

Business owners, residents say

'East Winston great place/community'

By SAMANTHA MCKENZIE
Chronicle Staff Writer

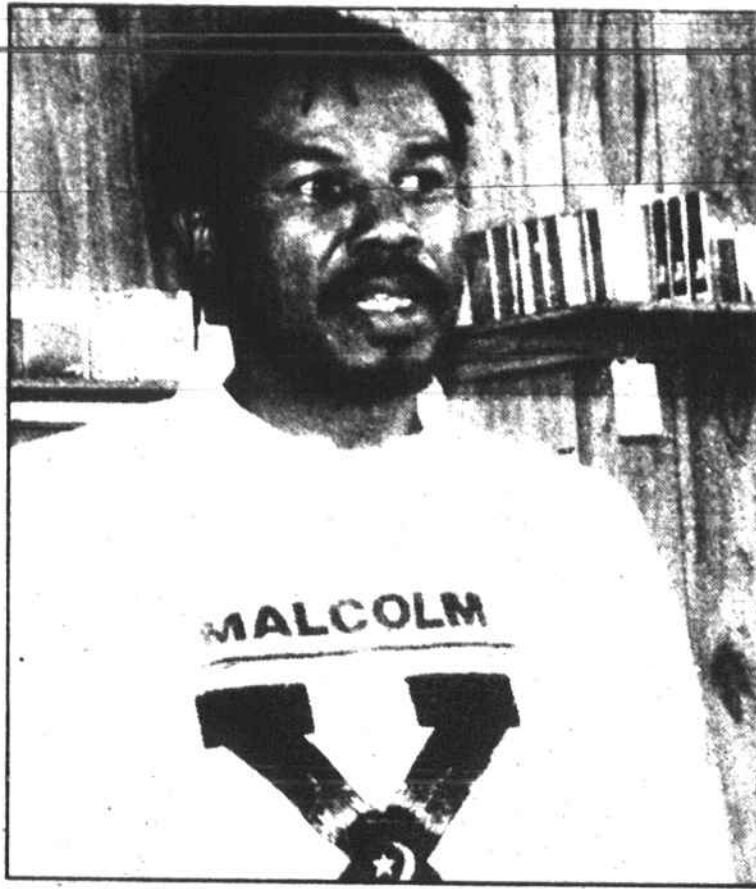
Don't believe the hype that East Winston is a drug infested neighborhood.

Don't believe the newspapers and news stations that make the East Winston community look as if it's saturated with crime and violence.

Mohammed Herb, owner of Herb's Bargains, located at 1598 First Street N.E. said he opened his business ten years ago in the black community for very specific purpose.

"This teaches us to do for self. I have to be an example for other young people. They have to see that there is something for them to aim for," said Herb. "Even though the

Ed McCarter, owner of Special Occasions, a book and gift store on Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, said he believes a lot of the negative stigmas about the East Winston



Mahommed Herb

"I have to be an example for other young people. They have to see that there is something for them to aim for. Even though the system says we can't [succeed], I can't go along with that."

— Mohammed Herb

Contrary to media publicity, residents say East Winston is a safe, family-oriented community that they are very proud of.

"As a resident of East Winston, I feel great about my community. We speak to people whether we know each other or not. I think it's a very safe community," said Leon Kay, who lives on Teresa Avenue.

What the media does, Kay said, is feed the notion that there is a lot of crime going on in East Winston. "There's crime in every neighborhood, but they focus crime and violence only in the black communities. But the truth is, these things just don't happen. We live here and we know what's going on. I mean we know what's really going on. We have a crime element just like any other neighborhood," he said.

"How many Michael Hayes cases do you see happening in our neighborhoods?" he asked. But, he added, "they always associate crime with black people."

The result, he said, is that people become afraid to live in predominantly black neighborhoods.

"I'm never scared here. This is my neighborhood. I know the people and they know me. The bottom line is we love our community."

system says "we can't" I can't go along with that," he said. Nor can he go along with the theory that black people don't support black-owned businesses, because Herb said, "all of my customers are black."

Herb, with the help of other community residents, sponsors a "Get Paid For A's Program" and a back-to-school block party every summer. Students are given small monetary prizes for scoring grades of "A" on their report cards. This is just one way, Herb said, to give back to the community.

"The event is always a success. There's no fights, no alcohol, and no incidents," he said, while standing in front of one wall in the store that is decorated with pictures of the block party since 1986. Also posted on Herb's store wall are the grades of students in the neighborhood.

Regardless of what is said about East Winston, Herb added, the people are close-knit people who take pride in their community. "I stand by this community and I stand by what I believe in. And I'm going to keep doing that." If people just look around, Herb said, there are many positive things going on in East Winston.

community are myth.

"I've been at this location for two years and I've never been robbed or mugged," said McCarter.

"This is my community. I'm black and the things I sell are black-related," he said. "Black people shouldn't have to ask 'where can I find it', when it comes to black-related items. It should be there for them. They should be able to find it (in East Winston)," said McCarter. Since he's been open, McCarter said, the only bad experience he's had is a broken window.

"How many banks have been robbed in East Winston? None of them as far as I know. Or how many shootings have there been?" he asked. "It makes you wonder if some of the things we hear about our community is a myth," he said.

Alderman Larry Womble said there are actually a lot of positive things going on in East Winston. "There are good things going on in East Winston and there are good people," he stated. "And there are good people who care about East Winston," he added.

"Housing has been revitalized, along with the streets," he said. "The Winston-Salem Family YMCA and the golf course have been upgraded. Then there's the business development getting ready

to open up," he said. Along with the community's many "beatifications," Womble said, there are a number of recreation centers and programs that offer activities for the children and families.

While the negative publicity always seems to out shine the positive things in the community, East Winston is still a place where families feel comfortable.

Senior Officer Ross King, who patrols the East Winston area and who also lives on 25th Ave., said there a small number of areas in East Winston that are "rough" but the majority of the community is a safe and pleasant environment.

"I live here and I work here and this is a very nice community. The people are very nice people. Everyone speaks to each other. I believe you just have to treat people with respect and you won't have any problems," said the 17-year veteran.

No race-baiting! says Larry Little

Chronicle Staff report

Local attorney Larry Little, who has announced his candidacy for the new 12th District, is unhappy about a recent Republican newsletter which brands him as "a former Black Panther activist."

The remarks are part of a fundraising appeal from the office of Jack Hawke, state chairman of the North Carolina Republican party.

"This is an emergency! The nightmare has become a reality! The U.S. Justice Department just approved the Democrat's absurd redistricting plan!" the newsletter reads, "Because of the Democrat's plan, North Carolina faces having a former Black Panther activist representing us in the U.S. Congress."

Little, a former Winston-Salem alderman, feels the remarks are a way to introduce racial fear into the Congressional contest.

"I reject this attempt to 'Willie

Hortonize' this campaign. It must be opposed!" stated Little. "To reach this low so early in the campaign is not a good sign. I would challenge Mr. Jack Hawke to review my public philosophy and to note my contributions as a citizen."

Little also pointed out that he had nothing to do with establishing the 12th Congressional District. "In fact," he said, "the plan was approved by a Republican-controlled Justice Department."

The fundraising letter, dated Feb. 14, 1992, reads: "Our only option is to take the Democrats to court and that means hiring lawyers. But that . . . will cost \$43,000! . . . If I don't raise the \$43,000 to pay these lawyers, the Democrats will win!"

Little refused to apologize for his Black Panther involvement, and listed several programs carried out by Black Panthers, including free breakfast programs, free sickle cell anemia testing, free escort service

to the elderly to ensure their safety, and free ambulance service for the poor and elderly, regardless of race.

"It is unfortunate that Mr. Hawke would attempt to freeze me in time," said Little. "I encourage the media and the citizens to reject the tactics used by Mr. Jack Hawke."

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In accordance with a mandate from the North Carolina Division of Economic Opportunity, the Experiment in Self-Reliance, Inc. will conduct a public hearing, Wednesday, March 11, 1992 at noon, Room 210 (2nd floor), at the central office of the Experiment in Self-Reliance, Inc., 1621 East Third Street (west wing at the old city hospital building - Louise G. Wilson Building).

The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public of Forsyth County an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed anti-poverty plan being submitted by ESR to the N. C. Department of Human Resources for funding under the Community Services Block Grant for fiscal year 1992-93. The public is encouraged to attend, especially the low-income residents of Forsyth County.

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