a house in the town for an after-school program for Willie M. adolescents, George A. Bryant read his letter to the board.

"I write regarding the conduct of Jean R. Irvin a (mental health) area board member from Forsyth County," Bryant read. "It is my opinion Ms. Irvin, as a chairperson and as a (sic) area board member, has failed to honor the confidence and trust extended to

her as a county appointee to the area board."

Irvin, who was present at the meeting, is in the first year of a four-year term scheduled to expire Sept. 30, 1990.

"Ms. Irvin's failure to honor the commissioners' request for time to study and review family-care home placement within the county, demonstrates her lack of understanding of our county system of government," Bryant continued. "It is my view that the residents of Forsyth County can be better served in the area of mental health by removing and appointing a replacement for Ms. Irvin."

Bryant's letter was addressed to Commissioner Wayne G. Willard, with copies sent to Irvin and each commissioner.

Irvin responded to Bryant's letter Wednesday. "I did what I felt I had an ethical responsibility to do in terms of taking my position on the need for residential services for the handicapped population

of children," Irvin said. "I understand that there was concern among the general public about it, but I did it with good faith and a sincere belief that all our citizens need a place to be and a good quality of life. In terms of the specifics of Mr. Bryant's letter, the commissioners will have to deal with that."

Commissioners and members of the mental health board have been at odds since the opening of the Willie M. group home at 401 Hearthsides Drive. Most recently, the two groups have disagreed about a preliminary policy on group home site selection and public notification prepared by a health board committee of which Irvin is a member.

Willie M. is a term from a class-action suit filed in 1979 to secure care for children with behavioral problems. The suit guaranteed that these children have the right to special care and education in their communities.

The preliminary policy outlines the rights of

clients to community-based services, the need for group homes and procedures for site selection, community notification and final site approval.

After an option for selected property has been signed, "immediate neighbors (within at least one block of the site) will be notified through home to home visits," according to the policy. "Fliers about the home and other relevant information will be distributed to neighborhood groups and churches."

In addition, the commissioners, city Board of Aldermen and other public officials would be notified, Irvin has said.

The commissioners suggested the mental health board change the policy to include: early notification of commissioners in the group home site selection process; definitions of responsibilities of people involved in site selection; establishment of site

Please see page A9