



Run From Slavery

Psychologist says America's images do not help black families



Top Coach

West Forsyth Coach tagged for jayvee football honors

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1989's Finest



Counterclockwise from top left) Annie B. Kennedy, 1989 Woman of the Year, is seated next to her husband, Harold Kennedy. Sons Harold III and Harvey are standing; Chief Lester Ervin, 1989 Man of the Year, shown here with wife Elizabeth. Larry Leon Hamlin, artistic/executive director of the National Black Repertory Company, receives 1989 Community Service Award; Mutter Evans, owner and general manager of WAAA radio station, will receive 1989 Community Service Award.

Photos by Mike Cunningham

Southern Bell announces rates for service; committee disputes findings

Chronicle Staff Reports
The battle for a toll free Triad has become more intense since Southern Bell recently published its proposed rate hike for the service. Opponents of the plan, which would eliminate long distance rates for the service between Forsyth and Guilford counties, have accused Southern Bell of disseminating misinformation in order to confuse and block the service. Southern Bell recently filed cost figures with the state Utilities Commission which indicate that monthly telephone rates in the Triad could increase an average of 26 percent if the Expanded Area Service is implemented. The Citizens Committee for a Toll Free Triad challenged the proposed plan, saying the rates are much higher than what the Utilities Commission staff will propose in February.

The Utilities Commission has the authority to determine whether an EAS plan is needed and what additional charges would be levied against customers. According to Southern Bell estimates, monthly rates for Winston-Salem residential customers would increase by \$3.04; the rate for business customers would increase by \$8.37. In Greensboro, residential customers would pay an additional \$3.93, while business customers pay \$10.83 more. The Citizens Committee for a Toll Free Triad is a volunteer committee made up of members from the Winston-Salem, Greensboro, Kernersville and High Point Chambers of Commerce. The group has been working for three years to establish a toll-free calling zone in the Triad. John Ray, chairman of the committee, said that Southern Bell is opposing EAS because they will lose long distance revenues if EAS is approved. He said that while the Utilities Commission will set the final rate for EAS, there is every reason to believe that any increase for EAS will be substan-

tially lower than what is proposed by Southern Bell. "This is just another attempt by Southern Bell to confuse consumers as to the real costs and benefits of EAS in the Triad," said Mr. Ray. "We have been told by the Utilities Commission's Public Staff that they will propose an increase of only \$1.57 for Southern Bell's residential subscribers in Winston-Salem and Greensboro." Traditional EAS plans are implemented by adding a monthly charge to customer's bills. King Triplett, Southern Bell's local manager of corporate and community affairs, said the charges are developed by studying the amount of toll calling from each exchange to all other points within the plan and then determining the cost of providing that service on a toll-free basis to all customers. "The monthly charge is designed to spread the cost among all our cus-

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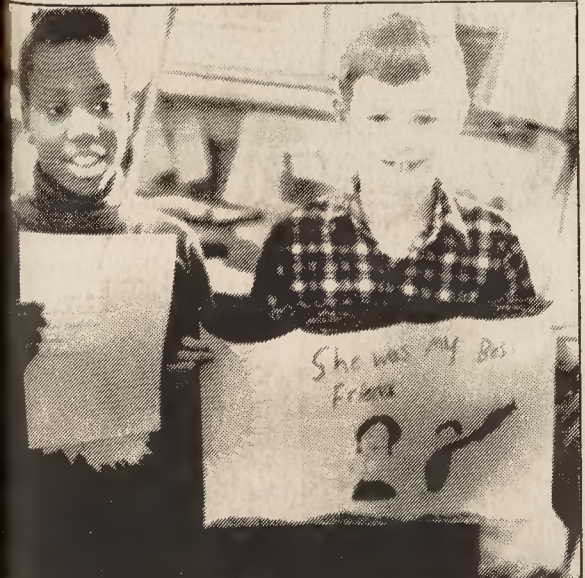


Photo by Mike Cunningham

Children paying their tributes to deceased Katrina Bethea are Mary M. Hough and Derrick Mills, third graders at Forest Park.

Forest Park students pay tribute to classmate

By TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer
Students and faculty at Forest Park Elementary School and those who live in the nearby community have kind of adopted a family — which lost a loved one, a home and their belongings in a tragic Christmas Eve fire. Katrina Bethea, 8, was killed when her family's home at 1019 E. Sprague St. was practically burned to the ground. She and her 4-year-old brother, Christopher, and her mother, Katherine, were in the house when the blaze began. Neighbors rescued Christopher and his mother, who were downstairs, but their best efforts weren't enough to cut through the thick clouds of smoke which acted as a barricade — separating them from the second

level of the house and young Katrina. Katrina died on Christmas Eve, but her spirit lives on in the children in her third grade class at Forest Park and in the lives of those who have donated money, food, clothing, furniture and shelter to the Bethea family. "The smiles and helping hands I'll miss. I know that Katrina's in a pretty place because anyone as pretty as she was, inside and out, couldn't be any place else," wrote third

grader Jahmal Coulson. He and other students in Verdie Haney's class are making a book of similar reflections about Katrina to present to her family. It's taking the children a little longer than it should to finish their project because when they work on it, they think of Katrina and when they think of Katrina, they cry," Miss Haney explained. "She was a perfect little girl as far as I am concerned," Miss Haney said of her former student. "All of

her classmates looked up to her, and she never had any problems with anybody. She loved people. She loved life. She's still in the minds and hearts of these kids." Many of the children who attend Forest Park witnessed the fire that took Katrina's life, said Mary J. McDaniel, the school's guidance counselor. "Some of the children found out after Christmas break, but some were standing in Katrina's front yard watching the house burn. We had a few kids who were really upset. Some were afraid to go to sleep at night because this is the kind of thing that could happen to any of us." Miss McDaniel and a school social worker helped the children

"I really didn't know my daughter had touched so many lives. I guess I can understand why God wanted her for himself because she blessed so many lives in just the eight years she was with us."
-- Katherine Bethea

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