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'Niggers out-whiting white folks' must be purged from community, leader says

By ROBIN BARKSDALE
Chronicle Staff Writer

T. Willard Fair, the executive director of the Urban League of Greater Miami, drew both shocked gasps and nods of agreement last weekend when he suggested that some city resident, who recently made headlines, was a good candidate for his "Nigger of the Year Award."

Mr. Fair, the featured speaker at the Chronicle's annual awards banquet, said that he regularly selects an individual in Miami whose dubious actions make them standouts for the award. Mr. Fair has followed recent Chronicle headlines and he said that he is convinced that Winston-Salem has a prime candidate for "Nigger of the Year."

"I've started giving out what I call the 'Nigger of the Year Award' to the person that can best out-white white folks," said Mr. Fair, the executive director of the Urban League of Greater Miami. "I read my Chronicle and I read it religiously. And Winston-Salem, ya'll got problems. You have got somebody up here that is out-

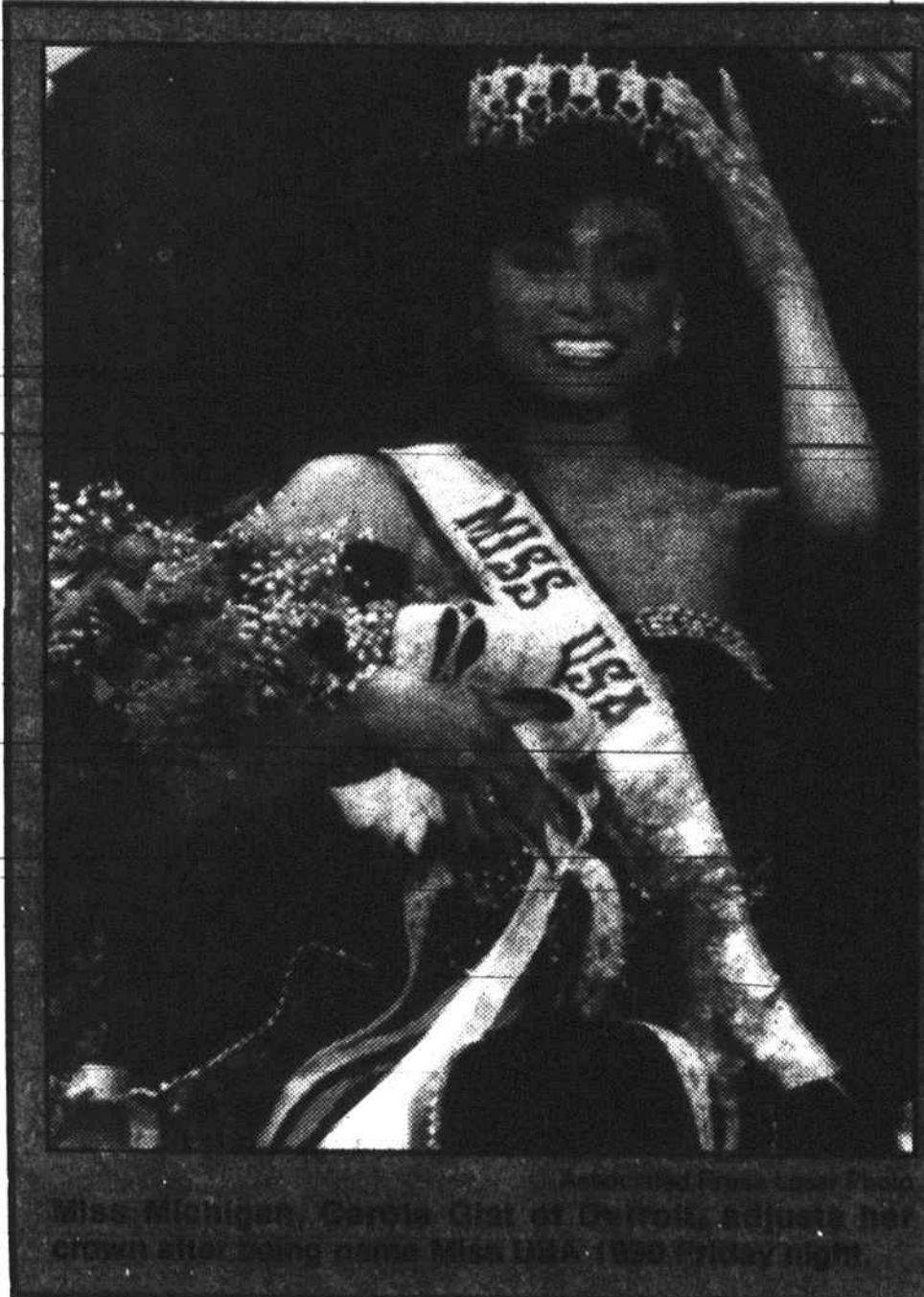
whiting white folks and who should be ya'll's 'nigger of the year.'"

Mr. Fair did not mention specific local individuals that he would target for the award but he did say that recent headlines in the paper had convinced him that the award would be well-deserved. He said that often those individuals he considers candidates for his award are quick to respond by citing their individual "right" to perform a particular action which may not be in the best interest of their minority constituents. But Mr. Fair said that those individuals have no right other than to do what is best for the people they represent.

"They don't have no right when the only reason they are allowed a chair at the table is because of my misery," he said. "They're not there because they are any smarter than anybody else. They're there because the other people want someone there who looks like the problem to articulate what the problem is all about. Those people are out-whiting white folks in their own best interest and I submit to you that those persons must be purged from your community. We cannot sit back in the name of community solidarity and not purge our community. If some white folks had done to ya'll what I read a black person did to ya'll up here, ya'll would be ready to march. But because they're black, you come up with excuses, like 'Well, let's just wait and see.'"

Such rationale Mr. Fair said, is consistent with the

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Gist downplays being first black Miss USA

By MICHAEL BATES
Associated Press Writer

WICHITA, Kan. — Cheryl Gist downplays being the first black Miss USA.

"There is so much more to me than my blackness, the color of my skin," she said at a news conference Saturday, the morning after giving up her Miss Michigan-USA title to be crowned Miss USA 1990.

A 20-year-old college student from Detroit, Miss Gist said she is part Cherokee and that she says it is difficult for anyone to claim to have come from only one race background.

"I tell you the truth, Miss Michigan had a tan that was darker than me," Miss Gist said, drawing gasps at the news conference. Her fair skin color and her 5-foot-10-inch-draw limbs from attention at grade school and junior high, she said, were called by "Lemon Tree" and "Cherry Blossom."

But Miss Gist was an even mix of all the hues of the rainbow and believes in the pigmentation she inherited from her parents.

Keep Children In School

'Action Plan' cracks down on truancy

By TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer

Truancy is the cause of many absences among students in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools. When students have an excessive amount of absences, they are more prone to drop out of school. And drop-outs, said Police Chief George L. Sweat, usually end up on the wrong end of a pair of handcuffs.

In an attempt to end the cycle of events caused by truancy, a committee of school officials, service agencies and law enforcement personnel presented a "Truancy Watch Action Plan," Monday, to the city-county school board.

The Truancy Watch Committee was divided into six subgroups — education, business, legislative, law enforcement, family advocacy and communication — and each had the task of studying different aspects of the problem. Each subgroup reported its findings and an executive committee, composed of the chairs of each subgroup, was formed to synthesize recommendations which comprise the action plan, said Barbara K.

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RJR Gives \$4 Million

WSSU Chancellor Cleon F. Thompson Jr. extends a friendly hand to RJR chair and chief executive officer James W. Johnston. At a Tuesday luncheon, the Reynolds executive presented a \$14 million gift to the university's Centennial Campaign fund. See story on page A2.

Drug warning signs split community

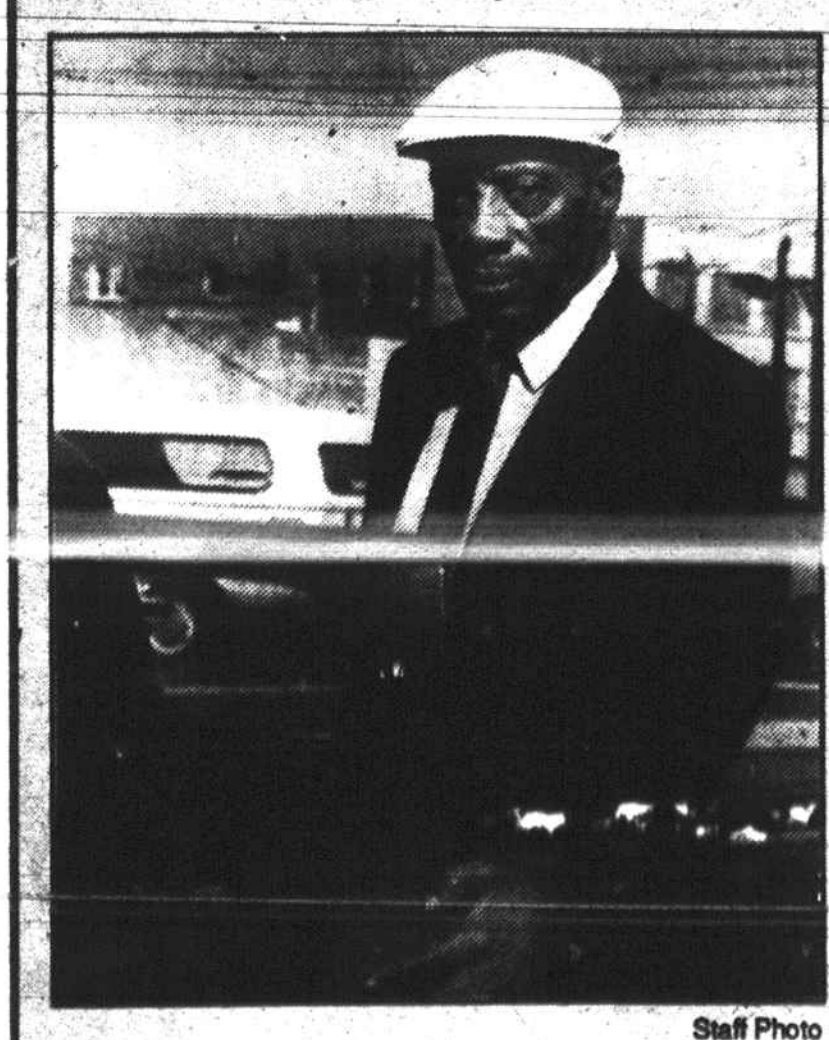
By RUDY ANDERSON
Chronicle Managing Editor

A warning to drug dealers and users in a southeast Winston-Salem neighborhood has set residents there against each other. Their views about the placement of that warning are as different as the opposite ends of the Pleasant Street corridor they come from.

The warning comes in the form of a sign posted Monday on telephone and power poles that line Pleasant Street. On a deep blue background are bright orange neon letters that say, "Warning, you are entering an area under observation. If you try to buy narcotics in this vicinity, your second stop-JAIL. W.S.P.D."

On the lower end of Pleasant Street, residents are enraged by the sign. They say posting the sign in their block sends the wrong signal to anyone passing through their area that drug trafficking may be going on. That

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Hairston says commissioners' vote prompted him to run for office again

By TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer

His blunt and abrupt nature has always caught people unawares. Although he has been one of the most vocal proponents of Afro-American equality, he has frequently been chastised by members of the race.

It was his blunt nature of his criticism of the people he served and those he worked with that motivated him to forgo a second, four-year term, on the city Board of Aldermen.

Still, Patrick T. Hairston surprised an entire county when he recently announced his candidacy for the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners. But the 65-year-old entrepreneur said his decision to again run for public office should not surprise the people who really know him.

"Anybody who knows me knows that my whole concern is about the black race. I have strived for the uplifting of blacks and all my life I have made many sacrifices to this end," said Mr. Hairston during an interview last week in his offices in the F. Roger Page Business and Technology Center. "I headed the NAACP and took hard stands on some not-so-popular

issues at that time and issues that still aren't too popular now."

"I went on the board because I thought I would have an affect. We would have four blacks on the board and together we could work on things in East

It bothers me that we have not learned that we have to have money to have control. We've got to gather money and keep it in East Winston.

-- Patrick T. Hairston

Winston, so I thought. But that didn't happen." When aldermen meet with elected officials from across the country, Winston-Salem is hailed as a progressive city because it has four blacks on its board, Mr. Hairston reflected. However, if those people who

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Winston-Salem Chronicle NewsUpdate



Businessman buys bankrupt campus

DALLAS (AP) — Businessman Comer Cottrell sheds tears of joy after he purchased Bishop College with a \$1.5 million bid at a bankruptcy liquidation sale in Dallas recently. Mr. Cottrell says he plans to reopen the Dallas school as a black education institution.

More state and national news... Please see page A3

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Spring is God's way of saying, "One more time." — Robert Orben
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Staff Photo
He's headed the NAACP, served on the city Board of Aldermen, and now Patrick T. Hairston has shocked the community with his campaign for the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners.