

FORUM



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Group outraged over the upcoming film on Malcolm X's life.

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Larry Leon Hamlin dreamed a big dream, more scenes.

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Bank forecloses on ABC store in Shopping Center

By SHERIDAN HILL Chronicle Staff Writer

New Walkertown Shopping Center has had its share of problems. For the past three years, East Winston Community Development Corporation (CDC) has tried to develop the shopping center, and only recently was able to secure the first major tenant, Lowe's Foods.

And now Southern National Bank is foreclosing on Phase I of the project. According to sources close to the project, it seems that Turner Development Corporation (owned by developer Herman Turner) has defaulted on the \$500,000 loan it received to develop the initial phase of the shopping center. Phase I involved constructing the ABC (Alcoholic Beverage Control) store, building con-



Neither Grace (left) nor Turner (right) would comment on the issue.

necter roads, turn lanes and landscaping.

Turner's loan came due early in June. The bank filed notice of foreclosure on August 1, and a hearing on the foreclosure is scheduled to be held September 3 in Superior Court. Named in the foreclosure notice as borrower and landlord are Turner Development Services of Durham and legal representative Winston-

Salem Attorney Michael A. Grace. Both Herman Turner of Turner Development in Durham and Michael Grace have refused comment. James Grace, CDC executive director and brother of Michael Grace, declined to publicly address or clarify the situation.

Allen Joines, development director for the city, said emphati-

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ON THE AVANT-GARDE

By TANG NIVRI

Where to from here?

It's the morning after. Now it's time for a decision. Is it going to be another one of those one-night stands or are we ready to get married? Where do we go from here?

This is the question that must be answered by the City of Winston-Salem.

For the second time in three years, Winston-Salem has played host to the National Black Theatre Festival — a singular and unique, artistic, cultural, and social phenomenon. By any standard, the Festival has been a magnificent moment.



Thousands came to Winston-Salem to see America's brightest stars at the National Black Theatre Festival.

Oh sure, there was plenty that could go wrong and did.

Communications were not always what they should have been. Support didn't materialize from those who should have known better. And everybody didn't do what they would do and so forth and so on.

But on the other hand, this year's talent was simply tremendous.

Who will ever forget Carol Woods' bringing the house down in Blues in the Night? And for that matter what about the anticipation of just standing in line as we waited to enter the Steven's Center? Who will ever forget Avery Brooke's portrayal of Paul Robeson? Who will forget seeing Freda Payne and Elizabeth Van Dyke? Yes, yes, some productions were better than others. But so what? That is what theater is all about.

The Festival also presented an impressive mobilization of volunteers, all of whom did their darndest to make things pleasant and to run smoothly for all our out-of-town guests.

There was also a noticeable increase in the overall corporate support for the Festival especially from RJR who contributed \$100,000 and who knows how much more in technical assistance.

Yet the National Black Theater Festival is at a crossroads. Why?

The Festival has made Winston-Salem the envy of several metropolitan areas — most of them larger but a few, surprisingly smaller ones are also interested.

The Festival brought thousands of visitors to the Triad and an economic windfall of perhaps 3 to 4 million dollars.

By just listening to people talk one clearly gets the sense that this community is being watched. "What are they going to do with that Festival," people are whispering.

But the people who are doing the most won-

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Festival impacts on local economy

By SHERIDAN HILL Chronicle Staff Writer

Performances were sold out. Throngs of happy visitors filled downtown restaurants. Three of the city's largest hotels were 95% filled during an otherwise obscure week in August which is traditionally slow. Area merchants generally agreed that no other event brings more out-of-town visitors to Winston-Salem.

The National Black Theatre Festival brought 42 workshops and performances Monday through Saturday last week. More than half of the shows were sold

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National Black Theatre Festival brings more out-of-town visitors to town than any other arts event.

Board votes to reinstate ousted Smith?

By SHERIDAN HILL Chronicle Staff Writer



Two weeks ago, Winston-Salem Urban League's new board of directors voted unanimously to reinstate former executive director Dee Smith, who was ousted last November by the old board.

Smith could not be reached for comment at presstime. Nat Irvin, chairman of the Urban League board, had little to say about the issue.

"I think it would be irresponsible to comment on any action that the board may or may not have taken," said Irvin Wednesday. "We are dedicated to not discussing personnel matters in the newspaper. We are part of the National Urban League, and there

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UNC's Spangler supporting WSSU's Thompson

By YVETTE N. FREEMAN Chronicle Staff Writer

Winston-Salem State University's Chancellor, Cleon Thompson Jr. has the support of the president of the UNC system, who announced late last week that Thompson should remain as the university's top official despite a federal investigation into allegations of misuse of federal money.

Thompson is accused of using nearly \$5,000 in federal money to pay for rent and utilities for university football players. But, ever since the state auditor's report discovered the alleged discrepancy several months ago, Thompson has denied any wrongdoing, saying that he earned the money from consulting work, and it was a former employee, and not he, who misused the money without his knowledge.

Although there has been speculation over

whether Thompson would be asked to resign from his position at the university, C.D. Spangler, president of the university system, gave his full support to Thompson at a closed session with the UNC board of governors last Friday.

"I appreciate the fact that there are conflicting thoughts about what happened and conflicting reports. But it is my feeling that what is best for Winston-Salem State is for Chancellor Thompson to continue his role there and for me to provide what support I can from this office," said Spangler.

In providing support to Thompson and Winston-Salem State, Spangler said that he plans to send Gerald McCants to the university to take on the position of special assistant to Thompson.

He will also fill in for Willie E. Grissom, who plans to retire at the end of August, as vice chancellor of business affairs. In addition, McCants will work

with a new scholarship program at WSSU, similar to one he has supervised at Elizabeth City State University, where he is currently the director of academic development.

Nearly all of the board members at the session agreed with Spangler's decision to keep Thompson on at WSSU.

According to board member Roderick Adams, Thompson's cooperation in the investigation and sincerity in correcting the situation were factors in Spangler's and the board's support. "The board considers this to be a very serious matter, but, by the same token, most board members felt he had rendered great service to that university. While we didn't vote, we tended to agree with the president that he (Thompson) was a man who could be salvaged."

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Stemming the tide of doubt Sumler proclaims his innocence

By SHERIDAN HILL Chronicle Staff Writer

Rodney Sumler is a serious man these days. Not what you'd call charismatic: rather, there is a reserved quality about him. He is careful with each word, his responses are measured.

"I don't consider myself a leader," he says, sitting in the cozy den of his large, comfortable home on Patterson Avenue. "The black community has not chosen me as a leader. The white community has chosen me as a leader, and I resent that."

He explains this remark by comparing himself to black leaders such as Martin Luther King and Mal-

colm X, and Marcus Garvey who, he says, got no respect until after their death. "As whites choose who they think our leaders are, they also choose to endorse or destroy them. Too many black people are quick to believe what whites say about who our leaders are."

"People are doing us just like Peter did Jesus when he denied knowing him."

- Rodney Sumler

nents of the theory that the recent FBI charges of political corruption against him and three other black



Rodney Sumler faces several charges and is scheduled to go to trial in October

Photo by Mike Cunningham

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