



God's Miracle
 Jamilya Lucas celebrates her comeback at 20th birthday party.
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A Pro Pick!
 San Diego Chargers select Thigpen in fourth round of NFL Draft.
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Winston-Salem Chronicle

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New downtown school sparks controversy

By RUDY ANDERSON
 Chronicle Managing Editor

A bold new initiative in education planned for the local school system this fall is getting mixed reviews from a varied cross-section of parents who wonder if a proposed downtown school is just another private school for the rich.

Initial funding for a proposed workplace elementary school was announced last week by the RJR Nabisco Foundation, which awarded a three-year grant of \$750,000 for development of the school.

But since that announcement, there has been a

wave of questions, and some say misunderstandings, about what this proposed school will be, who it will be for, and where it is to be located.

"This is nothing more than a private school for the children of R.J. Reynolds management employees," said Jerome Adams, a white parent of two elementary school-age children in the school system. "What about something for the children of unemployed parents or those making minimum wage?"

Adams said he sees a problem devoting money to special programs and special schools but overlooking the great bulk of other kids who are left in classrooms that are too large and with programs that are without

imagination in regular schools.

"That we even speak of 'special' schools and 'regular' schools indicates a disadvantage for the latter," Adams said.

Lee Faye Mack of Concerned Mothers of Forsyth County also sees the proposed school being set up as an exclusive private entity. But as an outspoken advocate of African-Americans getting their own schools to educate African-American children, she has no problem with what is being proposed.

"To tell you the truth, I don't see this school being any different than what I've been saying Black people need to be doing," Mack said. "They are just taking the

same concept and forming their own school for those with upper incomes. They may have a few of our children in there, but they are basically doing what we should be doing for our children. I can't knock that, they are just able to do it because they got the money."

Not A Private School

But Susan Carson, program manager for public information in Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School System, strongly rejects the notion that what is being

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Save us all from Negro Dinners

Special Analysis

As an old preacher friend of mine used to say, "There's a dead cat on the line!"

Course the real reason they're leaving with such impunity is that by the time they finally do get the nerve to stroll through those round tables, fully three-fourths of the black folks done already gone—and (get this) have been gone long enough to probably already be home! As my mother likes to say, "Ah ummmmmh."

Yes sirree, the black folks will have long since got their coats, found their keys, Please see page A7

Would somebody please make them stop! Stop them before they kill us all. I'm talking about the people who are planning these Negro dinners! Stop! Please, before you kill again.

Things have gotten so bad that even white folks have started to get right up in the middle of a black folks' meeting to go home. Whoever heard of such carryin' on?

Yes sir, something is rotten in the Dixie cotton if white folks can just get right up and not even exhibit the slightest sense of remorse. Umph!

Commentary

By TANG NIVRI



Photo by L.B. Speas
 Local NAACP President, Rev. Joseph L. Nance Jr., honors Saille Mitchell with the organization's President's Award.

Banquet lasts hours

NAACP honors community pillars

By PATRICIA SMITH-DEERING
 Community News Editor

Annual Freedom Fund Banquet Thursday, April 18, at the M.C. Benton Convention Center.

Unfortunately, many of those who came to hear what she had to say left before getting the message well into almost the third hour of the banquet.

Recalling the past achievements of the African-American community in Winston-Salem, Rep. Kennedy put the present and future

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N.A.T.I.O.N.A.L NEWS

Supreme Court asked for help

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration, clashing with officials of Southern states, urged the Supreme Court to apply key federal voting rights protections for minorities to the election of judges.

But an attorney for Louisiana said judges are not elected to represent segments of the population.

Solicitor General Kenneth Starr, the administration's top courtroom lawyer, said the federal Voting Rights Act is designed to include judges as "representatives" covered by the law.

Death penalty survives test

WASHINGTON (AP) — The military death penalty has survived a legal challenge by a Marine facing the first military execution in 30 years.

Lance Cpl. Ronnie Curtis lost his appeal, which said that murder defendants in military trials don't have the same protections as civilians in state courts.

But the U.S. Court of Military Appeals said Curtis has at least one appeal left before he could be executed.

Witness gives Mandela alibi

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — A key defense witness testified Tuesday that Winnie Mandela was doing social work with her in another town when four young men allegedly were kidnapped and assaulted.

Nora Moahloli, a school teacher, confirmed Mrs. Mandela's alibi that she was hundreds of miles away when the four blacks allegedly were attacked at Mrs. Mandela's home in the black township of Soweto outside Johannesburg.

"She was at my place," Mrs. Moahloli told the court.

Sheriff's promises do not match actions

Minorities question promotion policies

By RUDY ANDERSON
 Chronicle Managing Editor

African-American deputies in the Forsyth County Sheriff's Department, who thought the election of Ron Barker as Sheriff would mean greater upward mobility for them in the department say they have not seen that happen so far.

Ron Barker defeated Preston Oldham for the office of Sheriff in the November general election, making Barker the 19th man to become the county's highest ranking law enforcement official in the county since Isaac Church was appointed by the governor to be Sheriff in 1849.

Since Barker took over in December, the Department has seen some major renovations and restructuring, but the result has been that as of right now there are no African-Americans on the Sheriff's top administrative staff and very few at the supervisory level.

Some African-American deputies, who asked not to be identified, wonder privately if the Sheriff's inattentiveness to this situation is intentional or if he just has not had the time to make good on some of the campaign promises he made about promoting African-Americans.

During an interview last week, Barker said the focus of his 14-hour days for the most part has centered on making improvements at the jail and working the cases the department is involved in. He said he has an open-door policy and that if anyone has a problem, they can come in to see him.

Barker is particularly proud of the turnaround at the jail since he's been in office. But when questioned about status of African-Americans in his department, his answers are not as quick.

During his campaign to be elected Sheriff, Barker publicly expressed his concerns about where African-Americans were placed in the department and their apparent lack of upward mobility. But four months after



Sheriff Ron Barker

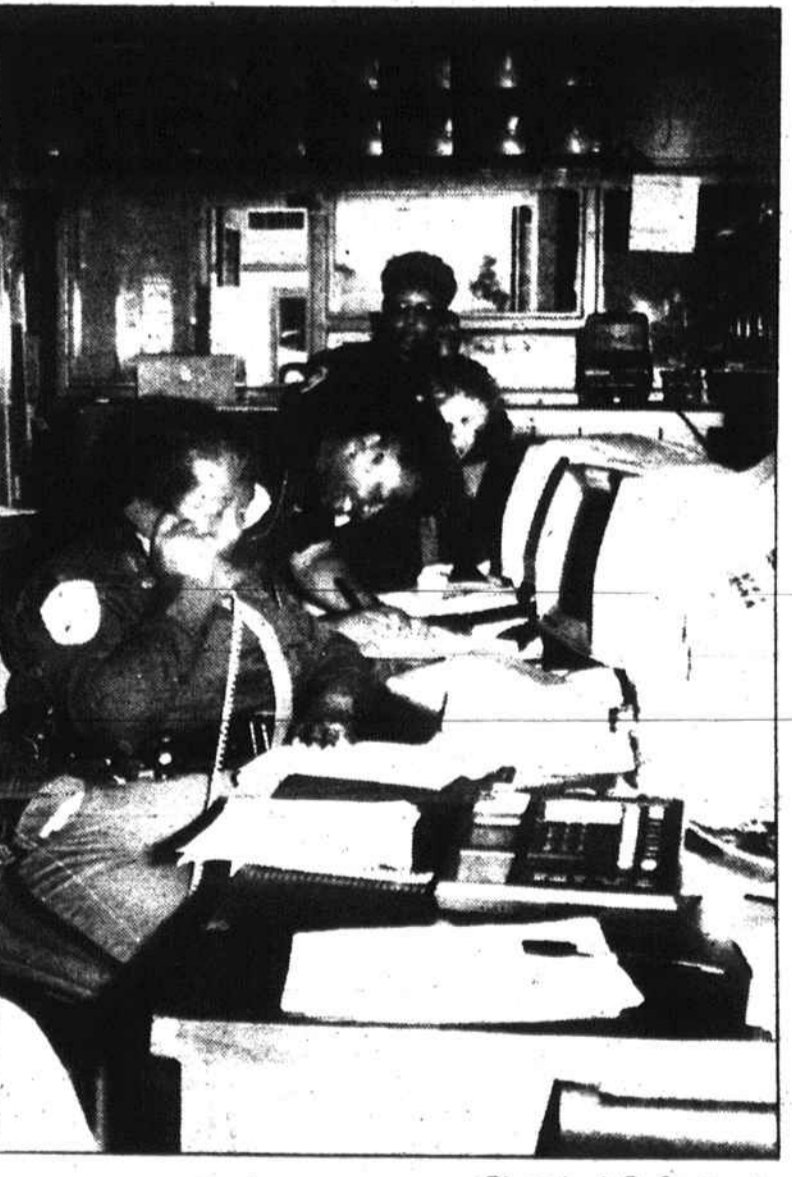


Photo by L.B. Speas Jr.
 The majority of the Sheriff's department's minority employees work at the jail.

taking over, the numbers don't reflect the kind of changes Barker said he wanted to make.

There are no African-Americans on the Sheriff's administrative command staff, although there are six African-Americans who are supervisors. To date, the Sheriff has made only one promotion of an African-American and that was to the rank of corporal. The bulk of the department's African-American personnel are at the jail.

There are a total of 88 people employed at the jail, according to department administrative assistant Robert Joyce. Of that number 31 are African-American. There are six white supervisors and six African-American supervisors, according to Joyce. They are a captain, two sergeants, and three corporals.

Captain Garland Wallace, the highest ranking African-American in the department, assists a newly-hired major at the jail who is now the department's

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Improvements at County Jail made

By RUDY ANDERSON
 Chronicle Managing Editor

People who have business at the Forsyth County Jail will find it a much different place today than it was just four months ago, thanks to some innovative programs initiated through the Sheriff's department to make improvements.

The Forsyth County jail had been the focus of harsh criticism by county officials, former inmates, and the media, for its unsanitary and overcrowded conditions.

The jail is still overcrowded. It was designed to hold 262 prisoners, but as of presstime holds 302. However, the jail today is anything but unsanitary, and the morale of corrections officers and the prisoners appears to have taken a turn for the better.

"Remember how smelly the jail used to be," asked Sheriff Ron Barker during an interview last week, "how belligerent and mean-spirited the prisoners were?"

"Its not like that around there anymore because of the changes we've implemented in the last few months and the new programs we've undertaken. There is a different atmosphere here, and people are beginning to notice."

Corrections officers now have radios that keep them in constant contact with each other, to let each other

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Photo by L.B. Speas Jr.
 Capt. Garland Wallace likes what he sees happening at the county jail.