

E. Winston Library offers MLK films

Chronicle Staff Report

The East Winston Branch Library, located at 1110 East Sev-

enth St., will show the films *Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.: The Letter From The Birmingham Jail* and *Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.: The*

Assassin Years on Wednesday, Jan. 16, at 7 p.m. A discussion will follow. For more information, call (919) 727-2202.

Free skating lessons at Coliseum

Chronicle Staff Report

Registration for the second session of "Learn-To-Skate", which began in December, will begin on Monday, Jan. 14. Children must preregister through the Recreation and Parks Office, 836 Oak St., between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5

p.m., Monday through Friday, or by calling Dick Butler, recreation supervisor, at (919) 727-2063. Classes will be held on Mondays from 3:30-4:30 p.m. and from 4:30-5:30 p.m. in the Coliseum Annex.

The City of Winston-Salem and The Winston-Salem Thunderbirds are combining facilities and talent

to bring the free program to the community youth ages six to 15.

The Thunderbirds hockey team will provide free instruction, and the city will provide the facility, ice time, and skates. The cost for the program to the city is \$3,080 which pays for the ice time and rental of skates.

African Children's Choir in concert

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The African Children's Choir will be in concert at First Assembly of God, 3730 University Parkway, Winston-Salem, on January 13 at 6:00 p.m.

The African Children's Choir is a group of beautiful African children, ages 5 through 12 selected from especially needy children in East Africa. They perform a wide variety of songs. Delightful African tunes are accompanied by drums

and ethnic instrumentation. Also included in the program are well-loved children's songs, popular gospel tunes and hand-clapping traditional spirituals. The Choir has appeared in over 1,000 concerts since 1984.

This is what some of their friends say about them: "I sat and wept in the church service," commented internationally-acclaimed author Dr. James Dobson, after hearing the choir. The host of "Focus on the Family" radio broad-

cast went on to say, "As I listened, I felt the spirit coming through the music. I really believe in your cause. I believe in you." And here's what Dr. Robert H. Schuller, host of, "Hour of Power," said. "...They are orphans...they radiate Joy! Love! Hope! Watch them and shed a tear. They need you and, yes, you need them."

There is no admission charge, though a free will offering will be taken.

American Legion give UNCF \$1,000

Chronicle Staff Report

The Ralph R. Morgan American Legion Post No. 220 donated \$1,000 to the United Negro College Fund during its telethon recently held at the Marriott Hotel in Greensboro.

The American Legion donates this amount yearly to be used to help fund historically black colleges. The donation was presented by Adj. Henry A. Wilson, Thomas Foggie, and Martha G. Jones. The funds are raised through the Community Service Program of the

American Legion.

Commander James McWillis places special interest on seeing that programs such as the United Negro College Fund are carried out annually. He, along with the Legion, realizes that "a mind is a terrible thing to waste."

NAACP examines staff

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the country last week, Gibson declared, "This unacceptable low participation rate adversely affects black interests in the governance of this nation, and deprives senators and members of Congress of critical information concerning and sensitive to the interests, needs and concerns of black Americans among their constituency and nationally."

Diana Williams-Cotton, the state NAACP 5th district director and Winston-Salem NAACP board member, echoed Gibson's concern. "The staffs of our congressional leaders should be representative of the minority population within the district," she said.

Williams-Cotton pointed out that the percentage of the African-American population in relation to the general population in the 5th district has been diluted when some counties were dropped and others added to the district. However, she was not sure what the percentage of the minority population has become since the addition.

The 5th district of North Carolina is made up of eight counties which are Alexander, Allegheny,

Ashe, Forsyth, Rockingham, Stokes, Surry, and Wilkes. There are more than 550,000 people in the district, and African-Americans comprise from 12 to 15 percent of the population.

Williams-Cotton said as a general rule the matter should be addressed. "They come to us looking for votes when they are running for office but by and large they don't employ us in their offices once they are elected," she said.

Fifth District Congressman Steve Neal has a total of 17 people on his Washington and home office staff in Winston-Salem. Two are African-American. B. J. Hayes, an African-American woman from Kernersville, is the office manager, for Neal's subcommittee office on domestic monetary policy. Shedrick Adams is a staff assistant in Neal's home office.

Neal said he had no problem with any inquiry the NAACP wanted to make concerning his office's staffing patterns. "I think they (NAACP) are raising a legitimate concern," Neal said. "Everything we (congressman and senators) do

ought to be open to scrutiny, so should how we staff our offices."

He said no one is perfect and that there may be problems for a wide variety of reasons why the percentages may be off.

"We don't have quotas. But we are an equal opportunity employer," Neal said. "We have always had black people on staff. Sometimes more, sometimes less. It depends on the circumstances."

The NAACP staff and the Board of Directors' Public Sector Economic Development Committee have been instructed to conduct a study regarding the employment of African-Americans in the Senate and the House of Representatives. Their findings are to be presented to the full board at its February meeting.

Gibson said while the NAACP respects the requirements of compatibility and loyalty, the organization expects that elected officials retain qualified African-American professional and policy-making staff in proportion to the constituent base they represent.

Black America

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the East and the current slowdown in the national economy pose grave problems to the African-American community. After a decade in which job training, health, housing, and other domestic programs suffered under the Reagan administration, 1990 signified the end of a decade where African-American unemployment rates were in double digits and the beginning of a decade full of hope for world peace.

Nevertheless, the report stated, racial inequality was higher in 1990 than it has been at any time in the past 20 years. African-Americans currently have higher unemployment rates, lower earning rates, and higher poverty rates than whites in the United States, and there is no evidence of the gap closing. David H. Swinton, Dean and Professor of Economics at Jackson State University, said the black economic disparity "appears to be a permanent feature of the American economy." Swinton was one of 15 contributors to the *State of Black America 1991 Report*.

Contributing to the poor economic status of African-Ameri-

cans, Jacob said, is the disproportionately large dependency of African-Americans on the government for education, health, housing, transportation, and other such necessities. When the government cut back, these public services suffered. In turn, African-American children facing such problems at home rarely excel in school, where they have few teachers familiar with minority cultures and have comparatively few African-American role models.

Although the rates of high school graduation of African-American youth and of college and university enrollment are increasing, the college retention rate is declining due to insufficient personal and university funds, inadequate tutorial programs, and a lack of role models.

Without the education, skills, and economic standing to succeed in the private sector, a disproportionate number of African-Americans join the armed forces, where they are asked to fight for rights that they themselves do not enjoy at home.

Jacob said a 1991 Civil Rights Act would arm African-Americans to fight employment discrimination. "Civil rights laws are the black workers' first line of defense against employment discrimination," he said.

Jacob called for a \$50 billion Urban Marshall Plan, similar in philosophy to the plan that helped rebuild Western Europe after World War II, to prepare and make productive minorities, who will comprise most of the workforce by the year 2000.

"It is hard to be optimistic about a year that begins under clouds of war and recession, but if the Civil Rights Act becomes law, if the Urban Marshall Plan gets serious consideration, and if the administration chooses to work more creatively with black America, then 1991 could become a year of hope and accomplishment, Jacob concluded.

For further information about obtaining a copy of *The State of Black America 1991*, contact the Winston-Salem Urban League at (919) 725-5614.

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