



'Next Generation'

Artist whose work is in SECCA exhibit talks about her work

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Golf Festival

Floyd Greene wins it with birdie on 18

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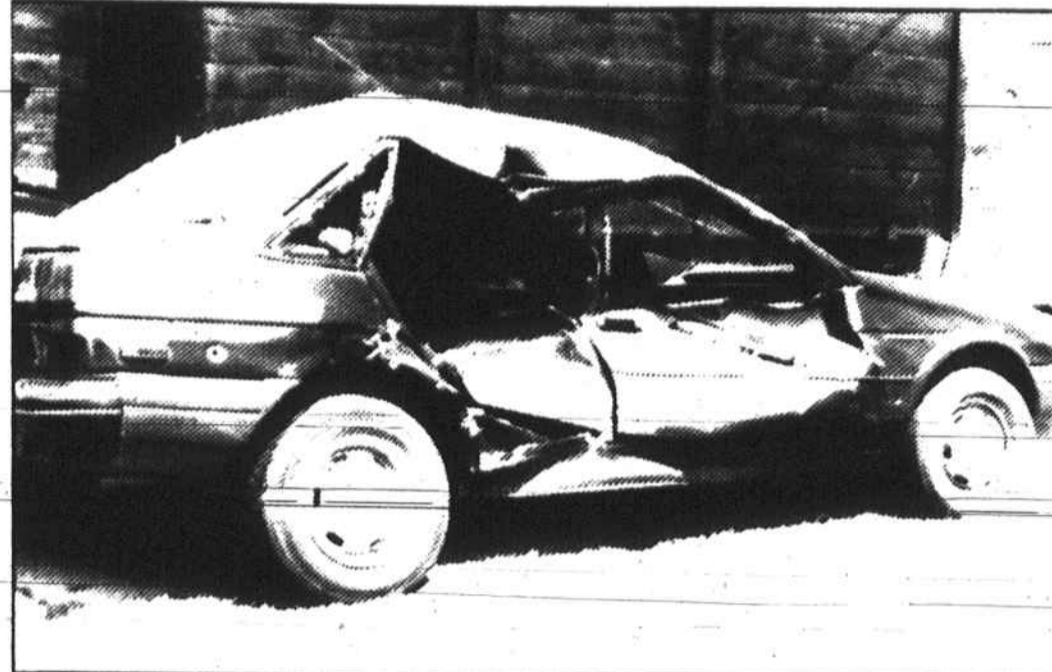


Photo by L.B. Speas Jr.

What's left of the Bingham car is a smashed-in, bullet-riddled hulk.

Black legislators flex muscle as session starts

By JOCELYN DANIELS
Senior Writer, Capitol Coverage Service

RALEIGH -- If numbers mean strength, then the North Carolina Black Legislative Caucus seems to be getting stronger each legislative year.

The Caucus' two newest members were recently appointed to finish terms. They are Dr. James Green, D-Vance, and Howard Lee, D-Orange. Dr. Green, who was appointed to fulfill the unexpired term of the late Sen. William T. Watkins, joins four other Afro-American state senators. Mr. Lee, who replaces Rep. Wanda Hunt, who resigned, joins 13 other Black Caucus members in the House of Representatives.

So when the General Assembly reconvenes May 21, the Black Caucus will number 19, the highest number of Afro-American state

lawmakers in this century.

This caps a 21-year period of growth that began in 1969, with just one Afro-American legislator.

The two new members of the Black Legislative Caucus each bring more than additional numbers, both to the Caucus, and to the General Assembly.

Dr. Green, for example, adds a new dimension to the legislature because of his occupation.

"There's not a physician in the legislature," he pointed out recently in a phone interview. "I'm the only one. So I see part of my role as directing the legislature in matters of health."

Dr. Green's interest in the legislature actually culminated in 1988, even before the appointment.

"I ran for the legislature in 1986 before the appointment," he

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Black Community Outraged

SBI probes death of former WSSU student

By TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer

Had Tommy Joe Witcher been a white man, the same "stupid" protocol used two years ago when Michael Hayes shot and killed several people while sheriff's deputies looked on, would have been followed and the 19-year-old would be alive today, said R.B. Nicholson.

Mr. Nicholson's son, Thomas, was killed

by Mr. Hayes during his shooting spree off Old Salisbury Road. Since that time, Mr. Nicholson and other family members of Mr. Hayes' victims have criticized E. Preston Oldham and the Forsyth County Sheriff's Department, alleging incompetence.

When Mr. Nicholson watched television and read the newspaper accounts of how Mr.

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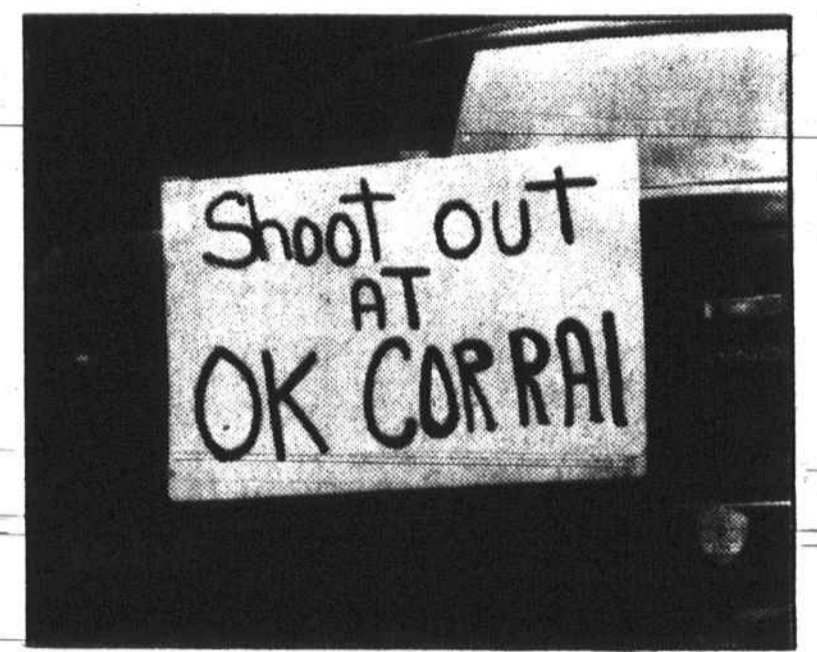


Photo by L.B. Speas Jr.

A sign is left to mark the occasion of a grisly scene on Patterson Avenue.



Photo by L.B. Speas Jr.

Mayor Martha Wood, seated, signs proclamation in support of children as ACES members Beverly Brooks, left, and Rosemary Cole look on.

Group pushes child support enforcement

By RUDY ANDERSON
Chronicle Managing Editor

More than a quarter of a million children in North Carolina are being denied the child support payments due them because at least one parent is neglecting that responsibility. A local group, seeking to become part of a national organization called the Association for Children for Enforcement of Support, wants the focus on the child's needs as opposed to parent needs.

Mayor Martha Wood signed a proclamation Friday April 19, supporting the Winston-Salem chapter of ACES as an organization dedicated to the rights of children who are disadvantaged by parents who fail to meet their moral and legal obligations. She proclaimed Wednesday April 25, as Child Support Awareness Day. Members of ACES kicked off a membership drive with a candlelight vigil at Miller Park Amphitheater to "light a spark of hope in the hearts of non-payers to support their children" and to increase public awareness of children's needs.

Rosemary Cole, a local chapter member, recalled recently what life was like for her and the three children she had to raise alone. She said her story is similar in many ways to those of single parents, both women

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Governor Martin wants more money for prisons

RALEIGH -- Gov. Jim Martin wants to spend \$490 million to build new prisons, but a legislative committee contends that the state doesn't need that much additional prison space.

The governor wants North Carolina voters to

NEWS ANALYSIS

By Milton C. Jordan

approve this money in a bond referendum. He is expected to ask the General Assembly to endorse the concept during its "short" session that convenes May 21.

Gov. Martin's proposal, announced in December, would add 9,500 beds to the state's prisons, pushing capacity to about 25,000 inmates. He also wants voters to approve a constitutional amendment that allow judges to sentence convicted criminals to mandatory community based alternatives to imprisonment. These alternative programs include electronic house arrest, and IMPACT, a "boot camp" approach to rehabilitation for youthful offenders.

Experts agree: Black athletes win more on field than in class

By TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer

For the Afro-American child growing up in the low-income areas of the country's inner city's, athletics can be the only way out. However, for thousands of youth the trip from poverty to prestigious white universities is a round trip ticket that lands them back on the street corners they thought they had escaped.

Such was the sentiment of several Afro-American members of a panel of noted experts discussing "The Black Athlete: Winners or Losers in Academia?" The live, national video-conference, sponsored by "Black Issues in Higher Education" on April 18, featured pan-

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But State Senator William N. Martin, D-Guilford, said in an interview this week that the General Assembly would be mistaken to go along with the



Staff Photo

Clarence "Bighouse" Gaines to be honored at weekend fund-raising gala.

governor's plan.

"Trying to develop a deliberate, long-range strategy for dealing with a very complex issue such as prison overcrowding takes much more than just building more prisons," Sen. Martin said. "We believe some additional space is needed, but not nearly as much as the governor proposes. We feel that we need to expand alternatives to incarceration, and strengthen those other programs that support the alternatives concept. One of the very critical issues is to reduce recidivism."

Sen. Martin said the Special Legislative Committee on Prisons will likely proposal that the state build about 3,500 additional prison beds.

Currently new prison space costs about \$60,000 per bed, and another \$20,000 annually in operating costs, according to State Sen. Frank Ballance, D-Warren.

"Without a doubt that's too much money," he said. "We've got to find something else to do."

Recidivism refers to the percentage of prisoners who are released from prison, but return. North Caroli-

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Stage is set for Gaines gala

By CRAIG T. GREENLEE
Chronicle Sports Columnist

Winston-Salem State basketball coach Clarence "Bighouse" Gaines will take another stroll in the limelight Saturday when national sports celebrities and dignitaries pay homage to the legend at a black-tie fundraising banquet at the Joel Coliseum.

The festivities are scheduled to begin a 6 p.m.

But while Gaines will get all of the attention, the real story is that Bighouse wants to build a solid financial base for the WSSU athletic program via the scholarship fund that bears his name.

That's why the price is set at \$100 a plate.

Gaines, whose 806 career victories make him col-

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Winston-Salem Chronicle NewsUpdate



Gantt may emerge to challenge Helms

RALEIGH -- Whether arch-conservative U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms can be defeated this year may be determined in large part by black former Charlotte Mayor Harvey Gantt. Observers believe that Mr. Gantt has a good chance of winning the Democratic Party primary on May 8 because of his strong base of support among the state's blacks. None of the white candidates is generating much enthusiasm.

More state and national news...

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