



Calling "Katie B.!"

St. Agnes' first and last class graduates reunite with alums

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Our Supreme Task

Benjamin Idahosa to keynote 86th annual General Assembly

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Winston-Salem Chronicle

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Two families evicted for children's crimes

By TRACY L. PROSSER
Chronicle Staff Writer

Ernestine Johnson and Rosanna "Rose" Braddy are two of the latest Housing Authority residents who are being evicted from their homes because members of their families were convicted on illegal drug activity charges. Activities the two women say they weren't aware of.

Johnson, a four-year resident of Kimberly Park, received an eviction notice in June which stated that

she must move out of her apartment because her son had been convicted of possession of cocaine in October 1989.

Johnson's son had not lived in her home for over a year, but the Housing Authority refused to take his name off the lease as Johnson had requested.

Braddy, also a resident of Kimberly Park, received an eviction notice in June because her grandson, who was living with her, was convicted on several drug charges in February.

Both women are appealing their cases.

These are two examples of a growing problem in public housing which allows people innocent of crimes to be punished for crimes of their families.

When tenants sign a lease with the Housing Authority, they agree "to refrain from illegal or other activity which impairs the physical or social environment of the project." By law, drug activity by anyone "under the control" of the leaseholder who is living in or visiting the rented property violates this agreement and subjects the leaseholder to eviction.

Pam Murrell, manager for Kimberly Park Terrace,

said, "It's been in the last three years, to be honest with you, that things have started happening."

When asked about the increasing number of evictions resulting from drug convictions, Barbara P. Ferguson, director of management for the Housing Authority, said that it is not because of stricter enforcement of the rule.

"The rule is not being enforced any more than in the past," she said. "There are more cases than in the past."

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Fun Day in Winston park draws thousands

By TRACY L. PROSSER
Chronicle Staff Writer

"A Day in Winston Lake Park" changed the attitudes of many people about the park and what it offered.

"I used to think of it as a dump with everything that's been thrown away, I stayed away," said Robert Adams. "It was always a favorite place of mine to just sit and look at it."

It was to see the special activities that were coming to Winston Lake Park that Adams decided to come to the park.

His son lost his foot when he got to the park. Soon after they arrived, Robert was begging to play with his friends - away from his father.

Adams said, "I don't know what the reason for my reaction was but it was not uncommon."

What he saw was a new face of the park.

"A Day in Winston Lake Park" was held on Sunday, July 29, and many visitors took advantage of the free activities the recreation and



Delegates win 2, lose 4

By JOCELYN DANIELS
Chronicle Legislative Correspondent

In May, the eight-member Forsyth Legislative Delegation came here full of energy and determined to get legislative action on their agenda.

However, what they wanted and what they got left some Forsyth delegates with the feeling that the past 12 weeks had been a nightmare that still hasn't really ended.

The delegation also divided on some issues. They argued and voted along strict party lines.

The General Assembly's so-called 'short' session for 1990 began in May and ended Saturday. The 46 days marked the longest 'short' session in the state's history.

The Forsyth legislators wanted:
*A fully funded Basic Education Program. This eight year program is designed to improve the quality of public education.

*More funding for human services such as child care, AFDC (Aid to Families of Dependent Children.)



Kennedy

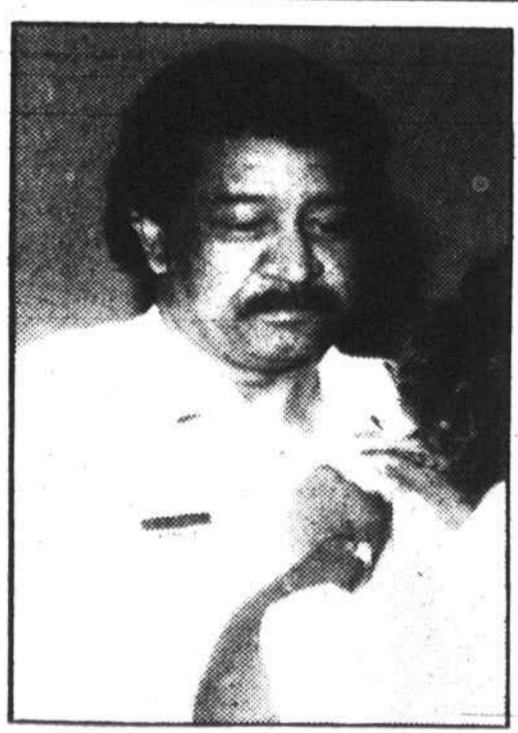


Esposito

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Assistant Chief E.L. Yokley



Capt. R.O. Pouncey

Police promotions raise suspicions among officers

By TRACY L. PROSSER
Chronicle Staff Writer

The recent promotions of 50 policemen in the Winston-Salem police department has members of the department questioning the reason those not promoted were overlooked.

The police department promoted 50 policemen, including a new assistant chief, July 20. The promotions were effective July 23. Of the 50, 9 were Afro-Americans, which amounts to 18 percent of the promotions.

One police officer, who asked not be identified, said, "There is a lot of negative flack from officers all up through the ranks who were passed over unjustifiably. There was a lot of disappointment, and rightly so."

The feelings about recent promotions are not simply sour grapes from those who have not received promotions, the officer said. For the last three years, the feeling has been that race may be a factor, the officer said.

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Legal Aid client wins case against landlord

By TRACY L. PROSSER
Chronicle Staff Writer

This is the first in a series of articles examining the role of Legal Aid in the housing shortage.

Margaret Spinks was awarded over \$25,000 in damages because her landlord did not properly maintain the house in which she was living. Spinks had sought legal assistance from the Legal Aid Society of Northwest North Carolina.

In a case which was decided in Forsyth County district court July 23, Darrell Foy was ordered to pay damages to his tenant, Spinks, who rented a house from him at 648 W. 24-1/2th Street. Judge Margaret Sharpe presided.

Spinks had been renting the house since 1982 and received a summary ejection notice January 1990 because she had paid no rent since October 1989.

Spinks claims she withheld rent because Foy didn't make necessary repairs on the home. Ellen Gerber, managing attorney for Legal Aid, said that in 1986 the

roof was leaking and the ceiling fell in. A washer outlet was installed improperly that same year, and raw sewage backed up into the bathroom and kitchen.

The kitchen windows were never operable, and Spinks was not given a key to the back door. The water heater didn't work at all, and the furnace didn't work properly.

Spinks said she had asked many times for repairs to the house and was promised by Foy that they would be taken care of.

When she got her eviction notice, Spinks sought the help of Legal Aid. She filed a countersuit against Foy and his wife Patricia for rent abatement and damages. Her lawyers were Joseph Henry and Susan Gottsegan.

On July 23, the court found that Spinks owed Foy \$750 in rent, but that she should be awarded \$8,650 in damages for rent abatement, stress and property damage.

Because the jury determined Foy had committed unfair trade practices when he continued to collect rent

when his property was unsafe and unfit to live in, and when he misrepresented his intention to make necessary repairs, the amount he owed Spinks was tripled to \$25,950.

Susan Gottsegan, who represented Spinks with Joseph Henry, said, "(Spinks) was very, very pleased and a little bit stunned at the size of the award."

"We, the attorney's in the office, felt all along that the landlord's deliberate disregard of the terrible conditions of her house made him guilty of unfair trade practices," said Gottsegan.

She said that last week Spinks was still living in the house but was looking for someplace else to live.

"This is a very typical case," said Gerber. "We've probably done at least a dozen trials similar to this."

"It's common for landlords to maintain unfit premises, and when the tenant says, 'I've had enough' and sues them... they say Legal Aid is going after them," she said.

She continued, "One reason we pursue cases as

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Winston-Salem Chronicle NewsUpdate



Looting in Port of Spain, Trinidad

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad (AP) -- A looter carries stolen groceries past a soldier in Port of Spain recently after a mob ransacked warehouses following several days of unrest in this Caribbean nation. The Prime Minister of Trinidad and other government officials were being held hostage as part of a coup attempt.

More state and national news ...

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"Tact is rubbing out another's mistake instead of rubbing it in."
- Unknown

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