

# First Night 1992: A community celebration

By YVETTE N. FREEMAN  
Community News Editor

Winston-Salem is gearing up for "First Night 1992," an alcohol and drug-free celebration of the New Year.

The community celebration, which is sponsored by the Substance Abuse-Free Environment (S.A.F.E.) Initiative and the Arts Council, will take place in downtown Winston-Salem on Tuesday, Dec. 31, from 4 p.m. to 12 midnight.

Businesses and organizations located in the downtown area will open their doors to offer the community a wide range of alternative activities to the traditional New Year's Eve festivities, which normally involve the consumption of alcohol.

The main emphasis and purpose behind First Night is to provide fun and entertaining activities to bring in the New Year without the use of alcohol or drugs.

"If we can create an attitude where people can celebrate safely on New Year's Eve downtown, then one of the best things that we could be doing is trying to keep them from drinking and driving," said Mary Stromski, director of the S.A.F.E. Initiative.

"And it's a kind of attitude that takes several years to change, but we feel if you keep plugging away and you keep striving towards these efforts, then eventually, the results will be positive."

The results, so far, have indeed been positive. During "First Night 1991," the first New Year's Eve

effort by The S.A.F.E. Initiative, police reported fewer drunk driving incidents in the city.

Stromski said that although that's good news, it is uncertain whether the lower statistics are a result of First Night. "Of course, I'd like to think they were," she said. "But the police department statistics did say that last year, New Year's Eve, the drunk driving incidents were lower than they had been in the last 10 years."

During the evening, activities for the entire family will be available throughout the community, including a series of arts and crafts workshops designed especially for children, a choirfest featuring several local choirs, a teen dance, live performances of jazz, country, classical, rhythm and blues, reggae, and blues music, dramatic presentations and art exhibitions, plus much more. The grand finale will be a laser light show at 11:30 p.m. at the Hall of Justice Building on Second Street.

The various activities will take place in bank lobbies, city and county buildings, churches, the-

aters, private businesses, performing arts centers, parks, plazas, and other indoor and outdoor areas.

The S.A.F.E. Initiative was organized in 1989 by the Forsyth County Commissioners as a community-wide program to meet the

include Forsyth County, The Crosby, the City of Winston-Salem, RJ Reynolds Tobacco USA, Sara Lee Hosiery, Wachovia, Charter Hospital, and Parents for Drug-Free Youth.

Admission to all activities is available with a \$4 First Night 1992 button. Children 12 years of age and under will be admitted free. Buttons for admission can be purchased at all First Union Bank locations. They will also be sold Dec. 30-31 at the Sawtooth Center and at all facilities during the festival.

For more information about First Night, call 724-7339.



Mary Stromski, director of the S.A.F.E. Initiative, says First Night 1992 will offer a variety of activities for the entire family to enjoy.

needs of public concern and awareness of drug issues in the community. The mission of the Initiative is to involve the total community in changing attitudes which promote an environment where people can live free from alcohol and other drugs.

Other sponsors of First Night



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## Dividing the Estates

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your freedom of speech. To this day he is proud of his many efforts in Cleveland and Chicago where he worked to organize people to fight for their rights. He is an actor, yes, but always considers himself to be political!

Since women and their works are not as often presented in the theater, Bellary Darden decided that she would do something about it. She co-founded Chameleon Productions which she describes as a culturally diverse theater serving as an important avenue available for women writers and directors seek-

ing to have their works performed. Bellary also travels around the country as an instructor for an actor based communications focus company called STRIVE.

These three very talented actors will be looking for you during the production of *Dividing the Estates*. They each love the play written by Horton Footé who many will recall wrote the screenplay, *To Kill A Mockingbird*. They believe that the play's three black characters display an especially strong and useful message for today's audience. They just hope that they see you there. After-

all, there is only so much laughing white folks can do when the folks that would really understand the message are black.

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## '92 and beyond

Continued from page A4

racial hostility among white voters because of the rapidly changing demographic character of the nation. Duke sees the "browning of America" as a curse rather than as a blessing. Like Wallace, Duke wants to get 50 to 60% of the southern whites to vote to put Bush into a corner. The problem is that Bush and Duke are already in the "same corner" when it comes to multiracial progress and empowerment. Thus, much of the 1992 Presidential race will be viewing a crowd of persons "running backward" on racial justice issues in order to politically move toward the "White House."

Millions of "new" voters need to be added to the voting polls in every state. The truth is that not nearly half of the potential electorate in the United States actually votes. Participatory democracy in the nation has still not been fully

achieved. One possible counter-balance to Wallace-Bush-Duke political tendencies is for people of color communities across the nation to engage in massive voter education and mobilization efforts.

The religious community, in particular the Christian church, must not allow Mr. Duke's perverted theology to go unchallenged. This is very important because Duke skillfully equates this society's "overwhelmingly Christian" character with its "overwhelmingly European descent."

1992 and beyond ultimately will be determined not by the David Dukes of this world, but by people of goodwill not only coming together for a political moment, but also by "staying together" in a united justice movement for the sake of all peoples in the nation and throughout the world community.

## Chronicle Award Nominees

The *Winston-Salem Chronicle* invites you to help in the selection of this year's recipients for our "Man and Woman of the Year" and for our "Community Service Award."

Recipients will be chosen by the *Chronicle* staff and advisory board. Judging will be based as follows: The "Man and Woman of the Year" will be persons who have demonstrated an outstanding character trait, one which would serve as a model for others. This could be the fact that they have triumphed over some personal tragedy, or they helped an individual (or group of people) overcome some obstacle in order to obtain a better standard of living. The incident or incidents for which the "Man and Woman of the Year" are being nominated must have occurred during the year of 1991.

The recipient of the "Community Service Award" will be judged based on his or her contribution to the African-American community. The individual must have demonstrated a commitment to serving the African-American community through his or her affiliation with community service agencies, community-oriented projects or community institutions, i.e., schools, churches, etc.

Your nominees (one for "Man of the Year," one for "Woman of the Year," the other for "Community Service Award") should be Winston-Salem residents and will be recognized in the Jan. 30, 1992, special edition of the *Chronicle* as well as receive commemorative plaques.

Please print legibly and be as specific as possible in describing your nominees' accomplishments. Nominations must be received by the *Chronicle* no later than 5:30 p.m. on Jan. 16, 1992.

### WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Nominee's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Nominee's Address \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_  
Activities, memberships, affiliations \_\_\_\_\_

Please explain briefly why you think this person deserves to be "Woman of the Year".

\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Your Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Your Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_  
Your Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### MAN OF THE YEAR

Nominee's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Nominee's Address \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_  
Activities, memberships, affiliations \_\_\_\_\_

Please explain briefly why you think this person deserves to be "Man of the Year".

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Your Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Your Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_  
Your Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### COMMUNITY SERVICE

Nominee's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Nominee's Address \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_  
Activities, memberships, affiliations \_\_\_\_\_

Please explain briefly why you think this person deserves to receive "Community Service Award".

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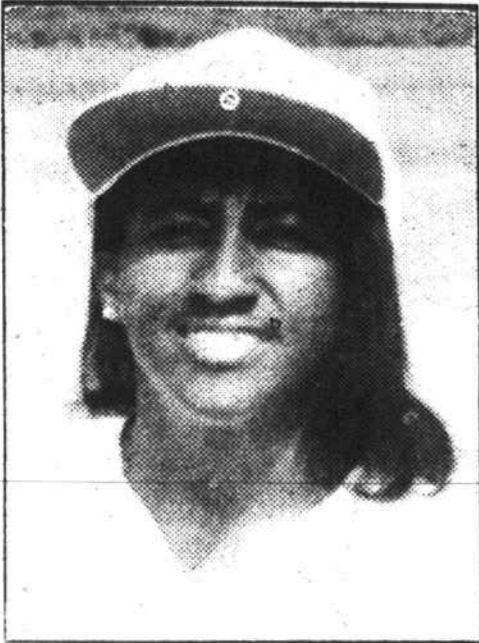
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