

**Hidden asset**  
 Victory Mutual Credit Union still unknown to many in W-S.  
 PAGE A10



**Gospel for the youth**  
 Holy Temple Church prepares for 2nd annual convention.  
 PAGE B9

# Winston-Salem Chronicle

75 cents

"The Twin City's Award-Winning Weekly"

VOL. XVIII, No. 23

## Chronicle announces '91 Man and Woman of the Year Awards

By SAMANTHA MCKENZIE  
 Chronicle Staff Writer

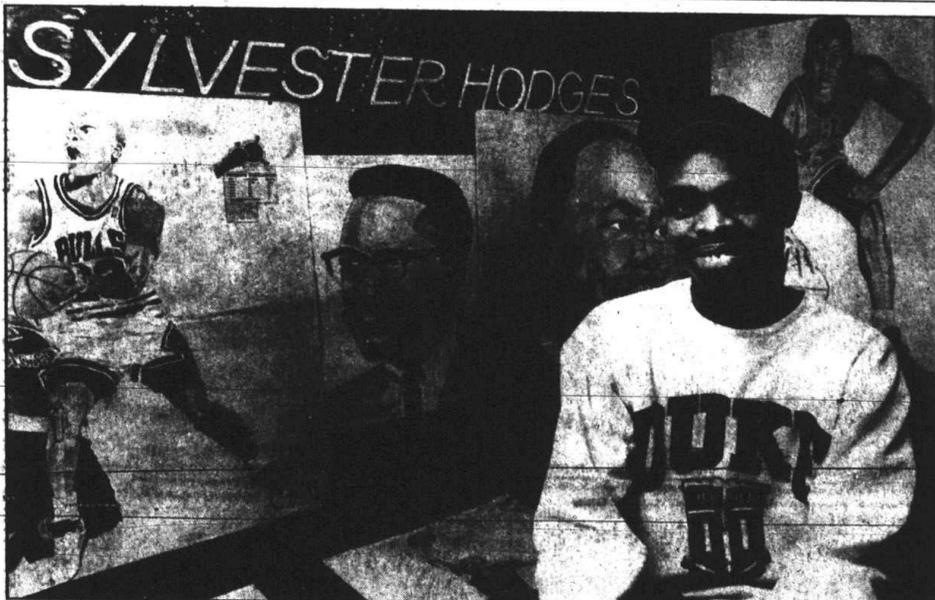
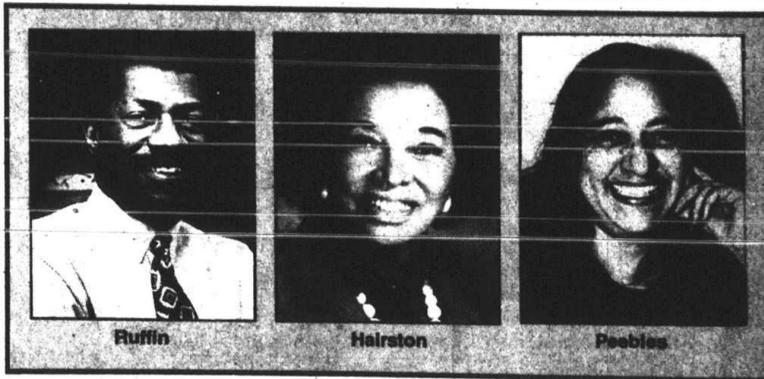
The *Winston-Salem Chronicle* announced its 1991 award recipients, naming Benjamin Ruffin, Man of the Year; Irene Hairston, Woman of the Year; and Mattie Peebles, Community Service Award.

Ernie Pitt, editor and publisher of the *Chronicle* said this is the tenth year the paper has sponsored the event. Pitt said he was glad that the community got involved by sending in the nomination forms and recognizing those in this city who are making positive contributions or support to the betterment of Winston-Salem.

"The *Chronicle* is very pleased to give

these people public recognition for the work they've done that, for the most part, sometimes goes unnoticed and unrecognized," he said. Other award winners are: Sara Lee Corporation, Corporate Citizen Award; Maggie Edwards, Officer B.H. Stone and Yvonne Jefferson, Public Safety

Please see page A6



Sylvester Hodges stands in front of some of his artworks on display at Jefferson Elementary School. Some of his artworks include portraits of Michael Jordan, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King Jr., Michael Jackson, and Janet Jackson.

## Hodges displays artwork at Jefferson Elementary School custodian moonlights as artist

By YVETTE N. FREEMAN  
 Community News Editor

As you walk into the front entrance of Jefferson Elementary School, straight ahead at the end of the hallway is a glass showcase filled with colorful portraits of several celebrity figures — Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, Janet Jackson, Michael Jackson, Michael Jordan and many others. Each piece, done in color pencil, is such a true representation of the particular individual, one would probably assume that they were done by a professional artist. Or, since they are on display at the school, one would assume that a very talented student at the school is responsible for the artwork.

However, surprisingly, neither is the case. The portraits are the work of 28-year-old Sylvester Hodges, who is the custodian at the school. Hodges began displaying his artwork at the school a little over a year ago

at the request of the school principal.

"I was overwhelmed to do it for him," said Hodges. "I had pictures at home, it was just me showing them and displaying them. I change them every month and try to keep new ones up there."

Hodges, who has never taken professional art classes, keeps about nine artworks in the showcase at a time, and as a result, he has received quite a bit of exposure, which has led to a little extra pocket money.

He says that parents and teachers alike, have commissioned him to do artwork for them, for which he only charges a small fee. His commissioned works have included portraits of students, dogs and other animals and even houses.

"From all of this, I have learned how to take criticism for my artwork. Criticism doesn't upset me because it makes me want to do better and better," he

Please see page A6

## ON THE AVANT-GARDE

By TANG NIVRI

### Don't bring me no more bad news

"Worse off than last year," according to a recent report on the state of black America.

Yep, worse off than last year. Anybody surprised? I don't think so. I haven't read all seventeen of these reports but I'd be willing to bet that each one of these studies warns of the same thing: blacks were worse off than in the previous year.

Makes you want to hold onto the past doesn't it? Really, if we keep this up, we are going to wind up where we came from.

One brother put it this way, "Since MLK died, black folks been wandering around in the desert just like the Israelites; lost, trying to get home except somebody done stamped on the only compass we had!"

This being a presidential year, black folks will be asking the same questions as other Americans. Are we better off this year than we were last year? The difference for us is that if we were better off — individually or otherwise — we'd never be allowed to say so.

It's what happens when you are the minority. You don't dare say that you are better off because if you do, you might jeopardize your principal funding source — white folks — who will take their money, wealth, power and influence and move on to the next needy and loudest wagon. It's a helluva position to be in. You can't really point too loudly to your successes for fear that people will declare that you have already made it.

For example, the latest statistics from the U.S. Department of Education indicate that

Please see page A11

## Three schools suspend the most Student poverty, economics cited as key reasons

By SHERIDAN HILL  
 Chronicle Staff Writer

The principals of the three elementary schools with the highest rates of suspension point to student poverty and economic conditions as a key reason. From August 26 - November 22 this year, Bolton Elementary School used suspension six times as often as most schools. Two other elementary schools, Mineral Springs and Ibraham, have used suspension at twice the average rate. These three elementary principals explain the suspensions by pointing to the economic status of the misbehavior.

Children living under the poverty level and children who do not have a parent home during the day were cited as the most likely to be suspended.

"We suspended a few more kids than we normally would have. We recognize it was a high number. The assistant principal and I are trying to reduce that number," said Bolton principal, William Honeycutt.

Last year Bolton suspended more than three times as many students as other schools. Bolton is 59% black, and Honeycutt said that nearly 200 of the 500 students are bussed from Kimberly Park and low-income East Winston

neighborhoods. He stresses that for the past two years, he did not use corporal punishment, and says that the recent suspensions were an unusual situation.

Of Bolton's 30 suspensions in the past three months, 26 went to black children. Last year, out of 77 days of suspension, 67 went to black children.

Honeycutt's request to the school board for disciplinary resources includes two home-school coordinators who would work with children who misbehave, particularly children who would otherwise have been suspended. The home-school coordinators would spend a half-day tutoring the children and build-

ing self-esteem, and would also spend time working with parents and teachers regarding the child's progress.

Last year, Mineral Springs suspended nearly 10 percent of its students and Bolton suspended nearly 9 percent of its students. Most elementary schools suspended 2.7 percent of their students last year.

When corporal punishment was used, Ibraham and Mineral Springs paddled more than twice as many children as other schools. On November 7 the school board voted to ban corporal punishment effective January 22.

Please see page A6

## Minorities need district representation

By SHERIDAN HILL  
 Chronicle Staff Writer

Critics say North Carolina's voting-rights picture has been turned upside down, with the "gerrymandering" tactics that once hurt minority candidates giving way to gerrymandering on their behalf, but the state NAACP says there is only one issue: compliance with the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Mary Peeler, director of the state NAACP, is adamant that North Carolina's 100-year history of white congressmen warranted a second minority district.

"The voting rights act says minorities of the population can elect a candidate of their choice," said Peeler. "That could not have happened the way the districts were drawn."

But critics such as William Van Alstyne, a Duke University law profes-

sor disagree. "Inadvertently, we are almost driving back toward segregation, and people who want to build bridges

more with the Voting Rights Act than just give minorities the chance to vote. There was a lot of discussion then about

*"The voting rights act says minorities of the population can elect a candidate of their choice . . . that could not have happened the way the districts were drawn."*

— Mary Peeler

are almost precluded from building bridges by laws such as this."

Dayna Cunningham, a staff attorney at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, said that, in 1965, Congress was trying to do

blacks electing the representatives they needed to get their roads paved, have their schools improved and generally fix their own problems, she said.

Joseph L. Rauh Jr., a retired lawyer



Mary Peeler

in Washington who was a major voting-rights activist, disagreed, saying Congress didn't focus on redistricting in 1965. The real issue then, he said, was whether the federal government would stop Southern states from interfering

Please see page A6