



RELIGION

Keeping The Faith

"Little day care center that could" celebrates fourth anniversary



SNAPSHOT

Cemetery Scene

Sharon Wright visits the grave of her deceased brother-in-law

30 Pages This Week

** SUBSCRIPTION HOTLINE -- 722-8624 **

Thursday, March 30, 1989

Winston-Salem Chronicle

50 cents

"The Twin City's Award-Winning Weekly"

VOL. XV, No. 31

Subcommittee approves both county election plans

No recommendation made to full committee, local blacks lobby for Kennedy-Burke plan

By DAVID PERKINS
Special to the Chronicle

Republicans and Afro-Americans, usually allies in cases of this sort, are heading for a confrontation in the state legislature over plans to reorganize Forsyth County's government. Tossing aside a hot potato, the state House Subcommittee on Local Government on Wednesday approved, without making a recommendation, competing bills replacing the county's at-large system of election with single-member districts. Deciding between the two plans -- one of which is supported by the County Commissioners, and the other by most of the county's Afro-Ameri-

can leaders -- will be the job of the full House Committee on Local Government, which will begin debating them on Tuesday, April 4. Subcommittee Chairwoman Edith Lutz, D-Cleveland, said the issue was too controversial for a small subcommittee to tackle. "I'd just rather have all 35 members (of the committee) look at this than just six people, and I'm glad the subcommittee saw it that way, too," she said after the meeting. Which bill is advanced to the House floor may depend on who can exert the greater leverage -- Republicans, who have gained

Please see page A3



Setting their webbed feet ashore after enjoying a refreshing dip, ducks in residence at Baptist Retirement Home's pond make their way to a welcoming landfall. Other species of animals also came outside this week to revel in Spring's first 80-degree days.

Photo by Sonja Covington

Plans renewed for review board

By TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer

City residents should have a voice in deciding whether a citizens review board should be created to hear grievances about police officer infractions, said Alderman Vivian H. Burke. "I think we should survey public opinion and see what the public wants," said Burke of her plan to revive a proposal to create the review board. "I was thinking we could survey citizens by having them call into one of the radio stations saying whether they were for it or against, and also maybe have something in the newspaper where they could check a box and express their opinion."

Members of the city Board of Aldermen, particularly its Afro-American members, have tried to

Please see page A7

For Cloud family, personal tragedy a painful reminder of community problem

By TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer

Nearly three months after her son's body was found bound and partially clothed, Elsie Mae Cloud is haunted by the fact that her son's killer is still at large.

James Nebraska Cloud, who would have turned 28 this month, was found Jan. 9 dead in his home at 929 Aureole St. His mother and sister, Cynthia, discovered his body. The two went to Cloud's home, in the Southeast portion of the city, after he failed to contact them.

"I kind of felt, after Saturday (Jan. 7), that something was wrong when we didn't see him," said Cynthia A. Cloud, sister to the deceased. "He always came by on Saturdays to take Momma to the grocery store."

The night before she and her mother found James Cloud's body, Cynthia said she dreamed that somebody was trying to kill her.

"I don't know why, but I just knew something was wrong," she said. "That morning before we went

to his house I knew something bad had happened, and I didn't want to go because I didn't want to see it. I even called the police and asked them to meet us there."



"The police held us back once they found him. I think if I had seen him laying there dead like that I would have gone crazy."
-- Elsie Mae Cloud

Once mother and daughter arrived at Cloud's home, they were very cautious about going in. "We saw where somebody had been in there and

had been throwing stuff all over the floor," said Elsie Mae Cloud. "What came into my mind is that whoever it was may still be in there."

Instead of going in any further, Cynthia Cloud called the police who, upon finding the body, wouldn't let the Clouds see it.

"I think the Lord blocked a lot from my memory that day because I just saw a body lying there and to me it wasn't James," Cynthia Cloud said.

"The police held us back once they found him," her mother added. "I think if I had seen him laying there dead like that I would have gone crazy. I wouldn't be able to sit here and tell about it."

The city police department immediately launched an investigation into Cloud's death, which they called a homicide, and sent his body to the state medical examiner in Chapel Hill for an autopsy. Some neighbors and family members have speculated as to the cause of Cloud's death after the media reported that his body had gunshot and stabbing wounds, but police have declined to release the autopsy report.

"Officially only us and the bad guy knows how

he died," said Capt. E.L. Moreau of the Winston-Salem Police Department. "We can't release any of that information because it could possibly interfere with our investigation."

Cloud's body had begun to decompose by the time it was discovered, and law officials have said that he could have been dead as many as four days before his mother and sister found him.

Police found Cloud's car, a 1986 Dodge Aries, near the intersection of 25th and Manchester streets soon after his body was discovered.

"That was a good lead (finding Cloud's car) and we're still working on that," Moreau said. "We have some (other) leads because he (Cloud) was fairly well-known and had a lot of contacts. There have been many people who have come forth. As late as last week someone from the (Cloud) family came to us with new information."

Elsie Mae Cloud said someone had been harassing her son for money.

"He wouldn't tell me because he would never do

Please see page A7



NEWS DIGEST

Compiled From AP Wire

Black educator puts faith in Bush

GREENSBORO (AP) -- After speaking at Yale University in 1948, William J. Trent Jr. was approached by a tall, thin student who introduced himself as George Bush. Their conversation was the beginning of a friendship. The relationship hasn't slowed just because Bush has become president of the United States. He says that UNCF schools can take some comfort during the next four years from having a friend in the White House. "He knows them," Trent says of his friend, the president. "He knows their needs."

Women, minorities oppose appointed judiciary

RALEIGH (AP) -- While two judges supported changing North Carolina's judicial selection process from statewide election to gubernatorial appointment, representatives of women and minorities said they would be penalized by such a switch. Superior Court Judges Tom Ross and Charles Winberry said the system being studied by the Senate Constitution Committee would insulate a fair and scandal-free judiciary from an emerging two-party system and more hotly contested elections.

Study finds crimes of racism more violent

BOSTON (AP) -- From a gang beating up a white man whose girlfriend is black to assaults on homosexuals, crimes motivated by bigotry are more violent than previously assumed, according to a new study examining acts of hate. "This is much more serious than people thought," said Professor Jack McDevitt of Northeastern University's Center for Applied Social Research.

Dem party chief: We've got a long way to go

By YVONNE LEWIS
Contributing Writer

As founder of one of the first Black Law Student Associations (BLSA) in this country and the first Afro-American to be elected chairman of the National Democratic Party, Ronald Brown said he is aware of the assumption that the battle is over and that all the victories have been won.

"Progress has been made but there is still much to be done," Brown told an audience of about 200 Saturday at the BLSA of Wake Forest University Scholarship Banquet. He stressed the importance of Afro-Americans lending a helping hand to one another.

I know what it means "to be in a position of trying to push forward, trying to get people involved, included; trying to extend a hand of outreach to Blacks and other minority students . . . to get them in school and also give them a foundation in that process, and to make them feel involved and included," Brown said.

Please see page A2

Blacks say local party leaders snubbed Brown

By TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer

Local Afro-American elected officials say the Forsyth County Democratic Party did not give their national chairman the recognition due him during his visit to the city March 25.

Ronald H. Brown, chairman-elect of the National Democratic Party, was the keynote speaker at the Black Law Students Association (BLSA) Scholarship Banquet.

Todd Burke, third vice chair of the local Democratic Party office, was at the banquet, but Afro-American elected officials said

Please see page A2

Brunson custodian is 'A' student at Forsyth Tech

By TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer

By day you may find Lillie Mae Brooks behind a long handled broom sweeping the halls at Brunson Elementary School. To look at the custodian and mother of six, no one would guess that she moonlights as an honor roll student in Forsyth Technical Community College's Evening School program.

When she was in the 10th grade, Brooks had to drop out of high school because she was pregnant. Nearly two years ago she decided to return to school to earn her high school diploma.

"I decided to go back to school to improve and better educate myself, to spend my time more wisely, and because I knew it would be a challenge for me," said Brooks, who, in addition to her six children, reared another whose mother had died of cancer.



Lillie Mae Brooks

Brooks gets up at 6 a.m. every day and arrives at Brunson at 7:15 a.m., where she has worked for the last 18 years. When she's at lunch or on a break she prepares for her night classes. She often carries around sheets of legal pad paper with her study notes on them.

"I study at every waking minute," Brooks said. "I study all through the weekend, especially English, I have a hard time with English. I always carry around a sheet of paper with my notes on it. My son taught me to do that."

Her co-worker and supervisor, Joseph Anderson, testified to Brooks' unyielding diligence.

"She's always studying. I'll tell her to take a break from it, and what she'll do is lay the book down, think for a minute, lay

Please see page A7