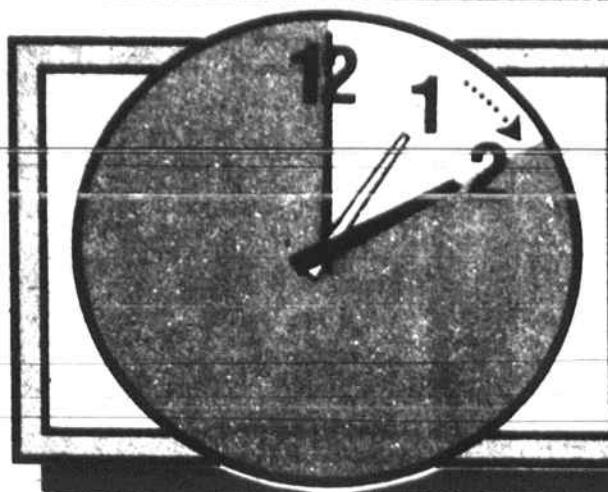


**Solve a mystery**

Photos, info needed for exhibit  
on black Reynolds farm workers.

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**Reminder!**

Set your clocks forward one hour  
at 1 a.m. on Sunday, April 5.

# Winston-Salem Chronicle

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## Case builds slowly against Winston-Salem Four

### The Good, the Bad, the Ugly

▲ After eight days of hearing evidence, there is no smoking gun — the government's case is built on statements and actions which, taken alone seem innocent, but strung together may imply guilt for some of the defendants

By SHERIDAN HILL  
*Chronicle Assistant Editor*

Brick by brick, the United States government is building its case in the on-going trial of four Winston-Salem leaders charged

with political corruption. None of the issues alone clearly spell out guilt: there is no smoking gun; rather, there are a number of guns in a hazy room, and the jury will

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### • Key issues •

**Issue:** Sumler promised results if Smith would hire him  
**Government:** Building extortion  
**Defense:** Simply good business

**Issue:** Reason that Smith went to the FBI  
**Government:** He thought he was being extorted  
**Defense:** To seek revenge against the black aldermen

**Issue:** Reason that Smith taped all his conversations  
**Government:** To prove political corruption  
**Defense:** To catch the defendants

**Issue:** Reasons behind Sumler's contributions proposal  
**Government:** To set up extortion conspiracy to buy votes  
**Defense:** To improve Larc's image in the black community

**Issue:** Reason the Alderman Womble proposed a 2.5 percent penalty on Larc for violating the M/WBE (minority and women business enterprise) part of its contract in 1988  
**Government:** To punish Smith for not hiring Sumler

### Smith suffers on witness stand

▲ Defense attorneys for the Winston-Salem Four work toward discrediting the government's key witness

By SHERIDAN HILL  
*Chronicle Assistant Editor*

The four defense lawyers, John A. Dusenbury Jr., James E. Ferguson II, David Freedman, and Gregory Davis, have spent much of the past eight days skillfully chipping away at the credibility of the government's key witness, William Smith.

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## NAACP delays taking stand on school plan

▲ The political action and education committees plan to make a recommendation to the executive board

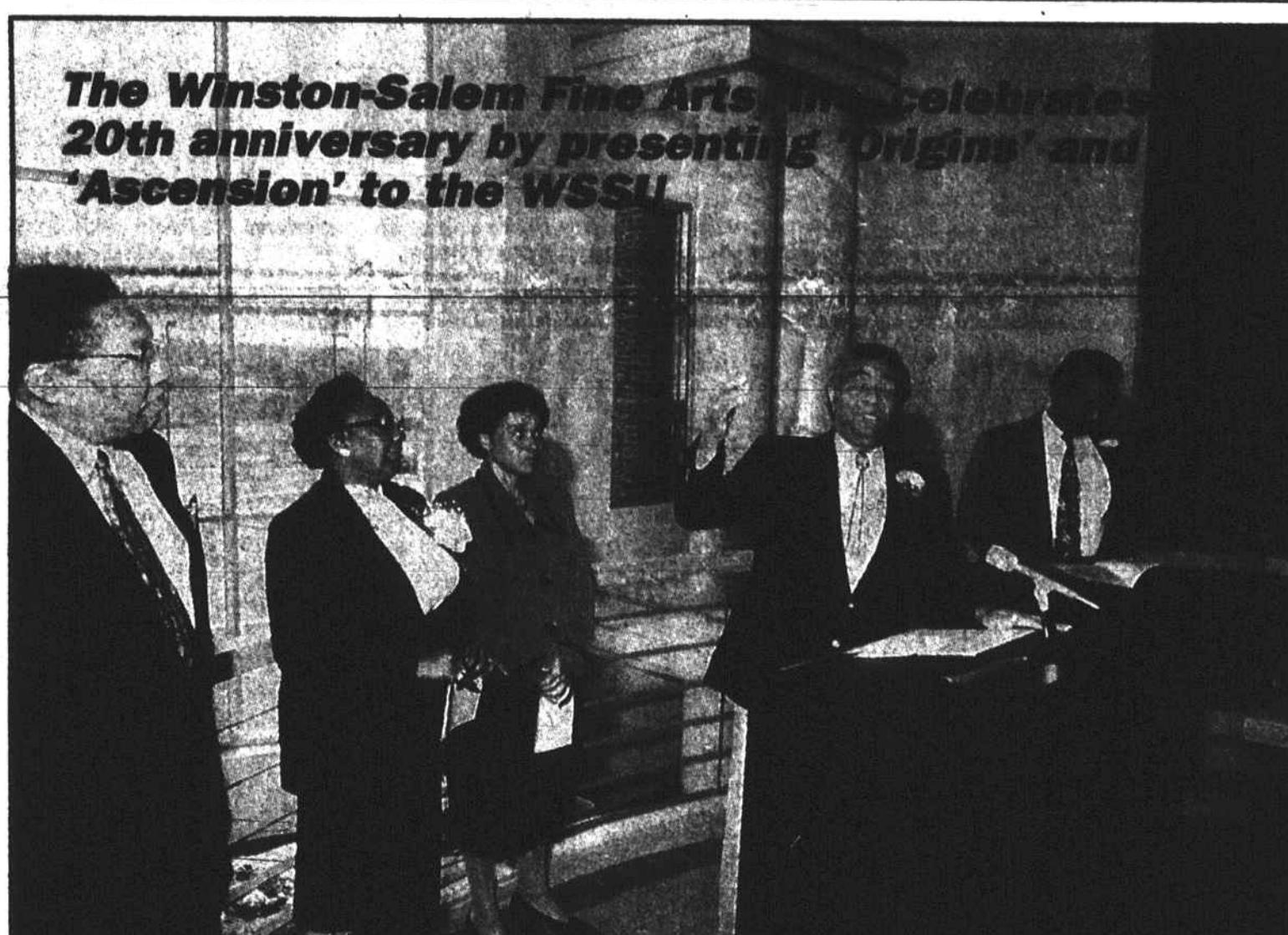
By SAMANTHA MCKENZIE  
*Chronicle Staff Writer*

The local NAACP president said the organization has not yet decided whether or not it will take action on the school system regarding the newly proposed redistricting plans but is leaning towards the "recommendation to postpone the redistricting plans" until African-American representation is present on the board.

Joseph Nance said the education and political action committees are scheduled to meet before the executive board meeting in three weeks at which time a recommendation will be made.

"We requested a plan from the school board but haven't received it yet. So the committees are in the process right now of getting those plans. Then they'll meet and come up with a recommendation of whether

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Artist John Biggers (1st right) told WSSU Chancellor Cleon Thompson (left) and Vivian Weaver (2nd left) and Sealeah Wyche (center) that he hopes the two murals, "Origins" and "Ascension," completed by himself and assistant muralist, James Biggers (far right), will inspire the students of the university.

See story on Page A9

## St. Peter's puts pressure on LIFT/Best Choice

▲ Two local groups will have to come up with money to finance their present facilities or relocate

By SAMANTHA MCKENZIE  
*Chronicle Staff Writer*

Two community-based organizations that specialize in helping at-risk African-American children, are in danger of losing their facilities within the next few months and are making last minute attempts to negotiate contracts and raise funds.

LIFT (Learning Is Fun Too), an alternative school for youngsters who have been kicked out of the public school system, received a notice of a 64% increase under a new lease from Shilohian St. Peter's Corporation, effective July 1.

The increase will jump from \$1,752 per month to \$2,736, but LIFT Director Earline Parmon says they do not have the money to pay such an increase.

"This is going to force us to move. We're now in a situation of having to find another place, because there is no way we would be able to afford such an increase,"

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## 12th Congressional District faces first test in primary

CHARLOTTE (AP) — Residents at one end of the black-majority 12th Congressional District who think they have little in common with people at the other end are wrong, a political scientist says.

"Think about it," said Samuel Moseley, a political scientist at North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro and a voter in the district. "Black voters are concerned about education, crime, drug abuse, homelessness and a lack of jobs. These are the things that pull together these black communities along I-85. They form an urban agenda."

The district snakes along Interstates 77 and 85 and

U.S. 70, snatching up large pockets of predominantly black neighborhoods in 10 counties from Gastonia to Durham.

It resembles a chain of lakes as it widens and narrows to split Iredell, Forsyth, Guilford, Mecklenburg and Rowan counties into three districts and Gaston, Davidson, Alamance, Orange and Durham counties into two.

Unlike Atlanta and Chicago, North Carolina lacks concentrations of blacks. So when the U.S. Justice Department told the state it needed two black-majority districts, lawmakers used I-85 and I-77 to link large

clusters of inner-city blacks.

"You can't overplay the symbolism," Moseley told *The Charlotte Observer* in an interview published Sunday. "For blacks to have recovered from the disenfranchisement of the post-Reconstruction will be significant. This is a good opportunity to make inroads."

But even though the May 5 primary is little more than a month from now, some voters are unsure if they live in the new district.

Waitress Gaynell Lineberger, 53, believes she'll be voting in the 12th.

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## Child disfigured by drain cleaner awarded \$8 million

GREENSBORO (AP) — An \$8 million settlement to a Greensboro boy disfigured by drain cleaner can't repair the physical and psychological damage he and his family suffered, an attorney says.

"The family would give \$10 million not to have had the child injured like he is," said Joseph Williams, a Greensboro lawyer.

Monte Carson, now 4, was disfigured on July 14, 1989, when a drain cleaner called Clobber spilled on him. The acid ate away the skin on his face and virtually destroyed his nose, an ear and an eyelid. Monte's eyesight was saved and his nose and ear were rebuilt

after the incident.

Williams and co-counsel Kenneth Johnson of Greensboro won a hefty settlement in February with Hercules Chemical Co. of Delaware, makers of Clobber.

The case of Monte Carson was featured in a front page article in last week's *North Carolina Lawyers Weekly*, because of its size and the different theories of liability applied.

A maintenance man at Sherry Carson's apartment had left on the edge of a washing machine a 34-ounce uncapped container of the milky-looking drain cleaner

made mostly of sulfuric acid.

When his mother arrived, Monte, Ms. Carson's then 18-month-old grandson, ran into the kitchen. Apparently thinking the plastic container was milk, the toddler reached for it and it spilled.

Hearing screams, his mother and grandmother rushed to the kitchen. After reading directions on the container, the adults applied water to the child's face, but that intensified the burning. An ambulance arrived and rushed him to Moses Cone Memorial Hospital.

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