

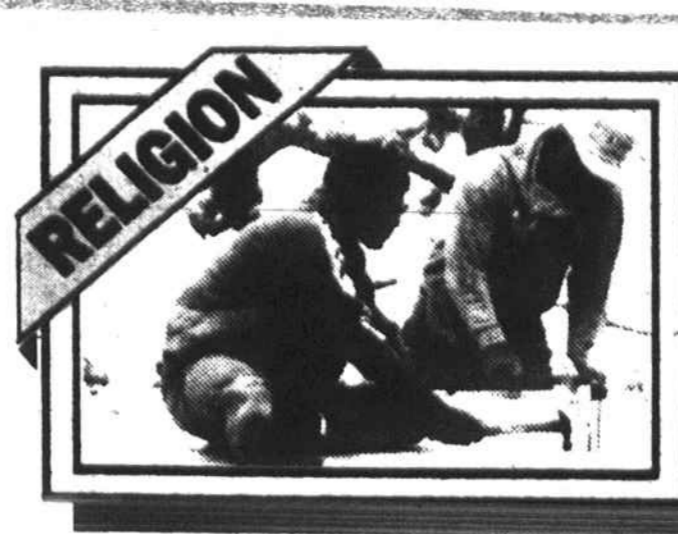


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Thursday, May 3, 1990

Winston-Salem Chronicle

50 cents

"The Twin City's Award-Winning Weekly"

VOL. XVI, No. 36

Witcher case prompts formation of citizens coalition

By RUDY ANDERSON
Chronicle Managing Editor

The shooting death of a former Winston-Salem State University student by city police and Forsyth County Sheriff's deputies April 20, has spawned the formation of a citizen coalition dedicated to establishing a civilian law enforcement review board.

A group of more than 80 people met Tuesday night at St. Phillips Moravian Church on Bon Air Avenue to discuss how they would

set up an organization that could investigate questionable law enforcement actions. Most attending the meeting still questioned the methods used against 19-year-old Tommy Joe Witcher, who after a high speed chase from Kernersville to a residential neighborhood on Patterson Avenue, was shot dead in a hail of gunfire from deputies and police. Law enforcement officials say Witcher had a gun and that officers fired only after Witcher fired at them. The shooting is currently being investigated by the State

Bureau of Investigation (S.B.I.)

Witcher was shot in the front yard of Albert Bingham, who lives at 2915 Patterson Ave. He and his wife Hazel Mack Bingham conducted the community meeting at St. Phillips. Bingham told the gathering that the sole purpose of the meeting was to establish a civilian review board saying, "we can't deal with the criminal aspect of what happened on Patterson Avenue." He said the group should not send an angry reactionary message back to city and county officials about what they

want. Bingham said, in speaking of the city police and county sheriff's deputies, "we are their boss because we pay their salary."

He emphasized that the incident should no longer be characterized as a racial incident since one of the officers involved in the shooting was an Afro-American. "We need to look at the whole question of department procedure. People need to restrain their emotions and look at it from a rational perspective," Bingham said.

Mrs. Bingham then asked for

volunteers to chair the organization that would look into the establishment of the review board. The unanimous choice was Fannie M. Williams, an administrator at Winston-Salem State University. The group also chose as co-chairs R.B. Nicholson, whose son, Thomas, was killed by Michael Hayes two years ago off Old Salisbury Road, Mrs. Mack, the Rev. Earl Christopher Carroll, pastor at Hanes Memorial CME Church, and Khali-da Lovell.

The group named its organiza-

tion Citizen Coalition Review Board (CCRB). Mrs. Williams said she would give it her best shot in trying to pull the organization together. "First we have to define the purpose and the scope of our organization," she said. She added that she was extremely happy to hear Mr. Bingham say that the situation should not be approached as a racial issue. "This is a human issue. This could have happened to anyone's son. But my heart goes out to

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Task force sets \$18 million budget

By TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer

Members of the city Board of Aldermen said they have no problem supporting a slate of projects designed to stimulate economic development in East Winston. What the elected officials did take issue with was where the \$18.3 million to fund the projects would come from.

During an alderman's workshop Monday, Ernest H. Pitt, chair of the East Winston Economic Development Task Force, and members of the city's Economic Development office proposed four demonstration projects and five programs that would facilitate development in the blighted area. Their list was lifted from recommendations made by consultant Clifton W. Henry in his "East Winston Economic Development Strategy." In January the aldermen adopted the study's findings as a guide to economic development in East Winston and later directed city staff to outline a plan as to how some of Mr. Henry's recommendations could be implemented and financed.

Mr. Pitt outlined the projects that the task force wanted the board to approve. They include:

- *A middle income housing development to be

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Street Walk

More than 4,000 people turned out for the 13th Annual Teamwalk Piedmont last Saturday in the Twin City. Proceeds from the event benefit the research of the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation. Above are walkers Wanda Penn, the Rev. Rockford Penn, Loretta Hickman and Tamika Davis. \$180,000 was raised from the walk.

Photo by L.B. Speas Jr.

16 Afro-Americans On Ballot

Candidates say voter turnout will be crucial

From Chronicle Staff Reports

Afro-American candidates on the ballot for next Tuesday's primary elections believe voter turnout is the essential ingredient in a recipe for victory that will cause them to rise to the top of the returns or be out of the race completely.

Sixteen Afro-Americans have filed for offices on the county and state levels and a great deal of them are newcomers to the political arena. However, unlike the controversy ridden elections of 1989, this campaign trail has been much quieter despite the fact that this will be a history-making election.

Thanks to the local branch of the NAACP and local legislators, the county was ordered by the courts to devise a plan by which Afro-Americans would be elected

to the Forsyth County Board of Elections. That election plan goes into effect this year and one candidate in that race said he wants blacks to set a new voter turnout record so the majority population will know that Afro-Americans mean business at the polls.

"I would like to see us set a record in going to the polls to vote in this particular primary," said C.P. Booker, a candidate for one of two seats available in the District A commissioners' race. "Our community has been identified because of our not turning out in large numbers and I think we should turn that around. I think we should because this is the first opportunity we've had to elect blacks to the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners. We should turn out big and let the

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Groups offer large reward

From Chronicle Staff Reports

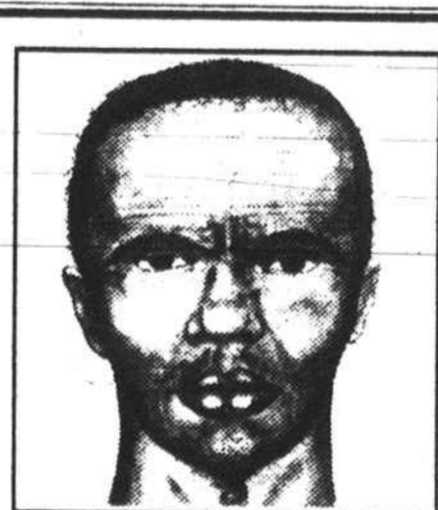
More than \$16,000 is being offered for information that would lead to the apprehension, arrest and conviction of the Afro-American male charged with kidnaping, sexually assaulting and shooting Phoebe Harrison Cooper, police officials announced Monday.

Around 9:45 a.m. on March 22, Mrs. Cooper was kidnaped at gunpoint at the First Union National Bank at 4306 Old Walkertown Road. Mrs. Cooper was forced to drive to Fayetteville where she was forcibly removed from her car and forced into a wooded area, adjacent to Interstate 95, where she was sexually assaulted, robbed, shot in the face and left for dead, said Capt. E.L. Moreau, who supervises the

criminal-investigations unit of the Winston-Salem Police Department.

The suspect then took Mrs. Cooper's car, and it was found abandoned off Interstate 95 in Lake City, Fla., on March 23. Mrs. Cooper, 43, was nearly dead when troopers with the N.C. Highway Patrol discovered her body April 23. She has been hospitalized since the assault and is now in North Carolina Baptist Hospital where she recently underwent the first in a series of reconstructive surgeries.

Earlier this week, James C. Harrison Jr., Mrs. Cooper's brother, announced that he and other family members are offering a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the man accused of the crime.



A composite of the black male, 5-10, 160 pounds, medium build, black hair, brown eyes, dark complexion, who is being sought.

"This reward will be offered in the amount of \$10,000 to anyone who can supply information leading to the arrest and conviction of the

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NAACP head: Job requires 'thick skin'

By TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer

Walter Marshall has a couple of people in mind to succeed him as president of the Winston-Salem Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, however, he is quick to admonish his successor that the job requires much courage and a thick skin.

"Whoever takes over is going to have to be somebody who knows and understands the organization inside and out and there's not a whole lot of people that have that understanding," said Mr. Marshall, who announced early last month that he would not seek re-election to the president's post in December. "They have got to be willing to take the abuse that's going to come and to accept the fact that there are going to be phone calls all times of the night. That people are going to call you a nigger

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Gaines gala attracts star-studded crowd

By ROBIN BARKSDALE
Chronicle Staff Writer

There were plaudits and applause aplenty last Saturday when the Winston-Salem community and distinguished national guests turned out to honor a "big man." But after all was said and done the one message repeatedly conveyed was one of love and respect for Clarence E. "Bighouse" Gaines.

The dais for the occasion included sports legends and Gaines' friends, the likes of Jack Defares, Coach John McLendon, Charlie Harville and Billy Packer and Earl Monroe, who served as co-chairmen for the evening. The

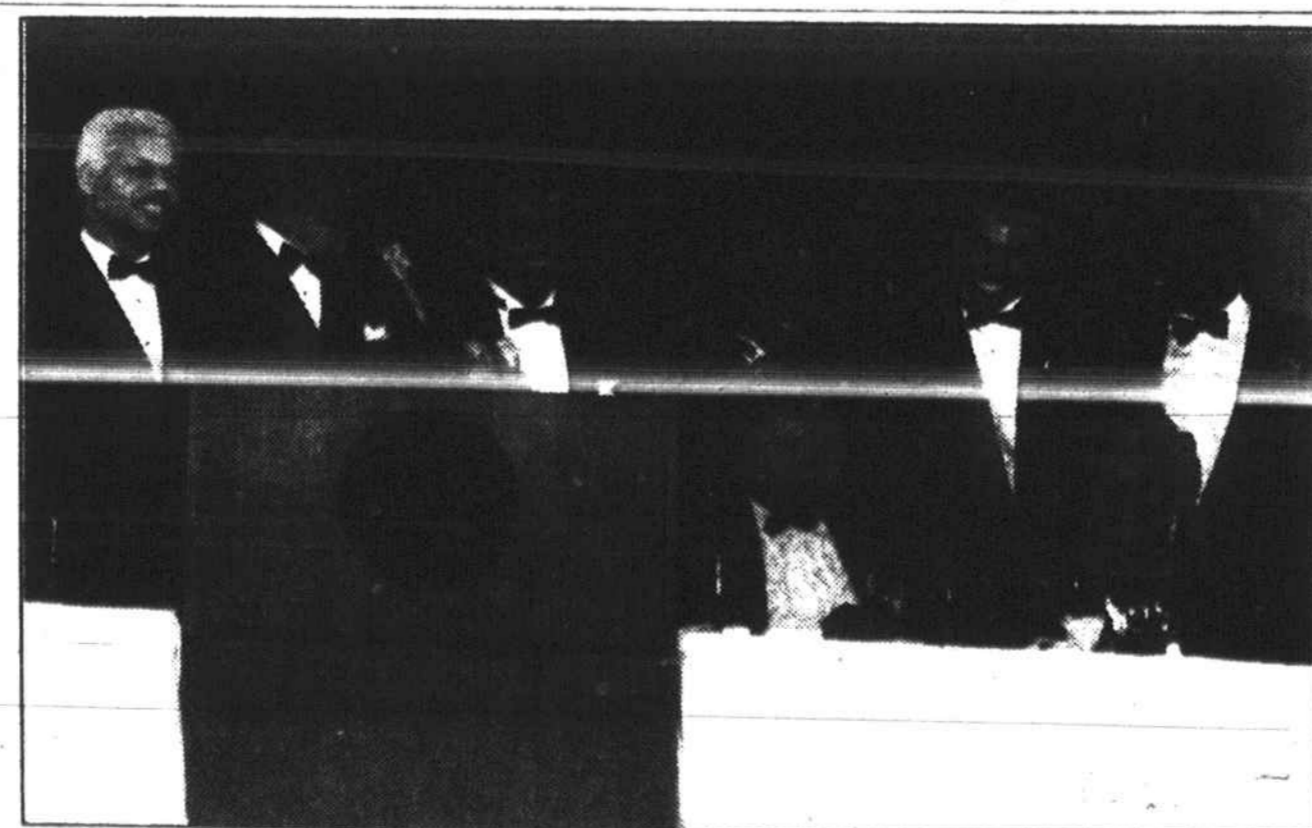
speakers selected represented individuals from several facets of Coach Gaines' career and personal life.

Taking the podium at the end of the program, Coach Gaines thanked the crowd for their support of Winston-Salem State University and for the support given to him and to his family.

"This is a wonderful occasion and I thank you very, very much," he said.

One of the most poignant toasts was delivered by sportswriter Mary Garber, who represented the print media. Ms. Garber applauded Coach Gaines on his 800 wins but noted that

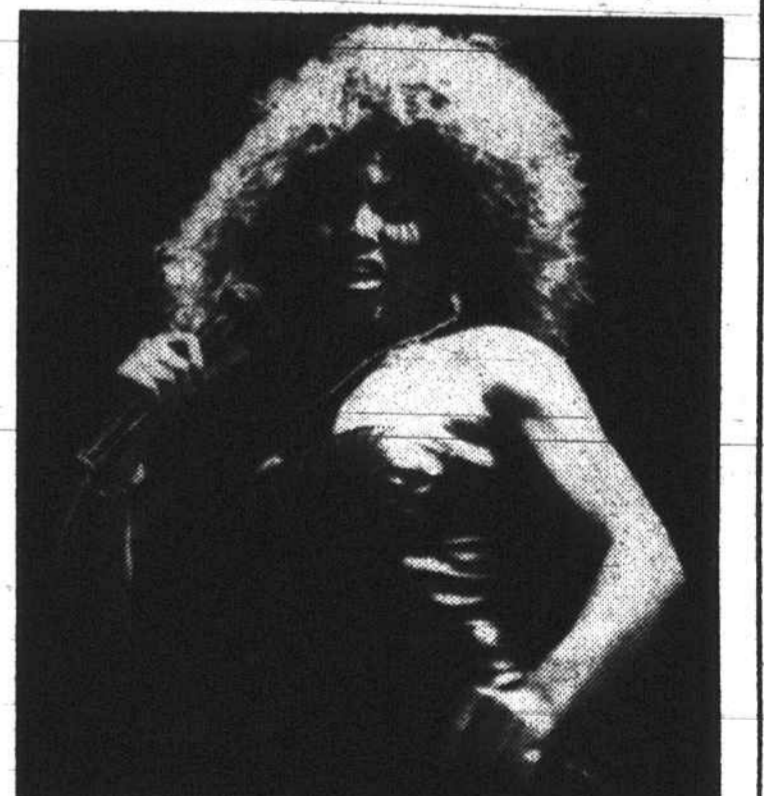
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Players from past WSSU basketball teams returned to the city last Saturday to join the tribute to their former coach, C.E. "Bighouse" Gaines, above, with his wife, Clara.

Photo by L.B. Speas Jr.

Winston-Salem Chronicle NewsUpdate



Tina Turner on tour

ANTWERP, Belgium (AP) -- Tina Turner gives the first concert of her new world tour at the Antwerp Sportpaleis recently.

More state and national news ...

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