

Crunch Time

Conference races tighten in season's final weeks

PAGE B9



Pearls of Africa

Gerald Bitamazive seeks to link Uganda and Winston Lake Ys

PAGE B1

Winston-Salem Chronicle

50 cents

The Twin City's Award-Winning Weekly

VOL. XVII, No. 9

Parents question child's death

by RUDY ANDERSON, Chronicle Managing Editor

More than a year later, questions remain for the parents of an 11-year-old child who died two days after being sent home from a local hospital with the flu.

Michael Tyrone Styles was taken to Baptist Hospital's emergency room by his mother Sharon Walker June 12, 1989. Ms. Walker said her son had been complaining of aches and pains, and had a fever. She said a blood sample was taken from her son and that she was later told he had the flu.

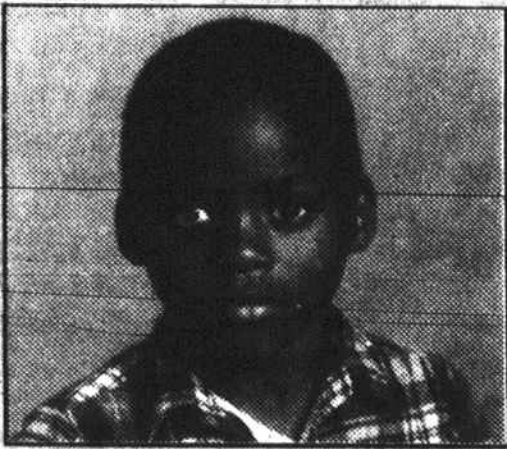
Ms. Walker said she then asked if she could talk with another doctor, if her son could be kept overnight, and if an x-ray could be done. "I knew something more was wrong with him than just the flu. A mother knows when something is serious wrong," she said.

She said her son began hallucinating as they rode home, even to the point of trying to jump out of the car. Two days later Michael died.

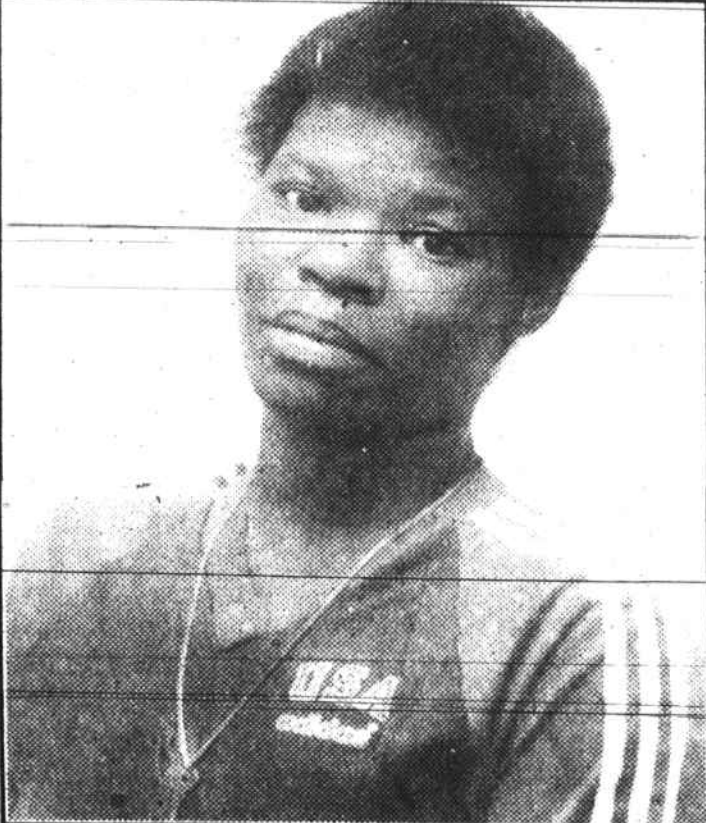
The boy's father, Michael Gist, asked for an autopsy to determine what caused his son's death. The result of that was

"... my child might be alive today..."

-Sharon Walker-



Michael Tyrone Styles



Sharon Walker

the discovery that young Michael died from complications of hemolytic- uretic Syndrome, a form of progressive kidney failure.

Both parents say their son should have been examined more closely at the hospital and should have been kept.

Please see page A13

NAACP may block bank merger with Southern National

By TRACY L. PROSSER, Chronicle Staff Writer

Some North Carolina banks may not be doing all they should be doing to help minorities get loans for projects in their communities under the Community Reinvestment Act, and the state NAACP is seeking to block one such bank from merging with a South Carolina bank for that reason.

Thirteen years ago a law was passed that was believed would make it possible for more minorities and low income people to get loans from banks, and now that bank ratings in this area are being made public, the banks will no doubt be scrutinized and held accountable for adherence to the law.

The Community Reinvestment Act (CRA), a part of the Housing and Community Development Act, was enacted Oct. 12,

1977 to encourage national banks to meet the credit needs of their local communities.

The CRA was passed in 1977 for the stated purpose of "the alleviation of physical and economic distress through the stimulation of private investment and community revitalization in areas with population outmigration or a stagnating or declining tax base."

The act provides for a bank's performance to be examined with respect to the act. The bank will be rated on factors such as its activities to determine the credit needs of its local community, its efforts to communicate its services to the public, the level of involvement by the bank's board of directors with respect to CRA purposes, geographic distribution of credit extensions, the bank's participation in local community development and redevelopment projects, and several other criteria.

Please see page A13

Senate fight intensifies



Local supporters of Harvey Gantt joined their candidate at a Winston-Salem rally last month. The polls indicate the race is getting tighter.

Gantt strategies in full gear

Chronicle Staff Report

Harvey Gantt is giving Senator Jesse Helms a run for his money in the race for U.S. Senator from

Please see page A12

Helms style unchanged

Chronicle Staff Report

Senator Jesse Helms, North Carolina's U.S. Senator since 1973, is running for his fourth term in the elections Nov. 6.

Helms, a native of Monroe, N.C., attended Wingate Junior College and Wake Forest College.

He is currently the Minority Leader of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. He also serves on the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and on the Select Committee on Ethics as well as the Rules Committee.

Reducing the U.S. Deficit:

Helms believes the last thing the government should do to balance the budget is raise taxes. Revenue gained through economic growth should be used to balance the budget.

A Congress that takes responsibility for spending is necessary.

Please see page A12



Three year old Tiffany Smith enjoys the beat during Homecoming festivities of the Tiny Indians Football Club at Atkins Middle School.

Photo by L.B. Speas Jr.

Multi-Million dollar suit hits WSSU

By TRACY L. PROSSER, Chronicle Staff Writer

Winston-Salem State University was hit last week with a multi-million dollar lawsuit from one of its former employees who was terminated in May 1990.

Alfred McDonald Jr., an African-American, filed charges against the university in U.S. District Court in Greensboro Oct. 15. He had been an assistant professor in the department of accounting at WSSU.

He charges that he was unlawfully terminated from his teaching position at WSSU and that he was the victim of race and sex discrimination.

He also claims he was denied the right to make his grievances known to the WSSU Board of Trustees.

McDonald applied for a position advertised as being a tenure track position at WSSU. He was hired in May 1987 as an adjunct assistant professor in accounting, which is not a tenure track position, and began teaching immediately. In June 1988, he discovered he was not on the tenure track.

Please see page A13



Alfred McDonald

High court slows civil rights push

By TRACY L. PROSSER, Chronicle Staff Writer

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 made tremendous progress for equal rights in the workplace, but recent Supreme Court decisions have gutted the power of the act, said Robert Belton, a law professor from Vanderbilt University.

As part of the 200th anniversary celebration of the United States Constitution, Belton, a former NAACP attorney, gave a lecture addressing the erosion of the court's enforcement of civil rights in the workplace in a lecture Friday, Oct. 19, at the Wake Forest University Law School.

The Civil Rights Act, Belton said, is based on the premise that it is the role of the law to protect the weaker party. "A major premise of all this legislation that regu-

Please see page A13



A family portrait: April Clark with five-month old daughter, Safiye Johnson and two-year old daughter Catherine Johnson.

Photo by L.B. Speas Jr.

Baby needs liver transplant Family wants help for operation

By PATRICIA SMITH DEERING, Chronicle Staff Writer

Tiny Safiye Johnson sat on her mother's lap, as alert and curious as any other five-month old would be. She occasionally tugged at the blanket that her mother, April Clark, had covering the little one's very distended tummy and swollen and protruding belly button. If Safiye were not in a neat frame house on a rather quiet street in East Winston, you could easily imagine her the victim of the hunger and starvation depicted in impassioned ads for "Save the Children," infants in foreign lands show-

with bloated bellies.

Although Safiye is not such a child, she is nonetheless one that her mother hopes the community will come to the rescue and help save. Her daughter is being ravaged by a disease known in medical parlance as "biliary atresia." It is a serious disease of very young infants which results in inflammation and obstruction of the ducts which carry bile from the liver into the intestine.

Ms. Clark was given the diagnosis about a month ago, she said, trying to recall the day she received the heartbreaking news. "Safiye was born without the ducts that join the liver to

her intestines." Under abnormal conditions, such as in Safiye's case, when bile cannot flow normally, it backs up in the liver (called biliary stasis). This causes "jaundice," or a yellowing of the skin, and cirrhosis.

Cirrhosis occurs when healthy liver cells are destroyed, in this case by disease, and replaced with scar tissue. This scarring interferes with blood flow through the liver, causing more cell damage and scarring. With Safiye, the disease means that if she does not get help, her condition will steadily worsen with a prognosis of death.

Please see page A12